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UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY/ GOVERNMENT MEETINGS
All of these meetings are open to the public.

Garza County Commissioners Court
April 6
9 a.m.
Garza County Courthouse
300 W. Main

City of Post City Council Meeting
April 14
6 p.m.
Council Chambers
City Hall
105 E. Main Street

Post ISD School Board Meeting
April 14
7:30 p.m.
Administrative Board Room
501 S. Avenue K

NOTE: Video of last month's meeting at post.k12.tx.us - click on "Board of Trustees"

Garza County Health Care District
April 16
6:30 p.m.
Citizens Bank Meeting Room
210 N. Broadway

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Event info available at press time.

"Judas the Lost Apostle" Ragtown Gospel Theater
March 27
7:30 p.m.
877-RAGTOWN for reservations

Varsity Baseball vs Littlefield
March 28
Noon

JV/Varsity Softball Vs Roosevelt
March 28
Noon

"Judas the Lost Apostle" Final Performance Ragtown Gospel Theater
March 28
7:30 p.m.
877-RAGTOWN for reservations

JV/Varsity Softball @ Shallowater
March 31
5 p.m.

Varsity Baseball @ Roosevelt
March 31
7 p.m.

Trailblazers Senior Citizens Center
Game Night
March 31
5:30 p.m.
205 E. 10th

Trailblazers Senior Citizens Center
Game Night
April 2
5:30 p.m.
205 E. 10th

Dispatch Drops Local Rates 25 Percent

The Post Dispatch announced this week it is dropping advertising rates for local merchants. Instead of \$8 per column inch for a display ad for local businesses, the new rate will now be \$6 per column inch. The paper is also offering an introductory rate for local businesses who want to advertise four times or more.

"If a local business wants to advertise for at least four weeks, we will give them a \$5 per column inch rate," associate publisher Jeff Blackmon said. "They will get that introductory rate for two months."

"We hope this new rate will encourage local retailers to use The Post Dispatch to advertise their businesses."

Through discussions with Blackburn Media Group CEO Christopher Blackburn, we determined that the rates established before the Dispatch was purchased last summer were simply too high for the Post market. We are here in part to help small businesses flourish and this is an effort to get that process started."

The national display advertising rate will remain the same at \$8 per column inch.

Blackmon added the publication wants to help those businesses to get the most bang for their buck during a recession.

The Post Dispatch also has decided to make local classifieds \$5 for the first 10 words and 25-cents each

additional word. The former rate was \$7.50 for the first 10 words.

The rates for legal notices in the classifieds section will remain the same at \$7.50 for the first 10 words or less and 25-cents each additional word.

Blackmon also stated that local retailers and merchants would be approached in coming weeks by a Dispatch marketing consultant.

"We want to provide the best possible service for our clients and this is a step in that direction," Blackmon emphasized. "This is Post's newspaper and it needs to reflect that fact."



Kelly Chapa as Juliet and Chad Miller as Romeo declare their love for each other in the One Act Play presentation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet Monday night. The play followed a Renaissance Dinner served in the school cafeteria.

Photo by Susan Strawn

County Commissioners Refine Provisions of Burn Ban

By Rosa Latimer
News Editor

Garza County Commissioners Court met in a regular meeting Monday and among other agenda items, the commissioners reviewed the provisions of the county-wide 90-day burn ban passed on February 9, 2009. The purpose of the clarification was to use more specific wording in the burn ban regarding an acceptable enclosure for burning and precautions for extinguishing a fire. The court approved the revision as presented by County Attorney Monk:

a. A person violates the order if he burns any combustible material outside of an enclosure which serves to contain all flames and/or sparks, or orders such burning by others. Said enclosures to be enclosed on all sides and having a cover. The cover is to be of a mesh construction having holes small enough to prevent most debris from escaping the enclosure during burning.

b. A person violates this order if while burning he does not possess means for extinguishing a fire, including an amount of water or fire extinguisher device that would be reasonable to extinguish a fire that is a foreseeable result of the intended burning.

In another agenda item, repairs to the Incident Command Unit were discussed by the court. Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Isbell provided a quote from Post Tire and Lube for the installation of a 13,500 BTU air conditioning/heating unit for \$796.87. Judge Norman explained that with installation the cost would total \$1150 to \$1200. Commissioner

McDaniel explained that the City of Post would be liable for half the cost. The commissioners approved the item.

Clerk Plummer presented an agreement already approved by Garza County Health Care District president, Wayne Edwards for the continued storage of county owned election equipment. Plummer informed the court that the agreement is the same as last year with the addition that the agreement would end when either party gave 30 day notice to vacate. The commissioners approved the agreement.

The court discussed a law enforcement agreement and agreements for other joint ventures between Garza County and the City of Post including the airport and the landfill. Judge Norman explained that the county "needs a current contract with the city so we can negotiate a future contract." County Attorney Mike Monk added, "This agreement is much better than what we have."

This is certainly a step in the right direction."

The commissioners approved for presentation to the City of Post the law enforcement agreement in the amount of \$250,000 and other joint venture agreement between the two entities ending October 1, 2009.

In other business County Attorney Munk explained that with the court's permission he terminated a three year service agreement with Westlaw. When he did, he was issued a cancellation number. Since then he received a letter stating he cannot cancel the contract. He has made many attempts to resolve the issue, but at this point it is still not settled. This information was presented for information purposes only. No action taken.

Judge Norman reported that he is waiting for advisement on the air conditioning system in the old sheriff's office/county jail building from the contractor.

(Continued on Page 4)

City and School Candidates Confirmed

The filing deadline for write-in candidates passed last week with no one adding their name to the city, school and health care district ballots.

As a result, the candidates for two Garza County Health Care District precincts were unopposed. In a regular meeting held March 19, the Health Care District Board of Directors certified candidates Wyvonne Kennedy, Precinct 3, and Wayne Edwards, Precinct 4. The May 9 Directors Election was cancelled.

In upcoming City elections, two candidates will vie for Mayor: Thressa Harp and T.K. Thompson. Current Mayor Kim Mills is not seeking re-election.

Each of the City Council races also have two candidates. Incumbent Melba Cimental is being challenged by Trena Woods for Ward 1 council representative and Archie Gill will challenge

(Continued on Page 4)

"Moon Over Buffalo" Opens This Weekend At Garza Theatre

By Rosa Latimer
News Editor

Mickie Klafka returns to the Garza Theatre this weekend directing the comedy "Moon Over Buffalo." The play, described as a "backstage farce" is written by Ken Ludwig. Ludwig also wrote "Lend Me a Tenor," another comedy that was popular with Garza audiences.

"Moon Over Buffalo" tells the story of Charlotte and George Hay, an acting couple on tour in Buffalo in 1953 with a repertory consisting of Cyrano de Bergerac and Noel Coward's Private Lives. Carol Burnett played the role of Charlotte on Broadway which gives one a vivid idea of the level of comedy offered by this production.

(Continued on Page 4)

Ivan Parker Returns to Ragtown Gospel Theater

Southern Gospel 2008 Soloist of the Year, Ivan Parker, will return to the Ragtown Gospel Theater Sunday April 5 at 3 p.m. All seats are reserved for this special all musical event. Individual tickets for this concert are \$35 and tickets for groups of 12 or more are \$28 each. Group reservations must be made by phone at 1-877-RAGTOWN.

Parker presented a "sold-out" concert at Ragtown last February. In 2007, the Christian recording artist received his first number one hit, "I Choose" and was chosen Male Vocalist of the Year by subscribers of The Singing News Magazine. He also received the 2008 Favorite Soloist Fan Award. For the past decade he has been regularly featured on the Bill Gaither Homecoming Video and Concert Series.

