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The Post Dispatch

A BUILDER IN GARZA COUNTY SINCE 1926

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014

THEPOSTDISPATCHONLINE.COM

75 CENTS

JP2 race hung up on a single vote

Qualification of one provisional ballot will determine outcome

By Kent Mahoney

The Post Dispatch

Garza County voters who believe their one vote doesn't count can serve themselves a helping of humble pie — the Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 seat hangs in the balance by just one vote.

Incumbent Angela Massey holds that one-vote margin, 119 to 118, over challenger Jay Young.

And as if that wasn't enough, there also remains a lone provisional ballot that must be vetted before the results can be finalized, said County Clerk Jim Plummer, who serves as the county's election supervisor.

The voter in question, Plummer said, has six days to show just cause as to why their vote should be counted.

The two outcomes would be either a tie between Massey and Young, or would put Massey up by a two-vote margin of victory if the provisional ballot is accepted.

Both candidates wanted to thank their respective supporters, who worked hard for this outcome.

"I appreciate all the people who supported me and voted for me," Massey said in a phone interview from her home. "I guess we will wait and see what happens."

While Massey was with family, Young was right in the thick of things at the county courthouse.

"This was a hard-fought race," Young said. "I want

See **VOTE**, Page 4

Lack of challengers cancels city, school elections

Trustee Black withdraws; McDonald back in at Post ISD

By Kent Mahoney

The Post Dispatch

Two incumbents and a veteran member will be seated for new terms on the Post ISD Board of Trustees after Carolyn Black withdrew her application to be re-seated before last Friday's qualifying deadline.

Incumbents Joe Giddens and Curt Greer also had filed, in addition to former educator and school board member Nancy McDonald. Since no other candidates filed to run for the three open seats, the May 10 election will be canceled, and Giddens, Greer and McDonald will be sworn in to their new terms in May.

Black will serve out her term until that time.

In municipal elections, Councilmen Les Looney and Mark Short, along with Councilwoman Anita Morris, all filed to retain their seats on the City Council. Each of the three officials have served two terms.

With no other candidates filing to challenge the three seated members, the election will be effectively canceled.

City Manager Deana Watson said a lack of challengers was about the norm.

"This is not unusual," she said. "There is not a big interest in council positions."

Post Mayor Archie Gill faced a challenger in last year's election, but retained his position.

See **CANCELED**, Page 4

Chamber Honors Top Members

Conservation Ranch of the Year



Photos provided by the Post Area Chamber of Commerce
Descendants of Willard and Ruby Stoker Kirkpatrick gathered at the Post Area Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Feb. 22 for the Stoker-Kirkpatrick Ranches designation as Conservation Ranch of the Year. Five generations of the family have now worked at the sprawling ranch across Garza and Crosby counties since it was established in 1921. The family has implemented a number of techniques through the years all in an effort to conserve water, protect the land and maximize cattle production.

Organization of the Year



Post Mayor Archie Gill speaks on behalf of the elected officials and staff at City Hall as the city of Post was named Organization of the Year at the Post Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet Feb. 22 at the Post Community Center.

Citizen of the Year



Chris Atkinson addresses the Post Area Chamber of Commerce membership after the announcement he had been voted as Citizen of the Year at the organization's annual banquet Feb. 22 at the Post Community Center. Atkinson is director of the Community Recovery Center in Post, a position he has held since 2009, and has worked tirelessly to increase awareness of the center while expanding its services. He is this year's Post Rotary Club president and has been elected to a three-year term as Assistant Governor for Rotary District 5730 in Lubbock.

Distinguished Service Award



Kerry Dixon, former warden at the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility in Post, was in town for the Post Area Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Feb. 22 to accept the organization's Distinguished Service Award. Now heading up a facility in deep South Texas, Dixon, while here in Post, was an unwavering advocate of community service and cooperation among business entities.

DON'T FORGET!
Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9



Post Notes

Events are listed free of charge as a service by this newspaper for nonprofit groups, civic organizations, churches, schools and select community events. Listings should be submitted at least two weeks in advance and will run as often as possible through the date of the event. News staff does not guarantee placement of events. Emailed submissions are preferred to thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com.

Flag rentals

Local residents and businesses are encouraged to reserve a U.S. flag that will be placed in front of homes and businesses on seven days in 2014, including Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Day. Cost is \$30 for the year, and proceeds benefit the Post Lions Club scholarship fund for graduating seniors. For information, email Byron Garrison at bgarrison@postisd.net or contact any Post Lions Club member.

Fish fry

Members of Holy Cross Catholic Church, 205 W. Main St., Post, will have a community fish fry every Friday during the Lenten season, March 7-April 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the church social hall. Plates are \$8 per person and include all-you-can-eat fish, complete with drink, sides and dessert. For information, call Juanita Pantoja at 806-495-3059.

See **NOTES**, Page 2

Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgins at 806-495-2816 or thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com.

News on the go



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

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Deaths

Michael Brandon Isbell

POST — Memorial services for Michael Brandon Isbell, 21, of Andrews and formerly of Post were held at 1 PM Thursday, March 6, 2014 at the First United Methodist Church with John Hedrick of the Graham Chapel Methodist Church officiating.

Arrangements were under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home. He died Sunday, March 2, 2014 in Andrews. He was born on December 2,



MICHAEL ISBELL

1992 in Lubbock.

Jack Rains

BOVINA — Jack Eugene Rains, 74, of Bovina, died Friday, February 28, 2014, in Lubbock.

Funeral services were scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, March 3, 2014, at First Baptist Church of Bovina with the Rev. Brian Mullins, church pastor, officiating. Burial was to follow at 3 p.m. at Resthaven Cemetery at Southland, under the direction of Blackwell-Mullins Funeral Home of Friona.

Mr. Rains was born June 11, 1939, in Lubbock, Texas, to Carl Eugene and Estha "Penny" Belle Cash Rains. He graduated from Post High School and Texas Tech University. He worked in the oil fields, on various ranches



JACK RAINS

and in other jobs and for Pioneer Natural Gas before owning and operating Parmer County Spraying Inc. in Bovina, retiring in 2007.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a twin sister

Survivors include his parents: Michael and Regina Isbell of Post, 1 Sister: Kelsey Isbell of Post, 1 Brother: Dakota Isbell of Post, Grandparents: Lois Harvell of Andrews, Darlene Hale of Odessa, Clyde and Gail Harris of San Angelo, Janie Isbell of Denver City and Jerry Isbell of Mineola and a Great Grandmother: Fern Barnes of Lamesa.

Dede Kennedy; and his first wife, Marilyn Rains.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Rains of Bovina; son Thad Rains of Lubbock; daughter Ryn Rains of Post; stepson Steve Pruitt of Wylie; sister Jimmie Lueder of Albuquerque, N.M.; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family visitation was Sunday afternoon, March 2, 2014, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Diabetes Association, 4100 Alpha Road, Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75244; or a favorite charity.

Letters to the Editor

Not in our back yard Crosby residents speak out on park project

As a homeowner and taxpayer in Crosby County, I am writing to encourage homeowners at White River Lake, and any interested parties especially in Ralls, Post, Spur and Crosbyton to attend the public meetings and get the facts and ask questions regarding the possibility of an ATV trail at White River Lake. The next public meeting will be at 7 p.m. March 13 in the Community Storm Shelter, 821 Tilford Ave., Ralls.

