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The Post Dispatch

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2013

THEPOSTDISPATCHONLINE.COM

75 CENTS



YEAR IN REVIEW 2013

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.

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.

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.

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.

See NOTES, Page 2

Corrections

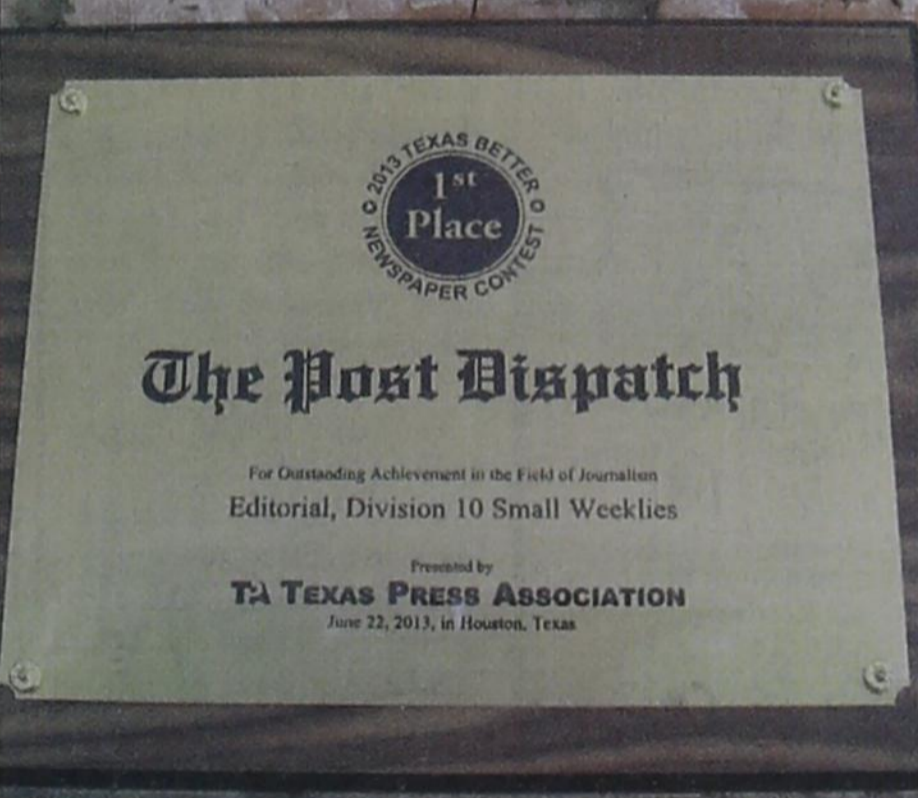
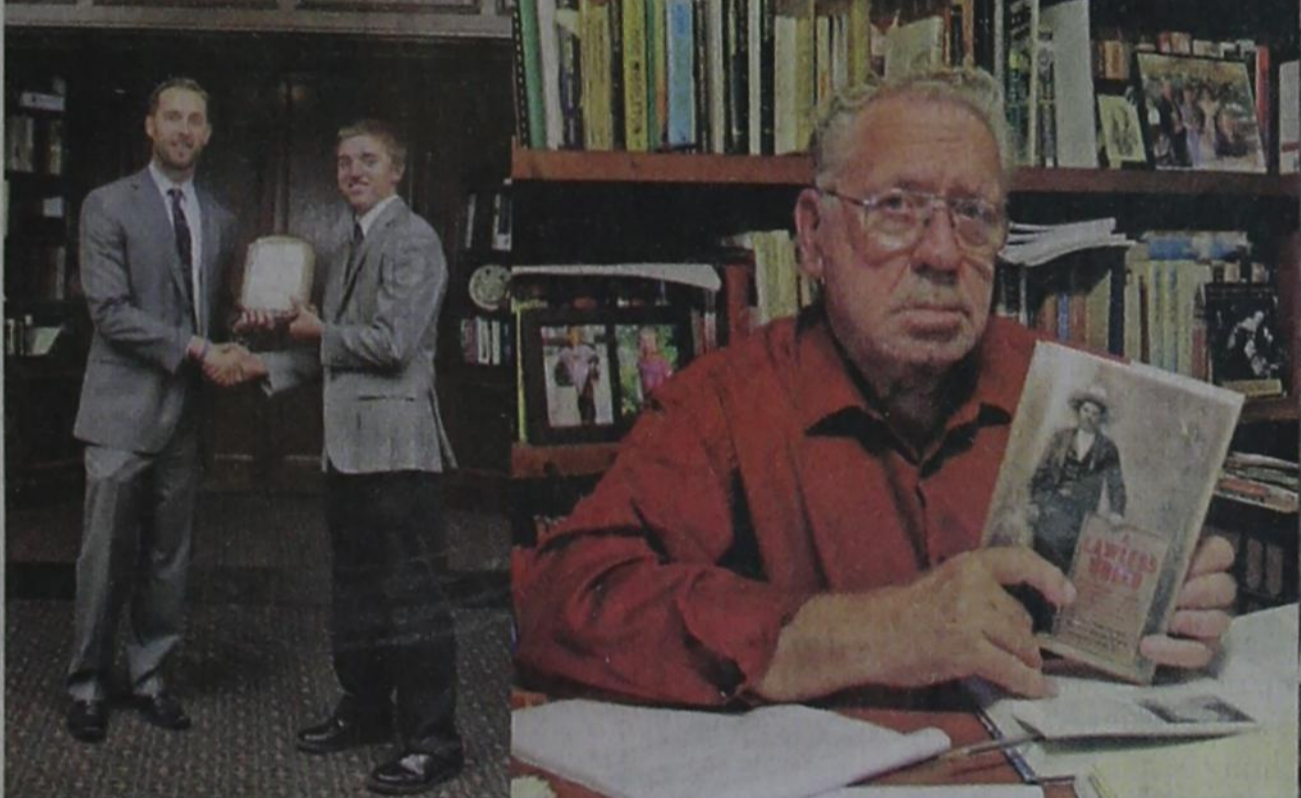
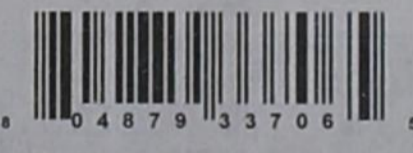
If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgins at 806-495-2816 or thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com.

