

The Post Dispatch

A BUILDER IN GARZA COUNTY SINCE 1926

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013

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75 CENTS

Comptroller expects strong revenue rebound

Strauss elected to serve third term as speaker

By Ed Sterling
For the Dispatch

AUSTIN — The 83rd session of the Texas Legislature was called to order in the House and Senate on Jan. 8.

State Rep. Joe Strauss, R-San Antonio, was elected speaker of the House, setting in motion his third consecutive term as leader of the chamber and his fifth two-year term as a state representative. State Rep. John Zerwas, R-Simonton, nominated Strauss, and was followed with seconding speeches given by Reps. Jason Isaac, R-Dripping Springs; Rene

Oliveira, D-Brownsville; Patricia Harless, R-Spring; Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, and John Otto, R-Dayton.

After the vote, Strauss was administered the oath of office by Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson, and then he spoke. Strauss acknowledged the change in composition of the body, calling it "the largest class of new members in 40 years." Forty-three of the 150 members of the House are freshmen, while 96 are Republicans and 54 are Democrats.

"Texas does not face a fiscal cliff, but we do face a demographic cliff,"

Strauss said. "Our rapid growth requires a steadfast commitment to the core responsibilities of government, such as a quality education, a reliable water supply, a healthy transportation system, and an honest state budget." About education, Strauss said, "Our priorities should begin where our future does: in public education. More than 5 million children are enrolled in our public schools, which is more than the total population of 29 states. More than 3 million of them are deemed economically disadvantaged, and almost 1 million of them speak limited English. The education of all our students will determine whether Texas is a land of prosperity or lost opportunities."

Last session, the Legislature cut

See **COMPTROLLER**, Page 3



Special to the Dispatch

Joe Strauss, R-San Antonio, stands in the chamber of the Texas House of Representatives, where last week he was elected to serve his third term as speaker.

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 thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com.

Bilberry family benefit

A benefit dinner for the C.J. Bilberry family, who recently lost their home to a fire, will be at noon Jan. 26 at Trailblazers. Event also will include a silent auction. Brisket and sausage plates will be \$6. Donations also will be accepted. For information, call Wilma Williams at 495-2650.

Graham Ole Opry

The Graham Ole Opry will be from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday at the Graham Community Center, five miles west of Post on U.S. 380 and two miles south on Farm-to-Market Road 399. There is no admission charge, but donations will be accepted to benefit upkeep of the facility. Concessions will be available. For information, contact Noel White at 806-495-3261.

C.J. Memorial Scholarship Applications

The Community Recovery Center is now opening applications for the C.J. Schoenrock Memorial Scholarship. Qualifying applicants will be graduating seniors in Garza County seeking a degree in continuing education in the fields of counseling or education. The Scholarship Selection Committee requests all graduating seniors interested in applying for the scholarship contact Chris Atkinson or Merika Strivens with the Community Recovery Center at 806-495-3173 or through any email link on garzacrc.com.

Stock show entries

Cards are now available at the local Extension Office for the Garza County Junior Livestock Association Stock Show, Jan. 17-19 at the Syd Conner Memorial Show Barn. Entries are due to the Extension Office no later than 5 p.m. Jan. 11. For information, call 495-4400.

Concessions help

The Garza County Junior Livestock Association is asking all 4-H members to bring a dozen baked good, individually wrapped, to be sold at the county livestock show, Jan. 17-19. All money raised through the concessions benefit the Syd Conner Memorial Scholarship fund. Workers also are needed for two-hours shifts throughout the weekend. Hours are 2-8 p.m. Thursday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m. to close Saturday. For information, call the Garza County Extension Office at 495-4400.

Cookbooks available

The 2012 Garza and Scurry Counties Hometown Holidays Cookbooks are available for \$10 at the Garza County Extension Office. For information, call 495-4400.

More **POST NOTES**, Page 3

Correction

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

News on the go

Use your smartphone to scan the quick response, or QR, code to visit us online.

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Gill, others named to All-State football honor roll

The Post Dispatch

The 2012 Texas Associated Press Sports Editors recently named Post High School varsity football player Nathaniel Gill to the Class 2A all-state football team.

Gill, a senior defensive lineman, was named to the second-team defence, sharing the honor with other lineman from the Class 2A spectrum across the state, including senior Todd Glass of Lexington, senior Edgar Luna of Cameron Yoe, senior Aroldo Nandin of Gunter and senior Teidrick Smith of Hallettsville.

Gill, throughout the regular season, notched 88 tackles, 10 sacks, nine tackles for losses, two forces fumbles, three fumble recoveries, one pass breakup and eight quarterback hurries, leading the Antelopes to a district championship.

Voting was based on regular-season performance.

Three other members of the Bold Gold squad received honorable mention, including running back D.J. Brown, defensive back Dalton Holly and linebacker Bryan Smith.



NATHANIAL GILL

Wayne Hodgkin

Livestock show



Wayne Hodgkin/The Post Dispatch

Chloe Reiter, 12, right, gives her younger sister Meagan, 11, instructions on how to properly wash her goat Tuesday evening at the FFA ag barn. The girls are prepping for the annual Garza County Junior Livestock Association show this weekend at the Syd Conner Memorial Livestock Show Barn. The main event will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday with the swine show, followed by the rabbit show at 11 a.m., heifers and steers at noon, lambs at 2 p.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. with the goat show. Students from both the Post and Southland FFA organizations, as well as 4-H, are expected to participate. The livestock show is slated for 6 p.m. Jan. 24 in the Post ISD cafeteria.

Early morning blaze destroys home

By Wayne Hodgkin

The Post Dispatch

Post volunteer firefighters were called to the 100 block of North Avenue O about 2 a.m. Sunday morning on a report of a house fire.

Fire Chief Les Looney said firefighters worked about four hours that morning to put out a blaze believed to have started in the home's attic.

"Right now, it looks like the source of the fire started in the attic," Looney said. "We believe it was probably some old electrical wiring that shorted out."

Looney said smoke alarms in the home alerted the residents to the fire. They promptly called 911.

Looney said the home, belonging to C.J. and Michelle Bilberry, was likely a total loss.

"What the fire didn't get, smoke and water damage did," he said, adding that fire inspectors and insurance investigators were on the scene Monday.

A brisket- and sausage-dinner benefit for the Bilberys is being planned for noon Jan. 26 at Trailblazers Senior Citizens Center, 205 E. 10th St. Organizers are asking for \$6 a plate. Donations will be accepted, and a silent auction also is being planned.

For information on the fundraiser, contact Wilma Williams at 495-2650.



Wayne Hodgkin/The Post Dispatch

This home in the 100 block of North Avenue O was destroyed by a fire early Sunday morning. Fire officials believe an electrical short in the attic is to blame.

PostSportsRadio.com LIVE Antelope & Lady Antelope Action!

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The Post Dispatch, 123 E. Main St., Post Texas, 79356, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Phone 806-495-2816 Fax 806-495-2059 Email thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com

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Deaths

Blanche Stewart

Blanche Stewart, 90, of Post, died Friday, Jan. 10, 2013, at the Golden Plains Care Center. Blanche was born to Wesley Taylor and Annie Laura (Ussery) Brown July 18, 1922, in Sulphur Springs. She attended school and graduated from Sulphur Springs High School. Shortly thereafter, she married W.O. Stewart on April 25, 1941, in Newsom. He preceded her in death Jan. 25, 2002. They made their first home in Hopkins County. Then later they moved to

Mitchell County. Blanche worked for J.C. Penney and Anthony's while living there. In 1956 they moved to Post. She worked for Charles McCook, DDS, for 19 years before retiring. Blanche loved reading, camping and being with her family. She was a member of the Trinity Baptist Church. Those left to cherish her memory are daughters Beth Hodges and Linda Green and her husband, Bobby, all of Post; grandchildren Lynn



BLANCHE STEWART

Putman, Terri Sue Reed, Vicki Taguba, Jay Green and Kristi O'Bryan; great-grandchildren Christopher Putman, Chelsey Reed, Jessica Putman, Kotelyn Redman, Jace Green, Keegan Stanley, Maeson Green, Jady Green and Aidan O'Bryan; great-great-grandchild Christopher Colin Putman. Services were Sunday at the Heritage House with Charles McCook and Shannon L. Adkins officiating. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery. Arrangements were under the

personal care of Dee and Janet Justice, Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were grandson and great-grandsons Jay Green, Jace Green, Christopher Putman, Kotelyn Redman, Keegan Stanley and Ronnie Reed.

