

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

Where History is Pride

Flomot Matador Northfield Roaring Springs

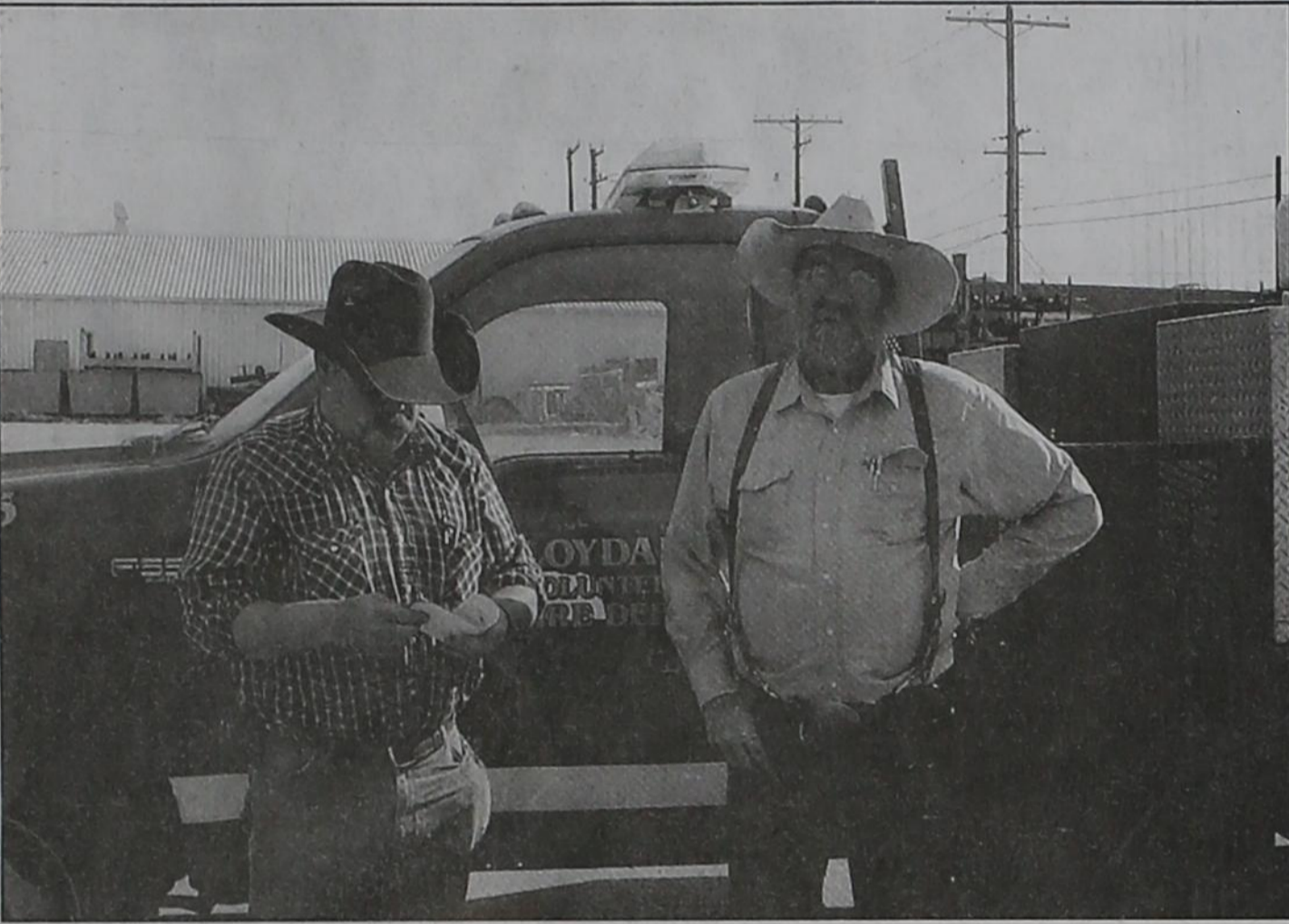


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Thursday, March 24, 2011

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Craig Dubois, right, Floydada Volunteer Fire Department chief presenting Craig Turner, Matador Fire Department, a check in the amount of \$ 13,122.00. The funds were raised by the FVFD hamburger meal.

SPFB partners with Lions Clubs and local churches

By Carol Campbell
Motley County Tribune

The South Plains Food Bank (SPFB), Lubbock, and members of the Matador Lions Club met in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church to distribute 54 boxes of food to 27 needy families in Matador on March 16, 2011.

Along with the Matador Lions Club, the silent partners in this food distribution initiative are the First Baptist Church and the United Methodist Church. Local churches help contribute to the "shared maintenance fee." Both boxes of food cost \$7.00 per family. One-half of the cost is unwritten by the SPFB with the cost to the partners of \$3.50 per family. "That's not a bad price to feed a family for a month," Trine Jackson, SPFB Agency Relations Director, said.

According to Alex Crowder, Roaring Springs, the Lions Club in Roaring Springs is also participating in the program, distributing food on the same date to 24 families in their community.

The SPFB announced its pending visits to Roaring Springs and Matador with the schools, Senior Citizens Center, Sheriff's Department, and

South Plains Community Action (SPCA) center. The South Plains Community Action office in Matador is prepared to take applications for the food bank. They are also prepared to help applicants with food stamps for emergency food boxes.