News on the go



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PUBLISHER
William C. Blackburn

EDITOR/GENERAL MANAGER
Wayne Hodgins

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Round modules of cotton wait to be picked up for ginning as the harvest season winds down in this part of the state. The National Agricultural Statistics Service has raised its production estimates for area cotton this year, saying quality is good.

Cotton estimates raised on High Plains

By Mary Jane Buerkle
Special to the News-Courier

Although it wasn't by much, the National Agricultural Statistics Service did raise their district estimates for the Texas High Plains from 2.445 million bales in the November report to 2.475 million bales in their report released on Tuesday.

Harvest is almost complete on the High Plains, and some gins are nearing the finish of their season. Snow and ice have delayed harvest for some producers, but activity has increased over the past week as growers complete their 2013 cotton crop.

"This number is getting a little closer to our expectations, and while we've had some high-yielding cotton of excellent quality, the 2013 crop was yet another challenging one, weather-wise," said Steve Verett, executive vice president for Plains Cotton Growers in Lubbock. "We hope that the Farmers' Almanac is indeed correct in their assessment that we'll have an unusually wet winter so we can go into the 2014 crop with some optimism."

According to the NASS report, that 2.475 million bales for the High Plains would be just more than 60 percent of the state's total crop of an estimated 4.1 million bales, which was unchanged from the estimate in the November report.

Planted acres and harvested acres are unchanged from the November report from 3.76 million acres planted on the High Plains and 1.8 million acres expected to be harvested. Yield estimates increased for both portions of the Plains Cotton Growers service area, with an average yield of 896 pounds per acre in the northern half and 589 pounds per acre in the south.

The world's cotton crop for 2013-2014 is estimated to be 116.8 million bales. The U.S. upland cotton crop production estimate is 12.443 million bales, down slightly from the November report.

Quality remains good, with 21 being the predominant color for the Lubbock, Lamesa and Abilene classing offices over the last several weeks and for the season. Average staple length for the season is well over 35 for the Lubbock and Lamesa offices. Both offices have seen bark content increase over the past week.

Farmers should follow fundamentals

Cotton producers are advised to stick to fundamentals when looking ahead to future prices, says one Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service cotton economist.

John Robinson said on a recent Ag Market report that despite recent news headlines, the fundamentals

of supply and demand is a good compass for forecasting future prices.

"I expect this year's December and next year's (December 2014) harvest time futures contracts to continue to trade in their current ranges," Robinson said. "I want to point out the current spread of December 2014 is about a nickel below December 2013, which implies there is already an expectation of a Chinese unwinding some of their stocks."

Robinson said the absence of (daily, weekly and monthly) U.S. Department of Agriculture market information during the government shutdown "was like a metaphor for what's been going on for a couple of years."

"Namely, fundamental information is subordinate to policy interventions (with Chinese stockpiling being the continuing main intervention)," he said. "A projection of upper-70-cent futures for December 2014 cotton means growers first need to question whether that is an affordable enough price to plant cotton."

Robinson said cotton farmers who do decide to plant cotton need to think about forward pricing or hedging because the risk will continue to be to the downside.

"Puts and put spreads on December 2014 cotton futures are amazingly cheap, considering how far away we are from December 2014," he said. "It's an affordable insurance opportunity for those already planning on planting cotton."

Blair Fannin contributed to this report.

The Paperboy Family recharged during recent outage

A transformer blew a few blocks from our home the other night and it was a new experience for my sons. The power was out for several hours. I think around six. I'm not completely sure because I was asleep when it came back on.

I do know that I witnessed men working diligently to restore the power under terrible conditions. In my alley there was a crew enduring freezing rain. Thank God for those fellas. The men answered the call and put in some tough hours. My hat is off to them!

Fortunately, we had a fireplace to keep us warm on what turned out to be a strange evening. When the power went out, between 9 and 10 p.m., my wife calmly gathered candles, with her little helpers in tow, and brought them into the living room. A buddy of mine called my cell phone to make sure we were all right as he had witnessed the blown transformer while passing through town. We both concluded that it would be awhile before the lights came back on.

With our internet down, we attempted to use our cell phones for entertainment. The phones didn't have much battery left so soon we were left to our imaginations.

My sons attempted to play Go Fish by firelight. Sutton, my youngest son, asked, "Do you have any twos?" Then he asked it again on his next turn. And again. In all he asked for two five out of six turns when I explained to him why it would be in his best interest to ask for another card. He did so and a couple of turns later, Jack, my oldest, asked Sutton if he had any twos. He sure did!

That episode got me in trouble with Sutton, who got an ole fashioned Go Fish beat down by big brother. It was all my fault.

Jackson made the comment that well over a hundred years ago, this is how every night was. I told him he was correct and to be grateful he didn't have to get up at 4 a.m. and milk cows in the freezing cold.

Of course, I never had to that either. Neither did my parents. Their parents did though. I remember many stories about life on the farm...

Sometime in the middle of the night, the power came back on. At first, I thought I dreamed it came back on because I recall opening my eyes in my recliner (the boys and I were in the living room camping out to candle light) and seeing the Christmas tree light up. Then I woke up and it was dark still.

It turns out that the power had indeed come on and my wife woke up and turned the lights off around the house. So I guess I didn't dream it after all.

Frankly, I'm surprised my boys didn't complain about not being able to watch TV or play video games. They thought it was pretty fun hanging out in the dark and talking.

I wonder how long they could go unplugged though? That is a much trickier proposition.

The power outage made me think about what would happen should a massive outage occur over a large area lasting days or even weeks.

I won't go into the conclusion I made from that dark thought. Let's just pray the grid does not go down.

Every once in awhile, it's good to unplug. It's good to just "be." We are very accustomed to our creature comforts and I'm not all that sure we need such distractions.

I am sure the night turned out uneventful, thanks to those men who braved terrible conditions to get the power restored to many homes in need.

Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud 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 @WCSBlackburn.

NOTES From Page 1

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.

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

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
War-time 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.com.

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.

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Thanks For Reading!

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 Princess Diana

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
							H											S							

I	H	C	T	S	E	T	F	M	C	S	I	H	F	N	M	K	S	Z	R	S					
T	S	E	H	R	I	H	R	S	E	T	U	M	K	X	G										

© Feature Exchange

2013 Year in Review

By Wayne Hodgin and Geoffrey Baumgartner
The Post Dispatch

As residents of Garza County and our readers throughout the state, nation and world reflect on the year past and look forward to what the New Year has in store, we look back on the events that helped shape events in and around Post City over the last 52 weeks.