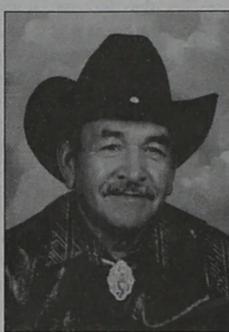
Honorary Pallbearers were granddaughters and great-granddaughters Lynn Putman, Terri Reed, Vicki Taguba, Kristi O'Bryan, Chelsey Reed, Jessica Putman, Maeson Green, Jady Green and Aidan O'Bryan.

Ray Flores

PLAINVIEW — Ramon "Ray" Flores, 71, of Plainview, passed away on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at home surrounded by his family. Mass of Christian Burial was Friday, January 11, 2013, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with Father Arsenio Redulla officiating. Interment was in Plainview Cemetery. Funeral service arrangements are under the direction of Lemons Funeral Home of Plainview.

Ramon Paul Flores was born on June 29, 1941, in Post, Texas, to Nicholas and Marcelina (Bocanegra) Flores. He married Maria A. Asebedo on March 2, 1958, in Post, and in 1969 they moved to Plain-

view. Maria preceded Ramon in death on November 8, 2004. Ramon started a lifelong commitment to hard work at age 17 and worked hard until he could no longer do it. Ramon worked at High Plains Millwright as a welder until he retired in 2007. Before Maria's death, they served their church family by preparing food for their church fundraisers. During his life he had illness, injuries, and setbacks, but he was a resilient man who bounced back from everything. Determination was his middle name and he did not know the words "give up." Ramon enjoyed telling stories about pranks he had pulled and



RAY FLORES

loved giving everyone a hard time, especially his nurses. His favorite hobbies were fishing and hunting. He was loved by

everyone who crossed his path, and he will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. Ramon was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Ramon is survived by his children: Elia Reyes and her husband, Gonzalo, of Dodge City, Kan.; Carol Romero and her husband, David, of Ulysses, Kan.; Mickey Rodriguez and her husband, Francisco, of Tonkawa, Okla.; Mario Flores of Plainview; Leroy Flores and his wife, Lacie, of Laramie, Wyo.; 23 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; sisters: Georgia Martinez and Pauline Espinoza, both of Post, Texas; and Leonarda Asebedo of

Syracuse, Kan.; brothers Tiño Flores of Houston, Frank Flores of Post, and Juan Flores of Plainview.

Ramon was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Maria; one son, Domingo Flores; two sisters: Juanita Flores and Placida Guerrero; and two grandchildren: Laura Lee Hernandez and Javier Rodriguez.

The family suggests donations in Ramon's name to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 2805 N. Columbia, Plainview, TX 79072.

Online condolences may be made at www.lemonsfunerals.com.

Gerald Ticer

Gerald R. Ticer, 75, of Haskell, died Dec. 28, 2012, at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. Memorial services were Dec. 30, 2012, at First Baptist Church of Haskell.

Daniel Roy Johnson

CONROE — Daniel Roy Johnson was born Oct. 29, 1946, in Post, Texas to Tom and Golden (Mantooth) Johnson. He died December 31, 2012. He graduated from Post schools in 1965. He worked many years as Lead Production Supervisor for Reed Tool Co. in Houston until 1999.

Survivors include his loving wife of 26 years, Rhonda, and sons: Richard Dan and Roy D' Shane; granddaughter,

Micaela; brother, Lee, and sister, Edith. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers: Thomas, Norman and Clifford, and followed by the recent death of his brother,

Lathon. An Eagle Scout, Dan loved his years of growing up attending Boy Scout Camp Post and hiking in the Cedar Canyon areas.

He was a good friend and mentor to others who shared his illness of COPD and had a special way of bringing out the best in everyone.

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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 Hillary Clinton

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

I	H	A	B	S	B	D	L	W	L	V	A	H	C	J	O	X	S	D	K	J	L			
I	K	C	J	M	S	J	K	R	P	J	E	P	H	L	I	S	C	C	K	A	U	S	J	P
S	B	A	X	J	V	M	S	J	K	J	M	K	U	T	K	C	H	K	R	M	J			



Lathon Harry Johnson

ALTUS, Okla. — Lathon Harry Johnson was born July 18, 1933, to Thomas G. and Golden H. (Mantooth) Johnson in Post, Texas. He died January 3, 2013. He graduated from

Post High School in 1950 and attended Texas Tech University. He spent two years serving our country in the United States Army. Lathon married Verna Mae Biddy

July 20, 1955 in Carlsbad, N.M. He worked for AT&SF for over 37 years and retired as a signal supervisor. He was of the Baptist faith, enjoyed reading, fishing and spending time with his grandkids. Mr. Johnson is preceded in death by his parents and four brothers: Thomas, Norman, Clifford and Daniel Johnson. He is survived by his wife, Verna, of the home; three

sons: David Johnson and wife, Bette, of North Richland Hills; Dennis Johnson of Amarillo; Dan Johnson and wife, Debbie, of Blanchard, Okla.; one brother: Lee Johnson and wife, Anne, of Beaumont; Eydie Middleton and husband, Ronnie, of Tulsa; one sister-in-law, Rhonda Johnson, of Conroe, and eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Fern Jones



FERN JONES

Thelma Fern Jones was born on August 27, 1921 to Howard Glenn and Mamie Jewell Harris in Brownfield, Texas. She died on Friday, January 11, 2013 in Post, Texas. She married Paul Henry Jones in Brownfield, Texas on August 29, 1937.

They moved to Post in 1945 when Paul started a job as manager of Piggly Wiggly grocery store. Fern was personnel secretary for Postex Cotton Mill from 1961 until its closure in 1983. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1994.

Fern is survived by her children, Howard and Becky Jones of Chert Hill, N. J., Kay Gene and Jack Payne of Hawley, Texas and Marianne and Royce Hart of Post, Texas. She is also survived by her brother, Myron and Lucille Harris of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; 11 grandchildren, 18 Great grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Services were held at the Post Church of Christ on Monday, January 14.

Burial in Terrace Cemetery was under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Walter Didway, Kyle Josey, Kohen Josey, Jerry Epley, Ted Tatum and Don Tatum.

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Deaths

Sally Lutrell

On Sunday morning, January 6, 2013, Sally Luttrell went home to her Savior Jesus Christ. Sally was born Edna Erle Davis on October 18, 1925, in Spur, Texas, to Lee and Estelle Davis. The family moved east of Post, Texas, to the home where Sally grew up.

Sally married Charles Lee Luttrell in 1943. They have two daughters and sons-in-law, Charlotte and Bruce Carlson of Anton, Texas, and Diane and Dan Bancroft of Warrenville, Ill. Sally and Charles lived many years in the California Bay Area before retiring to Lubbock in 1983.

She was preceded home by her husband Charles on January 3, 1985. She was also preceded in death by her parents and her brother Sol Davis.

Survivors, other than her daughters, include a sister, Sue Cornell formerly of Post and now of San Angelo and a brother and sister-in-law Lee Jr. (Bud) and Jane Davis of Post. Sally also has five grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



SALLY LUTRELL

Sally's great loves were her husband Charles, her family, her role as matriarch and her friends and neighbors. She loved playing bridge, Christmastime, snickerdoodles, family gatherings, "As the World Turns" and hearty conversation. Also Sally spent time painting, sewing, reading and jigsaw puzzles.

We will miss our Mother, Grandmother, G-Gma, sister, aunt and friend, but we are happy for her to be absent from her body and present with the Lord.

Chapel services were Thursday, January 10, 2013, in the Hudman Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in Terrace Cemetery in Post.