"Applicants need to call and make an appointment to discuss help with utilities or to make an application for the food bank," Cindy Johannes, Center Director said. The office is located at 809 Bailey Ave. (On US 70, 1/2-block east of Matador Motor and Implement).

The mobile pantry comes once a month, distributing 40-50 pound boxes of food, including a "dry box" of cereal, can goods, rice, beans, and snacking food for kids, Jackson said. "We also have a box of frozen goods, including items like French fries and pizza."

David Deason, a new board member at the SPFB, said he came with the mobile team to have a first-hand experience on the distribution end of the program. Sometimes board members can be detached from the real work at hand, he explained.

"It's a lot different seeing the work being done," he said. "This experience has been a real eye-opener for me. When Trine re-

ports to the Board, it is hard to visualize the impact of the program," he said, "Now I see why they are so excited about what they do."

"The SPFB's mission statement says the program "is a humanitarian resource responsible for securing, growing, processing, and distributing food to charitable organizations and persons in need. Food-banking solves two problems - hunger and waste."

"It's not a handout," Jackson said. "We are here to support you - like a friend or a family member -- helping each other out." The next delivery is set for April 20, 2011. Applications will be available at the SPCA center, or individuals can show up at the First Baptist Church parking lot at 10:45 a.m. on April 20 with an ID and proof of residency, like a utility bill, she said.

According to the SPFB Executive Director David Weaver, to qualify for the program, a family must meet the household income guidelines of 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or less. (See Federal Poverty Guidelines table).

For more information about the program, please visit the website at www.spfb.org or call SPCA in Matador at 347-2881.

Motorcycle enthusiasts invade downtown Matador Boondockers donate proceeds to firefighters

By Carol Campbell
Motley County Tribune

Matador was buzzing with excitement on Sunday, March 20, 2011, when the 6th Annual West Texas Boondockers race began with a parade lap and motorcycle race for 4- to 6-year-olds -- some little cyclists with training wheels.

Whitney McDonald and her son, 4-year-old Rhett, of Lubbock, brought a team of aunts, uncles, and grandparents, all decked out in matching green shirts emblazoned with "Team McDonald" in bold black letters. The McDonalds were all over the course, watching little Rhett make the corners, helping him keep his training wheels on the ground, and sounding off in encouragement. He had four spills on the practice route on Saturday, his mother reported. But after lowering the training wheels for the competitive run, he made it just fine, she said. Rhett hops up and back on the small motorcycle, without a whimper. He is totally in his element.

"This is his favorite thing in the whole world," Whitney said. Everyone that competes in the beginner's class gets a trophy, she said. "It's all about the trophy." Motorcycle racing is a family affair, she said. "My uncle has raced since high school, my brother and father race, and now Rhett." The little guy placed 10th in his division. "It gives us something to do as a family," Whitney said.

Mark Seigler's Ranch in Northfield, Texas, has been hosting the West Texas Boondockers Club for more than six years. He holds endurance races and "sand drags." "It is a family event," Mark said. "On Halloween we have about 70 families that come to the ranch, cook out hamburgers, and get in some ride time.

Michael Seigler, Brandon Moore, and Payden Perryman rode in a grueling team race

on Saturday, scoring 10th out of 16 entrants. This competitive ride consists of three riders per team; and each team member makes at least one lap. "This is a ride that lasts about 1-1/2 hours," Mark said. Michael and Brandon both rode in the Novice (small) on Sunday.

The High Plains Grand Prix Circuit (HPGPC) sponsors 13 races a year from September to May. They partner with local groups like the West Texas Boondockers to set up the 4.5-mile circular route in downtown Matador. The route is mapped with tape and stakes, starting on the north side of the courthouse, making a wide birth through the City Park, under highway US70, and back again to Main Street, under the bridge on Main and Nowlin Streets, past the old jail, before heading east to make a complete circle, ending with a zip through an old abandoned house in east Matador.

One-hundred sixty registrants competed in eight classes of riders from the young novice to the expert. With the support teams of the riders consisting of family

and friends, an estimated 400 people roamed downtown.

"We really appreciate the City of Matador for letting us be here," said HPGPC event coordinator Cody Bounds. "Everything works smooth here - this is the only race we have that is in downtown, and the motorcycle enthusiasts really have fun here."

This was a hungry bunch, too. A booth set up in front of the Motley County Tribune hosted by Our Lady of the Guadalupe Catholic Church, served turkey legs, nachos, Frito pie, corn dogs, coffee and cookies.

