

# MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

Where History is Pride

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION  
Texas Tech University  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

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Flomot Matador Northfield Roaring Springs

Thursday, March 17, 2011

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Volume 120 Issue No. 11

## Census drops in Motley County to all-time low

*Stipulated settlement route moves transmission lines out of county*

### Burn Ban extended

By Carol Campbell  
Motley County Tribune

The Motley County Commissioner's Court met March 14, 2011, in regular session, covering an 18-item agenda including approval of a resolution for the jail project; an update on transmission lines in Motley County; and approval of the Emergency Management Coordinator position.

The court met with a quorum, consisting of Commissioners Donnie Turner, Franklin Jameson, and Russell Alexander with County Judge Jim Meador presiding. Commissioner Roy Gene Stephens was absent.

Also in attendance were District and County Clerk Kate Hurt, County Attorney Tom Edwards, Sheriff Chris Spence and Deputy Sheriff Chad Ware.

In the first order of business, Carol Campbell, Chair, of the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail, read a resolution asking the court for support of a video documentary project grant to be submitted to Texas Historical Commission, Texas Heritage Tourism Partnership Grant. The court voted unanimously to approve the resolution for submitting the grant. The video documentary will be used as an education tool for visitors to the historic 1891 Motley County Jail.

Judge Meador announced he received the final U.S. Census Bureau figures from the South Plains Association of Governments for Motley County. The county population stands at 1,210, down from 1,426 in year 2000, a loss of 216 individuals. "We are definitely dropping in population," Judge Meador said. "Matador is down to 607 from 740 (Year 2000); and Roaring Springs lost 31 individuals, from 265 (Year 2000) to 234 in 2010."

In other business, County Attorney Tom Edwards reported that he traveled to Austin to provide comment to the Public Utility Commission in behalf of Motley County on February 24, 2011, on transmission lines. Edwards urged PUC to approve the "preferred" route, endorsed by the

PUC staff, running east and paralleling the existing SPS line from Roaring Springs into Cottle County. This route would have placed approximately 26 miles of transmission lines in Motley County, at an estimated cost of \$1.7 million per mile, in addition to the Sharyland route with approximately 9.5 miles of lines.

"There was a stipulated settlement route filed with an Administrative Law Judge to move the line entirely out of Motley County to the South," he said. On March 3, and against all logic, Edwards said, the stipulated route was approved by PUC, upon the recommendation of an Administrative Law Judge as stipulated to by all intervening landowners. In addition, some non-involved landowners agreed to the line across their property," Edwards said.

"This maneuver was led by Tongue River Ranch located in Motley, Cottle, and Dickens counties, and its operatives," Edwards said, adding, "that it was agreed to by all intervening landowners and others convinced the Administrative Law Judge and PUC into adopting the settlement route. "That stacked the deck against Motley County," Edwards said.

"This is a longer route costing the rate payers \$33 million more than the "preferred" route," Edwards said. "The PUC simply did not follow its own established criteria for route selection. The "preferred" route was the poster child for compliance with PUC criteria for route selection.

Edwards handed out a copy of a memorandum to Stephen Journeay, Director, of the Commission Advising and Docket Management, regarding the PUC docket Number 38562. While Tongue River spearheaded the effort for the stipulated route, other local individuals and ranches "signed on" including Matador Ranch, JBR Hamilton of Texas, Adrienne Hamilton, Billy B. Hand, Bob Stafford, and Three Rivers Foundation for the Arts and Sciences.

The Settlement Agreement can be viewed on the PUC website, Docket Number 38562 as an attachment

to Item Number 335, (ETT's Comments), Edwards said. The court complimented Tom Edwards for his "professional presentation" which can still be viewed on the PUC website.

In other business, the commissioners unanimously approved the recommendation by Judge Meador to appoint Lee Jones as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Motley County. Judge Meador said he has also asked the City of Matador and the City of Roaring Springs to contribute to the yearly stipend for this position.

Also, the court voted unanimously to extend the Burn Ban for 90 days. Violation of the Burn Ban is a Class C Misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500.00.

After a lengthy discussion on the purchase of a vehicle for the Sheriff's Department, the court voted 3- for and 1 against a purchase of a police-equipped 2009 Dodge Charger, with Donnie Turner casting the dissenting vote. The court also voted unanimously to trade-in the old Chevy Impala police cruiser, rather than selling it to a salvage company.