Robert E. Cox

Funeral services for Robert E. Cox were Wednesday at the First Christian Church in Post with the Rev. Elizabeth Abraham officiating. He died Sunday, January 6, 2013 in San Antonio. Robert was born in Snyder, Texas, on April 28, 1917, to Stella and R.E. Cox. He was the fifth of six children. He moved to Post as an infant and graduated from Post High School in 1935. After high school, Robert attended Texas Tech and worked for Wm Cameron Co. in Lubbock.

In 1940, Robert married Wanda Jo Moore of Ralls, Texas, in a ceremony in Lubbock. He was transferred by his company to Corpus Christi where he and Wanda lived until he entered the service as a part of the Army Air Corps in 1942. He was stationed primarily in Herington, Kan.

After the war, Robert returned to Post where he owned and operated R.E. Cox Lumber Co. for 38 years before retiring in 1982. He remained in Post until he moved to Boerne in 2006, and subsequently, to San Antonio in 2010.

In Post, Robert was an elder at the First Christian Church, and a 32nd-degree Mason. He served as president of the school board, and he was on the city council and on the board of the Garza County Museum. In addition, he was a director of the Lumberman's Association of Texas and was interim director of Old Mill



ROBERT E. COX

Trade Days.

Robert was predeceased by his parents and by all five of his siblings.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Wanda, his daughter, Lin Alyn Duncan and his son-in-law, Wendell Duncan of San Antonio. Robert is also survived by his grandsons, Lane Duncan Lee of Dallas and Bart Duncan (Andi) of Albuquerque, N.M., two great grandchildren, Emma and Isaac Duncan of Dallas, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Burial was in Terrace Cemetery in Post under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home.

While the family appreciates the beauty and sentiment of flowers, those who wish can make a memorial gift to the First Christian Church of Post or to the charity of their choice.

City collects nearly 9 percent more in sales taxes than 2011

December numbers see drop during holiday shopping season

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

Sales tax collections for the month of December for the city of Post were up nearly 3 percent over December 2011, according to information recently released by the state comptroller's office.

Total collections were \$87,021 compared to \$84,649 over the same period last year. Compared to November's collections, however, revenue was down more than 11 percent.

City Manager Deana Watson said the numbers are reflective from year to year.

"Historically, we always see a slight increase in sales tax revenue for the month of December because of the holiday

shopping season," Watson said. "That's why it's so important for Post residents to do as much shopping locally as they can throughout the holidays — and, for that matter, all the time."

Comparing year-to-year allocations, sales tax collections were up nearly 9 percent over 2011 allocations. Payments for 2012 were about \$1.13 million compared to \$1.04 million in 2011.

Statewide, total sales tax collections for December were \$2.17 billion, up 9.4 percent compared to December 2011.

"Strong sales tax collections continue in most major economic sectors in Texas," state Comptroller Susan Combs

said. "The strongest growth was from business spending-driven sectors including oil and natural gas, manufacturing and construction."

Local sales tax allocations totaling \$531 million will be

sent out this month to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts — an increase of about 7.3 percent compared to last year, according to the comptroller's office.

ON THE WEB

For details of local sales tax allocations, visit the state comptroller's website at window.state.tx.us.

LOCAL SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

Local sales tax allocations for the month of September 2012 compared with the same month last year.

City	Net Payment 2011	Net Payment This Period	Comparable 2011 Payments To Date	Payment Prior Year	% Change	2012 Payments To Date	% Change
Benjamin	\$994	\$881	12.83%	\$15,441	\$15,763	-2.04%	
Goree	\$2,968	\$1,633	1.75%	\$24,664	\$20,938	17.85%	
Knox City	\$27,076	\$11,780	3.68%	\$276,641	\$262,975	5.2%	
Munday	\$13,725	\$11,780	16.51%	\$168,027	\$169,814	-1.05%	

POST NOTES

From Page 1

Ag conference

The Southern Mesa Ag Conference will be Jan. 23 at Forrest Park Community Center, 8145 Houston, in Lamesa. Cost is \$40 if you pre-register or \$45 at the door with meal and refreshments provided and a door prize. There will be 6.5 continuing education units offered. For information, contact the Garza County Extension Office at 495-4400.

Chamber award noms

The Post Area Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations from members for its annual Outstanding Business and Citizen awards. The banquet will be Feb. 23, and nominations will be accepted through Jan. 8. For information, call Janice Plummer at 495-3461 or email chamberofcommerce@postcitytexas.com.

Christmas exhibit

"The Joy of Christmas," an inspiring exhibit of Nativities and crèches from around the world, is on display at the O.S. Ranch Museum, 201 E. Main St.

Hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call 806-495-3570 for information. Exhibit closes Jan. 26.

Post Elementary

Monday is a bad-weather day, and school is out. Jan. 22-25 are parent-teacher conferences. Jan. 23 report cards go home.

GED class

General Education Diploma classes are now in session and are free to the public. Classes meet from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 18 at Post High School. Enter

through southwest doors. For information, email Ed Singleterry at esingleterry@postisd.net or call 495-2770.

Computer classes

Free computer classes on how to use a tablet and the Internet will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 3, 17 and 31 at the Post Public Library, 105 E. Main St., in Post. The classes will center on setting up your tablet, how to make the most of it and browsing the internet. Classes are free, but because of limited space and class size, pre-registration is required. For information, or to register, call Poka Lambro at 990-9901 or visit 115 W. Main St., Post.

COMPTROLLER

From Page 1

more than \$5 billion from the education budget.

Meanwhile, in the East Wing of the Capitol, the Senate, presided over by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, convened. Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, was elected president pro tempore, chosen by her peers to step in and preside whenever the lieutenant governor is away. She served Texas as a House member from 1990 to 1999 and has been a member of the Senate since 1999.

Gov. Rick Perry addressed the body, focusing his comments on fiscal conservatism with a reminder that the Legislature pulled the state out of a multi-billion-dollar deficit last session.

"We chose the responsible path, the fiscally conservative path, and that path has led us here today," Perry said. "We sat down, separated our wants from our needs, prioritized, and tightened our belts, wherever possible, and wherever necessary. Far from the catastrophe many

predicted for us at the time, that approach helped our economy improve more quickly, and more profoundly, than many had expected."

Then Perry cautioned the Senate not to look at the state's new, healthier, revenue estimate and be tempted to spend freely.

Combs estimates revenue

Here's what Gov. Perry was cautioning about, and what lawmakers are looking to as the potential fix for a lot of problems.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs on Jan. 7 released the state's biennial revenue estimate, projecting \$101.4 billion available for general-purpose spending during the state's 2014-15 fiscal biennium.

"Texas experienced a very strong rebound from a severe recession," Combs said in prepared remarks.

"The state's robust economic recovery led to better-than-expected revenue collections in major taxes such as the sales tax, oil and natural gas production taxes and motor vehicle sales taxes. The outlook for both the economy and state revenue is for continuing expansion as the fast-growth of the economic

recovery gives way to moderate, sustained growth."

Combs said about \$3.6 billion would be set aside for future transfers to the \$8 billion Rainy Day Fund.

The Texas economy, in inflation-adjusted terms, is projected to increase by 3.4 percent in fiscal 2013, another 3.4 percent in fiscal 2014 and 3.9 percent in fiscal 2015. The state's unemployment rate, which reached 8.2 percent during the recession, is expected to continue slowly dropping and average 6 percent during 2015, Combs said.

Bills address water issues

State Rep. Allan Ritter, R-Nederland, chairman of the House Natural Resources

Committee, on Jan. 10 filed H.B. 4 and H.B. 11, legislation "designed to help ensure Texas will meet its future water needs," he said. To pay for what the bills propose, "I would make a one-time allocation of \$2 billion from the state's Economic Stabilization Fund, often referred to as the Rainy Day Fund, to capitalize a new, dedicated revolving fund for use in financing water projects in the State Water Plan," Ritter said.

"It is vital for the future of Texas that a dedicated source of revenue be established for funding the State Water Plan," Ritter added. "Our economy depends on it, our communities depend on it, and ultimately, our daily lives depend on it."

