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The Post Dispatch

A Builder in Garza County



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8 Pages - 50¢

Cotton farmers lend weight to legend Sunrise wind ceremony forecasts fair crop season

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

Longtime Lynn County farmer Tom Ellis has seen a lot of weather-related events that have impacted the South Plains cotton industry in his nearly 40 years of producing.

He's seen his peers lose mini-fortunes to both epic drought and epic rainfall.

Talk to any old-timer, and they'll tell you there is quite a bit of mysticism that goes into producing. For example, planting and harvesting cycles governed by the phase of the moon, or homeopathic remedies such as burning a particular pest or weed and scattering its ashes over a field.

Whether or not those old biodynamic rituals are still adhered to — or even if they ever were — one ceremony still particularly important to many farmers here on the South Plains is rooted in Native American lore.

Tabana Yuane is a ceremonial ritual the Comanches — a tribe of Native Americans that were some of the first inhabitants of the western half of Texas — conducted at the first of spring each year to determine how productive the coming year would be.

According to the legend, which direction the wind was blowing on the second dawn after the vernal equinox was the best forecast for the season.

"In my way of thinking, someone or something told those Comanches to do that," Ellis said. "And I believe it was their spirit god."

"I've been farming for 38 years, and in all this time I've come to rely on the prediction to help me better utilize the time and money I put into cotton production."

This year's prediction was there would be a fair crop season because the wind at sunrise was coming out of the northwest.

Although the ritual is quite



Photo by Wayne Hodgkin/The Post Dispatch

Zoe Kirkpatrick calls to the four winds during the annual Tabana Yuane ceremony early on the morning of March 22 at South Lake in Post. The ceremony is conducted at sunrise every year two days after the vernal equinox to predict the year's crop season, according to Comanche lore.

possibly centuries old, when farmers first arrived on the South Plains in the early 1900s, according to local reports, the old Comanches who still resided in the area told of the ancient ceremony that predicted how good a season would be.

"Back then, those guys new nothing of how crops would grow in this area," said Ellis, who farms about 2,000 acres of dry-land cotton in the Tahoka area. "I believe the Comanches believed the

legend indicated how good the grass-growing season would be and therefore buffalo hunting for the year.

"Of course, the South Plains cotton industry was virtually nonexistent at that time."

COTTON FARMERS... continued on page 9

County burn ban lifted

Governor renews drought, wildfire emergencies

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

An increase in the amount of rainfall the county has seen in recent weeks and the need by area landowners to get rid of debris were all good reasons commissioners agreed to lift the burn ban in Garza County this week.

At their regular meeting Monday, commissioners voted to remove the decree that has been in place for more than a year.

"We've had a relatively moist spring and many people are already calling about burning brush piles on their property," County Judge Lee Norman said. "These requests are mainly coming from county residents who own land outside of the vicinity of the city of Post. So it's not a real threat to homes."

Commissioner Charles Morris of Precinct 2 said he had talked to county Fire Chief Les Looney on Friday.

"The chief indicated to me that with the moisture in the ground and the green-up of vegetation, it shouldn't be a problem," Morris said of lifting the ban. "However, I urge our residents to continue to remain vigilant."

Morris also said it would be wise for those planning on burning brush or debris on their property to call the sheriff's office and let officials know as to not disrupt any emergency crews.

"We don't want to be wasting the fire department's time," Morris said. "We also want to urge the public to continue to call when they see smoke. You never know."

Commissioners approved

BURN BAN... continued on page 9

County cuts crime victims funding

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

Victims of crime in Garza County will not receive funding next fiscal year as they have for the last decade because the application for funding to the state was not received by deadline.

Although the deadline was missed, County Judge Lee Norman told commissioners Monday during their regular meeting, it was likely the county would not have received the funding anyway.

"The attorney general's office, which maintains the Crime Victims Fund, cut its allocation to the fund by \$10

million next fiscal year, so even if we were to get some funding for the program, it wouldn't have been very much at all," Norman said.

The fund was created in 1979 by the Texas Legislature under the Crime Victims Compensation Act to reimburse victims of crime for certain out-of-pocket expenses as a result of a violent crime. Revenue for the fund is collected from convicted offenders through criminal court costs, fees and fines.

The funding for the local budget came by way of a state grant that paid for the salary of someone to maintain the

COUNTY CUTS... continued on page 9

Calif. couple involved in wreck; dog missing

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

A 21-year-old man from California and his 20-year-old wife were involved in a one-vehicle accident about 7 a.m. Sunday morning on a stretch of U.S. 84 North about 17 miles south of Post when their 2005 silver Jeep Liberty left the roadway.

According to sheriff's reports, Jacob Carlson, of Lemoore, Calif., may have fallen asleep at the wheel. Neither Carlson nor his wife, Kailee,

were injured in the accident.

The couple was traveling with a 1½-year-old pit bull/beagle mix that went missing sometime after the accident and is believed to still be in the area.

Kailee Carlson's parents, including her mother, Nancy Lewis, flew into Lubbock on Sunday afternoon to see after her children and to help them look for the dog, which answers to the name of Naula and has brindle and white markings.

The dog was not wearing a collar and is not micro-chipped.

"We're very thankful our children are safe, but we're very concerned about our dog," Lewis said. "If anyone finds her, we will come back and get her. She is such a big part of our family and we love her dearly."

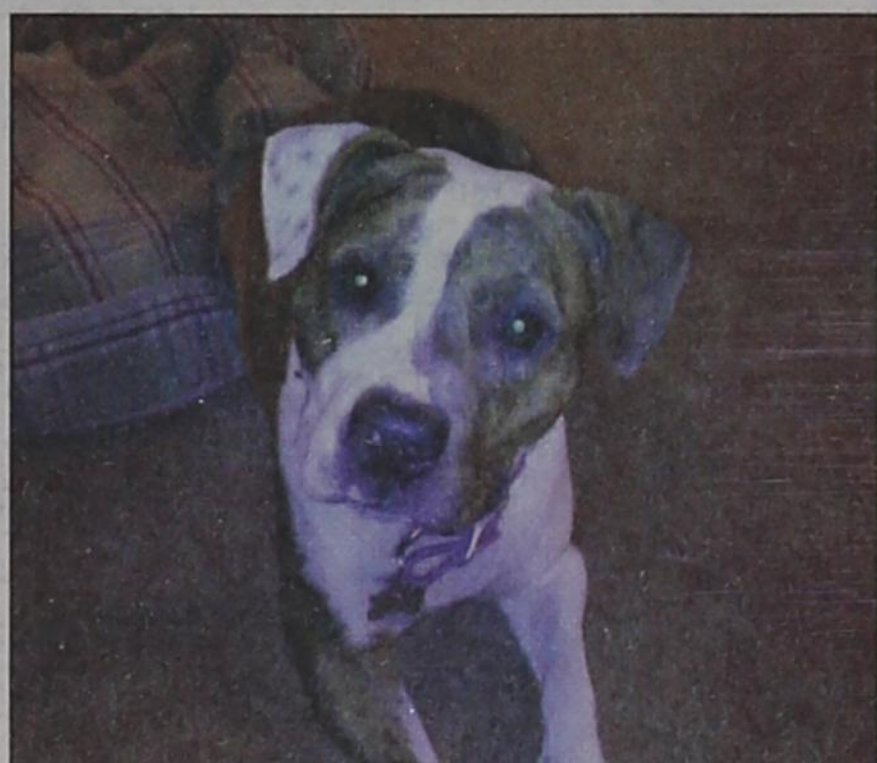
Lewis said her children had left their home at Lemoore Naval Air Station where Jacob Carlson is stationed.

