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Friday, March 25, 2011

Taba'na Yuan'e sunrise wind ceremony prediction below average to poor year



Paraiba, Comanche for Head Man Ken LeBlanc during Sunrise Wind Ceremony

By Jodi Lincoln
News Editor

The annual Sunrise Wind Ceremony, in the Comanche language is Taba'na Yuan'e was held in the city park this past Tuesday morning with high winds causing a first. This was the first time in the 25 years that Ken LeBlanc has been conducting the Native American sunrise ceremony that the Comanche of this area used as a method to indicate what kind of year they would have. This year winds were blowing 20 to 30 miles an hour with gusts up to 50 miles per hour as the hour approached to predict the coming year's crops. Paraiba, or the Head Man as his tribe knows Ken LeBlanc, had set up the ceremonial

teepees at the park and spent most of the night in his as he waited for morning to come. At around 3:00 am he decided he had best go to his home and check on the weather conditions and make some decisions regarding the coming sunrise service. Garza County is under a burn ban and the threat of grass fires was all too real that morning, leading the Paraiba to decide to use a lantern in place of the traditional fire that has always been used. Because fire is a part of the ceremony, but not the ritual of predicting the coming year, Paraiba felt that the community was best served using artificial lighting while still performing the ritual of the Taba'na Yuan'e.

And just as dawn broke and the sun peeped over the horizon, the direction of the wind was determined to be out of the southwest, meaning a below average or poor year for crops and ranchers. While the Taba'na Yuan'e is a Native American ceremony, the tradition of the wind ceremony performed here each year has been kept alive in the Garza County area by C.W. Post and the early settlers of this area who remembered tales from the Comanche who roamed this area of Texas. Some had become members of the Post City community and they would go to the top of the Caprock and perform the ritualistic ceremony and then return to Post and tell what had

been predicted. Since there were no weather bureaus' or ways to predict the coming year's weather, this became a way the farmers and ranchers learned to rely on the crop and ranching predictions. By 1875 the Texans had driven the Comanches into Oklahoma but their ceremonies and traditions were still a part of the fabric of this area. Chief Frank Runkles, who had grown up on a Lakota Reservation was asked by the city of Post many years ago to research this ceremony and from that research, the ceremony has evolved through the years, beginning with Chief Runkles to be what we witnessed in Tuesday mornings sunrise ceremony.

Photo by Jodi Lincoln

Keeping Our Children Safe

By Darren Weaver
Contributing
Correspondent

As a child, I remember standing at the curb for around half an hour in temperatures well below freezing, waiting to change buses to go across town to school. The bus that picked me up at home dropped me off in front of the elementary school, and I had to wait for the next one to arrive to complete the trip to Junior High. Sometimes it seemed unbearable as those of us who waited stomped our feet, blew into our hands, and rubbed at our ears to keep the blood flowing against the chill. On a spring day, we would turn our backs to the howling winds, and clamp our eyes shut against the stinging sand. As spring turned to the heat of summer, just thirty minutes would be enough to turn those same ears bright red with sunburn.

Those were certainly memorable times, and seemingly a life of yesterdays has passed since then. I find little reason to complain about the weather as I once did, since I can simply get behind the wheel of a heated car and drive to my destination. However, my heart goes

out to those who brave the elements for one purpose, to keep our children safe.

Post is not immune to the swings common in West Texas weather patterns. Our springtime winds that commonly reach fifty to sixty miles per hour would make people living in other parts of the country reel. The merciless sun of a long summer day barely gives us time for the night to cool its blistering effects before starting its trek across the azure sky on the following day. Winter's harsh cold and moisture can take our breath away. Yet these brave souls are there 180 days every year, in the bitter cold of early winter mornings, in the blasting sands of a West Texas windstorm, and in the melting heat of late August, April and May. This is not to mention the rain, snow, and sleet that are an inevitable part of our weather.

Who are these brave souls? They are the crossing guards and officers of Post Independent School District. Their dedication to our children requires facing

Children Safety...
continued on page 8



First, I would like to say in response to last weeks Speak Up in reference to the plea for citizens of our community to stop at ALL stop signs - YES, PLEASE STOP AT ALL STOP SIGNS. As for the blatant criticism of our local law enforcement, I would like to say that I am appalled that some would actually blame those who risk their lives daily to protect each of us, for the problem. As opposed to placing blame upon those who would voluntarily break the laws of our society. That type of "touchy feely blame everyone but the one who perpetrates the crime", unfortunately today is entirely too prevalent in our

society.

As for exiting from private drives which are not equipped with stop signs, such as the Garza County Law Enforcement Center and the South exit of the Garza County Juvenile Center; Section 545.155 of the Texas Transportation Code states, "An operator about to enter or cross a highway from an ALLEY, BUILDING, or PRIVATE ROAD or DRIVEWAY shall yield the RIGHT-OF-WAY to a vehicle approaching on the highway to be entered." No stop is mandated, nor enforceable should an officer choose to make what would then be an illegal stop. If a Crash should occur, the charge would not be-Ran Stop Sign,

Speak Up...
continued on page 8

Pet of the week



Jill was one of the first dogs to come to the shelter. She is a registered English Pointer. She is 1 1/2 years old and absolutely the most affectionate dog you will ever meet. We don't know if she can hunt, but she would make a great family member. For adoption information contact the Post Animal Refuge Center at postarc@yahoo.com or on Facebook at Post Arc.

Post Notes

Close City Community Bingo Night

Saturday April 2nd will be the Close City Community Bingo Night. This event will be held at the VFW Hall on east Hwy 380; doors open at 5:00 p.m. Bingo games will begin at 6:00 p.m. We will also have door prizes as well as a full concession stand.

Come out and enjoy some great food and fellowship and have a chance to win some great Bingo prizes donated by area businesses.

Small Business Seminar

Thursday, March 31, 5:30 p.m. at Citizen's Bank. We will have a presentation by our City Manager, a program

by SCORE (a business consulting group from Lubbock) and a representative from USDA to talk about some grant opportunities. Call the Chamber office if you would like to attend - 495-3461.

Brick Laying at Centennial Plaza

Thursday, April 7, at 6:00 p.m. The current brick order is in and these bricks will be placed at this time.

Annual Chamber Awards Banquet

April 9 - 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Brown Bag Book Talk

Friday, March 25 bring your lunch to The Heritage House and talk about books! Peggy Ashley will lead the informal discussion. You'll hear about new books, old favorites and enjoy time shared with others. We'll begin at noon and end no later than 12:50. The Book Talk group will meet the last Friday of every month. Call 495-4148 (The Heritage House) or 990-2149 (Post City Library) for more information.

Writer's Group Meets March 29

Anyone interested in writing - family history, fiction, journaling, etc. - is invited to join the Writer's

Group the last Tuesday each month, 6 p.m. at The Heritage House. Next meeting March 29. If you want to do some writing, if you need help getting started or if you are already writing - come and enjoy this informal time. We'll all learn together! Sponsored by the Caprock Cultural Association. Call 806-495-4148 for more information.

Holy Cross Catholic Church will be hosting their annual Fish Fry with all the trimmings March 11th-April 15th, 5:00pm-7:00pm \$7.00

Post Notes...
continued on page 8

Chamber News

We had a great turn out at our Depot Open House last Thursday. If you didn't get to come by, the office is open from 9-noon and 1-5 Monday thru Friday, so come and take a look at our new office and Visitor's Center.

Ragtown will have two shows this weekend. Friday night at 7:30 and Saturday afternoon at 3:00. The Garza Theatre will also be opening "Insane With Power" on Friday at 7:30 p.m. with another showing at 7:30 on Saturday.

March 31 is our Small Business Seminar. The event will begin at 5:30 at

Citizen's Bank and will be sponsored by Xcel Energy. The city manager will be present to discuss the renovation of the brick streets. Lubbock SCORE will be presenting a program regarding the importance of developing and managing a solid business plan and a representative from USDA will discuss some programs available to help small businesses. Please let the Chamber office know if you would like to attend this seminar - 495-3461.

Don't forget the Annual Chamber Banquet on April 9. We have had to postpone

the Chamber Bingo Night so look for a new date sometime this summer.