January 4, 2013

State Photographer of Texas Wyman Meinzer has recently had his new book about the Texas trailblazer Charles Goodnight published. The book is "Charles Goodnight: A Man for All Ages," published by Badlands design and production. While Meinzer is proud of his photo work, he did not actually write the book, that honor belongs to Byron Price, the author.

Jan. 11, 2013

A break in the Post waterline has left nearly 6-8 families without water on New Year's Day. The break in the line occurred at the White River pipeline at about 2 a.m. on New Year's Eve. Tom Fulton, head of the White River Municipal Water District said that his guys worked for about 30 hours straight to get water back to the customers.

Jan. 18, 2013

Garza county officials met Monday in their first regular meeting of the new year to deliberate and act on a number of housekeeping items, including setting bonds for all newly elected county officials and renewing those for others already in office. New state law required some changes for which the amounts certain elected officials are bonded.

Jan. 25, 2013

Going on percentages alone, it was a banner year for cotton production in Garza County. The number of bales produced at the Close City Gin was up more than 415 percent this season. But taking into consideration that last year's historic draught cut cotton production down to a near all time low of 993 bales, it puts this seasons production into more of a perspective.

Feb. 2, 2013

On Saturday, January 19, the Garza County Junior Livestock Show kicked off with Ronnie Metsger's welcome and opening prayer. Hailey Krauser led the Pledge of Allegiance before the show commenced with the swine showing. Grand Champion Swine went to Katie Dunn and reserve grand champion went to Callie Odom. Heifer Grand Champion was Audree Williams while the steer grand champion was Pake Jones and reserve grand champion was Emma Thompson.

Feb. 8, 2013

The oil industry continues to grow at a strong pace in the Post area with an average of 40 percent of the local labor force involved in the industry. The growth has caused a growing need for housing in Post and a demand for labor, which are both strong signs of the local economy.

Feb. 15, 2013

Linda Puckett, the director and curator for the Garza County Historical Museum, just recently completed her new book "Post," which is an in-depth look at Post's history through imagery. However, the most interesting part of the story is that all proceeds from the sale of her book are going toward improving the museum. "The main purpose is to get the facts out and make sure we preserve history," said Pucket of her book.

March 1, 2013

Garza County Judge Lee Norman is spearheading an effort to get a driver's liscense office re-opened in Post. During their regular meeting Monday, commissioners voted to pursue the idea and for Norman to continue talks with state legislatures and officials with the Department of Public Safety to bring this service back to the residents of Garza County.

March 8, 2013

In the wake of the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn., Post ISD officials are weighing the changes to the district's safety policy, including whether teachers can carry firearms.

Qualifying for the May 11 school board and municipal elections ended this past week. Councilwomen Melba Cimental and Pixie Grisham face no opposition upon qualifying, therefore effectively re-seating them to another term on the Post City Council. Mayor Archie Gill will face T.K. Thompson in the city election. In school board races, incumbents Drew Kirkpatrick and Robbie Williams will campaign to reclaim their seats as political newcomer Ray Perez will clamor for one seat.

March 15, 2013

The city of Post and Garza County commissioners will split the cost of hiring a full-time airport manager to oversee the facility's day-to-day operations and administrative activities.

Rep. Drew Springer, R-Muenster, filed legislation last week that would give small communities, such as Post, more flexibility in local governmental control by reducing population stipulation in state law that otherwise would open small communities up to more state control. The legislation centered on the Giles W. Dalby prison in Post being counted into the city's decennial census in 2010.

Post City Celebrations is the driving force behind new welcome signs on U.S. 84. East and westbound

travelers through Post are welcomed to town by the picturesque statue of a horse drinking from a stream with metallic letters proclaiming "POST." The entryways were made possible through private funding from the Maxine Durrett Earl Foundation.

March 22, 2013

Post City officials have said the Garza Theatre is in such a state of disrepair that the only option is for the structure to be razed. In a report provided to the Dispatch by City Manager Deana Watson, an independent inspection of the facility stated the monetary value of the repairs would be much greater than half of the building's value. City officials shuttered the venue in September 2011 during a production event. The building had been in use since the early 1900s.

March 29, 2013

The annual Tabana Yuane weather-predicting ceremony forecast an "excellent" season for crops on the South Plains. The ancient Comanche ritual conducted at the first of spring each year was revived a number of years ago by Post resident Chief Frank Runkles and is held each year in his memory.

Local water district officials are calling for a week of prayer and fasting to help alleviate the historic drought that has plagued West Texas over the last several months.

April 5, 2012

Wes Burnett, former publisher of The Post Dispatch, was laid to rest after suffering a massive stroke at his home in Rockwall, east of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Burnett and his wife, Pat, bought and published the Dispatch from 1982 to 2008.

April 12, 2013

Longtime Justice of the Peace Dee Justice has announced he will leave his office effective at the end of May. Justice served seven-terms in the seat — 31 years — and said age and the want to move into retirement as factors for leaving before his term expired. Justice and his wife, Janet, also operate Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

April 19, 2013

Giles W. Dalby, 80, the longest tenured county judge in the state of Texas, died and was buried on his sprawling 17,000-acre ranch east of Post. The much-revered civic leader was well-respected throughout the state for his practical and sensible style of county leadership. Retiring in 2006, Dalby served 34 years as Garza County judge.

YEAR IN REVIEW TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT WEEK'S EDITION

WE WISH YOU A

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014

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The Idle American Social media's Christmas miracle

Likelihood is great that airlines of the world — most of them maligned by flustered flyers venting their feelings when flights go awry — owe much gratitude to a single member of their flock.

WestJet, a Canadian airline, has become a social media darling with a "feel good" Christmas video that has rocketed far to the right of "viral" on YouTube and other Internet sites.



DON NEWBURY

For five minutes — brief and shining moments in multiple languages around the world — it's reaping tears of joy from multiple millions of viewers. It has promoted a sense of "oneness" for 150 airline employees whose joint efforts made the miracle possible, as well as a

"lean-back" kind of satisfaction for those who dreamed it up. Results include awakened sugarplum imaginations, as well as recommitment to seeking peace on earth, good will toward men.