"He just returned from a

naval deployment for seven months, and was traveling to Sugarland in the Houston area to see his brother," Lewis said. "They had been on the road so much the past few days, that we think he just fell asleep at the wheel."

If anyone locates the dog, the Lewis family asks that they call 909-436-8118 or 909-684-6767. They also can be contacted at lewisatthelake@msn.com.

A cash reward is being offered for her return.



Courtesy Photo

Jacob and Kailee Carlson's dog, Naula, is missing after the SUV they were traveling in early Sunday morning on U.S. 84 North was involved in a one-vehicle accident about 17 miles south of Post. They're asking the public's help in locating their pet.



New blank document. Those words stare me in the face. So does the untouched white canvas, except now I've started writing on it. It's not easy to improve on blank. But some of us think we can.

My mother once asked a preacher what it took to be a preacher. He told her it took gall.

He was a visiting preacher - one who was preaching every night all week long, and he was staying all week with my

parents. Since they were yet to be parents and they lived just a mile from the church, their house was the ideal place for such a guest. (They also had indoor plumbing, another plus.)

Compared to regular congregation-bound preachers, I suppose the visiting evangelist had extra gall and would have said so himself. I think he must also have had a sense of humor and an honest streak.

Me, I'm short on gall, but I must have some. Otherwise, I wouldn't be trying to improve on blank. Makes me think of the Quakers. They go to their meetinghouse and sit in silence for an hour or two, don't they? That would be like me leaving the rest of my column blank.

INTERNET PAUSE. I just checked on the Quakers. Indeed, they do sit in silence unless the Spirit moves them to speak. I'd be unnerved. There's an art to remaining silent. I've not learned it.

Oh well. If I had enough gall, what I'd do at this halfway point is shut up. The news-

paper could leave the rest of my column blank - just lovely pure white space. And you readers could stare at the lack of verbage for as long as you could stand to stare at nothing. You might even have a transcendental experience, and I could take credit for it. I'd be your guru.

I heard about a small-town newspaper editor - one with gall - who infuriated local leaders by leaving blank spaces in his coverage of city council meetings for all the closed-door discussions the council held in impromptu private executive sessions. The readership looked forward with much

anticipation to the gaps in his stories. The talk around town was no doubt more about what didn't get reported than what did. His intriguing blank spots sold papers.

But if I myself don't meet my 501-word quota, I'd think of myself as a quitter. It's 501 words or else. Hang in.

COFFEE BREAK TO BREW A STRONGER CUP.

Caffeine and brilliant thoughts go hand in hand. Due to operator error, my morning cup of java was weaker than normal. Blame my husband. He's away at a seminar. I unsuccessfully tried to maintain coffee

quality while cutting down from the customary 10 cups to four.

Don't mess with a well-established coffee formula.

If nothing else I've said thus far has been better than blank, that bit of sound coffee advice should do it.

If you don't like coffee or if you already knew that, just shoot me.

Make it a blank.

In and Around Close City

The Close City news column, written by Traci Freeman, will not appear in this week's edition. Look for it again next week.

Weekly Inspirations

God's Word

Read Romans 8:31-39

Paul wrote, "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, . . . nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Romans 8:38-39 (NRSV)

Lily and her husband, Ed, were loving and devout parents. This child was their fourth; and as her physician I anticipated a quick, uncomplicated delivery. When Lily was ready to deliver, she excitedly squeezed Ed's hand and pushed. Suddenly everything changed. The baby's heartbeat crashed. "Push hard, now!" I urged.

Terrified and exhausted, Lily clutched Ed's hand and pleaded, "Help me!" He looked at her and at the baby's heart monitor. Then he grabbed her hand between both of his hands, and in a strong, reassuring voice began to speak the words of Romans 8:38-39.

While he spoke, Lily pushed with all her strength. She became stronger. I could feel the powerful calm that enveloped us all as we struggled to deliver the baby. With a surge of strength and determination, she pushed their baby boy into the world. His heart rate was slow, his breathing shallow, but he quickly responded to resuscitation and wailed with vigor.

I often think of that delivery when a husband spoke words of God's presence and power. This couple taught me about faith by their witness to the power of scripture.

Linda Beahm (Virginia, USA)

Prayer: Dear God, give us the strength of your word. Amen.

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

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
Deuteronomy 6:5

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McL...
Post High School at the Hamlin records - set b... and high jump... lays in Sundown...
By Wayne Hodg... The Post Dispatch...
Post High Sch... Corbin McDon... two school rec... week at the Rou... lays in Sundown...
McDonald set... school records in... triple and high ju... head track coach... er...
His triple recor... 46 feet and one... was about 1 1/2 in... than he jumped la... 45 feet 11 inches... jump of 6 feet... was an inch better... year...
In addition to... his own school rec... Donald placed fir... of those events d... March 23 event...
"Corbin is a... gifted athlete and... ethic is one of the... seen," Riker said... his own initiative... better athlete and... through in his tal... track...
Riker said Mc... being courted by... of area colleges... versities, includin... State, Abilene... Hardin-Simmons... as A&M and McM...
"Right now... really has his hea... McMurray," Rik...

SPORTS

McDonald breaks own school records — again



(Post Dipatch file photo)

Post High School senior Corbin McDonald, shown here at the Hamlin track meet March 17, broke two school records — set by himself last year — in the triple jump and high jump events last week at the Roughneck Relays in Sundown.

By Wayne Hodgin
The Post Dispatch

Post High School senior Corbin McDonald broke two school records last week at the Roughneck Relays in Sundown.

McDonald set all-time school records in both the triple and high jumps, said head track coach Beau Riker.

His triple record jump of 46 feet and one-half inch was about 1 1/2 inches better than he jumped last year at 45 feet 11 inches. His high jump of 6 feet, 6 inches was an inch better than last year.

In addition to breaking his own school records, McDonald placed first in each of those events during the March 23 event.

"Corbin is a naturally gifted athlete and his work ethic is one of the best I've seen," Riker said. "He takes his own initiative to be a better athlete and it shows through in his talent on the track."

Riker said McDonald is being courted by a number of area colleges and universities, including Angelo State, Abilene Christian, Hardin-Simmons, West Texas A&M and McMurray.

