HOME OF CHIP & GLENN POLK

The Host Bispatch

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013

THEPOSTDISPATCHONLINE.COM

JP race will be county's only contested seat

By Wayne Hodgin The Post Dispatch

If you were holding out for an raucus political season leading into the spring primary and on into next November's general election — at least locally - you can go ahead and put those excitations aside.

Of the eight locally contested races for county seats up for election this coming electoral cycle, only one here in Garza County will be contested, and even that one likely will be decided during the March 4 primary.

Republican Angela Massey will be challenged for the Justice of the Peace Place 2 spot she was appointed.

Incumbent Angela Massey will face a challenge from political newcomer Jay Young in the Republican primary next March for the Justice of the Peace Place 2 spot she has only served in since being appointed to the position last May.

See **ELECTION**, Page 6

Comeaux: Move to 3A won't affect Post athletics much

By Geoffrey Baumgartner The Post Dispatch

Post High School will be making what local officials have dubbed a quiet move from Class 2A to 3A beginning with the 2014 academic year, according to the new UIL realignment that will take effect in February.

In an unprecedented move early last week, the UIL released its conference cutoff numbers for the 2014-2016 reclassification and realignment period as part of the state agency's biennial census of all public schools according to enrollment.

Under the UIL plan, which is expected to be implemented in February for the 2014-2016 academic years, there will be six conferences throughout the state instead of five. The new conference enrollment cutoffs will be 2,100 and above for 6A classification and in between 1,060-2,099 for 5A classification.

In addition, enrollment must be 465-1,059 for 4A, 220-464 for 3A, 105-219 for 2A, and 104 or below for 1A classification. Basically, what was 5A is now 6A and what was 6-man is now 1A.

The change also will cause some schools in Lubbock and across the South Plains to move classifications. Of note, Lubbock-Monterrey will make the leap to 6A and Lubbock-Cooper to 5A.

At Post High School, however, Superintendent Mike Comeaux said the change would not bring about much change to the existing program, including the athletic schedules.

"The new realignment numbers will not affect us much," Comeaux said. "The new 3A is virtually the old 2A. We figure our district will be composed of some familiar opponents with a few new ones."

Ragtown revival



Nicklaus Elliffee, portrayed by Glenn Polk, and Juanice Myers as his wife, Meena, influence the lives of nine orphans who seem to always be passed over for adoption. The holiday-themed musical "Say Nicklaus!" was revived a second year at Ragtown Gospel Theater in Post because of its popular and Gospel-centric story.

Polks bring back 'Say Nicklaus!' for a second year

By Anna Gibson

The Post Dispatch

Brothers Chip and Glenn Polk of the Ragtown Gospel Theater are excited to bring back the holiday musical "Say Nicklaus!" as requested by fans and the community of last year's crowd.

In fact, the owners of the destination theater north of Post have just this week added extra productions to accommodate more people.

"Say Nicklaus'is, as all our plays are, about the love and acceptance we have in Christ," playwright Chip Polk said.

This particular play comes from a different perspective. It takes place in a home for orphaned and abandoned children and focuses on one particular cottage where nine children are housed under the care of Nicklaus and Meena Elliffe, a very loving older couple.

The children in their charge have been passed over for adoption many times, and are accustomed to rejection.

"We see the power that the love of Christ, imparted through willing hearts, may have on the lives of others," Chip Polk said of the play's theme.

Chip Polk said he believes the ideas for all his shows are, like seeds by a sower, planted by God in his mind. "Say Nicklaus!" was no different, although, he said, it took a little more time for it to all come together.

"After writing 20 plays, most of which are set in biblical times, I had been thinking about something altogether different," Chip Polk said. "One of our actors has a son whom he and his wife adopted from

a Russian orphanage. His name is Pasha Brantley, and this play is dedicated to him."

Pasha is portrayed, to some extent, by the character Bertrand, played by Caelan Thuett. Nicklaus calls him "Cupid" because he has such a big, loving heart.

"Pasha is like that," Polk said. "I had heard some of his story, which is very moving, as I interviewed Pasha and another friend who grew up in an orphanage, and the story began to take shape."

A lot of research about the origins of various Christmas traditions was done while Polk was working on the musical.

Although he admits the origins of many Christian traditions surrounding the holiday don't have much significance for him, Polk said he was more interested in the hearts of people today.

"In recent years there seems to be a growing effort, ostensibly from within the Christian community, to demonize some of our most cherished Christian celebrations," Polk said. "Some people have made the decision to shield their children from what they say are the pagan origins of various Christmas traditions, or to eliminate gifts because they think the focus has been taken off of Jesus.

"Some have decided the wonder of Santa Claus is in some way harmful to children. I think that is terribly sad and runs counter to the Christian hope of bringing others to faith in Jesus Christ."

Today's Western folk legend of Santa Claus and the secrecy surrounding his Christmas visit to children is steeped in religious lore, based largely on the acts of Saint Nicholas, a fourth-century saint and

See NICKLAUS, Page 5

Post Notes

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

Recipe exchange

The Post Dispatch is asking for Christmas cookie recipes from our readers to be printed in an upcoming edition. Share your family's favorite recipe for shaped/molded/ rolled/refrigerator/no-bake cookies or drop cookies or bar cookies. Three recipes one per category - will be published. Email submissions preferred to thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com.

Ragtown matinees

Extra matinee performances of the popular Ragtown Gospel Theater production of "Say Nicklaus!" have been added, including 3 p.m. Dec. 15 and 21 with regular 7:30 p.m. performance Dec. 20. For information or to purchase tickets visit ragtown.

Taxpayer clinic

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

See **NOTES**, Page 2

Corrections

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

News on the go



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Marilyn Joyce Steel

Marilyn Joyce Steel, 73,

passed away Friday, Dec

6th, 2013, peacefully at

her home in Stillwater,

Okla., with family, after

a courageous eight-year

She was born to Joyce

Clinton Steel and Jewel

Caywood Steel on May 20,

elementary through high

school in Post before

State University, where

she graduated with a B.S.

in Business Education

in 1966. She went on to

receive her M.S. in Student

Personnel and Counseling

She retired from OSU-

Tulsa in 2006, where she

was employed as a student

Marilyn loved to travel

James Michael Watkins

with her friends, with

from OSU in 1991.

attended

Oklahoma

MARILYN STEEL

Branson, Mo., being the

destination of many of

their trips. She also enjoyed

sewing, cooking, and

reading Janet Evanovich

novels. She was a member

of Lost Creek United

Methodist Church in

She is preceded in death

SAN ANGELO - of Texas A&M. In 1957 Calcerano, nephew, Mark

died Clovis, N.M. She preceded Amy Kitten, Leslie Sugar,

James Michael "Mike" he married Ganell Babb in Gross, god daughters,

December 8, 2013 in San him in death in 2006. A Jo Steele, and special

Angelo. James was born career employee of the caregiver, Bradley Kitten.