Ragtown will return to its usual format of opening with an hour of Southern Gospel music, followed by a stage presentation on April 17 with the premier of "Magdalene."

Tickets for this production are \$20 for adults, children and students half price and groups of 12 or more, \$15. Visit www.ragtown.com for more information.



Popular Southern Gospel recording artist Ivan Parker performed to a full house at Ragtown Gospel Theater in February, 2008. He returns to the theater Sunday, April 5.

Post Dispatch Staff Photo

Post Notes

4-H Shotgun sports signups
4-H Shotgun sports will begin Monday, March 23rd at 6:00 pm. The location will be Palmer's Gun Club 9 miles west of Post on U S Hwy 380. Bring Parents to sign forms and listen to rules. This is Mandatory! For more information call Ray Mason @ 781-8022 or Mark Kirkpatrick @ 495-2235.

Voter's Forum Scheduled
Be an informed voter! Attend a Voter's Forum sponsored by the Post Area Chamber of Commerce 6:30 pm Tuesday, April 21, location to be announced. Candidates for city and school elections have been invited to attend this non-partisan event to present their platforms. All Post & Garza County residents are invited to attend this free event. Call 495-3461 for more information.

New Bricks to be added to Centennial Plaza
Approximately 30 new commemorative bricks will be added to the Centennial Plaza on the east lawn of the Garza County Courthouse Thursday, April 2 at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to help with the "laying of the bricks" and enjoy refreshments. The Plaza was created in 2007 and now holds over 800 bricks. New bricks are ordered and installed twice a year. Forms to place an order for engraved bricks will be available.

PCM Scheduled to meet
PCM is meeting on Tuesday March 31 at 6:30 pm at Rockin K located 212 E. Main Street. All members are urged to attend. For more information call 806-495-0608.

Graham Ole Opry
The Graham Ole Opry will be held Saturday March 28 from 7:00 til 10:00 pm 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; a hat will be passed for donations to help with upkeep on the center. For more information contact Noel White at 495-3261.

Stitchin' Club learns to knit
The Stitchin' Club will have a knitting instructor at the next few meetings to help members learn to knit. The club meets at the Heritage House, 109 No. Avenue N, every Thursday at 6 p.m. There is no cost to be part of the group. Members provide their own supplies. Call 495-4148 for more information.

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued on Page 4)

Obituaries

Mary Lois Stice



Mrs. Mary Lois Stice, age 65, of Colorado City, died at home, March 22, 2009 at 11:55 p.m., after a long battle with cancer. She was born on May 6, 1943 in Levelland, TX to Thelma and Bernice Jones. They moved to Post, TX when she was a child. Mary graduated from Post High School in 1962. She married Jerry Don Nutt of Post. They moved to Tahoka soon after. She married Roy Stice on July 30, 1982. She was a member of the Dorn Chapel United Methodist Church.

She was a volunteer at the Heart of West Texas Museum. She was a supporter of the Relay for Life since first being diagnosed with cancer in 1998 and served as chairperson of the "survivor lap committee" for many years. She was treasurer for Mitchell County Historical Society. She was a regular visitor to Valley Fair Lodge nursing home where her church group had Bible study.

Mary was a beautician for many years. She was a member of the Appaloosa Horse Club and 4-H for many years. She loved all animals, but horses were her biggest love.

She is survived by her loving husband of twenty-six years, Roy Stice; a brother, Lamar Jones and wife, Karen of Post; her children: Jerry Glen Nutt of Colorado City and his girlfriend, Rita Dauth of San Angelo, TX and a daughter, Jackie Sue Jackson of San Angelo, TX; four step children: Candy McDonald and husband Ross of Waco, TX, Wylie and wife Angie Stice of Kingwood, TX, Cody Stice and wife Kris of Boling Brook, IL and Chris Stice of Maryneal, TX. She is also survived by fourteen grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Mary also leaves behind many loving friends, including a special friend and caretaker, Shirley Delaney. Mary was preceded in death by her parents.

Services were at 2 PM Wednesday in the First United Methodist Church in Colorado City with Rev. Kiefer Cauble officiating. Burial will follow in the Terrace Cemetery in Post, TX.

Memorials may be given to Relay For Life at City National Bank in Colorado City, TX.

The Post Dispatch was founded in 1926.

Gary E. Welch

Gary E. Welch of Waco passed away Sunday, February 22, 2009. Memorial services were held at 1:30 pm Wednesday, February 25 at First Baptist Church of Waco with Dr. Tom Parrish officiating.

Welch, born May 23, 1939 in San Angelo, was the third child of Ralph House Welch and Helen Martin Welch. The family moved to Post in 1943, and Gary graduated from Post High School on May 23, 1957, having been active in football and FHA. He earned a BBA degree from Texas Tech University, paying his way by working on holidays and weekends in the oilfields near Post. In the summers, he was a smoke jumper for the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon. While at Texas Tech, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, a 4-year letterman on the swimming team, a member of the Double T Letterman's Association, and a member of ROTC. In his senior year at Texas Tech, Gary met Nancy Hambrick, and they married in Ballinger, Texas on May 4, 1963.

After graduation from Texas Tech, Gary reported for active duty at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and then was assigned to the Second Armored Division in Fort Hood, Texas. During his Army career, Gary received the Expert Infantry Badge, Jump Wings, and was a member of the Ft. Hood Tankers football team, swimming and triathlon team, and wrestling team, winning the 4th Army Championship in Swimming and Triathlon.

Upon leaving active duty with the Army, Gary became a national bank examiner of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, U. S. Treasury Department, stationed in Amarillo, Abilene, and Waco, Texas. In October, 1969, he left the Comptroller's office to become Vice President of the First State Bank, Riesel, TX beginning August 1973, and purchased controlling interest in the bank in January, 1979. Upon selling his interest in The First State Bank, Riesel in September, 1993, Welch served on the board of the First National Bank of Hamilton, where her served also as interim President for six months in 1999.

Civic duties included serving as an officer and director of the Waco Jaycees, president of the Masonic Lodge No. 835 where he was an endowed member, a 32nd Degree Mason and endowed member of the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry. He was also a life member of the National Smokejumper Association and

regularly attended reunions held every three years or four years in the U.S. Northwest. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Waco since 1969 where he especially enjoyed attending the McCall Bible Class. A lifetime rancher, Gary owned ranches in Garza, Sterling, McLennan, and Falls counties, and enjoyed working to improve the ranches during his ownership. Welch was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and their four children and their families: Lance Welch and wife, Nanette; daughter, Remington and son, Ryder of Boerne; Cam Welch and wife, Stacey and sons Wilson and Ross of Dallas; Cody Welch and wife, Erin and sons, Sterling and Jackson of Indianapolis, IN; and daughter Whitney Welch of Salt Lake City, UT. He is also survived by his sister, Wilma Carey of Covington, TX; and mother-in-law, Mrs. Charles Hambrick of Waco.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Fuzzy Friends, Waco Human Society, First Baptist Church of Waco, or a charity of the donor's choice.

Brooke Nicole Brinkley

Brooke Nicole Brinkley, infant daughter of Misti Renea and Chase Tyler Brinkley, passed away at the Midland Memorial West Campus on Tuesday, February 17, 2009.

Funeral services were at 1:00 pm on Monday, February 23, 2009 at the funeral home with Rev. Mike Wright, officiating. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

She is survived by her parents, Misti and Chase Brinkley of Midland; maternal grandparents Darlene and Mark Tyler of Midland; paternal grandparents Micki and Jessie Flores of Iraan and Bruce Brinkley of Ranger; aunts and uncles, Sarah and Arthur Marts, Haley Bays, Jaycee Tyler and Jess Flores; great-grandparents, Mike and Sue Munn of Midland, Vertie Fulks of Odessa, David and Nellie Tyler of Post, Ernestine Brinkley of Dumas and Jesus and Lupe Flores of Mertzon; great-great-grandmother, Nancy Phipps of Midland; many other family and friends.

