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The Post Dispatch

A Builder in Garza County



87th Year, Number 50 USPS 439-620 © 2012 The Post Dispatch Friday, August 3, 2012 12 Pages - 50¢

Two new arrows dedicated Post council snubs water board

By Wayne Hodgin
 The Post Dispatch

SPUR - Two new giant, steel arrows were dedicated this week along the Quanah Parker Trail in Dickens and Crosby counties.

Descendents of the legendary Comanche chief were on hand for both ceremonies in downtown Spur and Crosbyton on Tuesday.

The Quanah Parker Trail is a road trip guide compiled for the Texas Plains Trail region, a 52-county heritage tourism trail that takes in both the Panhandle and the Plains areas of Texas.

Parker was the son of Comanche chief Pete Nocona and Cynthia Ann Parker, a European American who had been kidnapped at the age of 9 and assimilated into the tribe.

"Quanah Parker's story stretches much, much further than just this geographical scope," said Hanaba Munn Welch, a spokeswoman for the Quanah Parker Trail project and also a contributor to The Post Dispatch. "His story is integral to the history and culture of the settlement of Texas and its transition from the American West. He just nearly single-handedly led his people

into the 20th century." Wednesday's arrow-dedication ceremonies follow about 20 other such events throughout the area during the past year, including two right here in Garza County.

Although it's hard to miss the 32-foot arrow standing guard at the entrance to the Terrace Cemetery east of Post, the other arrow is placed at the Garza County Museum.

In addition to the arrow in Spur, an exhibit on the life of Parker was unveiled for permanent inspection at the Dairy Queen in Spur.

Descendents of Parker's family were on hand for Wednesday's dedications to conduct an ancient blessing on the arrows with cedar smoke. The ashes from the burned wood were then buried under the arrows.

Holle Humphries of Texas Tech, a historian for Texas Plains Trails Region, said the Quanah Parker Trail honors landmarks, sites, events and artifacts that link our region to the Native Americans who last roamed the Texas Panhandle Plains.

"The giant arrows create a physical marker to provide an incentive for travelers, tourists, scholars, educators, and



Photo by Barbara Bogart/Special to the Dispatch
 Paul Davis, Glen Leming and Tim Parker, descendents of Quanah Parker, bless a giant arrow with cedar smoke in a traditional ceremony Tuesday in downtown Spur. The arrow is one of several in the area that mark the Quanah Parker Trail.

students to find and discover," Humphries said. "Most significantly, the arrows provide a physical reminder of the now-vanished nomadic Native Americans who once roamed free in the vast area of the

Texas Plains Trail region. As the last stronghold of the free Comanche, the arrows serve to remind all that our region is unique for being the last frontier of the 48 contiguous states in America."

Some members say district was bullying officials into decision-making

By Wayne Hodgin
 The Post Dispatch

The Post City Council sent a strong, albeit divisive, message Monday to members of the White River Municipal Water District board of directors ¼ leave the governing to us.

In a 3-2 vote, members of the Post City Council failed to pass a resolution that would have placed all residents and businesses within the city limits into more stringent water conservation requirements, as was being pressed by water authorities.

In doing so, however, the city also thumbed its nose at a \$350,000 federal grant that would have gone into a proverbial pot of about \$2.5 million for which the district was eligible under the state's drought disaster relief program.

City Manager Arbie Taylor said he felt the council sent a

clear message to members of the district's water board ¼ "We will not be bullied into making a decision."

During last month's regular meeting of the White River Municipal Water District board of directors, members were informed the district was eligible for the nearly \$2.5 million grant if it were to move up a rung on its drought contingency plan. But its member cities also would have to agree to increase their individual drought statuses.

The move came about a month after the district and its member cities voted to move from Stage 1 to Stage 2 in the district's drought contingency plan.

The water board, which is made up of three appointed representatives each from its member cities, voted unanimously at last month's meet-

COUNCIL...
 continued on page 6



Special to the Dispatch

Garza County veterinarian Dr. Kerry Wink examines one of the seized horses from property near Southland. Garza County sheriff's officials are investigating the incident.

Sheriff seizes neglected horses near Southland

By Wayne Hodgin
 The Post Dispatch

Garza County sheriff's deputies continue to investigate a case in which six horses were recently seized from property near Southland.

Chief Deputy Tommy Binford said criminal charges against the owner of the horses were pending with the county attorney's office.

Binford did not release the name of the man, who he said lived in Idalou, because the criminal investigation is ongoing.

No arrests have been made.

Binford said deputies were called July 8 to a location at a former feedlot near Southland on a report of dead cows.

When deputies arrived, no

dead cows were found but deputies did report a number of malnourished horses on site.

Binford said sheriff's officials took immediate action to begin the search and seizure of the horses.

Last Wednesday, according to court documents, custody of the horses — all of which

SEIZE...
 continued on page 9

City remains in Stage 2 drought status

Latest ordeal could throw contract back to the drawing board

By Wayne Hodgin
 The Post Dispatch

Post city officials reiterated Tuesday the water district's decision to move to Stage 3 in its drought contin-

gency plan is nonbinding on the city.

City Manager Arbie Taylor said until further notice, Post remains in Stage 2, which asks residents to continue to abide by an even-odd watering schedule.

NEED GUIDELINES HERE.

The water district and its

entities, which include the cities of Post, Crosbyton, Ralls and Spur, continue to operate under a contract negotiated years ago that dictates the district's decisions will be nonbinding on member cities.

So, in effect, the district's decision to move to Stage 3 of its drought contingency

McKnight stumbles in last-minute tallies

Springer will be area's next state representative

By Wayne Hodgin
 The Post Dispatch

The GOP runoff for House District 68 was neck and neck right up to the end Tuesday night.

In the end, Throckmorton rancher Trent McKnight — who going into the race was considered a shoo-in for the

MCKNIGHT STUMBLES...
 continued on page 9



DREW SPRINGER



TRENT MCKNIGHT

Rain Totals

City of Post
 July 26: zero
 July 27: zero
 July 28: zero
 July 29: zero
 July 30: zero
 July 31: zero
 Aug. 1: zero

Month to date: 0.55 inches
 Year to date: 15.32 inches
 Normal: 12.82 inches

Lake Alan Henry
 July 26: trace
 July 27: zero
 July 28: zero

July 29: zero
 July 30: zero
 July 31: zero
 Aug. 1: zero
 Month to date: 1.3 inches
 Year to date: 19.53 inches
 Normal: 21.57 inches

White River Lake
 July 26: 0.20 inches
 July 27: trace
 July 28: trace
 July 29: zero
 July 30: zero
 July 31: zero
 Aug. 1: zero

Month to date: 0.73 inches
 Year to date: 20.71 inches
 Normal: 13.54 inches

Source: National Weather Service, Lubbock.

Cook granddaughters visit Museum

Photo by Linda Puckett
In 1949, Mr. and Mrs. O.R. Cook were guests of honor at the Post Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Mrs. Cook's claim to fame was that 11 of her children graduated from Texas Tech University, two of which were there at Tech when it opened its doors to students in 1925. For the next two decades there were two or three Cooks enrolled at the university at any given time. This week, five of Mrs. Cook's granddaughters came to the Garza County Historical Museum, including Charlotte Cook Morse of Richmond, Va., Evelyn Cook Walsh of Purcellville, Va., Carolyn Cook Cummings of Cleveland, Ohio, Sandy Cook Sweeten of Gilbert Ariz., and Suzzan Nutting of Midland.



Edwards, Danford to wed



James Danford and Christa Jo James

Stacey Edwards of Fort Worth announces the engagement of her daughter Christa Jo to James Danford, son of Brian Danford of Fort Worth and Kelley Danford of North Richland Hills.

Grandparents of the bride to be are Chris and JoAnn Stelzer of Post and Claudine Edwards of Lubbock. Her great-grandmother is Margaret Edwards of Slaton.

Grandparents of the groom are Bill and Margaret Danford of Haltom City and Bill and Pauline Noonan of Fort Worth.

Edwards graduated cum laude from Texas Tech Uni-

versity in 2011 with a degree in early childhood education. She was president and a member of the Kappa Delta sorority. She lives in Washington, D.C., and works for a U.S. congressman.

Danford graduated cum laude from Texas Tech University in 2011 with a degree in political science. He was a member of the Farm House fraternity. He also lives in Washington, D.C., and works for the U.S. Congress.

The couple plans an Aug. 25 wedding at the Kent Hance Chapel on the Texas Tech campus. They plan to live in Washington, D.C.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

City remains in Stage 2

Recently, our water supplier, the White River Water District, voted to implement Stage 3 of their drought contingency plan beginning Aug. 1.

Stage 3 was one of the requirements for the district and the member cities to qualify for an emergency assistance grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture. The members of the district were asked to apply for grants in the amount of \$350,000 each and donate those funds to the district to assist them in rehabilitating existing wells and drilling new wells.

Stage 3 of the drought contingency plan was then set to begin on Aug. 1 for all of the cities who wished to apply for the grant funds. A special called meeting of the Post City Council was held Monday, July 30, and the resolution needed to apply for the funds was voted down after a lengthy discussion with members of the District and the South Plains Association of Governments.

