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83rd Year, Number 54

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Friday, July 10, 2009



Baby Firecracker Girl and Boy (ages 6 months to 2 years) winners are Sara Beth Palmer and Conner Thomas.



Winners and runners up in the Mini Mr. and Miss Firecracker contest for ages 3 and 4 were (from left): Isaiah Mitton, runner up Mr. Firecracker; Hayden Neill, Mr. Firecracker; Sadie Jo Schoonover, Miss Firecracker; Cassandra Mendoza, runner up Miss Firecracker.



Winners of the Mr. & Miss Firecracker (ages 5 and 6) contest on July 4, 2009 were Bella Bennett and Jake Morris.

Annual Harley Sadler Show Opens At The Garza

By Rosa Latimer
 News Editor

It simply wouldn't be summer in Post without the annual Harley Sadler production at the Garza Theatre.

This year's play, "Epic Proportions" promises to carry on the tradition of a fun, relaxing evening. Tonight is opening night; the play begins at 7:30 p.m.

"Epic Proportion," written by Larry Coen and David Crane and directed by Zachery Kocurek, tells the story of brothers Benny and Phil, who go to the Arizona desert to work as extras in the Biblical epic film "Exeunt Omnes."

Set in the 1930s, the comedy moves quickly as Phil gets chosen to play the pleasant scenes of feasts and parades while brother Benny is called on to participate in all ten plagues.

As everything begins to fall apart, Phil finds himself behind the cameras as the film's director, with Benny in a starring role.

Both fall in love with Louise, leading to a brother vs. brother rivalry typical of epic movies. Along the way there are gladiator battles, the Ten Plagues and a cast of thousands portrayed by four other actors.

The cast includes: Bethany Ratiff as Louise; Andrew Gonzales as Benny and Marcos Lopez as Phil; Kim Klafka as Queen; Joan Downing as Jackie; Mickie Klafka as Shel.

Chorus members are: Zachery Kocurek, Katherine Villalon, Meagen Howard Griffis and Kaylon Villalon with Clarissa Baker handling the role of Narrator and

Egyptian Dancer. Of course, this wouldn't be a Harley Sadler show with Toby who is played by Lowell Merkling in this production.

"Epic Proportions" will run: July 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee on July 26 at 2:30 p.m. Call 495-4005 or visit www.garzatheatre.com for reservations.

MADD Dads Celebration In

The Park Rescheduled

The July 4th celebration in the park was interrupted by rain and even though a break in the weather allowed a full array of fireworks, many of the other activities were cancelled.

However, the MADD Dads organization and others involved in the event didn't give up. Another "Celebration in the Park" is scheduled for this Saturday, July 11, 2 p.m. 'til dark.

Booths will be available for the July 11 event. For more information or to rent a booth contact Diane Poe, 495-1207.

The train ride, bingo and other games will begin at 2 p.m. The

auction will take place at 7 p.m. and the laptop computer will be given away at 8 p.m.

The Mr. and Miss Firecracker pageant began at the park on the 4th and was completed indoors later that afternoon. Winners were: Baby Firecracker Girl Sara Beth Palmer and Baby Firecracker Boy Conner Thomas; Mini Miss Firecracker Sadie Jo Schoonover and Mini Mr. Firecracker Hayden Neill; Mini Miss Runner-up Cassandra Mendoza and Mini Mr. Runner-up Isaiah Mitton; Little Miss Firecracker Bella Bennett and Little Mr. Firecracker Jake Morris.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Garza County Commissioners Court
 July 13
 9 a.m.
 Garza County Courthouse
 300 W. Main

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

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS
 Event info available at press time.

"Epic Proportions" The Annual Harley Sadler Show
 Garza Theatre
 July 10 and 11
 7:30 p.m.
 Call 495-4005 for reservations

Another Celebration in the Park
Bingo, Auction, Food, Game Booths
 City Park
 July 11
 2 p.m. to dark

Trailblazers Senior Citizen Center
 Game Night
 July 14 and July 16
 5:30 p.m.
 205 E. 10th



Brant Guthrie guides his wagon loaded with shoppers down Main Street during the Old Mill Trade Day Downtown event on July 4.

USDA Taps Garcia for Top Post in Texas

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the appointment for State Executive Director (SED) of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Texas. The secretary has tapped Juan M. Garcia to serve the Obama Administration in this capacity.

The Farm Service Agency administers federal farm policy as laid out by Congress through a network of federal, state and county offices. FSA programs are designed to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry and help agricultural producers adjust production to meet demand. Economically, the desired result of these programs is a steady price range for agricultural commodities for both producer and consumer.

As Executive Director for the Texas FSA, Garcia will oversee all aspects of federal farm program delivery for an agency that employs nearly 1700 people and on average, issues more than \$1 billion annually in commodity, conservation, disaster and credit benefits to farmers and ranchers across the state.

"FSA plays a vital role in the economic viability of rural America. As the Executive Director in Texas, I have a significant responsibility to insure the Agency is making wise use of taxpayer dollars and that our employees are provided the fiscal and human resources necessary to efficiently

and effectively deliver our programs to the state's farmers and ranchers," said Garcia.

Garcia currently has served as the Agricultural Program Manager for FSA and as acting SED since January. He has 32 years of experience in the delivery of federal farm commodity and farm credit programs, and began his career with Texas FSA at the county level. During his time at the USDA Soil Conservation Service, Garcia provided technical guidance to farmers, ranchers and organizations in the planning and implementation of conservation programs. He served as an FSA County Executive Director in Hidalgo, Nolan and Cameron County, Texas, and also as a District Director for both the southern and eastern districts of the state. He holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&I University. Garcia was raised on a cotton, grain sorghum and cattle operation in Willacy County.

"My immediate expectation for Texas FSA is delivery of the disaster programs outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill just as soon as these program regulations are confirmed by our national office in Washington, DC. Similarly, I anxiously await release of additional funding for our farm loan programs," said Garcia. "In the very near future, our agency will be poised to offer long-awaited relief

to producers suffering from disaster losses and relief to producers who require our lending assistance to remain operational."

For more information about FSA and programs administered by the Agency, visit the national website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.fsa.usda.gov"](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) www.fsa.usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Post Notes

VFW Post 6797 scheduled to meet July 13th

The VFW Post 6797 Men and Ladies Auxiliary will meet on Monday July 13th at the Post on the Clariemont Hwy. The ladies will meet at 6pm and the men will meet at 7pm. All members are urged to attend.

Post High School Mini Cheer Camp

Post High School Mini Cheer Camp will be August 5-7, 2009 from 9:00 am - 12 noon. The signup deadline is July 24th. Registration packets can be picked up at the High School Office. For more information contact Juanetta Bocko @ 990-2053 or 778-0616.

Biker Sunday

A Biker Sunday and Blessing of the bikes scheduled for Sunday July 26, 2009 at Wilson Methodist Church in Wilson TX. Proceeds will benefit Children's church camp fund, and building fund. There will be great music, door prizes, lunch will be provided, registration open at 9:00 am and service will begin at 9:45 am. Registration is \$15 the Biker Sunday is sponsored by VFW Motorcycle Group Unit 13, Unchained Ministries, and Wilson Methodist Church. For more information contact J. W. Jolly at 806-990-3128 or 806-620-0262.

4th Annual Kids Fishing Derby

The Post Masonic Lodge and Game Wardens Association will be having their 4th Annual Kids Fishing Derby on Thursday July 16th @ 9:00 a.m. at the Post City Park all kids ages 13 and under. Come have some fun, their will be prizes, hot dogs and drinks.

Second Annual Back to School Street Health Fair

The Back to School Health Fair is planned to take place on August 21, 2009 beginning at 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. If your organization would like to participate please contact: Jamie Edwards 327-5312, Barbara Palmer 470-1295 or Community Organizer Reyes Pequeno 778-2628 for more information.

Summer Gospel Singing

The Graham Chapel Church of Christ at 15th and Ave S will be having singing on Wednesday nights at 7:00 on the Pavilion behind the Church building. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 495-3261 or 495-3057.

The Boomerang Express Vacation Bible School

The First Baptist Church will be having vacation bible school July 12-16. Registration begins on Sunday the 12th at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5:30 followed by vacation bible school from

(continued on Page 4)

Opinions

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The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

Down From the Mountains

When I was young, it sure seemed like vacations were easy. I just hopped in the car and in a few hours, we were there.
 They're not easy when you're on the parenting end.
 To be gone a week takes planning and timing. Never mind all of the things you have to do at home and work to get ready for a trip ... the actual trip can be pretty rough.
 Going to Colorado was a virtual breeze last week.
 Coming home Sunday was a nightmare.
 This side of Raton, N.M., is a stretch of highway from there to Clayton I like to call hell. It was there five years ago I hit a deer at 2 a.m. on the way to Colorado.
 This year at the same place, we got caught in a severe rain storm with 70 mph winds. The tarp over the bed of my truck was nearly blown off forcing me out in the elements (when I finally found a safe place to pull over). In all, I had to stop in the rain three times to secure the thing and I got as wet as a human can get. Not good when you have six hours left and finding dry clothes would take an hour to get to, then repack.
 Anyhow, we got to Amarillo at 8 p.m. and were heading to eat when I had a blowout on the trailer I was pulling. It was then I discovered my lug wrench was too large for the trailer tire.
 My wife made a phone call to a friend and an hour later, we were at the restaurant.
 Between Memphis and Childress, I thought I saw a UFO. It was a glowing stationary light above the horizon to the south and it was off in the distance. Turns out, it was either a star or planet (I'm going to research to be sure) because it rose slowly, I finally started looking at what you'd expect a star or planet to look like. Very bright however, which I think is strange.
 All-in-all, the trip was great. It's so fun getting that special family time with no distractions. I firmly believe little boys need rugged outdoor fun and my two sure got it.
 I damaged my arm on the first day we were there when I was helping Jackson, my 6-year-old, fish. I lost my footing on a dam and when I caught myself, I guess I did something to a nerve. Feels like I hit my funny bone all of the time as my hand is numb and tingly and my fingers and thumb don't work right.
 I also punctured a hole in my left heel. I stepped off a ladder onto a steel object and it went right through the skin. Good thing my own personal Florence Nightingale was on the scene. My wife would have made a good doctor or nurse. She is not afraid to administer pain (no offense to any real nurses or docs out there).
 One of the neatest things about the trip was the fact I got to bond with my niece Samantha, 1. By the end of the week she was letting me love on her pretty good and she was giggling the whole time. Like I told my wife, I can always get the cuties ... sometimes it just takes a little time.
 In big towns and small, we live pretty busy lives in the U.S. When you take away work, computers and cell phones and have the opportunity to totally focus on your family and yourself, it helps put everything into perspective. That's a great thing.