June 18, 1927 in Slaton, ATSF Railroad, he ended Memorials can be made

Texas. He graduated from his 41 years with the to Slaton Harvey House,

Slaton High School in company as Trainmaster P.O. Box 53, Slaton, TX

1944. He then served in of San Angelo. Survivors 79364. Arrangements by

both the Marines and the include his sister, Mary Johnson's Funeral Home

Army Reserve. He was Gross of New Jersey, nieces, of San Angelo.

by her father, Joyce Clinton

Stillwater.

battle with cancer.

1940, in Post.

Marilyn

attending

adviser.

Watkins,

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

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-JACOB, AGE 5

Menu for December 16-27

Southland ISD

Breakfast

Monday: Pancakes, sausage Tuesday: Breakfast Pizza Wednesday: Biscuits, sausage, gravy Thursday: Muffins, yogurt Friday: Cherry or apple frudel, yogurt (Fruit, juice and milk served daily)

Lunch

beans, garden salad

Friday: Peanut butter and jelly sack lunch

Steel in February 2011.

She is survived by her mother, Jewel Steel of Post; daughters Lisa and Don Johnson of Stillwater and Amy and Troy Case of Tulsa; grandchildren: Joshua Garrido William Stillwater, Konemann of Stillwater and Nachel Konemann of Lubbock; and brother and sister-in-law, Chris and Judy Steel of Oracle, Ariz. She also leaves behind numerous loving friends and relatives.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13th, 2013, at Justice-Mason Funeral Home in Post. The Rev. Scott Richards will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name to Image Hospice 2311 W. 7th Pl., Stillwater, OK 74074

NOTES From Page 1

Toys for Tots The Post Lions Club is seeking monetary donations or new unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. Parents needing assistance can obtain an application at Post Elementary or any Post Lions Club member. Toy barrels will again be placed at local businesses to receive any new toys. Contact Jason Porter at

Porter Hardware 495-1040 for

information.

Garza County Museum New military exhibit commemorating the 72nd anniversary of the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. Purple Heart recipient Patrick Reilly donated the 154-airplane exhibit to the museum. For information, call 495-2207

Rabbit Validations The validation for rabbits has been moved to Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the show barn. For information call the Extension Office 495-4400

O.S. Museum Beautiful and unusual Nativities and Crèches are the stars of the "Reflections of Christmas" exhibit on display at the O.S. Museum. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For information, call 495-3570.

GED classes Instructional sessions for the GED test are 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 18 at Post High School. Call the school at 495-2770 for information.

Quarterback club The Post Quarterback Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Mondays in Post ISD cafeteria to watch game film and hear coaches comments and strategy. All are welcome. For information, call Greg Jones at 806-773-0723.

GED prep

The Post Public Library website now offers life-learning resources for GED test preparation, job search and workplace skills. Visit wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/pplib to register. For information, contact librarian Peggy Ashley at 990-2149.

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GED test

The GED test is being revised and will be in use starting January 2014. Classes are available from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Post High School. For information, call the school office at 495-2770.

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

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

County Commission The Garza County Commission meets at 9 a.m. the second and fourth Mondays of the month in Commission Chambers at the Garza County Courthouse, 300 W. Main St. For information, call 495-4430.

School board The Post ISD Board of Trustees meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesdays of the month in the conference room at the Administrative Offices, 501 S. Ave. K. For information, call 495-3343.

Menus

also proud to be a graduate Margo Spoolstra, Carol

Monday: Corn dog, baked chips, baked beans

Tuesday: Chicken Quesadilla, refried Wednesday: Ravioli, corn, garden salad,

pudding Thursday: Chicken patty sack lunch (Fruit and milk served daily)

Post ISD

Monday: Oatmeal, blueberry muffin Tuesday: Chicken-n-biscuit with syrup Wednesday: Pancake sausage on a

Thursday: Sunrise sandwich Friday: Breakfast tacos (100% fruit juice or fresh fruit and milk variety served daily.)

Lunch

Breakfast

Monday: Pizza dippers with spaghetti sauce, garden salad, baby carrots, apple slices

Tuesday: Ultimate taco salad with tortilla chips, romaine, seasoned corn, snowball salad, salsa

Wednesday: Steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, savory green beans, apple-pineapple d'lite Thursday: BBQ on bun, black beans, baby carrots, salsa, orange smiles Friday: Cheeseburger, garden salad, fresh veggie cup, fresh fruit (Milk variety served daily.)

Trailblazers

Lunch

Monday: Chili, salad, apple dump cake, cornbread Tuesday: Carne gusiada, Spanish rice,

beans, s'more pudding, tortilla Wednesday: Turkey, dressing, green beans, candid yams, cherry cobbler, roll Thursday: Hamburger steak, roasted potatoes, corn on cob, peaches, cottage cheese, Texas toast

Friday: Frito pie, salad, impossible pie

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JAY YOUNG FILES FOR ELECTION AS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Jay Young has filed with the Republican Party of Garza County and is seeking election in the March Primary for the position as Justice of the Peace Two, which serves county precincts 3 & 4.

Former JP Dee Justice retired midterm and the position is currently being filled by an appointee.

Community involvement is a very important to Jay and he feels that he can serve his community in the capacity of Justice

of the Peace. Fair and competent application of the law would be a priority to him, as well as being on the job and available at all times.

Jay Young is currently employed by Garza County as an assistant clerk in the Tax Assessor's Office. Prior to that he was employed at WJC, Inc. Jay spent a number of years in the Dallas area working in the computer business as a programmer and consultant.

Jay Young is an active member of First Baptist Church, and is a member of the Post Rotary Club. He also is a member of the Ragtown Gospel Theatre singing group and has appeared in a number of the productions at Ragtown Gospel Theatre. Jay is a board member of the Community Recovery Center.

Jay is the son of Tommy and Ruth Ann Young. After graduating Post High School Jay attended Angelo State University in San Angelo.

Thanks for reading The Post Dispatch!

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Nancy's Notions

Not your mom's trip to the grocery store

om went to the local grocer with her shopping list and a fistful of coupons as part of a weekly chore, but today's savvy food shopper heads to the supermarket with a smartphone and store loyalty card as part of a fairly social outing.