Therefore, due to the vote of the Council, the city of Post will not be applying for the grant funds, and is there-

fore not obligated to enter into Stage 3 of the drought contingency plan. As a result, Stage 2 restrictions will remain in effect until further action is taken by your City Council.

We are all painfully aware of the fact that our water supplies are in danger, and every conservation method that each of us can implement will help us all in the long term. And, if the drought continues, the Council may still act and initiate Stage 3.

We are sorry for all of the confusion and miscommunication in this matter. The city staff and council, as well as our citizens, were caught unaware by the suddenness of the district's action.

For this we apologize. We encourage everyone to be conscience of their water usage and to conserve water at all times.

A list of the Stage 2 requirements is available at City Hall, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call City Hall at 495-2811.

ARBIE TAYLOR
Post City Manager

Electric demand sets new July record

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — Electric demand on the Electric Reliability Council of Texas grid peaked at 65,790 megawatts Tuesday, setting a new July record.

The previous July record of 65,432 MW occurred July 27, 2011, during the hottest summer on record. One MW can power about 200 Texas homes during peak demand periods, typically hot summer days like this one, and about 500 homes during milder seasons.

Although there was sufficient generation to serve the electric use and other new records set in June, ERCOT reminds consumers to use power wisely. Conservation is especially important during peak use hours of 3 to 7 p.m. on hot summer days.

Temperatures surpassed 100 degrees in several cities this week, and most areas within the ERCOT region expect even higher tempera-

tures for the remainder of the week.

To keep up with grid conditions, download the ERCOT Energy Saver free mobile app for iPhones and Android devices.

When conservation is needed most, ERCOT also will provide information through the news media, Facebook, Twitter (@ERCOT_ISO) and its subscription-based emergency alerts list (lists.ercot.com).

A few key steps consumers can take to reduce demand on the grid during peak demand hours include: Turn the thermostat up by two or three degrees in the late afternoon. Set pool pumps to run late at night or early in the morning. Postpone chores that require the use of large appliances until later in the evening.

For more conservation tips, check the ERCOT Energy Saver app or visit the Public Utility Commission of Texas website.

Oil-drilling permits up statewide

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN - The Texas average rig count as of July 20 was 899, representing about 48 percent of all active land rigs in the United States. In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 451 million barrels of oil and 7.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The Railroad Commission's estimated final production for May 2012 is 46,141,297 barrels of crude oil and 540,191,926 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The Commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary May 2012 production totals of 38,960,818 barrels of crude oil and 460,443,169 Mcf of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.1843 for crude oil and 1.1732 for gas well gas. These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.

Texas natural gas storage reported to the Commission for June 2012 was 397,791,208 Mcf compared to 394,643,580 Mcf in June 2011. The July 2012 gas storage estimate is 399,490,097 Mcf.

The Texas Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Divi-

sion set initial August 2012 natural gas production allowances for prorated fields in the state to meet market demand of 9,975,562 Mcf (thousand cubic feet). In setting the initial August 2012 allowances, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers' demand forecasts for the coming month, and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowances will be adjusted after actual production for August 2012 is reported.

TEXAS MONTHLY OIL AND GAS STATISTICS

JUNE PERMITS TO DRILL

The Commission issued a total of 2,183 original drilling permits in June 2012 compared to 1,952 in June 2011. The June total included 1,986 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 48 to re-enter existing well bores, and 149 for re-completions. Permits issued in June 2012 included 602 oil, 166 gas, 1,326 oil and gas, 64 injection, one service and 24 other permits.

MAY CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION... continued on page 8

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Post Dispatch welcomes letters from readers on topics of local, state, national and international importance. Email letters are preferred to thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com. All letters must include a first and last name, street address (no post office boxes), daytime phone number. Letters sent via U.S. mail may be sent to P.O. Box 426, Post, TX 79356.)

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Now Accepting Applications

Post Housing Authority is now accepting applications for 2- and 3-bedrooms apartments.

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

Downtown Merchants Association

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Entry Fee

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Books Open Monday, August 6th - 8:00 a.m. for Jr. Flag Race & Mutton Bustin'. Call 495-2501

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on page 8

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Post Notes

Events are listed free of charge for nonprofit civic organizations, schools and community events. Submit listings at least two weeks ahead of the date. Listings will run through the date of the event. Emailed submissions are preferred to the-postcitydispatch@gmail.com.

4-H enrollment

Enrollment for the 2012-2013 4-H year will begin Aug. 15 on 4-H Connect. Those interested are asked to contact the Extension Office at 495-4400 for information. Current members must re-enroll at 4-H Connect. Registration will continue through Oct. 31.

Summer splash

The Community Recovery Center will have its annual End-of-Summer Splash Party from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the city pool. The event is free and open to the public, however, a "Red Ribbon" must be obtained prior to the event. Red ribbons may be obtained at the CRC, 405 S. Ave. C, at the Old Mill building. Children younger than 12 will require parental supervision. Individuals or organizations wishing to assist in sponsoring or sup-

porting the event are encouraged to contact Chris Atkinson at 495-3173 or at chris.atkinson@garzaco.com.

Anger management

The Community Recovery Center, 405 S. Ave. C., is registering for an Aug. 8 anger-management class. Those interested should contact Chris Atkinson or Merika Strivens at 495-3173 for information.

Fair entries

Anyone who wishes to have entries in the South Plains Fair are encouraged to due so before 5 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Garza County Extension Office. For information, call 495-4400.

Goat/lamb validations

Tag orders are due in the Garza County Extension Office no later than 5 p.m. Aug. 22. For information, call 495-4400.

Graham Ole Opry

Events are canceled for the months of July and August. Next event will be Sept. 22.

Trailblazers fundy

The fourth annual Howdy Y'all Day will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 11

at the Garza County Trailblazers senior citizens center, 205 E. 10th St., Post. Hamburger plates with all the trimmings, including drink, dessert and chips will be sold for \$7. Raffle tickets also are being sold for a big-screen television with Blu-ray home theater system. Cost is six for \$5 or \$1 each. All welcome.

Post Elementary

Summer office hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Preregistration for the 2012-2013 school year is still open. If your student attended this year they are automatically pre-enrolled for next year. Any child who will be 4 or before Sept. 1 is eligible for a full-day prekindergarten program. Stop by the school office or call 495-3414 for information.

Parkinson's support

The West Texas Parkinsonism Society meets at noon the first Tuesday of each month in the library at the Covenant Neuroscience Institute, 3610 22nd St., Lubbock. Lunch provided.

Donations needed

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

In and Around Close City by Traci Freeman

Can you say H-O-T? Wow! The older I get, the more I dislike the summer months. However, we have to have the heat for the cotton, but we also need the rain for it; keep those rain prayers a-going!

Natilee Grace Ellis made her debut last Friday morning at 6 pounds 10 ounces and 20 inches long. Natilee is welcomed home by brother T.J. and sister Emily. Natilee even cam to Close City to visit us Tuesday. T.J., Emily and Natilee are the children of Tad and Rhianna Ellis and the grandchildren of Jim and Nedra Ellis and Lois Childs. Congratulations to you all!

Also congratulations to Kristie Wink on finding the "hidden treasure" during the KCBD community coverage tour. I was so close!

Visitors

Tad and Emily came and sit with us a spell. Y'all come on out and see us sometime. We'll learn you a thing or two!

We have ordered another round of T-shirts. T time we have ordered several really fun colors. We'll let y'all know when they come in.

Quote of the week: "Momma always told me, two wrongs don't make a right."

Did you know: Apples are more effective at waking you up in the morning than coffee.

Close City Birthdays

August 5th - Angel Nelson

August 7th - Brooke Morris, Arlie Nelson

August 9th - Laveta Norman

There are those that are ill and could really use our prayers. Be sure and keep those in need as well as our crops and rain in your daily prayers.

Ragtown folks in the nursing homes we need to remember are: Claudine Tipton; Carmen Abraham; Mary Gayle Young, Velma Long Brown in Post; Jean Tipton in San Angelo; Jewel White in Lubbock. Others are, Mack Ledbetter in Slaton; John and Mary Gist in Lubbock in Lubbock. Please let me know if there is anyone I need to add to this list.

Everyone have a great week. Keep rain, the crops and our country in your daily prayers. See ya next week!

Traci Freeman is a resident of the Close City community. Email her at close.city.coop@pcca.com.



Photo submitted by Traci Freeman

Vibes, owned by Kim and Rhonda Norman, celebrated its 20-year anniversary on July 20. Rhonda Norman first began teaching aerobics in 1985 at the old mill and opened Vibes in 1992. Those enjoying the recent celebration were: (back row) Raegan Belongia, DeSanne Fluitt, Tye Basquez, Misty Day; (front row) Shane Frankel, Jordan Wright, Rhonda Norman, Jordan Storie, Kalyn Norman and Steffi Scott. Those not pictured are, Traci Freeman, Kathy Hamlin, Kelly Waters, McClain Hall, Trudy Basquez, Jenny Dissinger, Jody Williams, Dana Holly and Allisha Jones.