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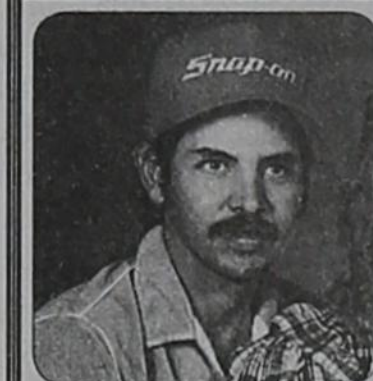
Hannah Beth Abraham

Joseph and Amy Abraham would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Beth. She was born Friday, March 13, 2009. She weighed 8 lbs and was 21 in long.

Proud grandparents are Roger and Debbie Norman of Temple and Cain and Anita Abraham of Post.

Great grandparents are Wayne and Patsy Causey of Ruston, LA and Cecil Norman and the late Lillian Norman of Bastrop, TX; Olin and Betty Looney of Post and Gloria Abraham and the late Abel Abraham of Post.

The Post estate pledged \$75,000, and the city of Post raised \$35,000 in 1916 to bid unsuccessfully to become the site of the proposed West Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, later known as Texas Tech University.



In Loving Memory of Preston M. Lawrence
July 13, 1954-
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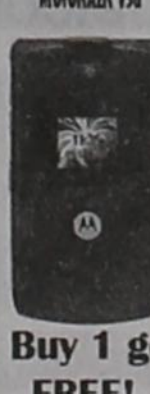
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In and Around Close City

The Post Dispatch Friday, March 27, 2009 Page 5

by Traci Freeman

Weather

Ok we have another chance of you know what, I'm thinking if I don't say the word I might not jinx it. So you know what to do... keep praying for some you know what.

News

The Morris' had another cook out at Charles and Sharron's house this past weekend. This time they were celebrating Dylan's birthday. Dylan turned 10 years old on March 21. Those on hand to eat hamburgers and hot dogs were; Charles and Sharron, aka, Mims and Poopsie of Close

City; Tim and Diane of Midland; Barry, Amy and Brooke of Post; Chuck, Kristi, Dylan and Rylan of Close City.

Also celebrating a birthday on the same day was Andrew Quintana, he turned 7. Andrew got to go to Lubbock and pick a new bike then out to eat. Enjoying the day with him were his parents, David and Melinda; Patrick, Laura and Ramiele Gonzales. On Saturday they had a party at the park with all of his family. Andrew is the grandson of Tino and Linda Alaniz and the great-grandson of Mike and Eva Gonzales.

Before coming home to celebrate his birthday Andrew and his family traveled to Louisiana to watch Darby Pearson play college softball. Darby is a cousin of theirs, while there they spent some time with Melinda's brother, Eric and his family of Bossier City and sister Amanda of League City.

We want to send out our sympathies to the family of Barbara Ethridge. Barbara passed away last Friday. She was a very special lady, by the look of the number of people attending her funeral last week, many people thought of her that way. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with

Daymon, Debbie, Eddie, Betsy, Mike and her entire family.

Just a little FYI...Ok I am not a political person but I had to throw this little bit of info in. Did you know that the government has spent 140 billion dollars on the farm program over the past 40 years. And they just gave AIG 180 billion at one time????

Visitors

Judy Bush came by Tuesday afternoon to visit

(Continued on Page 12)

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Weekly Inspirations

THE OPEN DOOR

By: Michael F. Taylor

As I was studying for this week's article, the Lord reminded of a story I once heard a pastor friend of mine relate. I believe that this illustration has great spiritual meaning behind it and would like to share it with each of you now. It seems that a young lady was experiencing some very difficult times in her life and that every junction; job, marriage, children, and personal fulfillment, simply caused heartache and distress. She became so dejected that everything in her being began to scream, "You should just give up!" When attempting to improve the job situation, it felt as if the boss would lower the boom. When she tried to improve the relationship with her adolescent children, they seemed to be uninterested. Finally, at the point of desperation, joy in her life seemed to be a thing of the past.

And then earlier one morning, sitting at the kitchen table, drinking a cup of early morning coffee and feeling very sorry for herself, she noticed a small humming-bird which had somehow flown into her kitchen. And, she began to observe that hummingbird as he attempted to escape from the confinement of the room and return to freedom. She opened the door, believing that he would simply fly out of the opening. But sadly, she noted that the hummingbird would ignore the open door and fly directly into the window over the kitchen sink. The impact would knock the small hummingbird down and after several attempts to fly away she noticed that the tiny bird was beginning to lose his strength and his determination to escape. She also noticed that each time the hummingbird would hit the window he was flying just a little lower. Finally, so weak and discouraged, the frail little bird could only walk. Now unable to fly, the hummingbird slowly walked out of the open door. And a strange thing happened! The tiny bird began to recover and flew up into the air. It was at that very moment that the Lord seemed to open her eyes. She was in fact behaving much like that wee little bird. In her own attempts to free herself from the confining situations of life, she would be knocked down in utter defeat. Not giving her best at work- knocked to the ground! In responding angrily to those who had wronged her-knocked to the ground! Now, unable to fly any longer, God began to do His work in her life. Revealing how to walk in the strength of God's grace and His understanding!

Isn't it wonderful to realize that if we put our trials and our heartache into God's hands and quit attempting to resolve all the issues of life on our own, HE SHOWS US THE OPEN DOOR. Psalms 18:1-6 assures us, " 1 I love you, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. 4 The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. 5 The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. 6 In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears." NIV I am so excited this week to know that when it seems to me that everything is pressing upon me, I can cry to the Lord and He will hear my voice and show me the open door. God bless and have a great week.

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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 of Prophecy	602 W. 14th, 495-3644
Baptist		Power House Church of God and Christ	Pine Ave.
Calvary Baptist Church	210 E. 6th, 990-2342	Disciples of Christ	
First Baptist Church, Post	402 W. Main St. 495-3554	First Christian Church	812 W. 13th, 495-3716
First Baptist Church, Wilson	806-628-6333	Evangelical Methodist	
Grace Baptist Church	820 N. Ave. S 990-3497	Faith Chapel	1105 Green St., Wilson (806) 628-0018
Methodist		Methodist	
Justiceburg Baptist Church	Justiceburg	First United Methodist Church	216 W. 10th, 495-2942
Pleasant Home Baptist Church	E. 14th & N. Ave F	Graham Chapel United Methodist Church	495-3492
Pleasant Valley Baptist	Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174	Nazarene	
Southland Baptist Church	Southland	Post Church of the Nazarene	202 W. 10th, 495-3044
Templo Bautista	315 W. Main	Grassland Church of the Nazarene	327-5656
Trinity Baptist Church	915 N. Ave O	Non-Denominational	
Catholic		Family Harvest Church	111 N. Avenue I, 495-1400
Holy Cross Catholic Church	Ave. K and Main St., 495-2791	Caprock Springs Fellowship	12th & Ave. I 495-2171
Church of Christ		Presbyterian	
Church of Christ	108 N. Ave. M, 495-2326	First Presbyterian Church	910 W. 10th, 495-2135

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Spring Sports

Saturday

Littlefield @ Post Lopes; noon
Lubbock Roosevelt @ Lady

Lopes; noon

Tuesday

Post Lopes @ Lubbock
Roosevelt; 7 p.m.