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SMOKEY

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Commissioners set bonds for county officials

By Wayne Hodgin
The Post Dispatch

Garza County commissioners met Monday during their first regular meeting of the new year to deliberate and act on a number of housekeeping items, including setting bonds for all newly elected officials and renewing those for others already in office.

County Judge Lee Norman said new state law required some changes for which the amounts certain elected officials are bonded.

"All elected officials, according to state law, must be bonded each year," Norman said. "The action we took this week was to renew bonds on existing county officials and establish bonds for our newly elected officials."

Those newly elected officials included county attorney, sheriff, tax assessor and two county commissioners.

Some of those officials, such as county tax assessor and sheriff, require two bonds — one from the county and one from the governor.

In addition, commissioners approved the purchase of a 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe from

Lubbock County for the local sheriff's office. The truck, which had about 11,000 miles, was purchased for \$6,000.

Sheriff Terry Morgan said the truck needed minor repairs and that Lubbock County officials indicated they weren't interested in making those repairs.

"Through the connections I have through my years of working for Lubbock County, I was able to negotiate the purchase," he said.

Morgan said the body shop he contacted to make the repairs before putting it to use here in Garza County were done free of charge.

In other business Monday, commissioners approved a number of documents needed in order for the county to be awarded \$350,000 in state disaster relief aid that will benefit the White River Municipal Water District.

Commissioners also continue to move forward with the \$400,000 heating and cooling project at the courthouse, approving engineering specifications and preparing to send the project out for bid.

Springer sworn into Texas House

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — Rep. Drew Springer was sworn in as the State Representative for House District 68 on Jan. 8.

"It is an honor and a privilege to officially represent the citizens of District 68," Springer said. "It is a responsibility I do not take lightly, and I intend on proving a strong voice for the needs of rural Texas."

At the swearing-in ceremony, Springer was joined by his wife, children and constituents from the district. After taking his oath of office, Springer was chosen by speaker of the House to be part of the welcoming committee that brought the governor into the House chamber.

Legislators will have 140 days to propose, vote and

pass legislation before the House adjourns on the last day of May. During that time, they will have to pass a budget for the biennium and deal with massive issues such as the state water plan.

On Jan. 9, the House voted on the rules that would be in effect for the next two years in the chamber. The body debated a variety of items, including a measure that would re-allocate money from the speaker's office in Austin back toward each member's office. This extra money will allow Springer to have a greater presence in the district, so he can better deal with the diverse needs of his constituents.

This week, representatives will send their top choices to the House speaker, who will determine what committees

each legislator will get placed on.

Springer has lobbied to be placed on the Agriculture Committee and the Natural Resources Committee, both of which will have a large impact on rural matters for the state.

Constituents are urged to contact Springer with any issues or suggestions. His Capitol office phone is 512-463-0526 and email is drew.springer@house.state.tx.us.

If you have any issues or suggestions for the session, feel free to contact Rep. Springer's district director, Jennifer Vogel, who will be headquartered out of Gainesville. It will take a month for the state to set up Springer's district office, until then, constituents may get in touch with Vogel by contacting the Austin office.

Legends

How Calamity Jane got her name

(Editor's note: This column is the second in a series about the American frontierswoman.)

You know, some folks just don't care to use computers, but for me it's almost as good as Double Bubble. I do have to admit though, it can become very, and I mean very, frustrating when we have glitches occur, but overall it's a great tool for

research. After all, we never had the opportunity to know Calamity Jane, but thanks to Wikipedia, we can.

Part two of Martha Jane Canary's (also spelled Canary) story picks up in 1872 when she was about 20 years old. She was said to be "extremely attractive, and a pretty dark-eyed girl." She had little or no formal education and therefore was deemed illiterate. But she lived an adventurous life on the Great Plains. She claimed to have participated in numerous campaigns in the long-running con-

flicts with the Native Americans. This part of her biography talks about how she acquired the nickname Calamity Jane.

"It was during this campaign [in 1872-1873] that I was christened Calamity Jane. It was on Goose Creek, Wyo., where the town of Sheridan is now located. Capt. Egan was in command of the post. We were ordered out to quell an uprising of the Indians and were out for several days, had numerous skirmishes, during which six of the soldiers were killed and several severely wounded. When returning to the post we were ambushed about a mile and a half from our destination. When fired upon, Captain Egan was shot. I was riding in advance and on hearing the firing, turned in my saddle and saw the Captain reeling in his saddle as though about to fall. I turned my horse and galloped back with all haste to his side and got there in time to catch him as he was falling. I lifted him onto my horse in front of me and succeeded in getting him safely to the fort. Recovering, Capt. Egan laughingly said: 'I name you Calamity Jane, the heroine of the Plains,' and I have borne that name up to the present time."

A Capt. Jack Crawford, who served under Gen.

Merritt and Gen. Crook, stated in an April 1904 edition of the Anaconda Standard-Montana that Calamity Jane was lying about her association with the military, saw a lynching or was an Indian fighter. He implied she was simply a notorious character.

Regardless of Crawford's accusations, the Hickok wagon train's arrival in Deadwood was reported in the Black Hills Pioneer on July 15, 1876, with the headline, "Calamity Jane has arrived!"

Another verified story about Calamity Jane was in 1875, when her detachment was ordered to Big Horn River, serving under Gen. Crook. She was to deliver important dispatches, so she swam the Platte River, traveling 90 miles at top speed while wet and cold. She became ill, and after a few weeks recovering, she rode to Fort Laramie, Wyo. Then in 1876 she joined a wagon train headed north, which is where she met the infamous Wild Bill Hickok.

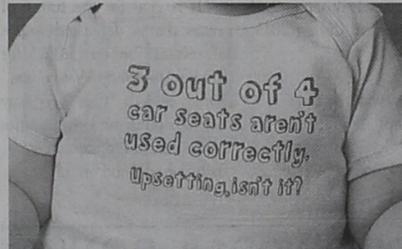
Part three picks up with Calamity Jane settling in Deadwood, S.D., in the Black Hills.

See you next week.

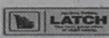
Linda Puckett is curator of the Garza Museum and director of the Garza County Historical Commission.



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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

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

Church of Christ
Church of Christ- 108 N. Ave M 495-2326

Graham Chapel Church of Christ- 15th & Ave S

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

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

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

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

Nazarene
Post Church of Nazarene- 202 W. 10th, 495-3044
Grassland Church of Nazarene- 327-5656

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

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The Idle American

The walk and the talk

When life's talkin' lines up so closely with the walkin', light sheds on how joy can trump sadness at a funeral. That's my nutshell description of the Rev. Dr. Mike Toby's memorial service, one he largely planned himself.

At 80 minutes, it didn't seem protracted, though he might have disagreed. After all, he had included no allowances for senior staff ad-libbing, or for reflective pauses shared by an overflow crowd of almost 2,000 people at First Woodway Baptist Church, where he had been senior pastor for 35 years.

His life was a testimony, his stature obvious and his leadership consistent. Mike "stood tall" in the faith, and, at 6-foot-5, towered over most congregants, his disarming smile projecting an "all is well" countenance. "Be a lighthouse" was the credo of this beloved pastor.

He was the kind of man who "seized the day" at an early hour, ready to face the opportunities, challenges and demands that would surface later.

Mike dealt with numbness during a sermon back in October. He went to the doctor, sharing symptoms he simply didn't understand.

Doctors understood and medical tests confirmed that brain cancer was entrenched.

Jackie, his wife of 45 years, sons Joshua and Scott and their families knew the course their loved one would take. He had options of invasive surgery that might have extended his life for a year or so, or he could finish his earthly pilgrimage at home, with the probability of living two or three months.

He made a short video for a church

service, explaining he "wouldn't bargain with the Lord for 15 seconds beyond his allotted time."

Mike spent November and December at home, medication keeping him comfortable. There, he said what he needed to say and did what he needed to do.

Mike had "are we there yet, daddy," kinds of questions, as enthusiastic as a 12-year-old on the road for summer vacation. He looked forward to the next step. "If it were up to me, I'd be in the front seat of the next flight out," he mused. (His staff often kidded about his penchant for punctuality. "To be on time," one said, "was to be a few minutes late!").