I attended the open meeting in Post recently. At that meeting, Steve Thompson, with Texas Parks and Wildlife, said there "was a possibility" the money for the trail would have to be paid back by the cities if it closes before 20 years. The grant clearly states that if the trail closes within 20 years the money must be paid back.

At the Post meeting, representatives from the city of Childress said the park outside of their town grosses about \$30,000 a year. A gross revenue of \$30,000 divided by our four cities is very small, especially considering the risks involved.

Our lake is in an extreme drought situation, and fire from sparks, cigarettes and illegal campfires are one big concern. The potential for liability that would be incurred should someone be injured or killed on that trail needs to be addressed because of the financial impact it could have on Ralls, Post, Spur and Crosbyton.

The grant is available for anyone to read on this link: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/grants/trpa/#outdoor.

The section on pages 8-9 refers to my above concern regarding our obligation to commit to maintain and operate the completed project for a minimum of 20 years.

My wife and I have invested significantly in our home at White River Lake, and look forward to many years here. We very much want to see the Board of Directors turn the energy and emphasis back to addressing the water shortage priority rather than ATV trails. Water is the urgent crisis and where the focus needs to be.

TOM and LIBBY MORELAND
Lubbock

People may be unaware that an ATV trail is under consideration for White River Lake. If approved, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will award the grant with funds provided by National Recreational Trails. It is being discussed that the grants could run more than \$1 million.

Page 8 of 9 of the grant instructions states: "Project sponsor must commit to maintaining and operating their completed project so that it is safe for public use for a minimum of 20 years."

I attended the public meeting in Post on Feb. 13 and heard Steve Thompson of TPWD say that there is a possibility of the grant having to be repaid if the trail closes during the minimum 20 years. Representatives for the Childress ATV trail stated the trail grossed — not netted, grossed — \$30,000 last year. If that amount was divided up among the surrounding towns of White River Lake, each town would not be seeing that much profit. However, it is possible the towns of Ralls, Spur, Crosbyton and Post would be responsible for the repayment of the grant (more than \$1 million), if the trail closed within 20 years.

As a taxpayer of Crosby County and a homeowner at White River Lake, I am concerned regarding the liability the ATV trail places on this community. The risks clearly outweigh the rewards. Please attend the next public meeting in Ralls on March 13.

The Recreational Grant information is available at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/grants/trpa/#outdoor>.

MARY WOOD
White River Lake

Menus

Week of Mar. 10-14

Southland ISD

Breakfast
Monday: French toast, sausage, fruit, juice, milk
Tuesday: Breakfast burrito, fruit, juice, milk
Wednesday: Cherry or apple streudel, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk
Thursday: Muffins, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk
Friday: Biscuit, sausage, gravy, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch
Monday: Hamburgers, baked fries, baked beans, fruit, milk

Tuesday: Tangerine chicken, noodles, carrots, broccoli, fruit, pudding, milk
Wednesday: Tex-Mex stack, pinto beans, garden salad, salsa, fruit, milk
Thursday: Chicken fajita salad, beans, tortilla chips, fruit, milk
Friday: Chicken Parmesan, green beans, garden salad, breadstick, fruit, milk

Post ISD

Breakfast
Monday: Waffles and syrup, sausage link, fruit, juice, milk
Tuesday: Animal crackers with string cheese, fruit, juice, milk
Wednesday: Cinnamon breakfast pastry, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk
Thursday: Banana bread square, cream of wheat, fruit,

juice, milk
Friday: Oatmeal round, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch
Monday: Beef and bean burrito, broccoli bites, garden salad, orange wedges, milk
Tuesday: Crispy tacos, garden salad, charro beans, salsa, cinnamon applesauce, milk
Wednesday: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, carrot coins, strawberries and bananas, roll, milk
Thursday: Spaghetti and meat balls, garden salad, savory green beans, sliced peaches, bread stick, milk
Friday: Hot dog, sweet potato fries, cucumber dippers, fresh seasonal fruit, milk

Wayne Hodgins

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ERIC WATSON

NOTES

From Page 1

Post Pickers

All experienced musicians and singers are encouraged to attend an organizational planning meeting for a musical group to be known as the Post Pickers. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist Church of Post, 216 W. 10th St. For information, call Scott Richards at 806-317-7413.

Benevolence account

A deposit account has been set up at Wells Fargo to help offset funeral expenses for the family of Alexandria Lee Courtney-Dean. Donations may be made at any branch. For information, call Jona Jones at jonarenea@yahoo.com.

GED classes

Free instructional sessions for the GED test are 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 18 at Post High School. Call the school at 495-2770 for information. The Post Public Library website now offers life-learning resources for GED test preparation, job search and workplace skills. Visit wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/pplib to register. For information, contact librarian Peggy Ashley at 990-2149.

Close City Car Show

The second annual Close City Community Antique Tractors, Car and Toys Show will be April 5. No admission fee. Games, parades, food, vendors. Bring the whole family. Call Jim Ellis at 806-495-2753 for

information.

Ragtown show

Performances of "Gethsemane" are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 3 p.m. Saturdays through at Ragtown Gospel Theater. Tickets and information at ragtown.com.

Tabana Yuane

The annual sunrise wind ceremony predicting the upcoming crop season will be March 22 at City Park.

Taxpayer clinic

Students at the Texas Tech School of Law conduct free clinic for low-income taxpayers throughout the year to assist them with federal tax issues related to individual tax matters. Eligibility is determined by the federal poverty guidelines. For information or schedule an appointment, call Nancy Mojica at 806-834-7972 or 800-420-8037.

Veterans benefits

War-time veterans or surviving spouses may be entitled to monthly income from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. For information, contact Marsha Mahurin at West Texas Senior Resources at 806-781-3901 or email marsha.mahurin@yahoo.com.

City Council

The Post City Council meets at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month in Council Chambers at City Hall, 105 E. Main St. For information, call 495-2811.

The Paperboy

The climate change scam

Just to be clear: global warming is now climate change. Governments around the world use climate change to punish and reward in a game of greed.

Our own government has bilked billions out of U.S. companies and residents in the form of regulations and taxes in the name of manmade global warming and climate change.

The following is an opinion piece written by Lu Nelsen of the Center for Rural Affairs:

"Rural and small-town Americans work hard to make a living and adapt to changing times. It's an important tradition, maintaining a rural way of life while finding new ways to improve it. Farmers, ranchers and rural small business depend upon flexibility, entrepreneurship and innovative adoption of new practices to confront new challenges.

"Rural America's newest challenges will come in the form of a changing climate and the subsequent rise of pests, fires, flooding, and droughts. All will threaten the livelihoods of farmers, ranchers, and others in rural communities, making it necessary to seek methods to mitigate damage and adapt to the changes.

"In the summer of 2013, USDA officials announced the creation of regional climate hubs that will focus on aiding farmers and ranchers in adapting to impacts of climate change.

"The seven regional climate hubs will, hopefully, provide useful tools for farmers and ranchers to employ in their day-to-day operations, as well as in planning for the future. These hubs will translate data and research into real solutions and practices that can be put to use in the field. Their research will also provide ideas and direction for federal conservation programs.