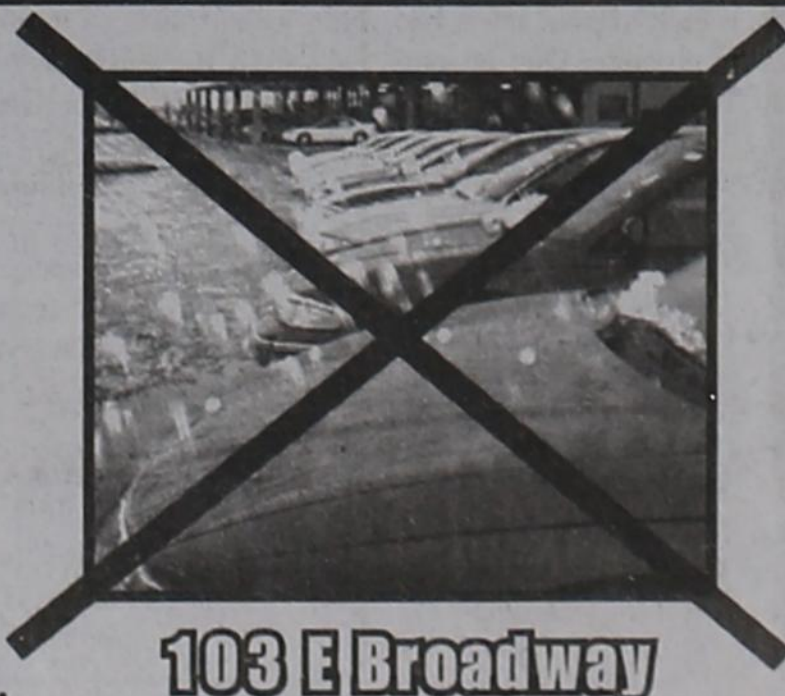
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Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters should be no more than 200 words and can be mailed to the The Post Dispatch, PO Box 426 Post, TX. 79356. Please include your street mailing address (no P.O. boxes), daytime phone number and full name and signature. Our e-mail address is postcitydispatch@yahoo.com.

Letter to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern:

On June 26 and 27, 2009, the Solis-Chagolla family hosted our first family reunion in Post. There were family members from all over Texas, like Houston, Rosenberg, Richmond, Duncanville, Dallas, San Antonio, Watauga, DeSoto, Cedar Hill, Poth Grand Prairie and as far as Monterrey, Mexico.
 There were several family members that had never visited Post but instantly felt right at

home. Everyone loved the City of Post and its wonderful people. I know first hand of the great people of Post since I was raised and lived there until 1989, at which time I moved to the Dallas-Fort worth area where I settled and married.
 My family from out of town looked for souvenirs but unfortunately they were unable to locate any to take with them. Maybe some of your stores and/or shops should be given the suggestion to carry Post souvenirs

I would like to thank Ms. Postell for taking time in locating a few Post football caps for me to purchase and bring back to my friends.
 Lastly, I would like to thank the City of Post and your blessed people...God's favor to you all.

Sincerely
 Mark Solis

The Public "Option"

By Robert Romano

Like all big lies, the public "option" deceives individuals not only through distortion, but also omission. And unless the American people are warned and stand up for the true health options they currently possess, Barack Obama and Congress will rapidly enact legislation that is designed to degrade and, eventually, destroy those choices that Americans today take for granted.

Through a sleight of hand, proponents of the public "option" act as if there are not already other public options already available when there are: Medicare, Medicaid, and other state and local services for the elderly, poor, and children.

This is the omission. It is designed to fool the American people that they do not already have enough "choices" in health

care. That the government does not do enough already. Or that, somehow, there are not enough options currently available. Which, of course, is a lie.

The U.S. spends more on health care than any other nation. As of 2006, the Census Bureau estimates that some 201.7 million, or 71.5 percent of Americans with health insurance, get their insurance privately. 28.5 percent of those with insurance, or 80.3 million, get it from the government.

Presently, the average premium for single coverage is \$4,700, according to the National Coalition on Health Care. All told, in 2007, the U.S. spent \$2.4 trillion in total health care spending.

Not enough options? \$2.4 trillion is just the beginning. The price tag for health care expenditures, NCHC projects,

will rise to \$3.1 trillion by 2012, and \$4.3 trillion by 2016.

Advocates claim this will create competition between the public and private sectors—as if the private sector could compete with a "business" with an unlimited money supply that has no incentive to even operate in the black. This year alone it finds itself in a \$1.8 trillion hole, before any public "option" has even been enacted.

Once passed, the federal government will cover what it can through revenue, and then just borrow and/or print the rest. What will private health carriers do?

Since they cannot charge lower rates and then borrow to make ends meet, they'll lose customers. And then have to jack

Option...

Continued on Page 9

White River Water Report 07-06-2009

Gauge Reading - 2349.30
 Feet below spillway - 23.2"
 Rise - 0"
 Rainfall Past Week - .92"
 Rain to Date - 4.38"

Rainfall for 2004 43.58
 Rainfall for 2005 15.57"
 Rainfall for 2006 28.85"
 Rainfall for 2007 24.19"
 Rainfall for 2008 33.16"

DID YOU KNOW

White River Lake has 2,321,036,673 billion gallons left available at the Intake or 27% capacity or 7,123 acre feet. Subtract 42,577,864 MG for evaporation this week in June that leaves 2,278,458,809 BG available as of today.

White River's daily average demand for 2008 was 1.23 million gallons per day for all White River Customers.

The Oil Company using water for mining has been stopped until the Lake level rises. White River Municipal Water District is in Stage 1 of its Drought Contingency Plan.

Remember that the Water District is there for you if we can assist you in any way let us know.

The Texas Water Development Board has issued an invitation to White River Municipal Water District for the loan they requested. The District has 90 days to accept or lose their ranking.

The Post Reservoir Permit that the Water District Owns has been renewed by the State of Texas for another 4 years, and the trade for the permit to the City of Lubbock for Water Rights for the District's Member Cities continues.

Mickey Rogers GM, White River

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The 501

by Hanaba Munn Welch

If the word nostalgia sounds like a disease you get when you're old, it is.

If most of your email messages have "remember when" in the subject line, you're terminal.

Time was when nostalgia didn't involve me personally. Poodle skirts and bobby socks were dormant. When they reemerged as costumes, it hit me I was getting old. It's been hitting me ever since.

Even colors trigger symptoms of nostalgia. Especially colors. Or the lack thereof. Remember when everything was black and white? Cars were black and refrigerators were white. Those were the days.

This week I bought a new cutting board. It's red, and there's nothing nostalgic about it. I'd call it blood red, appropriate for a cutting board. No doubt there's a different official name for the hue, one of the trendiest new colors for all things culinary. I wouldn't be surprised if you can't get a blood red refrigerator nowadays. It's what happens when you've already been through harvest gold, avocado, copper, stainless, black and almond, not exactly in that order and not to mention white.

As for cutting boards, when I was a kid, I'd never even heard of one. I'm that old. We didn't have cutting boards. We had breadboards. The fact that breadboard is just one word is proof that cutting boards are the newcomers.

Our house had two breadboards. One slid out from under the kitchen counter and the other one slid out from under the pantry counter. Handy.

That was back before somebody got worried about germs living in breadboards,

especially if you used them like butcher blocks. We sometimes did. Back then, butchers had the corner on butcher blocks. Not to worry. My mother didn't spare the bleach. Some people wax nostalgic if they smell their mother's favorite perfume fragrance. I'm that way about Clorox. No doubt Mother had a favorite Coty fragrance, but it's the bleach I remember. I'm glad she wasn't into Pine-Sol too.

Back to my new red cutting board. It says a lot about how times have changed. Allow me to dig that label out of the garbage.

GARBAGE PAUSE.

My husband came home during that pause. It's worth an aside.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"Digging in the garbage to find something for my column," I replied.

You can guess what he said. I didn't hear it.

Meanwhile, I retrieved the packaging. It's proof my cutting board is cutting-edge.

It's an "eco smart" cutting board. Remember when the word "smart" couldn't possibly describe an inanimate object, car or cutting board, and everyday vocabularies didn't include "ecology," much less "eco"?

The cutting board material is 100-percent recycled. Remember when "recycled" wasn't a household word either?

Flax husk, an agricultural byproduct, is one of the materials in the board. Remember when that ingredient wouldn't have been a selling point?

My new cutting board was made in the USA. Remember when that was no big deal?

If you don't remember when, buy yourself a cutting board. Your day will come.

Obituaries



Christine in 1958, at the age of 10.

Christine Ann Brown

Christine Ann Brown died on May 22, 2009 in Fresno, CA of

natural causes.

She was 61 years old. Christine was born in Bakersfield, CA, the daughter of the late A.D. Brown and Margaret Roberts Brown, the latter a native of Post. She was the niece of Odee Roberts Kemp of Post and Tahoka.

Christine is survived by a brother, Dan Brown, of Bakersfield, CA and a sister, Dorothy Brown Soper, of Eugene, OR.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on July 17, 2009 at the Justice-Mason Funeral Home in Post. Dr. James T. Egan of the First Baptist Church, Post will officiate. Christine's ashes will be interred at the Terrace Cemetery in Post in a Roberts family plot.

Christine grew up with her

family in Bakersfield, CA but has lived for many years in Porterville and Fresno, CA as a patient in California state hospitals. She had Down Syndrome and for many years suffered from Alzheimer's disease. As a child she visited Post with her family several times. She attended public school through high school age and was active in community programs including the Girl Scouts and Special Olympics. In lieu of flowers remembrances may be made to either of these organizations.

Billie Hood

Services for Billie Hood were at 10 a.m. Monday, July 6, 2009 at Sanders Funeral Home in Lubbock. Family visitation was Sun-

day, July 5 at the funeral home.

Billie went to be with the Lord Tuesday, June 30, 2009. She was born July 4, 1938 in New Home, TX. She married Wayland Hood July 20, 1963 in Lubbock. Billie was preceded in death by two sons, Edward "Bo" Burleson and Leland Hood; her parents, two brothers and three sisters.

She is survived by her husband; three children: Tonja Lamprecht, Becky Kelley and Kevin Hood and wife, Annette; three step children: Wayland Lee Hood and wife Dora, Debbie Martin and Dale Hood and wife, Jamie; a brother, Milburn Edge and wife Loretta; 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

We love and miss you Momma, Nanny, Billie Granny.

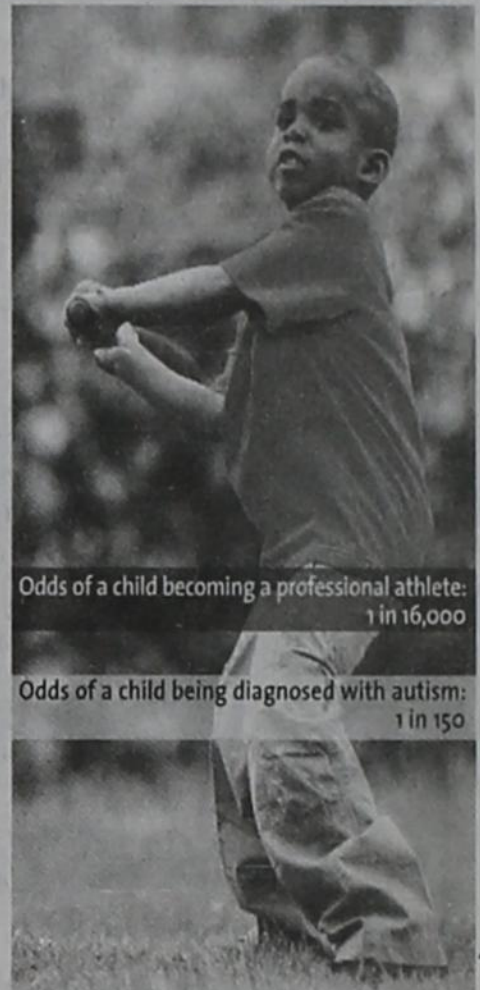


Claborn Family Reunion

The annual Claborn Reunion was held Saturday, June 20, 2009 in Post. Good food, old and new stories, pictures and cool rainy weather were enjoyed by all.

