

The Post Dispatch

A BUILDER IN GARZA COUNTY SINCE 1926

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

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75 CENTS

China holds market in sideways pattern

By Blair Fannin
Special to the Dispatch

There's more price risk to the downside for cotton farmers as China sits on a stockpile of roughly 40 million bales of cotton.

John Robinson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension cotton economist in College Station, said China's stockpile was purchased at between \$1.30 and \$1.40 a pound. That surplus hangs over the market, and if they were to decide to sell the market would experience price shock.

"If they were to dump their cotton, the market might be 30 cents to the downside tomorrow," Robinson said. "Whenever they decide to sell their cotton, it would overall weaken the market."

Hedge funds invested in cotton futures are not holding positions for the long term, he said. Instead, any geopolitical unrest could cause a 5- to 10-cent drop in prices,

further pressuring any upside potential in pricing.

"I think commercial traders have been expecting lower prices as we go forward," he said. "It means more surplus cotton for everybody and price weakness."

Robinson said China may have hoped to see India's cotton production fall via inadequate monsoon rain. However, that has not happened and has prevented China from selling some of its surplus cotton to India on a price rally.

In the meantime, Robinson advised cotton producers to be aware of price risks and to consider purchasing puts or put spreads. This provides insurance for producers who are holding cotton that hasn't already been contracted in the event the market was to dip 10 cents or more.

For Texas, Robinson said about half to 60 percent of the crop is in the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association pool, which in-

cludes a number of local gins, including the Close City Co-op Gin in Garza County and others in Acuff, Idalou, and Slaton.

"They will get their price," he said. "That's been the only forward-pricing option available for many growers, especially in dryland areas."

Decrease in production

High Plains production estimates have slipped slightly from earlier reports, with the National Agricultural Statistics Service now projecting that area cotton growers will produce 2.5 million bales, down from 2.575 million bales in August.

The Northern High Plains area decreased by 280,000 bales, but the Southern High Plains increased by 205,000.

Yield per acre increased for the Northern High Plains, from 777 pounds in August to 856 in the September estimate. The See **COTTON**, Page 9



Blair Fannin
John Robinson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension cotton economist in College Station, checks bolls of cotton from last year's crop for quality control. Robinson said China's corner on the cotton market has world prices in flux.

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.

Health fair

The Garza County Health Fair will be at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Post Community Center. For information, contact the Garza County Extension office at 495-4400.

Active shooter class

The Post Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor an introduction to active shooting class at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist Church of Post. Class is free and open to the public. Call Janice Plummer at 495-3461 or email chamberofcommerce@postcitytexas.com.

GED classes

Instructional sessions for the GED test will begin from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday in Room 18 at Post High School. Call the school at 495-2770 for information.

Dog show

The annual Howl-O-Ween dog show will be at 3 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Garza County Junior Livestock Association Show Barn. Members of the 4-H youth program will sell concessions to raise money for future projects. For information, contact Nita Jo Arnold at 806-241-1113 or 806-777-9482.

Cow-calf seminar

Experts with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will conduct a cow-calf seminar Oct. 9 at the Post Community Center. Cost is \$10 per person, and continuing-education units will be offered for pesticide license holders. For information, call the Garza County Extension Office at 495-4400.

Cash mob

The Post Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its semiannual Cash Mob event for businesses on U.S. Highway 84. The event will be from 11:30 to 1 p.m. Oct. 10. Spend money at any participating business along the corridor, and draw for cash and prizes. For information, call Janice Plummer at the Chamber at 495-3461 or email chamberofcommerce@postcitytexas.com.

Corrections

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

News on the go



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Peoples opens full-service temp location

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

Though operating out of a temporary facility near a spot where it soon will be built, the seventh location of the Lubbock-based Peoples Bank has opened for business in Post.

The town's now third and newest financial institution — at 615 N. Broadway — allowed its first customers inside Tuesday, said Larry Allen, CEO and chairman of the board.

Keith Williams, who for the last eight years has served as senior vice president and branch manager at Centennial Bank in Post, has joined the ranks of Peoples Bank to serve in a similar capacity.

The makeshift Post branch is offering full-service banking to customers, including lobby hours from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and extended-hour, drive-through service from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

"The temporary facility is located so construction can begin on the bank's permanent facility in the months ahead," said Williams, a 28-year veteran of the banking industry, including the last eight in Post. "We will be providing full-service banking during this time, including a drive-up teller window."

Post resident and longtime banker Charles Hardin, a 40-year industry veteran, joins Williams as a senior vice president.

Peoples Bank, a locally owned community bank with assets exceeding \$325 million, also has locations in Lorenzo, Nazareth, Shallowater, Slaton and two in Lubbock. More information about can be found at peoplesbanktexas.com.



Williams



Hardin

At-risk youth



Josephine Burns/For the Dispatch
Mandy Soto, a home-based teacher for the Windham Garza County Home-Base Head Start and Early Head Start programs, visits last Friday with Colby Bell, 23 months, and Hazaiah Vargas, 3, in their Post home.

Local Head Start seeks more students

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

A window of opportunity is being shut in the faces of thousands of families across the nation as Head Start programs come to terms with a crippling federal funding deficit since the sequester went into effect last March.

Some of those families live right here in Post.

With a mandatory 5.27 percent across-the-board reduction in funding — a sum of nearly \$405 million — to programs that also include Early Head Start and Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, local agencies like the South Plains Community Action Association are tasked with cutting transportation and closing centers and classrooms — all of which limit access to those services for the most at-risk families.

With little fanfare at the close of last year's school term, the Windham Head Start Center in Post — which had served 17 children ages 3 to 4, provided daycare for four infants and also served as the base of operation for in-home services for an additional 12 Head Start children — closed its doors in a community that can ill afford to lose any more of its residents to a socioeconomic statistic.

Irma Guerra, SPCAA division director for Head Start and Early Head Start, said that pinch was being felt long before the sequestration with a Bush-era law that asked for more teaching credentials for program staff.

"In smaller communities like Post it became more difficult to find people with lead teacher qualifications," Guerra said.

See **HEAD START**, Page 10

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Deaths

Rodney Hays

GEORGETOWN — Rodney Dean Hays, devoted husband, was born May 17, 1967, in Post and passed on Sept. 14, 2013, at Scott & White in Temple. He had lived in Georgetown, Texas, for the last 17 years.

He served in the U.S. Army from November 1988 until February 1992. Upon honorable discharge, he was commended as a veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

Rodney worked as a Lead Inspector for the city of Austin, where the majority of his work involvement was with the Mueller Development. Rodney was passionate to see continued growth of his projects. He was most proud to have been a part of, and to know for years to come, these developments will be a sustainable living environment.

Rodney was married to his high school sweetheart, Alison Crawford. Side by side for 20 years, they lived each day to the fullest.



RODNEY HAYS

He had a zest for adventure on land, sea and air. He boxed, sparred, ran and enjoyed hunting. He was a racecar fanatic, riding his Ducati, and enjoyed restoring his 1957 classic Chevy truck. Always conscientious of his health, Rodney participated in the Brain Power 5K Race one week prior to his passing. He brought family and friends to tears by completing the entire course.

Rodney was blessed with grace, moral character, a sense of humor and

enduring strength. He was steadfast in his beliefs, loyal and faithful to his family and friends and shared his spirit of serenity to each who knew him.

Primary CNS Lymphoma took the life of a wonderful man from his family and friends, and it is for this reason that memorials in his name are encouraged to Scott & White's Brain Tumor Center in Temple to fund research for a cure.

Rodney's life cannot be measured in a few words. He lived life to the fullest, and he loved with passion. His legacy is with us, and we hope you are filled with his spirit as are we.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jerry Hays, and grandparents Jim and Mattie Hays and Max and Eloise Gordon, all of Post.

Ramsey Funeral Home in Georgetown is directing the family. Online condolences may be shared with them at RamseyFuneral.com.

Menus

Week of Sept. 30- Oct. 4

Post ISD

Breakfast

Monday: French toast sticks, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk

Tuesday: Scrambled eggs with biscuit and gravy, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk

Wednesday: Breakfast club, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk

Thursday: Chicken and waffles, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk

Friday: Cinnamon breakfast pastry with yogurt, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk

Lunch

Monday: Barbecue rib

sandwich, refried beans, garden salad, salsa, hot cinnamon apples, milk

Tuesday: Hot dog, potato rounds, fresh veggie cup, fresh seasonal fruit, milk

Wednesday: Grilled cheese sandwich, vegetable soup, baby carrots, fruit cup, milk

Thursday: Chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, garden salad, savory green beans, apple slices, crispy cereal treat, milk

Friday: Beef and bean burrito, seasoned corn, baby carrots, sliced peaches, milk

Southland ISD

Breakfast

Monday: Pancakes, fruit, juice, milk

Tuesday: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

Wednesday: Apple and cherry strudel, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk

Thursday: Muffins, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk

Friday: Biscuits, sausage, gravy, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday: Toasted ham and cheese sandwich, veggie cup, garden salad, oranges, baked chips,

cookies, milk

Tuesday: Crispy beef tacos, charro beans, garden salad, salsa, cinnamon applesauce, milk

Wednesday: Steak fingers, whipped potatoes with gravy, carrot coins, fruit, hot roll, milk

Thursday: Spaghetti with meatballs, garden salad, savory green beans, sliced peaches, milk

Friday: Hot dogs, tater tots, cucumber dippers, fresh seasonal fruit, milk

Garza County Trailblazers

Lunch

Monday: King Ranch casserole, rice, beans, peach shortcake, tortilla

Tuesday: Beef tips and rice, meadow blend, veggies, chocolate cake, roll

Wednesday: Spaghetti with meat, Italian veggies, Jello, garlic bread

Thursday: Smothered pork chops, black eyed peas, spinach, roll, birthday cake

Friday: Lemon peppered fish, pinto beans, coleslaw, cherry crisp, hushpuppies

Women's Chamber

The Women's Division met on Aug. 14, 2013. After the pledge to the flag of the United States was said and the prayer, the group enjoyed lunch together. Minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was approved as given. The concession stand for bingo on Aug. 15 was discussed. Suggestions for the menu and activities for bingo were made and the group finalized the plan for the evening. Set up time was at 5:30 pm with bingo starting at 6 pm.

President Pat Cruse reminded those present about the "Smokin in the Park" on Aug. 23-24. Members voted to be samplers for the event and were requested to be at the park by 1 pm.

Next meeting was scheduled for Sept. 18, 2013. Meeting was adjourned.

Members present: Marie Neff, Betty Posey, JoAnn Stelzer, Michelle Gibson, Olive Shaw, Naomi Matsler, Pst Cruse, Linda Puckett, Billie Cross and guest Lucretia Mathis.

Naomi Matsler

The 501 Snagged by an online car deal

I'll be switched! They got me hook, line and sinker. All but reeled in by a too-good-to-be-true car deal.

Yep, I almost bought a car online. Almost. But I got away.

The story:
A 2012 Hyundai Tucson caught my left eye as I

watched the Texas Rangers with my right.

Why not chat with an online salesman about the car with the fabulous price? Via my laptop com-

puter, the deal had landed in my lap — literally.