"Right now, I think he really has his heart set on McMurray," Riker said.

"But it's still pretty early. He's got plenty of time to decide."

McDonald's leadership on the track and off is helping set an example for Riker's other student athletes.

"The other kids look up to him so much not only because he's a gifted athlete, but also because he's a gifted student," he said.

McDonald is expected to make another showing this year at the state track meet.

"I haven't seen anyone jumping better than him in this area in the triple jump event," Riker said. "And there's only one kid from Idalou who's jumping better than him in the high jump — but it's only my about an inch."

"I expect Corbin to set another record this week in Abernathy."

Despite his new record, the Post boys only mustered enough points at the Roughneck Relays to garner a third-place finish overall. The varsity girls also placed third, and the junior varsity boys placed second.

Other notable performances last week came from Alexis Ramirez with a first-place finish in the girls varsity shot put event and Haily Berry with first-place a finish in both the varsity girls 200-meter dash. The varsity boys also placed first in the 4-by-400 relay.

Post Antelopes and Sundown Roughneck Track Results

Post Girls High Jump Varsity Sixth — Kelbie Oden	Third — Kimberly Rivera	Post Girls 400 Meter Dash Varsity Fourth — Bethany Curtis
Post Boys High Jump Junior Varsity Third — Dylan Pearson Fifth — Ethan Self Seventh — Blake Altman	Post Boys 3200 Meter Run Junior Varsity Third — Ricky Fontenot Seventh — Ethan Self	Post Boys 400 Meter Dash Junior Varsity Fourth — Freddy Araiza Fifth — Bryan Smith Ninth — Alan Alaniz
Post Boys High Jump Varsity Fourth — Taylor Soto	Post Boys 4x100 Meter Relay Junior Varsity First — Christen Pena, David Hernandez, Christian Perez, Bryan Smith Fifth — Blake Altman, Dylan Pearson, Pake Jones, Freddy Araiza	Post Boys 400 Meter Dash Varsity Seventh — Isaac Stern 11th — Caden Dean 12th — Corbin McDonald
Post Boys Pole Vault Junior Varsity First — Paden Babb Fifth — Marco Erives Sixth — Eric Gomez	Post Boys 4x100 Meter Relay Varsity Second — Steven Howard, Nathaniel Gill, Darren Brown, Corbin McDonald	Post Girls 300 Meter Hurdles Varsity 11th — Sierra Isbell
Post Girls Long Jump Varsity Second — Haily Berry Fourth — Kelbie Oden 20th — Cheyenne Gill	Post Girls 800 Meter Run Varsity Third — Andi Soliz	Post Boys 300 Meter Hurdles Junior Varsity Third — Campbell Kirkpatrick Seventh — Carson Kirkpatrick Eighth — Eric Gomez
Post Boys Long Jump Junior Varsity Second — Christian Perez Fifth — Dylan Pearson Seventh — Christen Pena	Post Boys 800 Meter Run Junior Varsity Sixth — Jonah Jones Seventh — Alejo Rodriguez Eighth — Josiel Delgadillo	Post Boys 300 Meter Hurdles Varsity Fifth — Taylor Soto Eighth — Tavish Soto
Post Boys Long Jump Varsity 15th — Vance Blair 16th — Tavish Soto 18th — Steven Howard	Post Girls 100 Meter Hurdles Varsity 13th — Kayla Comeaux 14th — Sierra Isbell	Post Girls 200 Meter Dash Varsity First — Haily Berry 17th — Cheyenne Gill
Post Girls Triple Jump Varsity Second — Haily Berry	Post Boys 110 Meter Hurdles Junior Varsity Third — Campbell Kirkpatrick Fourth — Carson Kirkpatrick Sixth — Eric Gomez	Post Boys 200 Meter Dash Junior Varsity Seventh — Christen Pena 10th — Blake Altman 18th — Marco Erives
Post Boys Triple Jump Junior Varsity Second — Christen Pena Third — Ethan Self Fourth — Christian Perez	Post Boys 110 Meter Hurdles Varsity Ninth — Taylor Soto 10th — Tavish Soto	Post Boys 200 Meter Dash Varsity Ninth — Vance Blair 17th — Troy Copeland
Post Boys Triple Jump Varsity First — Corbin McDonald Fifth — Darren Brown 17th — Parker Loftus	Post Girls 100 Meter Dash Varsity Seventh — Kelbie Oden 18th — Cheyenne Gill	Post Girls 1600 Meter Run Varsity Fourth — Andi Soliz Sixth — Kimberly Rivera
Post Girls Discus Throw Varsity Third — Alexis Ramirez Sixth — Sara Greer 11th — Rebecca Taylor	Post Boys 100 Meter Dash Junior Varsity Sixth — Dylan Pearson 12th — Blake Altman	Post Boys 1600 Meter Run Junior Varsity Fifth — Ricky Fontenot Sixth — Ethan Self Seventh — Blaine Osborn
Post Boys Discus Throw Junior Varsity Third — Marco Erives Fourth — Bryan Smith Eighth — Alejo Rodriguez	Post Boys 100 Meter Dash Varsity Second — Darren Brown Ninth — Nathaniel Gill	Post Girls 4x400 Meter Relay Varsity First — Haily Berry, Bethany Curtis, Matti Smith, Kelbie Oden
Post Boys Discus Throw Varsity Third — Travis Greathouse Sixth — Armondo Martinez Ninth — Nathaniel Gill	Post Girls 4x200 Meter Relay Varsity First — Anahica Duran, Cheyenne Gill, Bethany Curtis and Matti Smith	Post Boys 4x400 Meter Relay Junior Varsity First — Bryan Smith, Freddy Araiza, Campbell, Kirkpatrick, Alan Alaniz
Post Girls Shot Put Varsity First — Alexis Ramirez Tenth — Sara Greer	Post Boys 4x200 Meter Relay Junior Varsity First — Christen Pena, David Hernandez, Dylan Pearson and Alan Alaniz Second — Christian Perez, Jonah Jones, Kaleb Crenshaw and Marco Erives	Post Boys 4x400 Meter Relay Varsity First — Darren Brown, Steven Howard, Matt Soto, Corbin McDonald
Post Boys Shot Put Junior Varsity Second — Bryan Smith Eighth — Jayson Walden Ninth — Freddy Araiza	Post Boys 4x200 Meter Relay Varsity First — Vance Blair, Steven Howard, Matt Soto and Nathaniel Gill	Women-Varsity Team Rankings-17 Events Scored 3rd 85 Men-Varsity Team Rankings-17 Events Scored 3rd 84 Men-Junior Varsity Team Rankings-17 Events Scored 2nd 175



Coach's Corner by Steve Smith

Commitment to excellence

By Steven Smith
Coach's Corner

In our lives today we have so much and have so much opportunity it is often difficult to encourage a young person the value of sacrifice and commitment. We are so prosperous we

seldom have to do without material things or even leisurely activities have become mundane.