Those attending were: Nina Baker of Colorado City, TX; Chrissie Mayhar, Elton Mayhar, Priscilla Mayhar, Patsy Mayhar, LaVerne Hamilton, Bobby Mayhar and Amanda Mayhar of Odessa, TX; Joey Williams, Kathryn Williams and Tammy Williams of

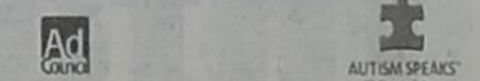
Rogers, TX; Peggy Claborn and Debbie Friedman from Springfield, IL; Rebecca Hipp, Asa Hipp and J. R. Williams from Nevada, TX; Mary Lee Claborn and Monique Hendrix of Post, TX; Renee Claborn, Lisa Elmendorf, Jonathan Elmendorf, Douglas Elmendorf, Misty Baker and Rowdy Joe Rogers of Lubbock, TX; A. J. Wasson, Annalise Wasson, Aggie Wasson and Alivia Wasson from Ft. Worth, TX and Andra Hamilton from Ale, TX.



Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete: 1 in 16,000
Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 150

Some signs to look for:
No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months
No babbling by 12 months
No words by 16 months

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org



EXTENSION EXTRAS

Playday

The next playday will be Saturday July 18, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

Call the extension office to sign up.

Rabbit Meeting

Do Well Be Well Diabetes Education Classes

This program is for people with type 2 diabetes to learn to manage their meal plan and self-care to maintain healthy blood glucose level. The course will be two days a week for three weeks - July 9, 13, 16 and 20, 10 a.m. to Noon. There will be a small fee to help pay for the materials. The class will be held at the Extension Office. Please call for more information or to sign up.

There will be having a rabbit meeting at Robbie & Barbara Palmer's house on Thursday for anybody interested in showing rabbits. We have some Holland Lops available at a discounted price to anyone wanting to get started for the upcoming show year. We are getting ready for a show at the end of the month in Hereford. If you are interested and not able to make the Thursday meeting, please contact Barbara Palmer at 806-470-1295.

Extension Office: 215 W Main (806) 495-4400
Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Clothing and Food Tour

This tour will be in Lubbock on July 14, 2009. We will visit the Texas Tech Fashion Design Department and Mrs. Baird's as well as other locations.

Don't Miss Your Chance To Hug A Kid Today

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It's that time again, time for the 121st Annual Old Settlers Reunion & Rodeo!

July 17 & 18

• Entries for the parade need to contact the Childress Chamber of Commerce for more information.

• Craft Show after parade, booths are available for \$20, also contact the Childress Chamber of Commerce @ (940)937-2567.

America's Drive-In

Varsity Squad - Front row - Taylor Joy, Captain; Darlene Araiza; Marissa Hernandez; Back row - Shirley Araiza; Kat Villilon, Mascot; Crystal Sanchez

JV Squad - Julie Boren; Macie Merritt, Captain; Kimberly Rivera; Haily Berry

COME MEET THE 2009-2010 ANTELOPE CHEERLEADERS SATURDAY, JULY 11 AT SONIC DRIVE-IN. THE CHEERLEADERS WILL CARHOP FROM 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M. FOR TIPS TO HELP WITH A FUND-RAISER.

Post's Sonic Drive-in locally owned and operated by Jose Alvidrez

REMINDER: Call today for details on the Post mini-cheerleading camp. For more information call (806) 495-2770.

Manure Management conference set Sept. 29-30 at Austin

COLLEGE STATION — The question is not if those involved in animal waste management can afford to attend the upcoming conference. It's whether they can afford not to, said Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, Texas AgriLife Extension Service agricultural engineer.

It's been 10 years since the last manure management conference, Mukhtar said. Since that time there have been major advances in technology to help manage animal manure and process generated wastewater. There have also been considerable changes in state and federal regulations governing concentrated animal feeding operations and the manure they produce.

Set Sept. 29-30 at the Austin Marriott North in Round Rock, registration for the two-day event is \$75 until Aug. 1 and \$125 thereafter, he said.

"This conference is an excellent opportunity for participants to learn about new advances in animal manure and animal mortality management," Mukhtar said. "They will also have face-to-face interaction with engineers, scientists, regulators and producers and discuss future environmental challenges faced by Texas animal agriculture."

Also, speakers will address the new technologies being examined that hold promise in producing energy from manure.

"We have lots of energy in animal manure besides its fertilizer potential," he said. "But the question is can we gasify manure to generate power efficiently?"

Other issues discussed will include odor management, measurement and mitigation of gaseous and particulate matter (dust) emissions and proposed EPA rules requiring confined animal feeding operations to monitor greenhouse gases.

"We have a couple of speakers who will address environmental issues," he said. "Such as

what are some of the regulations in the context of keeping our environment clean and what is expected of animal feeding operations."

The conference will also address some of the public perceptions that need to be addressed by the animal feeding industry, he said.

"I look forward to a productive discussion on these issues," Mukhtar said.

Regularly updated detailed conference programming can be found online at <http://grovesite.com/tamuk/tammi>.

Texas nutrient management specialists may earn 8.75 continuing education units. Managers of concentrated animal feeding operations may earn nine Dairy Outreach Program Area credits. And professional engineers may earn one hour of ethics training and eight professional development hours.

Participants may register online at <http://www.peopleware.net/1542b>. Participants may also register by mail or fax by contacting Kay Sanders, Conference Services, 1232 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1232. Contact Sanders at 979-845-7684 or k-sanders@tamuk.edu.

A block of rooms at the Marriott have been reserved for the conference at \$85 per night. Reservations can be made by phone, 512-733-6767, or on the Internet at <http://marriott.com/hotels/travel/ausno/>. The group code is tmmmma. The cutoff date to register at the group rate is Sept. 7.

Participants may also contact Mukhtar for more information at 979-458-1019 or mukhtar@tamuk.edu.

"At the same time we address these issues, we have to keep in mind that we want to maintain a thriving livestock and poultry production industry," he said.

Post Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

6:00-9:00 p.m. VBS will be offered to those that have completed Kindergarten-4th grade. VBX will be offered to those who have completed 5th and 6th grade.

Blood Drive schedule on July 17th

The Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility will be hosting a Blood Drive on July 17, 2009. The bus will be at the facility from 2:30 pm until 5:15 pm. Contact Georgette or Jenny at 495-2175 for an appointment. Come help save a life.

Breast cancer imaging program expedites diagnostic process

HOUSTON — A Houston team has reduced what is often the most difficult part of breast cancer detection tests — waiting for the results, said a breast imaging specialist at Baylor College of Medicine www.bcm.edu.

"Early detection is the single most important way to increase a patient's chance of survival," said Dr. Emily Sedgwick, director of breast imaging in the Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center <http://www.baylorclinic.com/services-specialties/bcancer> at BCM. "Our process of gathering the diagnostic mammogram, ultrasound and biopsy in one day decreases the patient's wait time and anxiety. Hopefully, this will make them more likely to come in for their annual mammograms and detect their cancers earlier."

Other breast imaging centers, Sedgwick said, may have patients set up separate appointments for each 'test step,' wait for results and then confirm whether they will move forward on to the next diagnostic procedure. **DO NOT DELAY MAMMOGRAMS OUT OF FEAR**

Beginning at age 40, women should have a screening mammogram once a year, Sedgwick said.

"Some women may put off their annual mammograms because they are scared of a breast cancer diagnosis," said Sedgwick. "If we are able to detect the cancer early, when the breast tumor is small, a woman's chance of survival significantly improves."

By offering the mammogram and ultrasound results in one day, it may help reduce a patient's fear of the diagnosis, Sedgwick said.

Patients come in for routine mammogram screening and if additional mammogram or ultrasound images and biopsy are required, they are usually conducted in the same clinic on the same day, Sedgwick said. **ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL SERVICES**

Another advantage of the Breast Center imaging services <http://www.bcm.edu/breastcancer/?PMID=11080>, is that the facility is "all digital," Sedgwick said.

"With digital mammography, studies have shown we are able to detect cancer more effectively in

younger, premenopausal women who have dense breast tissue," said Sedgwick. "Spotting cancer early in these women may otherwise be even more difficult."

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DIAGNOSIS?

Additionally, imaging patients are cared for post-diagnosis, Sedgwick said.

"We call our patients with the biopsy results. If they do have breast cancer, we will notify the new patient oncology nurse to set up an appointment to see an oncologist. They usually see an oncologist within a week of their cancer diagnoses," said Sedgwick. "We are really committed to taking care of our patients and helping them through this complex process."

Biopsy results can take up to five business days, Sedgwick said.

The Smith Breast Center is a part of the NCI-designated Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center <http://www.bcm.edu/cancercenter> at BCM.

To set up a mammogram or general appointment, call 713-798-1999.

Check out our website at www.postdispatch.com

for your information

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR WATER? YOU SHOULD BE!!!

Never before has there been more concern over water quality. With recent research directly linking the chlorine used to treat drinking water with cancer, more and more people are looking for a solution.

Up until now there have been very few options, with those options being very costly. But now there is an **AFFORDABLE** alternative!

Clean Aqua Systems, owned by Braden Conner, has a whole house healthy water system that removes the harmful metals and chemicals that are believed by experts to be the #1 cause for most cancers in the U.S. Hard to believe? According to the U.S. Council of Environmental Quality, "While levels of carcinogens in drinking water are low, it is precisely these low levels that carcinogenists believe to be responsible for the majority of human cancers in the U.S. Cancer risk among people using chlorinated water is as much as 93% higher than among those whose water does not contain chlorine."

With statistics like these readily available to the public via modern technology, many people have attempted to put a stop to this buying and only drinking bottled or R.O. (reverse osmosis) water. But that in itself is only a small part of the problem. According to the American Journal of Public Health, "Up to two-thirds of the harmful effects of chlorine are due to inhalation and skin absorption while showering." So what is the solution? The whole house healthy water system from Clean Aqua Systems ensures better than bottled water coming out of ever faucet, shower head, and tap in your home.

But the whole house treatment doesn't stop there. Using patented technology, the whole house system electronically softens the water without the ongoing cost and maintenance of traditional salt softeners AND prevents and removes calcium and magnesium scale from home appliances, hot water heaters, shower heads, and piping in your home.

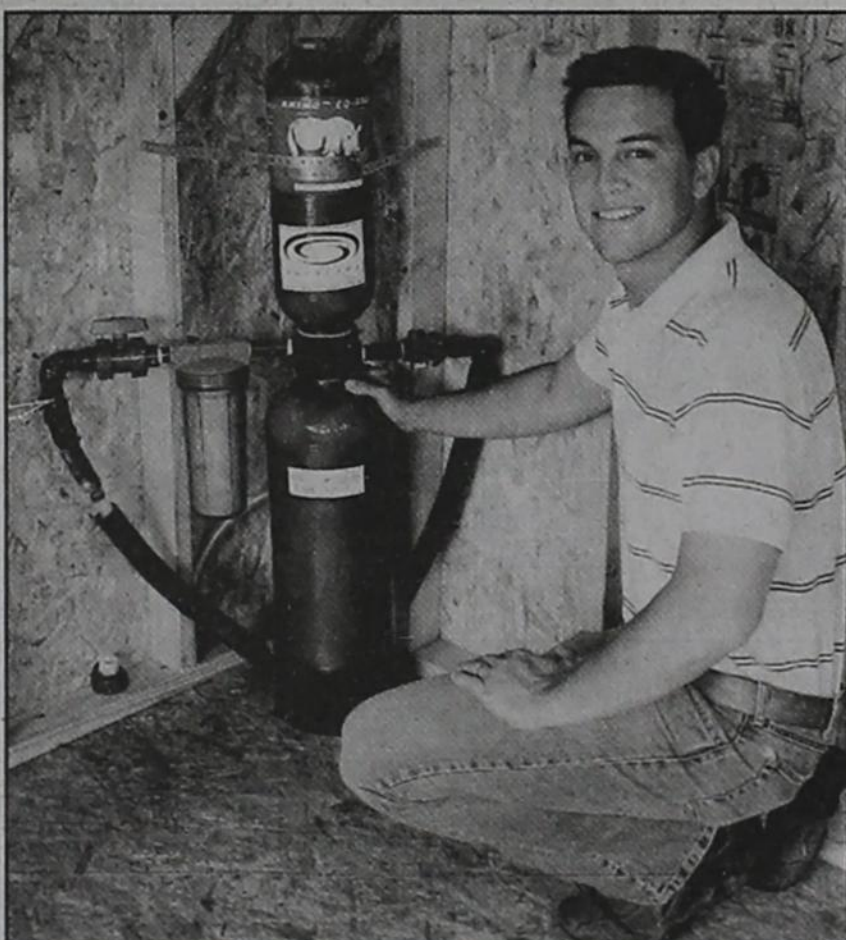
"Take it from them ...!"