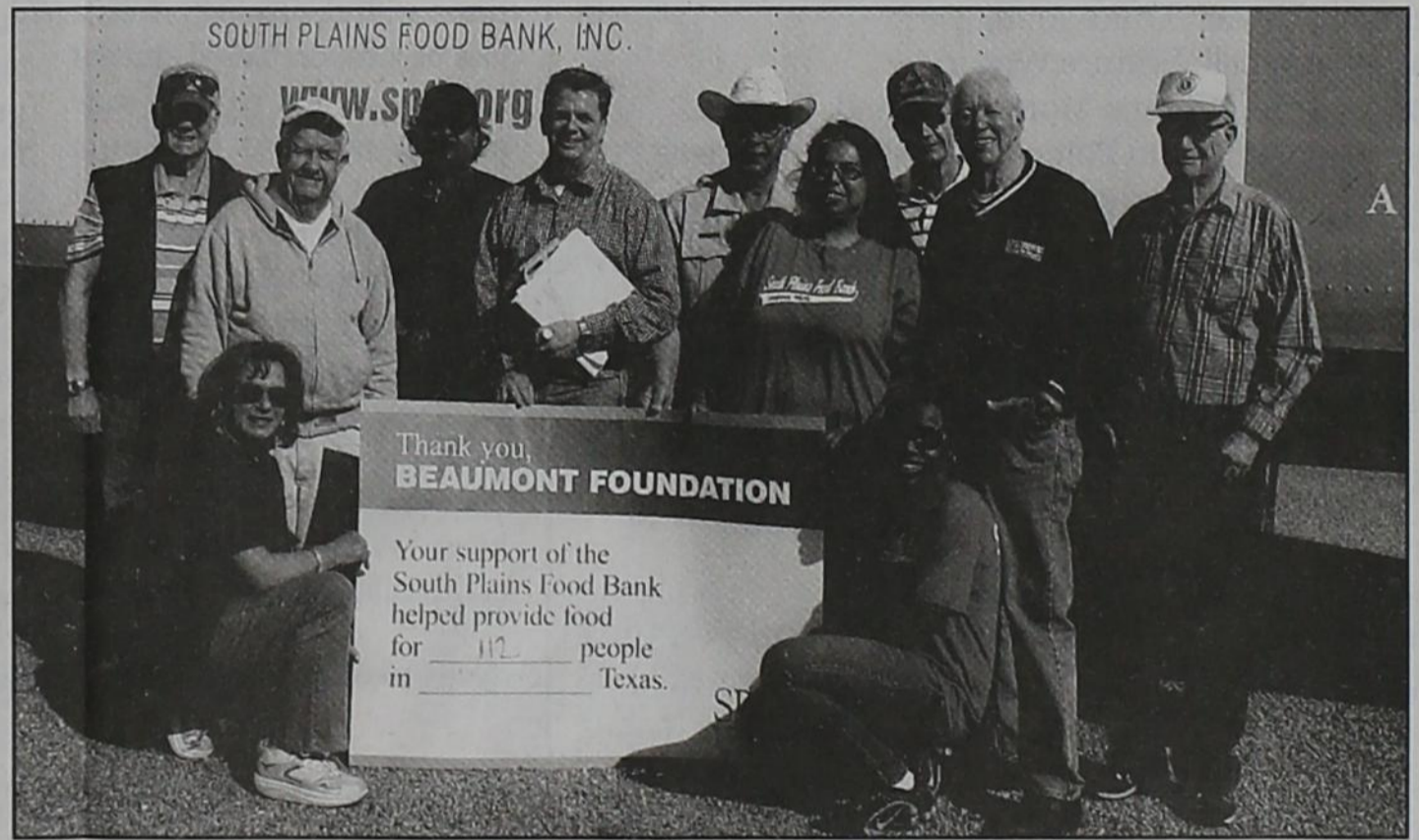
Alex and Aurelia Salazar "sold out" all their breakfast burritos; and lunch specials consisted of beef fajitas, beans, chips, and drinks. Pete Gonzales's son-in-law, Leonard Lopez, also sold out of breakfast burritos, and then sold brisket, ribs, sausage, roasted corn-on-the-cob, chips, pickles and drinks for lunch.

The Hackberry Creek Care Center hamburger booth with cooks Seab and Dianne Washington sold burgers and all the trimmings, chips, ice cold

continued on page 4



Michael and Mark Seigler check out the scoring sheets for the team race on Saturday. Michael along with Brandon Moore and Payden Perryman scored 10th place in the Team Race event.
photo by Carol Campbell



The South Plains Food Bank, Lubbock, in partnership with Matador Lions Club distributed food boxes to 27 families, benefiting 112 individuals in Matador on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Pictured are members of the SPFB team and members of the Matador Lions Club (L to R): Ronnie Vandiver, Bill Manney, Alejandro Zepeda, driver; David Deason, SPFB Board Member, Sheriff Chris Spence, Trine Jackson, SPFB Agency Director; Larry Hoyle, Stan Hanesworth, and Charlie Johnson. Holding the sign are: Susan Horkey, SPFB Chief Financial Officer, and Coy Harris, Warehouse Supervisor. Beaumont Foundation funds 13 counties through grants to the SPFB.

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

Women's History Month for me is a remembrance of my mother, born in 1900 on the prairie of South Dakota. Born into a Mennonite family as the second daughter, she had to "work like a man" in the fields since the first three children were females. She told stories of working with a team, and the events that shaped her life. She once was caught in a hail storm while working with the team, and feeling the pain of large hailstones hitting her on the back, decided the only way to survive was to crouch under the lead horse. The horse turned his back to the wind and she waited out the storm under him and got back on the harrow and went on with her work after the storm moved on. She was about ten or eleven years old at the time.

Another time she was cultivating and the horses got spooked and took off for the barn. She had no choice but to ride along and when the horses crossed the threshold into the barn, as the wheels of

the implement hit the beam across the floor, she was thrown up into the air and knocked unconscious as her head hit the overhead beam. She awoke several minutes later and wandered to the house and said she quit for the day.

The people of that generation had to be tough to survive since there were no vaccinations to protect the children against the prevalent illnesses of the time such as whooping cough and diphtheria. Two of her younger sisters died as a result of whooping cough and there were other dangers to working children lurking in the open machinery of the day as well as long cold winters that produced hardships for the pioneers.