In the end, I got baited and switched twice — first by the Rangers, who initially promised victory, and then by the distant Oklahoma dealership that, at first glance, seemed to be selling the car.

The Rangers lost me in the top of the eighth when I headed north, car deal in the works, justifying my departure by calling it a trip to the farm to check in with the cows.

Backing up, if you've never initiated a car deal online after sundown, here's how it works:

In sales, you get the luck of the draw. You chat with a mug shot. Not to worry. They're all attractive. If you get a girl, she looks wholesome and just old enough not to be jailbait (sticking with our theme). Happily I got a cute guy instead.

His name was John. We chatted, meaning, of course, that we "typed," an increasingly obsolete word that doesn't capture the essence

of a conversation. Neither were we really chatting in the true sense of the word. Should that have been my first clue the car was one shade away from reality? It all seemed real. John said he'd have to check with his sales manager, which is what real salesmen say in the daylight.

By midnight I was at the farm. By daylight, I was ready to hit the turnpike. Alas, during the night, the well pump had quit.

The prospect of buying a car can make routine well repair seem like a minor bump in the road. Quote me.

At the well, I didn't even look for black widows in the pit that houses the equipment that's supposed to keep everything working. One scorpion threatened. Squish. I didn't even look for the mate. I had a car waiting for me in Oklahoma City.

Emery paper worked for sanding the corroded points of the pressure switch (sticking with our theme). Like magic, the pump kicked in, just in time for the cows to drink.

I called the sales crew at the dealership, ready to confirm the deal and take them my trade-in. The daytime salesman, Richard, said the Tucson was a parts car, not for sale, meaning not that it was good only for parts (like my trade-in) but that the parts department was driving it!

Richard tried to make me feel better by saying the car of my dreams had hail damage.

I told him I could live with hail damage. So he tried to sell me a new Tucson with hail damage. Finally, a real salesman! Too late.

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

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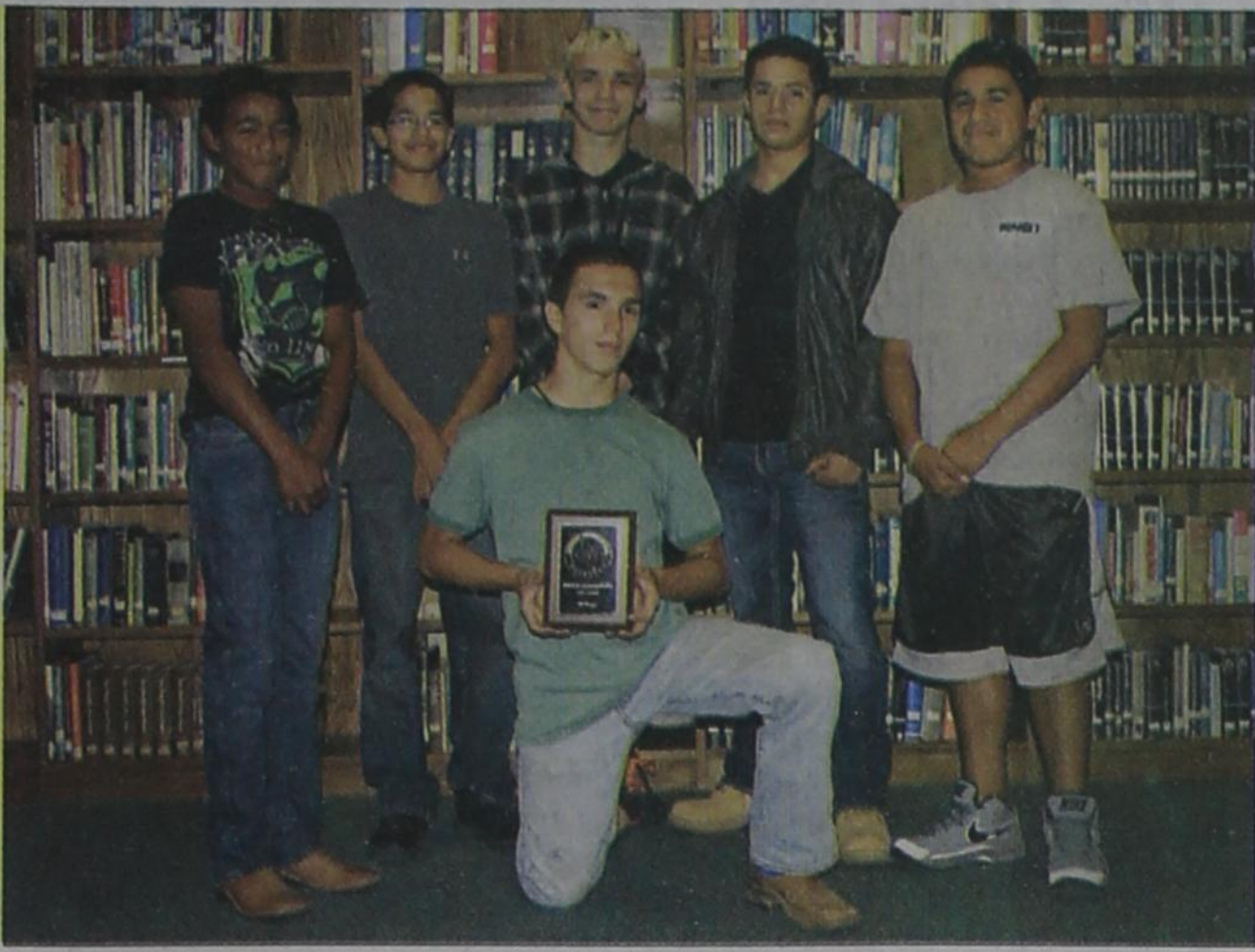
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Cross country



Submitted photo

Members of the Post Junior Varsity boys cross country team won the Plains ISD Cross Country Invitational on September 14th. Left to right: Kevin Finch, Paxton Nava, Keegan Stanley, Isaaah Jones, Anthony Esparza. Kneeling: Hayden Belongia Not pictured: Jose DeLuna

LUBBOCK — Post High School cross country teams competed at the Lubbock ISD invitational cross country meet Saturday at Mae Simmons. Tops for the varsity boys was freshman Paxton Nava with a time of 21:34, followed by Josiel Delgadillo, and Isaaah Jones. Tye Basquez paced the varsity girls with a time of 14:39, she was followed closely by Kaitlyn Walden with a 14:52 and Rebecca Perez.

"The kids continue to improve on their times. Several earned personal records at Mae Simmons, so hopefully this will continue through district," head coach Richard Soliz said.

The group will run the in the Trooper McDonald Memorial Race in Post this weekend.

LUBBOCK — Post High School cross country teams competed Sept. 7 at

the Plains Presort Services Cross Country Invitational at Mae Simmons Park. Kaitlyn Walden earned a medal with 15:38 two-mile time in the JV girls division. Tye Basquez ran a 14:50 two-mile for the varsity girls division. Isaaah Jones ran a 22:38 three-mile in the JV boys, and Josiel Delgadillo ran a 22:02 three-mile for the varsity boys.

"Although we didn't have many athletes medal, we did have many run personal records," head coach Richard Soliz said. "That is a great sign for so early in the season. I just want their times to improve."

DENVER CITY — The Post high school and junior high cross country teams ran at the Plains ISD invitational at Yoakum County Park in Denver City. The boys junior varsity team won 1st place overall with Paxton Nava earning 13th

place with a 26:21 3-mile, Jose DeLuna earned 20th place with 22:38, and Isaaah Jones got 24th place with 21:54. Also running JV were Anthony Esparza and Keegan Stanley. In JH boys division, Colton Thompson ran a 12:47 2-mile to earn a 14th place medal. In the JV girls division, Rebecca Perez ran a personal record 15:49 2-mile and got 22nd place. Tye Basquez ran 14:53 for varsity girls and Josiel Delgadillo ran a 20:42 3-mile for varsity boys.

"I am proud of the kids, everyone ran hard," head coach Richard Soliz said. "With the exception of one athlete, every high school runner earned a new personal record. Some improved by as much as 2 minutes. This weekend we'll be running at Mae Simmons so hopefully they keep improving."

Staff reports

Subvarsity football

JV Lopes win over Tahoka

The Bold Gold JV Antelopes (3-1) got back on the winning ways against Tahoka last Thursday night at Jimmie Redman Memorial Stadium. The Antelopes scored early and often. The first touchdown Blaine Reece scored from 20 yards out and Jarred Curtis connected with Reece for the 2 point conversion. The next touchdown would be from Shandon Wiley on a 30 yard run. This time the PAT failed. The Lopes held a 14-0 advantage after one quarter.

The Lopes continued to score in the second, behind the blocking of the offensive line (Ben Ayala, Tristan Fannon, Fabian Marquez, Brayden Pyles, Edel Sanchez, Bull Smith). Auggie Menchaca would score from 8 yards. Reece and Wiley teamed up for the 2 point play. Giving Post a 22-0 lead. The next touchdown would be a special teams score. The Lopes would block the punt and Pyles would scoop and score for the touchdown. The kick failed. Post would lead 28-0 at halftime.

Post would receive the 2nd half kick-off. On the first play from scrimmage, Reece would race 65 yards to pay dirt. Osmar Portillo would add the extra point, extending the lead to 35-0. The final score of the night, Curtis would find running room on the left side and scored from 10 yards. Portillo would add the kick.

This was a total team effort this week for the win. The Antelopes will be looking for some revenge this week versus the Denver City Mustangs. The Mustangs defeated

Post last season 9-8. The only loss for the Antelopes last year. Post will be open on October 3 and return to action on October 10 at Roosevelt. Kick-off at 6.

Post 7th over Tahoka team

The Antelopes 7th grade team continues to keep winning and holding our opponents to a score of 0 points these last 2 games. On Thursday September 19th the 7th grade team beat the Tahoka Bulldogs with a score of 26-0. RB Damontre Curtis gave the Antelopes a 12 to 0 lead in the first half of the game on Thursday night. QB Zach Smith continued to show his athletic ability and threw a touchdown pass to WR Jadin Reece that gave the Antelopes an 18-0 lead going into halftime. Coach Garay calls the defense and he's thrilled and very excited that our 7th grade team continues to hold opponents to 0 points. After halftime the Antelopes come back and score another touchdown with FB Bandy Osborn and that puts us up 24-0. We go for a 2 point conversion and we convert to give a lead of 26-0. The Antelopes Defense and offense continued to work hard in the 2nd half and finish the game strong. The Post Antelopes continues action this Thursday September 26th at 6:00 PM in Denver City Texas against the Denver City Mustangs come out and support us as we look to go 3-0.

Staff reports



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The Idle American Best of times; worst of times

Given that timing is everything, the Lone Star State's flagship universities — The University of Texas and Texas A&M University — are once again at extremes. Could UT have picked a worse time to get its own TV sports network up and running? Or



DON NEWBURY

could the Aggies have selected a better time to get their own law school? At UT, they'd love to be "caught on the horns of a dilemma," but this isn't possible, since mascot Bevo is now "hornless," having given up one to Brigham Young and the other to Ole Miss. So much for the 2013 UT football team lighting up the

Longhorn TV network.

