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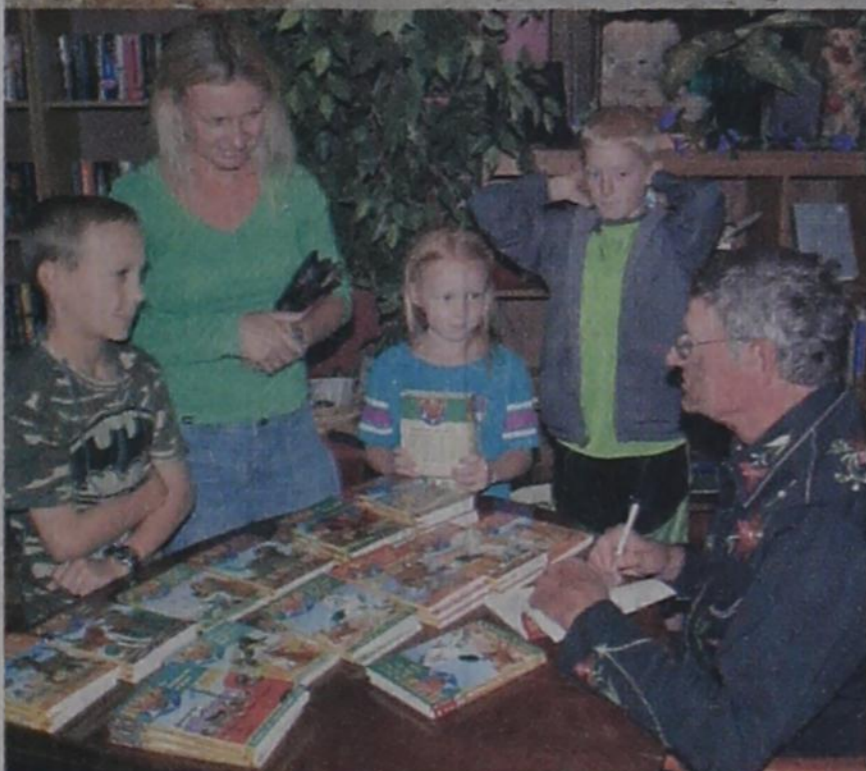
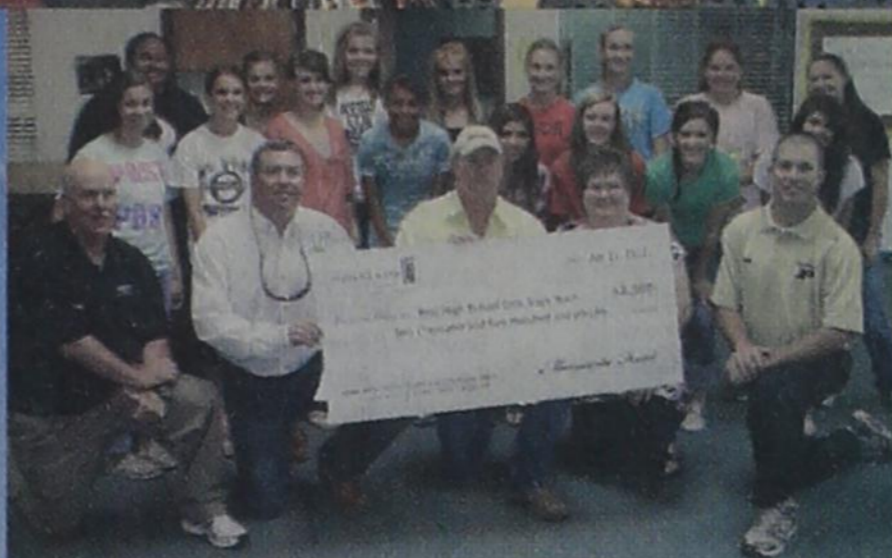
The Post Dispatch

A BUILDER IN GARZA COUNTY SINCE 1926

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2012

THEPOSTDISPATCHONLINE.COM

75 CENTS



Post Notes

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

Barn cleanup

The Garza County 4-H organization will conduct a cleaning at the Garza County Junior Livestock Association barn at 9 a.m. Jan. 5. Those who are showing are asked to help with the cleanup event. For information, call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 495-4400.