Paul Harvey better explained this when he penned, "Tear to my Eye."

Tear to my Eye
"We tried so hard to make

things better for our kids that we made them worse.

"For my grandchildren, I'd like better. I'd really like for them to know about hand-me-down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meatloaf sandwiches. I really would.

"I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car.

"And I really hope nobody gives you a brand-new car when you are 16. It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your

dog put to sleep. I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in.

"I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.

"When you want to see a movie and your little brother wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him.

"I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely. On

rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your mom.

"If you want a slingshot, I hope your dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one. I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books.

"When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head.

"I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a girl, and when you talk back to your mother that you learn what ivory soap tastes like.

"May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your

tongue on a frozen flagpole.

"I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend.

"I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your grandpa and go fishing with your uncle. May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays.

"I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Christmas-time when you give her a plaster mold of your hand.

COACH'S CORNER
continued on page 10

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COLUMNS

Legends: Early Garza pioneer Job Davies

By Linda Puckett

The earliest pioneers of Garza County came from varied walks of life, and in some cases, foreign countries. Such was the case of Job Davies. This week we would like to share with you a document from our museum files entitled, "Under Many Flags," by Clarence R. Wharton, author and editor of "Texas Biography." The document is not dated.

Job Davies, retired rancher and landowner of Garza County, residing at Southland, has had a career of remarkable experience and has been a resident of different sections of Texas for half a century. He has lived out in the open, largely on the frontier, and has maintained that equilibrium of personality and action which is the highest expression of solid character.

He was born Feb. 17, 1850, in England. His father, John Davies, had come to Texas as early as 1837, traveling from Charleston, S.C., west to Houston. He was a cotton buyer. He and his family lived in Houston for several years, and while there he received a certificate for 1,280 acres of land under the Republic of Texas. While living in Houston he buried two of his children. After a time, he and his wife went back to England, and later he made a voyage to Australia to the Ballerat

gold mines. However, his family remained in Herefordshire, England. Both he and his wife died at Liverpool, also the place where they were married. His wife was the former Jessie Faulkner, a native of Scotland. They reared a family of four sons. These sons all sought homes in different quarters of the globe.

Son Job Davies, attended school in England and served four years as an apprentice to a grocery house in Liverpool. In 1869, at the age of 19, he came to America landing in Canada, and four months later going to Chicago, and from that city shipped to Memphis, Tenn., to work on the Little Rock and Arkansas Railroad. He failed to meet the proper party, so went on to Mississippi, laboring on the construction of one of the levees along the river. He soon made arrangements to work for the Houston & Texas Central Railroad.

On Dec. 6, 1869, he reached Galveston, subsequently worked in a beef factory at Calvert in Robertson County. Later he went on to Waco for the purpose of identifying the land granted to his father by certificate. This was the chief object of his coming to Texas, but he never succeeded in locating the certificate. One of the experiences of that early time was hunting buffalo tongues and robes, and

himself dressed up in a buckskin outfit.

Mr. Davies in 1877 again came to America, landing at Galveston, and soon engaged in sheep ranching. That industry brought him large returns and made the equivalent of a substantial fortune in Lampasas and Runnels counties. He bought land at 25 cents per acre, and when the Texas & Pacific Railroad was built through West Texas in 1880, his land went up in value to \$5 an acre.

He remained in Runnels County until 1889, but in the meantime most of his fortune had been lost, and in February 1900 he arrived in Garza County, filing on four sections of land near the present town of Southland. Here he resumed stock-raising.

Garza County was then far out on the frontier, all his supplies being hauled in from Colorado City and Canyon City.

Mr. Davies has many interesting stories of early days in this section of Texas. He kept up his activity as a stock farmer until 1920, when he gradually sold out and converted his land into farms. Four years later he sold all his farms except for one section of land.

Mr. Davies, in contact with all the vices of the frontier, always lived the life of a man well-fortified in religious character and en-

joyed the constant respect and esteem of his associates.

He married Miss Elizabeth Kettle in June 1879 in Lampasas County; she too was a native of England. Of their nine children, seven are living (at this writing), six in the same section of Texas as their father.

Mr. Davies is properly proud of his family. He reared five sons and taught them to abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors or profane language. He has more than 30 grandchildren.

Mr. Davies is a devout member of the Church of Christ, and a member of the Masonic fraternity in Texas since 1882, when he joined the lodge at Coleman, then later at the lodge at Southland, the Royal Arch Chapter at Slaton, the Knight Templar Commandery at Lubbock, Scottish Rite Consistory at Dallas and Khiva Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Amarillo.

He is (was) a Democrat, and one of the early county commissioners of Garza County.

Job Davies is buried in the Post Cemetery.

Linda Puckett is director of the Garza County Museum.



The Paperboy

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

Sometimes it's good to show the reader things that could be construed as odd, dumb, strange or nuts. I think the following qualifies in a couple of the categories. A continued hot button topic is global warming. Many on the left will tell you man is causing the planet to warm.

My question is: what caused the planet to warm other times throughout the billions of years?

Global warming has happened many times throughout history. For instance, how did we move out of the Ice Age without global warming?

Now comes more information that the planet had a strong warming trend well before the automobile or factory were around.

Scientists, led by geochemist Zunli Lu, from Syracuse University in New York, says the "Medieval Warm Period" approximately 500 to 1,000 years ago, wasn't just confined to Europe

but affected the entire globe.

Evidence that the Earth heated up over a 1,000 years ago can be found in the rare mineral ikate. The scientists studied ikate crystals from sediment cores drilled off the coast of Antarctica. The sediment layers were deposited over 2,000 years.

"Ikate is an icy version of limestone," said Lu. "The crystals are only stable under cold conditions and actually melt at room temperature."

According to Lu and his team, the water that holds the crystal structure together - called the hydration water - traps information about temperatures present when the crystals formed.

That information tells scientists that the planet warmed considerably during that time.

As global warming has lost traction, climate change has become the prevailing terminology to illustrate human irresponsibility.

Call it what you want: global warming, climate change, earth's built-in eradication plan ... what does it matter?

It matters because politicians use the fact that we live on an active planet (which happens to warm and cool) to bilk money from businesses for their own agenda. Those costs are passed down to us. I won't even go into the regulation-end of it all.

In my opinion, humans should be good stewards of the planet. It is our responsibility to leave this planet in better condition than we received it. It should be a generational goal to do so. However, there is only so much we can do.

Basically, this planet has an ebb and flow. Nothing has ever been, or will ever be, consistent over the longterm.

If humans are fortunate enough to live here over thousands of years, we will see global warming, global cooling, droughts, famine, asteroids - just about everything you can think of.

Earth is going to do what it does and that's change. And guess what? Humans have very little influence in the matter.

Christopher Blackburn is the president of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication.