Sheriff Chris Spence said the new purchase would save on "insurance, fuel, and equipment." The cost of the vehicle is \$19,462 with equipment, with a 36,000-mile, three year warranty. "We have \$21,000 in the Sheriff's budget for car funds," Spence said. "We would like to offer Road and Bridge the 2004 Chevrolet, 4-wheel drive pickup," Spence said. Commissioner Franklin Jameson agreed to buy the pickup for \$4,500.00. The court voted unanimously to approve this purchase.

Judge Meador asked the precincts to provide time sheets for the "Matador West Fire" to help meet the requirements of a Fire Management Assistance grant. This grant, in partnership with the USDA-FSA office, will help the county qualify for the grant. The court was very complimentary of the efforts of firefighters and the outstanding job of "orchestrating" the fire response by the Emergency Management Coordinator, Lee Jones.

## Boondockers host Sixth Annual Matador Grand Prix

The West Texas Boondockers will host the Sixth Annual Matador Grand Prix Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20, 2011.

Two new activities have been added for 2011. There will be a Saturday afternoon race followed by a spaghetti supper Saturday night at the Senior Citizens building. The spaghetti supper is a combined fundraiser for Motley County Senior Citizens and Hackberry Friends. Everyone is invited.

More than 400 racers, along with their families and support crews are expected to begin arriving in Matador Saturday afternoon. Racers will begin sign-in Sunday at 7:30 a.m. A full day of racing is planned on Sunday with the

first race starting at 9:30 a.m. and the last race is starting at 4:30 p.m. There will be six classes of races. This is a family event with race classes for men, women, and children.

Along with the excitement of the races various organizations and businesses will have food concessions. Toni Gonzales will be selling breakfast burritos and other goodies on the north side of New to You. This year the Motley County Senior Citizens are serving smoked brisket sandwiches, rodeo wraps, and various sweets in the Senior Citizens building. The briskets are slow cooking over mesquite wood. The Catholic Church will be selling Frito pies and nachos and other goodies on the north side of New to You.

Hackberry Care Center will be selling mesquite grilled hamburgers for the sixth year on the north side of the courthouse square.

The gift shop at the historic Matador Ranch will be open for business between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please go by and see the lodge and gift store. The Ranch is located on the south side of Matador on State highway 70.

Everyone is encouraged to come watch the races. Bring your lawn chairs and sit on the courthouse lawn and enjoy the races, great food and the day. If you would like to order food to go, call Dianne at 269-1388 to turn in your food order. If you would like to help with the race contact Shane Jones at 347-2820.

## Grab It and Bag It: Volunteers Needed for April 2 Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off

Deadline to register is March 25

AUSTIN, Texas - Fed up with roadside litter and fired up to do something about it, thousands of volunteers will fan out across Texas on April 2 to participate in the state's largest one-day cleanup.

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is Texas' largest one-day cleanup event that occurs annually. It is a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation.

"There is still plenty of time to register and top the more than 74,000 volunteers we had last year," said TxDOT Travel Information Division Director Doris Howdeshell. "One of the best ways to show your Texas pride is to participate."

Research shows there are

approximately 1.1 billion pieces on litter on Texas highways.

The number of people and the amount of traffic continue to rise in Texas so more volunteers are needed to help pick up litter and debris. Help showcase Texas roadsides and take part in this event.

"Trash-Off continues to grow each year, and we couldn't be more excited about this year's program," said Cathie Gail, Executive Director of Keep Texas Beautiful. "In addition to beautifying our great state, Trash-Off helps educate and change the attitudes and behavior of would-be litterers. The impact of the events has a lasting effect on everyone involved and the state."

Interested Trash-Off vol-

unteers can sign up online at [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org) or call 1-800-CLEAN-TX. The registration deadline is March 25.

### 2011 Trash-Off Goals: Quick Facts

Texans are encouraged to exceed last year's Trash-Off numbers.

- 2010 volunteers: 74,100
- Pounds of trash collected in 2010: 8 million
- Number of miles cleaned in 2010: 6,219

This year, Don't Mess with Texas celebrates its 25th anniversary. Volunteers are encouraged to share their favorite Texas images from the Trash-Off or from any time of the year at <http://dontmesswithtexas.org/programs/photo-album/>.