"Climate hubs should also offer farmers and ranchers an opportunity to share what they learn and help drive development of innovative, practical solutions to the challenges they face. And the time has come for conservation programs to help farmers and ranchers adopt diverse agricultural systems that are more responsive to a changing climate."

Normally, I agree with much of what the Center of Rural Affairs weighs in on. I mean it's nice to have an ally out here in the sticks, right?

But these climate hubs and opinion of climate change are a bunch of cow methane (if you catch my meaning).

Has man contributed to climate change? Of course.

Does it matter? Now that's where I have an issue.

Of course, we should be good stewards of our planet. Do you know who the best stewards are? Farmers and ranchers. Their livelihood depend on smart and practical techniques.

I honestly don't see a climate hub as anything more than an unnecessary government waste of money. Furthermore, I'm guessing it's just another mechanism to bilk more money out of rural Americans — particularly farmers and ranchers.

One massive volcanic eruption can have a greater effect on the atmosphere than all the cars and factories have had on this planet for the past 100 years. And, by the way, there are several volcanoes erupting ALL THE TIME!

Obviously there is climate change. It's a planet.

Let's hark back to the ice age. Did man cause the ice age? No. Did machines? No.

You know what? Scientists really don't know what caused the ice age. There are many theories out there, but no one really knows what event caused such a long period of cold temperatures.

Millions of years ago the planet was much warmer. Did man cause that warming trend? There was no man. Did machines? There were no machines.

The climate has been changing since Earth was a baby. It will always change.

There could be a super volcano erupt next week that could send us into another ice age.

But we don't hear about those effects. We hear about man's negative effects. And it's a scam. It's a way to make certain people and governments wealthy.

If you want a clean planet, by all means, do your part. I do.

But if you're going to place climate hubs, at our expense, throughout the United States to curb emissions and "help" farmers and ranchers, that's plain dumb.

I'm tired of the schemes and scams perpetrated by our government, and you should be to.

Want to know the truth? Follow the money. Research who has the most to gain from climate change. That will tell you all you need to know in regard to how big of a rip-off it really is.

Chris Blackburn is as CEO of Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, Hall County Herald, The Hollis News, The Knox County News-Courier, The Post Dispatch, The Childress Index, Wellington Leader and The Stone-wall Courier. He can be reached by email at chris@blackburnmediagroup.com and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

Flag rentals



Submitted by Byron Garrison

Boss Lion Jason Porter, president of the Post Lions Club, holds one of the U.S. flags club members will be renting to local businesses and individuals throughout 2014 for display on appropriate observed occasions. For those who chose to participate, flags will be placed in front of homes and businesses on seven official flag-flying days as designated by the U.S. Flag Code, including Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Day. Cost is \$30 for the year, and proceeds will benefit the Senior Scholarship Fund at Post High School. Contact any Post Lions Club member to reserve your flag. Members include Porter, Chuck and Janet Ratliff, Jadie Matthew, Daniel and Emily Patterson, JoAnn Stelzer, Sue Ann Davis, Jerry Wilson, Lee Norman, Mike Comeaux, Kim Mills, Byron Garrison, Henry Benitez, Elliot Main, Michael Crump, Andi or Richard Soliz.

The 501 Obesity pays at the Y

For the second time in my life, someone's offering me money to lose weight. I'm thinking about it. First it was my mother; now it's the YMCA. The offer's the same — a dollar a pound. But back when Mother made the offer, the aim was for me to drop 10 pounds to get back to 115.

Ah to see 115 again. Or 125. The Y is clever. They got my attention. What's more, if I lose just one pound, I get a dollar. My mother's offer wasn't good unless I lost all 10. I never did.

No, the Y isn't handing out money, and I'm not sure the offer is good everywhere. Maybe it's just for us fat states. But here's the deal at my Y: If you lose weight, they reduce your monthly membership fee a dollar for each pound dropped. If I lose more than 35 pounds, they should be paying me. Fat chance.

But even if I lose just one pound, saving a dollar a month sounds good. What have I got to lose? I think I'll sign up.

Would it work in a similar way for the government simply to throw money at childhood obesity? Would the chance to earn dollars for losing weight be an incentive for fat kids to lose pounds? Probably not.

I'm recalling my own teenage self. I really wanted that 10 dollars. Really. And I would like to have lost the 10 pounds. But I didn't, and 115 remains a memory achieved on scales now rusting away in a pile of junk destined for the

scrap dealer, who doesn't pay a dollar a pound. More like 9 cents.

Back to today's obese youngsters. I suspect our society has grown a bit too affluent for most kids to be motivated by the offer of a little folding money to do anything, weight loss included.

But the more socialized our medical system, the greater our collective worry should be that obesity is a growing problem, pun intended, that will test the nation's ability to treat all future medical problems associated with the disease. I'm thinking especially of knee joints, probably because my own would be happier if I lost weight. Especially my left one.

Think of all the kids whose knees are already overburdened. They'll need replacements at younger ages than previous generations. If I were a medical student, I'd be thinking knees.

Meanwhile, maybe schools should be turning the corners of their playgrounds into vegetable gardens to let children get up close and personal with what they should be eating instead of junk food. Give each student a row to tend. Teach them to garden. Grade them. Make hoeing a sport.

Problem: School and the summer growing season don't jibe.

Solution: Let kids stay home in the winter and go to school through the summer. Trade the cost of winter heating for air-conditioning.

Side benefit: Juvenile vandalism would drop. No graffiti artist likes the chill air of a winter night, however bright the moon.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a regular contributor and columnist for Blackburn Media Group newspapers.

Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Art Garfunkle

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
O _____ A _____

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Wilder's Nature Journal Western fence lizard



S.J. Dahlstrom

The Western fence lizard is commonly seen sunning on paths, rocks and fence posts. Belonging to the genus *Sceloporus*, or spiny lizards, the adult's ventral abdomen is characteristically blue and is also known as a blue-belly lizard.

I've been catching this species of lizard since I was little. They are fast, but if you follow them around a bit, they will tire out and you can catch them. If the lizard would just stay still, you would never see it or catch it because they have great natural camouflage.



S.J. DAHLSTROM

The Western fence lizard eats ants and small insects. I see them just about year round, usually in the shade. Lizards are reptiles and so are cold-blooded,

which means they have to regulate their body temperature with the sun or by burrowing down away from the cold.

These lizards have a neat trick they play on predators that try and eat them like hawks, bobcats and coyotes. If the predator only grabs their tail — it will pop right off in their claw or paw! Kind of like a flag in flag football — the lizard runs off just fine and grows a new one. Ha-ha, touchdown!

S.J. Dahlstrom is a Garza County resident and author of the young adult fiction book series "The Adventures of Wilder Good," based on a 12-year-old boy who enjoys hunting, fishing, cowboying and just about everything there is to do outdoors.

VOTE From Page 1

to thank the people who supported me."

The one locally contested race — that of Massey and Young — wasn't enough to draw out many more voters for the seven other uncontested local seats, despite a wide-open field of statewide candidates for various seats.