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Will be selling Chili Relleno and Gordita Plates from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, at the church. Plates cost \$7 and come with rice and beans.

Holy Cross Catholic Church
205 W. Main St., Post

Thank You

The McKinney family would like to take this time to express our appreciation of your condolences and support shown to us during our time of need to the loss of our loved one.

What Menu?

Read Luke 11: 9-13

To [the One] who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine . . . to him be glory.

“What are our chances of ordering something that is not on the menu?” As I finished speaking, the expression on the server’s face said, “Are you kidding me? You want to order something that is not on the menu?” He looked at me as if it were clear I could not honestly expect that.

But I was serious. I asked him to check, and I was able to order something that was not on the menu. The cook had

no problem preparing it, and I paid a fair price.

When we pray, we can pray knowing that God does not answer only the prayers that are “on the menu.” We see our situation and think about what we want from the Lord. We may pray with specific answers in mind, limiting the Lord to a “menu.” We forget the words of Jesus, “With God all things are possible!” (Matt. 19:26)

- Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

Jesus taught that we can ask God for anything (John 14:13-14). However, while making our requests known to God is right, we can remember that God is able to answer our prayers in ways we never thought about. We restrict our prayer life when we ask God for answers so specific that we close our eyes to some other response.

Jonathan Ibarra (Texas, USA)

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Church Directory

<p>Assembly of God Bethel Assembly of God (Bi-Lingual)- 407 May street Lifeline Church- 108 N. Broadway</p> <p>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 Pleasant Valley Baptist Church- Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174 Southland Baptist Church- Southland Temple Bautista- 315 W. Main Trinity Baptist Church- 915 N. Ave O, 990-3038</p> <p>Catholic Holy Cross Catholic Church- Ave K and Main Street- 495-2791</p>	<p>Church of Christ Church of Christ- 108 N. Ave M 495-2326 Graham Chapel Church of Christ- 15th & Ave S</p> <p>Church of God Church of God of Prophecy- 602 W. 14th, 495-3644 Power House Church of God and Christ, Pine Avenue</p> <p>Disciples of Christ First Christian Church- 812 W. 13th, 495-3716</p> <p>Evangelical Methodist Faith Chapel- 1105 Green Street, Wilson (806) 628-0018</p> <p>Methodist First United Methodist Church- 216 W. 10th, 990-2942</p> <p>Nazarene Post Church of Nazarene- 202 W. 10th, 495-3044 Grassland Church of Nazarene- 327-5656</p> <p>Presbyterian First Presbyterian Church- 910 W. 10th, 495-2135</p>
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COLUMNS



The Paperboy

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

Football players for local high schools will be reporting for fall practice soon. I know many of you are excited to kick off the season as hope springs eternal before the season starts.

Why do we like football so much? What is there about getting that ball over the goal line that fires us up?

Some fans like football because of the strategy involved. Football is chess with humans. You position your players trying to catch your opponent off guard for a big play.

Some fans like football because it is violent. We like it when our team lines up and owns the line of scrimmage. There is nothing like a big hit!

Some fans like the action. Watching a running back break off a touchdown run of 80 yards is very exciting.

Some fans love the drama. Let's face it, fourth-and-goal, fourth quarter, down by four with 15 seconds left - it doesn't get any better.

My favorite high school teams are:

- 2A Div. I - Childress
- 2A Div. II - Floydada and Post

1A Div. I - Lockney and Memphis

1A Div. II - Wellington

Oklahoma Class A - Hollis

Of course, there are obvious reasons I like the teams above. I have been to games in each of these towns, and I love the traditions and pageantry.

I sincerely hope each team makes the playoffs and plays into December.

Last year, Childress, Memphis, Hollis and Wellington all made the playoffs. Childress, Memphis and Hollis went a couple of rounds while the Wellington Skyrockets made it to the Texas state semifinals.

One of my favorite things about high school football is the rivalry. Several teams mentioned above are rivals.

Hollis often plays Wellington and Memphis.

Wellington and Memphis are fierce rivals.

Childress is rivals with both Memphis and Wellington, but the Bobcats haven't faced the Cyclones in a couple of decades. The Bobcats and Skyrockets renewed their rivalry in 2010 and have split the last two years. They will face off again to open the 2012 season.

Floydada and Lockney - well those towns are huge rivals. It's one of those games where records absolutely do not matter. The bragging rights run thick.

I remember being in high school in the 1980s and the Post Bold Gold Antelopes were one of the top teams in the state. They were loaded, and the area was pumped for a title run!

According to the preseason literature I've read, Wellington, Memphis, Childress and Hollis are all playoff contend-

ers. I hope the prognosticators are right!

As for Post, Lockney and Floydada, I hope they shock their respective districts and make the playoffs.

Maybe the most intriguing thing about a playoff run is the excitement it causes in the town. When the local team is good, the bandwagon tends to get pretty full.

There is not another sport in high school that brings so many together for a common purpose. Coaches, players, band, cheerleaders, spirit squads and parents - high school football is a huge production and it takes plenty of hard work to pull it off.

When I think of high school football, I think of the unsung as well. I think of moms and dads working concession stands to raise funds. I also think of parents staying up late to get the field ready for Friday night.

Indeed, fun times are just around the corner. This year, it would be nice to see the stadium packed from the onset. I encourage you to get out and support your local team.

The feeling the players and band get when they see the stands full makes a difference. Besides, what else do we have to do on a Friday night?

Christopher Blackburn is publisher and CEO of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication.



The 501

by Hanaba Munn Welch



A Carrot by Another Name

A verse from my childhood has always guided my carrot-peeling philosophy:

Vitamin lies close to the skin;

Pigs get fat and we stay thin.

So, I've never peeled carrots. Why lose all the good stuff? Now Heloise, household expert in newsprint, has debunked that little rhyme, not that "we stay thin" ever rang quite true.

The new rule of thumb is that the skin isn't loaded with vitamins and - brace yourselves - the carrots release more vitamin A when cooked than when left raw. So should we drink the juice we cook them in? Heloise didn't say, but I always feel guilty about pouring any sort of vegetable stock down the drain - even juice from cooked potatoes, which is good for making unhealthy gravy and sauces.

Ah guilt. You're everywhere.

If my husband and I were raising children, instead of entertaining grandchildren every few days, would I be compelled to buy all the higher-priced organic stuff?

Incidentally, organic carrots can go unpeeled - one more reason to spend the

extra money for humanely grown veggies as opposed to the cheap inorganic kind we eat at our house. Oh well.

Do we fret too much? My friend Karen, who was once such a food worrier that she substituted carob for chocolate in her brownie recipe, joined the Missionary Sisters of Charity, Mother Teresa's order. (Karen didn't do things halfway.) When she suddenly found herself alongside novitiates from poverty-stricken countries, she learned the only standard that mattered to them was edibility. Food is food. Karen learned to eat donuts.

I'd like to have one right now myself, but I've sworn off fat, sort of. Neither a French fry nor a pastry has crossed my lips in three weeks. Not that I've given up half-and-half in my coffee or chocolate. Here's to a balanced diet - good and bad.

As long as we're toasting, raise your Sonic Route 44 whatever to the New York City mayor for proposing a ban on giant fast-food soft drinks.

OK, philosophically it's hard for me to think government, municipal or otherwise, has the right to do something

like that. But since I've never understood how anybody could drink that much anyway or why they'd want to, I'm with Mayor Bloomberg. If he wanted to go after the cream in my coffee instead, I might get on my personal freedom high horse and protest. But he hasn't.

Hmmm. It's probably the sale of over-sized high-profit soft drinks that keeps food prices low at fast-food joints. OK, I'm changing my mind. Here's to keeping cheap food cheap, whatever it takes.

Back to carrots. You don't have to peel the baby ones either. They're already peeled. Just be aware they aren't babies.

Nope. Carrots don't start out lozenge-shaped and then grow into pointy things with green tops. Those fake babies are the carrot industry's way of dealing with big ugly overgrown carrots. My theory. They cut them into cute baby sizes and charge us more.

Caveat carrot emptor; You don't get what you pay for.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a regular columnist and contributor to the Post Dispatch. Email her at hanaba.quannah@gmail.com.

Herbs can be grown in the most formal or informal places

By Nancy McDonald

Special to the Dispatch

(Editor's note: The following column is one in a series by the author on growing your own herbs.)

Ground-hugging thyme is a perfect choice for planting between the rocks in a flagstone walk. Nasturtiums and chives add outstanding floral color to a garden, as well as making attractive cut flowers. The purple-leaf variety of basil is an eye-catching accent in any location.

Herbs can be laid out in a very formal or an extremely informal design or anywhere in between. The choice is entirely up to your personal view regarding what will fit best with adjacent garden spaces.

When planning a vegetable garden that includes herbs, the same basic rules of good design apply as when designing any other garden. Tall plants should be located at the rear of side beds, plants of intermediate height in the middle of the bed, and low-growing plants at the front. This way they'll all obtain a maximum

share of the available light. In central beds, the tallest plants can be located in the center of the bed, the shortest plants around the outer edge, and the intermediate heights between the two.

For more information call 806-495-4400.