Lady Lopes @ Shallowater;
5 p.m.

Post Golfers @ Abernathy;
TBA

Wednesday: Lady Lope Golfers
@ Tahoka; 9 a.m.

Friday

Post High School hosts track meet
Post High School Tennis in
Abilene meet



The Post Lady Lopes took third place in the Slaton softball tournament last weekend. Pictured at the top, is the team with its third place trophy. Pictured in the middle (from left) is Sydney Jones making a tag and Kari Dunn sliding in to home during the tournament. Above, Alex Miller covers first base during the tournament. Photos by Lance Dunn

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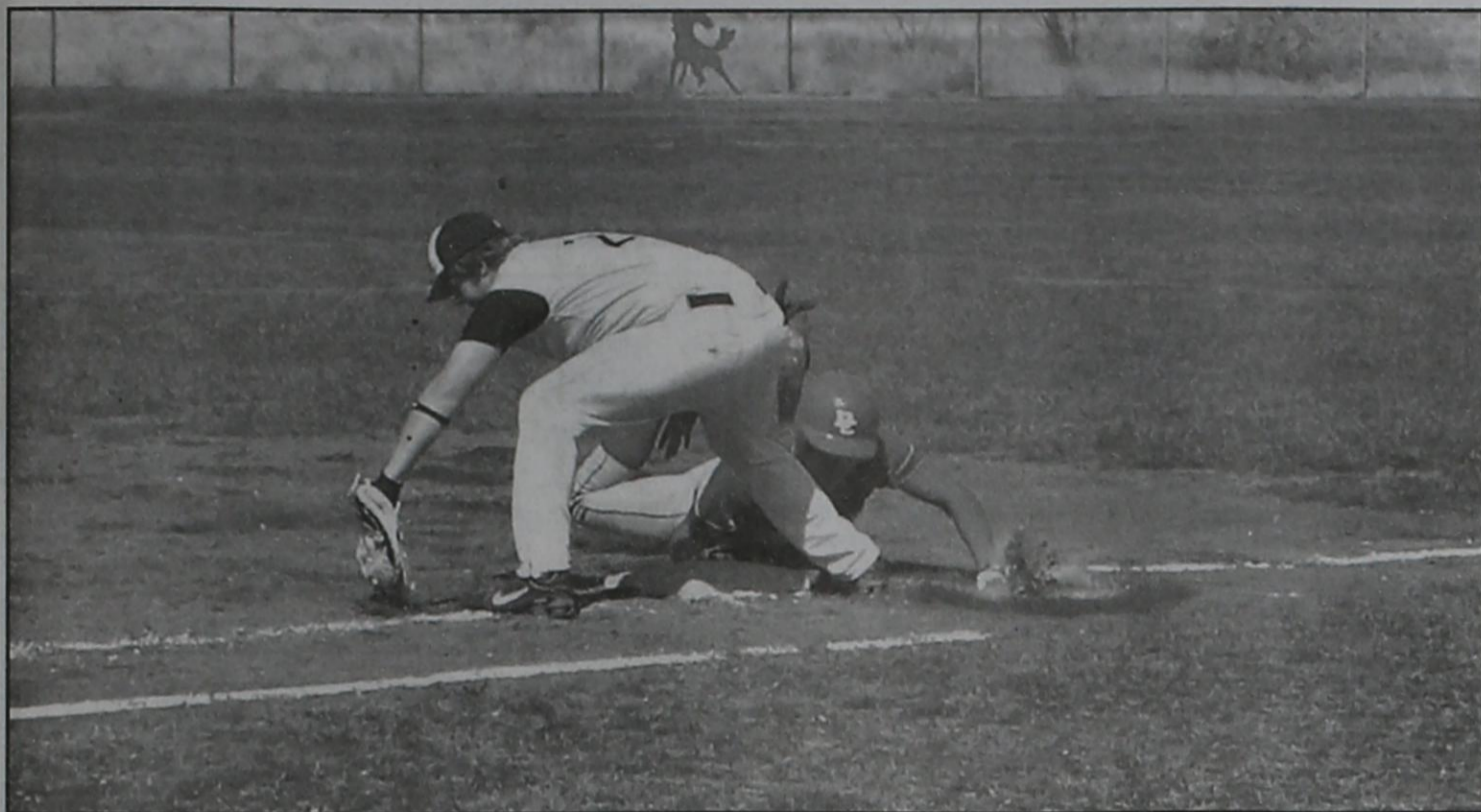
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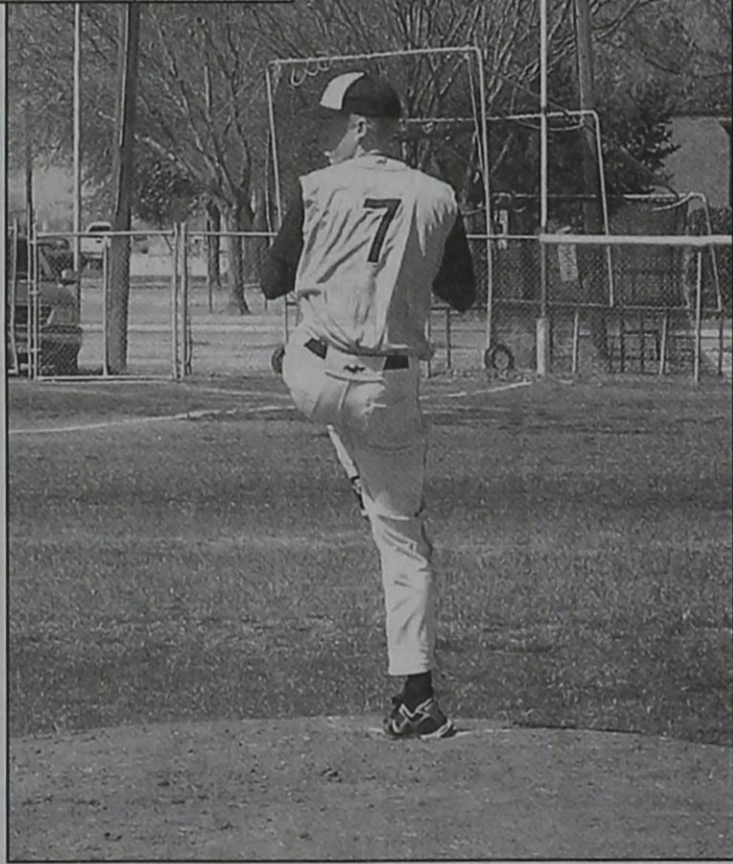
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The Post Lopes were in action during Spring Break against Shallowater and Denver City. Post lost to Shallowater 8-3 and to Denver City 17-11. Above, Mitchell James tries to put out a Denver City runner. Left, coach Hardin talks to a few players. Below, the Lopes have a meeting on the mound.

Photos by Dianne James



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***Attention Coaches! Please send us your game scores and stats by Wednesday noon so we can recognize our local sports teams.**

This week in Post City

By Rosa Latimer

Besides the acronym AIG, the most used term on the news this week, I believe, has been "twitter." After 5 or 6 days of hearing this term I decided to learn more about it because it didn't make much sense to me. The news stories were not referring to chirping or tweeting as in the sound a bird makes.

As best I can tell, the term "twitter" is a new social network similar to Facebook or MySpace. Keep in mind that I'm not speaking as any kind of authority - I have no experience with either of these. I do, however, have experience with Twitter. At least a couple of days. According to Wikipedia, twitter means to "communicate and stay connected through the exchange of short status messages."