Stock show entries

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

Chamber award noms

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

Christmas exhibit

"The Joy of Christmas," an inspiring exhibit of Nativities and creches from around the world, is on display at the O.S. Ranch Museum, 201 E. Main St. Hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call 806-495-3570 for information. Exhibit closes Jan. 26.

GED class

General Education Diploma classes are now in session and are free to the public. Classes meet from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 18 at Post High School. Enter through southwest doors. For information, email Ed Singletery at esingletery@postisd.net or call 495-2770.

Computer classes

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

Correction

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

News on the go

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Year in Review 2012

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

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The Post Dispatch (USPS 439-620) is published every Friday, including holidays, by Blackburn Media Group Inc., P.O. Box 1260, Childress, Texas, 79201-1260. Entered at U.S. Post Office, Post, Texas, for transmission through the mail as a Second-Class matter, according to an Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Post, Texas, 79356. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Post Dispatch, 123 E. Main St., Post, Texas, 79356.

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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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By Wayne Hodgkin
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.

Jan. 6, 2012

The historic drought that, by most any other measure, had already eclipsed that of the Dust Bowl Era, continued to take its toll on West Texas. The 2011 cotton crop in Garza County tallied 995 bales, compared to the more than 10,000 bales ginned only the year before.

Commissioner Ted Brannon of Garza County Precinct 3 announced he would be seeking a second term.

Jan. 13, 2012

Tom Fulton, who just the past August had been named general manager of the White River water plant and executive director of the White River Municipal Water District, told the Dispatch he would not wait for regional entities to make the first move when it came to establishing more sources of drinking water for district customers. Fulton said he would pursue any and all state and federal grants the district could or might be eligible for in the coming months to develop alternative sources of drinking water while embarking on an aggressive, multimillion rehabilitation plan that would begin replacing near 50-year-old infrastructure at the plant.

Post city officials announced the launch of a mass-notification service, called Blackboard Connect, to enhance communication and emergency preparedness. The service allows city officials to send recorded phone-call messages to home phones, businesses and cell phones in a matter of minutes. The service automatically added publicly available phone numbers in and around Post City. Cell-phone customers could individually request their numbers added by calling City Hall.

Jan. 20, 2012

Garza County sheriff's officials were asking the public's help in solving a number of local burglaries and break-ins at local establishments. While not going into explicit detail, Sheriff Cliff Laws told the Dispatch that a lack of a local system, such as a crime-tip line that promises reward money for an arrest and conviction of local crimes, was a drawback. While not pointing to a specific person or set of culprits, Laws said a rash of recent home burglaries and in-town break-ins recently were contributing to an increase in small-town daytime crime.

Garza County sheriff's deputies were investigating a weekend

shooting at the Eastwood Inn bar. Although multiple apparent witnesses were reluctant to talk to law enforcement, Sheriff Cliff Laws said his office continues to investigate.

Venti Energy, developers of a wind farm at Buffalo Point, announced, in not so many words, that the project west of Post and a second project north of the city were tenuous at best. Venti spokesman Richard Amato said the company was serious about the Buffalo Point project but hesitated to establish a specific timeline. "Wind development in general takes a lot of time," he said.

Officials with the Post Youth Athletics Group announced its organization had received confirmation of its nonprofit status by the Texas Secretary of State's office.

Members of the Post Independent School District board of trustees in a meeting Jan. 12 voted to extend Superintendent Mike Comeaux's contract until summer 2015.

Commissioner Gary McDaniel of Garza County's Precinct 1 announced his re-election bid.