"If it hadn't been for the state candidates, we would have had

a lower turn out," Young said.

Massey took the early voting by a margin of 76 to 52. But as the night wore on, Young crept back into contention.

Precinct 3 came in at roughly 8 p.m., and Young took that box 30 votes to 20. And what was a 24-vote margin was down to 14.

Precinct 4 came in 30 minutes later and again the box went in Young's favor 19-15 and Massey was clinging to a 10-vote lead.

The final precinct cleared

shortly before 9 p.m., and Young took the count 17-8, leading to the 119-118 total in favor of Massey.

The minimal crowd at the courthouse reflected that of the voter turnout. Only a handful of county officials were on hand to view the outcome of this lone race.

Should the provisional ballot tip the JP2 race into a tied result, a run-off election would happen in late May along with any of the state races still being contested, Plummer said.

THC to conduct free WWII oral history training

SNYDER — Officials with the state agency for historic preservation will conduct a free training workshop for area residents to properly record oral histories pertaining to World War II.

The workshops, titled "Here and There: Recollections of Texas in World War II," are part of the Texas Historical Commission's national award winning "Texas in World War II" initiative, a program to honor and preserve the memories of Texans who served in the armed forces during the Second World War and the contributions made on the home effort.

The next workshop will be from 9 a.m. to noon March 15 at the Scurry County Museum, 6200 College Ave., Snyder. The

museum is located on the West Texas College campus near the softball complex.

Funded through a grant from the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas, this workshop is one of the last of a statewide series that began in 2006 and highlights real people telling real stories of Texas' involvement in World War II.

The public is encouraged to attend and learn more about the program. To preregister for the event, contact William McWhorter at william.mcwhorter@thc.state.tx.us or 512-463-5833 or Daniel Schlegel at 325-573-6107.

More information is available online at the.state.tx.us.

Wayne Hodgkin

Cotton-farming groups plan roundtable sessions

The Knox County News-Courier

Lubbock

• March 19 - 9 a.m. at the Roby Community Center, Roby.

• March 19 - 2 p.m. at the Haskell Memorial Civic Center, 202 S. Ave., Haskell.

SWCA sessions

The Southwest Council of Agribusiness will host educational sessions on the farm bill featuring Joe Outlaw, co-director of the Agricultural Food and Policy Center at Texas A&M University and economist for the AgriLife Extension Service.

Events are planned for March 19 in Lamesa, March 20 in Lubbock and March 21 in Amarillo, among others.

A complete schedule is listed at southwest-council.org/farm-bill-forums.

Mary Jane Buerkle

Producers, bankers, and others in the agricultural industry will have the opportunity to learn more about the recently passed Agricultural Act of 2014, commonly referred to as the farm bill, at several meetings scheduled in the area.

The National Cotton Council and the Southwest Council of Agribusiness will host a number of meetings throughout the Cotton Belt, including 16 in Texas, over the next few weeks.

Following is a few meetings slated for the immediate region. A complete list is available at cotton.org.

NCC Sessions

• March 18 - 9 a.m. at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, 1121 Canyon Lake Drive,

another term.

City Manager Deana Watson said the lack of challengers was about the norm.

"This is not unusual," she said. "There is not a big interest in council positions."

Post Mayor Archie Gill faced a challenger in last year's election, but retained his position.

Post Independent School District positions are also in the same situation.

District Superintendent Mike Comeaux explained how this year's field shaped up by the end of filing time last week.

Post ISD board had 3 incumbents Joe Giddens, Curt Greer and Carolyn Black, all 3 including Nancy McDonald had filed to run in the May 10th election.

On Monday, after the closing, Carolyn Black withdrew her application for place on the Post ISD board.

As a result, the Post ISD Board of Trustees cancelled election.

The new trustees Joe Giddens, Curt Greer and Nancy McDonald will be sworn in at the May board meeting.

CANCELED From Page 1

filing deadline for municipal and school board elections came and went Friday with little fanfare.

The city elections, which were scheduled for May, will not see any challengers to the current office holders.

Ward 3 Councilman Les Looney, Ward 4 Councilman Mark Short and Ward 5 Councilwoman Anita Morris have completed two terms each and will effectively be re-seated for

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Church Directory

Assembly of God
Bethel Assembly of God (Bi-Lingual)- 407 May street
Lifeline Church- 108 N. Broadway

Baptist
Calvary Baptist Church- 210 E. 6th Street, 990-2342
First Baptist Church, Post- 402 W. Main Street, 495-3554
First Baptist Church, Wilson- 806-628-6333
Grace Baptist Church- 820 N. Avenue S- 990-3497
Justiceburg Baptist Church- Justiceburg
Pleasant Home Baptist Church- E. 14th & N Ave F
Southland Baptist Church- Southland
Temple Bautista- 315 W. Main
Trinity Baptist Church- 915 N. Ave O, 990-3038

Catholic
Holy Cross Catholic Church- Ave K and Main Street- 495-2791

Church of Christ
Church of Christ- 108 N. Ave M 495-2326
Graham Chapel Church of Christ- 15th & Ave S

Church of God
Church of God of Prophecy- 602 W. 14th, 495-3644
Power House Church of God and Christ, Pine Avenue

Disciples of Christ
First Christian Church- 812 W. 13th, 495-3716

Evangelical Methodist
Faith Chapel- 1105 Green Street, Wilson (806) 628-0018

Methodist
First United Methodist Church- 216 W. 10th, 990-2942
Graham Chapel United Methodist Church (Pastor: John Hedrick) - 611 FM #1313 806-549-1400

Nazarene
Post Church of Nazarene- (Pastor: Charles Gibson) 202 W. 10th, 495-3044
Grassland Church of Nazarene- 327-5656

Presbyterian
First Presbyterian Church- 910 W. 10th, 495-2135

Nondenominational
Family Harvest Church- (806) 495-1400

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Post Softball

The Post softball team defeated Abernathy Tuesday 18-13 in non-district play.

The Lady Antelopes scored liberally with five runs each in the first two innings.

According to the stats provided, there were a copious of base runners from walks and fielding errors made by Abernathy.

Post had 12 hits in the game, mostly singles, while giving up just six hits. The Lady Lopes took full advantage of 13 walks as well.

Post will be in action again on Saturday with a home game against Denver City. Game time is at noon.

Post Track

Results from the 2014 Acuff HS Relays

Girls Results

- 100 M - 4. B. Pittman, 14.36, L. Ramirez, 15.03, M. Shelton, 15.39.
- 200 M - 3. B. Curtis, 28.76, M. Carr, 31.24, M. Shelton, 32.38.
- 400 M - 1. T. Osborn, 1:05.72.
- 100 M Hurdles - 2. K. Comeaux 20.13.
- 300 M Hurdles - 1. B. Pittman 55.72, 2. K. Comeaux, 1:05.39.
- 4X100 M Relay - 1. C. Gill, M. Smith, B. Curtis, T. Osborn, 54.24.
- 4X200 M Relay - 1. Y. Armendariz, B. Curtis, M. Smith, T. Osborn, 1:55.2.
- 4X400 M Relay - 5. C. Gill, L. Ramirez, M. Carr, M. Shelton, 5:17.99.
- Long Jump - 2. B. Curtis, 13-8, 3. C. Gill, 13-6, L. Ramirez, 12-0.
- Shot put - 1. A. Ramirez, 32-10, 3. S. Greer, 30-4, 4. T. Osborn, 28.8.
- Discus - 1. T. Osborn, 104-2, A. Ramirez, 101-10, 3. R. Taylor, 84-5.
- Triple Jump - 2. C. Gill, 28-8.75, 6. M Carr, 26-0.5, K. Comeaux, 24-4.