## Land Bank Patronage Reflects Strong Ag Economy

AMARILLO, Texas— At its January board meeting, the directors for Panhandle-Plains Land Bank approved the 2011 cash patronage of \$3.2 million. Based on interest paid during 2010; the amount is approved by the board following an end-of-year financial review of the association.

Exceeding the 2010 patronage by more than \$1 million; the cash payment reflects a return to levels paid by the association in 2006-2008. Owned by its member-borrowers, Panhandle-Plains Land Bank annually returns a portion of the interest paid by borrowers.

"The association has weathered some tough times in the past two years" said Chairman Rusty Henson, "this level of patronage reflects our coming through the storm, not merely surviving, but prospering." Chairman Henson explained

that the on-going patronage reflects excellent performance by borrowers, and financial strength of the association. "We will end 2010 with a net growth of 3.5% in our core retail business. Participation volume is down somewhat reflecting continued issues in the national economy; however, we are confident that problem loans have been identified and appropriate reserves set. Long-term financial strength takes priority in all decisions we make" explained Henson.

CEO Gregg Lloyd echoed the Chairman's positive comments. "We like to put the 20% return into real numbers for our customers. Say a customer with a loan balance of \$100,000 and a fixed rate of 6% paid \$6000 interest for 2010. Their cash patronage will be \$1200, paid in full, with a check. No reserves for the association, no retained

earnings to be paid later, it's 100% cash in hand." Lloyd is confident that the panhandle and south plains agriculture economy is positioned for another good year. "Good production, excellent commodity prices, and low interest rates make agriculture land a good investment," he said. "Across the association's territory, we find a seller's market with virtually all areas experiencing increasing values."

Payments will be made at the association's annual stockholder's meetings in April. More information will be provided to stockholders in the near future. Panhandle-Plains Land Bank provides long-term credit to farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness in 17 counties of the Panhandle and South Plains. Offices are located in Amarillo, Pampa, Perryton, and Plainview.

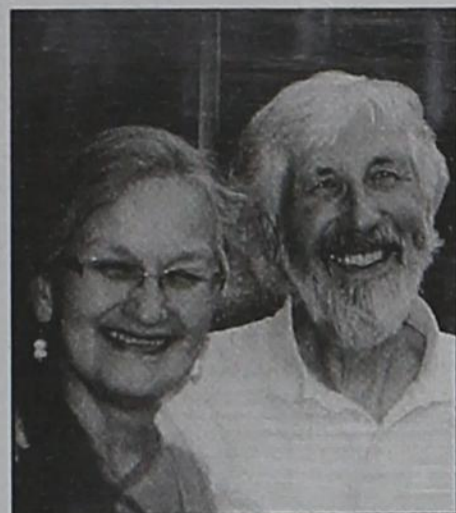
## Churches to Sponsor Firefighter Appreciation Night

On Saturday, April 9, 2011, at the Motley County High School Cafeteria, an All-Churches Appreciation supper will honor Motley County Firefighters. The meal will be served from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. a short appreciation speech will be made in the school gymnasium. Donations will be accepted.

The churches will be furnishing the meat, consisting of turkey, hams, and briskets. The congregations will be furnishing all the trimmings. This effort is being chaired by the Rev. Bill Manney, First United Methodist Church, Matador. For more information, please call Bro. Manney at 347-2727 or 347-2335.

# Foothill Country Connections

Community, Diversity, Art  
When you have history, you have pride.



By Larry Vogt

Her "Coming Home" series was quite popular and the "Unsung Heroes" received a good deal of praise. Her story in last week's edition of the paper was an example of her tireless energy and astute observation. Carol spent time driving around the County to have a look at the damage and take pictures. She spent time interviewing folks and getting the details on the abatement of the wildfires that raged through the county. The story was a monumental task and Carol rose to the occasion and produced a story that is worthy of the excellence in journalism that is evident in the piece.

Carol deserves our appreciation as publishers of the newspaper as well as the praise from the people of the county for actually writing history that will live on in the archives of the Tribune and in our own telling of the stories that we pass on to those who may not have lived through it but those who will want to know about the great wildfire of 2011. I myself have an ancestor who perished in a prairie fire in South Dakota and it would be useful for me to find a written account of that event that happened in the 1880s. Carol, we owe you a debt of gratitude

In the box right below this column is publishing information about the Motley County Tribune. The newspaper and the community benefits from the efforts of those who contribute to the content of the Tribune. I especially want to call your attention to the hard work of our feature writer, Carol Campbell. Carol has spent countless hours on stories for the Tribune as well as countless hours on community development such as the Historic Motley County Jail restoration project and her work on the board of the Texas Plains Trail, which is made up of folks who meet regularly to discuss and implement ideas for tourism promotion of our Texas Panhandle region.