She went on to marry and raise five children, get through the economic depression of the 1930s, endure the death of her husband at 43 years of age, and survive her second husband, all the while, raising a big garden and preserving fruits and vegetables every year to carry her family through the year.

She cried when I, the youngest of her children and stepchildren, went away to college and welcomed any of us whenever we could visit. Bravo to the strong women who stood by us through thick and thin, good behavior and not so good, and saw to it that we survived childhood and arrived at adulthood in pretty good shape.

By Marisue Potts
Motley County Tribune

When young Mabel Bremby first came to Matador in 1921 with her father, Dan, and her five sisters and five brothers she stepped into a segregated society that didn't seem to offer much hope for advancement or encouragement for ambitious dreams. Women, white women only, had been given the right to vote in 1920.

"There were no schools or churches—or anything in the way of entertainment for the young people," she told Lila Meador in a 1971 interview. That was something Mabel determined to change.

Back in east Texas she had attended Bishop College in Marshall and with that bit of verve, she took the county school examination and received a teaching certificate. In her first class she had 25 or 30 students for a five month period only.

Many of the children had to be free to pick cotton during the harvest season. A transient labor force had followed the plantings of King Cotton, and soon the black population increased enough to support the organization of the Macedonia Baptist Church and school in 1921. Matador students met in a small building near the railroad roundhouse until instruction was moved to the church building in 1924. Four years later, the school district purchased a frame building for the school.

With an inner yearning to be satisfied, Miss Bremby entered Prairie View College as a determined freshman and earned a four-year teaching certificate. Upon returning to Motley County, she taught from January 1925 through May 1928 in Roaring Springs Colored School which met at the old Dutchman Rock School for several years.

The Depression brought hard times with depressed prices, a loss of jobs, decreased student enrollment, and reduced state funding. Over 150 families in the county were either homeless or without work. Teachers all over the county received pay in "scrip" or promissory notes that pay would be forth coming at some undetermined later date. Therefore, Miss Bremby, the teacher, became Mabel, the house keeper, working for several families in nearby commu-

WRITING COMMUNITY

March is Women's History Month

Mabel Barrett



LEARNING IS EASY when Mrs. Mable Barrett is the teacher. Shown here with her Head Start pupils, Mrs. Barrett and the children presented a recent program for El Progreso Club in the home of Mrs. L. B. Campbell ..
—Tribune photo

nities. One bright spot during this time was surely her marriage in 1933 to Ray C. Barrett, a preacher who was to be her life partner.

Some social strides were being made in the black community in which Mabel lived. In 1941 her husband, Ray Barrett, served on the petit jury as part of a Civil Rights ruling to prevent racial discrimination. However, an ordinance published in 1944 by the Matador City Council seemed to be taking a step backward, and in today's light seems rather harsh. It called for the segregation of the Negro and White races, and defined the boundaries within a eighteen block area of that part of the city for the people of the Negro race. Building permits for a residence, school, business house, or church could be withheld if not built in the proper designated areas, White or Negro. Those guilty faced a fine of \$100 or less.

It was at this point in her life in 1944 that Mabel returned to teaching in the Roaring Springs school system and returned to Prairie View College in the summer. By 1950 she received a B.S. degree from Bishop College and pursued graduate work there and at North Texas State University in Denton. She taught at Roaring Springs until 1953 when she left to teach at Turkey until 1964.

While teaching at Turkey and maintaining a home in Matador, Mrs. Barrett remained active in her husband's church and their community. Likely she was in attendance at the Macedonia Baptist Church in 1946 when a mixed group of Whites and Negroes heard the Rev. W.M. Carrington say,

"A Christian civilization is not based on race, but grace. It is not based on white, but right. It is not based on blacks, but facts." The seventy-two year old evangelist declared, "If anybody thinks we can be comfortable, I would ask him to change places with us. We are appealing to the White Christian people not for social equality, but for social justice."

Mrs. Barrett joined with other ladies of The Colored Health Committee to list objectives for the spring of 1948: eliminate all open pit and surface toilets; discontinue throwing tin cans and trash near homes; provide sanitary drinking water to churches and schools; urge vaccination of all school children against smallpox, and immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough and scarlet fever; urge all premises be sprayed with DDT.

Members of Mrs. Barrett's community came together in 1949 to refurbish and paint an army barracks provided by the school board, as well as partition it off into classrooms. Although numerous other improvements were needed to bring it up to the standards outlined by the State Department of Education, the school continued its campaign for advancement with the slogan, "Where the vanguard camps today, let the rear camp tomorrow."

By 1951 the Matador Colored School was slated to open three weeks early so that students could later have a recess to pick cotton. That August 8 sched-

ule was delayed in 1955 so that some of the 34 students could aid in hoeing cotton.

High school students from the Matador Colored School were transported by bus to Floydada to attend Della Plain School until 1966, when the Motley County schools, white and black, were quietly integrated.

In 1969 Mabel Barrett, veteran teacher of 28 years, was once again leading the charge by teaching pre-school children enrolled in the Head Start program in Matador. She later headed up the Community Action program which included night classes for adults and social activities on Saturday nights. In 1971 the dedicated teacher was named "Leader of the Year" at the annual Motley County 4-H Awards Banquet, for her outstanding work among the young people of the community.