Remember when angry fans bombarded NBC with phone calls protesting interruption of a professional football game's final minute with the movie "Heidi"? Well, word has it hardcore UT fans are signing petitions for the Longhorn Network to show "Heidi" instead of UT football games.

Meanwhile, my 101-year-old Uncle Mort thinks Aggie brain trusts were brilliant in buying Texas Wesleyan University's law school.

With NCAA rumblings, adaptation to new membership in the Southeast Conference, and Texas A&M attempts to keep its star football player on the "straight and narrow," Mort believes they can keep the law school busy running two shifts — maybe three.

My uncle may be defying the aging process. At age 101, when dying brain cells typically accelerate, his seem to be multiplying.

Mort opines the law school might do well if its scope is limited to athletic issues. He figures it could clock many hours defending Oklahoma State concerning football infractions alleged by "Sports Illustrated."

Texas Coach Mack Brown might well be a client as well, what with his fortunes sagging.

Worst case, Mort says, is that if and when the law school no longer is needed, they can "flip it," like high rollers in real estate.

Danny Snyder, owner of the Washington Redskins, may need Aggie law school help with his latest hot potato. Many Native Americans insist the team take on a name other than "Redskins."

Snyder has dug in his heels, and the

arrows of many quivers may fly before this issue is settled. (Watching from the sidelines are the Kansas City Chiefs, holding their breath their mascots continue to blaze trails under the radar.)

The NCAA has pressed the issue with numerous smaller schools that had "Indians" as mascots. McMurry University in Abilene and Midwestern University in Wichita Falls no longer are "Indians." Bigger universities with stronger alumni bases — like Florida State University — seem untouchable.

Such reminds me of the Indian tribe that built an airport in record time. National politicians were astounded it was finished months early and millions of dollars under budget.

"How did you manage it?" a senator questioned the chief.

"We didn't get bogged down in white tape," he responded.

The way pets are being pampered, it may soon become common for angry pet owners to sue veterinarians.

"The Aggie fleet of lawyers would be most helpful in defending malpractice suits if Fido don't make it," Mort clucked.

I heard of one visionary Aggie who had a double major in doctoral study — veterinary medicine and taxidermy. His printed cards had this message: "Either way, you get your dog back."

Known more for his money-losing schemes that were supposed to be "get rich quick" plans, Mort admits Johnny Manziel's brilliant play in the Aggies' single TD loss to Alabama may have cost him a bundle.

"I was about to come out with a 'block-head' doll for 'Mr. Football,' but now don't have the heart to do it," he moaned. I asked him if he perhaps meant "bobble-head doll."

"Read my lips," Mort repeated. "block-head' doll."

Now, he's working on a Manziel doll with interchangeable heads — one that bobbles for outstanding play and another for non-game days that simply stares back — as block-heads do.

"So far, his play on the field has dazzled, easily qualifying for 'bobble-head' status," Mort admits. "But 'block-head' best fits his zany away-from-the-game antics covered well by sports media."

My uncle thinks strongest sales will be to Longhorn fans. Mort predicts they'll buy the doll, then toss out the "bobble-head," greatly favoring the "block-head" option.

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

The Paperboy Consider D.C. stimulated

Remember all of the talk of roads and bridges during the passing of the first large stimulus package? Does "shovel ready" ring a bell?

As it turns out, President Obama was partially correct when he was telling us how the money would be spent. It was spent on roads and bridges. It was also spent on skyscrapers, mansions and parks — all for the greater Washington, D.C., area.

Under Obama, the number of federal employees has skyrocketed. In the process, it has made the public sector a very nice living while those of us in the private sector have gone largely ignored.

In fact, without the growth in government, there is no telling where the real jobless rate would be today.

Consider this: in the United States, there are 26 counties where the median family income is more than \$100,000. Of the 26 counties, nine are in the D.C. metro area and two more are within 40 miles of Washington. So, within commuting distance of the nation's capital, there are 11 counties where the average family is bringing in six figures.

Where are the others? New York metro area has seven; Boston metro has two; and there is one each in the metro areas of Bridgeport, Conn.; Denver; Nashville; Philadelphia; San Francisco; and San Jose, Calif.

It's interesting the metro areas of Chicago, San Diego, Seattle, Miami, Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles don't include a single \$100,000 county among them.

According to 2012 figures, the wealthiest county in America — by far — is Arlington County, Va., located just across the Potomac River from D.C. Arlington's median family income

(\$137,216) is more than \$10,000 higher than that of any other county in the United States.

The county with the second-highest median family income (\$127,192) is Loudoun County, Va., also located in the D.C. metro area. The third-highest tally (\$125,162) belongs to Howard County, Md., which is within 40 miles of D.C. The fourth-highest (\$124,831) belongs to Fairfax County, Va., another county located in the D.C. metro area.

Are you seeing a trend? Washington, D.C., does not produce much. It's not an industrial city. It's a government city. It's a city built on your tax dollars. You and I may be suffering, but our tax dollars are making federal government millionaires right and left.

Out here in the real world, I see a lot of people who are good at what they do. Not many of them are paid anywhere near what the people in these counties "earn." Yet, I'd put their work ethic and dedication well above those working in the D.C. area.

Do you know why? Out here, results matter. If you don't do your job, you'll be looking for another.

In the public sector, it doesn't work like that. If it did, the D.C. metro area would be losing people right and left because as far as I can tell, they're not very good at their jobs.

In the last sentence of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, he stated "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

We don't have that government anymore. Now it's a government of certain people, by certain people, for certain people. And those certain people live in and around Washington, D.C.

Chris Blackburn is CEO of Blackburn Media Group and owner of The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, Hall County Herald, The Hollis News, The Knox County News-Courier, The Post Dispatch, The Childress Index, Wellington Leader and The Stonewall Courier. He can be reached by email at chris@blackburnmediagroup.com and you can follow him on Twitter at [@WCSBlackburn](https://twitter.com/WCSBlackburn).



CHRIS BLACKBURN



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Church Directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nondenominational
Family Harvest Church- (806) 495-1400

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Post 27, Tahoka 20

Neck-and-neck win preps Lopes for revenge matchup

By Jerry Pyles
For the Dispatch

TAHOKA — The Post Antelopes (4-0) left Tahoka on Friday night with a 27-20 victory over the Bulldogs (2-2). The victory did not come easy as the Bulldogs tied the score at 20 with 37 seconds remaining in the game.

All the Bulldogs had to do to pull ahead was kick the extra point. The Antelopes blocked the attempt, and it looked as if the game it might be headed toward overtime.

But the Antelopes had another idea — to win the game in regulation.

D.J. Brown raced 45 yards, and Aron Lopez kicked the extra point for the 27-20 victory. Quarterback Pake Jones put the Lopes in position to win the game with two second-half touchdown runs, one to tie the score at 14 and the other to extend the lead.

Early in the game, the Bold Gold would waste little time in putting points on the board as Bryan Smith raced 60 yards on the first play for a touchdown. Key blocks on the run came from Campbell Kirkpatrick and Brown to lead Smith the end zone. The 2-point play was stopped, and Post led 6-0 with 11:46 remaining in the first half.

The Bulldogs would fumble on their first play. Smith would strip the ball from Keshawn Hood, the Bulldog running back, and Jayson Walden quickly recovered the loose ball at the Bulldog 35 yard line.

It looked like the Antelopes would put

the Dogs away early, but Tahoka would not go that quietly as they would stop the Antelope drive at the 5 yard line. After an Antelope penalty, the Bulldog quarterback would find a running lane in the defense and race 90 yards for the touchdown and with the 2-point play the Bulldogs lead 8-6 to give Tahoka new life.

The Antelopes would move the ball successfully against the Bulldog defense but would self-destruct during the rest of the first half.

Bulldog running back Hood would give Tahoka a 14-6 lead over Post with 10:47 left in the first half and score from six yards out. The Lopes offense would continue to move the ball came up empty on the scoreboard, but it was the defense that kept the Lopes in the game.

Kirkpatrick would make a nice interception to stop one of the Bulldog drives. The first half would end with the Bulldogs leading the Antelopes 14-6.

The defense dominated the Bulldog offense during the second half by forcing the Bulldogs to punt seven times for the game. The defense would quickly force a three-and-out to start the second half.

On the Antelopes first drive of the half, Kirkpatrick would haul in a 25-yard pass from Jones giving Post a first down at the Bulldog 25 yard line. A penalty and a fumble would end the drive. The defense would force another punt, and Cambry Gilbert's return to the Bulldog 29 yard line gave Post excellent field position.

On 4th-and-2, senior QB Jones would

run 22 yards to pull the Lopes within two points. The PAT would fail, and Post would trail, 14-12, with 3:53 remaining in the third quarter.

Starting the fourth quarter near midfield, the Lopes drove to the 6 yard line looking to go ahead but fumbled away a golden opportunity to take the lead. The Bold Gold defense would force another 3-and-out, and the offense would take possession at the Bulldog 40 yard line.

On 3rd and 10, Jones, looking to pass in the while quickening to the pressure, tucked the ball, broke five tackles and raced 39 yards for an Antelope touchdown, adding the 2-point try to give Post a 20-14 lead with 3:17 left in the fourth.

The Bulldog offense would put together a drive on 4th and 2 when Tristan Hilger hit Preston Hammond in the end zone for a touchdown. The score was now tied at 20.

With the game on the line, David Hernandez gave the Antelope a chance for victory when he successfully blocked the Bulldog kick. With the score remaining tied at 20 with 37 seconds left, Keaton Collins returned the ensuing kickoff to the Antelope 40 yard line. On first down, Brown gained 15 on the next play and would find running room along the Post sideline. His TD along with Lopez' kick allowed Post a 27-20 lead with 10 seconds remaining.

Yet, still more excitement was waiting.

The Bulldogs would return the kick-off for an apparent touchdown, but a block in

the back penalty would bring the ball back to midfield for one more play.

Hilger would chunk to ball to the end zone, only to be intercepted by Gilbert at the goal line and almost break-free for a touchdown.

The Lopes improved to 4-0 with the win.

The offensive line — Paden Babb, Mondo Martinez, Jayson Walden, Travis Greathouse, Sergio Soliz, T.J. Basquez, Blake Boren — made holes for the Post backs all night.

The Lopes had nearly 500 yards of total offense.

The Bold Gold this past week turned their attention to the Denver City Mustangs — the only team in the regular season to defeat Post last year in a 35-32 finale.

The Mustangs — also now 4-0 — are led by QB Mason Milligan and WR Keyshawn Hawkins. Friday's game in Denver City will be the Mustang's homecoming event.

On the season, the Mustangs have victories over Levelland, Pecos, Stanton and are coming off a 47-0 victory over Coahoma last Friday.

After tonight's game at 7:30 p.m. in Denver City, next week the Antelopes will be open. Then, on Oct. 11, the Lopes will begin their run for a second straight district championship.

The Bold Gold will open district play with the Roosevelt Eagles at Jimmie Redman Stadium in Post.

Go Lopes! Beat Denver City!