Recent research into how consumers



MCDONALD

view their trip to the grocery indicates the way consumers buy food is changing considerably in a new post-digital landscape. The following research was released Nov. 26 from "Foodlink, Connecting Farm to NANCY Fork," a website from Feedstuffs, a leading

agri-business publication. "How consumers interact with their food and favorite brand will continue to evolve as we head into 2014," said Phil Lempert, a food industry consultant and analyst. "Shoppers are looking for convenient, healthful and satisfying food for themselves and their families, and brands will rise to meet these demands through product innovation and the use of mobile technology to make

shopping faster and more convenient." Lempert examined the top trends in the grocery industry for packaged food giant ConAgra Foods and found that those in the "Millennial" generation and health-conscious shoppers are shifting the consumer palate on the macro scale, portending some major trends in the coming year. Among those trends is solidifying health and

sustainability as critical consumer

concerns for the foreseeable future. Lempert highlighted 10 trends as part of his work for ConAgra, noting that 60 percent of all snack foods are now positioned as healthier options, relatively speaking, based on data from Innova Market Insights. Supermarkets will likely capitalize on consumers' desire to "eat better" by replacing traditional higher-sugar, higher-fat snacks with more healthful options such as seeds, flavored nuts and other similar "grab-and-go" types of products.

Likewise, consumers are poised to renew their commitment to eating the most important meal of the day. According to a ConAgra consumer survey, 74 percent of consumers said they eat breakfast at home regularly. Furthermore, Mintel research suggests consumers are interested in adding more protein to their morning meal via eggs, meats and Greek yogurt.

Consumers increasingly view the grocery-buying process itself as a social experience, with Millennials increasingly bringing social media into the equation.

According to comparisonshopping site PriceGrabber, 57 percent of content on photo-sharing site Pinterest is food-related, and 33 percent of users said they have purchased foods or cooking items after seeing them on Pinterest.

Retailers are taking advantage of the trend, with stores creating infographics for use to promote various foods or

specific purchases and encouraging impulse purchases. Similarly, consumers are looking for packaging to evolve to include technology as a way of obtaining even more information about the foods they are buying, including information about ingredients and sourcing.

Using an app, as one example, Lempert said consumers soon will be able to learn more about an ingredient or health claim by simply scanning the product's label using their smartphone. The technology might be used to tell where a particular ingredient is from, who prepared the food, the company's history or other consumer reviews and ratings.

A recent study by marketing firm Sullivan Higdon & Sink (SHS) found that 56 percent of Americans own a mobile phone, and 44 percent of shoppers said they are using them as an aid during the grocery shopping process. Nearly a quarter of consumers use their phone to look up recipes, while nearly one-fifth access coupons. Smaller yet growing percentages use a shopping-related app and scan quickresponse (QR) codes to learn more about a given brand or product.

Both SHS and Lempert agree that a new type of grocery shopper is emerging, highlighting the importance of these tech-related macro trends. Lempert identifies a younger (27 years and older), single, career-oriented woman with no children at home; these shoppers number at least 31 million and are strong potential food products, sharing recipes that promote influencers. SHS similarly highlighted

young, single moms as an increasingly important shopper and found that 68 percent of mobile phone shoppers are younger than 45; 67 percent are female; and 68 percent earn more than \$50,000 per year.

These socially savvy, younger shoppers are willing to give up some measure of privacy through store loyalty cards, but only in return for an expectation of better deals on the foods and products they buy. Fiftyfive percent of younger shoppers are willing to forgo privacy through these store data-mining efforts, compared with only 46 percent of those older than 45, and mobile phone-using shoppers are 20 percent more likely to give up their data for better bargains.

For shoppers of all stripes, cooking at home is coming back en vogue, with Lempert referring to grocery stores as "the new culinary schools." Grocery stores are increasingly offering instore educational opportunities that allow socially oriented customers to learn about new foods and cooking techniques in a fun, collaborative environment.

SHS found that catering to these would-be gourmands is smart business for retailers, as those shoppers who said they like to cook were more likely to describe grocery shopping as an enjoyable experience: 49 percent of consumers said shopping is enjoyable, but that rose to 55 percent for selfdescribed "good cooks."

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

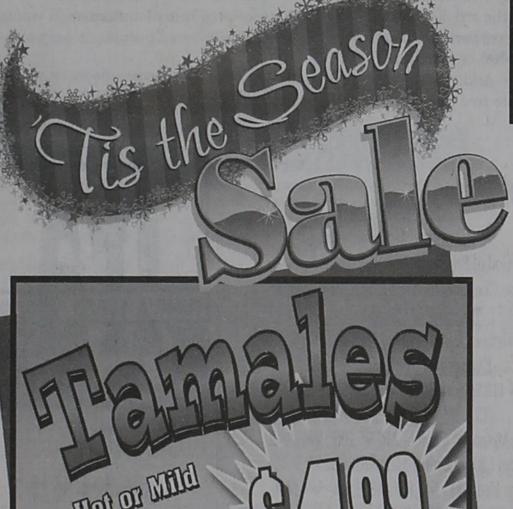
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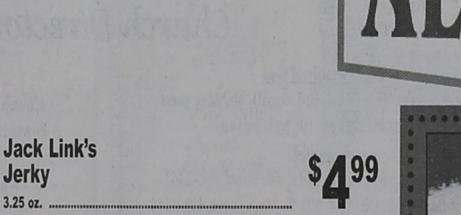






Mix and Match

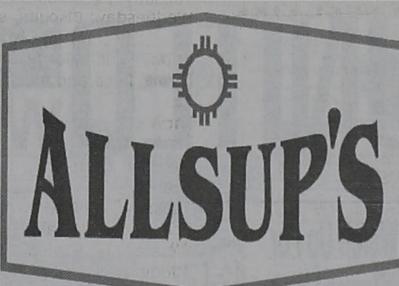
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IN HAWAII

Legends

Part 2: The Enola Gay

s we look back on the famed World War II, it's hard to Limagine just what the European Theater entailed. Will we always remember the great sacrifices the men and women of our military and their families have made for us? Do Americans keep that in mind when they go to vote for candidates running for high office in our government? I guess we can't stipulate that a military background be mandatory, but it would be nice to have leaders with some knowledge and dedication for our armed forces. Is that a dying breed?

Last week we left off with the B-29 Enola Gay dropping "Little Boy," a



LINDA

9,000-pound atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The blast was said to be equal to 20,000 tons of TNT. Enola Gay

(namesake of the pilot's mother) was set to take off from Tinian, an American airbase in the Marianas, which was as close as they PUCKETT could get to Japan. The crew of 12, with "Little Boy" bomb on

board, headed out on their mission of delivering Japan the world's first operational atomic bomb.