The High Plains Junior Rodeo is coming to Post on May 21. If you are interested in a sponsorship for this event, please call Trey Poage at 747-7373

A Memorial Golf Tournament has been scheduled for April 29 in memory of Trooper Jonathan McDonald. The tournament will be at Meadowbrook Golf Course and entries are due by April 22. For more information, please call 777-6415.

Congratulations to our Members of the Week:



Silver Member - Deluxe Inn



Silver Member - Germania Insurance

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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individuals, guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstone for our freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

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SUDOKU

7	8		5					1
			3					
	6	7			8			
2		8	4	7	9			3
	4	2	1				7	8
	3							2
2	5		8		1			7
	3	7			5			
	6			2				5

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

5	6	3	7	4	1	9	8	
9	8	2	5	9	1	6	3	4
4	7	1	4	7	8	3	6	2
7	8	3	6	9	5	8	3	7
1	2	4	1	2	1	2	1	2
8	8	3	3	2	1	2	1	2
1	2	5	8	4	7	9	6	3
5	4	6	7	2	1	8	3	9
9	1	2	6	3	8	7	5	4
3	7	8	9	5	4	6	2	1

ANSWER:

United Supermarkets

Yesteryears

10 Years Ago

The Post LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) Youth Group selected Coach Xavier Rangel as Teacher of the Month.

Services for Mildred Lois Hair, 70, of Post. She died March 18, 2001 at her home. She was survived by her husband Gene of Post.

Southland High School senior class sponsored a benefit team roping. They were trying to earn money of their Senior trip to New York City.

20 Years Ago

A tractor-trailer rig attempting to negotiate a curve on N. Broadway turned over as it was negotiating the curve near 15th Street. The accident blocked traffic for more than eight hours on Wednesday night. The rig was carrying hanging beef.

Post Main Street manager Wanda Mitchell narrated a special slide presentation for members of the state legislature and other elected officials at a luncheon in Austin.

The First Baptist Church of Post extends an invitation to the third annual Resurrection pageant which will begin March 31 - April 4.

30 Years Ago

The Post Area Chamber of Commerce will host a business seminar Thursday, March 31 at the Citizens Bank meeting room. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a light supper provided by Xcel Energy. There is no charge and you do not have to be a Chamber member to attend.

The seminar will provide several topics of interest to area business owners. Todd Hebert of USDA Rural Development will present information about a program available for small businesses to help with renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Qualifying projects can include the replacement of aging heating and air conditioning equipment or the retrofitting of buildings to reduce energy consumption, such as window replacement, insulation and lighting. For example, funds can be used for construction or improvements and purchase and installation of equipment. With this program grants up to 25 percent of an energy efficiency project cost are available with a maximum of \$250,000.

Post City Manager Arbie Taylor will present an overview of the plans for repairing the brick streets on East Main. Although a specific timeline is not in place at this time, this information will help the public understand what to expect as this project unfolds.

In addition, a representative of SCORE, counselors to small businesses, will help business owners understand the importance of developing and managing a business plan. This information is helpful for new and existing businesses and will help business owners realize the many applications for a business plan including qualifying for financing.

"We encourage new and existing business owners to attend this informal, free seminar," said Rosa Latimer, Chamber president. "The Chamber is aware that each type of business has its specific challenges, however, this information is helpful to all types of businesses. There will be time for questions of each of the presenters and the event also provides time for interaction with other local business owners."

Call the Post Area Chamber of Commerce, 806-495-3461, for more information.

Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Ritchie were honored with an open house, March 29, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Elena Maldonado, president of the PHS freshman class, was sawed in half in the Post Community Center on Tuesday night. The "sawing" will be one of the many features of the Zogi Variety Revue, a two-hour show of excellent family entertainment sponsored by the Post Rotary Club.

40 Years Ago

Funeral services for Mrs. W. F. Simpson, 78. She is the mother of R. L. Simpson of Post.

James McAfee escaped with bruises when his motor scooter was struck by a car driven by Mrs. Joe Sanchez.

Mrs. Janie Davis Jr. received a silver tray at the father-daughter banquet for her leadership contribution to Girl Scouting. She was accompanied by Girl Scouts Nancy Clary, Kim Hester, and Cristal Didway.

50 Years Ago

Funeral services for Mrs. L.W. Dalby, 83, she died March 21, 1961.

The new Southwestern Pub-

lic Service Co. hosted an open house for its new building on Sunday, March 26, 1961.

Isabel Stelzer, Janet Hall, Rheba Hays and Alene Brewer were the winners in the women's tournament at the Post Bowling Center.

Jack Lott is candidate for the Board of Trustees of the PISD School district.

60 Years Ago

Post's new drive in theatre, The Rig, opened March 23, 1951 at 6 o'clock with Jack Whipple as manager. The Rig is located on the Lubbock Highway, one and a half miles from town. Plans are for three show changes weekly. Shows running seven day a week.

Marshall Mason was named chairman of the Old Timers committee by president George Sampson.

Garza County young men leave for Army Service. Those leaving were Neal Clary, Roy Williams, Bill Patty, Charles King, Buddy Hays, Gene Ryland, Jimmy Smith and Leon Clary.

Mr. and Mrs. Powell Shytles and their daughters are newcomers to Post from Stamford. Shytles is the owner of Shytles Implement company, formerly Bryant - Link.

Seminar for local businesses set for March 31

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Call the Post Area Chamber of Commerce, 806-495-3461, for more information.

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and

**Carol Walt
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as well as a children's book, "Cousins Camp."**

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'Dayspring' Revival March 27 - 30

This is your personal invitation to "Dayspring", a unique blend of story and song. If Elijah, a prophet from the Old Testament, appeared today, what would he look and sound like? Through the imagination of Wesley Putnam, you might meet Elijah as a Bronx cop or see Daniel from the lion's den as a West Texas cowboy. These and other stories bring ancient characters to life and convey truth in a fresh, relevant way for our generation.

"Dayspring" also comes

with refreshing times of praise and worship. Wesley and his wife, Felicia, bring an exciting blend of old and new songs to help people express their love for God.

This time of renewal is for kids too. BibleQuest is a fast-paced program designed to make learning Bible facts and truths exciting. Come to "Dayspring", the beginning of a brand new day for the entire family!

First United Methodist Church, 216 W. 10th Street, 806-990-2942. **Revival Service at 7:00 nightly.**

Garza County experiences second grass fire

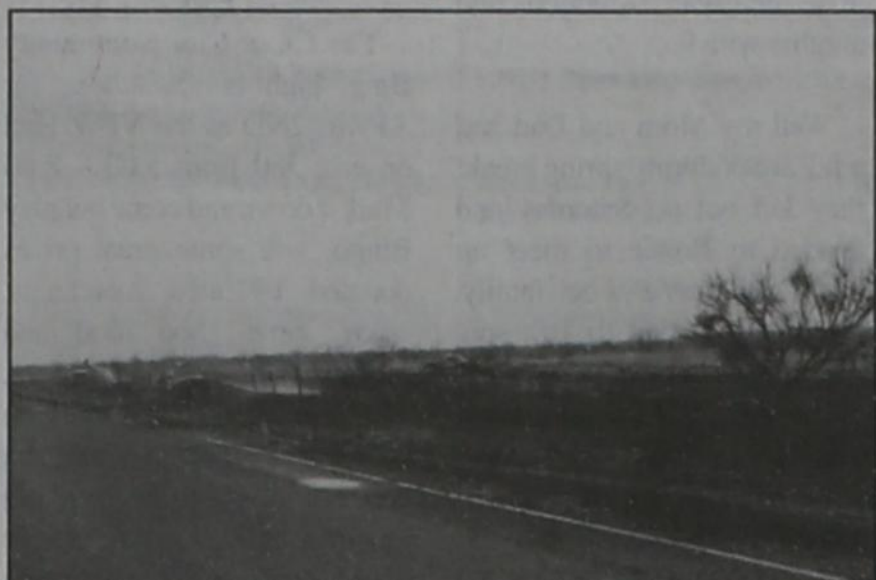


Photo by Jodi Lincoln

Grass fire north of Post on Highway 207

By Jodi Lincoln
News Editor

Garza County saw its second grass fire when a fire broke out on Highway 207 about 3 miles north of Post Monday. The Garza County fire department and county precincts responded to a grassfire around 10:00am. The blaze was quickly brought under control and only about six acres were burned. Garza County Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Isbell reported that though the fire was small and quickly contained, it had the potential to become another grassfire of the magnitude of the one that consumed

20,000 acres recently. "The grass is so dry that even the smallest of sparks can turn the dry grass into a roaring cinder box," states Isbell who urges the public to be extra cautious with anything that can cause a fire. Fires can begin from something as small as a spark from an overheated wheel bearing to a cigarette carelessly thrown out a window, a welding spark, or any of the many other ways fires can start. All it takes is one small spark to have a repeat of the recent fire that ravaged across grasslands east of Post. The cause of Monday's fire is undetermined.