Grilled Marinated Shrimp

Ingredients

- 1 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 2 tablespoons hot pepper sauce

- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper

- 2 pounds large shrimp, peeled and deveined with tails attached
- skewers

Directions

1. In a mixing bowl, mix together olive oil, parsley, lemon juice, hot sauce, garlic, tomato paste, oregano, salt, and black pepper.



Nancy McDonald

Reserve a small amount for basting later. Pour remaining marinade into a large plastic bag with shrimp. Seal, and marinate in the refrigerator for 2 hours.

2. Preheat grill for medium-low heat. Thread shrimp onto skewers, piercing once near the tail and once near the head. Discard marinade.

3. Lightly oil grill grate. Cook shrimp for 5 minutes per side, or until opaque, basting frequently with reserved marinade.

Nancy McDonald is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Garza County.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15							16	
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51	52	53				54			55	56		
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60						61				62		
63						64					65	

- 1. "Check this out!"
- 5. ___ and groom
- 10. Antares, for one
- 14. A chip, maybe
- 15. Wiccan advice(pl.)
- 16. Formal surrender
- 17. Equip with better weapons
- 19. Command to a dog
- 20. Angler's gear
- 21. ___ grass
- 22. ___ Bono
- 23. "To ___ is human ..."
- 24. Greek myth nymph who became Ursa Major
- 27. Battery contents
- 28. Rich sweet bread
- 32. Pertaining to a baptismal basin
- 35. Salt or ester of octadecanoic acid
- 36. Not much (2 wds)
- 37. Clear, as a disk
- 39. Sonata, e.g.
- 40. Hound characteristic
- 42. Drooping upper eyelid
- 44. Sheds with single-pitch roofs
- 45. Matter prior to the Big Bang
- 46. Orchestral composition based on literature (2 wds)
- 48. "Acid"
- 51. Money substitute
- 54. Toni Morrison's "___ Baby"
- 55. Chatter
- 57. Assortment
- 58. Morphological
- 60. Sometime today, say
- 61. Accused's need
- 62. "... there is no ___ angel but Love": Shakespeare
- 63. Chooses, with "for"
- 64. Tablelands
- 65. ___ souci

PUZZLE SOLUTION

S	N	V	S	S	V	S	E	M	S	L	P	O
T	I	V	E	I	B	I	L	N	O	O	S	
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- 1. Analyze, in a way
- 2. Contemptuous look
- 3. Flight segment
- 4. Beach bird
- 5. Car accessory
- 6. Cast again
- 7. Archetype
- 8. DDS and DMD
- 9. "C' ___ la vie!"
- 10. Teacher domain
- 11. Freshman, probably
- 12. Gulf of ___, off the coast of Yemen
- 13. Bank
- 18. Big drawer?
- 22. Ancient colonnade
- 25. Hinged flap on an airplane wing
- 26. Spire

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 Johnny Carson

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ

BTKRGYIGX KTIAW MJIM TAXRAT

GIA EYRL QH MR CT HYTWZBTAM

IAB TAXRAT LJR BRTWA MEYRL

QH GIA CT NZGT HYTWZBTAM

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Cryptogram Solution on page 7

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COUNCIL...
continued from page 1

member cities, voted unanimously at last month's meeting to move from Stage 2 to Stage 3 based on a report from a Longview-based engineering firm that stated White River Lake could run dry if no significant precipitation were to fall in the next 180 days.

That 180-day window, said Tom Fulton, general manager of the White River MWD plant and executive director of the board, opened the district up to receive state aid, which only could be used for helping the district increase water capacity to those member cities.

Last week, Fulton and a representative each from the South Plains Association of Governments, which would be overseeing the grant application process, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality were on hand at a town-hall meeting that allowed members of the Garza County community to ask questions and seek answers to the drought issue and the water authority's plans.

It was said in that public meeting the state originally had designated about \$3 million to specifically help cities and counties across the state combat the drought situation. The money would come from the same state fund that is distributed after hurricane, tornado and wildfire disasters are declared in certain areas.

One official with the South Plains Association of Governments who attended that meeting said the district's collective application for aid would virtually "wipe out the entire fund," an issue that didn't seem to sit too well with some Post City residents and officials.

While even at this drought's peak, which by all accounts occurred last summer, the district remained in Stage 1 of its drought

contingency plan. Even four years ago, when White River Lake was at its lowest-ever recording, the district remained in Stage 1.

Councilman Les Looney noted there are probably other areas of the state currently worse off than White River and who might need that money more.

Monday's meeting

At Monday's City Council meeting, Mayor Thressa Harp seemed to push strongly for approving the resolution.

"I've always been of the opinion when it comes to water that we need to be regionally minded," she said. "What we do here tonight will affect other people, not just our own residents."

Harp pointed out the city of Dickens, which isn't a district member but which has benefited from the benevolence of the White River district. A few weeks ago, Dickens city officials reached out to the district for help when its groundwater wells $\frac{3}{4}$ the city's only source of water ran dry.

The district and its members stepped up and agreed to sell Dickens water. The city has since benefited from some of that state drought disaster money.

South Plains Association of Governments spokeswoman Elena Quintanilla, who was at Monday's meeting, told council members the state is anticipating Post's decision because it's the largest entity in the district.

"The decision you make tonight will weigh heavily on the state's decision on whether this grant application will go through," Quintanilla said. "They'll be looking at you to lead the way."

After questioning from some council mem-

bers, including Anita Morris and Mark Short, Quintanilla said the grant wasn't necessarily guaranteed even if Post and the other entities were on board $\frac{3}{4}$ a sticking point with Councilman Short.

"So we're having to put all this pressure and water-conservation requirements on our residents and we aren't being guaranteed the funding?" Short asked.

"No," Quintanilla finally admitted after repeated attempts for clarification.

Another issue for some council members was how the money was specifically to be used to increase water capacity.

Fulton, the water district's general manager, explained to council members that district officials were currently seeking $\frac{3}{4}$ but not yet attained $\frac{3}{4}$ alternative well fields to drill for water while sidestepping questions that the current well field near Crosbyton didn't contain enough water to serve as an adequate secondary water source.

Post, however, has been diligent the last several years in seeking out secondary sources of water, much to the chagrin of water district officials who believe White River should be member cities' only choice.

City officials have a contract with Slaton to buy water and are also in the process of drilling for groundwater in an area around Southland.

"We have other options," Mayor Harp reiterated in her attempts to convince council members to vote for the resolution. "Others don't."

There also seemed to be some contention on whether the city was eligible for the money at all.

City Manager Taylor had earlier said the

city's unencumbered $\frac{3}{4}$ or rainy day $\frac{3}{4}$ funds were at a high enough amount that probably would make it ineligible for any funding to begin with. It was reported those funds to be in excess of \$1.1 million.

"But if it looks bad for us not to go ahead and apply, it might be beneficial for everyone else if we did so," Taylor told council members, expressing a different viewpoint for them to consider.

After discussion ended about an hour and a half after the meeting began, Mayor Harp called for any motions. Councilwoman Morris made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Councilwoman Pixie Grisham.

The vote initially looked as if it would be a split vote, with Harp breaking the tie. However, a third nay vote came from the audience, where Councilwoman Melba Cimental was sitting because she was ill. Her nay vote was joined by Councilmen Short and Looney, which brought the decision to 3-2.

SPAG's Quintanilla said Tuesday the application would move forward without Post's participation.

The cities of Crosbyton, Ralls and Spur, according to each of those cities' officials, and officials with Crosby and Dickens counties, all passed similar resolutions. Those entities join Garza County, whose commissioners voted 2-1 last week to approve the resolution.

The grant will now make the district eligible for up to \$2.1 million.

However, that money still is not guaranteed.

"Now we just wait and see what the state decides to do," Quintanilla said.

DROUGHT...
continued from page 1

decision to move to Stage 3 of its drought contingency plan does not automatically mean the cities of Post, Crosbyton, Ralls and Spur also must move to Stage 3.

"The city of Post remains in Stage 2 drought status," Taylor emphatically stated Tuesday afternoon. "Our City Council must vote to move to Stage 3, and they have not done that."

The municipalities and the water board have been

working diligently over the last several months on hammering out a new contract to carry them through the next 40 years.

A number of snags, however, continue to hang up the process not the least of which has been the issue that's cropped us over the last week of the new contract stating the cities would abide by the district's policies and decisions.

"I would expect this latest round with the water district

will, once again, throw those talks into jeopardy," Taylor said. "I would expect now the cities $\frac{3}{4}$ at least Post $\frac{3}{4}$ will not want a clause in that contract that tells them what they're going to do and not do, especially when members of that board are appointed not elected."

The Post City Council is next expected to meet in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 14 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

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Post Jackalopes track and field results

July 14, 2012
TAAF Region 9 meet

13 and older division

Chance Courtney (14U)
Second place in 200-meter at 31.55 seconds.

Third place in 400-meter at 1:12.62 minutes.

Third place in discus at 77.9 feet.

Brooklyn Courtney (14U)

Fourth place in 200-meter at 35.31 seconds.

Fourth place in 400-meter at 1:14.51 minutes.

First place in discus at 71 feet.