Yesteryears

50 years ago
March 29, 1962

The land-judging team of the Post FFA chapter tied for first place with the Midland FFA chapter at an event Saturday at the Sweetwater Livestock and Fair Association. An eventual coin flip would determine Midland the winner of the first-place trophy while the Post team from home a handsome second-place trophy. Tony Carlton of the Post team also received a trophy as runner-up for overall high point in the individual competition. Sixteen teams and some 64 boys competed in the event. Other Post team members includes John Bland, Pete Dodson and Delroy Odom. The team was first place two weeks ago in the Mesa District contest in Brownfield.

Newest developments this week on the Garza County political front are

the "drafting" of a write-in candidate for Precinct 3 commissioner. L.P. Kennedy Jr. has been endorsed as a write-in candidate by a group of residents in Precinct 3. Eight candidates now vie for the seat, including incumbent E.E. "Elva" Peel.

Last rites for Charlie Robert Scott, 59, prominent farmer of the Pleasant Valley community, who died of a heart attack last Thursday night at his home, were conducted at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church. He evidently suffered the heart attack while packing for a fishing trip he had planned with friends the next day. He was found by a hired hand lying on the ground beside his automobile.

Italian sculptor Mario Spaminato, who made the statue of C.W. Post in 1958 that was given to the community, gave an in-

teresting explanation of how the statue was made and the steps necessary in such work to Post Rotarians at their weekly luncheon at City Hall on Tuesday. Spaminato was in town to clean the statue with an acid treatment, a job that needs to be performed every five years.

"Wanted: Any old kind of Two-Inch Rain." That's the gist of the most unusual ad in this Dispatch. The eight-column by 14-inch request appears on page 14 and is a public service announcement by the First National Bank. Dispatch Publisher Jim Cornish told bank president Irby G. Metcalf, "Our motto here at the paper is, 'Advertising doesn't cost, it pays.' If the ad doesn't bring two inches of rain in the next two weeks, the bank will not receive a bill for the advertisement from the newspaper. But if a two-inch rain responds, you pay in full."

Joyce Teaff was elected president of the Mu Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Phi for the coming club year Monday night. Other new officers named were Margaret King, vice president; Pam King, second vice president; Sherry Josey, treasurer; Frances Clemmons, recording secretary; Barbara Boren, corresponding secretary; Joan Stewart, extension officer; and Jenice Reno, defense officer.

Phil Crenshaw was re-elected president of the Parent-Teacher Association when they met last Thursday in the grade-school auditorium.

Sawyer's TV & Appliance was advertising for a sixth anniversary and expansion sale. Everything in the store was sale-priced. A 13-foot, two-door combination refrigerator/freezer was only \$296. Westinghouse top-loading washer and dryer combo was on sale for \$346.

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ABSOLUTELY THE BEST VIEW Lake Medina/Bandera, 1/4 acre tract, central W/S/E, RV/motor home/house, OK only \$830 down, \$235 month (12.91%/10yr). Guaranteed financing, more information call 1-830-460-8354

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Finding great food buys at dollar stores



Nancy McDonald

With the cost of food going up, many of us are looking for ways to save money on groceries.

Planning meals in advance, comparing prices and shopping with a list are helpful tools. In addition, more people are searching the aisles of dollar stores for food bargains.

No doubt you will find some great deals. The key to finding the real bargains, however, is to be prepared and know what you are buying. Otherwise that bargain you find may not really be a bargain.

Know the foods offered at your dollar. Some stores

offer a variety of canned fruits and vegetables; others feature mainly snack foods, which have limited nutritional value. Milk and frozen foods may be available at some stores but not others. Find out what food items are kept in stock and how often shipments arrive.

Don't be afraid to try brands you don't know. Some dollar stores feature national brands of our favorite foods. They also sell regional brands and foods produced in other countries. If the ingredients in a regional brand are similar to what is listed on the labels of national brands, it may be worth spending a buck to see if you or your family will eat it.

Know your prices. Just because a food is sold at a dollar store doesn't mean it is the cheapest price in town. Stay in touch with food prices by keeping track of the foods you buy most often no matter where you buy them. This will help you decide if a dollar store bargain is really

a bargain. Check the package size. Dollar stores may sell food items in smaller packages compared to traditional grocery stores. Bottom line: know what you are buying.

Watch the expiration dates. This tip applies everywhere, not just dollar stores. Buy foods that can be eaten before the date stamped on the package so you get the best quality for your money. Do not buy foods that are out of date.

Read food labels so you know what you are buying. Is that canned fruit packed in juice or heavy syrup? Does the coffee creamer have milk as a main ingredient or is it hydrogenated oil? Cheap food is not always the most nutritious so be sure to read the list of ingredients on the package.

Nancy McDonald is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Garza County. Email her at njmcdonald@ag.tamu.edu.

Post Notes

Art exhibit

The O.S. Museum, 201 E. Main St., Suite 3, is now exhibiting "The Color of Spring," a display of birds, flowers and eggs through May 31. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For information, email osmuseum_mneff@yahoo.com 495-3570.

Little League opening

The Little League opening ceremonies for the 2012 season will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Post ballpark. Tee ball, baseball and softball registration will be held. Hamburgers, hotdogs and sausage wraps will be sold and games will include laser tag, bungee run, obstacle course and blow-up jumpers. A fastest-pitch competition for all ages will be held, along with a homerun derby, also for all ages. Tee-ball games begin immediately after the opening ceremony. For information, contact Heather Blacklock at 495-5785 or email hmason53@gmail.com.

Women's luncheon

First Baptist Church of Spur, 120 W. Second St., Spur, will have its second annual women's luncheon at noon Saturday. All area women are invited to hear Brooke Glass of White River Lake and Tonya McIntosh of Oakdale, La., present a program on the theme of "Renew Your Heart." No charge for luncheon or program. For information, call 806-271-4521 or email fbcspur@yahoo.com. Also visit fbcspur.org.

Donations needed

Five-Stone Ministries, a non-profit 501c3 organization, is in need of the following items: men's work clothes, men's work shoes, workable washers and dryers. Some wom-

en's items also are needed. For information, contact O.L. Ferguson at 806-781-1156. Monetary donations welcome at P.O. Drawer 669, Post, Texas, 79356. All donations are tax deductible.

Homestead exemptions

Anyone who turns 65 in 2012, or has a birthday of 1947 or earlier, is eligible for the homestead exemption on their property taxes. Anyone with business personal property is required to file a rendition with the Garza Central Appraisal District. If a rendition is not filed, a 10-percent penalty will be added to the total tax. For information, contact the Garza Central Appraisal District at 495-3518 or visit 124 E. Main St., Post. Due date is April 16.

Fish fry

Holy Cross Catholic Church, 205 W. Main St., has begun its annual fish fry during the Lenten season. Dinner is served from 5 to 7 p.m. each Friday night. \$8 per plate. For information, call the church office at 806-495-2791.