Jan. 27, 2012

Jerry Lynn Curtis, 26, of Post was convicted and sentenced to a one-year prison sentence for his part in a burglary of the transportation and bus maintenance department at Post ISD and the theft of a bus battery. Curtis' attorney, Donnie Yandell of the Caprock Public Defenders Office at the Texas Tech University School of Law, said an appeal would be forthcoming.

Presidential candidate John Davis of Colorado stumped in Garza County this week during his effort to visit every county in the United States. Garza marked his 1,825th county of 3,141 in all 50 states.

Garza County sheriff's Chief Deputy Tommy Binford continued to lament an increase in local crime, particularly during the daytime hours. Binford, while not commenting specifically on a culprit/culprits or crime, continued to ask the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Feb. 3, 2012

The Garza County Junior Livestock Association announced the results of its annual sale. Pake Jones was named grand champion in steer results; Rhaeden Bland in lamb results; Taylor Osborn in goat results.

The ongoing drought and record-breaking heat of 2011 left Garza County parched and short of moisture for its winter wheat crop. Despite recent rains, local producers weren't optimistic of a bountiful spring harvest. That said, one economist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in College Station, kept some optimism for the coming year.

Feb. 10, 2012

After two years of fundraising, the Post-Garza County Endowment announced its fund balance of about \$151,000. As part of the Lubbock Area Foundation, the local organization is meant to subsidize the loss of

the United Way effort in the area.

Feb. 17, 2012

The Post Independent School District board of trustees has proposed an aggressive wish list on a new master plan to be backed by the outcome of a still-proposed bond election. The Post ISD Facilities Committee has proposed a new high school, track, transportation facility and other renovation projects throughout the campus.

Garza County commissioners have questioned an amended budget presented by the Garza County Appraisal District that would increase the salaries of its administrative staff a total of about \$31,000. The proposed increase would have to be approved proportionately by four of the seven the taxing entities the appraisal district serves. After much discussion, the measure passed 3-2.

Feb. 24, 2012

Garza County commissioners, in a special-called meeting, reneged on its vote last week to approve about \$31,000 in salary increases for the Garza County Appraisal District, much to the chagrin of Jeff Lott, chairman of the appraisal district's board of trustees. After an hour of discussion, the commission did change its vote to decline passage of the increases. Similar votes were pending with the respective boards of the city of Post, Post ISD, Garza County Health District, Southland ISD and Crosbyton ISD.

The Giles W. Dalby Federal Correctional Facility announced a joint task force with the federal Office of the Inspector General to investigate an incident in which a correctional officer was suspected of committing crimes within the facility. According to federal records, the officer, Johnny Haynes, was arrested Feb. 14 for trafficking illegal materials into the facility and for accepting a bribe. Haynes was suspended while the investigation is ongoing. Charges were still pending.

March 2, 2012

Publisher Chris Blackburn, CEO of Blackburn Media Group, named Wayne Hodgkin editor of the Dispatch. A 2001 Texas Tech journalism graduate and native from Haskell, Hodgkin has previously run successful community newspapers in the Houston, Atlanta and Savannah, Ga., markets.

The Texas state redistricting fiasco has caused much confusion within the Garza County Elections Office on the validity of voter registration cards, the issuance of which has been delayed because of ongoing litigation in the issue at the federal level.

March 9, 2012

More than 80 years after the first brick was laid that paves Main Street, city of Post officials have agreed to renovate the portion of U.S. 380 from Railroad Avenue to Broadway. The project was bid out at \$130,000 to Campbell-West Infrastructure Construction of Lubbock.

Garza County Commissioner Ted Brannon of Precinct 3, who

previously announced his re-election bid, announced this week he would switch parties. The now-former Democrat filed to run in the Republican primary and said his move was not borne out of politics as much as it was giving voters a choice. Brannon will face Democrat John Valdez in the May 29 primary, also the date of which was finalized this week after months of redistricting litigation.