His ever-present sense of humor lightened the moment when the senior staff gathered at the Toby home to "nail down" memorial service details.

"I don't want a preacher doing my funeral," he insisted, turning to the Rev. Terry Graham, his associate pastor for the past 18 years, "I want you to do it." Chuckles erupted.

This God's man/family's man/man's man — his spiritual calling never questioned but prankster tendencies sometimes were — was a tender leader, tough only when situations demanded.

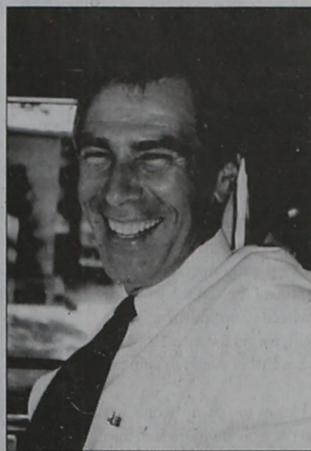
In reality, his life work began almost a half-century ago while a student at Pasadena High School. Each morning, he offered prayer and devotionals on the intercom system.

Relentless in athletic competition and an outdoorsman, his experiences became life lessons for sermons.

Mike spent much time in reflection during his eight weeks at home preceding his death on Dec. 29. Included were thoughts of his support of mission points in the Waco area and around the world.

Probably every person at the service had favorite "Mike Toby stories."

I do, most of them centering on his gracious spirit, unbounded en-



The Rev. Dr. Mike Toby

thusiasm and infectious "yes we can" attitude.

In his final hours, he told his wife, Jackie, he wanted to "take a puppy along." Puzzled, she recited all the dog names she could remember. He interrupted, "You know, the one we had when we moved to Waco."

To conclude the service, the Tobys' grandchildren walked with the Rev. Graham in front of the casket. A trumpeter belted out "When We All Get to Heaven." Behind the family were 50 or so children, "whosoever will" participants. All of them carried glow sticks. Congregational singing closed it out with lively singing of "I'll Fly Away."

Putting the glow sticks away, the children — some of them as young as 5 — hastened to an adjacent room, where their parents were waiting. Though the church has grown large — from a membership of 1,000 to 4,600 during Toby's ministry — they knew "the way."

Dr. Toby spent the bulk of his life telling them about it.

Don Newbury, former chancellor of Howard Payne University, is a columnist, humorist and motivational speaker.

Nancy's Notions

Washing and clipping

It's show time! Many of us who grew up in Post can't reminisce about stock shows of the past without thinking about Syd Conner.

The "Hereford" metal sign on the fence was one of several welcome signs to the pen next to the sign,



NANCY MCDONALD

you would find a few of his young bulls milling around. Many times we gave directions from Lubbock using Syd's corner like "turn left at the Hereford sign" or "there will be a pen of Hereford bull calves right on the corner."

Syd Conner was a graduate of Texas Tech University and the Garza County Extension Agent from 1962 to his retirement 1989.

Extension evolved and changed over the 27 years that Syd worked, but his passion for Herefords and stock shows remained the same. Syd had an eye for a good bull and continued perfecting his herd after retirement. I remember watching Rusty, Tony, Christy, Randy and even some of his grand-

kids showing steers. I'm sure they have endless stories and memories to cherish.

In 2009, Garza County 4-H started raising funds and accepting donations for an annual scholarship to honor Syd's dedication to Extension and Garza County youth. Requirements for scholarship eligibility include: completing 20 community service hours and a 4-H record book which includes 4-H projects, activities and awards. Four \$500 scholarships have been given to date.

All proceeds from the 2013 stock show concession stand will go to the Syd Conner Memorial Scholarship Fund. Look for some traditional concession foods like nachos and hot dogs along with beef fajitas burritos and homemade chili on Friday and taco salads on Saturday. Breakfast burritos will be available each morning. Donations can also be made to The Syd Conner Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Extension Office, 215 West Main St. or call 495-4400.

See you all at the barn!

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

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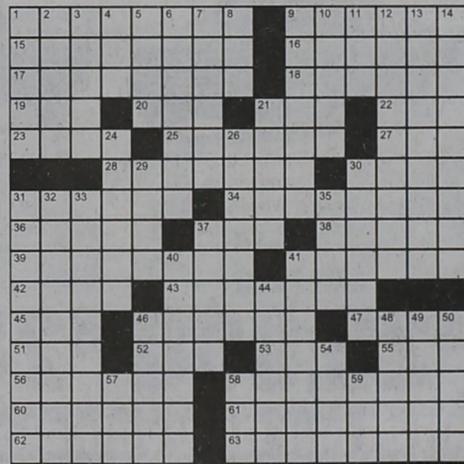
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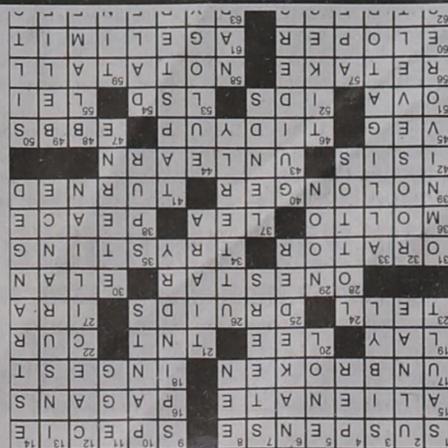
- Across
- Apprehension about what is going to happen
 - Coin
 - Drive off
 - Heathens
 - Intact
 - Swallow
 - ___ it on thick
 - "Malcolm X" director
 - Atlanta-based station (acronym)
 - Blackguard
 - Be a snitch
 - Pre-Christian priests among the Celts
 - Bank offering, for short (acronym)
 - Like a brigadier general (2 wds)
 - Brio
 - Henry Clay, for one
 - Meeting at a certain time and place, esp. lovers
 - Very, to Verdi
 - Grassland
 - Christmas wish
 - Not now (2 wds)
 - Went bad
 - Egyptian fertility goddess
 - Try to forget
 - Engage in passive activities, often with "out"
 - Put things in order (2 wds)
 - Declines
 - Egg cells
 - Driver's lic. and others
 - "Acid" (acronym)
 - "Fantasy Island" prop
 - Second shot
 - By no means (3 wd)
 - One who runs away to get married
 - Club restriction? (2 wds)
 - Beat
 - Mountain range between France and Spain

Down

- ___ Ste. Marie
- Arm bones
- Woman prophet
- The "p" in m.p.g.
- Carbon compound
- More rude
- Directs
- Dusk, to Donne
- Dry by centrifugal forces
- Imitates a hot dog
- ___ roll
- Small tropical wormlike amphibian
- Financial protection for property
- Alienated
- Beauty pageant wear

- Numbers games
- Altogether
- "High" time
- Forever, poetically
- Plant and animal eaters
- New Deal president
- Crocodile relative
- Cowboy boot attachment
- Advances
- Those who show the way
- Bartender
- Laudatory speech for one who has died
- Kiddies
- Hold responsible
- Contradict
- Sedimentary materials
- "Over" follower in the first line of "The Caissons Go Rolling Along"
- "Tarzan" extra
- 40 winks
- Bolivian export

PUZZLE SOLUTION



The Paperboy

We're on our own in this

Times are changing fast people. The power in Washington is going after guns, and if we don't increase the debt ceiling, everyone will die!

Nothing like guilting a political party into taking part in bankrupting a country.

Our government is hell-bent on spending like crazy with hardly any cutbacks, while businesses and individuals are asked to make up the difference. They spend more, we pay more. And if you don't like the extra money coming out of your check, get used to it. It's just the beginning.

So what do we do? Seems our national politicians are helpless against the machine. Or spineless.

Anyhow, the way to combat Washington is to keep your economy local. If you have the mentality of shopping town, area, state and national — in that order — then we might make it out of this mess in a decade.

Think of it like this: You need some groceries and home items. You can make a couple of extra stops and find what you need in your town, or you can go to a nearby larger town and give them your business.