Who can say it was not divine creativity that inspired August planners for a video in November that might warrant 800,000 YouTube "hits" during its December release?

WestJet planners missed projections by light years. Since it was "unleashed," the numbers are growing by millions daily. Who knows how many hundreds of millions of viewers will eventually see the video? And, if it doesn't tug at your heartstrings, you need to get them tuned — maybe even re-strung.

A hurting world yearns for good news. The video provides exactly that. If you use a computer, you've likely already seen WestJet's Christmas Miracle. If you don't, arrange for someone with computer literacy to access it for you, and prepare to weep. If you don't shed a tear or two, Forbes magazine suggests you may need a "Scrooge-ectomy."

Planners' concepts were warm and cheery. Feature Santa Claus, give presents and throw in "ho-ho-ho's" every few words.

Settings were airports in Toronto and Hamilton for passengers booked on simultaneous flights — each 2,000-plus miles — to Calgary. The flyers — 125 at each terminal — saw the Santa set-up, then scanned boarding passes as requested. Next, they stood in front of the interactive Santa for what they thought was "seasonal conversation."

Passengers were asked what they'd like

for Christmas.

The merry old gent listened intently, whether passengers asked for big screen TVs, iPads, diamond rings or simply "socks and underwear."

Each request was also noted by 150 "WestJetters" (the airline's employees) in Calgary. They raced to procure the items, defying the snow, shopping lines and whatever other obstacles they encountered.

They had just four hours for the whole deal, including wrapping each gift, affixing each name and getting the whole "kit-n'-kaboodle" to baggage claim carousel eight, where passengers claimed their luggage. Stunned, they first spotted gifts on the carousel. And Santa was in the midst of the crowd.

A commercial venture or not, it provides a vignette of the way Christians believe our world should be.

It is a vivid reminder the ground at the foot of the cross is exceedingly level — that the same God intervening in the affairs of man throughout history is still in charge. It's also an example of his ongoing work in mysterious ways — his wonders to perform.

Strive to remember WestJet's warm Christmas story — even when your flight is canceled, your luggage is lost or sent to the wrong continent, your carry-on is overweight by a pound or an inch too big, the snoring guy seated next to you has taken the arm rest, the cabin temperature is not just right, or ...

Finally, breathe a prayer for the folks who came up with this idea. It reminds us that we shouldn't "give 'til it hurts, but 'til it feels good."

Without question, the folks in the "ideas department" are envied, and may or may not be promoted. Come August, they will again be expected to come up with a "can't miss" Christmas message. (For the next few days, they deserve plushest fireside chairs, away from media inquiries — dumb and otherwise.)

Odds are great that the idea simply can't be equaled — certainly not exceeded. In many corporate settings, of course, the latter is always expected. Good luck.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good flight, uh, good night — even if Santa's suit is blue in the video. That's about the only criticism I can offer!

Don Newbury, former chancellor of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, is a Christian humorist and motivational speaker. His column appears in numerous weekly newspapers throughout West Texas.

The 501 From Bethlehem to Benjamin Small towns, great things

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" John 1:46.

There you have it. For centuries people have questioned whether anyone or anything from a small town can achieve greatness.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Not that Jesus was born in Nazareth, but he lived there long enough to be called a Nazarene and fulfill prophecy. For that matter, Bethlehem wasn't a metropolis either.

So, the short answer is that good things can come from small map dots.

Consider my pineapple salsa, if we can crank things down to the secular level. A courthouse clerk in Benjamin was having the concoction for lunch one day when I happened to be there gathering Knox County news that has since been forgotten by me and probably everyone else too. What lives on is the salsa. I got her recipe and have enjoyed it often as a side dish and sometimes, absent my husband, as the entrée. He likes it too but, husband-like, would not consider making a meal from it.

The recipe:
One fresh pineapple, cut in chunks.
One sizeable jalapeno, diced.
Two mangoes — slippery mangoes aren't easy to cut, so whatever works.
Three kiwis, sliced or diced.
Chopped cilantro, to taste.
Juice of half a lemon.
Juice of two limes, more or less, depending on the juiciness of the limes in

question.

Refrigerate or not. I think the stuff might ferment a bit, given the chance. Or spoil.

Anyway, when my husband and I decided to travel to the Metroplex to attend the traditional Christmas potluck of my gourmet cousin Sharon and her husband, Tom, I decided to take the salsa.

Would it hold its own against the various offerings of the culinary crowd? For instance, Tom's yearly contribution to the event is his Vladivostok Potato Salad, a sizeable mound of potatoes and other stuff coated with Russian mayonnaise, if I heard correctly, then decoratively topped with salmon caviar.

Tom no doubt devised that recipe when the couple lived in Siberia.

PAUSE TO CHECK THE MAP.

I wanted to be sure Vladivostok was in Siberia. It is.

Sharon is something of an expert on Siberia, having written "The Other Side of Russia: A Slice of Life in Siberia and the Russian Far East," Texas A&M University Press, 2003. She and Tom lived there for a while. He teaches economics wherever he goes; she writes about food and travel. I'd rather have her job.

My husband and I were among the few party attendees not accomplished in culinary realms, writing or publishing.

One guy, Mick, had just gotten a patent on his custard. No kidding. It tastes fattening and isn't because he invented a way to coagulate the protein, or something like that. Proof's in the pudding. It was very good and tasted as rich as cheesecake. Meanwhile, my fruity salsa drew rave reviews and prompted requests for the recipe.

Amid all the talk of globetrotting culinary adventures, I should have mentioned the salsa was from Benjamin.

They would have been the ones doing the map checks.

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

REJOICE!



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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- (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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Capital Highlights

Comptroller reports state revenue amount

AUSTIN — Texas will have some \$98.9 billion in general revenue for state budget makers to work with in the 2014-2015 biennium, according to Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' revenue estimate.

Combs delivered the estimate to Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, House Speaker Joe Straus and every member of the state House and Senate on Dec. 12.

"This available revenue," Combs said, "supports general revenue spending of \$96.31 billion for the 2014-2015 biennium ... producing an expected revenue balance of \$2.58 billion."

Turning to the economy to help explain the surfeit of revenue, she added, "Texas has recovered 100 percent of the jobs lost in the recession and has added 597,000 beyond the previous peak in August 2008."