Stephen Sherman described the Enola Gay taking off. "Dimples Eight-Two to north Tinian tower. Ready for takeoff on Runway Able," he (Tibbets) radioed. The Enola Gay picked up speed to 75 mph, 100, then 125, holding the plane on the runway until it reached 155 mph. Near the end of the 8,500-foot runway, the B-29 lifted off.

Tibbets checked his watch; it was 2:45 a.m. Aug. 6, 1945. In a few hours they were over Japan, Hiroshima was the target, and at 9:15 a.m. the bomb was dropped and the Enola Gay sped away as the city below disappeared under the mushroom cloud.

Even though Japan had suffered heavy losses in their military and citizenry, they had a veteran army of 2

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million who were ready to fight. They also had 8,000 aircraft in which to hit our war ships with Kamikaze (suicide) bombings.

The second mission would be carried out three days later on Aug. 9, 1945, by another B-29 named "Bockscar," piloted by Maj. Charles Sweeney, commander of the 393d Bombardment Squadron. Its target, the city of Kokura, Japan, where the arsenal was located and secondary target was Nagasaki where two large Mitsubishi armaments were

In pre-flight inspection of the Bockscar, the flight engineer discovered an inoperable fuel transfer pump to the 640-gallon reserve tank. Replacing the pump would take hours and moving the live bomb to another B-29 was too dangerous. The decision was made by Group Cmdr. Col. Paul Tibbets and Maj. Sweeney to continue the mission. In an effort to conserve fuel, the mission was re-directed at the second target-Nagasaki, Japan.

Cloud cover over the target made the mission difficult, but finally a break in the clouds allowed the crew to drop "Fat Man." The bomb exploded in 43 seconds, destroying about half of the city, killing 35,000 people and injuring another 60,000.

The Bockscar was running dangerously low on fuel, too low to land at Iwo Jima as planned, so Sweeney flew the plane to Okinawa's Yontan Airfield landing on a wing and a prayer. At last Japan was defeated.

The Enola Gay is now on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. The Boxcar is on permanent display at the Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Dayton, Ohio.

Check out the War Planes exhibit at the Garza County Historical Museum, courtesy of Patrick Reilly a USMC Purple Heart recipient. He is a true

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

The Idle American

Who was that kid?

e was, almost certainly, a young man whose name we'll never know. Perhaps age 10, he was nondescript, like a background figure in a Charlie Brown comic strip. He sought not to make a name for himself, but rather to help out - not "paying it forward," but "paying it up and down."

My wife and I, among the 3,100 guests disembarking from the weeklong maiden voyage of Carnival Cruise Lines' Carnival

Sunshine, were back in New Orleans. It was time to face the "real world" after a few days of "good old summertime" in the Caribbean. On the elevator down,

we noticed the youngster stationed nearest the button panel, assuming NEWBURY he "belonged" to one of the three other couples

on the car. After all adults exited, he remained on the elevator, and we realized our error of assumption. This well-scrubbed, happy "button-pusher," his voice raised slightly, announced, "Going up." He seemed resolute to help luggageladen guests end on a high note. We scratched our heads like folks in Lone Ranger episodes, pondering the identity of the "masked man."

Transfixed, we watched the process twice more before the announcement of our disembarking number beckoned us to the gangway.

Each shoreward step brought with it lowered temperatures and heightened memories of a grand week that underscored good intentions - rendered both corporately and by individuals.

These good deeds were capped off by a nameless youngster seemingly determined to help out.

Upon boarding, we "oohed and aahed" over the \$155 million makeover of the Carnival Destiny — the largest cruise ship on the high seas when it debuted in 1996. We soon overheard several conversations about Filipino crew members who make up some 15 percent of Carnival's 39,000 employees.

Many of them, of course, were affected by the typhoon that wiped out so much of their homeland. It was gratifying to learn that Carnival's parent company, Carnival Corp. — along with the Miami Heat - already had written a \$1 million check to help the stricken area.

Further, the corporation pledged another \$100,000 as matching funds for employee gifts. Additionally, the cruise line underwrote free transportation

back to the Philippines for employees whose lives were hardest hit. Other crew members "doubled up" to cover duties of their grieving comrades, readily adding to already challenging responsibilities. They were cheerful givers, realizing that if their Filipino companions had remained at their work stations, they would have been smiling by day but crying by night.

This backdrop brought with it thoughts of how crew members work relentlessly, certain that their jobs represent "tickets out" from far less attractive employment opportunities back

Again, they are "Everyman" - and, of course, "Everywoman" - mostly nameless. Some impress so greatly, however, that one feels compelled to learn their names and details of their pilgrimage.

One such person is Marzhan Batyrshayeva. At age 22, she is manager of the ship's Ji Ji Restaurant, which features Asian cuisine. In our view, it provides the most memorable dining experience on the vessel. A native of Kazakhstan, at age 20 she saved money for a plane ticket to Lithuania, where her future rested on a positive interview with the cruise line. With charm, beauty and a glacier-melting personality, she was hired. Now, she directs the work of an entire staff - all of whom are her elders.

Much is different about the Sunshine, which, in 75 days, was transformed by thousands of contractors working around the clock on a massive project unprecedented in maritime history.

The result is a masterpiece, details of which are too many to describe.

Foretelling cruise delights was the ship's naming ceremony, highlighted by enthusiasm churned by band members and cheerleaders of New Orleans' Destrehan High School. They won performing rights after competing with 20-plus other schools.

The program was stunning. Lin Arison, whose late husband Ted founded CCL in 1972, pressed the button to electronically break a champagne bottle against the bow. (Mardi Gras, Carnival's first vessel, went aground on its maiden voyage.)

Officials spoke; a priest offered a prayer of blessing.

Program-planning professionals pushed "all the right buttons." Remembered equally as much, though, is the unscripted role of an unnamed youngster. He, too, pressed buttons to help out.

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

Church Directory

Assembly of God

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

Baptist

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

Catholic

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

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

Church of God

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

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

Evangelical Methodist

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

Methodist First United Methodist Church- 216 W. 10th, 990-2942

Graham Chapel United Methodist Church (Pastor: John Hedrick) - 611 FM #1313 806-549-1400 Nazarene

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

Grassland Church of Nazarene- 327-5656

Presbyterian

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

Family Harvest Church- (806) 495-1400

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Greek Bishop of N present-day Turke He had a reputa gift-giving, such coins in the she

who left them (and thus became t Santa Claus, wh name comes from "Sinterklaas," itself of elisions and co the transliteration Nikolaos." His evolved among as was common Christian saints. "How many hearts have be toward God Christmas season.