I actually signed on to www.twitter.com and established a profile. I even downloaded a picture. (A few years ago the term "download" was a mystery to me. I'm making progress!) When I tried to find some "followers" (same as friends on Facebook) I kept getting the message "There was a problem importing your followers." What a boost to my confidence! I actually know why there is a problem. You see, I don't have any followers on Twitter.

This fact made it impossible for me to "test" Twitter because I needed followers who will "tweet" my profile to find out what I'm doing. Besides, everyone likes to have friends. I called a friend in Dallas and asked her to log on to twitter.com and sign on as my follower. Once again, this action is evidence that

I have progressed enormously. In junior high school if I didn't have any followers or friends, I locked myself in my room and read books.

The question you are asked on Twitter is "What are you doing?" That's it. You type in what you are doing and then you "tweet" your friends and find out what they are doing. Actually, if any of you want to know what I'm doing at any given time, why don't you just give me a call? Or stop by the store and visit a while. I am confident we'll have a more meaningful exchange than if we "tweet" each other.

That's it for this week in Post City!

Southland News

Congratulations to our kids that competed in Golf at Tahoka the week prior to Spring Break as well. Many of our students improved tremendously from their first meet.

Congratulations to our Student Council who did a tremendous job of presenting the program Shattered Dreams to our students prior to Spring Break. Many of our students commented on how serious they took that due to the message and the consequences of not listening. Ms. Roe and all of the kids who participated did an outstanding

job. We also want to thank all the parents who helped make this a very successful event.

Congratulate Lauren Arguello for being named to the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association All-Region Team, and also to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-Region Team.

District 6-A Div. II MVP- Lauren Arguello, 1st Team- Jade Zeleznikar, Newcomer of the Year- Travis Arguello, 1st Team- Patrick Martinez

Events for this Week:
Friday- High School Track at

Dawson
-FFA Judging at West Texas A&M, Canyon.

Events for Next Week:

Monday- Junior High ZoneTrack Meet- O'Donnell
Wednesday- 4th Six Weeks Pride Side Trip- Bowling
Thursday- HS UIL meet at Loop
Friday- Science Fair at Texas Tech University
Saturday- Area round FFA Judging at Texas Tech University
Science Fair at Texas Tech University

Thanks for Reading!

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITIES AND COUNTIES OF: Albany, Baird, Big Lake, Borden County, Breckenridge, De Leon, Friona, Lockney, McLean, Mitchell County, Monahans, Morton, Nazareth, Parmer County, Post, Roscoe, Shallowater, Swisher County, Tahoka, Tulia, Ward County, and Whiteface, Texas.

Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor, Councilmen, Judges and Commissioners of the Cities and Counties of Albany, Baird, Big Lake, Borden County, Breckenridge, De Leon, Friona, Lockney, McLean, Mitchell County, Monahans, Morton, Nazareth, Parmer County, Post, Roscoe, Shallowater, Swisher County, Tahoka, Tulia, Ward County, and Whiteface, Texas will be received at the office of Oller Engineering, Inc., 2517 74th Street, Lubbock, Texas until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 16, 2009 for furnishing all necessary materials, machinery, equipment, superintendence and labor for cleaning and seal coating certain streets for the Cities and Counties of Albany, Baird, Big Lake, Borden County, Breckenridge, De Leon, Friona, Lockney, McLean, Mitchell County, Monahans, Morton, Nazareth, Parmer County, Post, Roscoe, Shallowater, Swisher County, Tahoka, Tulia, Ward County, and Whiteface, Texas, including other incidental items of work as called for in the specifications. Total square yards per City or County:

Albany	≈13,000
Baird	8,898
Big Lake	11,340
Borden County	208,667
Breckenridge	29,240
De Leon	15,508
Friona	27,335
Lockney	9,781
McLean	6,100
Mitchell County	≈15,000
Monahans	128,082
Morton	28,140
Nazareth	2,080
Parmer County	17,675
Post	42,321
Roscoe	≈10,000
Shallowater	20,133
Swisher County	1,614
Tahoka	16,942
Tulia	17,012
Ward County	67,114
Whiteface	9,163
Total Square Yards	≈705,145

The Owners shall be those cities and counties herein identified and for which the construction services and work is being performed. Oller Engineering, Inc. and Enprotec / Hibbs & Todd, Inc., shall be the agent/agents for the Owner(s) and shall collect, analyze and recommend a Contractor based on their bid submitted and previous experience.

Bidders must submit a Cashier's or Certified Check issued by a bank satisfactory to the Owner, or a Bid Bond from a reliable Surety company, payable without recourse to the order of the CITIES AND COUNTIES OF ALBANY, BAIRD, BIG LAKE, BORDEN COUNTY, BRECKENRIDGE, DE LEON, FRIONA, LOCKNEY, MCLEAN, MITCHELL COUNTY, MONAHANS, MORTON, NAZARETH, PAREMER COUNTY, POST, ROSCOE, SHALLOWATER, SWISHER COUNTY, TAHOKA, TULIA, WARD COUNTY, AND WHITEFACE, TEXAS in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible bid submitted as a guaranty that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute bonds and guaranty in the forms provided within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract to him. Bids without the required Check or Bid Bond will not be considered.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond, each in the amount of the contract, written by a responsible Surety Company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas, and satisfactory to the Owner.

All lump sum and unit prices must be stated in both script and figures. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in the bids, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject the bid. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive formalities, and to accept the bid which seems most advantageous to the City's or County's interests.

Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and to inform themselves regarding all local conditions under which the work is to be done.

Payment for the work performed on this project will be paid for by the Cities and Counties of Albany, Baird, Big Lake, Borden County, Breckenridge, De Leon, Friona, Lockney, McLean, Mitchell County, Monahans, Morton, Nazareth, Parmer County, Post, Roscoe, Shallowater, Swisher County, Tahoka, Tulia, Ward County, and Whiteface, Texas.

Information for Bidders, proposal forms, plans and specifications are on file at the offices of the various City Managers, County Judges of the Cities and Counties of Albany, Baird, Big Lake, Borden County, Breckenridge, De Leon, Friona, Lockney, McLean, Mitchell County, Monahans, Morton, Nazareth, Parmer County, Post, Roscoe, Shallowater, Swisher County, Tahoka, Tulia, Ward County, and Whiteface, Texas, and Oller Engineering, Inc., 2517 74th Street, Lubbock, Texas, 79423, (806) 748-5700 and Enprotec / Hibbs & Todd, Inc., 402 Cedar Street, Abilene, Texas 79604, (325) 698-5560.

Copies of the plans and specifications and contract documents may be secured from Oller Engineering, Inc., 2517 74th St., Lubbock, Texas, 79423, (806) 748-5700 and Enprotec / Hibbs & Todd, Inc., 402 Cedar Street, Abilene, Texas, 79604, (325) 698-5560.

**OLLER ENGINEERING, INC.
ENPROTEC / HIBBS & TODD, INC.**



The 501

by Hanaba Munn Welch

If I smoked, I'd grow my own.

Whatever cigarettes cost nowadays, I'm guessing it's a lot. Smokers who've lost their jobs in these hard times must be finding it hard to support nicotine addictions. So, why not plant a few seeds in the flowerbed and end up with a tobacco row? Don't say tobacco won't grow anywhere but Virginia. I once saw several plants growing tall and green right next to someone's house in plain old West Texas. Makes me want to try it myself, but what would I do with the crop when it was ready to sell? Call for Philip Morris?

Nevertheless, if I myself smoked I'd be thinking seriously about getting a crop in the ground this spring.

Knowing the power of nicotine against ants - kills 'em dead - it seems logical that tobacco plants might keep all sorts of insects at bay, fire ants included. That would be a plus.