In one hand, you've saved time and helped your local economy. In the other had you've actually spent more in another town because of fuel and a meal and now the tax money coming from everything you've consumed is not local, it's in another ZIP code.

Personally, I'd like to thank you for your business in 2012 and wish you success in 2013. As a reader and/or advertising customer, I appreciate your business.

Our small towns are important. What we do is important. This publication must help lead the way toward growth and prosperity. We have a lot of work to do and we need each other.

Most of us are like-minded. We want a safe

community to live in and opportunity. We have those things before us. They may not be easy to recognize sometimes, but I believe they are real. Look around your community and notice the volunteers delivering meals, serving on the Chamber, working the concession stands. It takes a lot to make our communities hum.

Through organization, communication and hard work, we can have the kind of communities we all want. We should always strive for excellence regardless of what happens in Washington.

So much of our local economies are based on attitude. It can be argued the chances of a thriving economy are related to optimism on what to expect. Nationally, we get a very pessimistic view of the economy. Either view can gain momentum.

I'm optimistic. I know too many people in the communities we serve who are motivated and ready. They love their homes and they fight the good fight daily trying to make it better.

Small businesses are the backbone of this country. You take the risk, you provide jobs, you work your tail off to make ends meet — you are the lifeblood of your town and this country. Be proud of that!

Our communities can be what we make of them. You read your newspaper. You may love it or hate it, but you care enough to take interest. Seems to me we can set aside our differences and party affiliations locally and continue to reach common ground. I guess we're more mature than those we are electing.

For me, I'm done with national politics. I honestly don't care because so very few are in charge, and, really, what's the difference anymore? Neither party is in it for us poor, rural folk. If you think otherwise, prove me wrong.

It's up to us to do our own thing and make our towns what we want. We're on our own and I honestly think we're better off.

Christopher Blackburn is publisher of The Post Dispatch and CEO of Blackburn Media Group.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

The 501

Economic theory, a la Uncle Scrooge and the Three Stooges

No way should I be writing about that multi-trillion dollar coin that someone has proposed as a way to pay off the national debt. I can't help myself.

The mint-one-coin theory is beyond me. For that matter, so is most economic theory, especially the creative spin-off ideas, if we can call them that. Probably we can't, but I just did. If nothing else, a wild idea like the jillion-trillion-dollar coin sounds more interesting than Keynes vs. whoever; Keynes being the only economist I remember from college economics, maybe because I'm impressed he was important enough to turn himself into an adjective, as in Keynesian. I'll never be an adjective.

All I understand is supply and demand. Uncle Scrooge gets the credit. In my youth, I faithfully read Disney comic books; Donald and Scrooge being my favorites. In one scenario, Donald and his nephews and Uncle Scrooge were visiting an undeveloped part country untainted by things like soda pop. Scrooge dropped a bottle cap. The natives fought over it.

Before I get this story wrong, let's find it on the Internet. INTERNET PAUSE. Wow, it's a better story than I remembered. Magnus Christensson, a Swede, has posted a scholarly paper on Uncle Scrooge on a website, and the bottle cap story is one topic.

Per Christensson, the adventure takes place in a country called The Land of Tra-la-la, an exotic remote venue inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge's Xanadu in his poem "Kubla Khan."

Who knew? Christensson summarizes a "Ducktales" movie plot that sounds just like the comic book story I read. Uncle Scrooge's bottle cap turns out to be worth three sheep in Tra-la-la, a land with no currency per se.

At Scrooge's directive, Launchpad McQuack (a character I don't remember) airdrops a million bottle caps onto Tra-la-la, making the previously valuable bottle cap worth nothing at all. In fact, Scrooge gets in trouble with the Tra-la-la-lains for littering.

Somehow he and Donald and Huey, Dewey and Louie manage to escape, learning a lesson in supply and demand from their dangerous adventure. And so did I, except it all seemed like common sense to me.

The comic book tale made me think of all the colorful bottle caps that virtually paved the area in front of one of the country stores where I myself often popped the top on a Grapette or Nehi drink. Not a litterer, I made sure my caps ended up in the box on the icebox that held the bottle chutes, if that comparison can be made. Anyway, I just made it.

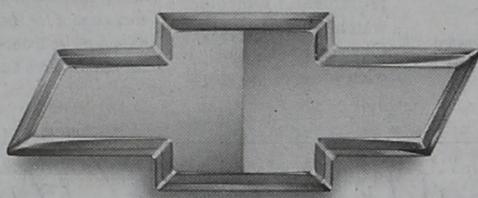
Back to common sense, if it doesn't work out for one coin to pay the national debt, a certain Three Stooges routine might work. Each member of the trio owed the other \$20. They circulated one 10-dollar bill twice and managed to pay off all the debts.

Or maybe that's how the one-coin theory works. What do I know? Not very much.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a contributor and columnist for The Post Dispatch.



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2007 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, white/black cloth, 5.3 V8, 107K, LT1, New Body Style, #50806.....	\$15,500	2010 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, silver/ebony cloth, 5.3 V8, power seat, steering wheel controls, 27K #50819.....	\$24,900
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2007 Hummer H2 SUT, White/black leather, new after market tires & wheels, #50863.	\$29,500	2010 Chevrolet 2500HD Crew Cab 4X4, 6.0L V8, silver/black leather, steering wheel controls, remote start, HD tow package, LT1 equipment package, 32K #50888.....	\$29,500
2008 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, white/charcoal cloth, 5.3 V8 Auto, LT package, steering wheel controls, power seat, 62K #50865.....	\$19,995	2010 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD white/gray cloth, 5.3 V8 auto, front bucket seats, LT1 equipment package, 25K #50836.....	\$27,000
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2008 Kia Rio LX 4 door sedan, gold/tan cloth, 4 cyl auto, a/c, 14K #8200.....	\$13,938	2012 Chevrolet 3500HD Crew Cab Dooley, 4X4, Diesel, white/charcoal cloth, work truck package, power windows & locks, tow package 14K #50852.....	\$41,500
2009 Chevy 2500HD Crew Cab 4X4 diesel, Bruton/fb, white/black leather, 91K #50563..	\$29,000	2012 Chevy Suburban LT2WD, silver/gray leather, 2nd row bench, luxury, 9K #30090..	\$35,550

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Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

Even on a Monday, it's easy for Munday Moguls to smile when they're together and thinking about their state championship in football. Wearing the Texas Tech logo is quarterback-defensive back Dee Paul, who Saturday announced his decision to accept a football scholarship from Tech, where he'll also run track. Kneeling is Roddrick Taylor, also a senior. Others standing, from left, are L.J. Collier, coach Patrick Corcoran and Jerico Thompson. Paul will work for a slot on the college team as defensive back and also hopes to be on the kick and punt return team.

Munday's Paul bound for Tech

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

It's no secret anywhere. Munday Mogul football standout Dee Paul is bound for Texas Tech University in the fall.

Paul made the news official with a live announcement Saturday night.

In one sense, Paul is already on his way out of his hometown. On Monday, the high school senior wore Texas Tech gear to school — a black sports shirt with the red Double-T Texas Tech logo over his heart. Goal-oriented, he sees himself not only playing football for Tech but also setting records in the 300-meter hurdles — first at state high school competition this spring and then doing well enough in college ultimately to represent the United States in hurdles at the Olympic games.

Career-wise, he's aiming for degrees in sports communication and kinesiology to help him one day be a college football coach. Based on his past achievements, Paul has a good start on going just that far. But wherever his career path takes him and whatever insignias end up on his shirts, Munday will stay in his heart. He's got too many good memories ever to forget his hometown. Besides, West Texas is his culture.

Not surprisingly, Dee Paul has relatives in East Texas. Like many Texas families, his originally migrated west from that direction.

"A lot of trees" is how he describes Dekalb, where he's been more than once on family trips to visit relatives.

The broad horizons of the Texas Plains seem to better match his far-reaching dreams. Like anyone else who's grown up in the wide open spaces, he feels hemmed in by the East Texas trees, he said — reason enough to prefer Munday to Dekalb.

Of greater significance, growing up in Munday has given him a family of a different sort — peers he's played with all his life and adults who've given him guidance and support, whether up close as coaches or from the stands as fans.