"Selfishly giving o generosity toward epitome of Chris would anyone wish any part of such b enduring tradition Polk combined Santa Claus and with the story o those exact reason he has strong feeli erosion of the spir

holidays. "Christmasisob attack, given tha are now intimidate saying 'Merry C public," Polk said. is finding traction Christian popula point that we're h a child, What Santa Claus to br It's obvious ther much to Polk. I story because it h from romance

favorite and mo aspect - the Gos ·I believe in power of love, but acceptance is pair "I hope we've o knowing, in Ch both loved and a certainty empoy really compels us same love and a others."

drama, a little si

dancing, laughi

heartbreak, trium

Polk said he wa a story that illustra and how filled wi and wonder that should be.

A cryptogram is actual letters of puzzle is to 'dec We have provide Hint: Quote by

> **O**F 和中

dispi

SUPP OU

BOI GO ALL-WA

VAH GRE SEAS

NICKLAUS From Page 1

Greek Bishop of Myra in Lycia, present-day Turkey.

He had a reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him, and thus became the model for Santa Claus, whose modern name comes from the Dutch "Sinterklaas," itself from a series of elisions and corruptions of the transliteration of "Saint Nikolaos." His reputation evolved among the faithful, Nicklaus!" as was common for early Christian saints.

hearts have been softened toward God during the Christmas season?" Polk asked. "Selfishly giving out of love and of Christ, but to express his generosity toward others is the epitome of Christ's life. Why would anyone wish to diminish said. any part of such beautiful and enduring tradition?"

back

ished

ster.

ward

Polk combined the idea of Theater. Santa Claus and his reindeer with the story of Christ for response to this play last year, those exact reasons. Polk said he has strong feelings about the it, so people could bring back erosion of the spirituality of the their families this year," he holidays.

"Christmasisobviouslyunder community of Ragtown fans." attack, given that Americans are now intimidated about even saying 'Merry Christmas' in parts as last year, such as Laura public," Polk said. "The erosion Bryant, in the role of Meena is finding traction within the Christian population to the point that we're hesitant to ask a child, 'What do you want Myers takes on that role this Santa Claus to bring you?"

It's obvious the musical means much to Polk. He loves this is someone we've wanted to be elaborate and was more timestory because it has everything from romance, "explosive" drama, a little singing, a little dancing, laughing children, heartbreak, triumph and Polk's favorite and most important and a gifted playwright." aspect — the Gospel.

I believe in the healing power of love, but love without acceptance is painful," he said. "I hope we've conveyed that year, is working in Australia at knowing, in Christ, we are present. both loved and accepted. That certainty empowers us, and really compels us to lavish that same love and acceptance on

others." a story that illustrated how pure and how filled with love, hope and wonder that Christmas children in the play returned, should be.

Hint: Quote by Doris Day



Anna Gibson/The Post Dispatch Glenn Polk brings the character of Nicklaus Elliffe to life in the Ragtown Gospel Theater-produced holiday musical "Say

"Say Nicklaus' clearly ties it "How many unbelievers' all together and communicates clearly that Christmas is an opportunity for everyone to celebrate not only the birth indwelling life and love to everyone around us," Polk

"Say Nicklaus!" at the Ragtown

"We had such amazing and many requests to repeat said. "We listen to our loyal

Most, but not all the cast was able to return to play the same Elliffe, who was not able to return to her part because of a scheduling conflict. Juanice

in a Ragtown production for a long time. She and my brother Glenn were college classmates and lifelong friends. She is an extraordinarily talented actress

Ravenscraft Mitzi playing beautifully Ula Goiterflaven, Amy Sever, whom played the role last

The other significant difference is the set. Polk believes it's simply beautiful.

"You'll want to live in the Elliffe's cottage. It looks like Polk said he wanted to write something from a Thomas Kincade painting," Polk said.

"All but two of the nine and those two had sports and

R E RE ERE R
KXIBTZJL QXJ VJXJFIMQXN

WVIZFXJB

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.

school activities that conflicted, or they would have been back," Polk said. "That really says a lot about Glenn's directing. He demands the very best from his cast and crew, which means work. They rehearse for hours on end, but knowing that they have been part of something This is the second year for truly extraordinary makes it worth the time and the dedication. I think it is a very positive experience for them all. We are proud of every one of them.'

> The Ragtown Theater produces three shows a year. While one production is being staged, Glenn Polk begins casting and planning the staging of the upcoming play. As soon as that play ends, the volunteers gather and they start building the set for the next.

They began the set for "Say Nicklaus!" the Monday after the final Saturday of "Saint John & The Televangelist" "We miss Laura, but Juanice because, Polk said, it is vey consuming than most, taking a full month to complete.

During the time they are building sets during the day, they run rehearsals in the evenings. Glenn runs rehearsal for the play and Chip does the rehearsals with the Ragtown Gospel Band.

With the Ragtown Theater opening earlier this year for the Christmas show, Polk thinks the community wasn't quite ready for the first couple of weeks, but now the Saturday matinees are selling out pretty quickly.

Polk suggests guests make the Friday evening performances for the best The 501

Cow-a-BANG-a!

irst the bad news: The newborn d calf didn't live. The good news: The mama

survived. Free information: A mother cow can

be very protective of a baby calf, even if it's dead and frozen to the ground. I should've known that.

Pow! The first time she hit me, she caught me by surprise. I crumpled. Pow! The second hit also caught me off guard. Pow! By the third hit, I was expecting it.

bull-rider scrambling

HANABA

across soft arena dirt to escape a still-bucking bad-attitude bull. Except, alas, there was no audience. I wasn't wearing chaps, and the young cow was smaller than a rodeo bull, although equally aggressive.

Picture a tossed-off

MUNN That's when a rodeo clown jumped out from WELCH behind a tree, giving me my chance to get

away. OK, I made up that part. I'm not sure how I got away.

It all started when I found the cow and her dead calf at first light. I decided to take her feed and water. After all, she was in a weakened state and could use a little extra nourishment and pampering. Right?

When I rattled the tasty range cubes at her from a few feet away, she stared at me blankly, cow-like. Then, something seemed to click in her brain. She headed toward me, racehorse-like, at top speed from 10 feet away. Think starting gate.

I thought she was happy about the feed cubes. Cows love cubes. But for this cow, those cubes weren't even on her radar. She aimed for me, a one-cow stampede toward a one-person target. The cubes went flying.

Some of our cows have horns. She doesn't. I'm glad.

My black wool ski cap is still there somewhere on the frozen ground. That's OK. It wasn't a souvenir of a ski trip to Austria. Moths ate that one. It was just a thrift store bargain - ugly but warm.