Triana Curtis (14U)

Sixth place in 200-meter at 38.87 seconds.

Second in shot put at 23 feet, 2.5 inches.

Allexis Romero (14U)

First place in 100-meter hurdles at 22.52 seconds.

Seventh place in 200-meter at 40.38 seconds.

Fifth place in long jump at 11.2 feet.

Carson Kirkpatrick (16U)

First place in 110-hurdles at 22.52 seconds.

First place in 300-meter hurdles at 46.01 seconds.

Andi Soliz (16U)

Second place in 800 meter at 2 minutes, 49.90 seconds.

Second place in 1,600 meter at 6 minutes, 35.81 seconds.

Campbell Kirkpatrick (18U)

Third place in 110 hurdles at 17.90 seconds.

Fourth place in 300 hurdles at 47.52 seconds.

Colton Smith (14U)

Second place in shot put at 32 feet.

First place in discus at 104.7 feet.

Alexander Ramirez (14U)

Fourth place in long jump at 12 feet, 0.75 inches.

Liz Ramirez (14U)

Sixth place in 100-meters at 16.36 seconds.

Fourth place in 200-meters at 35.04 seconds.

Third place in long jump at 11 feet, 5.5 inches.

Alexis Ramirez (16U)

First place in shot put at 35.6 feet.

First place in discus at 115.3 feet.

Ethan Self (16U)

Third place in 800-meters at 3 minutes, 2.19 seconds.

First place in high jump at 5.4 feet.

Second place in triple jump at 38.4 feet.

Bryan Smith (16U)

Third place in 400 meters at 58.89 seconds.

First place in shot put at 36 feet, 8.5 inches.

First place in discus at 112.6 feet.

12 and younger division

Zaran Kirkpatrick (8U)

Third place in 50-meter at 9.34 seconds.

Fourth place in 100-meter at 19.77 seconds.

Second place in long jump at 6.7 feet.

Addee Williams (10U)

Third place in 200 meter at 47.16 seconds.

Fourth place in long jump at 6 feet, 4.25 inches

Carson Holson (10U)

11th place in 200-meter at 41.95 seconds.

Seventh place in long jump at 9 feet, 4.25 inches.

21.74 seconds.
Third place in 400-meter at 1 minute, 42.07 seconds.

Zach Smith (12U)
Second place in 1,600 meter 7 minutes, 20.92 seconds.

Justin Self (14U)
Fifth place in long jump at 10 feet, 6.5 inches

Rayven Soto (8U)
Eighth place in 100-meter at 25.04 seconds.

Third place in 200-meter at 59.45 seconds.

Aiden Rodela (8U)
Fifth place in 100-meter at 19.23 seconds.

Third place in 200-meter at 43.09 seconds.

Seventh place in long jump at 5 feet, 10.5 inches

Brennan Riker (10U)
Ninth place in 200-meter at 37.76 seconds.

First place in 1,600-meter at 8 minutes, 16.18 seconds

Krece Kirkpatrick (10U)
Third place in 100-meter at 16.12 seconds.

Second place in long jump at 11 feet, 3.25 inches.

Sterlin Self (10U)
Fifth place in long jump at 10 feet, 3.25 inches

4-by-100 meter relay (10U)
Team of Riker, Holson, Self and Kirkpatrick placed first.

Caycee Holson (12U)
Third place in 1,600-meter at 7 minutes, 10.95 inches.

First place in high jump at 4.2 feet.

Second place in long jump at 11.3 feet.

Marissa Luna (14U)
Sixth place in 100-meter at 16.94 seconds.

Sixth place in 200-meter at 37.05 seconds.

Fourth place in long jump at 9.10 feet.



Special to the Dispatch
Thirteen and older division: top row (left to right) Bryan Smith, Chance Courtney, Brooklyn Courtney, Alexis Ramirez, Ethan Self, Colton Smith; front: Alexander Ramirez, Zachary Smith, Kelbie Oden, Andi Soliz, Caycee Holson.



Special to the Dispatch
Twelve and younger division: top row (left to right) Ryan Mathis, Jacob Isbell, Addee Williams, Sterlin Self, Justin Self; front Rayven Soto, Brennan Riker, Caden Riker, Samantha Mathis, Aiden Rodela.

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Corn, grain price push to record highs

By Blair Fannin
Special to the Dispatch

The future of corn prices and the impact on fed livestock continues to be an unfolding, tumultuous situation, but some degree of clarity should be coming to the story in the next few weeks, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service econo-

mist. "This is not just a supply situation, but demand as well," said Mark Welch, AgriLife Extension grains marketing economist. "We are going to see some demand response to these high prices and need to carefully watch for that. What we need to see are these crop-condition reports every Monday leveling off and get an as-

essment of what is going to really happen."

Until then, Welch said corn prices will continue to hover at record levels, which puts pressure on feedlot operators to be profitable.

"Can they cheapen up the prices they are paying for cattle to pay \$8.50 to \$9 a bushel for corn?" Welch said. "I think we will see the answer to this as well as some

of the other factors weighing in on the markets in the coming weeks. I think we may see a strong push back on the use of corn, which is a natural response in this type of market environment."

Another area to watch, said David Anderson, AgriLife-Extension livestock marketing economist, are feedlot placement numbers in Nebraska versus Texas. Because



Blair Fannin/Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Corn prices continue to reach record highs as a result of drought in the Midwest. This corn crop near College Station failed as part of the 2011 Texas drought, costing the state a record \$7.62 billion in agricultural losses.

of the Midwest drought, Nebraska could soon eclipse Texas in the numbers of cattle on feed.

"The drought across the plains and corn belt is leaving cattle with no place to go, in contrast to last year's drought in the southern plains," Anderson said. "Last year, cattle could go from Texas and Oklahoma to states that had grass. Now the drought has hit those states. Combined with skyrocketing corn prices, calf and feeder prices have declined dramatically, with southern plains 500- to 600-pound calf prices down about 22 percent in the last few weeks."

"The drought may leave calves with no place to go, but feedlots, at lower prices. We may see more drought forced feedlot placements in Northern feedlots, closer to the drought-affected areas this year."

In the June U.S. Department of Agriculture cattle on feed report, Nebraska had 385,000 placements and Texas had 420,000 head.

Welch said if corn yields level off at 130 bushels per acre, he doesn't expect carryover stocks to be any less than they are currently projected for the crop year just ending.

"We are not in crisis mode yet," he said. "That's the role of high prices, to provide incentives for producers to produce more and users to use less."

Welch predicts there will be a "huge acreage response next year" in planted corn acres due to the current relation to supply and demand.

"I think we will see a few more wheat acres and more corn and soybeans, especially across the South. Where cotton prices are right now, that 60-cent cotton competing against soybeans in the teens, it doesn't take a lot of pencil pushing to see where that's going."

Unlike 2008, he said, crude oil prices are not surging to record highs and big investment funds haven't added strongly to bullish bets, creating intense volatility in the grain markets.

"We've got \$90 a barrel oil and the other commodities, such as the metals, are in a downward trend," Welch said. "We are not seeing big funds throwing money at the grain market like we did in 2008."

Blair Fannin is a communications specialist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

OIL... continued from page 2

DUCTION

Texas preliminary May 2012 crude oil production averaged 1,240,091 barrels daily, up from the 972,629 barrels daily average of May 2011.

The preliminary Texas crude oil production figure for May 2012 is 38,690,818 barrels, up from 30,151,505 barrels reported during May 2011.

JUNE OIL AND GAS COMPLETIONS

In June 2012, operators reported 905 oil, 371 gas, 62 injection and one other completion compared to 365 oil, 166 gas, 57 injection and zero other completions in June 2011.

Total well completions for 2012 year to date are 7,585 up from 4,163 record-

ed during the same period in 2011.

Operators reported 809 holes plugged and two dry holes in June 2012 compared to 342 holes plugged and zero dry holes in June 2011.

MAY NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

Texas oil and gas wells produced 546,248,239 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for May 2012 down from the May 2011 preliminary gas production total of 555,862,354 Mcf. Texas preliminary May total gas production averaged 17,620,911 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) a day.

Texas production in May 2012 came from 144,035 oil wells and 89,769 gas wells.

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50-280
(Rev. 6-06/2)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Southland Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 P.M. August 20, 2012 in Southland ISD Administration Bldg., 190 Eighth Street Southland, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ <u>1.12620</u> / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$ <u>0</u> / \$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	<u>5.9</u> % increase	or	<u>0</u> % (decrease)
Debt service	<u>0</u> % increase	or	<u>0</u> % (decrease)
Total expenditures	<u>5.9</u> % increase	or	<u>0</u> % (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ <u>86,907,771</u>	\$ <u>97,552,795</u>
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ <u>175,808</u>	\$ <u>326,854</u>
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ <u>85,647,783</u>	\$ <u>95,542,934</u>
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ <u>172,861</u>	\$ <u>313,053</u>

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 0

* Outstanding principal.