The feature stories written by Carol for the Tribune are a considerable body of work.

## Who Will Be Blamed for Big Cuts in School Funding?

by Ross Ramsey,  
The Texas Tribune

There will be blood. It's undeniable, especially when the governor goes out of his way to say that he doesn't have any on his hands.

Rick Perry, watching over a legislative session that threatens (at this point) to cut \$9.3 billion or more from state spending on public education, said this week that it's not the state's fault if any public school teachers lose their jobs. "The lieutenant governor, the speaker and their colleagues aren't going to hire or fire one teacher, as best I can tell," he said. "That is a local decision that will be made at the local districts."

House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, said a day later that the governor is "technically correct," in that the teachers don't work directly for the state and the state won't be doing the firing. They may be cutting off the food supply to the kitchen, but it's the cooks who decide which diners will be fed.

All this talk preceded a weekend education rally at the state Capitol, and it accompanies a rising chorus from Republican lawmakers who think the current budget-balancing proposals cut too deeply into education and health and human services.

Relocating the blame isn't going to be an easy sales job. The school districts are simultaneously losing money from both of their main sources of revenue — state financing and revenue from local property taxes. And while many have money in the bank, their immediate financial futures aren't promising. Some have responded by declaring "financial exigency," a way of saying they've got budgets so tight they need to lay some people off. Once that's been declared, a district can send notices to employees who won't be employees after the current school year. Others are marshaling the arguments for tax increases.

Local property values around the state dropped 1.8 percent last year. The state comptroller estimates it will drop 2.23 percent this year and then rise 0.52 percent next year. That's the base

against which the school districts levy taxes, and the biggest source of non-state funding for the schools. Those numbers are bigger than they look.

The comptroller initially estimated a drop of 3.47 percent this year — reducing that to 2.23 percent is a swing of around \$400 million in education money. In the 2008-09 school year, Texas school districts got 47.1 percent of their money from local sources and 42.9 percent from the state (the rest was federal money), according to the Texas Education Agency.

This happens from time to time, and the state's financing formulas compensate for it. When a district's local property tax revenues drop, state aid to that district rises to smooth out the dip. But with state aid dropping, districts that are also losing property value, and the corresponding tax income, could be forced to choose between cutting people and programs or raising local school property taxes.

The money, in education as in lots of large enterprises, is in the people, and more than half are either teachers (50.5 percent) or educational aides (9.8 percent). The rest are administrators, professional support and the biggest nonteaching group, auxiliary staff (27 percent). Those are the body counts, but they don't match up with the dollar amounts: Teachers get 61 percent of the total salary pile, and education aides get 4.5 percent. The auxiliary staff gets 15 percent, and the remaining 19.5 percent is split among administrators and support staff.

By sheer numbers, you can cut without getting into the teaching ranks, but with almost two-thirds of the payroll going to teachers and their aides, the state and local budgeteers might be forced into the classrooms.

It leaves an agitated taxpayer or parent (or both) in a quandary. In Texas' split system, an awkward balance of state and local control and financing, it's difficult to get an answer to the simplest question: Who's to blame?

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <http://trib.it/fHzh0B>.

## Engagement Announcement



Brook Decker and Donny Burson announce their approaching marriage for June, 2011. Brook and Donny were engaged in May, 2010.

Brook is a graduate of Motley County High School, and a graduate of Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in Restaurant, Hotel, and Institutional Management. She lives in Plainview, Texas. Her parents are Jan Decker and Andy and Kandy Decker, all of Plainview; her sister, M'Kinna, lives in Plainview; and her brother, Tyler Decker lives in Amarillo. Her grandparents are Glen and Jenelle Burns of Brownfield, Texas.

Donny Burson, Silverton, Texas, graduated from Silverton High School and West Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. His parents are Tom Burson and the late Deb Burson of Silverton. His grandparents are Mary Tom Burson, Silverton, and Elizabeth Barker of San Saba, Texas.