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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 Mark Twain

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

S M F V Y Z T U U Z G T Z R Y Z G F V Y

X V K Z G A I T Z V R T B T B Q T R A K F Z G S K O

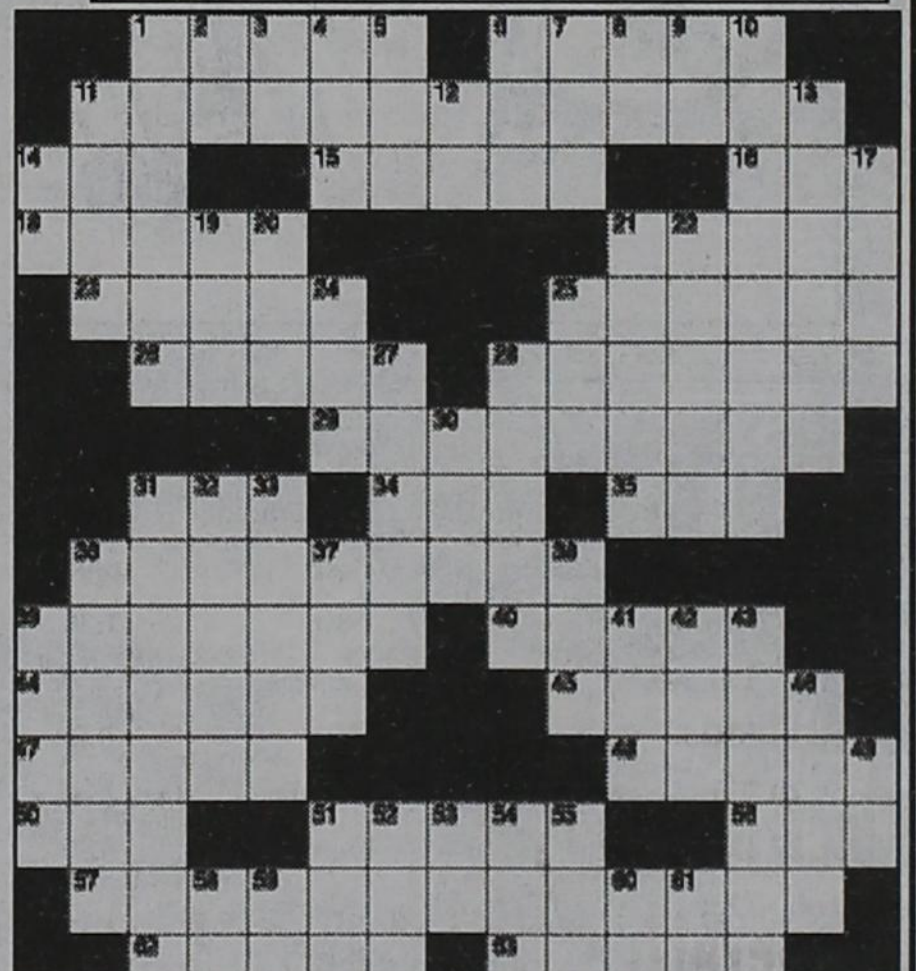
© Feature Exchange

Puzzle of the Week

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Color lightly
 - Female parents
 - Present covering
 - Feathered scarf
 - Positive pole
 - British Air Aces
 - Alo ____: loss of hair
 - Broadway's Hook, Ritchard
 - Lime painting on dry plaster
 - Machinery lubricant
 - Smallest U.S. coins
 - Resembling an angel in goodness
 - Metric linear unit
 - ____kus: commotion
 - Angkor ____, temple
 - Radioactivity unit
 - Rebuilt
 - Slandered
 - Pla ____: blood parts
 - Classic style or image
 - 1/2 of a German spa
 - Search and rescue exercise (acr.)
 - Weight unit
 - Claim (abbr.)
 - Soup noodles
 - Similar (suffix)
 - Washing receptacle
 - Larceny
 - Ringtail monkey genus
- CLUES DOWN**
- Drew an outline
 - Farm state (abbr.)
 - House speaker initials
 - Licensed bean counter
 - Atomic #50, SN
 - Million gallons per day (abbr.)
 - A non-human primate
 - Mom
 - Associated Press
 - Bread knife edge
 - Sufferings
 - Yes opposite
 - Grower
 - Int'l. fuel co.
 - In a way, left
 - ____ng: cake topping
 - ____e: apex
 - One who weeps
 - Yiddish gossipier
 - Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
 - Leg (slang)
 - Stitched
 - Lots
 - Iron Man Ripkin
 - Change pagination
 - Inh ____: cruel
 - Funny books
 - Revoke

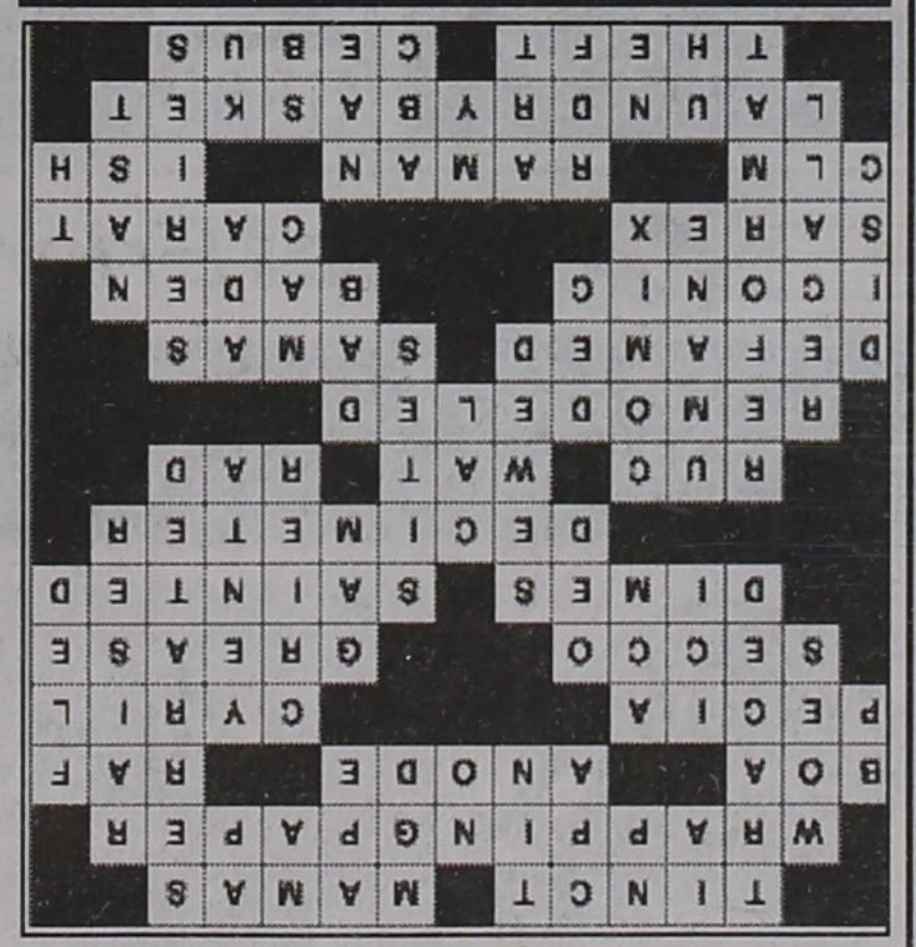
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

POST DISPATCH



- Last month (abbr.)
- Pat lightly
- Phonograph record
- A waterproof raincoat
- Dentist group
- A set of TV programs
- "Conde __ Traveler" magazine
- Atomic #90
- Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- Honeymooner actor Carney
- Belonging to me
- Basics
- No (Scottish)
- Expression of uncertainty
- Point midway between N and E
- Atomic #51
- S __: store barcode

PUZZLE SOLUTION



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2013 POST ANTELOPES



VARSITY			JUNIOR VARSITY TEAM			JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS					
DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	B	7TH	8TH
Aug. 16	Brownfield-scrimmage	Brownfield	6:00	Sept. 12	@Slaton	6:00	Aug. 29	Levelland	5:00		
Aug. 23	Sudan-scrimmage	Post	6:00	Sept. 19	Tahoka	6:00	Sept. 12	Slaton	5:00	6:00	7:00
Aug. 30	Morton	Post	7:30	Sept. 26	Denver City	6:00	Sept. 5	Lamesa	6:00		
Sept. 6	Lamesa	Lamesa	7:30	Oct. 10	@Roosevelt*	6:00	Sept. 19	@Tahoka	TBA	5:00	6:00
Sept. 13	Slaton	Post	7:30	Oct. 17	@Tulia*	6:00	Sept. 26	@Denver City	4:30	6:00	7:30
Sept. 20	Tahoka	Tahoka	7:30	Oct. 24	Floydada*	6:00	Oct. 3	@Brownfield	4:30	6:00	7:30
Sept. 27	Denver City	Denver City	7:30	Nov. 7	@Abernathy*	6:00	Oct. 10	Roosevelt*	4:30	6:00	7:30
Oct. 4	Open						Oct. 17	Tulia*	TBA	6:00	7:30
Oct. 11	*Roosevelt	Post	7:30				Oct. 24	@Floydada*	TBA	6:00	7:30
Oct. 18	*Tulia	Post	7:30				Oct. 31	Olton*	TBA	6:00	7:30
Oct. 25	*Floydada	Floydada	7:30				Oct. 31	@Olton*		6:00	
Nov. 1	*Olton (Homecoming)	Post	7:30				Nov. 7	@Abernathy*	TBA	6:00	7:30
Nov. 8	*Abernathy	Abernathy	7:30								

Post ISD Administration
Mike Comeaux-Superintendent
Jadie Matthew-High School Principal
Marvin Self-Middle School Principal
Staci Marts-Elementary School Principal
Steve Smith-AD/Head Football

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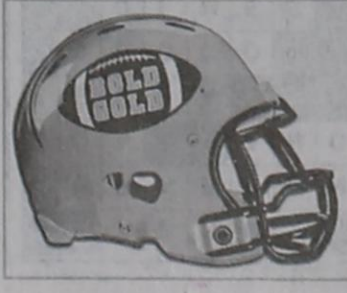
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Nancy's Notions

Obamacare or ACA?

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, fondly known as Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act, was the topic of discussion last Thursday night at Covenant Hospital. The Covenant Student Nurses Association sponsored an evening of questions and answers to clear the air on the legislation and how our healthcare benefits might change. As a Hospice volunteer, Mom was invited, and I just followed along with great interest as her guest.



NANCY MCDONALD

Honestly, I was hoping to get some specifics about well checks, specialist appointments and if diseases like cancer might be handled differently as far as treatment goes. There were some interesting quotes and some "ah-ha" moments, but for the most part it still boiled down to an "agree-to-disagree: political debate.

The panelists for the night included Clarke Cochran, Patricia Freier, Kenny Ketner and Charles Perry. Cochran is a retired Texas Tech political science professor writing a blog about the ACA. Freier has her maters degree in nursing. I was unclear of her job description with Covenant but she was one of the 200 employees laid off in August in "response to the implementation of the ACA." Ketner is the Lubbock Democratic Party chairman and Charles Perry is a Republican state representative.

There were a few comments that they all seemed to agree on:

- One goal of Obamacare is to have the 20 million uninsured U.S. residents insured by 2020.
- 20 percent of the economy in Lubbock and the nation is healthcare.
- Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the nation at 6 million. It is expected 2 million of those will be insured under

ACA.