Just a few days after installing our whole house system from Clean Aqua Systems, we noticed the difference. Our water tasted great, and our hot water was HOTTER. We have had to turn down the temperature on our hot water heater, which we know is saving us money. Thanks Again!

Cory and Melissa D.
Canyon, Texas

In my field, prevention is always better than cure. The whole house healthy water system from Clean Aqua Systems was an easy choice!

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Braden Conner installs Whole House Filtration Systems like these that remove harmful chemicals from water, which also removes scale and hard water deposits. Call him at (806) 316-0103.

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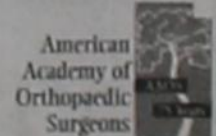
A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

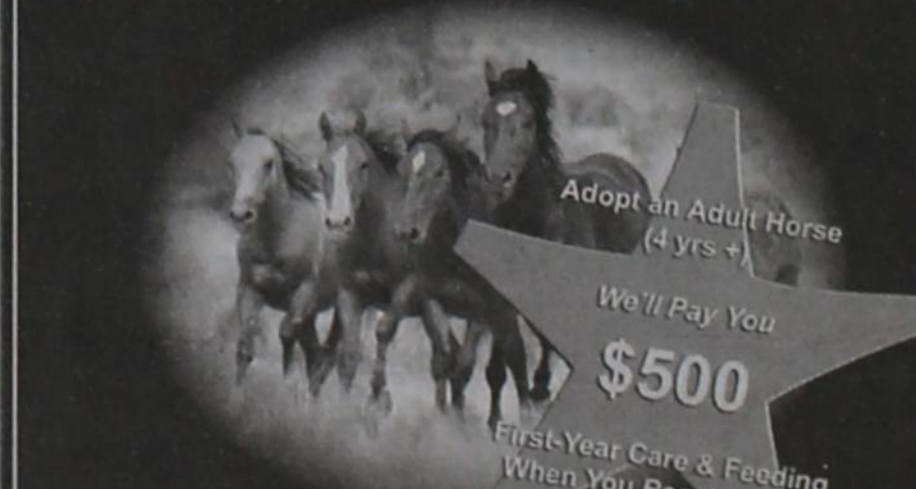
Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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In and Around Close City

by Traci Freeman

Weather
We got some rain over the weekend; anywhere from an inch to two inches. It will help the cotton that we do have left and do wonders for the gardens. Ours here at the gin is coming along. We already have peppers, radishes and squash and I finally got a tomato off one of my plants. They are growing really well, I just wish they would produce some 'maters!

News
The family of Arvil and Eula B Smith held their annual family reunion at the Smith farm west of Close City. Those attending this year were: Harry & Nelda Smith of Brownwood, Ryan, Alicia and Garrett of Dallas; Bunny Smith of Close City; Clinton & Peggy Smith of Midland; Kathleen Smith of Galveston, her son's family, Josh and Heidi of Australia; her daughter, Robin of New York; Charles and Miriam O'Neal of Post, their daughter, Danielle and her friend Greg of Detroit; Donnie and Sylvia Dingsus of Brownfield, their daughter, Jessica of Dallas and their son, Brad from Brownfield. Special guests this year were: Granville Smith of Mesilla Park, New Mexico; Doyle and Jan Smith of Lake Havasu, Arizona and Ruby Mason of San Angelo.
The Bullard family also held their annual family reunion at the Bullard

Farm, which is east of Close City. There were 57 family members in attendance from Post, Haskell, Brownfield, Lubbock, Weatherford, Ft Worth, Tokio, Lingleville, The Colony, Arlington, and Lovington, N.M.

The Childs family all got together for the 4th on Saturday and had a great fireworks show! Those celebrating the holiday were; Lois, Jim and Nedra; Joe, Mandy, Raul, Abby and Ally Guerero of Amarillo; Tad, Rhiana and Emily Ellis of Lubbock; Tim and Connie Prather of Lubbock. On Sunday Chuck Prather of Millsap came to visit.

Visitors
Gene King came in and visited for a while Monday morning. Jennie Lou stopped in Monday afternoon. Travis Lancaster entertained us for a while on Tuesday.

Get Wells
Don't forget our "Ragtown" folks in the nursing homes; Doug and Claudine Tipton and Carmen Abraham in Post. Jewel White in Lubbock. If I need to add anyone to this list, please let me know.

Keep our troops and rain in your daily prayers. Don't forget to check out our blog at <http://closecitycoopgin.blogspot.com> and send me some new reci-

pes so that I can post them on the blog.

Birthdays- Since I missed last week, I'm including a few late birthdays this week.

- July 3rd - Ruth Ann Young
- July 8th - Brandi Gunn Pleasant
- July 8th - Jonathan Page
- July 12th - James Melton
- July 13th - Nancy Morris
- July 14th - Ronnie Graves
- July 14th - Ken Young
- July 15th - Kayla Dunn Overstreet

Anniversaries-
July 15th - Ronnie and Voda Beth Gradine

Send all your Close City happenings to close.city.coop@pcca.com or call me here at the gin 495-2753

Weekly Inspirations

E Pluribus Unum

By: Michael F. Taylor

I do not know about you, but this time of year is always one of my favorites. I love Independence Day! The fourth of July is a day of celebration for each American. Regardless of where our family ancestors may have originated, each and every one of us now share the proud heritage of being an AMERICAN. I would like to take a few moments this week to just remind you of a few reasons why we can be the free nation that we are today. Have you ever pondered why America is so great today? Maybe it is because we are just a little different from any other nation. Maybe it is because of the men and women who have served their country in peace time, fought her battles in war time, and loved her at the great peril of their own lives. I would like to go back into our past to the first Constitutional Conference. The delegates at that conference were facing an awesome responsibility. They were burdened with the pressure of trying to create a brand new nation which would certainly need the protection of a sound Constitution. And in the course of their deliberations, these men became exhausted with the daunting task laid before them and frustrated at not being able to agree on a Constitution. It became so bad that it seemed they were ready to throw the whole idea out the window, when one older white haired gentleman stood up to calm the delegation. He was calm and deliberate in his address to the body before him. This is what he said, "Gentlemen, if it is true that not one single petal from any flower fall to the ground without escaping God's attention, will the distress of this nation go unheeded? Let us therefore determine to seek His face." The delegates then in unison did what might bring today legal litigation. They set aside their writing instruments and paper, kneeled down, and began to pray. And when they once again rose to their feet, the phrase, "E Pluribus Unum" was born. What does it mean? "ONE OUT OF MANY!"

We are told in Ephesians Chapter 4, verses 4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." NIV I believe that this message is exactly what the founding fathers of our nation meant when they coined that phrase. Our nation is truly made of every tribe and every nation, and yet we are one as Americans. Just as we are one in the body of Christ! This Independence Day, I would like to encourage each of you to not only enjoy all the garnishments of the Fourth of July such as firecrackers, lemonade and barbeques. But, also to celebrate the Fourth of July because we are Christians - ONE NATION - UNDER GOD - INDIVISIBLE - WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!

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

Church Directory

Assembly of God		Graham Chapel Church of Christ	15th & Ave. S
Bethel Assembly of God (Bi-Lingual)	407 May St.	Church of God	
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	
Pleasant Home Baptist Church	E. 14th & N. Ave F		216 W. 10th, 495-2942
Pleasant Valley Baptist	Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174	Graham Chapel United Methodist Church	495-3492
Southland Baptist Church	Southland	Nazarene	
Templo Bautista	315 W. Main	Post Church of the Nazarene	202 W. 10th, 495-3044
Trinity Baptist Church	915 N. Ave O	Grassland Church of the Nazarene	327-5656
Catholic		Non-Denominational	
Holy Cross Catholic Church	Ave. K and Main St., 495-2791	Family Harvest Church	111 N. Avenue I, 495-1400
Church of Christ		Caprock Springs Fellowship	12th & Ave. I 495-2171
Church of Christ	108 N. Ave. M, 495-2326	Presbyterian	
		First Presbyterian Church	910 W. 10th, 495-2135

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Post City Classifieds

Help Wanted

Burnham Country Store & Grill is hiring part-time/full-time help. Call 806-629-4061 or come by and ask for Val York.

Blackburn Media Group is looking for a part-time area reporter to cover Post, Floydada and Lockney. Must have reporting experience and access to a computer. Some nighttime work will be required. If interested submit writing samples to jami@thehill-dressindex.com

Miscellaneous

30 inch Kelvinator gas range for sale \$100 call 495-3416 or come by 316 W. 11th St.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

The George R. Brown Partnership, L.P. 4700 First City Tower Houston, TX 77002 has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation, which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation City of Post San Andres "A" WF 1 lease, well number W-1WB. The proposed injection well is located in the City of Post, TX in the Garza field, in Garza County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3030 to 3100 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

Personals

Post Group Alcoholics Anonymous Meets on Thursdays at 8:00 pm, closed meetings except for last Thursday of every month. For more information contact: 806-781-1156 or 495-5371. The location is 10th Street and Ave K, behind United Supermarket. Post Al-Anon

Family Group meeting, meets at 8:00 p.m. in the same building, but a different room. For more information contact: 495-3053

Jobs Wanted

Christian man needing job, lives out at 5 Stone Ministries located on 380 & CR125, welding, lawn work & all faces of work, references given upon request. Contact Bernie anytime 806-544-8411.

Need a Babysitter? Have experience. Call 543-2074.

Lost and Found

Lost & reward for Rat Terrier. Lost Saturday night from behind Rodeo grounds, black & white Rat Terrier with tags, name is Corvette, the family is from east Texas, but please call 806-632-3423.

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Saturday 7/11 9-? 121 Ridge Rd.

Garage Sale Saturday July 11th 8-12 410 Mohawk in the back at the barn

Backyard sale Saturday 8-? Furniture & household stuff 308 W. 13th

Yard Sale Saturday 11th & 12th 8-4 210 Fox Street

Card of Thanks

Holy Cross Alter Servers would like to thank Sonic, United Supermarket & Mr. & Mrs. Tina Alaniz for their donations toward our fundraiser Saturday, & everyone who bought raffle tickets for the Bar-B-Q Pit. Winner of the Bar-B-Q Pit was Mrs. Record.