Disclaimer: I don't know what I'm talking about and have no current connection to the Internet to become an instant expert on grow-your-own tobacco. Indeed, this is one of those times when knowledge could get in the way. So let's just keep going while we're on a roll.

My guess is that you cut tobacco leaves when they're at their prime and then just hang them up to dry, like from garage rafters. That might keep insects out of the garage too - not that anyone normal has room in the garage for tobacco leaves. I do know one person who actually has room for her car on one side of her garage. She's the exception.

Gray Receives All-Conference Honors

Post graduate, Rachel Gray was named to the Honorable Mention Western Junior College Athletic Conference All-Conference for 2008-2009. Gray averaged just under 33 minutes of playing time per game for the SPC Lady Texans and scored 7.6 points per game.

Other Lady Texans Taniqua Ards and Chasity Workman were

Anyway, isn't that what garage sales are for - to clear space for more stuff? So why not make way for something valuable like tobacco leaves?

Garage sales, gardens, tobacco -- a powerful American combination for these difficult times. Yep, all thrifty smoking gardeners should plant tobacco alongside tomatoes and carrots and squash.

For that matter, isn't the time ripe for organically grown tobacco? It almost sounds healthy. Phooey, if cigarettes were just plain old homegrown tobacco without all those extra toxic chemicals in the mix, they might even smell good - or at least not so bad.

Of course, smokers who've never rolled their own would have to learn how, but maybe it's about time. Someday, if they live long enough (not likely) for arthritis to rob them of manual dexterity and they're sitting outside at the nursing home in the designated smoking area with the nurses and aides who smoke too, they'll appreciate the factory-mades. They'll deserve them.

But for now, what about the hazards of no-filter smoking? Right or wrong, here's an answer for that concern too:

Rolling cigarettes is a task that should make any smoker think twice about lighting up every time a nicotine pang hits. Therefore, the roll-your-own crowd will smoke less, thereby lessening global warming and offsetting the harmful effects of inhaling unfiltered smoke by inhaling less of it.

For all I know, the surgeon general would agree.

Gray Receives All-Conference Honors

Post graduate, Rachel Gray was named to the Honorable Mention Western Junior College Athletic Conference All-Conference for 2008-2009. Gray averaged just under 33 minutes of playing time per game for the SPC Lady Texans and scored 7.6 points per game.

Other Lady Texans Taniqua Ards and Chasity Workman were

named to the All-Conference team. Ards, a graduate of Lubbock Estacado, led the team in scoring, averaging 15.2 points per game. Freshman guard Sajoyia Griffin also received Honorable Mention recognition.

The Lady Texans finished the 2008-2009 season with a 24-8.

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Local Coaches Hold Benefit Golf Tournament

Three local coaches, Jay Hellums and Chris Jones of Post and Jesse Garza of Tahoka held a golf tournament March 18 at Meadowbrook Golf Course in Lubbock to benefit Tanner Cook and his family. Cook, an Idalou football player, suffered a debilitating injury near the end of a season in December of 2008 and continues in rehab.

Sixty-eight players, including coaches, ex-coaches and football officials, participated in the "Tanner 24" benefit golf tournament. "Being part of District 3-2A along with Idalou, we felt we wanted to do something from a coaches standpoint to help Tanner," Jones continued. "We spend a great deal of time from our respective towns competing against each other and we wanted to try and bring everyone together to help the Cook Family."



The Garza County 4-H Photographers went on a field trip to the Abilene Zoo and Frontier Texas on Wednesday March 18th.

The following participated: Pacey Blevins, Kelbie Oden, Rebecca Taylor, Blaze Smith, Jackie Milton, Cheyenne Morris, Chelby Morris, Chase Morris, Victoria Huckaby, Ragin Kimmons, Morgan Lynch, Kylee Dean, Kenley Dean, Jayden Parsley, Sarah Palmer, Colter Smith, Payton Smith, Latham Huckaby. Adults attending were: Anita Morris, Barbara Palmer, Paige Huckaby, Jaquita Blevins, Marci Oden, Stephanie Smith.

4-H photography participant will enter their photographs in the county photography contest this week and the first place winners will advance to the next level of competition at district or state 4-H photography contests.



Tanner with Tournament Organizers (from left) Chris Jones, Jesse Garza, and Jay Hellums



The Post Church of the Nazarene hosted a children's quiz invitational in February. Children from Post, Lubbock and Abernathy participated in quizzing over the book of Exodus.

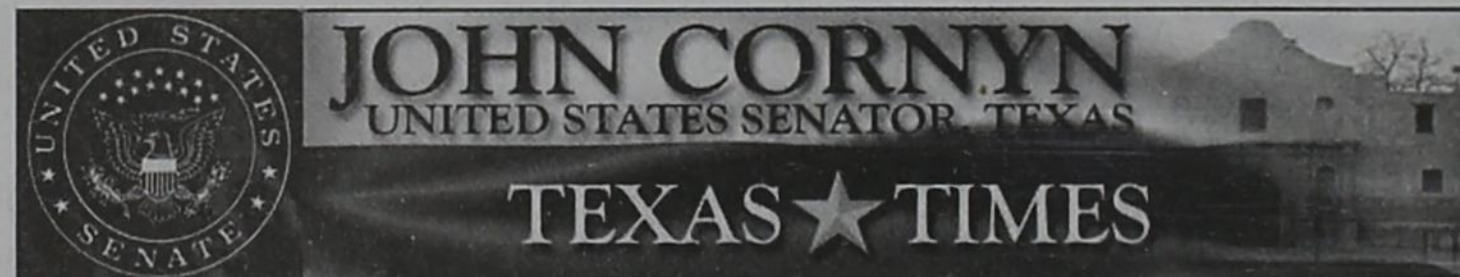
Kelbie Oden received a 1st place ribbon, McKenna Campbell 2nd place ribbon, and Rebecca Taylor received a 3rd place ribbon.

These three also participated in Zone Quiz in Lubbock on February 28th. Rebecca Taylor received a gold coin for her arts & crafts entry and a silver coin for her quizzing entry.

Kelbie Oden received a silver coin for her arts & crafts entry and a gold coin for her quizzing. Both girls were eligible to advance to district Quizzing in Lubbock at the Children's Festival held on March 13th.

At that event Kelbie Oden received a silver medal for her arts & crafts entry and a bronze medal for her quizzing.

The Post Church of the Nazarene will be forming another quiz team in May to get started on the next book of the bible to be studied for Children's Quizzing.



Davy Crockett once famously said that Texas is the garden spot of the world. If there is one icon that helps Texas live up to Mr. Crockett's compliment, it is our state flower, the bluebonnet. Every spring, the bluebonnet covers miles of Texas countryside in a sea of blue.

As it is always said, in Texas we do things bigger and better. Our state flower is no exception. Having just one state flower, as other states do, was not good enough for the State of Texas. In fact, Texas has five different species of the bluebonnet as our official state flower.

In 1901, the Texas Legislature took on what might have been an easy task in a less diverse state: selecting the state flower. Debate was heated, with different groups and legislators lobbying intensely for their favorite species.

One legislator, Phil Clement of Mills, Texas, made an emotional argument for the cotton boll, because cotton was one of Texas' lead crops. Clement called the cotton boll the "white rose of commerce."

Another legislator from Uvalde, State Representative John Nance Garner, fought for the prickly pear cactus, lauding its durability and the beauty of its blooms. He ultimately did not win the debate, but because of his enthusiasm for the prickly pear, he was dubbed "Cactus Jack," a nickname that stuck with him for the rest of his life. Cactus Jack went on to serve as Vice President to Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The most compelling argument was made by John M. Green, of Cuero, Texas, with the help of an organization called the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas. When Green rose to the podium to suggest the bluebonnet, someone on the floor called out, "What the devil is a bluebonnet?" One explanation was given: comparing the bluebonnet to the sunbonnets worn by Texas women in the pioneer days to protect their faces from the sun. Another called the bluebonnet by its Spanish nickname "el conejo" or "the rabbit" because of its resemblance to the tail of a cottontail rabbit.