- All four panelists agreed the weakest part of the ACA is how to fund it — the funding component is missing.
- Those insured with larger companies will see minimal change.
- Medicare will see minimal change.
- Medicaid leaves out men ages 19-64. ACA will help get them coverage.
- Obamacare is basically Medicaid expansion.

We will see an increased role in nurses, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

Ketner shared several websites with the Affordable Care Act information, guidelines, explanations, and blogs even though Perry opened the evening commenting that "there are no nonpartisan websites on the Internet."

I thought I would share some of them with you, and let you make that decision. I have not looked at any of them, but my job as the County Extension is to teach and inform by sharing information so here they are:

- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: rwjf.org.
- The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: kff.org.
- HealthAffairs.org
- The New England Journal of Medicine: nejm.org
- HealthReformGPS.org
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: healthcare.gov
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Health Insurance Marketplace: marketplace.cms.gov.

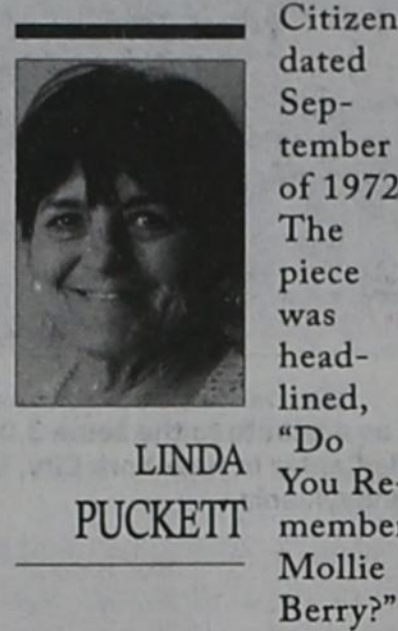
I will admit I did a little people watching. There were a few there supporting their political parties, but many were truly interested in the changes and how they will be implemented in the Lubbock area. I encourage each of you to be alert, pay attention and don't assume because how, where and when we receive treatment will look differently starting in January.

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

Legends

Remembering Molly Berry and her traveling circus

Pokin' around my files for a good story, I found the following story about Mollie Bailey in a publication of the Borden



LINDA PUCKETT

Citizen dated September of 1972. The piece was headlined, "Do You Remember Mollie Berry?"

If you remember the Texas Circus Queen, you can be thankful for once that you were alive in the early 1900s, and were privileged to see this magnificent woman and her really amazing circus, which she advertised as "A Scintillating Aggregation of the World's Greatest Talent, Stupendous and Mammoth."

George Fuermann, writing in the Houston Post, said: "You can always tell old-time pure-dee Texans from the Johnny-Come-Latelys by asking two questions: 1.) What is poke salad; 2.) Who was Mollie Bailey?"

We are a bit far West to know much about

"poke sallat," or the variation poke salad, and, alas, Mollie Bailey is fading from the memories of those who experienced perhaps their greatest childhood thrill when her circus show came to town.

And come to town she did, bringing a real circus with a parade, elephants — well, at least one — sideshows, menageries and lovely lady acrobats. She came in 1912 to Gail, and there may have been other visits as well.

Along the dusty, rutted road from Snyder came the gaily painted circus wagons drawn by prancing horses and behind trudged that stupendous animal, the first elephant that most of us ever seen.

We raced to the lane fence to watch them pass, and then waited, fidgeting restlessly, for the time to pass until the tent could be erected just south of the highway warehouse.

The board sidewalks creaked under boots, high-top shoes and bare feet with stubbed toes. By the hitching rails outside the courthouse board fence, men stood at the bridles of their teams to prevent a runaway as the terrifying animals were scented.



MOLLIE BAILEY

Up Main Street the parade moved grandly, with its smoking steam calliope, a brass band, the lion and bear cages, which sent shivers down the spines of many youngsters; beautiful ladies on sidesaddles, their skirts almost dragging the ground; and that marvel of marvels, the elephant.

Country folk and townspeople gazed in wonder as the parade passed by the bank, the barber shop, the doctor's office, the drug and dry goods stores, and on past the blacksmith shop up the street to the Berry Home, where young Wesley Berry, dying of consumption, sat on the porch to share in the excitement.

Stay tuned for part two next week.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 634

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPLACING PRIOR ORDINANCE PROVISIONS RELATED TO WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR THE CITY OF POST, TEXAS, ADDING PROVISIONS FOR LATE FEES, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Post, Texas has previously passed ordinance provisions regarding the water and sewer rates within the city limits;

WHEREAS, the periodic evaluation and revision of utility rates and charges is necessary to provide sufficient revenue to operate and maintain a utility system;

WHEREAS, it has become necessary and desirable to amend the billing and collection procedures and administrative fees charged for delinquent payments and non-payment of residential water and sewer accounts, to clarify the collection procedures and to provide reasonable compensation to the City of Post for services necessitate by a customer's late payment and/or non-payment of an account; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Post, Texas now wishes to amend such ordinance;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Post, Texas that the Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

1. FINDINGS OF FACT

The foregoing recitals are incorporated into this Ordinance by reference as findings of fact as if expressly set forth herein.

2. ENACTMENT

The Code of Ordinances, City of Post, Texas, is hereby amended to read in accordance with Attachment A, which is attached hereto and incorporated into this Ordinance for all intents and purposes. Sections of the Code shall be renumbered as necessary.

3. REPEALER

All ordinances, resolutions, or parts thereof that are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Ordinance shall be and remain controlling as to the matters regulated herein.

4. SEVERABILITY

Should any of the clauses, sentences, para-

graphs, sections or parts of this Ordinance be deemed invalid, unconstitutional, or unenforceable by a court of law or administrative agency with jurisdiction over the matter, such action shall not be construed to affect any other valid portion of this Ordinance.

5. CODIFICATION

The City Secretary is hereby directed to record and publish the attached rules, regulations and policies as authorized by Section 52.001 of the Texas Local Government Code.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and publication.

7. PROPER NOTICE & MEETING

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was passed was open to the public, and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551. Notice was also provided as required by Chapter 52 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Passed and approved this ____ day of September, 2013.

Archie Gill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deana Watson, City Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

ARTICLE 1 WATER RATES

Section 1-1. Water Rates Within the City

The following rates per month shall be the rates charged for water services furnished to residential customers and commercial customers within the corporate limits of the City of Post, until revised by the City Council of the City of Post by subsequent ordinance:

(a) Residential/Commercial:	
Base Rate (Up to 3,000 gallons)	\$32.45
3,000 to 10,000 gallons	\$4.85 per 1,000 gallons
11,000 to 25,000 gallons	\$5.08 per 1,000 gallons
26,000 to 50,000 gallons	\$5.52 per 1,000 gallons
51,000 to 100,000 gallons	\$6.24 per 1,000 gallons
101,000 gallons and up	\$6.61 per 1,000 gallons

Section 1-2. Water Rates Outside the City

The following rates per month shall be the rates charged for water services furnished to residential customers and commercial customers outside the corporate limits of the City of Post, until revised by the City Council of the City of Post by subsequent ordinance:

(a) Residential/Commercial:	
Base Rate (Up to 3,000 gallons)	\$40.00
3,000 to 10,000 gallons	\$4.98 per 1,000 gallons
11,000 to 25,000 gallons	\$5.28 per 1,000 gallons
26,000 to 50,000 gallons	\$5.73 per 1,000 gallons
51,000 to 100,000 gallons	\$6.45 per 1,000 gallons
101,000 gallons and up	\$6.82 per 1,000 gallons

Section 1-3. Debt Service Charge

Every residential customer and commercial customer shall be charged a monthly debt service charge of \$2.50.

ARTICLE 2 SEWER RATES

Section 2-1. Sewer Rates Within the City

The following rates per month shall be the rates charged for sewer services furnished to customers within the corporate limits of the City of Post, until revised by the City Council of the City of Post by subsequent ordinance. All such charges for sewer services are based on the customer's average water consumption during the previous November through January, to be calculated annually in March, as follows:

(a) Residential	
Monthly Base Rate	\$17.60 plus \$2.25 per 1,000.00 gallons
(b) Commercial	
Monthly Base Rate	\$17.60 plus \$2.80 per 1,000.00 gallons

ARTICLE 3 BILLING AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES

Section 3-1. Billing and Collection Procedures for Residential and Commercial Accounts

(a) All City utility bills shall be sent to residential and commercial customers on the first business day of each month (the "Billing Date") for services provided in the prior month. Payment on all residential accounts shall be due on the 15th day of the month (the "Due Date").

(b) All bills for which payment has not been received by the City on or before the Due Date shall be assessed a late charge penalty of 10% of the amount due.

(c) On the 16th day of each month, the City will send a courtesy notice ("Notice") on each residential and commercial account that is past due. The Notice shall include the balance due, and

the date and time scheduled for disconnection and termination of city services. However, the failure by the City to send a courtesy notice or the failure of a customer to receive a courtesy notice shall not alter the City's right to disconnect service for nonpayment as provided herein.

(d) If payment on a residential or commercial account is not received by the City before the day specified in the Notice, then all water and sewer services shall be scheduled to be disconnected and shall be disconnected if payment is not received before the service is actually disconnected. When a customer's utilities services are scheduled to be disconnected for non-payment by being listed on the monthly disconnect list prepared by the City, an administrative reconnect fee of \$40.00 shall be charged to the customer's account each time the water or sewer service is scheduled to be disconnected for non-payment. The administrative fee shall be charged regardless whether service is disconnected.

(e) If service is disconnected for nonpayment then service shall be re-connected on the same business day that payment is received in full by the City, provided payment is received by the City no later than 3:00 p.m. If payment is received by the City after 3:00 p.m. then service will be reconnected on the next business day.

Section 3-2. Returned Payments and Charges

(a) Any payment that is subsequently returned does not constitute a payment.

(b) A \$25.00 fee shall be charged to a customer's account for each returned check or returned bank draft. Customers with returned checks or bank draft will no longer be able to pay their bill with check or draft for one year from date of last returned check.

Section 3-3. Payment Agreement

A payment agreement is offered to an account holder with a remaining unpaid balance after the cut-off/termination process. Terms of the payment agreement are negotiable based on the account balance and customer history.

Section 3-4. Theft of Services

Any person who turns on the water service or takes water from the City water supply without the approval of the City may be turned over to the proper authority for prosecution. The City reserves the right to prosecute any utility customer for theft of services, including costs and fees, in the appropriate jurisdiction.

Section 3-5 - 3-10. Reserved

We remember



Sherril Overstreet/Special to the Dispatch
Flags at the Garza County Courthouse fly at half-staff Sept. 11 as a tribute to the some 3,000 lives lost to the U.S. terrorist attacks in 2001 at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and in a remote area of rural Pennsylvania.

State appellate court overturns DeLay conviction

By Ed Sterling
 For the Dispatch

AUSTIN — The Texas Third Court of Appeals on Sept. 19 overturned former U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay's 2010 conviction on charges of money-laundering and conspiracy in an ethics case brought by the State of Texas.

In a 2-1 opinion, the majority concluded that there was insufficient evidence of any felony offense that generated proceeds and, therefore, that the State failed to establish an element of the crime of money-laundering as alleged in the indictment.