March 16, 2012

Members of the Post City Council have expressed no interest in pouring more money into the rehabilitation of the Garza Theatre, which has sat shuttered for more than six months. The city ordered the closing of the theater in September because engineers deemed the nearly 100-year-old building unsafe. The council approved spending about \$30,000 to install a temporary support structure that should keep the building from collapsing. It is estimated about \$2 million would be needed to make the required improvements to open the facility back up to the public.

In light of the Texas secretary of state's recent setting of the May 29 primary, dozens of candidates flocked to file to run on the ballot, including several in Garza County. Local seats up for grabs included two county commission seats, sheriff and district attorney, among others.

March 23, 2012

As much as 2 inches of rain reported fallen in Garza County over the past couple of days was enough to green up lawns and pasture land, but was far from the needed moisture to pull parched West Texas out of its historic drought.

March 30, 2012

Victims of crime in Garza County will not be receiving funding the next fiscal year as county commissioners failed to make a crucial state application deadline to file for the funding. County Judge Lee Norman said it was unlikely the county would have received the funding anyway due to state cutbacks.

Commissioners lifted a complete burn ban throughout the county that had been in place since devastating wildfires swept through the area last summer. Despite the lift, Gov. Rick Perry renewed the county's drought status and wildfire emergency declarations in Garza County.

In an ancient ceremony that dates back hundreds of years to when the Comanche Indians freely roamed the South Plains, the Tabana Yuean Clan predicted a fair crop season for this year's cotton harvest. The ceremony is conducted at sunrise each year on the vernal equinox.

April 6, 2012

County commissioners once again have refinanced the bond that paid for the construction of the Giles W. Dalby Federal Correctional Facility. The prison was built in 1998 for about \$32 million and was refinanced in 2005. In 2006, the county approved about \$16 million in construction for an

expansion of the facility.

State transportation officials have approved increasing the speed limits on some stretches of interstates throughout the state and are currently reviewing increasing the limit from 70 to 75 on certain portions of state and U.S. highways, including U.S. 84 and U.S. 380, which intersect in Post City.

The Garza County Republican Convention is set for this weekend, county chairman Trevor Thuett has announced.

April 13, 2012

A 34-year-old Snyder man has been convicted to serve 90 days in the Garza County jail for exposing himself mere feet away from Post Junior High School. Lill Jacob Crawford was facing a 180-day jail sentence.

O.H. Ivie Reservoir, located about 170 miles southeast of Post in Concho, Coleman and Runnels counties, threatens to overtake Garza County's Lake Alan Henry record largemouth bass catches, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The most recent catch at Ivie puts it in a second-place tie with Alan Henry with both lakes reporting bass catches weighing upwards of 13 pounds.

The health costs associated with inmates at the Garza County jail were expected to decrease in a new bookkeeping system the county will begin using to bill only at the rate at which the federal Medicaid program will reimburse health-care providers. The program would be monitored by Brandy Fannon, administrator of the Garza County Health Care District, who would report savings each month to the county court.

April 20, 2012

The process by which local nonprofit entities acquire their share of the city's hotel-motel tax funding was questioned this week by local businessman Jackie Cruse, owner of J. Cruse Christmas Gallery and president of the board of Post City Festivals. Cruse questioned the allocation process and the city's policies that govern the tax committee, which oversees disbursement of the funding. Post City Festivals was allocated about \$4,500 in hotel occupancy tax funds from last year's disbursement. But the council approved taking the money back because word circulated that Cruse's organization would be using the funding for other purposes than what was stated on its application. Cruse questioned the tax committee's oversight and process for monitoring the funds, because, he said, there isn't one.

The Rotary Club of Post has announced its second-annual "Smokin' in the Park" barbecue cookoff was now a state-sanctioned event, making it eligible for state and nationwide acclaim. The state proclamation was spearheaded by Sen. Robert Duncan.

Post city officials announced a halt in negotiations with the White River Municipal Water District on a new contract that will carry city water customers through the next 40 years. A change water district officials had made to the contract's wording that would have required municipalities to meet minimum monthly financial obligations in order to help the district pay its debt service was met with some disdain by city officials.