### Thank You

We sincerely thank all those who worked so hard to keep the fire out of Matador and save the homes that were in the fire's path. Your quick thinking and action saved the town from sure disaster. A big thank you for those who worked many hours and even days without sleep to put the fire out and keep it from breaking out again in the pastures. Matador is blessed to have one of the very best volunteer fire departments around. Thank you.

Bundy and Dixie Campbell

### Roaring Springs Community Volunteers

#### Invite You

**Firefighters Appreciation Supper  
for everyone who volunteered  
to help contain the fires**

**March 22, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

**Community Center  
Kevin Rainwater and Mike Porter  
will provide entertainment**

*We will be preparing seven briskets and all the trimmings*

*Anyone who didn't help put out the fires but would like to come out to express their thanks, make a donation, provide desserts or help with the serving will be welcome.*

### Motley County Tribune Office hours: Mon-Wed 9-4

Jennifer Lawler, Office Manager  
817-688-5929

### MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

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Jennifer Lawler, Office Manager  
Carol Campbell, Feature Writer  
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#### TASB Media Honor Roll

Houston Press Club Editorial  
Award Winner  
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Member  
Texas Press Association  
Member



Award Winner

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the past few weeks, there has been much talk and media coverage about unrest in the Middle East driving up the prices of fuel in the U.S. There is a certain sense of vulnerability when we realize events that occur half a world away affects our quality of life right here at home. . . in our own backyard. However, when it comes to food, fiber and yes, biofuels, we suffer no sense of vulnerability — Why? Because, thanks to America's farmers and ranchers, we have what I refer to as, "Homegrown Security."

Food, fiber and alternative fuel sources are affordable and abundant right here in the United States. Agriculture is the backbone of our nation. Our ability to provide for our own plus a significant percent of the world's growing

population is the envy of all other nations. For this reason alone, it is appropriate that we recognize farmers and ranchers on National Ag Day, which we celebrate March 15, 2011.

But let me make my point stronger. The agriculture industry has made significant progress in the past century. That progress has made the United States the most self sufficient country in modern civilization. Take for instance the most common commodity - grown in nearly every state of the union - Corn...

In 73 years (the average length of human life) agriculture has made America so productive and secure that its fundamentals are seemingly invincible. In that time, corn has become more than a food product or sweetener. It is an alternative fuel, a source for plastics and an icon for the industry. But it is just one of

many as most commodities have seen similar successes, technological advances and alternative uses.

Because of agricultural ingenuity, we can feed, clothe and shelter ourselves and provide life's necessities to all U.S. citizens at home and to our armed forces worldwide. Agriculture is the first line of defense IN America. It is the first line of defense OF America. We owe the proud men and women involved in agriculture an enormous debt of gratitude.

I hope you will join me in making good on that debt as I extend a much deserved, "Thank You" to America's farmers and ranchers on National Ag Day.

I, as well as the 1,666 USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) employees in Texas, understand and appreciate the amount of work that farmers

and ranchers do on a daily basis to protect our natural resources and produce the nation's supply of food, fiber and fuel, and I encourage consumers to learn more about agriculture and the people involved in the industry.

We never want to find ourselves dependent on a foreign food supply. It's America's farmers and ranchers who make sure our nation stays independent from the ground up. And as long as America's farmers and ranchers remain steadfast in their stewardship and productivity, America will remain strong. Please take time on National Ag Day to show your appreciation for American Agriculture... our Homegrown Security.

Respectfully submitted,  
Juan M. Garcia  
State Executive Director  
USDA Farm Service Agency  
- Texas

## Texas NRCS Offering Assistance Following Wildfires

March 14, 2011-- Landowners affected by recent wildfires in Motley County can apply for possible financial assistance through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for range deferment of all livestock grazing throughout the growing season, plant health concerns, and cross fencing assistance.

Although sign-up is continuous, applications for this first funding period will be accepted in the Motley County NRCS office through March 28. In order to apply, landowners must visit the local NRCS office to fill out an application. Applications will be ranked and those approved for funding will be offered an EQIP contract.

Motley County NRCS District Conservationist James Gillespie said, "NRCS in Motley County is prepared to assist landowners with their efforts to address wind erosion

that is continuing to occur due to drought and the effects from wildfires."