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Menus

- TRAILBLAZERS**
- July 13 - Smothered chicken, squash, pea salad, roll, peach cake
 - July 14 - Baked ham, broccoli/cauliflower salad, lima beans, cornbread, jello
 - July 15 - Green chili chicken, beans, salad, chips & salsa, Mexican wedding cake
 - July 16 - Liver & onions or chicken strips, brussel sprouts, carrots, roll, rice crispy bar
 - July 17 - Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, corn, roll, bread pudding

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Garza County Court Report

June 10, 2009

Luis Valadez, guilty of DWI Class B Misdemeanor
12 months probation, \$400 fine, \$373 court costs

Juan Carlos Hernandez, guilty of Assault Class A Misdemeanor
No jail time, \$500 fine, \$316 court costs

June 22, 2009

David Kerman, guilty of Criminal Trespass, Class B Misdemeanor
32 days county jail day for day, \$500 fine, \$258 court costs

Larry Gene Jackson, Motion to revoke probation, Class A Misdemeanor
Extended probation 6 months, pay \$934.28 to probation office

July 1, 2009

Louis Trinidad, guilty of DWI 2nd, Class A Misdemeanor
12 months probation and 80 hrs community service, \$900 fine, \$373 court costs

Ernesto Nieland, guilty of DWI, Class B Misdemeanor
12 months probation and 25 hrs community service, \$400 fine, \$373 court costs

Miguel Angel Hernandez, guilty of DWI Class B Misdemeanor
12 months probation and 25 hrs community service, \$400 fine, \$373 court costs

Ricardo Hernandez, guilty of DWI Class B Misdemeanor
10 days county jail, \$300 fine, \$373 court costs

Jerry Neil Stone, guilty DWI 2nd Class A Misdemeanor
12 months probation and 80 hours community service, \$900 fine, \$373 court costs

Matthew Wray Adams, guilty DWI Class B Misdemeanor
14 months probation, \$800 fine, \$373 court costs

Keith Merrell Martin, guilty of Unlawfully carrying a weapon Class A Misdemeanor
5 days county jail, \$300 fine, \$258 court costs

Matthew Wray Adams, guilty DWI Class B Misdemeanor
Time served, \$373 court cost.

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A Legislative Update from Congressman Randy Neugebauer

Since the beginning of the year, the Democratic majority continues to advance an agenda of more spending and greater debt in Congress.

Just two weeks ago, we saw passage in the House of a devastating national energy tax in the form of the "cap and trade" bill. This legislation, containing 397 regulations and 1,060 government mandates, is projected to cost American families more than \$3,000 a year, raise energy bills by \$1,500, and reduce employment by more than a million jobs. My hope is the Senate puts the brakes on this misguided legislation.

Unfortunately, the next four weeks in Congress are likely to have more costly legislation on the agenda. In the upcoming weeks, the House is expected to tackle health care reform. While health care is an important issue for Congress to address, I am concerned with new estimates that show the Majority's latest proposal would result in \$3.5 trillion in added federal spending over the next decade and force 64 million Americans to lose their current health care coverage. This approach would cost too much, cover too few and force too many to lose the coverage they currently have.

I understand health care is important to you and your families. As both the House and Senate continue to develop health care reform plans, I will continue to keep you informed about the latest alternatives being proposed.

Where is the Stimulus?

Last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that 467,000 more jobs were lost in June, pushing the unemployment rate up to 9.5 percent, a 26-year high. The report reveals that job losses are accelerating, with over 100,000 more Americans losing work in June than in May.

As job losses continue, families are worried about losing their

incomes, health care and meeting their monthly bills. While the promise of the economic stimulus package signed into law earlier this year was that it would help create jobs, I don't believe the federal government can borrow, and spend our nation's way back to prosperity. We need to join together to identify ways to create long-term job growth.

This week, I will be joining with colleagues to discuss ways to create jobs, cut spending and restore fiscal responsibility as part of the Economic Recovery Working Group. Congress must start doing what every American family is doing during these tough economic times: cutting government expenses and making sacrifices.

Benjamin Franklin Award

During a ceremony on Capitol Hill, I was presented the Benjamin Franklin Award by the 60 Plus Association. This award is given to members of Congress who have supported the repeal of the estate or 'death' tax.

After paying every tax while you're alive, once you have passed away, the government hits you again with a tax. While the death tax has been declining since 2001 and will be fully phased out next year, it will come back to its original level at the end of 2010 if Congress does not act.

I appreciate the Benjamin Franklin Award and the 60 Plus Association's support of death tax repeal. I will continue to support efforts to permanently abolish this anti-farmer, anti-senior and anti-small business tax.

As always, when events unfold in Washington, I will be sure to update you. In the meantime, do not hesitate to visit my website or call my office toll free district wide at (888) 763-1611 or my Washington, DC office at 202-225-4005.

Thanks For Reading

Evaluation Process Starts at Cogdell Memorial Hospital

On June 29 representatives of Stroudwater Associates arrived in Snyder to begin the process of evaluating future options for Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Stroudwater is a nationally recognized firm that provides strategic facility planning for hospitals and healthcare systems across the United States.

Over 50 interviews were held with members of Cogdell Memorial's Board, administration, department directors, community leaders and elected officials. Results of these interviews will form the basis of the first phase of planning which will take approximately 90 days.

In addition to the interviews, Cogdell Memorial provided Stroudwater voluminous data of

operational history including financials, facility expenditures, capital investment, demographic and market information. This information is being organized and will be used to provide a framework for future projections.

This first phase will identify the possible choices for updating an aging facility. It will take into account the current services offered, problems and opportunities with the current physical plant, external influences (such as Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement) projections of future demand and community priorities. This information will be presented to The Board and Administration to assist them in making informed decisions.

Vaccination rules change this fall

New rules require more vaccinations before a child can start kindergarten or seventh grade this fall. The physicians of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) are urging parents to get their child's shots now before school starts.

"Don't wait until school starts to ensure your child's health. The sooner your children get their vaccines, the sooner they are protected against serious diseases," said Carol Baker, MD, a spokesperson for the TMA "Be Wise - Immunize" program and executive director of the Center for Vaccine Awareness and Research at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

In March, the Texas Department of State Health Services announced revisions to vaccine requirements for school admittance. In addition to the shots already required for kindergarten children to start school, they now need to get these vaccinations:

- Two doses of hepatitis A
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR).

Seventh-graders also need additional shots. DSHS requires these children get these vaccinations:

- Meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine
- Two doses of varicella vaccine
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) (Tdap) booster.

These vaccines were not required in the past. DSHS is now requiring the vaccines so Texas mirrors the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

"Vaccines protect us from potentially deadly infectious diseases that could be lurking just around the corner," said Dr. Baker. "Nearly one in five teens who contract meningococcal disease dies, and another 20 percent of those who survive may end up with lifelong complications," she added.

Other diseases can have lingering effects. During the past few years, Texas has seen more cases of the highly contagious whooping cough, a disease that can cause children to cough for weeks or even months, Dr. Baker said. "Students miss school, parents miss work, and students can't study or sleep because of the constant cough." In Williamson County near Austin, for example, pertussis cases have risen from 18 in 2008 to 112 already this year.

Parents shouldn't put off getting their child vaccinated because they don't have insurance or money to pay for it. "Most communities offer free or low-cost vaccinations at local public health clinics so every child has a way to get vaccinated," said Dr. Baker.

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SPEC Dickens Division Membership Meeting

Thursday, July 16 • Registration 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting is at the local office on FM 836
in Spur. Call (806) 271-3311 for information.

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Notice of Public Hearing on Budget

Garza Central Appraisal District

The Garza Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2010 fiscal year.

July 15, 2009

The public hearing will be held on 8:30 A.M. at 124 East Main, Post

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget.	\$ <u>313,753.68</u>
The total amount of increase over the current year's budget.	\$ <u>15,169.62</u>
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget.	<u>3</u> (full-time equivalent)
The number of employees compensated under the current budget.	<u>3</u> (full-time equivalent)

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

Garza Central Appraisal District
124 East Main
P.O. Drawer F
Post, Texas

Yesteryears

10 Years Ago July 8, 1999

Members of the 1944 Post High School graduating class gathered for their 55th-year reunion. Attending were the following classmates: Johnnie Ruth Cato Harpole, Kathryn Childress Cawley, Alvin Davis and wife, Barbara, Mary Margaret Duckworth and husband, Glenn Norman, Hazel Cash Gardner, and Jeanette Gilmore Hodges. Also, Buddy Malouf, Johnny Mathis and wife, Estelle, Pauline Thompson Mathis and husband, Stanley, James Lee Smith and wife, Dorothy, and Donald Windham and wife, Billie.

Regina Collazo, daughter of Linda Collazo of Post and the late Johnny Collazo, has been named a United States National Ward Winner. Collazo was nominated for the award by Suzanna Mercer.

Mr. and Mrs. Joyce C. Steel celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a reception. Hostesses for the event were Marilyn Steel and Linda Runkles, assisted by Faye Maddox.

Senior League 14-16 Year old All-Stars recognized at closing ceremonies were manager Randy McCallister, coach Dan Nelson, Roland Castaneda, Brent Wisenhunt, Michael Huff, Joey Cimental, Mikey Gonzales, Brooks Conner, Luis Zubia, Cody Fox, John Eilenberger, Brandon Bell, Allen Bell and coach Chris Belongia.

Holly Hardin graduated from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She graduated Cum Laude in Honors Studies and received a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting.

20 Years Ago July 10, 1989

Ron Graves, son of

Diane and Ronnie Graves of Post, was elected senior advisor for Phi Eta Sigma national honor society.

Placing from Garza County at the South Plains District 4-H Horse Show in Lubbock were Willie Mesa, Kim Reiter and Lori Hudman.

Kimberly Carlisle and George Curt Greer exchanged wedding vows in a candlelight ceremony July 1 in Post's First Presbyterian church with Dr. Thomas E. Pass of Greenville, Texas officiating.

Bailey Marie Odom was born June 19, 1989 in the Lynn County Hospital and the daughter of Dicky and Shellee Odom of Post. Bailey weighed seven pounds, seven and one-half ounces.

Della Cockrell got assistance from Post Chamber of Commerce president Joe Harris during ribbon cutting ceremonies at The Balloon Post in Manna Square. Joining in the event were Wes Cockrell, Jan Crawford, Joy Fluit, Becky McCullough, Bryan Williams, Joyce Strubhart and Don Stewart.

Post was well represented on the Honors List at Texas Tech for spring 1989, with Tyra Alexander and David Tyler both making the Dean's List.

30 Years Ago July 12, 1979

By a split vote of 4 to 3, Post school trustees decided to accept the low bid of \$61,434 from Vibra Whirl & Company of Panhandle for construction of a new and guaranteed all-weather 400-meter track.

A whirlwind, small tornado or a freak gust of highwind blew a 10 x 10' aluminum shed from Boog Holly's back yard and deposited it in pieces in a tree across the alley 150 feet away.

Trustee Juanella Hays

generated a lively discussion on "drugs, drinking, driving, dress and discipline" at the school board's July meeting, before the controversial subjects were tabled for future consideration.

Roxanne McClellan and Jana Middleton in Junior I Division and Kayla Peel and Tanya Bland in Junior II Division were the winners of this year's Garza 4-H Fashion Revue.

Tim Tannehill, with a first in the triple jump, won the only first place scored by Post athletes in the recent TAAF track meet in Lubbock and Borger.

40 Years Ago July 10, 1969

Funeral services for Wilard M. Kirkpatrick, prominent rancher and resident of Garza County for 42 years, were conducted.

Twenty-four were present in the M.A. McDaniel home for a luncheon and visiting at a reunion of Mrs. McDaniel's family and the McDaniel children.