Without a doubt, many great things came out of desegregation, but one of the victims of the policy of ending a separation of the races was that leadership within the black community suffered. In their own community, there were outstanding examples of dedicated and competent teachers, ministers, leaders, and business men or women. Mabel Bremby Barrett was able to bridge the barriers and make a name for herself in both communities, now united. Just as the school slogan said, "Where the vanguard camps today, let the rear camp tomorrow."

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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

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Award Winner

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THANK YOU

Matador Ranch has always been proud to be part of this community. And after this month's wildfires, that's even more true.

Because of the heroic efforts of our volunteer firefighters, no one in this community lost their home, and the damage to our historic ranch buildings was minimal.

We express our deep appreciation to all of the volunteer firefighters - particularly those from Matador and Roaring Springs -- who fought so hard to help protect our homes, lives and livelihood.

We also want to tip our hats to the employees of Motley County, the Motley County EMS, the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Forest Service and the Texas Department of Public Safety and to the many other individual volunteers.

We can't imagine better neighbors anywhere.

Thanks.
MATADOR RANCH

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2008 Chevy 2500HD Duramax Ext Cab Long Bed 4X4 LT 28000 miles Local one owner trade	2003 Buick Lasabra Custom 62000 miles Cloth seats
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Red Hatters celebrate 10th anniversary

By Carol Campbell
Motley County Tribune

Eleven members of the Red Hat Club of Matador, including three new recruits, celebrated the 10th anniversary of the popular Matador organization at Hotel Matador on Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

A brunch menu of Philly Steak Omelets, "smashed" potatoes, and asparagus, topped off with Banana's Foster was served to the attending members consisting of Joan Patton, Suzanne Abbott, Marihelen Wason, Ray Baxter, Winifred Darsey, Joyce Campbell, Dorothy Day and Dorothy Knight. Three new recruits joining the fun were Lindy Stafford, Callie Giesecke, and JoEtta Bumgardner.

Queen Mother Joyce Campbell welcomed the new members and then gave a retrospective of "where we've been and what we've done."

"I think we should name our group the "Going and Eating Club," she joked.

The local club was officially organized on March 22, 2001, by Joyce Campbell, after a conversation with a friend who told her he had received a letter from a friend about a new club, called the Red Hat Club, she said. Joyce decided to try to organize a local club based on the new national phenomena that was sweeping the country.

"At the first meeting, we had

10 ladies present," she said. "We have had up to 21 members at one time." Joyce has faithfully kept an album that highlights some of the more interesting excursions. "Each month we meet to try and plan at least one activity."

The Red Hatters have been to Amarillo to the Harrington House, to Lubbock to the Skyview Restaurant (until they quit serving on white tablecloths); two times to the Kenneth Wyatt Studio, numerous plays and theatres like the Garza Theatre and the Ragtime Theatre in Post, Texas. They have packed picnics for Silver Falls, Blanco Canyon, and Roaring Springs, attended quilt shows in Medicine Mound, and toured the McAdams Ranch and the Tongue River Ranch; and the list goes on.

The members all had "favorite travels" and memorable meals. Marihelen Wason liked the Faberge Eggs on display at a museum in Post; Ray Baxter was fond of the quilt shows; and Winifred Darsey mentioned the Harvey House in Slaton as a favorite. Dorothy Day said that Carolyn's Christmas Shop in Muleshoe was her favorite; and Joan Patton enjoyed the trip to Canadian. Suzanne Abbott remembers a play, "Her Eyes Were Blue," a performance about Cynthia Ann Parker; and at least two trips to Memphis, Texas, to hear the pipe organ in

the Presbyterian Church.

The Club also performs community service projects bringing monthly birthday parties to residents at Hackberry Creek Care Center; and Tea Parties for the United Methodist Church in Roaring Springs and Matador. They have boxed and shipped socks and books to the VA Hospital; and sponsored an annual Valentine Party at Hackberry Creek. "We've done it all from art to the Fair Theatre," Joyce said, which brought laughter from the group.

Apparently, a comedy theatre in Lubbock did not appeal to the sensibilities of the ladies from Matador who as a group marched out of the theatre in protest of the program content. "I'm not a prude," Marihelen said, "but this performance was over the top."

The Red Hat Society was organized spontaneously 12 years ago by Sue Ellen Cooper and has now grown to more than 40,000 Red Hatters nationwide that celebrate life and each other with an organization without dues or other responsibilities, designed specifically to have fun and support each other.

"I have been trying to give the Queen Mother responsibilities to someone for several years, but I'm still it," Joyce Campbell said. For more information about this social club or to find out the next fun trip, call the Queen Mother at 347-2793.



Attending the 10th anniversary celebration of the Red Hat Club of Matador were: (Back Row, L to R) Dorothy Day, Lindy Stafford, Marihelen Wason, JoEtta Bumgardner, Ray Baxter, Joyce Campbell, and Dorothy Knight; (Front Row, L to R) Callie Giesecke, Joan Patton, Winifred Darsey and Suzanne Abbott. photo by Carol Campbell

TxDOT saying sign vandalism on the rise

CHILDRESS - In a recent observation of all Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) roadway signs in the Childress District, it is apparent that vandalism of roadway signs occurrences have risen.

TxDOT would like to remind whoever is vandalizing our signs that, tampering with or stealing Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) property such as roadway warning and safety devices cost Texas taxpayers millions of dollars annually. Most importantly, it can cause serious injury or death to the traveling public.