Boys Results

- 100 M - 2. DJ Brown, 11.48, B. Reece, 12.04, K. Crenshaw, 12.59
- 200 M - 1. DJ Brown, 23.46, D. Hernandez, 24.36, D. Pearson, 25.30
- 400 M - 1. Sammy Soto, 54.58, 6. A. Rodriguez, 59.57, B. Smith 1:00.77.
- 800 M - 1. A. Garza, 2:22.62, 4. A. Rodriguez, 2:29.54, 6. B. Smith, 2:39.13.
- 1600 M - 4. B. Boren, 5:32.50, 6. P. Nava, 5:37.5.
- 3200 M - 3. P. Nava, 12:16.87, 6. B. Boren, 12:47.41.
- 110 M Hurdles - 2. S. Wiley, 18.29.
- 300M Hurdles - 1. C. Gilbert, 42.64.
- 4X100 M Relay - 3. DJ Brown, D. Pearson, C. Gilbert, B. Reece, 45.97.
- 4X200 M Relay - 5. D. Pearson, D. Hernandez, S. Wiley, TJ Basquez, 1:40.26
- 4X400 M Relay - 2. B. Reece, S. Soto, B. Smith, C. Gilbert, 3:41.54.
- Shot Put - 1. TJ Basquez, 48-9, 2. B. Smith, 44-6.5, M. Martinez, 40-4.5.
- Discus - 1. TJ Basquez, 138-6.5, 3. B. Smith, 115-10, A. Rodriguez 115-6.
- Triple Jump - 5. D. Pearson, 37-6, 6. S. Wiley, 37-5.75, D. Hernandez, 36-7.5.



Post Junior High track team members run during a recent afternoon practice at the school's newly renovated track and field facility. The \$2 million project was part of a larger bond package for campus improvements voters approved in November 2012.

Post boasts new track facility

By Geoffrey Baumgartner

The Post Dispatch

POST - Despite any of the weather concerns as of late, construction on the nearly \$2 million Track and Field facility is nearly completed. Harriers are already practicing at the facility.

The new facility cost the district \$1,952,700.00 to build and construction was managed by Lee Lewis INC, a Lubbock based construction company. The track was contracted by Beynon Sports and has a 13 mm full pour polyurethane surface.

The district is very proud of the new track and Superintendent Michael Comeaux is looking forward to seeing it in operation.

"I'm extremely proud of the support the community has given us in support of the bond program. The track facility under

construction will certainly be an asset to our students, staff, and community as a whole. It is something we can all be proud of," said Post ISD Superintendent Michael Comeaux.

Post Track and Field Head Coach Beau Riker was also excited about the project nearing completion and what that means for the team.

"The new Track & Field facility here in Post is a top notch facility. We have been truly blessed here in Post with great facilities and we are excited to be hosting several meets this season," said Coach Riker.

Post's first track meet of the year was Feb. 21 at Hamlin, while their first home meet on their new track will be the Bold Gold Caprock Relays on March 21. Their next home meet after that will be the District 3-2A meet held on April 4.

Cryptogram Solution

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
O D J J F Q C I Z V S N L B G M E P K Y A U W H R X T

I DID HAVE A LUCKY THING GOING
V F V F Z O W Q O L U J N X A Z V G I T M V G I
O N T H E R E I N M Y T H R O A T
M G A Z Q K Q V G B X A Z K M O A

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Puzzle of the Week

CLUES ACROSS

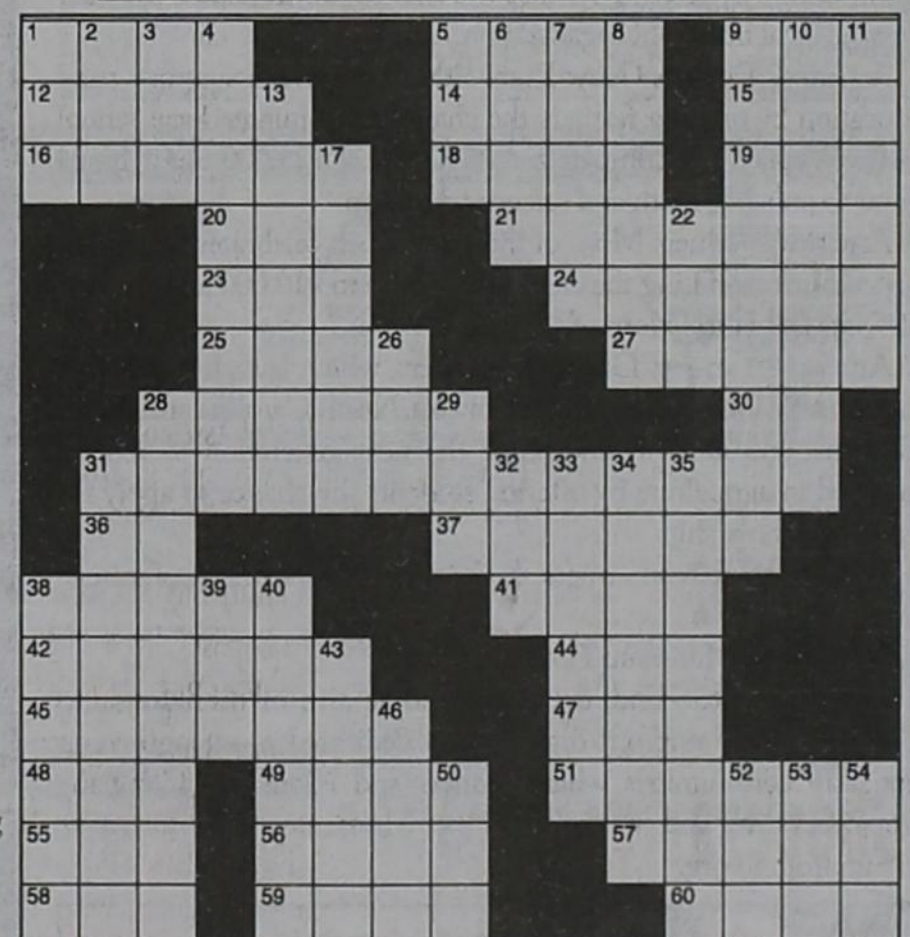
1. Insures depositors
5. Hamilton's duelling opponent
9. What part of (abbr.)
12. Mayhem
14. One of the Algonquian people
15. ___tor: speaker
16. Two-dimensional
18. Phonograph recording
19. ___ Angeles
20. Toronto Port Authority
21. Pharmacist
23. A paranormal ability
24. Blood-sucking African fly
25. A dog of mixed breed
27. Window latches (Brit.)
28. Assuredness
30. Atomic #27
31. Charlie Rose on PBS is one
36. Physician's moniker
37. Am. Revolutionary loyalists
38. Volcanic craters
41. S. Pakistan region along Indus river
42. Related on the father's side
44. A strong pull
45. The lightest metal known
47. Point midway between E and SE
48. Black tropical American cuckoo
49. Having an outer covering
51. Scan words again
55. Harmless cyst
56. Beano
57. Saponaceous
58. Equal (prefix)
59. Soluble ribonucleic acid
60. St. Paul's architect Christopher