Poka Lambro's 60th annual meeting set for March 31

Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is set to host their 60th Annual Membership Meeting - Thursday, March 31, 2011. The meeting will be held at Poka Lambro's main business office located 11.5 miles north of Tahoka, Texas on US Hwy 87.

Member registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. - followed by lunch at 12:00 noon. The business meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. One important item of business on the agenda will be the election of directors for

the Cooperative.

Other meeting highlights will include the reports of officers and directors and the presentation of Poka Lambro Scholarships. All Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative members are encouraged to attend the meeting. Members may pick up door prize cards when registering at the meeting. Members must be present to win door prizes.

For additional information please contact Amy Preston at 1-800-422-2387.

Commissioners' Court Minutes

By Rosa Latimer
Correspondent

In a regular meeting March 14 in the Commissioners' Courtroom of the County Courthouse, independent auditor Joe F. Hays, CPA presented the annual Report of Audit of Garza County and reviewed a summary of the audit. The county general fund showed net revenue of \$1,159,995 and the county was issued a "qualified opinion" for the audit for the year ending September 30, 2010. Hays explained that the opinion is qualified because new accounting principles require that post employment benefits for retired employees be considered and recorded as a liability.

The auditor also reported that the accounting procedures at the Garza County Law Enforcement Facility are sound and that these figures in the audit do not just represent the jail operations, but include all law enforcement activity including the sheriff's department.

Irma Guerra, division director of the South Plains Community Action Association came before the commissioners and submitted the organization's 2009 annual report. She also explained that federal funding cuts may eliminate some community action programs. SPCAA manages the following services in Garza County: emergency financial assistance; energy efficiency program; senior companion program; head start and Spartan public transportation.

Commissioner Morris led a discussion regarding an extended warranty on a maintainer. He explained that the original warranty on the Road & Bridge Precinct #2 motor grader and front-end loader has expired. The proposed extension of the warranty would be for four years at a cost of approximately \$15,000. The expense is

not included in the budget and would require a budget amendment. Warren Caterpillar representative Lance Wells explained that the warranty stays with the unit if sold before the end of the warranty period. The commissioners voted to approve the extended warranty as presented for an amount of \$15,500 to be taken from Precinct 2 reserve funds.

Consideration of extended warranty on Road & Bridge Precinct 1 motor grader was also discussed. The original warranty has expired and the proposed extension for three years would cost approximately \$6,800. This expense was also not included in the budget and would require a budget amendment. The item was tabled.

The commissioners considered two applications for public assistance. Although, according to County Attorney Mike Munk, neither applicant was considered eligible for assistance according to the county court guidelines, the commissioners voted to pay \$75 toward one applicant's electric bill and denied assistance to the other applicant.

A three-year service agreement renewal with Election Systems and Software for election ballot and coding services was presented to the court by Clerk Jim Plummer. He informed the court that the original agreement began in 2008 and offers a discount on most of the services. The new agreement shows a decrease in ballot printing costs and the coding discounted fees would remain the same. The commissioners approved the renewal agreement as presented.

One sealed bid in the amount of one-hundred dollars was received for county property located at 105 E. 4th Street

Court...
continued on page 6

Extension Extras

Did you know that 4-H is free to join and open to all kids in 3rd grade or 9 years old to 19 years old in Garza County?

Steer Validation

It's that time again! Validation tags need to be ordered by April 14, 2011 if you plan on showing Steers at any major stock show. Contact the office with your order. Tags will be \$10 each.

2011 State Fair of Texas Lamb & Goat Validation

Validation tags need to be ordered by April 13, 2011 if you plan on going to the State Fair of Texas with your Lamb or Goat.

Congratulations to Houston

Competitors

Rhaeden Bland placed 2nd with his Med Wool Lamb, Pake Jones placed 2nd with his Hvy Wt ABC Steer, Maegen Bland placed 8th with her Med Wool Lamb, Skylar Jones and Colton Thompson also participated.

Extension Office: 215 W Main (806) 495-4400. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Legends...Garza County Historical Museum

By Linda Puckett

This week as I set about choosing a topic or family history to share with the readership, I came across a story that was donated to the museum in 1996 by the late Mrs. Bobbie O'Neal. Bobbie was born in Post but lived the last years of her life in Breckenridge. She would come to Post on

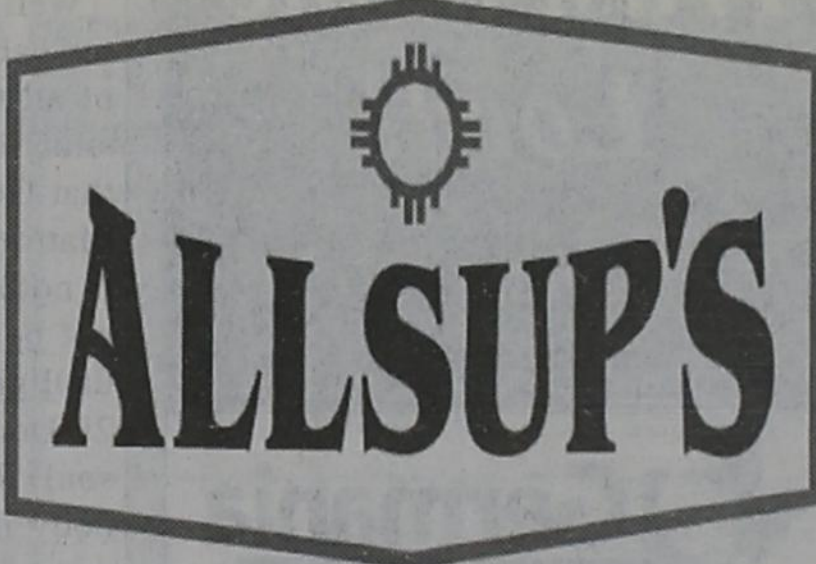
occasion to visit the cemetery and the museum. On a couple of occasions she would call, which was interesting because Bobbie was deaf. I would hear her speak and on her end she could read my response. She was a former teacher of Home

Legends...
continued on page 6

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1/2 GALLON / 1 @ REGULAR PRICE OR

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FOR



ALLSUP'S SANDWICH BREAD
1 @ 89¢ OR

2 \$1⁴⁹
FOR



CHICKEN BISCUIT
1 @ REGULAR PRICE OR

2 \$2⁵⁰
FOR



ASST. 6 PACK CANS COKE
1 @ REGULAR PRICE OR

2 \$4
FOR



GOLD MEDAL FLOUR
5 LB. BAG

\$2⁴⁹



SHURFINE SUGAR
4 LB. BAG

\$2⁵⁹



FOLGERS COFFEE
11.3 OZ.

\$3⁴⁹



WHITE PAPER TOWELS BOUNTY
1 ROLL PKG.

\$1⁵⁹

In and Around Close City

by Traci Freeman

Weather
We've had enough wind, now its time for some rain... keep those prayers going for the good Lord to send us some moisture.

News
As many phone calls as I got Monday afternoon I think the whole county heard about our excitement out here with the snake. For those of you who didn't hear, I'm at my desk minding my business and Ronnie Graves comes in and tells me there is a snake in the other room. I looked at him with "the look" and asked him

what they were up to. I get up expecting to see some rubber snake that they have brought in to scare me and it's not rubber, its real a not some little bitty 'ole snake either it was a pretty good size snake. As I'm standing on top of the chair all the guys are leaving...not funny! Good 'ole G.B. came back and got rid of it. Thanks G.B., you're my hero! Go on our Facebook page under Close City Community and check out the picture.