"We want to provide assistance that will enable landowners and livestock producers to accelerate the recovery of the health and vigor of affected grazing land," Gillespie said.

Gillespie suggests landowners consult with their local NRCS to develop a conservation plan, which can be an effective strategy for pasture and rangeland recovery and mitigating the effects of the dry conditions that Texas is experiencing.

Wildlife habitat can also be impacted by the wildfire and NRCS can provide technical and financial assistance in re-establishing the habitats for desired species.

For further assistance in evaluating your land and planning practices to address concerns following a wildfire, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Soil and

Water Conservation District in Matador at 806.347.2263 ext. 3. USDA Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

## Challenge match update

On behalf of the board of the Friends of the MC Jail a special thank you to:

Vada (Nichols) Watt; and Mary Lel (Groves) Fielder for their generous donation to the Motley County Jail video documentary project.

To donate, mail your check to: Friends of the Historic MC Jail, P.O. Box 582, Matador, TX 79244.



### "JUST VISITING"

In the Bible James in his book, speaks bluntly about religion and the practice of it.

There is much to be learned from this little book found toward the back of your Bible. First we learn that James isn't interested in being a fake, or impressing anyone including ourselves. He says that we ought not to deceive ourselves.

The book of James describes what real religion is. James informs us that our activities should include being involved in the lives of widows and orphans. In the same breath that James is talking about visiting orphans and widows, he tells us to keep ourselves "unstained by the world." It appears then that visiting the widows and orphans helps us in some manner to keep from being stained by the world.

There is something special that happens when you visit people who are widows or orphans or for that matter anyone who might be in a long-term care facility. By our presence we help define the word James uses which is translated into English as "visit."

Caring and to care for, is found in the definition of the word. Most people young or old are delighted when we take the time to visit and inquire of their special needs.

**Roaring Springs Church of Christ**  
**Michael G. Crowley, Sr.**  
 BIBLE STUDY 10:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m.

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Major Credit Cards

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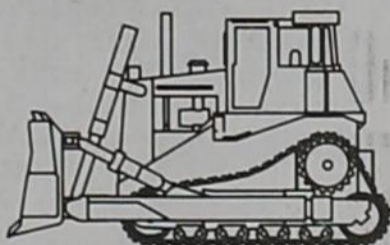
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# YOU ARE INVITED!

**WHAT: SPRING GOSPEL MEETING**

**WHERE: Matador Church of Christ**  
 Matador, Texas

**WITH:** Carroll Sites, Evangelist of Higdon, Arkansas, in a Series of Biblical Lessons

**WHEN: Sunday, March 20th through Wednesday, March 23rd**

**Sunday Bible Class - 10:00 a.m.** "God's Life Line to Man"

**Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.** "Expressions of the Heart"

**Please stay and enjoy a potluck meal with us following the morning worship service**

**Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.** "Expanding our Faith"

**Monday Evening - 7:00 p.m.** "Man's Life Line to God"

**Tuesday Evening - 7:00 p.m.** "Take Time to Be Holy"

**Wednesday Evening - 7:00 p.m.** "Spiritual Success"

**A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU!**

## Main Street Cafe

Pecan Pies

Now Available

Tues & Wed 6am-3pm

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Don & Lou Wittler

### Correction

Last week Braden Mason (not Manson) received first place in tennis at Levelland.

# First National Bank

## of Floydada

# STRENGTH

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Serving this area for over 100 years

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# Notes from the Library

By Mary Ann Potts

I want to take the opportunity to say Thank You to all the volunteers who helped fight the wild fires that plagued our community a couple of weeks ago. Without our wonderful community and outlining communities support, we would not be continuing our everyday lives, something we take for granted unless threatened and/or taken away. We are truly blessed to live in Small Town America!

Support is important in any community and, this time, Motley County Library needs your written support. The State's Senate Finance Committee is deliberating on the State Library's Budget. The Texas Library Association is encouraging everyone to write letters to their State Senate and House Representatives how important libraries are to their communities. As of now, the Lone Star Libraries Grant has been eliminated. This grant funds book purchases for the year for many small rural libraries and is essential to maintaining a current and informative library collection. Another program we were fortunate enough to be a part of this year, that may also be cut, is Free Computer Classes. These classes are possible through a cooperative effort with our West Texas Library System and Digital Literacy Corps, which received state funding to implement this program. And basic services, such as computer and internet access allow our community members unlimited information accessibility free

of charge. You may log on to [www.txla.org](http://www.txla.org), click on Advocate, Issues, and Take Action to customize a sample letter supporting your local library. You may e-mail the letter or print it out. Thank you in advance for your support.