Finally, representatives from the Colonial Dames organization stepped up to make their case for the bluebonnet with the help of a visual aid. They presented a painting of bluebonnets by Miss Mode Walker of Austin, which brought on a deafening round of applause. The bluebonnet had stolen the show. A resolution making the bluebonnet, specifically the *Lupinus subcarneus*, the official state flower of Texas was signed by Governor Joseph D. Sayers on March 7, 1901.

The debate did not end there, however. Not everyone was content with the selection of the Texas Legislature. Different groups argued that the *Lupinus subcarneus* was not the most attractive of the bluebonnet family. They claimed another species, the *Lupinus texensis*, was bolder, more beautiful and should be named the official flower. For the next 70 years, this debate would ensue. In 1971, a solution was finally reached. Governor Preston Smith signed a resolution on March 8, 1971, designating both species of the bluebonnet as the official state flower, along with "any other variety of bluebonnet not heretofore recorded." As it turns out, three other species have been discovered.

The 70-year debate did prove one thing: Texans were passionate about bluebonnets. Over the years, this bright blue flower, which usually peaks in late March and early April, has been a source of inspiration for artists, poets, and photographers. Even the Texas Highway Department was moved to incorporate the bluebonnet in a landscaping and beautification project in the 1930s. As a result of their efforts, Texans and those traveling throughout our state can see fields of bluebonnets alongside most of Texas' major highways every spring.

Towns across Texas have developed wildflower tours and festivals to showcase their bluebonnets as the best and most colorful in the state. Every April, thousands of visitors flock to the historic cotton town of Chappell Hill for the official Texas Bluebonnet Festival, complete with bluebonnet contests and crafts.

I hope this spring we can all pause to enjoy the beauty of our state's flower in any of its five forms. Indeed, the bluebonnet runs wild throughout Texas and deep in our state's history.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Finance, Judiciary and Budget Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Extension Extras

Congratulations! To all the Extension office if you are preparing a presentation.

2009-2010 Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Deadline for ordering tags is Friday, April 17, and the cost for each tag is \$10.00.

Entomology Project will meet on Tuesdays, 4:00 at the Extension office.

Rabbit Project will meet every Thursday after school at the GCJLA show barn.

Easter Rabbit "Eggs-travaganza" Saturday, April 11 at the Show Barn beginning at 10:00. For more information call Extension office or Barbara Palmer at 470-1295.

South Plains District 2 4-H Fashion Show will be held Thursday, April 9th at Brownfield High School.

Garza County Roundup will be held with the April 6th 4-H Club meeting at Citizens Bank beginning at 6:30 p.m. Notify

the Extension office if you are preparing a presentation.

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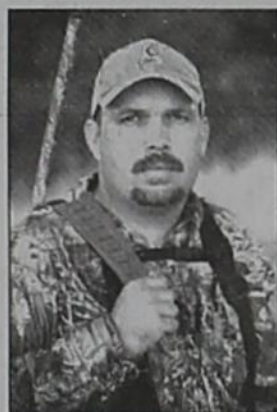
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Russell Graves Outdoors Bomb Hunting

By Russell A. Graves



Last June a visitor from San Angelo stopped by my house for a visit. Bill Yeates is many things: he's a retired seismologist for the oil industry, a private pilot, a photography enthusiast, and a World War II buff whose encyclopedic knowledge of everything pertaining to the old Texas Army Airfields west of the 100th meridian is staggering.

When he was at my house last summer he asked if I had ever visited any of the old World War II era bombing targets in the area.

"Targets?" I quizzed, knowing I'd missed something in my fifteen years of living in Childress. Turns out, his query had merit and a simple question set in motion a personal research project that connected the latest consumer technology with some old fashioned detective work and ended in a glorious afternoon outdoors in the Texas Rolling Plains.

By the time we first met, Bill had already done a bit of research and found the rough coordinates of some of the targets - information he'd garnered from pouring over old war maps.

Using the software program Google Earth, we honed in on a few of the areas where the targets presumably lay. A bit of scrolling and we found the tell-tale outline of old targets that time and hi-tech satellite imagery couldn't hide. While the target shapes vary by location, the one in which we're interested looks like a giant crosshairs precisely laid across a hardscrabble piece of Panhandle ranchland.

"I think I can get us on this place," I tell Bill. "If I am correct, I know who owns this property. While Bill had to leave and head back for San Angelo, I promptly sent an e-mail and confirmed the location of the targets and turns out, I did get permission.

Seven months later, Bill and I are winding our way across powder-dry ranch roads navigating our way to where the target ought to be. Using a GPS, a print-out of the Google Earth screen, and a measure of country savvy we wander into the unknown. While Bill stared at his GPS, he was just about to speak when I interrupted him and said, "Look there!"



Tilted in the same fashion as the Easter Island monoliths, the tower at Pisa, Italy, and the Cadillac in Amarillo, the back end of a concrete bomb jutted mightily from the caliche mound that marked the target's center. It's lasting monument of some unknown bombardier trainee who, at least for a moment, mastered the Norden bomb sight because of his training at the air base in Childress. Then, at the precise moment, he released the practice bomb from the AT-11 trainer and it sailed silently on a downward arc until it's final, unceremonious thump into the dirt.

To the untrained eye, you might think that the concrete pieces and metal fragments from the faux munitions scattered amongst the cactus and mesquite are just scrap dumped by someone. To me and Bill, though, these pieces of World War II flotsam represent much more than that.

Each hunk of aggregate, chicken wire, and cement were made by American hands, placed in the bombers by American servicemen, and dropped by the same Americans who make up the greatest generation the world has ever known. Men like my Uncle L.D. Hall from Bonham, Texas and others who fought and defeated perhaps the greatest evil to ever lay scourge upon the earth. And they did it not for the fanfare or the fame and glory. Instead, they did it because as Uncle L.D. once told me, "...I'm an American."

Before Bill and I leave, I walk over to where we started our mission and visit the lone bomb atop the mound one more time. Instinctively I touched the bomb and wonder about the person who dropped this over 60 years ago. While I may never know the contribution that the bombardier made to the overall war effort, I do know this: because of him and servicemen and women like him, I can snap one more picture and walk away proudly knowing, I am an American.

Any questions or comments? Contact Russell at russell@russellgraves.com or visit his website at www.russellgraves.com

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Close City News...

(Continued from page 5)

or maybe just check up on us, I'm not sure. (ha) Robbie Gossett came by Wednesday morning. Cecil Stolle stopped in and got caught up on things. That's all the people we've had this week other than our regulars. Y'all come out and see us some time.