Everyone be careful out there; evidently they are crawling. Chuck Morris killed a couple of rattlers last week out on his

lease, one with 14 buttons and another with 9.

Well my Mom and Dad had a full week during spring break; they left out on Saturday and headed to Bowie to meet up with Salli Bess and her family, then they headed to Branson. From what I hear Jon, Salli, Journey and Jolie saw just about everything there was to see, while mom and dad enjoyed the cabin and relaxation.

Did you know?
One bale of cotton will make 313,600 one hundred dollar bills.

EYI
The Close City Community Bingo night is officially set for APRIL 2ND at the VFW Hall on east 380 from 5:00 - 8:00 Mark it down and come out play Bingo, win some great prizes donated by area merchants, enjoy some good food and visiting with good neighbors. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to help out in the concession stand by working or making brownies/cookies please call the gin and let us know.

Get your cookbooks and T-shirt order forms at CoCara's

downtown or you can come by the gin and pick one up.

Get Wells
We send out a BIG get well to Odee Campbell who has been ill and is in the hospital; Odee is in Lubbock at UMC.

Ragtown folks in the nursing homes we need to remember are.....W.C. and Marj Caffey in Marble Falls; Doug and Claudine Tipton; Carmen Abraham in Post; Odie Kemp in Tahoka; Jean Tipton in San Angelo; Jewel White in Lubbock. Others are, Mack Ledbetter in Slaton; Doris Wilson in Castorville; John and Mary Gist in Lubbock. Please let me know if there is anyone I need to add to this list.

Visitors
Bil Hedrick, Blace Stevens, Paden Babb, Noel White, Ronnie and Addi were our visitors this past week..... Ya'll come see us now, ya hear?

Close City Birthdays
March 25th - Vondi Gradine
March 28th - John Bill Hedrick
March 30th - Robert Craig
March 31st - Oneita Gunn, Mindy Polson Rogers

If you or your family are not on our birthday calendar shoot me a line and I will add them.

Everyone have a great week, be safe and keep rain and our troops in your daily prayers and send me your news! See ya next week.

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Weekly Inspirations

I WANT ONE: JUST LIKE HIM

By: Michael F. Taylor

Many years ago, as I was a young teenage boy sitting in a service that my Uncle Bob Ferguson preached, I heard him tell this learned and inspiring illustration. I thought it might have some significance for you this week. It seems that a particularly long-winded minister stepped up into the pulpit and addressed his congregation. And after only about ten minutes, he sheepishly told them, "Well, I have to apologize to each of you this Sunday morning. My little Chihuahua- ironically named 'Judas'- got into my study office at the parsonage, and ATE my sermon notes for this week. Therefore, I am at a loss to preach any longer!"

The congregation didn't seem to mind his declaration very much however, and everyone seemed to be in good spirits as they were leaving the church. The pastor assumed his usual position at the back of the church in order to shake each congregants hand as they left and to wish them a blessed day in the Lord. As his favorite Deacon was leaving, he introduced the pastor to his guests who were attending the church for the very first time. The gentleman guest excitedly shook the preacher's hand and said, "Pastor, I will have to say that you just preached the most encouraging message I have ever heard in a church before." Well, the pastor's chest stuck out just a little further and standing tall now, replied, "Really! I am so glad that you and your family chose to visit our little church today."

To which the guest answered, "Yes sir, you sure did preach a good one! And by the way, if that dog of yours ever has puppies, I'd sure like to buy one. I want one just like him!"

"Why do you like Chihuahuas?" the pastor asked inquisitively. "Oh, no you don't understand. I don't want the dog for me. I WANT HIM FOR MY PASTOR!!!"

Well maybe the pastor wasn't so encouraged then, but I want to tell each of you this week that God is still on the throne in the midst of all the storms that are raging around us. With all the terrible situations going on in the world today, sometimes we tend to forget that God is still in control. Jesus Christ taught his disciples in Matthew Chapter 10, " 26 "So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. 28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. 32 "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven." N.I.V.

So remember, the Lord knows all about the fears and concerns that you have. The Lord even knows the number of hairs on your head (for some that is easier than others for the Lord to count!) But regardless of whether you are bald as a bean or have hair down to your feet, God knows all about you and loves you. And He is concerned about you! Even if the dog ate your sermon! God bless and have a wonderful week.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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Devotional Page and Church Directory brought to you by advertisers on this page

Church Directory

Assembly of God		Church of Christ	
Bethel Assembly of God (Bi-Lingual)	407 May St.	Graham Chapel Church of Christ	15th & Ave. S
Lifeline Church	108 N. Broadway	Church of God	
		Church of God of Prophecy	602 W. 14th, 495-3644
		Power House Church of God and Christ	Pine Ave.
		Disciples of Christ	
		First Christian Church	812 W. 13th, 495-3716
		Evangelical Methodist	
		Faith Chapel	1105 Green St., Wilson (806) 628-0018
		Methodist	
		First United Methodist Church	216 W. 10th, 990-2942
		Graham Chapel United Methodist Church	495-3492
		Nazarene	
		Post Church of the Nazarene	202 W. 10th, 495-3044
		Grassland Church of the Nazarene	327-5656
		Non-Denominational	
		Family Harvest Church	111 N. Avenue I, 495-1400
		Caprock Springs Fellowship	12th & Ave. 1 495-2171
		Presbyterian	
		First Presbyterian Church	910 W. 10th, 495-2135
		Catholic	
		Holy Cross Catholic Church	Ave. K and Main St., 495-2791
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		Church of Christ	108 N. Ave. M, 495-2326

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 6:5

Visit any one of these businesses and churches and you will find wonderful Post City people and those who support Post.

Post ISD Menu

Breakfast Menu
March 28th-April 1st

Monday
Waffles, Sausage, Butter and Syrup, Fruit, Milk

Tuesday
Muffins, Sausage Link, Fruit, Milk

Wednesday
Oatmeal, Bacon, Toast, Fruit, Milk

Thursday
Cinnamon Toast, Syrup, Fruit, Milk

Friday
Cereal, Graham Cracker, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Lunch Menu
March 28th-April 1st

Monday
Hamburgers, Let, Tom & Pickles, Tater Tots, Carrots w/ranch, Choc.Pudding, Milk

Tuesday
Pizza, Salad, Corn, Peaches, Milk

Wednesday
Golden Fish Strips, Mac & Cheese, Salad, Fruit Choice, Hushpuppies, Milk

Thursday
Carne Guisada, Refried Beans, Seasoned Corn, Orange Smiles, Flour Tortillas, Milk

Friday
Chicken Spaghetti, Salad/ California Blend, Garlic Bread, Rosey Applesauce, Milk.

Southland ISD Menu

Breakfast Menu for March 28 - April 1

Monday
French Toast, Sausage, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Tuesday
Eggs, Bacon, Toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Wednesday
Muffins, Yogurt, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Thursday
Breakfast Quesidilla, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Friday
Biscuits, Sausage, Gravy, Jelly, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Lunch Menu for March 28 - April 1

Monday
Hamburger, Lettuce, Pickles, Tomatoes, Baked Fries, Carrots w/Ranch, Chocolate Pudding, Milk

Tuesday
Frito Pie, Corn, Lettuce and Tomatoes, Fruit Cup, Chocolate Cak, Milk

Wednesday
Beef Chalupas, Refried Beans, Tossed Salad, Orange Smiles, Milk

Thursday
Chicken Patty Sandwich, Baked Chips, Chili Beans, Fresh Fruit, Banana Pudding, Milk

Friday
Fish Plank, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Fresh Fruit, Hot Roll, Milk

Trailblazers Menu

March 28th-April 1st

Sauerkraut, Baked Beans, Cornbread, Jello Salad

Monday
Turkey Sandwich, Cucumber Salad, Sweet Potato Fries, Brownie

Thursday
Ham Casserole, Turnip Greens, Beet Salad, Biscuit, Pubbing

Tuesday
Tacos, Refried Beans, Rice, Salad, Peach Crisp

Friday
Fish, Pinto Beans, Potato Salad, Hushpuppies, Peaches w/Cottage Cheese

Wednesday
German, Sausage,

Find the Post Dispatch on Facebook and get involved in your community!