50-280 (Rev. 6-06/2) (Back)

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ <u>1.17000</u>	\$ <u>0.00000</u> *	\$ <u>1.17000</u>	\$ <u>6.846</u>	\$ <u>3.518</u>
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ <u>1.08750</u>	\$ <u>0.00000</u> *	\$ <u>1.08750</u>	\$ <u>6.776</u>	\$ <u>4.204</u>
Proposed Rate	\$ <u>1.12620</u>	\$ <u>0.00000</u> *	\$ <u>1.12620</u>	\$ <u>7.026</u>	\$ <u>3.756</u>

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ <u>28,039.18</u>	\$ <u>28,313.63</u>
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ <u>15,438.59</u>	\$ <u>15,971.61</u>
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ <u>1.17</u>	\$ <u>1.1262</u>
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ <u>180.63</u>	\$ <u>179.87</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ <u>0.76</u>

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.12620. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.12620.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ <u>467,837</u>
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ <u>0</u>

MCKNIGHT STUMBLES...
continued from page 1

seat and who carried more votes during the regular election primary in May — lost by nearly 400 votes to Cooke County businessman Drew Springer.

Springer garnered 56 percent of the votes to McKnight's 44 percent across the 22-county rural district, which also included Garza County.

Locally, Springer led the vote by about the same per-

centage.

In the May 29 primary, when there were four candidates on the ballot, McKnight nearly avoided the runoff, getting 49 percent of the vote. Springer finished a distant second with nearly 35 percent of the vote.

Though McKnight out-raised Springer nearly three to one, \$462,000 to \$179,000 and also received key en-

dorsements Gov. Rick Perry, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples and powerful groups such as the Texas Farm Bureau and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. Springer also received some key endorse-ments.

Springer was endorsed by influential conservative groups such as Empower Tex-ans and the Young Conser-

vatives of Texas. And, more importantly, former primary rivals David Isbell of Cooke County and Paul Braswell of Montague County also endorsed him.

However, there was a develop-ment in the closing days of the campaign when the Chil-dress Index — a sister publi-cation to The Dispatch — re-ported that in 1988, when he was a 21-year-old university student, Springer was arrested for shoplifting. He was hand-ed a \$200 fine and received six months of probation.

The winner of the District 68 race is expected to be the next representative for the dis-trict because no Democrat or third-party candidate is run-ning for the seat.

Democrat Lanhon Odum of Montague County was dis-qualified because he voted in the May 29 Republican pri-mary. The rules for both ma-jor political parties stipulate no candidate can vote in the other party's primary.

The re-drawn district that retiring Rep. Rick Hardcastle, R-Vernon, has represented for the past 14 years stretches from Cooke County, which is north of the Denton area, to as far west as Wheeler County in the Panhandle and then to Fisher County in the South Plains.

In all, it is a stretch of as

many as 300 miles from cor-ner to corner.

Moreover, once the new map goes into the effect when the next legislative session begins, District 68 will be the largest in terms of square miles in the Texas House of Representatives.

In other runoff races across the state, Tea Party darling Ted Cruz cruised to a political victory over Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst for the Republican candidate to replace the re-tiring U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

Cruz received 57 percent of the statewide vote to Dew-hurst's 43 percent.

Locally, however, Dew-hurst drew more votes than Cruz, 51 to 49 percent.

Other statewide winners included Christi Craddick for Railroad Commissioner, in-cumbent Barry Smitherman for an unexpired term on the Railroad Commission, and John Devine for State Su-preme Court Place 4.

Local turnout for the runoff election was 11 percent. State-wide turnout was 9 percent.

NOTICE OF OFFER OF LAND FOR SALE BY GARZA COUNTY, TEXAS

Pursuant to Chapter 272 Texas Local Government Code, as amended, Garza County, Texas, (the "County") hereby gives notice of its intention to sell its right, title and interest (the "County's Interest") in the land located at 800 N. Ave. F, in the city of Post Texas in Garza County, Texas and more specifically described on Exhibit A attached hereto (the "Land") together with the land buildings and equipment located thereon (the "Improvements", and together with the Land the "Property"). The Property shall be sold subject to that certain Deed of Trust Including Security Agreement and Financing Statement dated June 10, 1999 filed in the County Deed Records of Garza County, Texas at Book 245 Page 203 (the "Original Deed of Trust") as amended by the First Amendment to Deed of Trust Including Security Agreement and Statement dated October 1, 2003 filed in the County Deed Records of Garza County, Texas at Book 268 Page 1052 (the "First Amendment to Deed of Trust" and collectively with the Original Deed of Trust, the "Deed of Trust") and subject to that certain Amended and Restated Security Agreement by and between the County and Allstate Insurance Company dated October 1, 2003 (the "Security Agreement") and that certain Lease-Purchase Agreement (With Option to Purchase) between the Garza County Public Facility Corporation and the County dated as of October 1, 2003, (the "Lease"). Sealed written bids may be presented to the County by delivery to attention of the County Judge of Garza County, Texas at, 300 W. Main, Post, Texas on or before 9:00 a.m., August 27, 2012 Bids may be for cash and/or alternative consideration. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids without cause.

GARZA COUNTY, TEXAS

**EXHIBIT "A"
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

A 43.93 acre tract of land out of Section 1226, Abstract 776, E.L. & R.R. RR. Co. Survey, Garza County, Texas, and being particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a 1/2" iron rod, set in the East line of F.M. 651, for the most Northerly Southwest and beginning corner of this tract, whence the Southwest corner of Section 1226, bears South 89 degrees 47' 23" West, 230.95 feet and South .0 degrees 12' 37" East, 390.50 feet;

THENCE North 20 degrees 27' 17" East, along the East line of F.M. 651, 800.0 feet to a 1/2" iron rod, set for the Northwest corner of this tract;

THENCE North 89 degrees 48' 21" East, 1898.77 feet to a 1/2" iron rod, set for the Northeast corner of this tract;

THENCE South 0 degrees 13' 56" East, 961.06 feet to a 1/2" iron rod, set for the most Northerly Southeast corner of this tract;

THENCE South 89 degrees 45' 47" West, 327.16 feet to a 1 1/4" iron pipe, found for an "L" corner of this tract;

THENCE South 5 degrees 49' 45" West, 68.50 feet to a 3/8" iron rod, found for the most Southerly Southeast corner of this tract;

THENCE South 89 degrees 48' 21" West, 1123.15 feet to a 1/2" iron rod, set for the most Southerly Southwest corner of this tract;

THENCE North 0 degrees 15' 31" West, 281.62 feet to a 1/2" iron rod, set for an "L" corner of this tract;

THENCE South 89 degrees 44' 29" West 723.71 feet to the Point of Beginning, and containing 43.93 acres of land, more or less.

The City of Post has determined it will remain in Stage 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan until further notice. The City Council will meet next at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 14, 2012, to discuss any further action.

Sec. 13.04.069 Water restriction measures

- (2) Moderate water shortage conditions. (Stage Two)
- (A) Goal: achieve a 10 percent reduction in total water use.
- (B) The city manager, or his/her designee(s), will initiate weekly contact with large volume water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and request large volume customers to initiate mandatory measures to reduce nonessential water use.
- (C) Publicize a mandatory restriction of nonessential water use. All water uses that are non-essential must be restricted as set forth herein. Nonessential water uses shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:
 - (i) Washing of windows, sidings, eaves and roof with a hose, and without the use of a bucket and cutoff valve.
 - (ii) Washing of vehicles without cutoff valve and bucket.
 - (iii) Unattended sprinkling of grass, gardens and landscape shrubs.
 - (iv) Allowing water to run off vegetated areas onto streets, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.
 - (v) Draining and filling swimming pools.
 - (vi) Flushing of water systems, except to remove contaminated water.
- (D) Publicize a schedule for mandatory outdoor use of water for lawn, garden and landscape irrigation as follows:
 - (i) Customers with addresses ending in an even number (2, 4, 6, 8, 0) may water on even-numbered days of the month only during the following times: 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. the following day.
 - (ii) Customers with addresses ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) may water on odd-numbered days of the month only during the following times: 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. the following day.
 - (iii) Entities which have parcels of property either with no addresses or two addresses shall be designated by the city manager whether the property will be watered on either an even number or odd number schedule and may water only during the following times: 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. the following day.
- (E) The city manager, or his/her designee(s), will provide a weekly report to the city council and news media with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if drought conditions persist, and consumer information on water conservation measures and practices.