"How great it is seeing everybody at the football games," he said, expressing his feelings about the community that's always been his home.

Playing basketball with his friends at the little basketball court beside the elementary school is one of his main memories of a happy childhood.

As a fifth-grader, he broke into high school sports as a water boy for the football team. All ears, he soaked up the game from the inner circle.

"I caught on fast, listening to the coach," he said. "My seventh-grade year, we won state."

Being close to that winning team gave him players to look up to — "my cousin B.J. Dockins, Anason Jones, Steve Urbanczyk," he said,

recounting some of the guys he'll never forget.

Seventh grade was also the year Paul started running hurdles, a track and field choice made by the coaches.

"They just threw me in it," he said.

Paul proved to be a track standout. He runs the 40-yard dash in 4.43 seconds. Last spring he won state 1A titles in the long jump and 300 meter hurdles. This year he's got his mind set to do even better in the hurdles.

"I'll break the record this year," he said, displaying his characteristic mild-mannered confidence.

Call it goal setting or bravado. Either way, Paul has a way of making things come true.

At the same time, he recognizes others for helping him along the way, even in track events like the hurdles, an event that measures individual accomplishment.

"My teammates are running with me," Paul said. "They try to push me."

But nobody pushes Paul quite like he pushes himself. At Tech, he sees himself graduating and then working in the football system as a graduate assistant, a step on the way toward coaching at the college level.

"I'll work my way up," he said.

First he sees himself earning a place on the team, not just as a defensive back but also returning kicks and punts. How fast can it happen?

"It depends on how fast I come in and learn," he said. "How much I work at it."

Paul already feels comfortable with the men who'll be his coaches at Tech.

"I like those guys a lot," he said. "I saw all of them this morning."

But it's the Tech coaches who'll have to work to exceed Paul's opinion of Patrick Corcoran, his coach and a mentor since Paul's water-boy days.

"I've got a really good relationship with Coach Corcoran," Paul said, mentioning Corcoran's love for the game and love for his players.

"You have to have a good relationship with your players," Paul said, sounding like the coach he wants to be someday.

When Paul and Corcoran posed for a picture together in the high school hallway, it took only seconds for three nearby teammates to squeeze into the picture too, still exuberant over winning the state championship, happy for their friend and teammate Paul, happy to be Munday Moguls — good hometown relationships frozen in time forever.

Sports roundup

Lady Lopes fall to Floydada

The Post Lady Lopes have dropped three games in a row with their loss to Floydada on Friday. The varsity girls started slow in the first quarter and never could recover even though they fought back with solid second and third quarters. The Lady Lopes fall to 0-3 in district play. Senior Haily Berry led the Lady Lopes with 19 points.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post		5	16	16	3
Floydada	16	9	18	6	49

Post boys fall to Floydada

The Post High School varsity basketball team lost, 78-53, in Floydada on Friday. Leading scorer for Post was Tavish Soto with 14 points.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	13	12	4	24	53
Floydada	15	16	31	16	78

JV girls lose to Floydada

The Post junior varsity suffered a devastating defeat at the hands of the subvarsity Lady Winds last Friday night in Floydada. The Lady Lopes are now 1-2 in district play.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post JV		6	5	1	0
Floydada JV	12	13	10	14	49

Eighth-grade boys notch win against Floydada

The Post eighth-grade boys basketball team won, 29-16, against Floydada on Jan. 10.

Coach Richard Soliz said, "These boys finally played to their potential. They played great defense and a very sound offense. This is how they can and should play." Scorers: Kevin Finch 10, Caiden Dugger 8, Jose DeLuna 4, Adrian Rogers 4, Paxton Nava 3.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	4	7	14	4	29
Floydada	6	5	2	3	16

Seventh-grade boys lose to Floydada

The Post seventh-grade B boys team fell, 31-11, to Floydada on Jan. 10.

Coach Richard Soliz said, "It was a tough game for the boys. Floydada was fast and tall and played great," he said. "This is not indicative of (our) team. (We) had a bad game against a tough opponent. ... They'll bounce back." Scorers: Jonathan Hernandez 8, Corbin Steadman 2,



Carson Mason 1

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	2	6	0	3	11
Floydada	2	7	12	10	31

Childress ekes by Lady Lopes

The Post Lady Lopes were heartbroken Tuesday night as they dropped their second district game to a tough Childress team. With an outstanding last-second shot to end the first half by Kelbie Oden, the Lady Lopes went to the locker room tied with Childress. The second half would go back and forth as both teams continued to play full court pressure defense and move quickly through transition offenses. The Childress victory came down to the last second as a shot by Taylor Osborn was tipped and didn't fall at the buzzer. Senior Haily Berry led the Lady Lope scoring with 15, Osborn had 11 and Callie Odom had 10.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	6	17	17	12	52
Childress	13	10	16	15	54



Post JV girls outscore Childress

The Post junior varsity girls celebrated their first district win and second season win Tuesday night against Childress. The subvarsity ladies led the whole game and showed a strong press to force turnovers from the visiting team. Brogan Macy had 11 points.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	6	10	6	5	27
Childress	1	10	3	10	24

Compiled by Wayne Hodgins

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Yesteryears

10 Years Ago

January 16, 2003

Juanetta Bocko scripts play titles in the fresh concrete as Bo Jackson puts the finishing touches last Saturday at the Garza Theatre. The new sidewalk sections commemorate Garza Theatre productions.

Army Pvt. Jay B. Cole has graduated from basic combat military training at Fort Sill in Lawton, Okla. The son of Tommy and Rosemary Cole of Post, Cole is a 2002 graduate of Post High School.

The 20th anniversary of the Caprock Cultural Association was celebrated at the CCA Annual Awards Banquet on Dec. 10 at the Algerita Arts Center. For 20 years, the CCA has managed, through grants and requests to help finance the

operations of arts and history in Post. Recipients of the \$9,500 in 2002 were Garza County Historical Museum, Garza Theatre, Ragtown Historical Project and the proposed activation of the Algerita Arts Center.

20 Years Ago

January 13, 1993

Temperatures from a fire at the BTA Swenson Battery at the Chimney Creek Ranch in northeast Garza County resulted in first- and second-degree burns to a pair of Post volunteer firemen. Rodney Tidwell and Mike Tomlinson suffered the burns while fighting a heater-treater fire. Temperatures were so extreme, the two suffered burns through their protective bunker gear burning their hands and shoulders. Tidwell's helmet

was melted even though he was about 75 feet from the blaze where he was front man on a one and a half inch hose.

Kerry Alameda Thuett graduated Dec. 19, 1992, from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology. Kerry is the daughter of Ronald and Nancy Thuett of Post.

Several former Post students have qualified for honor rolls at area colleges and universities. Jay Green was named to the dean's list at South Plains College Levelland. The 1989 graduate of Post High School is a law enforcement major. He is the son of Bobby and Linda Green. Teri Riedel, Pamela Humble and Tamara Ramsey were named to the president's honor roll at Texas Tech for the fall semester.

30 Years Ago

January 12, 1983

What started out as a fairly routine fire call to a truck on fire a fire Tuesday afternoon turned out to be potentially dangerous chemical fire about six miles north of Post on the south-bound lane of U.S. 84. Post volunteer firemen responded to the call and began to extinguish the fire with normal water procedures. An ambulance was called to the scene to administer to the truck driver, Bobby Richardson of Lubbock, who suffered minor first-degree chemical burns on this arms.

Anselmo Rodela, a resident at 402 S. Ave. F in Post, was out on \$50,000 bond following a charge of aggravated assault, in a shooting that took place in front of his residence Monday night.

A butane truck belonging to

Southland Butane Co., owned by Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Rogers rolled over near Justiceburg on Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Williams announce the birth of a son, Coby Lee, born Jan. 9, at 9:40 a.m. in South Park Hospital in Lubbock. He weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces.

40 Years Ago

January 18, 1973

Travis Thomas, and employee of Southwestern Public Service Co., recently retired after 35 years as a volunteer fireman, 20 years in Seagraves and 15 years in Post. Thomas is 59, which is four years past the retirement age for volunteer fireman here, but he stayed in the extra four years because of his electrical knowledge.