Gov. Perry welcomed Combs' official estimate, saying, "Texas government budgets like Texas families, limiting spending and saving hard-earned dollars. As a result, Comptroller Susan Combs estimates our current 2014-2015 budget will end with a positive balance of nearly \$2.6 billion. What's most remarkable is we've done this while passing \$1.4 billion in tax cuts, and we've made historic investments in water and, if voters approve, roads."

Secretary of State resigns

Texas Secretary of State John Steen on Dec. 13 announced he would step down next month to return to his private law practice and continue managing his family's investments.

Appointed by Gov. Perry in November 2012, Steen, Texas' 108th secretary of state serves as the state's chief election officer. Duties of the office include the storage and preservation of official and business and commercial records required by law to be filed, publication of government rules and regulations, the commissioning of notaries public, the keeping of the state seal and attestation to the governor's signature on official documents. The secretary of state also serves as senior advisor and liaison to the governor for Texas Border and Mexican Affairs and serves as chief international protocol officer for Texas.

Water case clears hurdle

The U.S. solicitor general's office on Dec. 10 said the State of Texas has provided enough legal evidence to move forward with its water compact dispute case against the state of New Mexico before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Earlier this year, Texas filed its original action claim against New Mexico asserting

damages to Texas from New Mexico's diversions of project water below Elephant Butte that have harmed Texas' allocation as set forth in the Rio Grande Project and the 1938 Rio Grande Compact.

Texas, New Mexico and Colorado each filed briefs on the case. The U.S. Supreme Court asked the U.S. Solicitor General to weigh in on the case before deciding to take the action.

Chairman Bryan W. Shaw of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality commented, saying, "While Texas is loath to sue our New Mexico neighbor, river compacts are law, Texas rightfully depends on water apportioned under the law, and the compacts must be enforced."

SCOTUS hears air case

The U.S. Supreme Court on Dec. 10 heard oral arguments in EPA v. EME Homer City Generation, a case contesting the federal agency's cross-state air pollution rule that would require Texas and 27 other states to reduce power plant emissions that cross state lines.

Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Barry Smitherman said the rule "threatens the viability of the Texas lignite mining industry, jobs and severely hampers economic growth. If the rule is implemented, many Texas coal-fired power plants may be forced to limit or shut down operations."

A decision by the high court is expected by June 2014.

Travis DA keeps job

Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg was not forced to resign, pursuant to a Dec. 11 ruling by visiting Judge David Peoples of San Antonio on a petition to seeking to remove her from office.

Lehmborg, who also serves as the chief enforcer of the state's ethics laws on upper-tier officeholders, was arrested and jailed last April for driving while intoxicated. Her behavior following her arrest was recorded and widely publicized.

Following the civil court hearing, Lehmborg said, "I deeply regret my actions on April 12th and have taken full responsibility. I am committed to carrying out my responsibilities as district attorney and to continue serving the voters of Travis County."

UT football coach resigns

Mack Brown, head football coach for The University of Texas, gave his farewell press conference on Dec. 15, after 16 years at the helm. Brown's salary is an estimated \$5.4 million, making him one of the three highest-paid college football coaches in the nation.

Hamlin man killed in fiery crash on US 83

By Wayne Hodgin
The Stonewall Courier

A 46-year-old Hamlin man died in a fiery one-vehicle accident in the early morning hours of Dec. 18 on U.S. 83 north of Aspermont.

Sr. Trooper Frederick Biddle, spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety regional headquarters in Abilene, said a 2001 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 pickup was traveling south on

U.S. 83 about a mile and a half from town when it crossed the northbound lane and struck a guardrail on the east side of the road sometime before 3 a.m.

"(The truck) continued through the ditch and ran off into a small ravine, then rolled onto the passenger side," Biddle said. "The vehicle caught fire and burned with the driver inside."

Investigating Trooper Kipp Koenig of Aspermont later identified the man as

George Preston Scifres. Justice of the Peace Mike English pronounced Scifres dead at 4:12 a.m., and the body was taken to McCoy Funeral Home in Aspermont and later taken to Adams-Foster-Ray Funeral Home in Hamlin.

According to the report, it was unknown if Scifres was wearing a safety belt or whether speed was a factor. The roadway was dry and the weather clear and cloudy that morning, Biddle said.

Sports Roundup

Undefeated Post eighth-grade team defeats Childress

CHILDRESS — The Post Antelopes eighth grade basketball team defeated Childress, 52-12, this past Monday. The Antelopes are 4-0 on the season, and continue to improve. Aric Garza, Mike Phergueson and Chance Courtney played well offensively and helped contributed to the scoreboard. Defensively the Antelopes aggressiveness caused a Bobcat turnover.

Play resumes after the Christmas break.

In prior games, the team took decisive wins over Roosevelt, 55-8, on Dec. 2 and Slaton, 53-10, on Dec. 9.

Once again, Coach Josh Reese said, Courtney and Phergueson were key players in both contests along with Aric Garza and Dillon Reed.

Post seventh-graders drop Childress contest

CHILDRESS — The Post Antelopes seventh grade basketball team came up short in action against the Bobcats this past Monday. Childress won, 49-13.

"I am proud of the Antelopes we gave them everything we had we fought all night long to try and come back to win the game," Coach Josh Reese said.

In a prior game on Dec. 2, the Post team defeated Roosevelt, 24-12. Benton Justice,

Landon Greer and Zach Smith contributed to the offensive by scoring points. The Post defense held the Eagles to only 12 points.

Two big three-pointers was enough to put the Slaton Tigers up against the Post seventh-grade team Dec. 9. Landon Greer and Jeremiah Martin led the way for the Antelopes on the offensive side.

Play resumes after the Christmas break.