DeLay resigned from Congress in 2006 while the state's lawsuit against him, stemming from fundraising activities in the 2002 election, was in progress. A Travis County jury convicted DeLay in November 2010 but he served no prison time.

Bond elections now listed

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs on Sept. 16 announced a Web page where Texans can find information on November bond proposals being issued by cities, school districts, counties and special purpose districts around Texas.

More 90 upcoming local bond propositions identified to date and a state bond proposition can be found on the Tell the Truth Texas website, telltetruthtexas.org, information includes the entity, purpose of the bond and bond amount.

Buckle up your children

In conjunction with National Child Passenger Safety Week, Sept. 15-21, Texas Department of Transportation on Sept. 17 announced it is offering free, year-round child safety seat inspections conducted by certified technicians.

Texas law requires that children younger than 8 years of age, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in safety seats. A new study by the Texas Transportation Institute found nearly nine out of 10 Texas children were riding in safety seats, but many were not properly buckled. The new study also revealed 37 percent of infants and toddlers in Texas were secured incorrectly — or not at all — when riding in a vehicle.

More patrols come to Valley

Texas Department of Public Safety on Sept. 13 announced the launch of a multi-agency law enforcement initiative to increase the patrol presence in the Rio Grande Valley area of Texas to address public safety issues.

"Law enforcement has identified various criminal activities and unsafe driving behaviors in south Texas that has led to the launch of this short-term enforcement effort in the Rio Grande Valley," the DPS explained in the announcement. DPS Director Steven

McCraw specified criminal activities in the region including human smuggling and trafficking, drug smuggling, stash house operations and home invasions, plus the increase of traffic and crashes on roadways.

Key agencies involved in this law enforcement initiative include the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department, Hidalgo County Constables Precincts 3 & 4, Mission Police Department, U.S. Border Patrol, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Texas National Guard, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and the Texas Attorney General's Office.

Survey estimates poverty rate

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey shows more than 4.5 million or 17.9 percent of Texans are living in poverty, nearly two points above the 2008 pre-recession poverty rate of 16 percent. A two-parent, one-child family with annual income of \$18,480 or less meets the poverty definition.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities, an Austin-based, non-partisan think-tank, on Sept. 19 published comments on the survey, calling for more investment in primary and adult basic education and in career development for low-skilled adults to reduce the poverty rate and keep Texas strong.

"Poverty is not an insurmountable problem. We know what works; we've proven it before," wrote Frances Deviney, a senior research associate with the Center for Public Policy Priorities. "It's time for Texas and the U.S. to decide that our current poverty rates are unacceptable and commit to solutions that we know make a real difference."

Wild bird prompts letter

Texas Railroad Commissioner David Porter on Sept. 13 wrote to Daniel Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding the Lesser Prairie Chicken, a prairie-dwelling bird that naturally inhabits Texas, including parts where oil and gas exploration is on the increase. The non-game, rare-species bird has been a candidate for federal protection since 1998.

"I am writing to express my strong opposition to listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act," Porter wrote. "As the primary regulator of the oil and gas industry in Texas, an industry that would be significantly affected by this decision, I feel it is imperative that the detrimental impacts of such a listing are fully understood and appreciated."

Porter went on to note the economic gains tied to the oil and gas industry and added, "I firmly believe this matter should be left for the states to address through a collaborative conservation plan."

**TROOPER McDONALD
MEMORIAL RACE**

SEPT. 28, 2013

★★ POST, TEXAS • 9:00AM ★★

★ BRYNNE BIGHAM ★

Brynne Bigham is a happy and energetic 4 year old who is always smiling! She has been diagnosed with an Immune Deficiency Disorder and Trichohepatoenteric Syndrome. Despite all road-blocks and events that would bring any person down, Brynne always has the biggest smile on her sweet face. This was the foundation for Brynne's Smiles. Brynne and her biggest supporters have been so appreciative for all the blessings they have received from friends, family, and generous people that they were led to create an organization who's mission was to give back. Brynne's S.M.I.L.E.S., which stands for Sharing More In Life's Everyday Struggles, is devoted to helping the needs of families. Through volunteering, donations, love and dedication, Brynne's S.M.I.L.E.S. has been able to touch hundreds of lives already. Please join us in the Trooper McDonald Memorial Race as we will be donating all proceeds to this wonderful cause.

★ KIDS 100 YARD DASH ★ ★ 5K RUN ★ ★ 1 MILE WALK ★
 Garza County Law Enforcement Center • 412 E 15th, Post, TX

ONLINE REGISTRATION: \$20 TEAM OF 4 REGISTRATION: \$60 REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.TROOPERMCDONALD.ORG
 RACE DAY REGISTRATION: \$25 FIND US ON FACEBOOK®
(8-8:45 AM @ STARTING LINE)

T-Shirts guaranteed only with online registration
 If you would like to be a sponsor, volunteer, or if you have any questions, contact
 Laura at troopermcdonaldmemorialfund@gmail.com

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MEMBER FDIC BBS

COTTON

From Page 1

Southern High Plains remained about the same, at 607 pounds in August to 610 in September.

However, the most notable difference between the two areas is in harvested acres. The Northern High Plains is projected to harvest 415,000 acres, down from 630,000 acres in the August report. The Southern High Plains is expected

to harvest 1.385 million acres, up from 1.23 million in the August report.

Statewide, the production number remained the same at 4.1 million bales. The nationwide estimate dropped to 12.27 million bales, down more than 1 percent from last month and down almost 26 percent from 2012. Markets did not react much to the report, with December futures still hovering around 84 to 85 cents at press time.

Producers across the

High Plains are beginning to prepare for harvest, with several terminating irrigation. Dryland fields are fair for the most part, and the lack of recent rain continues to stress these fields. Insect pressure remains low. Overall, harvest activity is expected to be about a week to two weeks later than usual, so a rain could still be of great benefit to the crop and certainly good for the soil.

Mary Jane Buerkle contributed to this report.

Public Notice

White River Municipal Water District is considering the adoption of the following proposed revised General Rules and Rules for Recreational Vehicles, and Ordinance. Number 8. Public comment will be taken on the proposed rules at the next White River Municipal Water District Board Meeting prior to a vote on the adoption of these Rules. Public comments on these rules will be limited to 3 minutes per person. The Board meeting will take place at the White River Municipal Board room located at 2880 FM 2794 Spur, TX 79370 on October 10, 2013 at 7pm.

ORDINANCE NO. ____

The Board of Directors of the White River Municipal Water District does hereby adopt the following Ordinance to secure, maintain, and preserve the safety and sanitary conditions of all property owned by the White River Municipal Water District

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the White River Municipal Water District (the District) has determined a need in the best interest of the District to adopt this ordinance regarding glass bottles and the open display of alcoholic beverages;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the District that:

- Glass bottles or beverage containers are not allowed anywhere on District property;
- and
- No open display of alcoholic beverages is permitted on District property.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of September, 2013.

Public Notice

White River Municipal Water District is considering the adoption of the following proposed revised General Rules and Rules for Recreational Vehicles, and Ordinance. Number 8. Public comment will be taken on the proposed rules at the next White River Municipal Water District Board Meeting prior to a vote on the adoption of these Rules. Public comments on these rules will be limited to 3 minutes per person. The Board meeting will take place at the White River Municipal Board room located at 2880 FM 2794 Spur, TX 79370 on October 10, 2013 at 7pm.

WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT RULES FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF RULES FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFTY OF OTHERS ON WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT PROPERTY. Lot Lessees are responsible for ownership and operation of any recreational equipment at all times. Your recreational vehicle permit may be revoked; citations and fines issued, and/or your lease may be revoked or denied renewal for any violations of these rules depending upon the serious nature of the situation or continued repeated violations.

1. Beginning JANUARY 1, 2014, all lot lessees must show proof of ATV / UTV ownership by prior permit, title, bill of sale, VIN or serial number.
2. ATV/UTV permits are for LOT LESSEES and their immediate family only. THE PERMIT MUST BE DISPLAYED FRONT (HOOD/WINDSHIELD) OF ATV, UTV, DIRT BIKE, OR OTHER RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.
3. Speeding, reckless driving or any action causing WRMWD property damage will result in revocation of the permit for use of a recreational vehicle, issuance of a citation, being charged for any repair to property damage, and/or Lease revocation.
4. White River Municipal Water District will only issue up to four (4) ATV/ UTV permits for each lot lease. Additional permits must be approved by the White River General Manager AND acting Police Officer.
5. Lot Lessees are responsible for any guests operating your ATV/ UTV. Any violations of these rules by a guest of a Lot Lessee will be charged and assessed against the Lot Lessee.
6. Recreational Vehicle Permits are required for all ATVS, UTV, dirt bikes, boats and golf carts. No exceptions. WRMWD Ordinance #5.
7. Pursuant to Texas law, anyone operating a recreational vehicle under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years of age.
8. Pursuant to Texas law, no passengers are allowed at any time on an ATV unless the ATV is designed to carry a passenger.
9. Anyone less than 16 years of age is required to wear a DOT approved helmet.
10. All recreational vehicle use, including ATV, UTV, dirt bikes, and golf carts, must be kept on existing roads and existing trails only. Creating new trails will result in the issuance of a citation and fines to repair any damage. Repeat violations of this provision may result in revocation of the recreational vehicle permit.
11. No permit holder may drive on or across the Dam or on FM 2880.
12. No permit holder may drive on or across the lake bed, or on shoreline within 150 feet of water's edge or any posted restricted area.
13. Vehicle speed limit is 25 MPH on all White River roads. This includes all recreational vehicles such as ATV / UTV's and dirt bikes.
14. The District has a sensitive ecosystem in our remote areas where wildlife, plants, and terrain can be damaged causing erosion and problems for our lake. No trail building allowed! Please stay on existing trails. No illegal dumping or littering. Camping allowed in campgrounds only.
15. Some of our dangerous restricted areas are the water treatment plant, lagoons, Dam, and raw water intake. Do not enter any of these restricted areas at any times.
16. Trespassers or anyone falsely representing someone will be charged with trespassing, citation may be issued, and/or trespassers may be subject to bans from the District property.
17. Any vehicles or equipment weighing more than 10,000 pounds is not permitted within the District without first obtaining a work permit with a detailed description of the activity and need for heavy vehicle or equipment.
18. Quiet hours are from 10pm to 8am. No ATV or recreational vehicle activity is permitted during these hours.
19. Permit holders are responsible for following posted signs, know our these rules and the general rules, and stay away from known or marked restricted areas.
20. Lot lessee you are responsible for the operation of your recreational vehicle at all times. Violations of these rules may result in fines of \$75 FIRST OFFENSE, \$150 SECOND OFFENSE, \$300 THIRD OFFENSE. Citations may also be issued for violations of Texas state law even if not specifically referenced herein. Repeat violations may result in denials of permits with incremental increases up to a permanent ban. The District reserves the right to revoke or suspend any permit or lease permanently based on a violation, repeated violations or serious nature of the situation.