City Manager Arbie Taylor said the whole contract was now in jeopardy, putting all negotiations back to the drawing board.

Twelve local high school athletes have qualified for the regional track tournament, including Corbin McDonald, Haily Berry, Alexis Ramirez and a number of others.

April 27, 2012

Main Street business owners say the downtown brick-repairing project is disrupting day-to-day business activities of their stores. It was discovered this week the 60-day project would be extended because the soil samples taken from the site weren't up to par and would need to be mixed with more dirt in order for the concrete to cure correctly. Donna Aten of Twins' Fashions estimated business at her store was down 75 to 80 percent since the project began earlier this month.

Garza County women are living shorter lives, according to a recent study by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. According to the data, Garza County women have lost a little more than eight months of life since 1989. The study did not draw any conclusions about why the decline was happening.

Three Texas Tech students, including one former Red Raider football walk-on, were arrested in Garza County on drug charges over the weekend after the car they were driving was stopped for speeding. The three men were arrested and taken to the Garza County jail on various felony charges associated with marijuana. Each posted bail and was released, pending further court action.

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 Abraham Lincoln

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
							M																		H

E E E T
A M G A V M P B M F W C H P C Q P A A T P C
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YEAR IN REVIEW

From Page 2

May 4, 2012

Post High School senior Corbin McDonald, junior Haily Berry and sophomore Alexis Ramirez each qualified to compete at the state track meet in Austin in the boys triple jump, girls triple jump and girls discus, respectively.

Members of the Post Masonic Lodge 1058 AF&AM celebrated its 100th year Friday with an awards banquet and dinner. The lodge was established in 1911 by Will Cravy, P.S. Nichols and other Masons who had been traveling by hack to Dickens — a two-day trip — to attend meetings in Dickens County. The lodge currently has 74 Master Masons and seven Entered Apprentices.

May 11, 2012

The Community Recovery Center in Post was set to celebrate its 30th anniversary of providing substance abuse and other types of counseling to residents of the Garza County and surrounding communities. A community-wide open house was being planned to help the center and its founders, Glenda Baker and Nelda Dalby, celebrate.

Early voting for the May 29 general election primary was set to begin Monday, ahead of last week's candidate forum, sponsored by the Post Area Chamber of Commerce. A number of local and statewide candidates were in attendance, including the county's three most-anticipated races: sheriff, district attorney and state representative.

May 18, 2012

The Southland Independent School District board of trustees has joined the anti-testing movement sweeping throughout school districts throughout the state that takes a stand against standardized testing in Texas public schools. In a resolution passed last week, the board lambasted the state Legislature for bogging down students and teachers in a quagmire of "relentless test preparation and boring memorization of facts."

Longtime educator and political newcomer Nancy McDonald has been elected to the Post Independent School District board of trustees. Also, returned to the board during the at-large elections was incumbents Mike Holly and Milton Williams.

Southland senior Travis Arguello placed third in the boys discus event at the state track meet in Austin. His throw was 4.04 feet shorter than the second-place finisher.

May 25, 2012

Top graduates have been named for Post, Southland and Borden County high schools. Kambry Mason and Kari Dunn will take valedictorian and salutatorian honors at Post High School, respectively; Kelcess Lewis and Travis Arguello at Southland; and Shaylie Boyles and Austin Fields at Borden County. Graduation exercises will commence throughout the weekend at each school.

The Post ISD board of trustees has approved salary increases for a number of administrators, including a 3.5 percent increase for Superintendent Michael Comeaux.

June 1, 2012

Garza County's two most anticipated races this election season were soundly decided during Tuesday's general election primary, paving the way for new blood in both the sheriff's and district attorney's offices. Southland resident Terry Morgan will take the reins of the Garza County Sheriff's Office beginning Jan. 1, handily defeating incumbent Cliff Laws in the Republican primary. County Attorney Michael Munk also was elected to serve as the district attorney for the 106th Judicial District. Runoff elections were announced for state representative between candidates Trent McKnight and Drew Springer.