J.B. Potts, who first served as president of the Post Chamber of Commerce in 1962, has been elected as president of this civic organization for the club's 1973 year. Potts will be installed as president, succeeding Jim Cornish, at the annual banquet in Feb. 22.

The Rev. George L. Miller, who has served as president of the board of directors of Garza County's Community Actions program for its first five years, received lots of words of praise Tuesday night when he stepped down as president and off the board. Jim Cornish will be the incoming replacement.

Jim Boles is now the owner of Post radio station KPOS. The Federal Communications Commission this month approved the transfer of license from the Post Broadcasting Co., owned by Lantz Powell of Ponca City, Okla., for the last five years to Boles.

50 Years Ago

January 17, 1963

A 15 year-old juvenile is being held for the shooting here early Friday night of Thomas Lucious, 42, at Joe's Bar in the northeast part of the city. The wounded man, who was shot through the stomach, is in a Lubbock hospital, where he was transferred after receiving emergency treatment at Garza Memorial Hospital. The deputy sheriff said Tuesday the shooting grew out of a fight. He said charges of fighting had been filed against two others, Gregorio Monico and Tony Valdez, and were to file against Lucious.

Pipeline Crews are laying water pipeline to the White River dam at a rate of 6,000 feet a day and were scheduled to begin laying the Post pipeline this week, Al O'Brien, general manager of the White River water district, told Post Rotarians at their Tuesday luncheon. The Post pipeline will begin in Post at 15th street and be laid toward the dam.

Post School Superintendent R.T. Smith plans to leave school administration ranks this spring because he has developed what he believes to be the solution of the No. 1 problem of the nation's teachers-grade averaging. He wants to devote his full time to its development.

R.M. Pirtle of 115 S. Ave. S, a resident of Garza County for 42 years, observed his 92nd birthday Wednesday, Jan. 16, only a little more than a week after he and Mrs. Pirtle observed their 70th wedding anniversary.

Compiled by Elizabeth Moreno

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Outstanding Business/Organization
(Must be a PACC Member)

_____ Xcel Energy
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_____ P J's Catering
_____ Community Recovery Center

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(Write In Vote)

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_____ Pixi Grisham
_____ Ruth Davis
_____ Rosa Latimer
_____ Chris Atkinson

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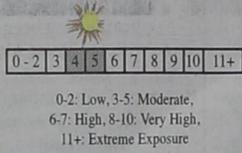
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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

Friday Sunny 59 / 32	Saturday Sunny 60 / 29	Sunday Mostly Sunny 55 / 29	Monday Mostly Sunny 43 / 24	Tuesday Sunny 48 / 30	Wednesday Mostly Sunny 51 / 32	Thursday Partly Cloudy 54 / 35

Local UV Index



Weather Trivia

Which type of cloud produces lightning?
 Answer: Cumulonimbus

Weather History

Jan. 18, 1987 - A storm in the south central United States blanketed Oklahoma City with eight inches of snow, their highest total since 1948. Snowfall totals in Oklahoma reached up to 13 inches at Gage, with drifts five feet high.

Jan. 19, 1987 - A storm tracking toward the northeastern United States produced up to 14 inches of snow in northern Indiana. Peru, Ind. reported a foot of snow. Six cities in Florida reported new record high temperatures for the date.

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see sunny skies with a high temperature of 59°, humidity of 34%. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. The record high temperature for today is 81° set in 1974. Expect mostly clear skies tonight with an overnight low of 32°. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. The record low for tonight is 11° set in 1984. Saturday, skies will be sunny with a high temperature of 60°, humidity of 32%. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Skies will be mostly clear Saturday night with an overnight low of 29°. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	5:11-7:11	4:41-6:41	Tue	8:19-10:19	7:49-9:49
Sat	5:57-7:57	5:27-7:27	Wed	9:07-11:07	8:37-10:37
Sun	6:44-8:44	6:14-8:14	Thu	9:56-11:56	9:26-11:26
Mon	7:31-9:31	7:01-9:01	www.WhatsOurWeather.com		

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
First 1/18	Fri 7:48 a.m.	6:05 p.m.	11:53 a.m.	12:33 a.m.
Sat 7:47 a.m.	6:06 p.m.	12:29 p.m.	1:28 a.m.	
Sun 7:47 a.m.	6:07 p.m.	1:07 p.m.	2:23 a.m.	
Mon 7:47 a.m.	6:08 p.m.	1:49 p.m.	3:17 a.m.	
Full 1/26	Tue 7:46 a.m.	6:08 p.m.	2:34 p.m.	4:08 a.m.
Wed 7:46 a.m.	6:09 p.m.	3:23 p.m.	4:57 a.m.	
Thu 7:45 a.m.	6:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	5:43 a.m.	

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days	
					Date	Degree Days
1/8	51	26	51/24	0.00"	1/8	0
1/9	47	33	51/24	0.84"	1/12	0
1/10	52	39	51/24	0.04"	1/9	0
1/11	63	38	51/24	0.00"	1/10	0
1/12	42	24	51/24	0.00"	1/11	0
1/13	34	21	51/24	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.	
1/14	28	19	51/24	0.00"		

Dixie Divas

A lack of empathy

One night while out to dinner, I noticed an elegant elderly lady at the next table over who was dining alone. I was drawn to her because sorrow clouded her eyes and she smiled sadly, the kind we all force when we do not feel happy.



RONDA RICH

The waiter seemed to know her. He leaned down to chat with her, placed his hand on her shoulder and was kindly solicitous. She responded with a grateful look. It

was, for all practical purposes, an empathetic exchange. I called the waiter over and asked about the woman.

"She and her husband used to dine here all the time but he died a few months ago. Now, she comes here alone." Though we were on dessert, I went over and invited her to join us but she quietly declined. She explained that her husband had died five months earlier. They had been married for sixty years. She dropped her eyes. "It's so hard without him, after all those years together."

I squeezed her hand and sympathized. I saw Mama go through that when Daddy died after 57 years of marriage. "I'll be praying for you," I said. Again, she nodded quietly. "Please."

Of all the things I see or hear, I am most saddened by the lack of empathy that some folks have. I had it, too, in my ignorant youth. I saw things only from my point of view and criticized soundly, often eloquently. Life changed that in me. It whipped me around, taught me the frailty of life and showed me how, despite our very best efforts, we can still get in terrible jams.

I wrote a column on a house I passed often that was once filled with a happy family but foreclosure forced the family out. The house heaved with sadness and loneliness as the weeds grew and the flowers died. Many

of you wrote in to express similar thoughts on similar situations. One man wrote, "I tell everyone close to me not to buy a foreclosed home because, to me, it feels like taking advantage of another's misfortune."

One lone voice and opinion saddened me terribly. She wrote that she had no sympathy for anyone who lost their home because she and her husband had lived in an apartment and eaten sandwiches for nine years in order to afford the home they bought. I see things differently. I see myself as blessed that some terrible tragedy or loss of job has not forced me from a home that was purchased after years of sewing my own clothes, clipping coupons and even working two or three jobs at a time. Yes, I worked hard and saved diligently to get here but by the grace of God and lack of misfortune, I am able to stay here.

When I wrote about the dire straits of the post office and asked folks to start writing more letters and buying more stamps so that we could save jobs as well as an American institution, one man took it seriously. For his 70th birthday, he asked only for a copy of that column so he could mail to his friends and rally the cause. He forwarded the email to hundreds of friends and family and said, "For my birthday, buy a stamp and mail a letter. Let's help our fellow Americans."

Of course, another response was different. He listed all the reasons he used email and refused to use the postal system (though I can't believe he doesn't receive mail). How is it possible not to care about the welfare of others? How is it possible to be callous about a part of Americana that dates back to Benjamin Franklin and the founding of this great country?

Because some people are not empathetic. They don't see another's point of view.

Maybe I'm too empathetic but that troubles me.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, storyteller and best-selling author. Her latest book, "There's A Better Day A-Comin'" is available at rondarich.com.

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