CLUES DOWN

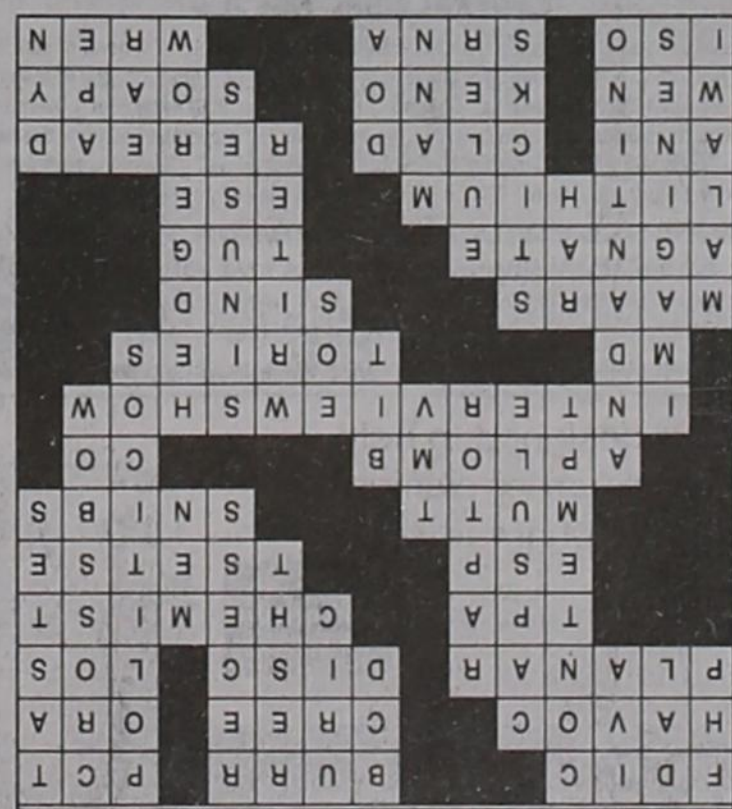
1. Frictional horsepower
2. Decaliter
3. Marsh elder
4. Derision
5. Number, in base two (abbr.)
6. Dan Tanna actor R. ___h
7. N.W. Iranian city
8. A space set back or indented
9. Ones active in party politics
10. Triggered arrow weapon
11. Gustatory perceptions
13. Gelatine case for medicine

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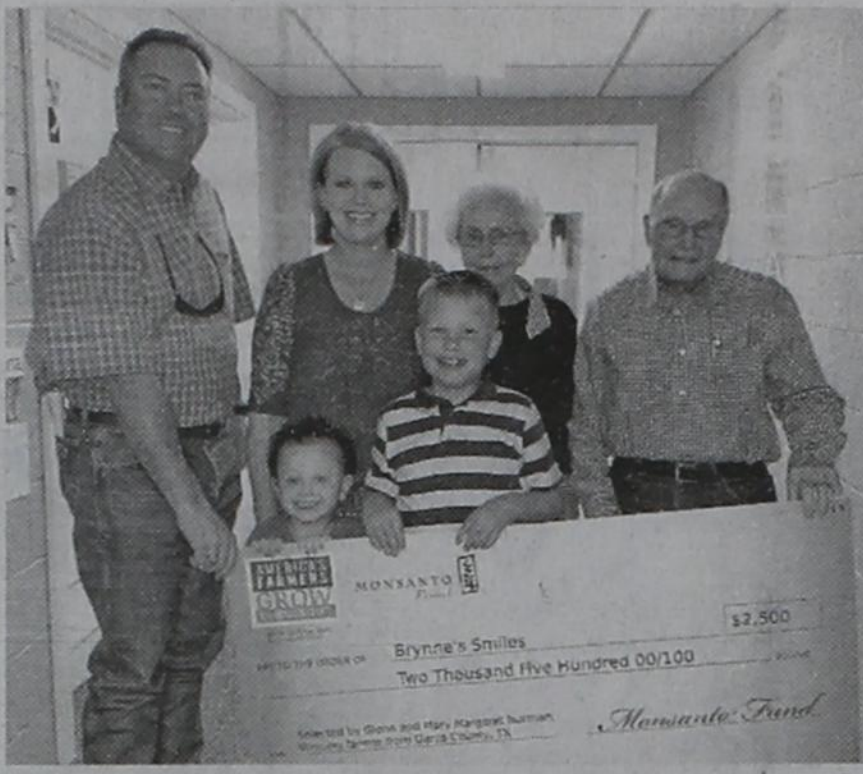
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Legends

Fifth life of Sea Cloud

(Editor's note: This week's Legends column by Ms. Puckett is the fifth installment of a seven-part series on the S.S. Sea Cloud, the sailing yacht once owned by Post heiress Marjorie Merrweather Post. I'm thoroughly enjoying reading about the ship's storied and fascinating history. I hope you are, too.)



Courtesy Photo

L to R: Rhett Brewster (Monsanto representative), Brynne Bigham, Maggie Guthrie, Koda Bigham, Mary Margaret Norman, Glenn Norman

Garza County farmer supports Brynnes Smiles through America's Farmers Grow Communities

POST, Texas (February 25, 2014) – Local farmer Glenn Norman has directed a \$2,500 donation to Brynnes Smiles. Funded by America's Farmers Grow Communities, the donation will help support the "Miles for Smiles" program. The program will provide travel and assistance for families or individuals in need. Most travel needs will be a result of medical issues. However, the program will also provide assistance for bereavement or for military families.

Thanks to the support of farmers across the country, more than \$3.2 million is being directed to nonprofits in 1,289 counties in 39 states.

"The goal of the organization is to help people with special needs within the community," said Norman. "It is a great cause."

America's Farmers Grow Communities works directly with farmers to support nonprofit organizations like Brynnes Smiles, who are doing important work in their communities. The program offers farmers the chance to win \$2,500, which is then donated to the farmer's nonprofit of choice. The search for funding to sustain and enhance programs is a year-round job for nonprofit organizations across the country. Through America's Farmers Grow Communities, farmers have been able to support a variety of groups, such as schools, fire departments, community centers and youth organizations like 4-H and FFA.

America's Farmers Grow Communities launched in 2010, and has since donated over \$13 million to more than 5,200 nonprofit organizations across the country. America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, is part of the America's Farmers initiative, which highlights and celebrates the important contributions of farmers like Glenn Norman.

For a complete list of Grow Communities winners and more program information, please visit growcommunities.com.

About America's Farmers

The America's Farmers campaign is an advocacy program celebrating U.S. farmers through communications, awards and special programs that highlight the importance of modern American agriculture.

America's Farmers initiatives include:

America's Farmers Grow Communities, which supports rural communities by offering farmers the chance to win \$2,500 for their favorite local nonprofit organization.