Puzzle of the Week

CLUES ACROSS

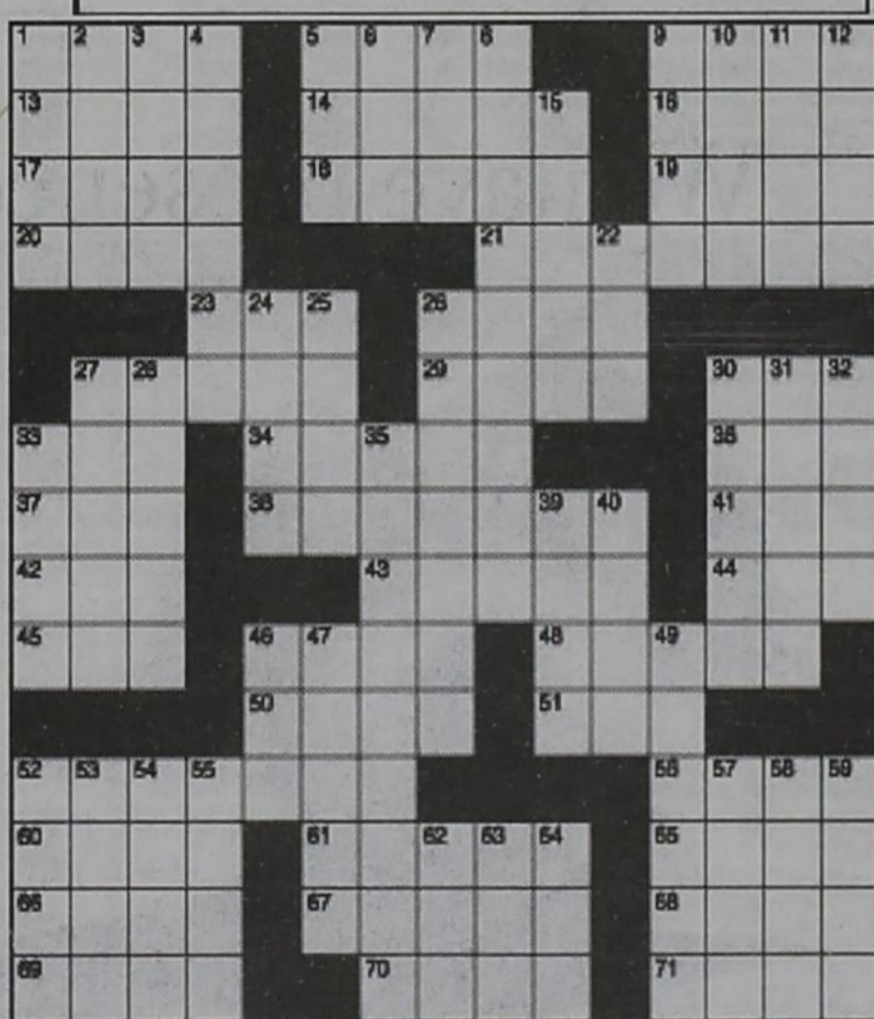
- Melod ____: extravagant comedy
- Christian ____, designer
- Three banded armadillo
- Whale ship captain
- LPGA golfer Lorena
- A spongelike cake leavened with yeast
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- ____ilize: discharge
- Frosts
- Funeral fire
- Sunday
- ____mp: wetland
- ____morphosis: transformation
- So. Swiss city
- Used for baking
- Doctors' group
- Tsetung or Zedong
- Temporarily stitches
- Happy Days actor Scott ____
- Take in solid food
- Scarabs
- Hearing receptor
- Romanian monetary unit
- Terra ____: earthenware
- Attempt
- Tooth caregiver
- Weedy annual grass
- Extremely unrefined
- Greek god of war
- Concealed
- A series of acts at a night club
- Siberian river
- Overgarments
- Political plot
- Celt
- Island north of Guam
- Space for public entertainments
- Unstressed-stressed
- A light two-wheel carriage
- Bring forth a lamb or kid
- Ontario Speed Skating Assoc.

CLUES DOWN

- Inclined entrance
- Hail (nautical)
- Picasso's mistress
- Mother superior of a group of nuns
- Rumsfeld was Secretary (abbr.)
- Water in the solid state
- Physicist George Simon
- Eleanor or Franklin
- Baby's feeding protector
- Al ____: Llama wool
- Act as an assistant
- Skin eruption
- Let up
- Prohibit
- Dragnet star
- Wings

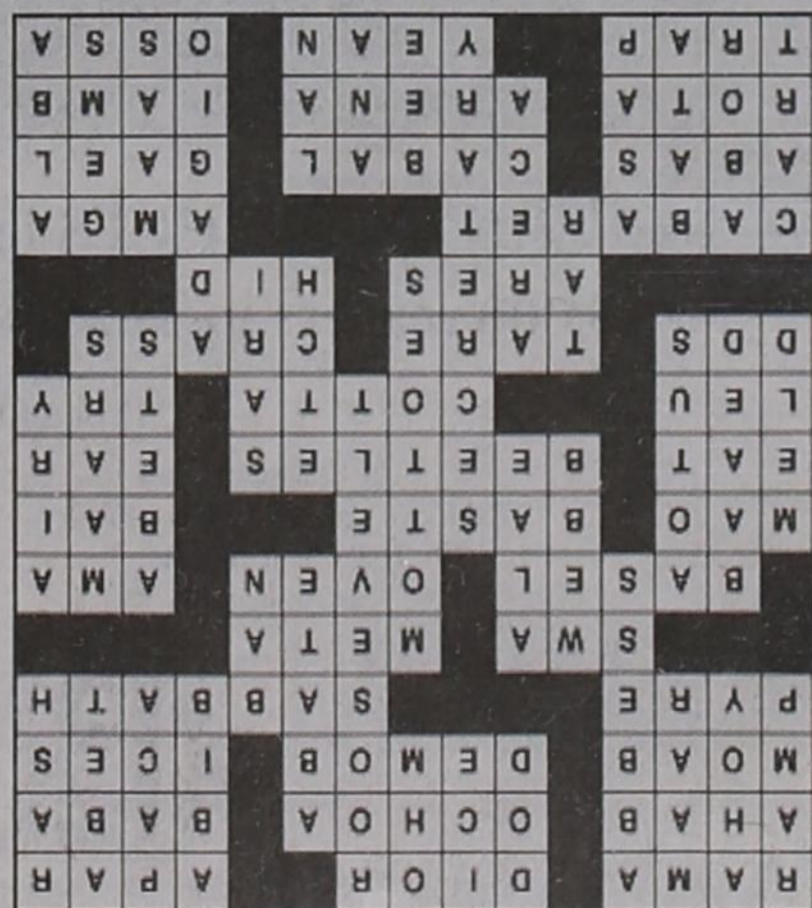
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

POST DISPATCH



- Slogans
- Bleated
- Douroucoulis genus
- Plural of 11 down
- Volcanic craters
- Ethereal
- Mix or blend in
- State Department head
- A way to make into a print
- Indian dress
- Hydrocarbon used on roads
- Betel palm genus
- Slow musical tempo
- Pushed by a person
- Mirish language
- ____an Death March: WWII
- As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- Netherlands river
- Jewels
- Sunrise (Spanish)
- Spelling championship
- Professional caregiver's organization
- ____cet: puncture blade

PUZZLE SOLUTION



The Post Dispatch

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Christ's birth was the Father's promise fulfilled

Isaiah 40:5 (Holman Christian Standard Bible): 'And the glory of the Lord will appear, and all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

It is no secret the meaning of Christmas is more than the shopping, the gifts, the lights and the candy. We are all aware of this, and we find joy in remembering the birth of Jesus, the manger scene, the gifts of the Magi, and the memories of family and fellowship so dear to each of us in this joyful season.