Signs are put up for a reason. If tampered with or stolen, it

can create a serious problem. If a stop sign is removed, or a paint gun has caused the reflectivity to be compromised, a serious accident could occur if a motorist does not know to stop at an intersection.

Tampering with any TxDOT property is a Class B Misdemeanor and carries a penalty or fine not to exceed \$2,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days or both such fine and confinement.

However, much stiffer penalties can be handed down in cases where vandalism has resulted in serious injury or death. If someone is killed as a result of a sign being stolen or tampered

with, the charge will most likely be Manslaughter. This is a 2nd degree felony. If an individual is judged guilty of a felony of the second degree the punishment will be imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for any term of not more than 20 years or less than 2 years. In addition to imprisonment, an individual judged guilty of a felony of the second degree may be punished by a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

TxDOT's mission is to provide safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Let's all work together to make sure our highways are safe for the traveling public.

Thank You

Dale and I would like to thank the ambulance crew, Tony Rose, Debra Scott, and Deanna Russell for taking great care of Dale, on his transport to the Heart Hospital last week. Thank you again for all that you do.

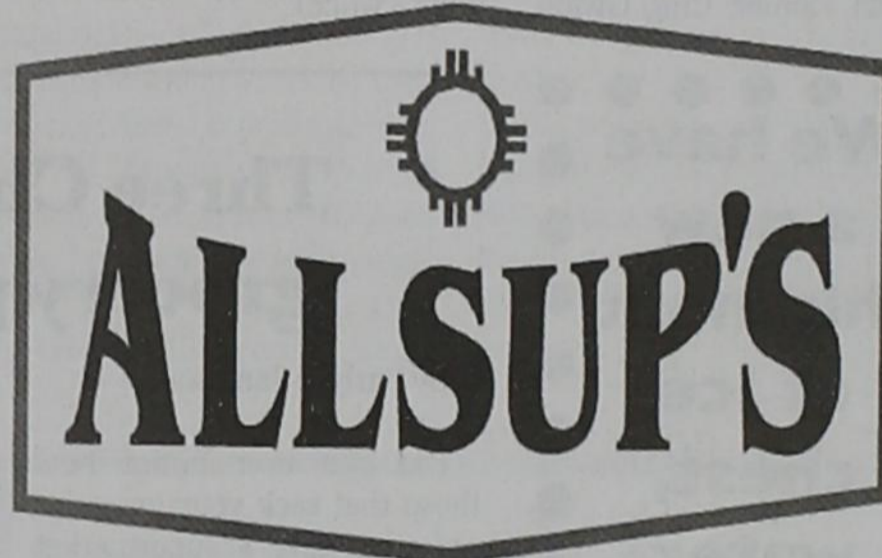
Dale and JoEtta Bumgardner



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WHITE PAPER TOWELS BOUNTY
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Notes from the Library

By Mary Ann Potts

We've received some wonderful book donations which include additions to our Young Adult and Juvenile sections. We have by Angie Sage the Septimus Heap Series, *Magyk Book 1, Flyte Book 2, and Physik Book 3* for our Young Adults. In addition, there are 2 more James Patterson books for our Juvenile Fiction readers, both are part of the Maximum Ride Series, *The Angel Experiment* and *Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports*. We also received another book by Meg Cabot, *Princess in Training* for those young ladies in waiting. And we were fortunate enough to receive 3 Magic Tree House

books missing from our collection: *Mummies in the Morning #3, Monday with a Mad Genius #38, and Night of the New Magicians*.

And for our adult audience, who enjoy a western flavor from a cowboy poet and former veterinarian, there's Baxter Black's *Horseshoes, Cowsocks & Duckfeet*.

The library truly appreciates all book donations from our patrons. Please remember that donations are tax deductible, simply request a receipt when you come in.

Library Clean-Up Day has been rescheduled for Mon., April 4, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Please bring your Swiffer wands if you have one.

Arts & Crafts

By Winifred Darsey

By Winifred Darsey

The sample was a beautiful necklace -- modern in design and perfect in construction.

The club dined at noon with the Senior Citizens and the tasty food was enjoyed very much.

Members present were: Jo Trammell, Vee Gordon, Dorothy Knight, Linda Ruhl, Joyce Meridith, Ray Baxter, Joy Archer, Nova Dale Turner and a cameo appearance due to other obligations by your club reporter.

Nova Dale will host April's meeting at her home. Bring a box, particle board, river sand, plastic hanger, shells, Plaster of Paris, and a spoon.

See you there!

THANK YOU

We are grateful and blessed to live in Motley County among so many wonderful and caring people. We have so many to thank, for saving our 101 year old home. First The Matador Fire Department and all the neighboring fire departments, Forrest Service, TexDot, DPS, all the county employees with maintainers, bulldozers, Lighthouse Electric for getting the power on so fast. So many, many people to thank. Our friends, family, and neighbors, Craig Turner, Wes and Guy Campbell, who brought hay and all the people who offered hay. Ronnie Cox for checking to see if we needed a fire truck, and we did. Craig and Able, working the next day to take our cattle to market. Betty and Lynn Campbell for watching over us and our home. All the wonderful caring calls. We appreciate each and everyone. There are no words bigger and more heartfelt than a plain old "BIG TEXAS THANK YOU!"