America's Farmers Grow Rural Education, which supports rural education by offering farmers the chance to nominate local school districts, which can compete for a \$10,000 or \$25,000 merit-based grant to enhance math and science education.

America's Farmers Mom of the Year, which celebrates women in agriculture by offering the chance to win up to \$10,000 and the title of "National Farm Mom of the Year".

America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders, which launches this year in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Nebraska, North Carolina and South Carolina, and aims to encourage the next generation to remain involved in agriculture by offering students the chance to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship.

To learn more, visit America's Farmers at www.americasfarmers.com.

About the Monsanto Fund

The Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the farm communities where farmers and Monsanto Company employees live and work. Visit the Monsanto Fund at www.monsantofund.org.

During the Sea Cloud's service in the Navy, there were a few close encounters.

Once while on patrol between Newfoundland and Greenland, IX-99 received a message from the Atlantic Fleet Headquarters warning them of an enemy warship operating in the area that was disguised as a merchantman.

One night, confusion arose as the radar room advised a distant object, 15 to 16 miles away and heading straight for IX-99. The order was given to "man your battle stations." But then something strange happened. Regardless of the tactical evasion the ship tried, the object managed to keep a steady course and continued to speed toward IX-99.

Capt. Skinner became troubled and noted: "The fact the object was always headed toward us and always at 28 knots with no difference of direction, just didn't make sense." The captain advised the talker to have the chief electrician to turn on the searchlight. The captain's executive officer became very disturbed saying, "But, Captain, they will see us." The captain knew something was very wrong, and they had to see what it was.

So the searchlight went on, and, ahead of them, an iceberg easily the size of the Empire State Building on its side.

Without further ado, the captain yanked the engine telegraph back "Full Astern." The Sea Cloud is a heavy ship, and from Full Ahead to Full Astern is an agonizing time consuming process. At that time it was apparent the iceberg came very close to touching the bow and very close to disaster.

On Nov. 4, 1944, Sea Cloud was released from her Coast Guard duties to be returned to her owner. Decommissioning took seven months at the Bethlehem Steel Atlantic Yard. The work put into the now luxury yacht, cleaning, chipping off the grey paint etc. was estimated to be \$750,000, and the yard's invoice was another \$750,000. Ambassador Davies received an additional \$750,000 in compensation for the missing masts, sails and rigging and for restoration of the interior.

For Marjorie her reunion with her yacht was anything but a joyous occasion. She was said to have cried out when she saw the torso of her yacht with only one remaining stump of a mast and the missing gleaming white paint that was her "spring dress" before entering the war. The once luxurious furnishings in the cabins and salons were all missing.

The 14-year-old Sea Cloud must have become the youngest war veteran in American history. One would think Marjorie would have given up believing her ship could ever recover from its war wounds and

be restored its original grandeur. The other yacht owners had either lost their ships or sold them to the Navy, but the Sea Cloud was the only private yacht of its size still in service at the end of the war.

It would take more than two years before Sea Cloud would sail under her towering masts again. By February 1949 the Sea Cloud finally received a complete set of new sails. The restoration had taken almost four years to complete, costing somewhere between \$3 million and \$3.5 million.

Marjorie ordered her ship to proceed to Florida where she anxiously awaited its arrival. The Sea Cloud, under full sail, came up over the horizon as Joe and Marjorie watched. This was the first time she had experienced the ship under full sail when she wasn't aboard. Joe noticed the how touched she was, and remarked, "Well, dear, there's your baby."

Since Joe was never a seaman, the long absence of having to sail during the wartime was absolutely agreeable with him. He could now go about his social appearances without the nausea. Oddly enough, he once again began to regard the ship as his personal property and regularly told stories to friends of how he ordered and had built the ship himself.

By 1950, Marjorie began to ask herself whether or not she could keep the Sea Cloud. Her personal income was vast, and her business empire had even prospered after the war. Yet the maintenance on the Sea Cloud had skyrocketed, and she came to the conclusion the expenses of her favorite toy were slightly out of hand.

One example was the American Seaman's Trade Union had pushed through a 10-fold wage increase that annoyed her. The 72-man crew now drew salaries of way more than a half-million dollars per year. Another factor was that her marriage to Davies was in crises.

She had the Sea Cloud re-registered in her name and made the decision to cut the umbilical cord to her "baby" and proceeded to find a buyer. She left her husband as well. After all, she was now 78 years old and time for change.

For months the ship sat in dry dock with no buyer in sight, but that became a signal to a man who had been a frequent guest on board the yacht to make his move.

In 1955 the notorious Rafael Leonida Trujillo Molinas — the feared dictator and president of the Dominican Republic — acquired Marjorie's Sea Cloud in a trade for a 44-passenger Vickers Viscount turboprop with a million-dollar price tag. She had her name painted on the side of the plane and was flown around America by her three pilots, and Trujillo renamed the Sea Cloud after his daughter Angelita, the "Queen of Peace and Brotherhood."

The Trujillo's bloody rein over the Dominican Republic lasted 30 years until he was finally gunned down during a night drive to San Cristobal. A firefight ensued, but Trujillo was riddled with 27 bullets and met his demise.

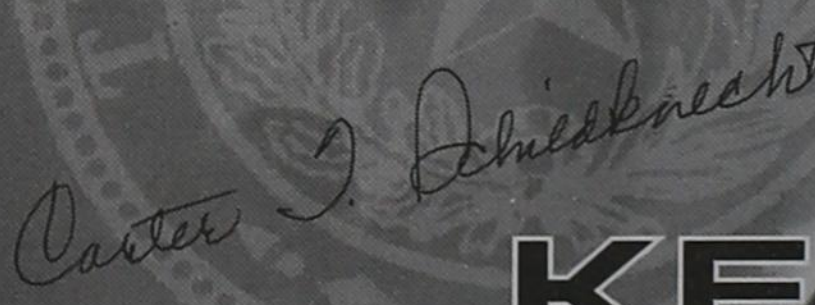
The Trujillo era was over, but the yacht once known as Sea Cloud would still be in the world news. That story continues next week.

Linda Puckett is the curator of the Garza Museum and director of the Garza County Historical Commission.



LINDA PUCKETT

I sincerely thank you for your vote of support in the Republican primary. Now - on to the general election in November!



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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The White River Municipal Water District (WRMWD) will hold a public meeting on:

Thursday, March 13, 2014, at 7 p.m. at the City of Ralls Community Storm Shelter located at 821 Telford Avenue, Ralls, Texas 79357.

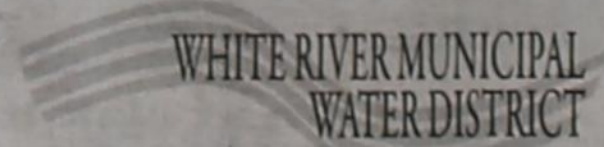
The purpose of this meeting is to provide information regarding the proposed master plan of park improvements on property adjacent to White River Lake. The proposed master plan, park and multi-use trail system improvements are being partially funded by an 80% grant through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Recreation Trails Fund. Comments relative to the proposed master plan may be presented at the meeting.