BOBBY FORTNER

But often, we forget the night of our Lord's birth was among other things, a promise fulfilled, a promise of peace, a promise of salvation and a promise of love. It was a promise made through prophets and revealed in the gift of love and mercy from the Father, when he gave his only son to die for the sins of men.

The chimney is adorned with stockings and snow,
 Little houses and trains, and candles that glow.
 The tree is well lit, with its glimmer and shine,
 While presents lay wrapped in paper so fine.
 The fire is so warm, and the cocoa so hot,
 The children excited to see what they got!
 Little eyes watching the sky for a red nose,
 And all snuggled up in sleepy-time clothes.
 Mom and dad proud, they've worked hard for sure,
 To set aside a little, for Christmas once more.

But, this warm and cozy setting, is nothing dear friend,
 Like that first little Christmas, in back of the inn.
 There were no lights on the roof, to light

up the night,
 But the Star of Bethlehem, burning so bright.
 No Dean Crosby, no Como, no White Christmas songs,
 But a new mother enduring birth, before angel throngs.
 And in the soft gentle cries, of a new baby boy,
 Mankind was given, the true Christmas Joy.
 God had promised a Savior, a great sovereign Prince,
 A Davidic Messiah, of Holy Substance,
 A righteous heir, being unlike any before,
 To bring God's peace to men, and to Our God, us restore,
 And no greater gift could be given, to those who believe,
 Then the sweet baby Jesus, on the first Christmas Eve.

Our children are blessed, to receive every year,
 So many toys and presents, delivered by reindeer.
 But let us not shy, away from the truth,
 And neglect to teach our children, what we learned in our youth.
 That Christmas is more than the new fallen snow,
 Its more than the candy, more than the show,
 Greater than trees, and greater than lights,
 Greater than the family, and Christmas delights,
 For on Christmas we remember, a Baby wrapped in swaddles,
 Who grew up in a time, before diapers and bottles.
 A Special dear gift, wrapped up in God's love,
 That the men of Earth might one day, enter Heaven above.
 So my dear friends, remember this season,
 If you give a gift for Christmas, also give the Reason.

Love you all.

The Rev. Bobby Fortner is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Post.



Post Elementary students sit among the nearly 1.5 tons of canned goods they recently collected for the Post Cares organization.

Students triple food collection effort

The Post Dispatch

Students in the Gifted and Talented Program at Post Elementary conducted their second annual Elementary Food Drive over the last several weeks, challenging pre-kindergarten through fifth grade class levels to out-collect the other.

The grand total was 3,280 food items collected — triple the amount of food collected last year. This year's food has been donated to the Post Cares organization.

Following is a breakdown of how many food items donated per grade level:

- Pre-K — 730
- Kindergarten — 233
- First — 634
- Second — 542
- Third — 223
- Fourth — 622
- Fifth — 296

GT coordinator Raeline Reece thanked all students and who donated food and Susan Warren for donating a box of food.

Here are a few words from the Gifted and Talented students:

"I hope this food helps and blesses a lot of people." Kasen Wink (1st grade)

"We collected food for the people in our community." JaCoby Webster (2nd grade)

"Thank you for the food. It can help people in Post." Samuel Hernandez (2nd grade)

"We will help the people of our town by giving them food to eat." Ralea Blevins (3rd grade)

"The food drive was great! I hope ya'll will bring more cans next year." Valentin Cesillon (3rd grade)

"Thank you everybody who brought food. I hope that this food does good in a lot of people's life." Drew Porter (4th grade)

"Thank you for the donation. Everyone did a great job!" Daisy Cruz (4th grade)

"Thank you for donating food. You have collected more food than last year." Lupita Gonzales (4th grade)

"Thank you for the food Post Elementary." Kohen Hudman (4th grade)

"Thank you Post Elementary for the food. I am so proud of you." MyKaela Turner (4th grade)

"The results are in

and the winner is Pre-kinder. This was a big competition." Damon Mauney (4th grade)

"Post Elementary had its second annual canned food drive and it was a huge success." Carson Holson (5th grade)

"Thank you all you donated to the food drive. It was a good deed and very kind." Jacob Isbell (5th grade)

"It is great that we tripled the total of last year's food drive." Kenzie Eidson (5th grade)

"The food drive is over. The totals are in and the winner was Pre-K. Thank you Post Elementary for all the food." Blake Parrott (5th grade)

"The 2nd annual food drive was way successful. A broken record of cans was donated. Over 3,000 cans donated. I was very proud of this school. We have changed lives." Brennan Riker (5th grade)

"My heart is full of thankfulness for all the generous people in our school and community. I'm blessed to work for Post-SD and to live in a great town like Post." Raeline Reece (GT coordinator)

We have presence.



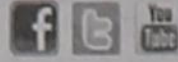
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Veterans Profile



Stanley Butler
 U.S. Army Air Corps, April 1943-October 1945

Stanley Butler enlisted in what was then the Army Air Corps and flew a C-47 during WWII. Before arriving in New Guinea, he received flight training at bases in Hastings, Neb.; Santa Anna, Calif. (where he and fellow trainees were entertained by Bob Hope and Bing Crosby); Blythe, Calif.; Minter Air Field Base in Bakersfield, Calif.; Pecos Army Air Base; and Randolph Air Base near San Antonio.

His flights were in the Philippines and all over New Guinea. His job was to haul cargo, including battle-wounded personnel, military equipment and anything else needed. On one occasion they hauled a load of 55-gallon drums of gasoline to Clark Field about 90 miles north of Manila for the tanks and other equipment that were being used to battle the Japanese. Nearly everything that was used over there depended on the C-47 airplane, a plane that is still being flown to this day; it was the Army version of the old DC-3.