FUMC praise service

First United Methodist Church, 216 W. 10th St., Post, has begun a new praise and worship service on Wednesdays. A meal will be served at 6:15 and the service will follow. Music, teaching and discussion as well as a time for prayer. For information, call the church at 990-2942.

State 4-H Roundup

The State 4-H Roundup will be June 11-15 at Texas Tech University. For information, call the Extension office at 806-495-4400.

Post Elementary School

Pre-k and kindergarten roundup for the 2012-2013 academic year will be at 5 p.m. April

2. For information on these events, contact the school at 806-495-3414.

Close City bingo

The annual Close City Community Bingo Night will be at 5 p.m. March 31 at the Garza County Showbarn. A concession stand will be available. Prizes will be given. For information, or to help out with the event, contact Traci Freeman at 49502753 or email close.city.coop@pcca.com.

Community bingo

The Post Area Chamber of Commerce will host a community bingo night at 6:30 p.m. April 5 at the Post Community Center, 113 W. Main St. For information, call the Chamber at 806-495-3461 or email chamberofcommerce@postcitytexas.com.

Grant-writing workshop

The Texas Leadership Institute will sponsor a grant-writing workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 17 at Heritage House, 109 N. Ave. N. The program will be hosted by the Caprock Cultural Association in conjunction with the Texas Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. Cost is \$129 and includes lunch. Register online at texasleadership.org.

4-H camp

4-H'ers interested in attending 4-H Camp are urged to contact the Extension office at 806-495-4400. Leadership Lab will be May 29-31 for ages 9-12 in Levelland; Electric Camp will be June 25-29 for ages 14-18 in Cloudercroft, N.M.; Golf Camp will be April 27-28 for ages 12-18 in College Station; Prime Time I will be July 2-25 for grades 5-8 at Lake Brownwood; Prime Time II will be July 25-28 for grades 25 at Lake Brownwood; Horizons will be July 3-7 for grades 4-8 at Lake Brownwood.

Water district plans meter installation workshop

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 will host a meter registration workshop April 10 for commercial water meter installers.

"This workshop is designed to assist commercial water meter installers who plan to register water meters for their customers," said Gerald Crenwelge, field data collection supervisor. "Instruction will be provided on use of the HPWD's new on-line meter registration program."

Two two-hour sessions will be offered beginning at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the A. Wayne Wyatt Board Room of the High Plains Water District office, 2930 Ave. Q, in Lubbock. There is no cost to attend. Each workshop is limited to 35 participants and will be handled

on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants must complete a registration form and return it to the HPWD office no later than March 31. The form may be requested by calling 806-762-0181 or may be downloaded as a PDF at hpwd.com.

Additional information about the workshop is available by contacting Crenwelge at 806-762-0181. Registration questions should be directed to Liz Casias at the same number.

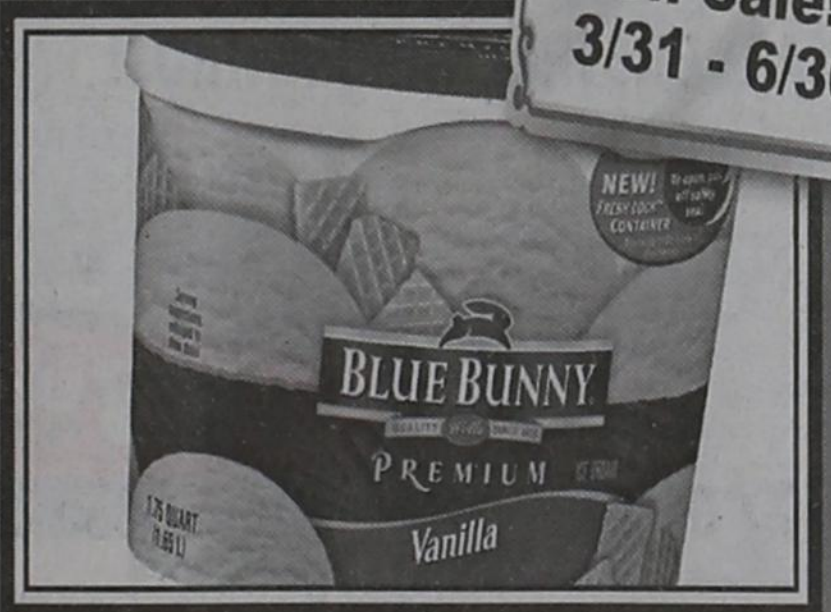
Created in 1951 by local residents and the state Legislature, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 is charged with the responsibility of conserving, preserving, protecting and preventing waste of groundwater within its 16-county service area.

Prices Good Thru 04/21/12

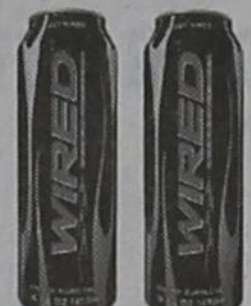


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Gatorade 20 oz.	99¢
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JACK LINK'S Beef Sticks
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COTTON FARMERS... continued from page 1

Ellis said he's taken the prediction to heart every year since the ceremony became publically revitalized and popularized.

"The ceremony has a nearly 96 percent accuracy rating," he said. "So I tend to think it's a pretty good indicator."

The Tabana Yuane ceremony is conducted at sunrise each year, two days after the first day of spring. Post resident Frank Runkles, affectionately known throughout the area as "Chief," revived the event in the mid-1970s, turning it into a community-wide ceremony attended by many farmers throughout the area.

Chief Runkles died March 19, 2002, three days before the annual event. He was laid to rest in Terrance Cemetery near Post just a few hours after Tabana Yuane that year.

The Tabana Yuane Clan, as they're known, carries on the tradition each year in his honor.

"During the ceremony each year, we pray to the spirits of each of the four winds — North, South, East and West," said Ken LeBlanc, who now heads the ceremony. "Each of the four wind spirits have different characteristics — good, bad, poor and fair. Depending on from which quadrant the wind is blowing we believe is indicative to the season's crop prediction."

Ellis said he and some of his peers throughout the years have even done their own ceremony by which they light a fire at dawn and tell by which way the smoke blows how good a cotton season it would be.

He said the prediction is highly regarded by old and young farmers alike, regardless of whether they're dry-land producers or have irrigated cotton.

"We dry-land farmers will use it to determine how much fertilizer we need to buy, and the farmers who have mostly irrigated cotton will use it

Three youths from Plainview, one from Lubbock and a juvenile all were arrested on drug charges early March 17 when the vehicle they were traveling in on U.S. 84 South for speeding.

According to Garza County sheriff's reports, a deputy stopped a blue 1991 Oldsmobile Alero for speeding at a rate faster than 35 miles more than the posted limit.

Jesse Jordan Mask, 18, of Lubbock, the driver of the vehicle, along with passengers Kendrick DeShaun Brown, 17, Nicholas Gomez, 20, and Jeremiah Guadalupe Gonzales, 18, all of Plainview, were arrested for possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.

They were taken to the Garza County jail, where they later each posted \$1,500 bonds and were released.