White River Municipal Water District has been working with the Texas Parks & Wildlife to develop and diversify our lake recreational facilities since 2012. The District accepted a \$176,000 grant in 2012, has been offered a \$500,000 grant for 2013, and has just recently applied for a \$477,000 grant for 2014. These grants total \$1,153,000. The District would be obligated for \$230,600 that can be paid by "in kind services" by operating and maintaining the facility.

The District is excited about pursuing these proposed recreational facility improvements. Some of the improvements include \$25,000 for security systems, \$200,000 for roads, \$170,000 restroom, \$80,000 for fencing to totally enclose the ATV Park and \$250,000 for professional built trails. RV improvements include safety, camping, picnicking, waterline, and fire protection. Some of the equipment includes 2 regular ATV's, 1 Police ATV, 1 EMT/ Rescue UTV to be housed in a maintenance building on site.

The District will provide provisions for Americans with Disabilities, hiking/walking, jogging/running, bird/wildlife, mountain biking, equestrian, motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles.

All interested parties are invited to attend this Public Meeting. Persons interested in attending the Public Meeting who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Phil Elledge at 903-531-0131 at least seven (7) days prior to the Public Meeting. Every effort will be made to accommodate these needs.



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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

						
Friday Mostly Sunny 79 / 44	Saturday Partly Cloudy 53 / 31	Sunday Partly Cloudy 55 / 37	Monday Sunny 70 / 42	Tuesday Mostly Sunny 75 / 42	Wednesday Partly Cloudy 70 / 41	Thursday Mostly Sunny 66 / 38

Local UV Index



0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	-----

0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 79°, humidity of 17%. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. The record high temperature for today is 85° set in 1972. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 44°. South southwest wind 15 mph. The record low for tonight is 14° set in 1996. Saturday, skies will be partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers, high temperature of 53°, humidity of 43%. Southwest wind 10 to 20 mph. Skies will be mostly cloudy Saturday night with a slight chance of showers, overnight low of 31°.

Weather Trivia

Can people be allergic to cold weather?

Answer: Yes, in cold weather, some people have been known to get rashes.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	5:49-7:49	5:19-7:19	Tue	8:59-10:59	8:29-10:29
Sat	6:38-8:38	6:08-8:08	Wed	9:44-11:44	9:14-11:14
Sun	7:26-9:26	6:56-8:56	Thu	10:28-12:28	9:58-11:58
Mon	8:13-10:13	7:43-9:43			

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Weather History

March 7, 1990 - A major ice storm left much of Iowa under a thick coat of ice. It was the worst ice storm in at least 25 years for Iowa. Up to two inches of ice coated much of western and central Iowa, with three inches reported in Crawford County and Carroll County.

March 8, 1717 - On Fishers Island in Long Island Sound, 1,200 sheep were discovered to have been buried under a snow drift for four weeks. When finally uncovered, 100 sheep were still alive.

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Fri	7:04 a.m.	6:47 p.m.	11:20 a.m.	12:36 a.m.
Sat	7:03 a.m.	6:48 p.m.	12:07 p.m.	1:29 a.m.
Sun	8:02 a.m.	7:49 p.m.	1:56 p.m.	3:19 a.m.
Mon	8:01 a.m.	7:50 p.m.	2:47 p.m.	4:04 a.m.
Tue	7:59 a.m.	7:50 p.m.	3:39 p.m.	4:46 a.m.
Wed	7:58 a.m.	7:51 p.m.	4:32 p.m.	5:24 a.m.
Thu	7:57 a.m.	7:52 p.m.	5:26 p.m.	6:00 a.m.

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days			
2/25	45	34	61/31	0.00"	Date	Degree Days	Date	Degree Days
2/26	45	21	61/31	0.00"	2/25	0	3/1	8
2/27	67	23	61/32	0.00"	2/26	0	3/2	0
2/28	78	44	62/32	0.00"	2/27	0	3/3	0
3/1	85	31	62/32	0.00"	2/28	11		
3/2	31	12	62/32	0.01"				
3/3	37	9	62/33	0.00"				

Growing degree days are calculated by taking the average temperature for the day and subtracting the base temperature (50 degrees) from the average to assess how many growing days are attained.

Dixie Divas Keeping the dream alive

By chance, we happened upon him in a small gift shop. The clerk recognizing me laughed and said, "What a coincidence! She just bought a copy of your book!" She gestured toward a small woman browsing through a group of men's sweaters. That began a cordial conversation when I thanked her for buying the book. Her son, somewhere in his 30s, perked up and listened. He settled himself down on a comfortable sofa and said not a word until his mother said, "My son is a writer, too."

A blush slid over his dark, pleasant face. "Well," he began in a quiet, humble tone. "I don't write books. I'm a screen writer." "My husband is a television writer!" I exclaimed, gesturing toward Tink who had been gradually moving toward the door eager to continue on to dinner. That began a brand new conversation in which neither his mother nor I participated as they talked.



RONDA RICH

After college graduation, the young man had followed his dream of writing movies to Los Angeles. For several years, he managed to survive by taking smaller jobs in television. Though it was a struggle and certainly not lucrative, he was exhilarated by the experience. Without question, he was on a high as he chased the passions of his heart.

But things never took off like he wanted. Times got hard, jobs got fewer and more difficult to find.

Tink nodded. "It's harder in the industry than I've ever seen it. These are tough times."

The young man stood up and shoved his hands deep in the front pockets of his black jeans. He shrugged. Not a nonchalant shrug but one of hurt and disappointment.

"I miss L.A.," he said wistfully, explaining he had finally chosen practicality over his dream. He had gone back to school, received additional training in the medical field, had just completed his training and was about to accept a job with a hospital.

I spoke up. "Are you happy with this career change? Is it what you want?"

He dropped his head slightly. "No. Not really but..." His voice trailed off.

"I'm sorry," I replied. It's sad to watch someone have to choose a different career path than where the heart leads. There are few things sadder, really. There is nothing more consistently heart-dampening than having to wake up each morning, tumble out of bed and stumble toward another day of going through the motions of making a living where you don't thrive but rather merely survive. I know, I've been there.

I once worked a full-time corporate job and three times a week (and Saturdays) went to work at a retail job for minimum wage. Sixty hours of hard work that kept my body alive but dang near killed my soul. Still, my dream lived on.

While I straightened towels or rang up another sale, I day-dreamed of writing books and creating stories. When I lost that corporate job in a downsizing brought on by a merger, I tearfully pleaded with God, "Please, if you will just allow me to make a living by doing what I love — writing — I will never ask you to send me someone to love. Just help me to take care of myself and love doing it."

I was desperate. He answered that prayer. And I kept my end of the bargain. But the good Lord kindly overlooked my vow and eventually gave me more than I asked.

I recognized the sorrow in his face. I understood clearly the calling of his heart.

"I know how it hurts," I said softly.

He smiled tightly. "Well, I'm going to continue to write on the side and hope something comes of it."

"Good for you!"

What I didn't tell him, or what I should have taken the time to say, is, "Dreams sometimes take a detour and may look hopelessly before coming true. But don't give up."

Don't ever give up.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, storyteller and best-selling author of "There's A Better Day A-Comin'." Visit rondarich.com to sign up for her weekly newsletter.

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