Sec. 13.04.071 Enforcement

- (a) Penalty. Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of the mandatory water restriction measures (moderate, severe or emergency conditions), as set forth in section 13.04.069, and which have been formally initiated by city manager and contained in the drought contingency plan, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction in the municipal court, shall be punished as set forth herein for each offense. Each and every day any such violation shall continue shall be deemed to constitute a separate offense.
 - (b) First violation. Customer will be notified of their specific violation. Customer will be given up to 72 hours from date of notice, with the time of the notice serving as the start of the 72-hour period, to comply with the conditions set forth in the notice. At the end of said 72-hour period if the violation continues then the violation will be considered a second violation.
 - (c) Second violation.
 - (1) A second violation will mean:
 - (A) The customer has prior receipt of a first violation notification; or
 - (B) The customer has received a first violation notification and said 72-hour compliance period associated with the first violation notification has expired signifying a second violation.
 - (2) After notice of second violation, the city will assess the customer a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each 24-hour period of violation of the second violation offense, with the 24-hour period starting at the time of notification of second violation. Customer will be given up to 72 hours from date of notice of second violation, with the time of the notice serving as the start of the 72-hour period, to comply with the conditions set forth in this article. At the end of the 72-hour period if the violation continues then the violation will be considered a subsequent violation.
 - (d) Subsequent violation.
 - (1) A subsequent violation will mean:
 - (A) The customer has prior receipt of a second violation notification; or
 - (B) The customer has received a second violation notification and said 72-hour compliance period associated with the second violation notification has expired signifying a subsequent violation; or
 - (C) The customer has received a subsequent violation notification.
 - (2) After notice of subsequent violation(s), the city will assess the customer a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each 24-hour period of violation of the subsequent violation offense, with the 24-hour period starting at the time of notification of subsequent violation.
- (Ordinance 600 adopted 8/11/09)

BY THE NUMBERS

A look at how local voters cast ballots.

Republican Primary Race/Candidate	Local	Statewide
U.S. Senator		
Ted Cruz	49%	57%
David Dewhurst	51%	43%

Railroad Commissioner		
Warren Chisum	45%	40%
Christi Craddick	55%	60%

Railroad Commission, unexpired term		
Barry Smitherman	76%	62%
Greg Parker	24%	38%

Justice Supreme Court, Place 4		
David Medina	53%	47%
John Devine	47%	53%

State Representative, District 68		
Drew Springer	55%	56%
Trent McKnight	45%	44%

SEIZE...

continued from page 1

were less than two years old — was awarded to sheriff's officials, who turned the animals over to an animal rescue organization.

Binford said a local veterinarian examined the horses, which were determined to be under nourished and neglected.

"Animals like these are expensive to keep," Binford said. "They had been surviving on scraps of old bread."

Bob Williams, who runs Ranch Hand Rescue, an outfit out of Argyle that specializes in farm animal abuse and neglect, said the horses have been relocated to a foster farm outside Garza County.

On Tuesday, Williams said one of those horses was eu-

thanzied.

"Two of the five remaining horses are critical and near death," Williams said.

Williams said some of the horses' hooves were so neglected that the animals were having trouble walking.

The drought has caused Hay prices to remain at record levels and feed prices continue to rise. Williams said a higher awareness to the public is critical to ensuring the public knows these cases must be prosecuted.

"We desperately need to raise awareness about this issue of animal abuse and neglect," Williams said. "People need to know that we will insist on prosecuting every single case we are in-

olved in to the full extent of the law."

To his knowledge, Binford said, this had been the second time sheriff's officials had seized a number of horses under similar circumstances.

In 2008, he said, several horses were seized in Garza County for neglect. In lieu of criminal charges being filed against them, Binford said, the owners forfeited the horses and turned them over to sheriff's officials.

County Attorney Mike Munk has been out of town and could not be reached for comment. However, Chief Deputy Binford said the county attorney's office takes animal abuse cases "very, very seriously."

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF GARZA §

By virtue of an Order of Sale issued out of the Honorable 106th Judicial District Court of Garza County, on the 2nd day of July, 2012, by the Clerk thereof, in the case(s) styled as follows:

Cause No.	Styling	Legal Description
89-12-04390	Garza County v. Quinonez, Paulino	1. Lot Six (6), Hart Addition to the City of Post, Garza County, Texas.
89-12-04398-CV	Garza County v. Williamson, Gene, et al	2. Lot Twelve (12), Block One Hundred Twenty-Eight (128), Original Town of Post, Garza County, Texas. 3. Lot Thirteen (13), Block One Hundred Twenty-Eight (128), Original Town of Post, Garza County, Texas.
03-08-05, 880-CV	Post Independent School District v. Taylor, Jessie Lee, et ux Taylor, Patricia Ann	4. North Fourteen Feet (N 14') of Lot Four (4), East Sixty-seven and One Half Feet (E 67 1/2') of Lot Five (5) of Block One Hundred Fifty-seven (157), of the Original Town Addition to the City of Post, Garza County, Texas. 5. South Twenty Feet (S 20') of Lot Two (2), East Sixty-seven and One Half Feet (E 67 1/2') of Lot Three (3) of Block One Hundred Fifty-seven (157), of the Original Town Addition to the City of Post, Garza County, Texas. 6. Lots Six (6) and Seven (7), Block Two (2) of the Bingham Addition to the City of Post, Garza County, Texas.
09-06-06381	Garza County, et al v. South 8 Feet of Lot 6, All of Lot 7, And The North Quarter of Lot 8 In Block 157 of The Original Town of Post Addition, The Unknown Owner(S) of	7. A 0.081 acres in the South Eight Feet (S 8') of Lot Six (6), all of Lot Seven (7), and the North Quarter (N/4) of Lot Eight (8), Block One Hundred Fifty-seven (157) of the Original Town Addition to the City of Post, Garza County, Texas.
09-09-06407	Garza Central Appraisal District v. Clarke, Paul S.	8. A 0.000521 Royalty Interest in North Huntley Lease Unit Tract 2, 99085035, Cimarex Energy - Operator, Huntley (Glorieta) out of Section 9214 and 1298 J R Galbreth Survey, Garza County, Texas. 9. A 0.000521 Royalty Interest in the North Huntley Lease Unit Tract 3, 99085035, Cimarex Energy - Operator, Huntley (Glorieta) out of Section 9214 and
11-02-06551	Garza Central Appraisal District v. King, Jeremy	1298 J R Galbreth Survey, Garza County, Texas. 11. A 42.93 acre tract of land, more or less, out of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) (South part of Farm #807) of Section 1331, Block One (1), Certificate #119, H&OB RR Co., Abstract 325, Patent No. 68, Garza County, Texas, such property being more particularly described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 260, Page 801 of the Deed Records of Garza County, Texas, such description incorporated herein by reference. 12. A 78.57 acre tract of land, more or less, out of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) (South part of Farm #807), Section 1331, Block One (1), Certificate #119, H&OB RR Co., Abstract 325, Patent No. 68, Garza County, Texas, such property being more particularly described in a Cash Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 245, Page 382 of the Deed Records of Garza County, Texas, such description incorporated herein by reference.

and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell, at 10:00 a.m. on the 7th day of August, 2012, which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the East door of the Courthouse of Garza County, in the City of Post, Texas.

Levied on the 3rd day of July, 2012, as the property of

said defendants, to satisfy the judgment rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest, at 12 percent per annum, and all costs of suit in favor of each jurisdiction.

"ALL BIDDERS MUST NOW DISPLAY PROOF OF COMPLIANCE WITH 34.015 OF TEXAS TAX CODE."

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 3rd DAY OF July, 2012.

Cliff Laws
SHERIFF, GARZA COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: *Tommy Binford* DEPUTY

How sweet it is

Annual Watermelon Fest is always a hit in Knox City

By Wayne Hodgin
The Post Dispatch

KNOX CITY - If there's one thing people in West Texas love about summer, it's watermelon. Whether it's red or yellow, seedless or no, there's nothing quite like biting into the juicy sweetness of a cold, ripe watermelon on a hot July day.

But many may not know the seedless watermelon was developed right here in Knox City - the self-proclaimed Seedless Watermelon Capital of the World.

As watermelon lore goes, in the mid- to late-'70s, an Indiana scientist was looking for a place to develop a marketable seedless watermelon, said longtime Knox City res-

ident and horticulturalist Jim Dillon.

That scientist, O.J. Eigsti, of Goshen College in Indiana, was friends with Knox County farmer Donald Johnson, who convinced Eigsti the sandy loam soil in the middle of the Rolling Plains was perfect for growing melons - as was the 100-degree summertime temperatures.

Together, they teamed up to develop the seedless watermelon.

By the early 1990s, Johnson, who by this time had established the Johnson Melon Corp., was growing 15 to 20 million pounds of seedless watermelon a year.

"They would haul out tons of melons each year," Dillon

said. "Three- to four-hundred semi trucks would carry their seedless watermelon all over the world."

Although Johnson died in the early part of 2000s, his legacy lives on in the annual Donald Johnson Memorial Seedless Watermelon Festival in downtown Knox City.

This year was the 24th annual event, which is always held the last weekend in July.

While the Johnson Melon Corp. no longer exists and the melons aren't as prolifically grown in Knox County as they were decades ago, the Chamber of Commerce, who hosts the event each year, relies on outside entities to donate the melons each year.

Oliver said Lawrence Bros. supermarkets donated all of this year's melons.

The two-day festival kicked off Friday afternoon and included a parade that evening with Marvin Jones, Knox City's Most Appreciated Citizen, serving as grand marshal.

On Saturday, a number of vendors had set up at the downtown park to sell food, drinks, arts and crafts. The Double Luck band performed throughout the day as festival-goers meandered, eating all the free watermelon they could while keeping as cool as possible in the near 100-degree heat.

Chamber of Commerce President Greg Oliver said the festival is one of the much-anticipated events of the summer in the area.

"We expect anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 people to attend over the course of the two-day festival," he said. "It's the single biggest event in Knox City during the summertime."