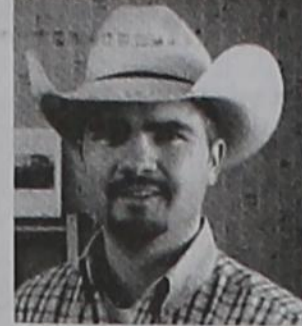
Our new book list this week is for our Juvenile and Young Adult readers. First of all, there are two books by Anthony Horowitz to add to our Alex Rider collection, *Skeleton Key* and *Scorpio*. And we're on the list to receive the rest of the series. In addition, we've received 2 books by V.C. Andrews, *Flowers in the Attic* and *Petals on the Wind* which are part of the Dollanganger Family Series.

For our non-fiction enthusiasts we have *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. Mortenson, an advocate of educating children in remote villages, has built 55 schools in the most inhospitable regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. His motto being that education builds understanding, eliminating fear of muslim extremists and recruitment of future terrorists.

If there's an author, book and/or series you would like to see more of in the library, please let us know. You may call 806/347-2717, e-mail: [motleycountylibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:motleycountylibrary@yahoo.com), stop by, or drop us a note at Motley County Library, P.O. Box 557, Matador, TX 79244.

Also, Mon., Mar. 28 at 9:00 a.m. will be Library Clean-Up Day. Please bring your Swiffer wands if you have one.

# County Agent's News



by Ryan Martin, AgriLIFE EXTENSION Agent

FSA County Committee Members go to Washington to Meet with Congress and USDA

NAFEC Strengthens Partnership with USDA Leadership to Deliver Critical Farm Programs

WASHINGTON (RuralWire), March 11, 2011 - Craig Turner, President of the National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC) led his organization's board of directors to the nation's capital this week to meet with key leadership at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as well as influential members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to discuss their longstanding partnership with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in the delivery of critical farm, conservation and disaster programs.

Mr. Turner's group met with Acting United States Undersecretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agriculture (FFAS) Michael Scuse and Acting Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for FFAS Karis Cutter, Acting FSA Administrator Val Dolcini and other USDA leaders.

Key issues addressed in the meetings held at USDA's Washington headquarters were improving outreach and education to farmers, especially socially disadvantaged and minority farmers, recent budget cuts, information technology (IT) challenges, improved selection of minority representation on county FSA committees, and retaining local authority in delivering programs.

NAFEC leaders also met with senior staff members in the offices of Chairman Frank Lucas, R-Okla., of the House Agriculture Committee; Congressman Collin Peterson, D-Minn., Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee; Chairman Herb Kohl, D-Wis., of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture; Senator Pat Roberts, R-Kan., Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Chairman Mike Conaway, R-Texas of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities; and Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Texas.

## Middle East unrest will likely drive nitrogen fertilizer costs higher

Middle East unrest could drive nitrogen fertilizer costs up to 2008 levels, according to a Texas AgriLife Research expert. Warm-season grasses used for livestock production in much of Texas and the South are dependent upon large amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. (Texas AgriLife Extension Service photo by Robert Burns)

OVERTON — Escalating unrest in the Middle East is not only going to continue to drive gasoline and diesel fuel prices up to 2008 levels, but there's a good chance it will do the same to the cost of fertilizing pastures, according to a Texas AgriLife Research expert.

Even if it doesn't further contribute to rising fertilizer costs, they're high enough already that livestock producers "absolutely must learn to better manage nitrogen applications to stay in business," said Dr. Monte Rouquette, AgriLife Research forage scientist.

Rouquette is one of the instructors at the upcoming Pasture and Livestock Management Workshop, a 2 1/2 day course set March 29-31 at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Overton.

The course has always been about helping both novice and experienced producers how to better manage inputs and utilize forage resources. Now, with fertilizer costs rising again, it's more critical than ever for those in the cow/calf business to "fine-tune livestock production inputs and management skills from the grass roots up," he said.

"The cost of ammonium nitrate today is \$460 per ton, or about 68 cents per pound," Rouquette said. "Last year about this time it was 53 cents per pound."