The juvenile was arrested and taken to the Garza County Youth Detention Center, where he remained until Monday, at which time he was released to the custody of his parents.

The Blotter

Four youths arrested for drug possession

According to reports, the deputy smelled a strong odor of suspected marijuana when he approached the vehicle and discovered a small amount in the front and back seats during a search. The youths said they were traveling to Dallas for a concert.

The vehicle was impounded.

Criminal mischief was reported March 14 in the 400 block of Avenue P. Deputies reported a vehicle had been egged while parked at a residence.

Criminal mischief was reported March 14 in the 700 block of Chantilly Lane. Deputies reported a car had been spray-painted with red paint while parked at a residence. According to the report, the owner of the vehicle had been out of town at the time of the incident.

A blue and silver Schwinn bicycle was reported missing March 14 in the 1000 block of Mesquite Place. No estimated value of the bike was listed.

A burglary of a vehicle

was reported about 12:12 a.m. March 16 at a business in the 200 block of South Broadway. No other information was available.

A gas drive-off was reported at Stripes about 8:25 p.m. March 16. Gas value was \$90.

A 24-year-old Austin man was arrested about 11:15 p.m. March 16 after the vehicle he was driving was reportedly speeding on U.S. 87. After deputies ran a license check, it was determined Jonathan Ray Johnson was wanted out of Travis County for assault with bodily injury under the Family Violence Act, a third-degree felony. He posted an \$8,000 bond and was released.

Deputies were dispatched to the 800 block of Avenue F near the Dalby Correctional Facility about 6:30 p.m. March 19 on a report of a pickup that was seen in the area with what appeared to be a shotgun hanging out the window. Deputies were able to locate the vehicle and it was determined the gun

was a paintball gun. No further action was taken.

A gas drive-off was reported at Stripes at some time March 20. Value was listed at \$51.57.

By Wayne Hodgin
The Post Dispatch

Legal Notice

The Board of Directors of the White River Municipal Water District does hereby adopt the following fine amounts to enforce the Rules, Regulations and Ordinances. These fines collected shall be payable to this District and shall be credited to its recreation fund under General Rules and Regulations adopted in 1979 Section 6. These fines apply to all Rules, Regulations and Ordinances adopted by the Board of Directors of the White River Municipal Water District. Any violation of the adopted Rules, Regulations and Ordinances will result in a ticket for said violation payable within 10 days of the offense. Copies of the Rules, Regulations and Ordinances are available at the Water District office during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

- First offense \$75
- Second offense \$150
- Third offense \$200

NEW AMENDED FINES EFFECTIVE APRIL 10, 2012

White River MWD
2880 FM 2794
Spur, TX 79370

COTTON FARMERS... continued on page 10

BURN BAN... continued from page 1

lifting the ban with the understanding that should the ongoing drought once again become a problem, the ban would be re-instated.

Monday's decision came on the heels of a proclamation by the governor's office only a couple of days before on March 23 that renewed the di-

saster declaration for counties, including Garza, that extended the wildfire emergency for 88 counties in West Texas.

Along with that proclamation, Gov. Rick Perry also renewed the proclamation extending drought emergency to 235 of the state's 254 counties, including Garza.

COUNTY CUTS... continued from page 1

local victims assistance office. The balance of the funding went to the crime victims themselves.

For fiscal year 2010-2011, Garza County commissioners funded the program 100 percent, Norman said. This fiscal year, a grant was received for about 60 percent of the cost of the program local crime victims assistance office this fiscal year was about \$56,000.

"It's a shame we won't be able to offer this program to our residents, but the sheriff has received no applications for assistance since the beginning of the fiscal year (October), so it's hard for us to justify that line

item in the budget when that money could be better utilized by other areas served by law enforcement," Norman said.

The crime victims assistant budget is maintained by the sheriff.

Judging by the letter the county received from the Texas Attorney General, Norman said, the state's economy also wreaked havoc on the funding that would be allocated to the Crime Victims Fund.

"There are some real changes being made at the state level because of the shortfall in the state budget," Norman said. "I hate that we're losing this program. It's been a good one

throughout the years.

"This may be a good time for our local churches to step up. We've got some really great people in this county that are always willing to help out their fellow neighbor."

In other business

Also on Monday, county commissioners approved a low bid from John Deere for a used 2008 770D motor grader to be used in Precinct 4. After trade-in, the cost of the maintainer would be \$125,000. Financing for the equipment was provided

COUNTY CUTS... continued on page 10

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SHARP IMAGE ENERGY, INC., [RRC Operator No. 770731] has made application for a spacing and density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 and 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37 and 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement of Rule 37, and the DENSITY requirement of Rule 38, for the RECOMPLETION permit in Sec. 20, Bk. 6, H&G N RR CO/JOHNSON, J E Survey, A-903, TOBE (MISS) and TOBE (STRAWN) Fields, GARZA County, being 1.5 miles E direction from JUSTICEBURG, Texas. PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted WITHOUT A HEARING if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848. IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Apr 12, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY. THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION. The location and identity of the well is as shown below: FIELD: TOBE (MISS) -----

--- Lease/Unit Name : EPPLER 20 Lease/Unit Well
No. : 1 Lease/Unit Acres : 40.0 Nearest Lease
Line (ft) : 235.0 Lease Lines : 655.0 F
W L, 235.0 F S L Survey Lines : 1975.0 F W
L, 235.0 F S L FIELD: TOBE (STRAWN) -----

-- Lease/Unit Name : EPPLER 20 Lease/Unit Well
No. : 1 Lease/Unit Acres : 40.0 Nearest Lease
Line (ft) : 235.0 Lease Lines : 655.0 F
W L, 235.0 F S L Survey Lines : 1975.0 F W L,
235.0 F S L Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit applica-
tion are as follows: TOBE (MISS) :
OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres. TOBE (STRAWN) :
OIL Special Rules 467/1320, 80.0
acres. This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of
8700 feet. If you have questions regarding this application,
please contact the Applicant's representative, Kyle Grant, at
(512)4783456.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

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PERSONAL

Post Group Alcoholics Anonymous 10th and Avenue K, behind United

Supermarket Tuesday nights 8 p.m. Open meetings Thursday night, 8 p.m. Closed Meetings For more info: 806-781-1156 or 806-495-5371 Monday, 8 p.m. Community Recovery Center, 405 S. Ave. C. For more information about the Monday meeting, call 495-3173.

Post Al-Anon Family Group. Community Recovery Center 405 S. Ave. C. Post, Tx. Mondays 7:00pm.