Birthdays

March 28 - John Bill Hedrick

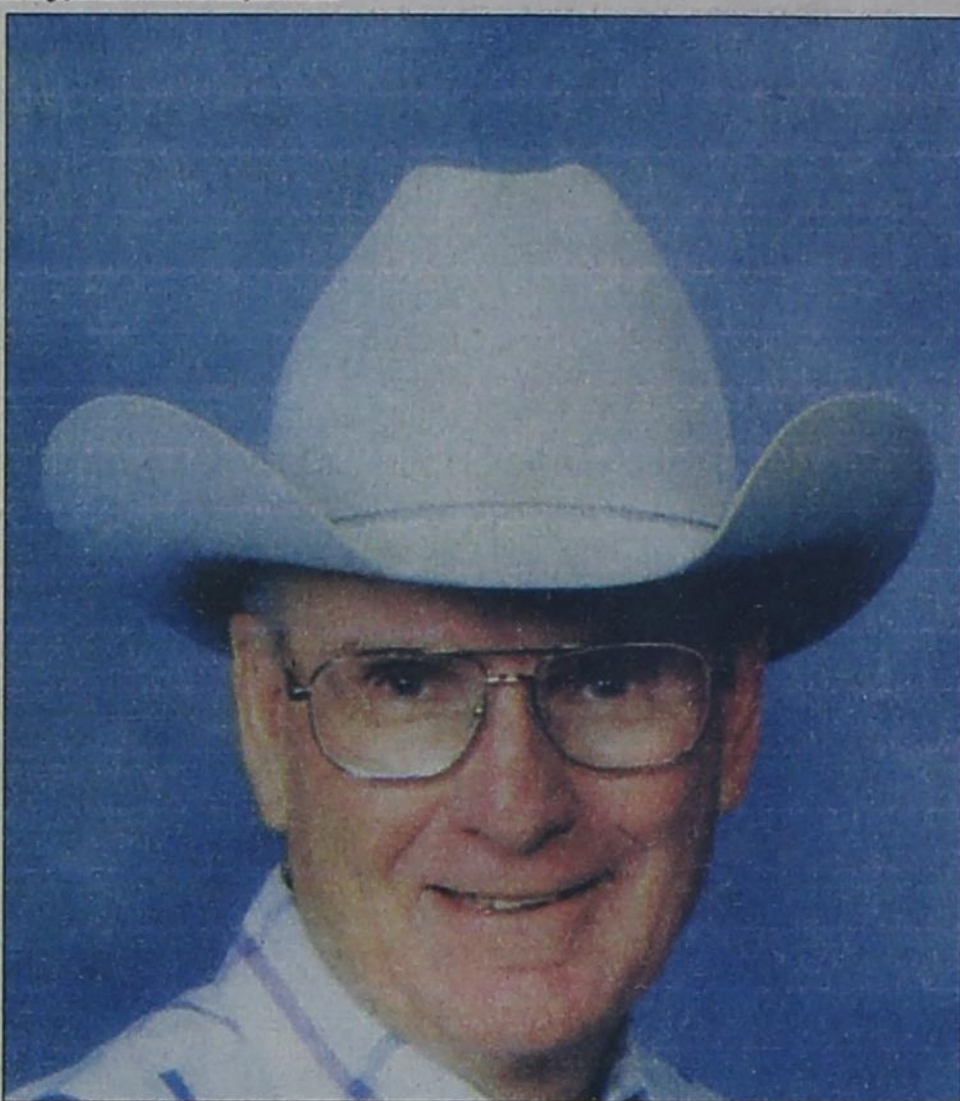
March 30 - Robert Craig
March 31 - Oneita Gunn

April 2 - Mack Terry

April 2 - Kayla Morris

Don't forget our Ragtown Folks in the nursing homes; Doug and Claudine Tipton and Carmen Abraham all in Post. Keep our troops in your daily prayers and check out our blog at <http://closecitycoopgin.blogspot.com> don't forget to send me your recipes so I can post them on the blog.

Be sure to call and let me know about any happenings going on, birthdays, anniversaries or any one that may be sick. If you don't tell me, I don't know to write about it.



Former Post resident, Alvin Davis will be inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame as the recipient of the Johnny Boren Award in Belton, TX this week. Davis, who currently heads the National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration in Lubbock, is the founder of the American Junior Rodeo Association. He was also a rodeo contestant and announcer for many years and was the first secretary/manager of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

Courtesy photo



Chief LaBlanc indicated the direction of the wind at the conclusion of the Taba'na Yuan'e ceremony Sunday. Over 100 observers gathered at the City Park for the traditional ceremony. The event is held annually on March 22. At the point of sunrise this year, the wind was blowing from the southwest which indicates a bad year for crops and the economy.

Photo by Victor Ashley

Range Welcomes New Breed

By HANABA MUNN WELCH

ABILENE, Texas — A whole new breed is making its debut on the Texas range. And it's not a new kind of cow. It's a new kind of rancher.

Much Texas ranch land is changing hands, some of it being carved into 20-acre ranchettes and some of it staying intact but being managed more for recreation than ranching. Many of the new breed - the "new ruralists," for lack of a better buzz term - also want to do the right thing by the land, and some want to try their hand at raising livestock.

Billy Kniffen, extension program specialist at Menard, has witnessed the phenomenon and has worked with some of the new types of landowners, especially in the Texas Hill Country.

Kniffen spoke Wednesday at the Texas Farm-Ranch-Wildlife Expo in Abilene at a seminar for small acreage landowners.

"They're extremely knowledgeable in certain fields," he said, describing the typical new landowners in the area around San Marcos - and no doubt describing many of the people in his audience as well.

But agriculture isn't the new landowners' area of expertise. They're professionals dentists, doctors, whatever - but not professional ranchers.

The changing trend in land ownership isn't restricted to the Hill Country, Kniffen said. It's also happening north of I-20 in parts of West Texas where hunters and other outsiders are buying large tracts of lands for other purposes than ranching.

Generally, landowners of the new breed appreciate the

land, Kniffen said. An emerging philosophy is to let the land do what it was designed to do - essentially to take the land back to what it was like 150 years ago.

It's not a bad philosophy, Kniffen said.

"I'd like to beat lots of this into the heads of some of our big landowners as well," he said.

Water resources management is Kniffen's area of expertise.

Range science is a young discipline, and the idea of restoring the land - instead of wearing it out - needs acceptance, he said. To underline his point, he referred to a cartoon he saw in 1949 - one that showed a farmer piling his belongings into an old wagon and onto a pickup truck.

"I wore out another farm," read the caption.

And that's how things often happened, Kniffen said.

Kniffen introduced David Embry, Natural Resources Conservation Service agronomist, who talked about forages for small acreage, and Allan McGinty, Texas AgriLife Extension Service range specialist, who talked about brush management.

The same forages that work for big landowners work for small ones, Embry said.

But the owners of small properties often have more resources to devote to range improvements.

"Most folks with small acreages aren't trying to make a living on it," Embry said. "A lot of it is just how far do you want to take this thing."

But the owner, absentee or not, of a small farm or ranch is often at the mercy of someone

else to do the work, meaning that it's harder to be sure that everything is done at the optimal time.

How many acres of range it takes to support livestock, whether cows, horses or goats and sheep, depends greatly on management. A cow requires four and a half to 13 acres, per Embry's rule of thumb. Horses take more: five acres to 16. Goats and sheep get by on less than an acre each up to two and a half acres per head.

When forage runs out, supplemental feed is costly, Embry said, mentioning his own niece, who has four horses on 13 acres.

"The feed bills are just eating her alive," he said.

Several types of grass make good forage, Embry said, listing the attributes of several, from different varieties of bermuda to imported bluestems.

But he ended on a note that resonates with the trend mentioned by Kniffen - going back to the way it was.

A disadvantage to re-establishing native grasses is the cost and time involved.

But native grass is durable, cheap to maintain and wildlife-friendly.

"I'd not consider them if your production expectations are too high," he said.

After Embry's remarks on forage, McGinty talked about brush control - not as a one time endeavor but a way of life.

The most efficient use of herbicide and labor is on smaller brush and trees - fields where mesquites and cedars haven't yet grown large and completely taken the land, McGinty said.

The rule is true whatever the size of the ranch, he said, citing a change in the way the managers of the King Ranch are approaching the issue.

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