Post Classifieds

Personal

Post Group Alcoholics Anonymous 10th and Avenue K, behind United Supermarket Tuesday night, 8 p.m. Book Study Thursday night, 8 p.m. Closed Meetings For more info: 806-781-1156 or 806-495-5371 Monday, 8 p.m., Community Recovery Center, 405 S. Ave. C. For more information about the Monday meeting, call 495-3173.

Al-Anon

Family Group meeting meets Monday at 8 p.m., Historic Presbyterian Church, 10th & Ave. K, behind United Supermarket in separate room from AA meeting. For more information call 495-3053.

The Safe and Serene NA Group of Post now meets on Fridays at the Community Recovery Center, 405 S. Avenue C. For meeting information please contact: Miranda at 806-632-7367.

Thank You

The family of Danny Gunn would like to thank everyone for all the acts of kindness, prayers, visits, food, flowers, donations to the Scholarship Fund, and other memorials. The Post ISD for letting us use the Arena and all the help the staff did.

Melinda, Garrett, Brandy, Tatum and Andrew, Oneita Gunn Family, Don and Joyce Tatum Family

Benefit

For Jack Moore's unpaid medical expenses April 9, 2011 at Post VFW, 11:00am-1:00pm. Brnsket plates, Raffles, Auctions, and Dance. For information or to-go plates, purchase tickets, or any donations, please call Ken Bell at 806-

786-5146.

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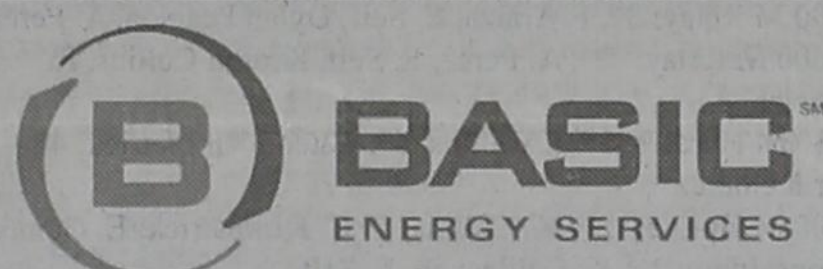
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LEGENDS...
continued on page 6

Economics. She passed away in 2007.

SOME HISTORY AND LIFE IN EARLY WEST TEXAS

By Mrs. Will Cravy

I did not write this as a history of my own life in West Texas but in answer to a request from a young friend, Rosemary Surman, a college student to be used as a theme in her school work. She was asked to write of a woman's life who had been in West Texas since the year 1900, so I wrote this-I being one of those women.

I was born in Lincoln County Tennessee January 11, 1887- second child of a family of 12 children. My father, Charlie McClain and mother, Anna Smith McClain were both native born in Tennessee. I came with my parents to Texas in the fall of 1898. We landed in Colorado City, Texas the next day after Thanksgiving of that year, arriving by train. My father chartered a train box car and brought all of our household goods, farming implements, wagon and hack, canned fruit, meat, black walnuts and soft lye soap.

My uncle Andy McClain, better known as Judge McClain, was Dickens County's first Judge who at that time lived just over in Kent County. He met us at the train. Uncle Andy had my father's team of horses all ready for him-two big roan mares named Mat and

Susie. The wagon Papa had brought from Tennessee had narrow wheels so we had to stay over at Colorado City two more days to change to broader wheels as the narrow ones would cut down in the dirt roads too bad. Mother and us seven children stayed in the hotel there and the men folks stayed in the wagon yard where the freighters kept their teams and wagons, sleeping there themselves when in town. Uncle Andy also had his wagon to help haul our household goods over a long trail of 85 miles to Dickens County where my father first settled.

The first night we camped out was my first time to hear the coyote's howl; nothing else sounds just like them, and I still like to hear them howl even though they are destructive. They were so tame back then that when the travelers went to sleep they would sneak up around the camp and eat the scrapes that had been thrown out. We crossed very few fences; mostly large ranches with long winding trails of deep worn wagon ruts from freighters and trail herds. My father bought an improved place with a 2-room box house and part dugout with a school house nearby.

See the rest of Legends: Some History and Life in Early West Texas in next week's edition of The Post Dispatch.

Court...
continued on page 6

(Lots 3 - 11, Block 155) in the original town site of Post. Attorney Munk reported that taxes owed on the property are approximately \$1825.47 and court costs owed total \$769. The appraised value of the property is \$1500. The commissioners voted to decline the bid.

Minutes from the February 28 regular meeting were approved as presented. The following items of information were brought before the court as a written report or for discussion and were approved as presented: District/County Clerk; Treasurer; Budget Usage Analysis; Senior Transportation; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2; Garza County Certificates of Obligation Bond Fund, 2008 and Garza County Public Facilities Board Bond Funds, 2005. Precinct and

Countywide accounts payable for February 29 through March 14 were approved. There were no line item transfers or budget amendment requests to consider.

During the public comment portion of the meeting Commissioner Morris commented that perhaps there should be a fund to repair damages and other expenses to county equipment during rural fires. Judge Norman and Treasurer Young suggested that funds set aside for volunteer fire department equipment might be used. The court will consider this issue at the next meeting. Judge Norman also commented about proposed cuts by the state that will affect county budgets.

The next County Commissioners' Court meeting is Monday, March 28 at 9 a.m. at the County Courthouse.

Plains Wrangler Relay, Junior High

(March 7, 2011)

Post 8th Grade Girls, 3rd place team finish, 79 Points

100 M Dash: 2nd, Kelbie Oden
200 M Dash: 3rd, Anahica Duran
400 M Dash: 6th, Rebecca Perez
800 M Run: 6th, Kortnee McKee
1600 M Run: 6th, Lupita Ceja
2400 M Run: 3rd, Fatima Trinidad
400 M Relay: 2nd, R. Perez, A. Duran, Kelsey Griffin, K. Oden
800 M Relay: 4th, Dakota Greer, Tamara Moore, K. McKee, Rose Taylor
1600 M Relay: 3rd, A. Duran, R. Perez, K. Griffin, K. Oden
High Jump: 3rd, K. Oden; 5th, K. Griffin
Long Jump: 1st, K. Oden
Triple Jump: 2nd, R. Perez
High Jump: 1st, K. Oden
Shot Put: 6th, T. Moore
Discuss: 6th, A. Duran

Post 8th Grade Boys, 5th place team finish, 89 points

200 M Dash: 5th, Blake Boren
800 M Dash: 5th, Ricky Fontenot
1600 M Relay: R. Fontenot
400 M Relay: 2nd, Freddy Araiza, Carson Kirkpatrick, Christian Perez, Allen Perez
800 M Relay: 2nd, F. Araiza, Ethan Self, Dylan Pearson, A. Perez
1600 M Relay: 5th, A. Perez, E. Self, Keaton Collins, F. Araiza
110 M Hurdles: 1st, C. Kirkpatrick; 2nd, K. Collins; 4th, Erik Gomez
300 M Hurdles: 2nd, K. Collins; 6th C. Kirkpatrick
Long Jump: 2nd, K. Collins; 5th, E. Self
Triple Jump: 5th, D. Pearson
High Jump: 3rd, K. Collins

Shot Put: 4th, B. Boren; 6th, F. Araiza
Discuss: 4th, Alejo Rodriguez; 6th, B. Boren

Post 7th Grade Girls, 7th place team finish, 47 points

400 M Dash: 4th, Ali Whitfill
800 M Run: 1st, Kaitlin Walden
400 M Relay: 5th, Dakota Perez, K. Walden, Quincey Quintana, Seira Scott
1600 M Relay: 4th, Maellybe Gomez, S. Scott, A. Whitfill, K. Walden
Triple Jump: 5th, Sierra Scott
Shot Put: 2nd, S. Scott
Discuss: 1st, T. Collins; 6th S. Scott

Post 7th Grade Boys, 1st place team finish, 246 points

100 M Dash: 2nd, Joel Lopez, 3rd, Blaine Reece
200 M Dash: 2nd Rafael Gonzalez; 4th, J. Lopez
400 M Dash: 1st, Rafael Gonzalez; 5th J. Lopez
800 M Run: 1st, Alonzo Armendariz
1600 M Run: 2nd, A. Armendariz; 5th Chris Rosas; 6th Sammy Soto
3200 M Run: 3rd, C. Rosas; 5th, S. Soto
400 M Relay: 1st, B. Reece, Kyle Jones, Cambry Gilbert, Aaron Lopez
800 M Relay: 1st, C. Saucedo, K. Jones, B. Reece, A. Lopez
1600 M Relay: 1st, C. Saucedo, K. Jones, C. Gilbert, A. Lopez
110 M Hurdles: 1st, C. Gilbert; 2nd, Shandon Wiley; 3rd, Jared Curtis
300 M Hurdles: 1st, S. Wiley; 2nd, J. Curtis; 3rd, Wyatt Gray;
Long Jump: 1st, C. Gilbert; 3rd, J. Curtis; 5th B. Reece
Triple Jump: 1st, J. Curtis; 4th, Shandon Wiley
High Jump: 1st, C. Gilbert; 3rd, K. Jones
Shot Put: 2nd, Rafael Gonzalez
Discuss: 1st, R. Gonzalez

See more on PostSportsPage.com.