"It's just too hard watermelon in this heat, especially when it's free."



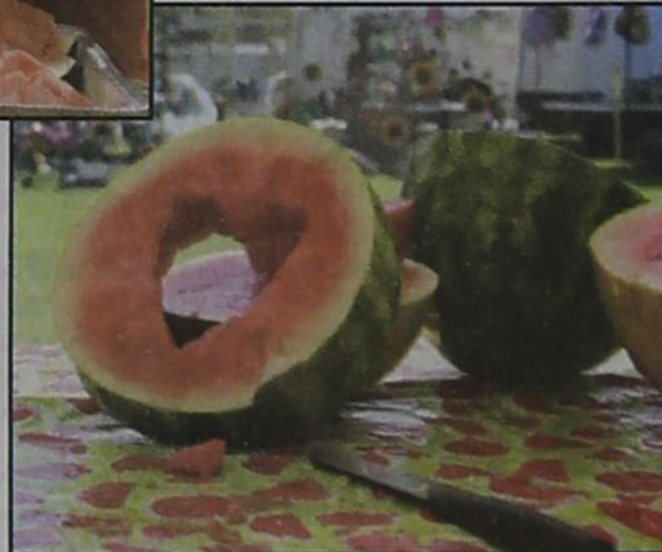
Wayne Hodgin/Special to the Dispatch
Kateleigh Carr, 3, daughter of Brandon and Katie Carr of Knox City, enjoys a slice of watermelon Saturday during the annual Watermelon Festival in downtown Knox City.



Olga Johnson of Knox City shakes a little salt on a slice of watermelon Saturday at the Watermelon Festival in Knox City. Johnson said she likes the flavor the salt gives the watermelon. "It makes it sweeter," she said.



(Above) Trey Ledesma, 13, Steven Lyles, 12, and Dustin Ledesma, 11, pick out a slice of watermelon at the Chamber of Commerce table during the 24th annual Watermelon Festival on Saturday in downtown Knox City. Slices the red, juicy summertime treat were given out for free during the two-day event, which is always held the last weekend in July.



A heart cut into the meat of a red, seedless watermelon seems to proclaim how much Knox City residents love their watermelon. The annual Watermelon Festival was Friday and Saturday in downtown Knox City. The event is held each year during the last weekend in July.

Celebrating
25
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806-781-6095. 0827pd.
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Metal barn on concrete slab, about 1,581 sq located on U.S. 84. Contact Dwain Read, Broker, USA Properties, 806-202-1101, or Barbara Hardin, sales agent, 806-778-2651. TFnB

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GARAGE YARD SALES
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Holy Cross Catholic Church Social Hall, 205 W. Main St., 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 4. 0803pd

MOVING SALE! 616 W. Seventh St. 8 to 8 Friday. 8 to 1 Saturday. TVs, electronics, furniture, misc. Avon available. 0803pd

308 N. Ave I. 7 a.m., Friday, Aug. 3 and Saturday, Aug. 4. Clothing for large men and women, teenage boys and girls, toddler boys and girls. Household items including old chairs. 0803pd

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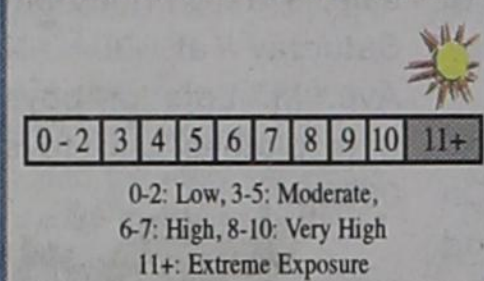
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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

Friday Mostly Sunny 96 / 73	Saturday Sunny 95 / 73	Sunday Sunny 99 / 72	Monday Sunny 101 / 72	Tuesday Sunny 101 / 71	Wednesday Mostly Sunny 98 / 70	Thursday Mostly Sunny 95 / 71

Local UV Index



Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 96°, humidity of 43%. South wind 5 to 10 mph. The record high temperature for today is 103° set in 1995. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, overnight low of 73°. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. The record low for tonight is 61° set in 2004. Saturday, skies will be sunny with a high temperature of 95°, humidity of 33%. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	6:37-8:37	6:07-8:07	Tue	10:33-12:33	10:03-12:03
Sat	7:36-9:36	7:06-9:06	Wed	11:27-1:27	10:57-12:57
Sun	8:37-10:37	8:07-10:07	Thu	11:30-1:30	11:00-1:00
Mon	9:36-11:36	9:06-11:06			

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Fri	6:55 a.m.	8:48 p.m.	3:46 p.m.	1:28 a.m.
Sat	6:56 a.m.	8:48 p.m.	4:51 p.m.	2:19 a.m.
Sun	6:57 a.m.	8:47 p.m.	5:51 p.m.	3:16 a.m.
Mon	6:57 a.m.	8:46 p.m.	6:47 p.m.	4:18 a.m.
Tue	6:58 a.m.	8:45 p.m.	7:36 p.m.	5:23 a.m.
Wed	6:59 a.m.	8:44 p.m.	8:19 p.m.	6:29 a.m.
Thu	6:59 a.m.	8:44 p.m.	8:57 p.m.	7:34 a.m.

Full 8/1, Last 8/9, New 8/17, First 8/24

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days	
Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Date	Degree Days
7/17	93	70	92/68	0.00"	7/17	32
7/18	94	73	92/68	0.00"	7/21	35
7/19	94	72	92/68	0.00"	7/18	34
7/20	96	70	92/68	0.00"	7/19	33
7/21	100	70	92/68	0.00"	7/20	33
7/22	100	67	92/68	0.00"		
7/23	98	68	92/68	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.

Weather Trivia

Can you use pine cones to forecast the weather?

Answer: Yes, the scales will close when rain is on the way.

Weather History

July 27, 1943 - On a whim and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O' Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. This flight was the first of what would become regular Air Force flights into hurricanes.

July 28, 1952 - A severe storm with hail up to an inch and a half in diameter broke windows, ruined roofs and stripped trees of their leaves near Benson, Ariz. The temperature dropped to 37 degrees and hail was three to four inches deep.

Keep the mail comin'

By Ronda Rich
Dixie Divas



We all need to be worried about the health of the postal service and, as good neighbors, we all need to pitch in and do what we can to keep the mail comin'.

In full disclosure, my sister is a postmaster. She does not know about this column, so she has neither encouraged nor influenced it. Secondly, I have keynoted at national postmasters conventions across the country from Philadelphia to Fort Lauderdale to Las Vegas to Anchorage. As far as I see it, this only makes me more an expert on what I'm about to say.

Trust me.

There's a story in it.

Most Americans are guilty of thinking the postal service is supplemented by taxpayer dollars. It is not. It functions financially independently of the government, relying on its own stream of revenue to survive. If losses aren't cut, then post offices will be closed, jobs will be lost, delivery days will be trimmed and — gasp — we will all suffer. You may not think losing Saturday delivery is a big deal, but wait until that backlog causes your credit card payment to be late and you get a big whopping late fee laid on you.

Don't worry, though. I have a solution. You're too good of a friend for me to bring you a problem without providing an answer. We can help the post office, help humanity and, in the bargain, help ourselves all in one fell swoop. We need to mail more letters such as handwritten, thoughtful notes that cheer a person's day or remind them how much they mean to us.

In a fireproof box are several beautifully handwritten letters from Mama, sent to me when I lived 800 miles away and was homesick for her homemade potato soup and some of her petting. In those letters, which I re-read from time-to-time, her stories are meaningful, her advice is prudent and the imagery she conjured up is nothing short of powerful.

"Hearing your voice on the phone on Sunday night," she wrote, "was as welcomed as rain drops would be in this terrible drought."

Now, trust me on this: Not one of your children or grandchildren is going to print out a

typewritten email and lovingly save it for years. Or put it in a fireproof box. When they move on to another computer or laptop, your emails will most likely be lost. That means you need to sit down now — don't delay — and write a letter of love and admiration for each of your children and grandchildren. Make it a weekly task to write at least one family member and share your wisdom or recall a piece of your childhood that will inform them of their heritage.

Here's a novel idea: Thank you notes. I still receive them — though not as many as I should — and I know how much a well-worded thank you means. If someone can't be bothered to say a proper "thank you," then it's this simple: Don't take a gift if you can't give thanks.

Send a card to encourage someone. One Sunday at dinner, my brother-in-law Rodney disappeared then returned with a hand-written card he passed around the table. Friends had clipped out a paragraph from my column where I had written admiringly of Rodney, pasted it into a card and written, "We agree!"

Rodney's eyes watered. "It meant the world to me when I opened the envelope. It made my day for them to send that."

Of course, I didn't refrain from saying, "Well, what about me? I'm the one who wrote the column in the first place."

If you're looking for an edge in courtship, try a love letter. It's cheaper than a dozen roses and lasts a lot longer.

The point here is this: We can bring love, family history, gratitude and cheer to others and, at the same time, save the postal service.

Let's get busy writing.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist and best-selling author of "What Southern Women Know (That Every Woman Should)." Visit rondarich.com to sign up for her weekly newsletter.

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