I went back later to look for it. (Yes, I can still walk.) No luck. Each dark object in the snow turned out to be cow manure. The cubes also had vanished. Either the cow ate them after she got rid of me or some other animal snarfed them up. Makes me wonder which forest creature is wearing my cap.

It's a good thing Mad Cow (her new name) didn't knock me unconscious. I could have frozen to death.

And to think, I was worried about my husband, stuck at our house in the city, winding up a demanding work project. Would he step onto ice on the porch on his way to fetch the morning paper? I pictured him falling, hitting his head and lying there unconscious in the freezing cold, unnoticed by the neighbors in the shadow of the house.

Either way, it's the stuff of YouTube videos.

YOUTUBE PAUSE.

Guess what. People falling on ice? It's a popular YouTube theme.

People getting hit by cows? Rare. One shows a woman trying to be nice to a

cow with a newborn calf. Not a good idea.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

Puzzle of the Week

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. 1/100 Pakistani rupee 6. Oryzopsis miliacea
- 11. Sous chef surfaces
- 14. High rocky hill (Celtic) 15. Drifted with the ocean
- 16. A round mark 18. Portions of medication
- 21. Catholic Un. in Kansas
- City
- 23. Edible bulb of sego lily 25. Poseidon's son
- 26. Edible lily bulbs
- 28. Sets out 29. Beautified with gems
- 31. A citizen of Thailand
- 34. Informal term for
- "mouth" 35. Female sibling
- 36. Gives a verbal picture
- 39. Not to be taken lightly
- 40. Cause to lose courage 44. Double-dyed
- 45. Loin muscles
- 47. Downpours
- 48. Convent church 50. Moroccan mountain
- range
- 51. Brindled female cat
- 56. Founder of Babism's title 57. Book collection work
- 62. Ask for and get free
- 63. Set to end

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Handbags
- 2. Indicates position
- 3. Something 4. Take a seat
- 5. Black tropical American cuckoo
- 6. One point E of due S
- 7. 60's style of dress 8. Farm state
- 9. Lawrencium (abbr.)
- 10. Curioes
- 11. Water hen 12. Gadolinium (abbr.)
- 13. Piloted alone 14. Touchdown (abbr.)
- 17. Light browns
- 19. Before
- 20. Droop 21. Earnest money
- tions 24. High tennis return

22. Small intestine projec-

- 25. Large shooter marble 27. Slang for trucks with
- trailers
- 28. Stitched 30. A short straight punch
- 31. Highly exceptional

32. A native of Asia 33. Graphic computer sym-

POST DISPATCH

- 36. Run off the tracks 37. A monotonous routine 38. Drain of resources
- 39. San Antonion RoadRunners (abbr.)
- 41. Made up of 50 states 42. Toff
- 43. Set typewriter columns
- 49. Atomic #70
- 46. Mains

PUZZLE SOLUTION

51. Label

52. They _

53. Next to

58. Atomic #56

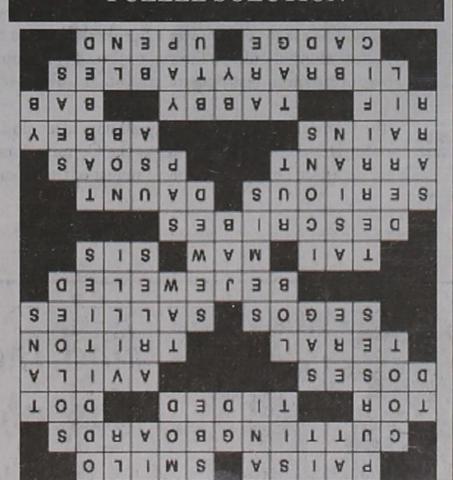
60. Exist

54. British thermal unit (abbr.)

55. A sharp shrill bark

61. Natural logarithm

59. Rural delivery (abbr.)



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ELECTION From Page 1

The seat had been held the last seven terms nearly 30 years — by Dee Justice, who unexpectedly announced his retirement effective at the end of April.

Other elected positions up for grabs but which likely will be filled by their incumbent because no one but themselves qualified to run include judge for the 106th Judicial District, held by Republican Carter Schildknect; County Judge Lee Norman, also a Republican; County/ District Clerk Jim Plummer, a Republican; Republican Charles Morris as Precinct 2 county commissioner; Democrat Jerry Benham as Precinct 4 county commissioner; and Republican Gordon Terry, who serves as the justice of the peace for Place 1 in Garza County.

The only seat up for reelection that will not have an incumbent will be that of county treasurer. Currently held by longtime Treasurer Ruth Ann Young, who had previously announced her intention to retire at the end of her term, the only candidate to file was LuAnne Terry, who will be running as a Republican.

For residents who have not done so already, the deadline to register to vote in time for the March primary will be Feb. 3.

Voters casting ballots in the primary election will vote in one of the two political parties, either Democratic or Republican. The chosen candidate (unless a runoff election is necessary) will represent the party in the Nov. 4 general election.

The early voting period ahead of the primary begins Feb. 18 and ends Feb. 28. The times and place for early voting is set by the county's election superintendent or voter registrar.

CANDIDATE LIST Following is a list of candidates whose names will appear on the appropriate political party's ballot in the state primary March 4.

State Representative

District 68 Drew Springer

District Judge, 106th **Judicial District** Carter T. Schildknecht

County Judge Lee Norman (R)

County Treasurer LuAnne Terry (R)

County Commissioner Precinct 2 Charles Morris, incumbent (R)

County Commissioner Precinct 4 Jerry Benham, incumbent Agriculture

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Gordon Terry (R)

Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 Jay Young (R) Angela Massey, incumbent (R)

County/District Clerk Jim Plummer (R)

U.S. Senator Curt Cleaver (R) Dwayne Stovall (R) John Cornyn, incumbent

Chris Mapp (R) Steve Stockman (R) Reid Reasor (R) Linda Vega (R) Ken Cope (R) David M. Alameel (D) Harry Kim (D) Maxey Marie Scherr (D) Kesha Rogers (D) Michael "Fjet" Fjetland

U.S. Representative District 19 Randy Neugebauer, incumbent (R) Donald R. May (R) Chris Winn (R) Neal Marchbanks (D)

Governor SECEDE Kilgore (R) Greg Abbott (R) Lisa Fritsch (R) Miriam Martinez (R) Wendy R. Davis (D) Reynaldo "Ray" Madrigal

Lieutenant Governor Todd Staples (R) Dan Patrick (R) David incumbent (R) Jerry Patterson (R) Leticia Van de Putte (D) Attorney General Barry Smitherman (R) Dan Branch (R) Ken Paxton (R) Sam Houston (D)