Tahoka Track and Field Meet, Junior High

(March 3, 2011)

Post 8th Grade Girls, 2nd place team finish

100 M Dash: 1st, Kelbie Oden
200 M Dash: 3rd, Anahica Duran
400 M Dash: 2nd, Rebecca Perez
800 M Run: 1st, Kortnee McKee
2400 M Run: 3rd, Fatima Trinidad
400 M Relay: 3rd, R. Perez, A. Duran, Chelby Morris, K. Oden
1600 M Relay: 2nd, A. Duran, R. Perez, K. Griffin, K. Oden
Long Jump: 1st, K. Oden
Triple Jump: 2nd, R. Perez
High Jump: 1st, K. Oden
Discuss: 1st, T. Moore; 2nd, A. Duran

Post 8th Grade Boys, 3rd place team finish, 111 points

100 M Dash: 4th, Christian Perez; 6th, Blake Boren
200 M Dash: 5th, C. Perez; 6th, B. Boren
400 M Dash: 4th Ethan Self
400 M Relay: 3rd, Freddy Araiza, Carson Kirkpatrick, Christian Perez, Allen Perez
800 M Relay: 3rd, F. Araiza, E. Self, Dylan Pearson, A. Perez
1600 M Relay: 2nd, A. Perez, E. Self, Keaton Collins, F. Araiza
110 M Hurdles: 1st, K. Collins; 5th, Carson Kirkpatrick; 4th Erik Gomez
300 M Hurdles: 2nd, K. Collins; 5th C. Kirkpatrick; E. Gomez
Long Jump: 2nd, K. Collins; 5th, E. Self
High Jump: 3rd, K. Collins, 5th Freddy Araiza; 6th, Dylan Pearson
Shot Put: 6th, F. Araiza
Discuss: 4th, B. Boren, 5th, Josiel Delgadillo; 6th, Alejo Rodriguez

Post 7th Grade Girls, 3rd place team finish

100 M Dash: 3rd, Madison Carr

400 M Dash: 2nd, Ali Whitfill
800 M Run: 2nd, Kaitlin Walden
400 M Relay: 3rd, S. Scott, M. Carr, K. Walden, Quincey Quintana
Triple Jump: 3rd, Sierra Scott
High Jump: 2nd, Dakota Perez
Shot Put: 3rd, Tori Collins
Discuss: 2nd, T. Collins

Post 7th Grade Boys, 1st place team finish, 299 points

100 M Dash: 1st, Jordan Solarzano; 2nd, Blaine Reece; 3rd Joel Lopez
200 M Dash: 1st, J. Solarzano; 2nd, B. Reece; 3rd J. Lopez
400 M Dash: 2nd, J. Solarzano; 5th J. Lopez
800 M Run: 2nd, Alonzo Armendariz; 3rd Sammy Soto, 4th Chris Rosas
1600 M Run: 1st, A. Armendariz; 2nd C. Rosas; 4th S. Soto
400 M Relay: 1st, Christian Saucedo, Kyle Jones, Cambry Gilbert, Aaron Lopez
800 M Relay: 1st, C. Saucedo, K. Jones, Jared Curtis, A. Lopez
1600 M Relay: 1st, C. Saucedo, K. Jones, C. Gilbert, A. Lopez
110 M Hurdles: 1st, J. Curtis; 2nd, C. Gilbert; 3rd, Shandon Wiley
300 M Hurdles: 1st, Wyatt Gray; 2nd, S. Wiley; 3rd, J. Curtis
Long Jump: 1st, J. Solarzano; 2nd, C. Gilbert, 5th B. Reece
Triple Jump: 1st, Jared Curtis; Shandon Wiley; 5th J. Solarzano
High Jump: 1st, C. Gilbert; 2nd K. Jones; 5th B. Reece
Shot Put: 1st, Rafael Gonzalez; 3rd, Jaybren Rodriguez
Discuss: 1st, J. Rodriguez; 2nd, R. Gonzalez

See more on PostSportsPage.com.

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By ROBERT P...
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OPINION

Sen. Vitter Highlights Duplicity Toward Oil Drilling

By KEVIN MOONEY

Take a good look at the recent filing from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that seeks to stay a court order directing the feds to issue new oil drilling permits. It tells a much different story than what top Obama Administration officials claim in their statements to members of Congress.

In a letter addressed to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) Director Michael Bromwich, Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) details these discrepancies.

"Over the last several weeks and months, you have indicated publicly, before Congress, and privately to members, including myself, that there are only a handful of permits awaiting agency action," Vitter wrote in the letter. "It is a mathematical impossibility for your representations to be accurate, as well as the filings of the Department of Justice to be accurate. It is not possible for there to be 'too few permits' awaiting review, and simultaneously 'too many' permits being reviewed to make issuing a particular handful problematic."

The numbers reported on page 11 of a motion the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed last week tell a much dif-

ferent story than what has recently reported in congressional testimony and transmitted privately to elected officials, Vitter notes in his letter. The DOJ motion seeks to stay federal judge Martin Feldman's two recent orders directing BOEMRE to issue at least seven permits. Since there are 270 shallow water permit applications pending and 52 deepwater permit applications pending, the court's orders could force a potentially harmful "re-prioritization," DOJ warns in its filing.

However, in his recent testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Salazar said the Interior Department has received only 47 shallow water permit applications over the past nine months and only seven deepwater permit applications are pending. For his part, Bromwich told Vitter personally that only six deepwater permits are pending and publicly stated that deepwater permits would be limited because "only a handful of completed applications have been received."

The timing of Vitter's letter coincided appropriately enough with Sunshine Week, which ran through Saturday, Mar. 19. It is a national effort organized through the American Society of News Editors that highlights the public's right to know about government activities.

Salazar and Bromwich both have a legal obligation to

maintain the integrity of the information they convey in their official capacities, Vitter points out in his letter.

"I would like to remind you of your responsibility as agency officials under the Information Quality Act (IQA). Section 515 of the IQA directs federal agencies to maximize "the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity" of information they prepare and disseminate and it requires agencies to adopt and follow implementing guidelines. The OMB guidelines note the IQA applies to the "creation, collection, maintenance, and dissemination of information." The basic standard of care is that information must be "accurate, clear, complete, and unbiased." Stricter and even more rigorous quality standards apply when the information is "influential," meaning it will "have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies...."

British Petroleum's Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded one year ago this past April 20 killing 11 workers and causing an estimated 5 million barrels of crude oil to spill into the Gulf of Mexico. The Obama Administration responded with a series of proviso and restrictions on future drilling that besets the industry to this day.

Pressure

By BILL WILSON

Right now, the world is lost in a sea of black swans — any of which, if they unfurl their wings and fly, could potentially derail the global economic recovery and lead to massive government defaults on sovereign debt.

Bloomberg News' William Pesek points to one of these black swans, that being the prospect that Japan, overwhelmed by the earthquake-tsunami-nuclear disaster response, will dump a large portion of its \$886 billion of U.S. treasuries to help pay for the recovery.