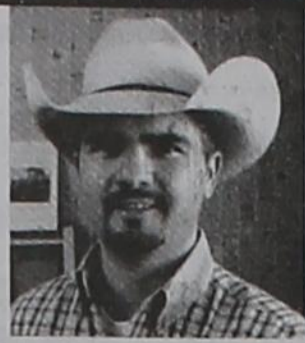
We are Blessed,
Leo and Joyce Archer

Thank You

We want to thank all who were involved in extinguishing the fires. We appreciate each and every one of you. Your many hours of service will never be forgotten. We are truly blessed that we live in Motley County.

Thank you again,
Dale and JoEtta Bumgardner

County Agent's News



by Ryan Martin, Agri LIFE EXTENSION Agent

Effect of Japanese earthquake on U.S. agricultural imports mixed

Intermediate to long-term impacts of the Japanese earthquake likely will result in more U.S. exports to Japan as the country rebuilds critical infrastructure and resumes food production, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service economist. (Texas AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Parr Rosson)

COLLEGE STATION — The Japanese earthquake could have a large effect on U.S. grain and beef exports, but likely will have only a minor effect — if any — on cotton prices, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service economists. "Japan is a major buyer of grain from the United States," said Dr. Mark Welch, AgriLife Extension grain marketing economist. "They buy a lot of wheat; they are our No. 1 buyer of corn, and we are a major contributor to their livestock industry. They are a big, big customer."

2-minute MP3 audio clip and weather report for March 15, 2011

However, if there is good news, it's the major port facilities in the southern part of Japan may have escaped the worst of the damage, Welch said.

"If those facilities are still intact — in terms of just the logistics of getting in grain and other food supplies — it does not appear at this point that it's going to be a severe (long-term) limitation," Welch said. "We're still trying to get information, but port facilities will be a key factor."

Meanwhile, there has been little effect on markets, he said.

"Originally, there was not a huge response," Welch said. "Yesterday (March 15), we were actually a little stronger in the grains. However, today we seem to be seeing a lot of investors pulling out commodities, equities and other financial instruments on a broad-based level — it seems to be so across the board."

Welch said producers were already beginning to see some retracement (pull-back on prices) in grains.

"Which is to be expected," he said. "Such things happen all the time."

But supplies for most grains are tight, including corn and soybeans, particularly so for corn worldwide. Wheat prices soared after the drought in Russia last summer cut world wheat supplies. Prices from now until harvest will be driven by moisture and crop prospects, in the U.S., Russia and other major exporting countries, Welch said.

As for cotton, Japan used to be a major textile producer, and U.S. producers used to export a lot of cotton to them, said Dr. John Robinson, AgriLife Extension cotton marketing economist.

"But that industry has shrunk relative to China and

some Pacific Rim countries," Robinson said, and there's unlikely to be any significant effect on cotton prices.

However, Japan is a major manufacturer of other goods, and there is likely to be a large ripple effect on the world economy, he said.

But the effects likely will be more on manufactured goods than agricultural, Robinson said.

And the long-term impacts on U.S. exports will be different than the short-term, said Dr. Parr Rosson, AgriLife Extension agricultural economist specializing in international trade and marketing.

"Near-term impacts will disrupt trade flows to and from Japan, resulting in lower U.S. exports of grains and oilseeds," Rosson said. "Intermediate to long-term impacts will likely result in more U.S. exports as Japan rebuilds critical infrastructure and resumes food production."

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

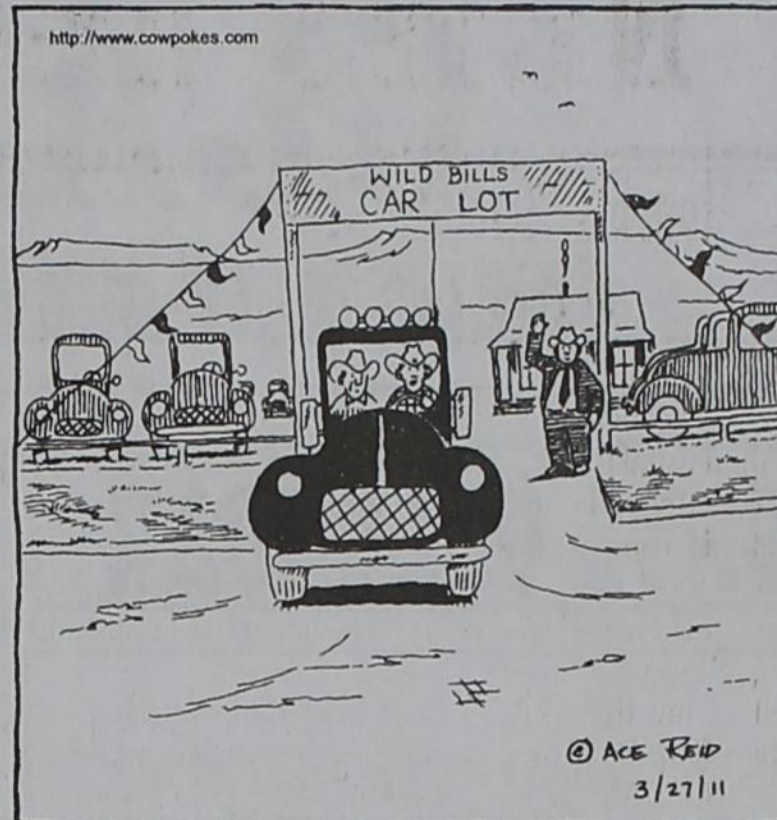
Panhandle: Temperatures were near to above average all week. Farmers continued preparing land for spring planting. Soil-moisture levels were short to very short, with most counties reporting very short. Wheat was in very poor to good condition, with most areas reporting poor. Rangeland was in very poor to good condition, with most counties reporting poor. High winds caused some soil erosion. Cattle were in good condition.