Comptroller of Public Accounts Glenn Hegar (R) Harvey Hilderbran (R) Debra Medina (R) Raul Torres (R) Mike Collier (D)

Commissioner of the General Land Office David Watts (R) George P. Bush (R) John Cook (D)

Commissioner of Sid Miller (R) Joe Cotten (R) J. Allen Carnes (R) Tommy Merritt (R) Eric Opiela (R) Jim Hogan (D) Hugh Asa Fitzsimons III (D) Richard "Kinky" Friedman (D)

Railroad Commissioner Becky Berger (R) Wayne Christian (R) Malachi Boyuls (R) Ryan Sitton (R) Dale Henry (D) Steve Brown (D)

Chief Justice, Supreme Court Nathan Hecht, incumbent

William Moody (D)

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6 Jeff Brown, incumbent

(R) Lawrence Edward Meyers (D)

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 7

Jeff Boyd, incumbent (R) Gina Benavides (D)

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8 Phil Johnson (R)

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 3 Bert Richardson (R) Barbara Walther (R) John Granberg (D)

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 4 Jani Jo Wood (R) Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)

Dewhurst, Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 9 W.C. "Bud" Kirkendall (R)



Pictured are back row Jaden Carroll and Bryan Saucedo. Front row Latham Huckaby, Tori Huckaby and Addee Williams. Marci Oden, club manager was assisted by Veronica Carroll and Janeece Williams.

2013 4-H Christmas Party

by Garza County 4-H and members. a continual part of the 4-H experience.

The 2013 4-H Christmas Party They also received several boxes of canned Scavenger hunt was another huge success. food gathered during the scavenger hunt. Following a pizza party, the youth Many thanks to everyone that donated participated in their annual canned food food items to our youth project. You are scavenger hunt. Local families received a modeling characteristics we are teaching fully decorated Christmas tree furnished our 4-H members. Community Service is

Reiter honored at banquet



Kim Reiter (left) is seen accepting her Outstanding Volunteer Leader award at the recent 4-H Gold Star

Kim Reiter was honored at the annual District 2 Gold Star Banquet on Monday night, November 25, at the Texas Tech University Frazier Alumni Center as the 2013 Outstanding Volunteer Leader.

Kim, a 4-H volunteer for 12 years, helped re-establish the horse project in Garza County and is a tireless in her effots to assist the 4-H youth to succeed in their 4-H projects. Her understanding of horsemanship has elevated the knowledge and skills of youth involved in the 4-H Horse project.

Kim was presented a personalized wooden pen from District 2 District Extension Michael Administrator, Clawson.

Also attending the banquet were Nancy McDonald, Greg Jones and Cheryl Gill.

Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ QOWF J R P V I D T Z C B E G S X L M Y A K H N U

WRINKLES ARE HEREDITARY.
KXIBTZJL QXJ VJXJFIMQXN PARENTS GET THEM FROM THEIR GQXJBML PJM MVJC RXEC MVJIX CHILDREN WVIZFXJB

O Feature Exchange

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commissioners Court of Garza County, Texas, pursuant to §222.1071 of the Texas Transportation Code, hereby gives notice of a Public Hearing and Intent to Consider Creation of one or more County Energy Transportation Reinvestment Zone, (CETRZ) to be held on the 23rd day of December, 2013, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the County Courthouse, to receive public comment on the following topics:

Whether or not to create one or more County Energy Transportation Reinvestment Zone (CETRZ), as authorized by law, to promote one or more infrastructure projects to be located within the County to be funded by the CERTZ. Additional information on this topic may be found on the Texas Department of Transportation website: http://www.roadsfortexasenergy.com under the "Legislation" tab.

The potential boundaries and requirements of a County Energy Transportation Reinvestment Zone (CETRZ), as authorized §222.1071 of the Texas Transportation Code.

Individuals wishing to participate in the public hearing by either oral or written testimony will be asked to complete a Speaker's Form to be provided at the meeting. Oral testimony should be limited to three (3) minutes in the interest of time and to permit maximum participation by others. Rules of Decorum will apply.

The Commissioners Court may, 30 days after closing the Public Hearing, take appropriate action on the matter as the Commissioners Court may in its discretion determine to be in the best interest of the County.

County Clerk



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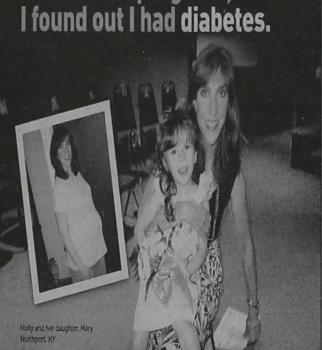
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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast



60 / 29



Local UV Index

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

0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate,

6-7: High, 8-10: Very High,

11+: Extreme Exposure

Weather Trivia

Answer: One inch of rain contains

Weather History

Dec. 13, 1962 - A severe Florida freeze occurred. Morning lows

reached 35 degrees at Miami, 18

degrees at Tampa and 12 degrees

at Jacksonville. It was the coldest

December weather of the 20th century and caused millions of dollars

in damage to crops and foliage.

about three million drops.

How many raindrops are

in a thunderstorm?



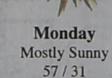




Sunday

Sunny

58 / 32









Thursday Mostly Sunny 56/30

Days

es) from the

Sunny Sunny 54/28 51/25

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 60°, humidity of 35%. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph. The record high temperature for today is 81° set in 1995. Expect mostly clear skies tonight with an overnight low of 29°. Southwest wind 10 mph. The record low for tonight is 12° set in 1989. Saturday, skies will be sunny with a high temperature of 50°, humidity of 46%. North wind 10 mph. Skies will be mostly clear Saturday night with an overnight low of 30°. Light winds. Expect sunny skies Sunday with a high temperature of 58°.