The problem is pretty clear: Insurance companies in Japan have massive payouts to make for the earthquake to their policy holders. If they cannot raise more capital, the recovery efforts could put considerable strain on those companies. Moreover, the Japanese government provides most of the earthquake insurance in the nation, but it caps total payouts at \$60 billion, as reported by MSNBC's John Schoen.

That may be help the insurance companies and the government's insurance funds stay solvent, but it poses a bigger difficulty. Estimates put the cost of recovery at about \$180 billion or more. That means that insurance alone is not going to cover the costs. So, Japan needs to get the money from somewhere, leading writers like Pesek to speculate that perhaps Japan will need to dump its U.S. treasuries holdings.

There are some other options. They could also use the threat of dumping the treasuries as a way of coercing the U.S. into paying for rebuilding Japan. Or, they could default on portions of their own domestically-held debt. Or go even deeper into debt — although Japan has already accumulated public debt equivalent to over 200 percent of the nation's economy.

Of those, getting the U.S. to help pay for the effort—since the Japanese do hold such a significant portion of U.S. debt—seems the most likely. Unless, of course, another U.S. creditor like China begins dumping their bonds first in anticipation of Japan dumping theirs, thus forcing Japan (and others) to dump theirs.

But, stepping back, even this is but one of many potential black swans that could lead to very bad outcomes.

For example, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has indicated that QE2, wherein the Fed is purchasing U.S. treasuries, will be winding down in June. The question is, when the Fed pulls back, who will buy all of the new debt the federal government is creating every year? Japan?

Consider the quantitative easing programs of the past couple of years. Pimco reports that in 2009, 80 percent of treasuries were purchased by the Federal Reserve, and in 2010, it had to buy 70 percent. Will there suddenly be a tremendous appetite for treasuries when the Fed withdraws when the U.S. debt is already pushing 100 percent of the Gross Domestic Product?

Another black swan, as always, are Mideast tensions. What will come of the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions spreading throughout the region? What if hostilities break out between Saudi Arabia and Iran? Who would China back? The current unrest in that region obviously has tremendous implications for global energy supplies, which affects both China and Europe tremendously, which are both net energy importers. Further supply disruptions, coupled with easy monetary policies in the U.S., could send oil prices to the moon again.

And then there's the European sovereign debt

crisis itself. There, German and French financial institutions own most of the foreign-held debt of Portugal, Ireland, Greece, and Spain. And they are unwilling to take any haircut via debt restructuring for these troubled sovereigns. But why?

Probably because they cannot afford to. Obviously, when the financial crisis struck in 2008, financial institutions could not afford the restructuring necessary with the losses posed by the mortgage-backed securities and derivatives — not without major government assistance. Those assets had been leveraged for borrowing and for investments.

It stands to reason they have done the same thing with government debt securities. Which is most likely why states like Ireland, Iceland, Greece, or others defaulting on portions of their debt poses such a threat to them. It could force them into bankruptcy.

Thus far, Ireland, since electing Prime Minister Enda Kenny recently, has attempted to negotiate a lower interest rate with the European Union for the €67.5 billion bailout loan it received. But Germany and France demanded that Ireland raise its lowest-in-Europe corporate tax rate of 12.5 percent.

Kenny refused, a move that has elevated him to the position of a national hero. The truth is, he holds some cards that could be played — namely, the threat of a sovereign default. He can rightly argue that his party never supported the bank bailout in Ireland to begin with, and that the 6 percent rate on the EU loan is confiscatory. So, what if Ireland uses that leverage to attempt to get a lower rate?

Moreover, what if Germany and France refused, Ireland defaulted? That would likely send ripples throughout government debt mar-

kets and threaten the ability of governments to borrow money.

It would also hurt the U.S. in that regard. Any one of these pressure points appears increasingly likely to blow up, and they could make it much harder for the U.S. to borrow over \$2 trillion every year to deficit-spend and refinance the existing \$14.1 trillion debt.

Scratch the surface and even the most-avowed, dedicated Washington, D.C. establishmentarians do not think the U.S. — and other troubled sovereigns throughout the world — are on any sort of tenable trajectory.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., Barack Obama is busy taking his kids to Brazil for vacation and obsessed with March Madness brackets.

At one of the nation's most critical moments, we need a strong leader. But instead we have a figure who appears increasingly unsuited to the task at hand, which is reining in an unsustainable government spending binge.

Whoever runs against Obama in 2012, he or she needs to articulate a very clear message of how to deal with the world as it is, not as central planners in Washington wish it were. We need to stop applying pressure to these pressure points and reduce the pressure. That means the U.S. needs to lead the way with some form of debt restructuring, fiscal austerity, and a return to hard money.

The alternative to debt repayment — even partial repayment via debt restructuring — appears to be to do nothing. And risk a catastrophic default later that includes the collapse of whole currencies and governments, the destabilization of entire regions, and the likely tyrannies that will rise to fill the power void. Then, no amount of bread and circuses will help.

Debt a Vexing Can of Worms

By ROBERT ROMANO

House Republicans have unveiled a very strong presentation they are making to constituents while Congress is on recess this week. It could indicate that a strong push is coming to rein in mandatory spending, meaning the \$61 billion the House has proposed cutting from non-defense discretionary is only the beginning of the work to be done in bringing the nation's fiscal House into order.

That's good, because the proposal to cut spending in the continuing resolution does nothing to address the problems House Republicans outline in their presentation to constituents. Of course, they may have inadvertently opened up a can of worms of problems that need to be explained to the American people.

According to a fact sheet being distributed by the House Republican Conference, "our nation's retirement and health security programs, coupled with our debt payments, are the real drivers of our debt crisis."

The presentation cites a Tarrance Group poll demonstrating public misconceptions about the nature of the nation's sovereign debt crisis, which says, "A majority of voters incorrectly believe the federal government spends more on defense/foreign aid than it does on Medicare and Social Security (63 percent)." In fact, security spending accounted for \$815 billion in 2010 compared to \$1.147 trillion for Medicare and Social Security.

Overall, so-called mandatory, autopilot spending, which includes Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs, will account for \$27.3 trillion from 2012-2021, compared to just \$8.5 trillion for security spending, according to the Office of Management and Budget. Mandatory spending comes about because of congressionally enacted laws based on eligibility determinations rather than line-item appropriations, thus requiring the money to be spent whether Congress votes up or down on new monies to be dispensed.

Currently, such spending accounts for \$1.95 trillion a year, but that number will rise to \$3.47 trillion by 2021, a 91 percent increase. Security spending, on the other hand will only rise from its current \$815 billion level to \$914 billion in 2021, a mere 12 percent increase.

The Tarrance Group poll outlines the uphill battle Republicans will have with bringing these facts to the attention of the American people. "Less than half (44 percent) believe Medicare and Social Security costs are a major source of problems for the federal budget (49 percent disagree)," says the poll. That's bad, because mandatory entitlement spending by every measure is threatening to consume the entire budget.

As a result, the presentation urges Americans to "share the facts with your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers"

and "let them know ignoring the problem will only make the problem worse". That's putting it mildly.

While there is a general sense among Americans that spending has increased dramatically since 2007, when the financial crisis began, most are probably not aware of just how much Congress has increased taxpayer liabilities. In 2007, the budget was \$2.728 trillion with a budget deficit of just \$160.7 billion, but will rise in 2011 to \$3.818 trillion with an eye-popping \$1.645 trillion deficit. That's a \$1.09 trillion or 39 percent increase in spending in just four years, and a 923 percent increase in the budget deficit.

How could the deficit go from \$160.7 billion to \$1.645 trillion in just four years? A small part of it was the recession, which found revenues plummeting from \$2.567 trillion in 2007 to a projected \$2.173 trillion for 2011. But that only accounts for \$394 billion of the increased shortfall.

Mandatory spending increases account for \$745 billion of it, which has risen from \$1.449 trillion to \$2.194 trillion in 2011. Discretionary spending, which includes defense spending, has increased by \$374 billion since 2007. In that subcategory, defense spending increased by \$213 billion.

In other words, if the economy and thus revenues completely recovered to their 2007 levels, and discretionary spending was cut by a gargantuan \$374 billion, the budget deficit this year would still be well over \$700 billion.

But that's only the beginning of the problems House Republicans have with explaining the extent of the fiscal catastrophe facing the American people.