Stanley has always been grateful he could serve his country, and we, his family, are very proud of his service to our nation.

The Stanna Butler Welch family

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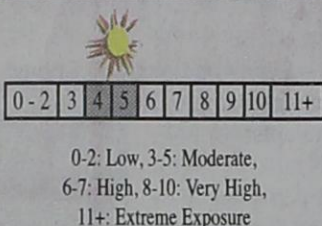
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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

Friday Sunny 55 / 33	Saturday Sunny 64 / 32	Sunday Partly Cloudy 56 / 24	Monday Few Showers 59 / 28	Tuesday Partly Cloudy 64 / 31	Wednesday Mostly Cloudy 62 / 34	Thursday Partly Cloudy 58 / 29

Local UV Index



Weather Trivia

What was the costliest hailstorm in the United States?
 Answer: In July 1990, Denver had damages totaling \$625 million.

Weather History

Dec. 27, 1982 - The worst Louisiana rainstorm in more than 100 years came to an end. More than 18 inches fell at Vinton, La. during the three-day storm. Damage was estimated at 100 to 200 million dollars. President Reagan declared ten parishes disaster areas.

Dec. 28, 1987 - A winter storm produced heavy snow in the upper Mississippi Valley and the upper Great Lakes region. Up to twenty inches of snow buried southern Minnesota, and 20 to 40 mph winds produced snow drifts six feet high and reduced visibilities to near zero.

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see sunny skies with a high temperature of 55°, humidity of 40%. The record high temperature for today is 76° set in 2010. Expect mostly clear skies tonight with an overnight low of 33°. The record low for tonight is 11° set in 1973. Saturday, skies will be sunny with a high temperature of 64°, humidity of 38%. Skies will be partly cloudy Saturday night with an overnight low of 32°. Expect partly cloudy skies Sunday with a high temperature of 56°. Skies will become mostly cloudy Monday with a 30% chance of showers, high temperature of 59°.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	6:15-8:15	6:45-8:45	Tue	10:07-12:07	10:37-12:37
Sat	7:08-9:08	7:38-9:38	Wed	11:00-1:00	11:30-1:30
Sun	8:04-10:04	8:34-10:34	Thu	11:28-1:28	
Mon	9:04-11:04	9:34-11:34			

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Fri	7:47 a.m.	5:46 p.m.	2:30 a.m.	1:49 p.m.
Sat	7:48 a.m.	5:47 p.m.	3:33 a.m.	2:33 p.m.
Sun	7:48 a.m.	5:47 p.m.	4:37 a.m.	3:24 p.m.
Mon	7:48 a.m.	5:48 p.m.	5:42 a.m.	4:21 p.m.
Tue	7:48 a.m.	5:49 p.m.	6:45 a.m.	5:25 p.m.
Wed	7:49 a.m.	5:49 p.m.	7:44 a.m.	6:33 p.m.
Thu	7:49 a.m.	5:50 p.m.	8:38 a.m.	7:43 p.m.

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days			
12/15	60	21	53/26	0.00"	Date	Degree Days	Date	Degree Days
12/16	69	22	53/26	0.00"	12/15	0	12/19	10
12/17	69	26	53/26	0.00"	12/16	0	12/20	0
12/18	68	25	53/26	0.00"	12/17	0	12/21	0
12/19	75	44	52/25	0.00"	12/18	0		
12/20	44	30	52/25	0.48"				
12/21	50	30	52/25	0.03"				

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.

Nancy's Notions If Santa is bringing bikes, ask for a helmet

With Christmas approaching, many parents are planning to give their child a new bicycle — maybe even their first bicycle. This is an excellent opportunity to teach children about the importance of wearing a helmet to protect their head. According to National Safe Kids, helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injury by up to 88 percent, but only 45 percent of children wear bike helmets.

Also, the website stated, National Safe Kids bicycles are associated with more injuries in children than any other product except automobiles. Other studies from the organization found that nearly half of the hospitalizations related to bicycles are traumatic injury to the brain. Helmets should be considered an important part of bike riding.

Learning to ride a bicycle is not just child's play. In addition to promoting healthy living habits, riding bicycles can teach children about becoming independent. With this new independence, children need to learn to follow important safety rules like wearing a helmet.

Parents can be great role models to promote bicycle safety and wearing helmets on every trip. A child who rides with companions wearing helmets or adults in general is more likely to wear a helmet himself. Even very young toddlers on tricycles should wear helmets to establish good habits.

- When selecting a helmet for your child, follow these tips:
- Look for a helmet that has been certified to meet Consumer Product Safety Commission standards.
 - Make sure the helmet fits properly. To do this, measure around the rider's head about an inch above his or her eyebrows, and select an appropriately sized helmet.
 - When wearing a helmet, make sure the rim sits level from front to back and is worn low and just above the eyebrows.
 - Make sure the helmet fits snugly. Adjust the helmet's size with extra foam pads, which are provided with most helmets.
 - Buckle the chin strap on every ride.
 - Replace a helmet if it has been in a crash, even if no damage is visible.

In addition to helmets, parents need to find safe places to ride, such as parks, sidewalks, or playgrounds. It is important to supervise preschoolers when they are riding, and keep children younger than 10 from riding bikes in the street.

When teaching children to ride bicycles, also educate them on these tips for safe bicycle riding:

- Always wear a bike helmet.
- Make sure the bicycle is the right size for the rider and in good working order.
- Wear the proper clothing - neon, fluorescent, or other bright colors when riding day or night.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers.
- Ride in the same direction as other traffic.
- Use hand and arm signals.
- There should only be one rider per saddle.
- Keep at least one hand on the handlebars.
- The bicycle must have a white light on the front and a red reflector or red light on the rear (for riding at night).
- Use effective brakes that are capable of making the braked wheel skid.

For more information, visit the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute's website at bhsi.org, Bike Texas at biketexas.org, Safe Kids Worldwide at safekids.org/bike and Bike Texas at bike-texas.org.

Nancy McDonald is the family and consumer science agent for the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office in Stonewall County.



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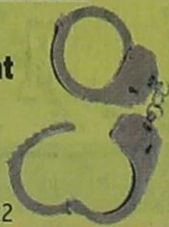
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