Golden Plains Care Center needing certified nurses aids - 4 day shift. Please call Roberta Clark 806-495-2848

FOR RENT/FOR SALE

Post City Lodge - Rooms for rent for \$150/week or \$500 a month - all Utilities included with Cable TV with HBO. Headboards for Sale @ Best Western - \$30 - Queen and \$40 - King. Call 806 495 9933

Casa Mobile 2011 16' deanchio tiene 3 Recamaras y 2 Danos \$255.51 por mes con \$1500 de entre. Llame a Rene a 800-630-3515 Fince \$29,900 e pague el hipico 91/2 240 meses con credito aprobado. RB11394

GARAGE SALE
Garage Sale - 716 W. 11th St. Saturday, March 31. 9 a.m. - ? No early callers.

HELP WANTED
McDonald's in Post is now hiring for all shifts. Apply online at mctexas.com/25155 or in person.

McDonald's in Post is hiring for a custodian/handy man. Apply in person. Wages commensurate with experience.

Nurses Unlimited Inc. is seeking enthusiastic attendants to assist clients in the

home with personal care, meal preparation and light housekeeping. P-t. E.O.E Call: 1-888-892-8512 (0330-0406)

Needed: Full-time RNs for 12-hour nights, RNs, are you looking for a slower pace? Are you tired of the busy, crazy days? Tahoka has the perfect fit, a small, rural hospital looking for experienced nurses. You will love working in our 24-bed hospital. We have an excellent nurse-to-patient ratio, a friendly medical staff, and we do not provide OB care. This position requires someone who is self-motivated and self-reliant with basic computer skills. We offer good benefits and a great retirement plan. Please submit applications to Melissa Shirley in Humor Resources. You can download the application online at lchdhealthcare.org or pick one up at the hospital. Lynn County Hospital District P.O. Box 1310, 2600 Lockwood Tahoka, Texas 79375

Now Accepting Applications

Post Housing Authority is now accepting applications

For information on qualifications, please call 495-2233

or come by office located at 709 Caprock Drive.

Office hours are 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon and 1:00PM - 5:00PM Monday - Friday

BASIC ENERGY SERVICES

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Levelland, TX
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Rental • Trucking - Winch,
Vac, Kill/ Pump

Julian Olivo - Area Superintendent (806) 598-1188
Bruno Zapata - Supervisor (806) 523-3942
Delfino - (806) 891-2894
Lucas - (806) 891-1048

West Texas Centers

Case Manager for Mental Health: Assists individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational and educational services. Requires Bachelors degree in Social Work field or Bachelor's with a minimum of 24 hours in psychology, sociology or other human service hours. Base salary \$14.71-\$15.72 per hour (\$30,588.00-\$32,700.00 annually) DOE, plus excellent benefit package. Four day work week is possible. Flexible schedule offered. Crisis on-call rotation required. Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty site.

Applications may be obtained at East 7th and Ave C by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769 or at www.wtcmhmr.org. EOE.

COTTON FARMERS.. continued from page 9

to determine how much water they'll need to use," Ellis said.

It goes without saying this past season was one of the worst for cotton producers — if not the worst — since the Dust Bowl era.

"Last year was the first year

I've ever seen farmers plow up irrigated cotton," Ellis said.

"It was devastating to see. The conditions were just too severe that irrigating the cotton was of no help whatsoever. It was just way too dry and way too windy."

Last year's crop prediction was average to poor.

Those predictions, however, can come back to haunt those who put too much stock into them.

"I remember back in '82, we were thrilled when the predic-

tion came out to be we would have a good year," he said.

"That year, we had a lot of rain, but a hail storm — also a form of precipitation, remember — ended up wiping many of us out. So a good year, doesn't necessarily mean cotton pro-

duction will be up."

Although Ellis does lend some weight to the old Comanche legend, he said there was one thing that will never change in the cotton industry: "That's the No. 1 fertilizer on the market — good ol' H2O."

COUNTY CUTS.. continued from page 9

through Citizens Bank. Three bids were received for the maintainer, the highest coming from Associated Supply Co. in Lubbock for a Volvo-made maintainer at a cost of \$142,900.

Commissioners also approved \$6,700 for the annual audit of the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility by Joe Hays CPA of Brownfield. The Hays firm also offered to conduct an audit of the inmate trust fund for an additional \$3,100. Both items were approved at a total cost of \$9,800 for the two audits.



(Far Left) Luis "Walking Wolf" Tijerina of Odessa, executive director of the Trans-Pecos American Indian Association, performs a ceremonial dance during the annual Tabana Yuane event at South Lake in Post. Tijerina is a member of the Comanche Nation of the Lords of the Southern Plains.

Zoe Kirkpatrick holds on to a bunch of sage as John Cory and Joe Gatton beat the ceremonial drums that played throughout the annual Tabana Yuane event March 22 at South Lake in Post.



Donna Taylor and Angela Baugh, both of Crosbyton, carry the medicine pipes that are to be used during the Tabana Yuane ceremony early March 22 at South Lake in Post.



Shirley and Ken LeBlanc start the fire early on the morning of March 22 prior to the annual Tabana Yuane ceremony near South Lake. According to Comanche legend, the direction of the wind at sunrise two days after the vernal equinox helps forecast the year to come.

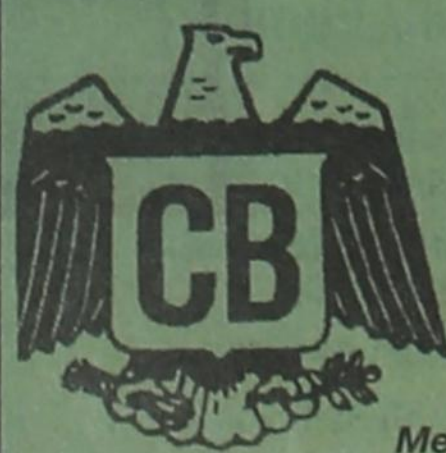


Photos by Wyane Hodgin/Post Dispatch Ken LeBlanc, also known by his Sioux name of Chapa Wo Wa Si, or "Working Beaver," carries a medicine pipe March 22 during the annual Tabana Yuane ceremony at South Lake in Post.

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COACH'S CORNER continued from page 5

"These things I wish for you — tough times and hard work, disappointment and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life.

"Written with a pen. We secure our friends not by accepting favors but by doing them."

When the going gets rough and the mind and body begin to experience pain, anguish and adversity, there always seems to be a less demanding alternative. It is much easier to play video game football than to get up, call your friends, go meet at a field, and actually physically play the game.

As parents it is often easier to just go buy that shirt or pair of shoes, than to take the time to make kids earn things. You have to stand over them, check their work, listen to their whining, and it takes time and energy to care enough to be that

involved in teaching a lesson.

To stick with it, to endure hardship, to pass up an easier way and choose a harder path requires the sacrifice of personal comfort and feelings; it requires a commitment to excellence. The greatest benefit of success is not recognition received, but the investment made and the satisfaction gained from previous sacrifices.

As the legendary football coach Vince Lombardi once said, "The quality of any man's life is a full measure of that man's personal commitment to excellence and to victory — regardless of what field of endeavor he may be in."

Steve Smith is athletic director for the Post Independent School District. Email him at stevesmith@postisd.net.