One thing the House Republican presentation fails to outline is why the large debt is in fact unsustainable. Nations all over the world have large debts, but when anyone proposes paying it down, folks may not fully understand why it is necessary to reduce its size. "Why can't we just keep borrowing?" is the question that is asked, and it is the one that the political Right must answer in order to make the strongest case possible for reining in spending.

Because if the nation could just keep borrowing ad infinitum without any harm, there really would be no reason to ever cut spending.

Of course, the reason that the debt must in reality be reduced is because the entirety of the debt, now \$14.1 trillion, has to constantly be refinanced. When refinancing is added to the deficit spending, this year \$1.645 trillion, the government now has to issue over \$2 trillion in treasuries every single year. By 2021, it will about \$4 trillion a year in treasuries sold to refinance and create new debt as the total debt climbs to over \$25 trillion. By then, total interest payments (net interest plus interest owed on Social Security and Medicare trust funds) will be over \$1 tril-

lion, and well over \$2 trillion by 2030.

The raiding of the trust funds alone is an issue that needs to be unpacked. Congress thought it was wise to grow the trust funds by allowing them to earn interest by converting the funds into treasuries. That's fine if one assumes an infinite supply of money and an unlimited capacity to borrow. As outlined above, the size of the debt to refinance plus spiraling interest payments prove the fallacy of that assumption. People are going to wish they had stuffed that money into mattresses and told FDR and LBJ to take a hike.

Because the government never contemplates debt repayment, every year, the amount of borrowing necessary to refinance and engage in deficit-spending grows, until soon there will be a day the markets will simply not have enough loot to lend to us. That day of reckoning could happen this decade, but if it doesn't, it will most certainly happen next decade.

An immediate solution to preventing that sort of catastrophe is to prohibit the Fed from purchasing treasuries directly and from funneling easy money into the primary dealers to buy them. Once the Fed's direct purchases stop in June, at which time the Fed's treasuries holdings will be about \$1.5 trillion, the central bank's discount lending at less than the rate of interest on treasuries appears to be the only way we will even be able to meet our current financing obligations. So, an easy way to deal with the problem is to add a constraint on borrowing, forcing Congress to make massive cuts. Bernanke could do this unilaterally if he chose to.

So, if we had a responsible steward of the currency, it would be cost prohibitive to print money for the purpose of buying debt. This would in turn impose borrowing constraints on the government. If those constraints were put into place before the tidal wave of refinancing hits the Treasury, the fiscal catastrophe we face could be averted.

Overall, House Republicans have a considerable challenge explaining the enormity of problems the nation faces. Because Washington, D.C. has lacked leadership, most Americans are not aware that mandatory entitlement spending by far is what is driving the sovereign debt crisis, and is largely the reason the deficit has gotten so out of control. Finally, Americans do not understand the mechanisms by which the government borrows, including the enabling role played by the Federal Reserve.

All of this needs to be explained to the American people so that, politically, they have the tools they need to make decisions about which public officials are playing straight with them on the \$14.1 trillion national debt. This may be a vexing can of worms, but this is one can of worms that everyone really needs to see — before it is too late.

Children Safety...



From Page 1
all these elements of wild weather swings on a daily basis. Their presence alone makes our schools a safer environment for the kids. For the crossing guards, we should be grateful. Who else would want to put themselves in harm's way to insure that our children can cross the

streets in safety? We have all seen the way our school zone signs are disobeyed by inconsiderate drivers. By the way, where do you need to go in Post that you have to arrive in such a hurry? As for the officers of Post ISD, standing out in the elements is only a fraction of their job. For those of you who are so

faithful to keep our children safe, we are grateful. We appreciate your dedication to stand against the weather and dangerous drivers. You all deserve a pat on the back for the jobs you do. And as a future father, you make me rest easier at night knowing my child will be kept safe when he goes to school.



Doris Giddens (left) and Pat Cruse are shown holding a quilted wall hanging made by Cruse using an original pattern. The "seven sisters" quilt in the background was created by Giddens. These pieces were part of the Garza County Quilt Exhibit featuring over 30 handmade pieces. The event, which opened March 19, was sponsored by the Caprock Cultural Association and can be seen at The Heritage House, 9 a.m. to Noon through March 31. Courtesy photo.

Speak Up...

From Page 1
but rather would be- Failed to Yield Right of Way. And quite frankly, not many will ever run or roll through a stop sign with a patrol unit sitting there. Someone needs to WAKE UP alright! But I'm not convinced that it is our Law Enforcement Officers who do their (many times thankless) job everyday, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty five days a year.

Oh, and if you are interested in law enforcement, I encourage you to quit your job, spend the next eight months in the Police Academy, and then experience 12 hours a day on midnight shifts, working every holiday and weekend, your families birthdays, reunions and anniversaries, running as fast as safely possible to; domestic violence

calls, fights in progress, shots fired, suicide threats, bomb threats, intoxicated drivers, wild hogs in the front yard, snakes in the laundry room, and yes, the traffic enforcement as well.

I find it sad that many times as officers issue citations for traffic violations the complaint is "Why aren't you out there catching real criminals, instead of picking on me, or my little Johnny or little Suzy, or whoever". Yes, I believe a wake up is in order! If you haven't noticed, the State of Texas is one of the highest in the nation in officers shot and/or killed in the line of duty this year. As of March 19, 2011 forty-five Police Officers have been killed in the State of Texas alone. Even more tragically, one of those was our very own! If you believe that you want to do their job, I am sure they

are always looking for a few good men and women. But until you are willing to Put Your All on the line, please stop criticizing those who ARE willing to do so.

"Speak Up" is a way for readers to send their opinions to the Post Dispatch and have them published each week. No signature is required by the writer; writer identities will be kept anonymous and you can address any topic you want. Published "Speak Up" comments can not exceed 100 words and the Dispatch staff has the right to edit for length or refuse to print materials it deems to be inappropriate. Drop your Speak Up comments in the box in the front office of the newspaper or in the mail slot in the front door after hours. You can also email your comments to postcitydispatch@yahoo.com.

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Post Notes...

From Page 1
a plate. For more information please call Juanita Pantoja at (806) 495-3059.

Homestead Exemption Available:

Anyone who becomes 65 in 2011, or has a birthday of 1946 or prior, is eligible for the over 65 homestead exemption on school property taxes.

Anyone with business personal property as required to file a rendition with the Garza Central Appraisal District. If rendition is not tiled, a 10% penalty will be added to the total tax. Please call Garza Central Appraisal District at (806) 495-3518 or come by the office at 124 East Main, Post, Texas to file a homestead exemption or rendition. Due date is April 15, 2011.

Graham Ole Opry:

The Graham Ole Opry will be held Saturday March 26 from 7:00pm till 10:00pm at the Graham Community Center, five miles west of Post on US 380 and two miles south on FM 399.

There is no admission charge; hat will be passed for donations to help with upkeep on the center. Concession stand with drinks and snakes will be available.

For more information contact Noel White at 806-495-3261.

Post High School Calendar

Friday, 25
8:00 AM - Tennis B/G at Levelland
HS Track at Abernathy
Looking Ahead:

- Mar. 25 - HS Track at Abernathy
- Mar. 25 - B/G Tennis at Levelland
- Mar. 25 - End of the 5th 3 Weeks
- Mar. 26 - JV/V Softball at Roosevelt, 12 PM
- Mar. 26 - JV/V Band at Roosevelt, 12 PM
- Mar. 28 - JV/V Softball & Baseball at Colorado City, 4:30/7:00 PM
- Mar. 29-30 - Academic District UIL Meet at Denver City
- Mar. 31 - HS Track Meet at Colorado City

Post Elementary Post Notes

Monday, March 28th- Progress Reports go home with students.

Monday, April 4th- 5th Grade TAKS test- Math

Tuesday- April 5th- 5th Grade TAKS test- Reading

3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will all be TAKS testing during the month of April. Parents, please make sure that your student(s) get plenty of rest the night before and a good breakfast the morning of their test(s). The elementary school campus is considered a closed campus on testing days. If you do need to pick up a student or visit the office, please make sure that you go directly to the office upon entering the building and that you have your picture ID ready. We appreciate your cooperation during the testing process.

Thanks for reading The Post Dispatch!