Attending girl's camp at Plains Baptist Assembly from the Trinity Baptist Church are Sue Harrison, Rhonda Criswell, Brenda Spinks, Sue Britton, Nancy Maddox, Susie Smith, Kelly Williams, Sandy Odom, Mrs. Doyal Spinks and Mrs. Irvin Cross.

The 1969 edition of Dave Campbell's "Texas Football" magazine hit the newsstands this week and picked Post for a third place finish in District 4AA - behind Denver City and Friendship.

Third baseman Kyle Josey hit two homeruns to help propel the Babe Ruth League All-Stars past Slaton 8 to 1.

At Piggly Wiggly this week you can get bacon and eggs - one pound of bacon and one dozen eggs - for 98 cents.

50 Years Ago July 9, 1959

Jan Thomas of Grassland was the title of Miss Post and will represent the area in the

Miss Texas contest.

The new church school addition to the First Methodist Church will be ready to show off to the general public Sunday morning.

Motorboats are banned from the city-county park lake effective with a park ordinance passed this week by the city council at the request of the park commission.

The 19th annual Post Stampede Rodeo opened Wednesday night with more than 2,000 fans on hand and unusually fast times being chalked up in the time events.

It was announced that Post is officially on the dotted line for dial telephones. The conversion to automatic phone service will take 17 months with the changeover to dial promised by General Telephone on or before November 30, 1960.

60 Years Ago July 14, 1949

Lenona Stone, Jeanie Peel, Doris Ritchie, Wynona Pennington are attending 4-H Girl's Camp in Lubbock.

The Garza County Board of School Trustees ordered the consolidation of the Hartford School District with the Southland Rural School District. Last week the Verbena trustees voted to contract with Post under the new Gilmer-Aiken Law, because of the low daily attendance their school last year.

Tom Hagood, owner-manager, has made improvements in the Garza Hotel with the addition of glass brick panels and a large plate glass window in the front of the building.

Winning prizes of a case of Texaco oil at Hodges Tractor Company's big family party were A.S. Roberts, Sam Keeton, W.W. Stephens, Troy Nash, Pete Ottinger and Lewis Mason of Jayton.

The Corsicana funeral of Texas Governor Beauford Jester was a front-page item in this week's Post Dispatch.

ACROSS

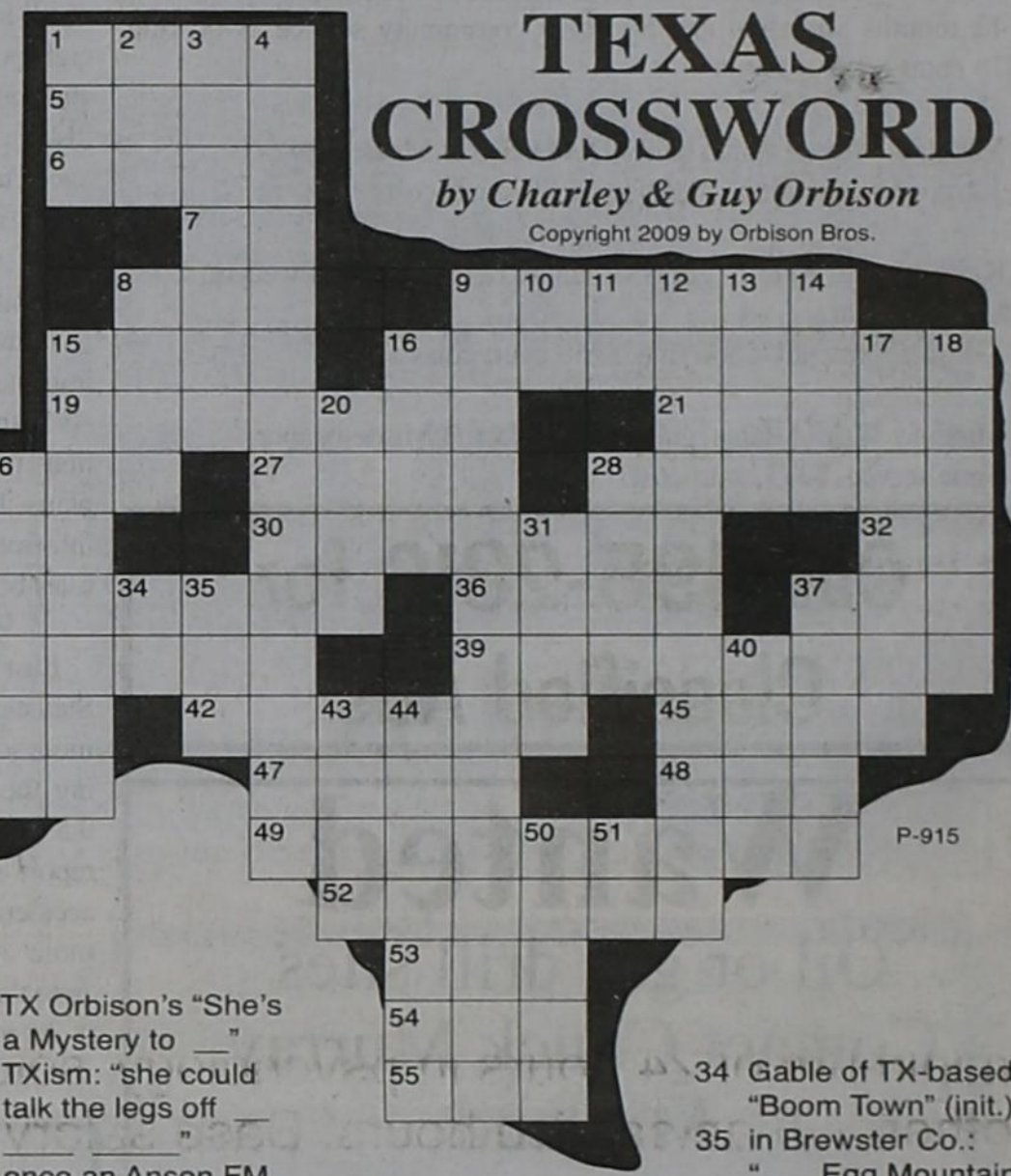
- 1 "a _____ in the dark"
- 5 TXism: "he'd have to study up _____ a half wit"
- 6 Jack & Jill's container
- 7 TX Tanya's sister: _____ Costa Tucker
- 8 "so near, and _____ so far"
- 9 TXism: "cold enough _____ cows give ice cream"
- 15 horse hair
- 16 TXism: "_____ mummy's tomb"
- 19 TXism: "does _____ stink?" (yes)
- 21 stroke or seizure
- 22 this Herb spilled the beans on rigged TV game show "21"
- 27 _____ hygiene
- 28 TX Roy Orbison tune: "In _____"
- 29 this Ferguson was 1st female governor of TX
- 30 Alfred _____
- 31 TX George Strait's "If I Know _____"
- 32 TX TI makes it
- 36 TXism: "lower a snake's belly"
- 37 TXism: "_____ your bottom dollar" (sure)
- 38 noncash transactions
- 39 TXism: "got _____ tangled" (fell)
- 41 co. that TX Ross Perot started

DOWN

- 42 bad service? (2 wds.)
- 45 this Harper was in "No Country for Old Men" with TX Tommy Lee
- 46 TX golfer Trevino
- 47 San Antonio AM
- 48 _____ City, TX
- 49 Gussie _____ founded the Kilgore Rangerettes
- 52 change direction abruptly
- 53 TXism: "crooked _____ barrel of snakes"
- 54 "Foat Wuth, I Luv _____"
- 55 those graduating (abbr.)
- 1 oil additive
- 2 TXism: "kin _____ rattler" (mean)
- 3 Taylor Co. seat
- 4 TXism: "he'll _____ funeral" (unreliable)
- 8 two-masted boat
- 9 Biblical king of Assyria (hyphenated wd.)
- 10 TX Janis sang "I Got Dem _____ Kozmic Blues Again, Mama"
- 11 TX Orbison's "She's a Mystery to _____"
- 12 TXism: "she could talk the legs off _____"
- 13 once an Anson FM
- 14 if you can _____ 72-oz. steak, Amarillo's "Big Texan" will give it to you free
- 15 Ella _____ sang "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- 16 fly high
- 17 hot times in TX
- 18 TX mineral rights
- 20 film for TX-born Gary Busey: "_____ Zone"
- 22 TX-born comedian & actor Martin (init.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Last Puzzle Solution

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THE NOT JUST FOR KIDS PAGE

WATER WORLD

VOL 151

Two positive atoms of Hydrogen and one negatively charged atom of Oxygen gives us the most abundant substance on Earth—WATER. The average American uses 80-100 gallons of water a day. Although we can go three weeks or more without food, humans will last no more than seven days without life giving water.

Over 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water. Only 1-3 percent of this is suitable for drinking.

WWW Answer: 1. water polo, 2. waterlogged, 3. watermelon, 4. waterbed, 5. water fly, 6. water moccasin, 7. waterproof, 8. waterpout, 9. watercolors, 10. waterfowl, 12. waterbird

WATER POWER: Hydraulics is using liquid pressure for force or energy. Moving water produces kinetic energy. A water wheel was one of the earliest ways to harness the energy in moving water to turn a series of gears (stones) to grind wheat and corn into flour and meal. Hydro electric power creates energy by controlling the amount of water that flows over a man-made dam.

The WATER CYCLE is the continuous circulation of water between oceans, air and land. The water we drink today may have floated Columbus' ships or quenched the thirst of the Incas.

Water Word Wonders

- Water_o_o - water sport
- Water_o_g_d - saturated with water
- Water_e_o - seed packed juicy summer fruit
- Water_e_ - bedroom furniture
- Water_i_y - pond flower
- Water_o_c_s_n - poisonous pit viper
- Water_r_o_ - can not be damaged by water
- Water_p_u_ - pipe where water comes out
- Water_o_o_s - water based paint
- Water_a_l - tumbling water
- Water_r_n_ - prized property with a view
- Water_o_l - water bird

One drop of water contains one billion, billion water molecules.

http://www.brain-iacs.com Laura Craig

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House for Sale

Country home in Fluvanna on 6 acres, 2/2, newly remodeled. Texas Real Estate 325-728-3500 or 325-573-9400

Wife Says Sell, great 3 Br, 2 B, White River Lake. Central heat & air, fireplace, isolated master & bath \$59,900, but will consider any offer, in trouble with the boss. Tim Gristy 806-441-6003.

1011 Sunset Dr. 2 living areas, isolated master, basement/storm shelter \$105,000 Century 21 John Walters Realtors, call Rusti Sterling 787-8754.

Personals

Post Group Alcoholics Anonymous

Meets on Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. Closed meetings, except for last Thursday of every month. For info, contact: 806-781-1156 or 806-495-5371 10th & Ave K, behind United Supermarket.

Post Al-Anon

Family Group Meeting, meets at 8:00 p.m. Same building, different room. For info, contact: 495-3053

Option...

Continued from Page 2 up premiums ever further in order to stay solvent.

Employers on the other hand will have lost the incentive to provide coverage to employees. To save costs, they'll pass the buck back to the taxpayers, who will now be guaranteed coverage through the public "option."

The greatest misrepresentation of all is that the public "option" will at all be optional. It will not be. Because it cannot be. It is designed to crowd out private options by guaranteeing coverage on a federal level—indeed, by mandating it.

President Obama seems optimistic: "When I say if you have your plan and you like it... or you have a doctor and you like your doctor, that you don't have to change plans, what I'm saying is the government is not going to make you change plans under health reform."

Of course, even if there is no sweeping mandate to use the public "option," the law of gravity still applies—the larger mass shall attract the smaller masses towards it. This is how monopolies are formed, whether state-run or not.