Urgent News for People on DIALYSIS

Granuflo, a product often used in dialysis, has been linked to serious heart problems and sudden death. If you or a loved one suffered a serious heart problem or death after dialysis, call 1-800-THE-EAGLE now to pursue monetary compensation. No fees or costs until your case is settled or won. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

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www.1800theeagle.com

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Public Notice

White River Municipal Water District is considering the adoption of the following proposed revised General Rules and Rules for Recreational Vehicles, and Ordinance. Number 8. Public comment will be taken on the proposed rules at the next White River Municipal Water District Board Meeting prior to a vote on the adoption of these Rules. Public comments on these rules will be limited to 3 minutes per person. The Board meeting will take place at the White River Municipal Board room located at 2880 FM 2794 Spur, TX 79370 on October 10, 2013 at 7pm.

WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT GENERAL RULES

ALL ACTIVITIES AT OUR LAKE FACILITIES ARE INHERENTLY DANGEROUS. VISITORS ARE ADVISED THAT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN ON THE PREMISES MAY INVOLVE AN INHERENT DEGREE OF RISK DUE TO NATURAL CONDITIONS THAT EXIST ON THE PREMISES.

Please observe the following rules so that all visitors may enjoy their visit.

Emergency Contact: Crosby County Sheriff 806-675-7301 or 911. White River Lake Patrol Officer 806-263-4240 or 806-269-1239.

- Entrance without a permit is considered trespassing. Permits may be purchased at the marina, White River Municipal Water District office, ticket booth (when open) or at the self-permitting station located at Campground #1 beside restrooms northeast of dam.
- All Visitors must post a valid White River Municipal Water District permit on the driver's front dash board window of vehicle. Pursuant to White River Municipal Water District rules for recreational vehicles, all recreational vehicle users, including ATV/UTV users, must post the ATV permit on their recreational vehicle on the front hood or windshield of the vehicle.
- Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. All visitors must be respectful and abide by quiet hours. Loud music, use of recreational vehicles and other loud behavior is prohibited during quiet hours.
- Pack-it-in/pack-it-out. Visitors must carry out all trash and debris they have brought into our recreational areas. Trash that is left on the District property poses a serious threat to our wildlife.
- No discharge, illegal dumping or draining of wastewater is permitted anywhere on the property of White River Municipal Water District.
- Please do not harm or disturb wild plants or animals.
- Wildlife, plants, terrain and all buildings, signs and tables and other structures are protected; removal or damage of any kind is prohibited. Any visitor or resident who damages any wildlife, plants, terrain, buildings, signs, tables, or structures is responsible for any repair and/or replacement damage.
- Pets are allowed, but must be under physical control at all times on a leash.
- Glass bottles are not allowed anywhere on White River Municipal Water District property. Any violations will result in immediate confiscation of the glass by WR staff and subject any violators to a fine.
- No open display of alcoholic beverages is permitted. Any violations will first result in a warning. Repeat violators will be subject to a fine.
- All Texas state laws are in effect and enforceable by White River Municipal Water District Police Officers.
- ATV/UTV use is restricted to leaseholders only. Permits are required for ATV/UTV use. Individuals engaging in ATV/UTV use must abide by these General Rules and any rules for recreational vehicles adopted by White River Municipal Water District.
- Visitors, Boaters and Personal Water Craft users must follow all Texas Parks & Wildlife rules and regulations.
- Lake levels vary within the lake; observe obstructions and obey marked buoys. All individuals are additionally required to stay off restricted areas at all times. Restricted areas include any marked areas AND the lakebed (150 feet from the waters edge or the area from the waters edge to the shore line).
- Boaters must park empty trailers in designated asphalt parking lots only. Trailers may be parked in designated parking lots only.
- Vehicles are allowed in designated parking areas only. Please keep all vehicles 150 feet from water's edge. No vehicles are allowed on lake shore line or lakebed. Vehicles must be kept on trails and/or roadways and/or designated parking areas at all times. Maximum speed limit is 25 mph on District property.
- Residential areas include homes, boat docks, driveways, etc., (private property) are restricted to lot lease holders and their guests only. Camping is only allowed in designated camping areas with a permit. Violations of this rule are considered trespassing.
- Campers are responsible for your camping area. Please be respectful of others, observe quiet hours, keep your camping area clean at all times, and follow burn ban requirements.
- No hunting is allowed at any time on White River Municipal Water District Property. No firearm may be discharged on White River Municipal Water District Property.
- District employees are required to be respectful of all customers. Customers are expected to be respectful of White River Municipal Water District employees and other visitors. Violations may result in citations, leases and/or permits may be revoked, or permanent banishment from District property.
- No shirt, no shoes, no service at the District office and water treatment plant
- Visitors and residents may obtain more information at our website, including FAQ's and current information, at www.whiterivermunicipalwaterdistrict.com
- District Fines 1st offense \$75, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$300. District reserves the right to ask anyone at any time to leave District property based on any violation of these rules, depending on the situation may permanently ban an individual from District property.

HEAD START

From Page 1

Kenna Pruitt, SPCAA's manager for family and community partnerships, said the inability to fill those positions, which later was compounded by the added pressure of the federal budget deficit, led the agency's decision-makers to shutter the Windham Center's doors in Post.

"We attempted to recruit graduating students at local colleges and also worked with people in the community to fill teacher vacancies," Pruitt said. "These efforts were met with little to no response."

But rather than disabling the entire Post program and losing even more valuable and critical federal funding, SPCAA officials rallied to expand the home-based program into which all remaining children were transitioned.

"The home-based program option allowed for children and families to continue to receive our services, while we continued to look for

qualified staff," Pruitt said. "Unfortunately, during this transition, the attendance of children declined and no applications were received for the teaching or center director positions."

When the sequestration orders were handed down, Pruitt said local agencies administering the Head Start programs were allowed to choose from which areas within its own organization it would cut or continuing funding.

"So many factors were considered," she said. "Community need, staffing, children currently receiving services and even eligible children on the waitlist were among the items considered."

Because the Windham Center in Post was neither fully enrolled nor fully staffed and also did not have a wait list, agency officials took the budget ax to the local program, reducing it to six Head Start slots and six Early Head Start slots.

Pruitt said this reason alone is enough to warrant community outcry. In or-

der to prevent further cuts to these essential services in Post, Pruitt encourages families that have children age-eligible to apply for the Head Start program.

"The home-based program option allows for a teacher to come into the home once a week for an hour and a half and work with parent and child to increase school-readiness skills as well as to prepare them for the future," she said.

In addition to preschool education, the agency also offers a range of services including health, nutrition, family services and mental health and disabilities services.

"Our partnership with the Post community remains strong," she said. "We're still here, and we're still ready, willing and able to serve the children and families of Garza County in capacities of which we may never see the fruits of our own labor. But if you think about it, that's what any good teacher does at any given time throughout the school year."

About Head Start

To learn more about this program and to complete a recruitment application, contact Windham Garza County Home Base Head Start and Early Head Start, 206 S. Ave. E, Post, call 806-495-2544 in Post or 806-762-8815 in Lubbock.

About SPCAA

South Plains Community Action Association Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation that administers federal, state and local contracts for health and human services to clients in a 47-county West Texas area surrounding Lubbock to promote self-sufficiency and improved quality of life. The agency operates more than 20 Head Start programs in 12 counties.

Apply for the Head Start program

The South Plains Community Action Association is accepting recruitment applications for Garza County's Head Start and Early Head Start programs for the 2013-2014 school year.

Parents of children from age newborn to 4 years old are eligible to apply to enroll their children into the program.

To learn more about this program and to complete a recruitment application, contact Windham Garza County Home Base Head Start and Early Head Start, 206 S. Ave. E, or call 495-2544.

As part of the recruitment process, families need to bring:

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Proof of Health Insurance
- Immunization Record
- Proof of Income (previous year or previous 12 months).

Head Start is an early childhood education program designed to increase school readiness skills, as well as, prepare them for their future. In addition to preschool education, a range of services are offered to Head Start children and families including health, education, nutrition, disabilities, mental health, parent involvement and family services.

Selection for this program is need-based and considers age, income, life circumstances, employment and disabilities. Ten percent of funded enrollment is reserved specifically for children with diagnosed disabilities. SPCAA Head Start and Early Head Start is able to provide individual support services for children with special needs.

SPCAA Head Start offers services in Brownfield, Crosbyton, Denver City, Floydada, Levelland, Littlefield, Lorenzo Lubbock, Morton, Muleshoe, O'Donnell, Olton, Plainview, Post, Ropesville, Smyer, Slaton and Sudan.

Head Start is a nationwide program that began in 1965 under the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson. Since 1965, Head Start has provided comprehensive services to nearly 30 million children and their families. Head Start programs operate in 57,000 classrooms in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories.

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

September 27, 2013

Garza County

300 W Main

Post, Texas, 79356

(806) 762-8721

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about October 14th, 2013 Garza County will submit a request to the TDHCA for the release of HOME-HRA funds under Title II of the, Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 as amended, to undertake a project known as Garza County HOME-HRA, for the purpose of improving housing conditions for low-income families and enhance substandard communities and surrounding environments. A maximum of ten (10) low-income persons and families with an AMFI of 50% and below will have their homes reconstructed. These homes will consist of a living area, a kitchen, 2 bedrooms, and 1 bathroom with an estimated 1100 sq. ft. Foundation will consist of a concrete slab with brick veneer. Windows will consist of Low-e insulated windows and high efficiency metal clad doors. All bedrooms, hallways and the living room will consist of carpet and the bathroom, kitchen, and utility rooms will have vinyl flooring. Central heat and air will be installed. The geographical area for the project is countywide. The project is needed because of the large number of families that are living in substandard conditions.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Garza County has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Garza County Courthouse located at 300 W Main St, Post, TX 79356 and may be examined or copied weekdays (8) A.M. to (5) P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Garza County Courthouse. All comments received by November 4th, 2013 will be considered by Garza County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenter's should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

Garza County certifies to TDHCA that John Lee Norman in his capacity as County Judge consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. TDHCA's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows Garza County to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

TDHCA will consider objections to its release of funds and Garza County certification received by November 4th, 2013 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of Garza County approved by TDHCA; (b) Garza County has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by TDHCA; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to TDHCA Housing and Community Affairs Programs at 221 East 11th Street Austin, Texas 78701-2410. Potential objectors should contact TDHCA to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

John Lee Norman, County Judge

Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

The GARZA COUNTY conducted public hearings on September 3, 2013 and September 9, 2013 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the GARZA COUNTY from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 5.665134 percent.

The total tax revenue raised last year at last year's tax rate of 0.355000 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$3,437,367.42.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of 0.399000 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$3,654,754.45.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of 0.399000 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$3,662,216.25.

The GARZA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 30, 2013 at COMMISSIONERS COURT, 300 W MAIN, POST, TEXAS 79356 at 9:00 AM

Gaines farmer gins season's first bale on South Plains

By Dustin Wright
Special to the Dispatch

SEMINOLE — Billy Letkeman fell short of winning Gaines County's prestigious "First Bale of Cotton" honor in both the 2008 and 2012 growing seasons, falling just behind past winners Dwight and Pam Thomason and his uncle, John K. Fehr, respectively.

But this year, the title belongs to him, wife Jessi and son Lincoln, as the local producers brought region's first bale of cotton for the 2013 growing season into the lobby of Seminole's Commercial State Bank at 11:27 a.m. Sept. 12.