For the last six to 10 years, fertilizer costs have been rising, he said. The prices relaxed somewhat in the last three years from 2008 when they reached 70 to 75 cents per pound. But even before

# COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



"Wul, he threw me and broke my shoulder, I got right back on 'em, he threw me again and broke my other shoulder!"

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# FSA News

By Amy Hackler

## Texas Farm Service Agency Celebrates National Agriculture Day - March 15, 2011

(College Station, TX) - March 8, 2011 - In recognition of National Ag Day on March 15, 2011, Juan M. Garcia, Executive Director for the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Texas, thanks farmers, ranchers and others involved in agriculture for their hard work and commitment to the industry.

"Agriculture is an important part of our daily lives and is often taken for granted, but in these uncertain times, it should be remembered that American Agriculture is not only important for obvious reasons - food, clothing and shelter, but, the industry also plays an important part in homeland security," said Garcia.

Garcia refers to American Agriculture as, "Homegrown Security." He adds that the U.S. agriculture sector is almost entirely under private ownership and counts for nearly one-fifth of the Nation's economic activity.

"So, on National Ag Day, when we stop to thank farmers and ranchers who work day in and day out to provide a safe, abundant and affordable food, fiber and fuel supply, we should also take a moment to thank these same individuals for serving as first responders and as the front line of defense in the effort to protect our food and water sources," said Garcia.

According to Garcia, FSA's mission is to provide farmers and ranchers with the federal farm commodity and credit

support they need to insure they remain viable in an increasingly unpredictable and volatile global market.

Through more than 43 federal farm programs, FSA provides producers with an economic "safety net." These programs, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, stabilize farm income, assist agriculture producers to conserve natural resources, provide credit for farm ownership and operation and help producers recover from the effects of natural disasters. FSA also maintains the USDA's feed, seed and fertilizer data which uses geospatial information to maintain a detailed database on related storage facilities - another important component in homeland security.

FSA understands and appreciates the amount of work that farmers and ranchers do on a daily basis to produce the nation's supply of food, fiber and fuel. Garcia encourages consumers to learn more about agriculture in their area and the people who produce the commodities we enjoy.

"We never want to find ourselves dependent on a foreign food supply. And as long as farmers and ranchers remain competitive in a global market and remain steadfast in protecting what's theirs, that won't happen," said Garcia. "Take time on National Ag Day to show your appreciation for American Agriculture... our Homegrown Security."

For more information about National Ag Day, visit [www.ag-day.org](http://www.ag-day.org) and to learn more about the Farm Service Agency, visit online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Farm Service Agency



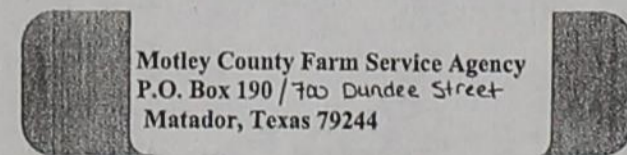
### Conservation Reserve Program Sign-up

March 14-April 15, 2011

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits.

FSA provides eligible producers with rental payments in return for the producer planting long-term resource conserving covers.

Producers who are interested in submitting CRP offers need to contact their local FSA office or USDA Service Center. More information can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.



**SIGN-UP ENDS APRIL 15, 2011**



### CRP Benefits:

- controls soil erosion
- improves water and air quality
- develops wildlife habitat

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- March**
- 14 Roaring Springs City Council
  - 14 HCCC Board
  - 15 Matador Lions
  - 17 Matador Masonic Lodge, 6:30 pm
  - 19 Spaghetti Supper at the Senior Citizens. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce for the community and for guests that will be flooding in for the Boondocker's Race.
  - 19-20 West Texas Boondockers Motorcycle Races
  - 21 MCISD School Board, 7:30 pm
  - 22 Roaring Springs Community Volunteers Appreciation Supper for everyone who volunteered to help contain the fires from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
  - 21-23 Computer Class, Library, TBA
  - 28 American Legion Post 337
  - 28 Library Clean-Up Day. 9:00 am. Bring Swiffer wands if you have one.

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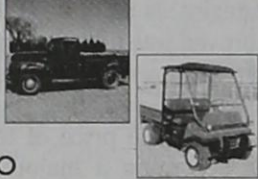
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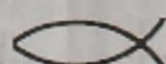
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