The big lie is that the American people will have any choice at all but to use the public "option," which will be the only option left.

Robert Romano is the Senior Editor of ALG News Bureau.

War of the Ribbons – Story of the Texas Land Rush

Excerpts from a historical paper written by Mildred Sentell

As a young state, Texas had more land than money. At least, she was prodigal with her public domain. It seemed that those vast stretches of unsurveyed, even unexplored, land were never ending. Progress was financed by passing out huge tracts of land which the state used instead of nonexistent money. The capital at Austin was built from the sale of public land. And public land subsidized the building of the railroads and the public schools.

On April 19, 1904, the Texas Land Law was amended to abolish the "Absolute Law." This amendment provided that school land in 21 West Texas Counties, including Borden and several surrounding counties, should be opened for sale. Previous to that ruling, most of the land had been leased by large ranchers who, in many instances, already owned the alternate sections of railroad land. Purchases were limited to four sections, and preference was given to the lease holder. However, most of the cowmen had already bought their four sections, which made little showing among their vast holdings of railroad land. The Attorney General's ruling was that application to buy or re-lease had to be filed after expiration of the absolute lease and in the county in which the land was located. Therefore the one who filed the first application in the county clerk's office was the one who got the land, if the application was legal. The special session of the Legislature also scared the lease owners so that they sold their leases to their friends.

This ruling resulted in the "land rushes," a very colorful and regrettable chapter in West Texas history: regrettable because enmities were aroused and bitterness stirred up which still comes to the surface on occasions. The "Rushes" were merely struggles between the cowmen and settlers for possession of the door to the clerk's office, where the application to purchase land was to be filed. These years of the Land Rushes were historic and important years in the settlement of West Texas history.

A Clash That Rivals The War of the Roses

"Rip'em and Split'em and Get'em" is the cry These headlines introduced the account in the Borden Citizen of the "very exciting conflict between the Red and Blue Ribbons." As the Reds were known to be the settlers and the Blues were cowmen and their cowboys, and as the principle of "might makes right" was recognized, the newspaper set out to record the "Texas Land Rush" of March 4 and March 11.

The following eyewitness account was written by Arthur N. Prince, whose father was Borden County's first doctor.

"This is something I cannot describe. I do not have sufficient command of the English language to do so. I am a knee-breeches boy. My underwear is a little longer than my short pants, providing a red rim to the bottom thereof. I remember how I despised them. I am looking out the schoolhouse window. This is the same schoolhouse from which I have watched immense herds of cattle moving north from Texas to Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas. A short era in which massive things have happened that cannot ever happen again. As I look out the schoolhouse window, I suddenly see a large band of horsemen coming into town at a hard run. They dismount and

converge on the courthouse where they immediately begin the process of dragging out another bunch of men who are already there. They just grab the other men and "rastle" and scuffle and drag them out. No gun play. The cowboys have dragged the "settlers" or "nesters" out of the Courthouse, and they will stay there until a few days later when the settlers have obtained reinforcements and are now able to drag the cowboys out, which they proceed to do. This scene reverses itself several times until the day comes when what it's all about happens."

At issue were five sections of land which came on the market on the 4th and three on the 11th. This land was already settled, and the settlers involved had been "holding" the clerk's door for two or three months, but the cattlemen were determined to file for these sections. On Feb. 29, a large number of "cow punchers" rode into Gail and, putting on their blue ribbons, "concluded to take advantage of the situation."

Good Order Prevailed

It was agreed that every man should control his temper and that anyone who failed to do so was to be turned over to the sheriff and locked up, if necessary. The deputies searched every one and all pocket knives and revolvers were taken before anyone was allowed to "enter the scene of strife as a participant. It was not a bloodless war wholly, for many and rough were the scratches and tumbles; yet good order prevailed, and, with the exception of a few personal differences, the kindest feelings were promoted and sustained throughout the contest."

The Blues, under their "Commander in Chief," Big Bob Odum, involved a ten minute struggle, during which they tossed the Red Ribbons out of the hall and let out a "yell that would have stampeded an army of Apaches..."

The Reds "mounted their ponies and rode hard" for reinforcements. That evening, the Reds charged the "fort" and after twenty minutes, retook the hall. The Blues did not attempt to retake the hall but left for reinforcements of their own, "fully resolved to return with sufficient force" to insure that they would be able to file on the 11th. The Citizen estimated that 225 men participated in the pull.

The major pull was to be made on the 11th and the Blues hired and brought out men from Abilene, Colorado, Big Springs and Garza, Borden and other counties. The Reds also had made a search and had about 225 men from 12 counties. On the morning of the 9th, however, their numbers had dwindled to about 125, facing 175 Blues.

The Citizen reports that the forces clashed on the 9th at ten in the morning, and with "gripping, grunting and gnashing of teeth," the Blues won the hall. The Reds continued to come in, however, and by the afternoon were ready to be lined up by their Commander, Red Rogers. The Blues had about one third of their army inside the hall and the rest just outside the hall doors.

The Reds also had their army divided into three "divisions."

The first two divisions of the Reds were to attack at the door, and the reserves were to "leap the breastworks (composed mostly of struggling humanity) and take the fort." At the climax, there were outside the major part of both armies "scuffling, rolling and tumbling. A few men, less fond of such active sport, compromised with members of the opposing army, and thus paired, they locked arms and retreated to what they considered a more respectable distance where they watched with interest as the battle raged."

Soon it became apparent that the Reds would be able to put the Blues out of the hall. According to no prescribed method, the Blues were "pulled out, snaked out, rolled out, backed out, scrouged out, talked out, led out, pushed out, tossed out and turned out. Nor was there any precaution exercised as to what particular portion of the enemy's anatomy should first collide" with the ground outside.

Although the great struggle only took about 15 minutes, and though the Blues were "completely defeated," the whole crowd recognized that they lost because they were outnumbered. The Blues "conducted themselves well and bore their defeat manfully, even heroically, and won the approval and applause and admiration, not only of the spectators, but of their opponents as well. Withal they have no cause to regret their endeavor." Concerning this defeat, Mr. John B. Slaughter, owner of the U Lazy S Ranch was heard to say in disgust, "Confounded blue ribbon boys just led like pet colts."

"Thus ended the biggest land rush ever in West Texas, and very probably the biggest one that ever will be anywhere. In the matter of land rushes, Gail is the undisputed champion of the world. The first land rush on record was at this place, but she will have to retire on her laurels now, as there is no more land to come on the market for settlement in this county.

Garza County Reds were: Perry Crowley, John James, Roy Cotton, J.M. Boren, John S. Boren, Rob't Marable, A.E. Tuffing, J.F. Maxey, S.F. Maxey, J. J. Dodson. The Citizen was not supplied with a list of Blues.

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Russell Graves Outdoors

Balmorhea State Park

By Russell A. Graves

Of all the cool places I've been, Toyahvale, Texas has to be among the coolest. Before you drag out the atlas or access Google Maps, I'll just tell you that Toyahvale is a wide spot on state highway 17 in southern Reeves County way out in far West Texas. Nestled at the foot of the Davis Mountains in the harsh environs of the creosote bush scrub desert, Toyahvale boasts a post office, one or two homes, a state park, and a scuba diving shop. Yep, you read right - a scuba diving shop. Across the highway from the Funky Little Dive Shop is one of the best kept secrets in Texas - Balmorhea State Park.

The state park is small - only 45.9 acres. What makes the park so unique is what's below water.

Bubbling up on the park's west end is San Solomon Springs. Each day, the springs flows over 22-million gallons of water and fills a huge swimming pool that's almost two acres in size. On the east side of the pool, water flows out through a canal and waters a cienega (desert wetland) before it flows through a series of viaducts used to provide irrigation to the Madera Valley.

Built between 1936 and 1941, the state park's buildings and structures were erected by the Civilian Conservation Corp and today greet thousands of visitors to this oasis in the desert. Inside the park is the vintage San Solomon Springs Motor Court which I always choose for lodging when I visit.

For the past seven years, I've made a pilgrimages to the park to swim in the clear, chemical-free water. On one arm of the boomerang shaped pool, the bottom is concrete just like a traditional swimming pool. That, however, is where the resemblance to a traditional swimming pool stops. The rest of the pool has a natural bottom complete with rocks, springs, turtles, and fish including the endangered Comanche Springs pupfish and the Pecos gambusia.

Because the water emerges from the ground and is a fairly constant temperature (in the 1970's), I've swam in the park in January. Also (I know this sounds crazy), I scuba dive in Balmorhea State Park every year and received my open water scuba diving certification at the park. In the deep end of the pool, the bottom is around 25 feet deep. At that depth, the water is so clear, sunlight has no problem penetrating and the colors are vivid. For some reason at that depth the Mexican tetra fish swarm around you in hopes you'll feed them.

On my yearly dive this past June, I make the normal rounds and follow a soft-shell turtle across the bottom and pause for a moment and watch a Comanche Springs pupfish defend the top of his rock with a territorial fervor. Elsewhere on the bottom, I watch springs bubbling through the sand and swim to where the big spring emerges from beneath some rocks. While you can't see the water rushing into the pool, when you swim next to the rocks, the water rushes in so hard it feels like the wind blowing across you. Every time I dive to the big spring, a bevy of catfish swim headfirst into the current without ever moving forward - kind of like their swimming to nowhere.

I soon surface and swim to the shallow area where my two kids are splashing with their mother.

Before this trip, I bought them a snorkel kit and amazingly, even my four year old boy manages to figure it out in no time and is watching fish swim around him.

Outside the water, the desert is a dry, 98-degrees. In the water, we're a cool 75-degrees. No wonder I keep coming back.

If you want to see a video of Balmorhea State Park, check out www.russellgraves.com/videos.html

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

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Janet Ratliff (center) of Post is shown with National Guard Representative Sissy Borel (left), and VFW State Historian Georgia Miller (right). Ratliff, past District 7 Ladies Auxilliary president, was recently honored at the 89th Annual Texas VFW State convention. She was recognized as Outstanding District President from a total of 25 Texas districts and received a Third Place Citation for Outstanding Auxiliary President.

Taylor Graves receives All-Star recognition



TAYLOR GRAVES

Taylor Graves, daughter of Sidney and Tiffany Graves, has received a spot on two All-Star teams in Lubbock. The eighth grader at Post Middle School played with Team Texas that participated in both softball leagues

this year. Team Texas took third place in the Lubbock Youth softball league and first place in South Plains Girls Fastpitch. Taylor also played on the Team Texas tournament team this year, which placed in every tournament in which it participated. With the Lubbock Youth Fastpitch League Taylor will play for the second All-Star Team July 13 and 14 in Lubbock. She will also play for the Lubbock Blue All-Star team in the South Plains Girls Fastpitch league that will compete in the All-Star Tournament July 16-19 in Lubbock.

McCallister Receives Prestigious Award



MARK McCALLISTER

Mark McCallister graduated from Covenant School of Radiology Friday, June 26, 2009. The ceremony was held at the Knipping Center at Covenant Hospital. Mark was among fourteen other students

in his class to graduate. Mark was chosen by the Radiology technicians at Covenant Hospital to receive the prestigious JRCERT award for outstanding student technicians. He also received a scholarship award for excellence from Lubbock Diagnostic Radiology Association. Mark received his certification from the Board of Radiology, and will be employed by American Lithotripsy, a branch of USMD, Inc.