	Peal	Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week							
		Peak	Times		Peak Times				
	Day	AM	PM	Day	AM	PM			
sange !	Fri	8:44-10:44	8:14-10:14	Tue	11:30-1:30	11:00-1:			
	Sat	9:32-11:32	9:02-11:02	Wed	11:58-1:58	11:28-1:			
2 - 30 - 10	Sun	10:21-12:21	9:51-11:51	Thu	12:15-2:15	12:45-2:			
	Mon	11:10-1:10	10:40-12:40	www	w WhatsOur	Weather c			

	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset		
Full (3)	Fri	7:40 a.m.	5:39 p.m.	3:16 p.m.	4:12 a.m.		Nev
12/17	Sat Sat	7:41 a.m.	5:39 p.m.	3:57 p.m.	5:09 a.m.		1/1
3	Sun	7:42 a.m.	5:40 p.m.	4:42 p.m.	6:03 a.m.		
	Mon	7:42 a.m.	5:40 p.m.	5:29 p.m.	6:55 a.m.		
Last (Tue	7:43 a.m.	5:41 p.m.	6:19 p.m.	7:44 a.m.	Sel.	Firs
12/25	Wed	7:43 a.m.	5:41 p.m.	7:10 p.m.	8:29 a.m.	(()	1/7
0	Thu	7:44 a.m.	5:41 p.m.	8:03 p.m.	9:10 a.m.	9	

Dec. 14, 1924 - The temperature	Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days								
at Helena, Mont. plunged 88	Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Da			
degrees in 34 hours. The mercury	12/3	77	42	56/29	0.00"	Date D	egree Days	Date D	egree
plummeted from 63 above to 25	12/4	74	29	55/28	0.00"	12/3	10	12/7	0
below zero. At Fairfield, Mont., the	12/5	29	18	55/28	0.07"	12/4	2	12/8	0
temperature plunged 84 degrees in	12/6	29	15	55/28	0.00"	12/5	0	12/9	0
just 12 hours, from 63 at noon to	12/7	17	10	55/28	0.00"	12/6	0		
21 below zero at midnight.	12/8	58	15	55/27	0.00"	Growing degree days are calculated by taking the average t for the day and subtracting the base temperature (50 degree average to assess how many growing days are attained.			
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF	12/9	30	16	54/27	0.00"				
Commence and the contract of t			-			-			

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The Paperboy

Take time this holiday season to think of others

hat is it about the holidays that make it seem like time is going in fast forward? Don't get me wrong, it goes fast regardless. But is seems to accelerate

in November and

December. When you're a child, those days leading up to Christmas are excruciatingly slow. How nice would it be for the days to be that long as an adult?

One nice thing BLACKBURN about living in a small town is that it's easy to identify those in need

and just as easy to help them out.

There are local organizations geared to help those in need and the volunteers who oversee these groups and take part should be commended. They make a tremendous difference in the lives of many people.

Years ago there was a man who had moved to Childress who was unfamiliar with Toys for Tots. When he found out about the program, he began buying new bicycles. I can't remember how many bikes he purchased, but it was a bunch. He was not a wealthy man, but a fellow who did not want to see a child go without anything for Christmas.

He died several years ago, but I think of him each year and the difference he made in the lives of so many children.

Are you someone who airs your laundry out on Facebook or Twitter? If so, stop it.

The Post Bispatch

Parents getting on coaches and teachers, people bickering over local businesses, friends fighting with friends ... I've seen it all. And I've seen enough to know there are no winners when it comes to this conduct. It's juvenile.

As someone accustomed to getting my rear chewed, I can tell you it is much better to take it to the source. When you do that, at the very least you'll earn the respect of the individual you have a grievance with.

We live in the age of technology, but

that should not mean we lose our civility. If you have a problem with someone, take it to them and try and resolve it. It's the prudent thing to do and you'll be better for it.

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

Dixie Divas Honoring our brave men of war

e had a funeral at church the other day, which was not unusual. Rodney laid his work aside and came to direct the choir. That, too, was not unusual. I sang in the choir. Now that was very unusual.

Because it was a Saturday, and many faithful choir members, including my sister, had obligated to something else a few weeks before, Rodney was a bit worried about having enough people to sing "I'll Meet You In The Morning." Though everyone knows I can't sing, I can dress up and put on a black suit and move my lips so I quit smack dab in the midst of cleaning my closet and



The gentle, kind man, Hoyt Couch, was a friend of my Daddy's who I wanted to honor even if it was with a tuneless voice. Too, he was an enthusiastic supporter of this column and that meant a lot to me. As a side note, it's distressing because my fans keep dying yet all my critics are still going strong. Back to Mr. Hoyt. He was one of

RONDA those salt-of-the-earth men to whom RICH there will never be monuments erected or great tributes paid yet America would have stumbled without them to catch her.

When the flag-draped casket rolled in, my eyes swelled with tears. There is no nobler sight than that of a man swaddled in the colors of this proud country because he has earned that right.

Mr. Hoyt fought that Great War of the 1940s that determined if evil men like Hitler and Mussolini would prevail or right would triumph. He was in the Air Force. When the war ended, having been won by brave men like Mr. Hoyt, he took a job in a Coca-Cola bottling plant, rose to management and worked there until he retired. He was a leader in his church and Masonic Order and, to top it all, as kind of a man as you would ever hope to meet.

It was halfway through the first verse of the first song that the emotion of who he was, hit me. Humble, noble, just. A man like my daddy and his other friends. Men who rolled up their sleeves and did whatever their families and their country needed. There was no fame or fortune in it for these simple warriors, just the satisfaction of knowing they did what they could whenever the occasion called for it.

By the time, "Beluah Land" rolled away, tears rolled down my cheeks. Now, I could tell you - and rightly so - that every time a friend of Daddy's dies, it feels like I've lost another tie to him, but those tears were differ-

It dawned on me as I looked at that beautiful flag I had never stop to really think what those men of World War II had been through. Imagine these country boys who had limited means of communication in a time when phones had party lines - if they had a phone who left rural homes that were still lighted by kerosene lanterns and scantly heated by fireplaces and went to fight in places they had never heard of, in towns with

names they couldn't pronounce.

It was way different back then, something we all forget too easily. The world wasn't connected by communication and knowledge. They left their safe havens for countries foreign and unfriendly. Daddy and Mama went for two years, separated completely by war, without speaking once. In the decades before Internet, satellite and cells phones, face-to-face Skype, they communicated through hand-written letters that were censored and delayed for weeks at a time. Tough for a young, married couple.

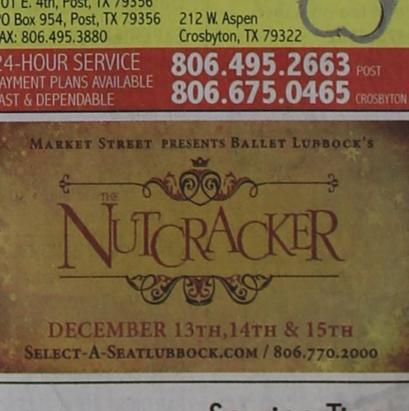
When the military guard stood at attention at Mr. Hoyt's casket and "Taps" played, I put my hand over my heart and cried.

I'm so ashamed it took me so long to truly value what these men meant to America.

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









Family Harvest Church

Service Times Sunday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Prayer 7:00 p.m. (806) 495-1400 Pastor Joey & Kathy Hamlin