"The third time is the charm I guess," said Billy Letkeman, whose father, William Letkeman, won the honor in 1992. "It's an awesome feeling after trying for it several times."

Gaines County's first bale of cotton for the 2013 growing season, ginned by Seminole's Ocho Gin, weighed in at 520 pounds.

Letkeman's first bale, which was harvested Sept. 11, was grown from DeltaPine 1219 seed on irrigated land near the intersection of FM 1788 and CR 426, in southeastern Gaines County.

Cotton harvested for the first bale was machine picked and not defoliated, Letkeman said. The harvested cotton was delivered to Ocho Gin around 7 a.m. Thursday morning to begin the ginning process.

Ocho Gin General Manager David Spradlin said the bale was completed at 11:05 a.m. Thursday morning.

A sampling of the harvested cotton, which came off five of 385 acres of planted cotton at the farm site, will be sent to the USDA's Lamesa Classing office for classing verification.

"I knew I had a shot at (the first bale) on Monday morning, after knowing no one had turned in the first bale already and seeing how some of my (cotton) bolls were opening up," Letkeman said.

The 2013 first bale of cotton, which was on display inside the bank lobby through Sept. 18, was sold in a "Chinese Auction" Sept. 19 as part of festivities associated with the 2013 Gaines County Ag-Oil Appreciation Day celebration.

Officials with the Plains Cotton Growers office in Lubbock said the Letkeman's first bale is also believed to be the first bale of cotton processed within their 41-county growing area.

Centennial Bank's financial stability given top marks

Special to the Dispatch

LUBBOCK — Chairman J. David Williams has announced that BauerFinancial, an independent research and rating firm, recently recognized Centennial Bank as one of the strongest banks in the nation.

Earning Bauer's highest rating of 5-Stars for six consecutive quarters, the bank significantly exceeds all federal capital requirements and maintains a low level of delinquent loans, among other benchmarks, solidifying one of their guiding principles: Rock Solid for Generations.

Williams said the 5-Star rating is a testament to the bank's reputation as a highly respected independent community bank that is as strong, stable and solvent today as they've ever been.

"A recent Gallup poll indicates that customer confidence in the banking industry is beginning to come back. That confidence, no doubt, can be attributed to

community banks like Centennial Bank that hold to the principles of sound banking," said Karen Dorway, president of BauerFinancial. "These are the shining stars of the industry. Centennial Bank has been able to thrive without compromising its standards, and that's commendable."

BauerFinancial analyzes banks and credit unions very carefully. All their ratings are independent as no institution can pay them to rate it and no institution can choose to be excluded. Bauer has been analyzing and reporting on the nation's banking industry since 1983.

When banks submit detailed financial information to federal regulators, Bauer obtains that information directly from the government and uses a list of criteria to determine their rating. Criteria include but are not limited to: profitability/loss trend, evaluating the level of delinquent loans, chargeoffs and repossessed assets, the market versus book

value of the investment portfolio, regulatory supervisory agreements, the Community Reinvestment Rating (CRA), historical data and liquidity.

"We're proud that we can earn such a prestigious financial award while still providing the highest level of customer service and attention to our customers," Williams said.

"This 5-Star rating from BauerFinancial proves that we're on the right track to achieving our goal of being a super-community bank with a truly significant presence in the West Texas and Hill Country markets."

Centennial Bank brings 80 years of Texas banking expertise to customers across four key regions of Texas — the Hill Country, Lubbock, the Panhandle and the South Plains.

The \$715 million community bank operates 13 full-service banking centers and two loan production offices with a full-service banking center in Boerne opening early in 2014.

FFA News

FFA students work to drive-out hunger

The Post Dispatch

SOUTHLAND—FFA members are working with AgTexas Farm Credit to raise money to support the regional food bank in its Tractor Drive to drive out hunger in rural areas of the state.

Donations of \$1 helps leverage \$5 of needed groceries and household goods for the food bank to distribute to area families.

Furthermore, your donation also gives the FFA chapter a chance to win a John Deere 5045 tractor.

On Friday, the tractor will be on the Southland campus for public view.

Matt Hamel of Matt Hamel Ag Products volunteered his store to be the area donation headquarters throughout the week for people to stop by and give donations.

Information about the

campaign and fundraising drive can be obtained at the store.

In addition FFA members will have donation buckets set up at the concession stand at Friday's homecoming football game, for which the tractor will be on display and a special guest will be in attendance.

For information, call Matt Hamel Ag Products at 806-781-5360 or the school at 806-996-5330.

WPS (Worker Protection Standards) Training

By Greg Jones

WorkerProtectionStandards training for farm workers and handlers of pesticides will be held on Monday, September 30, 2013 at the community center in Post in the teen room. Two sessions will be held at the training; the first will begin at 10:00 am and be given in English and the second will start at 11:00 am and will be given in Spanish by Debbie Slocum from TDA.

The pesticide safety training provides farm workers and other pesticide handlers the information needed to work

safely around chemicals and treat crops. Topics covered in the sessions include the Texas Agricultural Hazard Communication Act, more commonly known as Right-to-know, and the federal workers Protection Standard requirements.

After completing the course, participants receive environmental Protection Agency cards verifying that the trainee has received training for both Worker Protection and Right-to-know. This certification of training will remain in effect for 5 years. After that period of time, all

pesticide handlers, applicators or those that come in contact with pesticides on the job are required to receive the training again.

WPS topics to be covered: Protection during applications, Restricted entry intervals, personnel protective equipment, notification of workers, decontamination supplies, emergency assistance, pesticide training and labeling and site specific information.

For more information contact Greg Jones at The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office at 215 W Main St. or call 806-495-4400.

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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

Friday Mostly Sunny 85 / 68	Saturday Mostly Cloudy 83 / 58	Sunday Sunny 81 / 55	Monday Sunny 80 / 55	Tuesday Sunny 81 / 60	Wednesday Mostly Sunny 77 / 57	Thursday Partly Cloudy 74 / 55

Local UV Index

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

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 85°, humidity of 51%. South southeast wind 10 to 15 mph. The record high temperature for today is 103° set in 1977. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms, overnight low of 68°. South southeast wind 10 to 15 mph. The record low for tonight is 42° set in 1975. Saturday, skies will be mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 83°, humidity of 54%. South wind 10 to 15 mph.

Weather Trivia

How many thunderstorms happen at the same time?

Answer: On average, over 1,800 are in progress across the Earth.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	4:59-6:59	5:29-7:29	Tue	8:03-10:03	8:33-10:33
Sat	5:46-7:46	6:16-8:16	Wed	8:48-10:48	9:18-11:18
Sun	6:32-8:32	7:02-9:02	Thu	9:34-11:34	10:04-12:04
Mon	7:17-9:17	7:47-9:47	www.WhatsOurWeather.com		

Weather History

Sept. 27, 1987 - While those at the base of Mount Washington, N.H. enjoyed sunny skies and temperatures in the 70s, the top of the mountain was blanketed with 4.7 inches of snow, along with wind gusts to 99 mph and a temperature of 13 degrees.

Sept. 28, 1987 - Thunderstorms produced up to ten inches of rain in southern Kansas and north central Oklahoma overnight. The Chikaskia River rose 2.5 feet above flood stage at Blackwell, Okla. during the day, causing flooding in Kay and Grant counties of Oklahoma.

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase
New 10/4	Fri 7:37 a.m.	7:34 p.m.	12:51 a.m.	2:59 p.m.	Full 10/18
	Sat 7:38 a.m.	7:33 p.m.	1:42 a.m.	3:40 p.m.	
	Sun 7:39 a.m.	7:31 p.m.	2:36 a.m.	4:17 p.m.	
	Mon 7:39 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	3:30 a.m.	4:53 p.m.	
First 10/11	Tue 7:40 a.m.	7:29 p.m.	4:25 a.m.	5:27 p.m.	Last 10/26
	Wed 7:41 a.m.	7:27 p.m.	5:22 a.m.	6:01 p.m.	
	Thu 7:41 a.m.	7:26 p.m.	6:19 a.m.	6:36 p.m.	

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip
9/17	84	66	83/58	0.00"
9/18	88	67	83/58	0.00"
9/19	79	68	82/57	0.03"
9/20	75	56	82/57	0.00"
9/21	82	49	82/57	0.00"
9/22	85	52	82/56	0.00"
9/23	88	55	81/56	0.00"

Farmer's Growing Degree Days

Date	Degree Days	Date	Degree Days
9/17	25	9/21	16
9/18	28	9/22	18
9/19	24	9/23	22
9/20	16		

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.

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Dixie Divas

The way she was

The way she was was a long way from what she became. I can't help thinking about how life veers so far away from the beginning of the journey and how the destination can vary drastically from where it all started.

To begin with, she was a beautifully made young girl with curves and a tumbling mass of blonde hair and bright blue eyes that danced with endless joy. Her laugh was contagious and her stories endlessly entertaining.

To state emphatically, she was spoiled. Terribly spoiled. Her daddy was wrapped hopelessly around her cute little pinky finger, and her mama, despite her best intentions, could never say "no" to her.

To illustrate properly, they were rich. It wasn't a case of giving in to her whims and depriving her of earthly possessions but rather one of showering her with an abundance of material things and letting her do as she always pleased.

To be completely honest, I, at times, envied the easiness of her life. If she didn't want to do her school lessons, her mama wrote a note to excuse her. If she wanted the fastest, one-of-a-kind sports car, it was delivered on an ordinary summer day — not a birthday or special occasion — with a big red bow wrapped around it. She bought many pretty clothes that she never wore, the tag never removed because there weren't enough hours in a day to wear all those clothes.

Worries were a stranger to her. She was shielded and protected in a way I yearned for because teenagers like easy much better than hard. I thought how grand it would be to awake every morning with the biggest decision being where to lunch and which beautiful outfit to wear. I worked three jobs and had to study, too.

What I didn't know then that I know now is that the easy way out always becomes the hardest. For life is like that, you know. No one can escape life's challenges forever. There always comes a payday.

For her, the path to difficulty began so gradually that no one could see that the trouble-free path was veering slightly toward the road that no one would choose. Ever. Her father died and what had seemed to be a bottomless pit of money began to prove different.

But when you have spent a life spending like there is no tomorrow, it is hard to accept that a tomorrow truly exists. She refused to believe it and her mother, well-intentioned and unaware she was throwing her daughter toward a pit of lions, spent years trying to protect her.

She sold off whatever possible so that her daughter could continue to have boats, Rolex watches and plenty of something that she had no idea she was buying.

Drugs. The kind of hard drugs that will turn a wealthy man into a beggar.

Then, her mother died and left her with no experience of life.

I'll spare you the details of years of rapid decline and sorrow. There is no prettiness to it. The last time I saw her about 15 years ago was in a shoe store where she was browsing, and I was shopping for workout shoes. By that time, she had grown rather plump and there was a dazed look in her eyes I did not recognize, for I have never known much, if anything, about drugs.

She fell out of sight until one day two years ago when she showed up at the home of a friend of mine. Kathy said she didn't recognize her when she opened the door. The once pretty girl was dirty, toothless and looked far older than her actual years. She was begging for food, asking for a place to sleep.

Six months later, she was dead, found lifeless in a dirty alley somewhere.

And though it took 25 years, I envied her no more.

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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