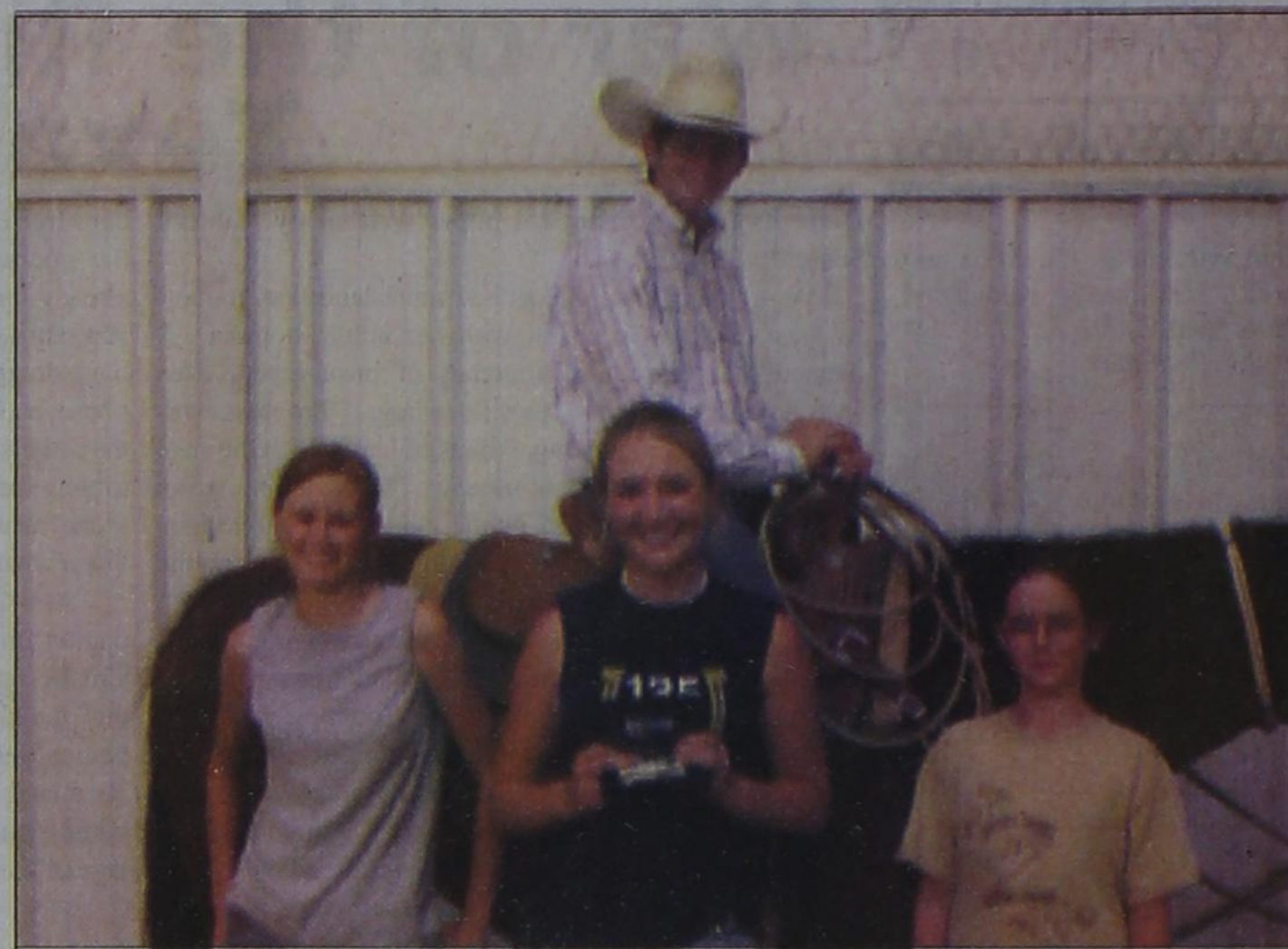
Mark is a 2004 graduate of Post High School and is the son of Randy and Jana McCallister of Post.

America's 'favorite family' coming to Ragtown

The Hoppers, known as America's favorite family of gospel music will be at Ragtown Gospel Theater July 24 and 25. Considered by many to be one of the greatest gospel music groups of all time, The Hoppers perform internationally and participate in Gaither Homecoming events.

The Hoppers take the Ragtown stage Friday, July 24 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 25 at 3 p.m. All seats are reserved for this all music event. Individual reserved seats are \$35. Groups of 12 or more are \$28 each. Call 1-877-RAGTOWN or visit www.ragtown.com for more information.

Thanks For Reading! The Post Dispatch



Garza County was very well represented in the District 4-H Horse Show. Local participants were (from left) Cheyenne Morris, Lana Kitten and Leslie Gill with Dakota McDonald horseback.

Local students win honors in District 4-H horse show

By Kim Reiter

Anticipation, anxiety, excitement, nervousness, and yes, fear were all emotions Leslie Gill, Cheyenne Morris, Lana Kitten, and Dakota McDonald were feeling June 16 at the District 2-4-H Horse Show at the Texas Tech Equestrian Center in Lubbock. It is impossible to show your horse without feeling these emotions if you are truly committed to achieve success as these young individuals are. For some of these young people the day started at 5 a.m. while for others it did not end until 11 p.m. that night. All experienced the never-ending heat of the day.

The District 2-4-H horse show is one of the toughest 4-H horse shows of the summer. Individuals come from 21 counties in West Texas to participate in a variety of events. Participants are all lumped together in one group ranging from 9 years of age up to 18 years of age, which resulted in each class having approximately 30 contestants.

The morning started with English and Jumping and moved straight into western-judged performance events. By early afternoon, the speed events began followed by roping events until the end of the day or the start of the night as it may be!

Leslie Gill is nine years old and the youngest of the Garza County participants. She rode a twelve-year-old bay gelding named Torture. Torture, prior to his newfound show career, was a ranch horse so he has very limited show experience, as does Leslie. Both have a tendency to get a little on the nervous side. To make the situation even more difficult Leslie and Torture had to compete against individuals that are 18 years old and have at least 10 years show experience. Leslie set her goal for clean precise patterns and cleared her mind of all things except the task at hand. Her first class was Showmanship at Halter. She did a fabulous pattern that earned her a ninth place ribbon. Her next class was halter where she and Torture earned a seventh place ribbon. Her final event was Western Horsemanship, which can be a very difficult class, but Leslie and Torture can really excel at this class when they put their mind to it. On this day they had their mind on the task because they completed a beautiful pattern that earned them an eighth place ribbon!

This show was the first show of the year for Cheyenne Morris. Cheyenne is fifteen years old and has a four-year-old roan gelding named Boon. Boon and Cheyenne had never competed together in competition and Boon has limited experience in life in general. Showing an inexperienced horse can be a daunting task. Cheyenne probably experienced the most apprehension of the four Garza County 4-Hers showing in the event. Cheyenne and Boon's first class was halter where they earned a tenth place finish. Once Cheyenne started her riding classes, she had no anticipation of earning any ribbons due to Boon's limited experience and sometimes-difficult behavior. He was absolutely terrible in the warm up pen. It was so bad that she considered scratching him from the competition. But she dug her heels in and refused to give up! That sheer determination was rewarded with a wonderful horsemanship pattern that earned her a ninth place ribbon. Boon also revealed to Cheyenne that he will step up to the plate and show better than he practices which are the best horses to have and the most difficult to find!

Seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth place ribbons are wonderful accomplishments for Leslie and Cheyenne when you consider the deck was stacked against them. They entered this show with limited personal show experience on inexperienced horses while competing against approximately 30 other contestants in each class. Earning a ribbon at all under those circumstances is a great feat! Congratulations girls!

Sixteen-year-old Lana Kitten competed in the speed events on her trusted 8-year-old sorrel gelding Cowboy. Lana and Cowboy have been competing together for the past two and half years and if Cowboy could talk they could probably finish each other's sentences! This is very apparent when you look at their successes in this competition. They started with the poles and had a little bit of a bumpy ride, but still managed to finish in sixth place. Undeterred they went on to barrels and completed a near perfect pattern that allowed them to finish first in this event. The final event for Lana and Cowboy was the stake race. They rarely do this event and it never fails disaster strikes when they do (complete with Cowboy falling down or Lana falling off.) but that trend was broken this time. Lana ran another near perfect pattern to earn herself her second blue ribbon of the day. With two first places and a sixth place finish Lana and Cowboy had enough points to earn the title of Speed Event Champion and they got to take home that coveted gold belt buckle!

Our last contestant competing in the final events of the day was Dakota McDonald in the roping events. Dakota is fifteen years old and was riding his trusty roping horse Socks. Dakota has only been roping for a couple of years. He competed in the breakaway and the tie down roping. The roping events have two "goes" and a short go. In order to get to the short go you must catch your calf in the first two "goes." Dakota managed to do this quiet beautifully in both events and advanced to the short go. He ended up fourth in the breakaway and third in the tie down roping. In the end, Dakota ended up being the third high point roper just shy of a reserve champion belt buckle.

Lana and Dakota will be competing at the State 4-H Horse Show in Abilene, Texas the last week of July. They also participate in the Texas High School Rodeo Association, High Plains Rodeo Association, as well as Dakota competing in the West Texas Rodeo Association. Both are having great successes in those organizations as well. At the end of the day all those emotions of anticipation, anxiety, excitement, nervousness, and fear had been replaced with blissful exhaustion, always a sign of great success after a horse show!

Wild Horse adoption in Lubbock, July 16-18 \$500 incentive offered for select horses

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold a wild horse adoption in Lubbock, Texas, July 16-18, 2009. The three-day event at the Panhandle-South Plains Fairgrounds will feature over 70 spectacular animals, including some for which a \$500 adoption incentive is being offered. These are adult and yearling horses that once roamed free on public lands in the West. The BLM periodically removes excess animals from the range in order to ensure herd health and to maintain ecological balance. The adoption program is essential for achieving these important management goals.

Adoption Schedule - Preview all of the animals Thursday, July 16, from 4 - 6 p.m. Gates reopen Friday, July 17, at 8 a.m., with adoptions starting at 10 a.m., and ending at 6 p.m. Adoptions continue Saturday, July 18, from 8 a.m. - noon.

Adoption Qualifications - Application approval is required and can be done on site. To qualify to adopt, one must be at least 18 with no record of animal abuse. Adopters must have suitable facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. All animals must be loaded in covered stock-type trailers with swing gates and sturdy walls and floors. BLM staff will be on hand to assist adopters through the short application process.

Adoption Fees - The minimum adoption fee for most animals is \$125, as set by law. An auction will be held Friday at 10 a.m. to determine adoption fees for any animals sought by more than one person.

Animals not selected during the auction Friday morning will be offered for adoption on a first-come-first-served basis for the flat fee of \$125 for the rest of the weekend. Those interested in bidding are encouraged to come Thursday afternoon or early Friday to identify their desired animals and to complete their adoption applications in time.

Announcing a Major New Adoption Incentive: Lubbock will be a test site for a new adoption incentive program in which BLM pays a \$500 care-and-feeding allowance to adopters of selected older horses (4 years old +). The allowance is paid in full after one year when adopters receive official ownership title for their horse(s). All standard adoption conditions and fees apply. A limited number of eligible horses will be available at Lubbock. Younger horses (under 4 years old) are not eligible for this incentive. If successful, this incentive program could save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in long-term pasturing costs.

Wild horses and burros - iconic symbols of America's western heritage - are renowned for their strength, endurance, agility and intelligence, characteristics bred into them in the wild that make them ideal for work or recreation. Since 1973, the BLM has placed more than 220,000 of these "living legends" in approved homes across the country.

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