Rolling Plains: High winds and low humidity kept the wildfire threat high across the region. Moisture levels were critical for wheat producers. Many producers were irrigating their wheat. Some ranchers took cattle off of wheat so they could top dress with fertilizer and irrigate to turn the quality around. Native pastures were also in need of rain to give spring grasses a boost. The spring calving season was ongoing. Cotton farmers began preparing fields in hopes of taking advantage of the high prices. Some farmers were planning to plant cotton for the first time as others increased their acreages. Peach trees were approaching full bloom. Livestock producers were working cattle. They were also culling herds to take advantage of the high cattle prices.

South Plains: Temperatures were mild, and days were windy and dry. Most counties were still under burn bans. Farmers were pre-watering and preparing fields for cotton planting. Irrigated wheat remained in good condition, but the dryland crop failed. Even wheat under irrigation could use rain. Pasture and rangeland were very dry, requiring producers to continue supplying supplemental feed to cattle and other livestock. Russian wheat aphids and winter grain mites were found in local wheat.

COWPOKES

By Ace Reid



"Buyin' a horse from a stranger in the dark is sorta risky, but nothin' compared to buying a pickup that's been used on a ranch!"

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Sheriff's Desk

by Chris Spence

For the month of February, 2011, the Motley County Sheriff's Office received 25 calls from citizens and drove 8,946 patrol miles.

CASES: Cases, 3; cases solved, 3; Cases under investigation, 0; amount lost to theft or burglary, \$0.00; Amount recovered, \$0.00; Motor vehicle accidents investigated, 0; Assaults, 0; Thefts, 0; Burglary, 0; Burglary of Motor Vehicle, 0; Unauthorized use of Motor Vehicle, 0; Criminal Mischief, 0; Reckless Conduct, 0; Disorderly Conduct, 1; Livestock Calls, 4; Assist Citizens, 4; Assist outside agency, 6; Civil Standby, 1; Suspicious Person, 4; Telephone Harassment, 0; Family Disturbance, 2; Home and Business Alarms, 2; Welfare Concern, 1; Unat-

tended Deaths, 0; Other, 0.

ARRESTS: Misdemeanor, 1; Felony, 0.

PAPER SERVED: District Court, 0; County Court, 1; JP Court, 0; Out of County Court Papers, 0; Bailiff for Court, 0.

TRAFFIC: Traffic Citations, 6; Traffic Warnings, 4; Funeral escorts, 2.

TO THE CITIZENS OF MOTLEY COUNTY: The Sheriff's Office is here to serve the citizens. If you see anything suspicious or someone driving reckless, please call the Sheriff Office at 806-347-2234, or Chief Deputy Ware 806-269-3588 or Trooper Overton 806-269-0192 or Sheriff Spence at 806-269-3577.

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more often. Is this because we are not quite sure if we can take Jesus seriously?

Jesus encourages us in Matthew 11:29 to try trusting Him. Taking on the yoke that Jesus mentions is a process. Faith is a process. In order to learn anything meaningful it takes time. It takes time to learn to wear the yoke and walk as Jesus walked.

Jesus understands the value of rest. He knows freedom from turmoil. His appeal is to exchange our complicated lives for a life of trust in Him and there is where the easy and light burden is realized. In following the teachings of Jesus does simplify one's life. In the Sermon on the Mount of Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 the teaching is wonderfully direct and uncomplicated.

The individual who chooses to follow Jesus will experience a less complicated life. The soul will be more at ease. As we follow we will learn. Learning will help us deal with the difficult times of our lives. We can experience "a rest for our souls" that can be found nowhere else. Peace of mind is priceless. The uncomplicated life can be found in Christ Jesus.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

March
 28 American Legion Post 337, home of Post Commander, Jim Watson, 1701 Main Street, Matador, 7 pm

April
 2 Men's breakfast, Methodist church in Matador. 7:00 a.m.
 4 Library Clean-Up Day. 9:00 am. Bring Swiffer wands if you have one.
 5 Matador Lions
 6 Kids Praise
 7 Roaring Springs Lions
 9 All-Churches Appreciation supper will honor Motley County Firefighters. Motley County High School Cafeteria. The meal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Meeting to discuss the use of 4 B tax money to provide matching grant funds of \$5000 to the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail for a grant to produce a Video Documentary of the history of Motley County.

The Matador 4 B Tax Board will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m. on April 14, 2011, at City Hall, City of Matador, 706 Dundee.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the allocation of 4 B sales tax money to the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail.

Debra Scott
 Secretary 4 B Tax Board

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THE CITY OF MATADOR IS NOW ACCEPTING sealed bids for Lots 13, 14, 15, and 16 in block 107 in the City of Matador. Bids will be accepted at City Hall, 706 Dundee, P.O. Box 367, Matador, TX 79244 until 5:00p.m. April 14, 2011. Bids will be opened and publicly read at 6:30p.m. April 14, 2011 at City Hall, Matador, TX. For further information please contact City Hall at the above address, or call (806) 347-2255. The City reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

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