June 8, 2012

The Post High School Class of 1957 met this past weekend for its 55th reunion.

The city of Spur, which buys a good deal of its water from the White River Municipal Water District, will extend its neighbors a lifeline with about 500,000 gallons of water a month to help carry them through the drought crisis.

June 15, 2012

City of Post officials announced this week that water restrictions could soon be expected for municipal water residents — even as early as today. The restriction would ban all outdoor watering for residents and businesses.

Talk of an organized neighborhood watch program has resurfaced after a home break-in on West Main Street. Garza County sheriff's officials say the main suspects were men who were doing work at the resident's home.

June 22, 2012

Dr. Benjamin Edwards, who for the past six years has been seeing

and treating patients at the Garza County Health Clinic, has left the practice. He announced this week he would be parting ways with the Garza County Board of Health and the Lubbock-based Physician Network Services of University Medical Center, to open up his own private practice in Post. His specialty will be holistic medicine and nutrition.

The White River Municipal Water District has voted to increase rates to member cities by 10 percent. Post City Manager Arbie Taylor said he had been prepared for at least a 5 percent increase, but said he believed the city could affectively absorb that increase without passing it along to local water customers.

A pair of teenagers reported missing from Cedar Park about mid-May and their last known whereabouts being in Post, reportedly has been found. A private investigator hired by one of the teens parents told the Dispatch they couple was on their way to the West Coast. He would not say where the teens were located, but said no criminal mischief was expected.

The Post Animal Refuge Center has announced a partnership with the Life Skills classes at the Post Independent School District. Students from the class will work with the animal shelter staff cleaning pens and feeding, watering and socializing with the animals.

June 29, 2012

One of the hottest weeks to date of the year was capped off with the opening of the Post City Pool. Dozens of area youth were expected at the pool's opening this week after a number of improvements at the park.

The controversial brick-repaving project in downtown Post was expected to be complete this week after several setbacks in construction. The project had been ongoing since the first week of April and was expected to be complete within 60 to 90 days.

Effective July 1, Post city water customers were expected to abide by an even-odd watering restriction after White River Municipal Water District board members voted to increase the district's drought status to Stage 2.

July 6, 2012

High Plains producers planted less cotton than they did in 2011, according to recently released data by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA reported that 4.15 million acres were planted this year compared to 4.57 million acres last year, a decrease of more than 9 percent.

A California family whose dog went missing after the car they were traveling in on U.S. 84 south of Post was involved in a one-vehicle accident was reunited with their beloved pet. Naula, a 1 1/2-year-old pit bull/beagle mix was located three months to the day of the family's accident.

July 13, 2012

The boards of directors of HaleCo Bancshares and LubCo Bancshares — the two holding companies of HCSB of Plainview and Citizens Bank, respectively — have announced a merger of the two banks into one, with HCSB being the resulting bank. It was said the two banks are in good financial ground and that the merger would take effect at the end of the fourth quarter of 2012. The banks' names and officers would remain in tact.

The city of Post will move forward with a measure to de-annex with Giles W. Dalby Federal Correction Facility from inside the city limits in an effort to stave off more stringent state regulations placed on towns above a certain population threshold. The 2010 decennial census results estimated the 2,000 some-odd prisoners housed at the facility would push the city's population above 5,000.

The Texas Historical Commission recently recognized Garza County with the 2011 Distinguished Service Award.

July 20, 2012

The White River Municipal Water District board of directors voted last week to move to Stage 3 in the district's drought contingency plan effective Aug. 1. The restriction would ban all outdoor watering. A town hall meeting was called for Tuesday of next week in Post to have the public weigh in on the issue.

July 27, 2012

A study recently released by the White River Municipal Water District stated the proposed Post reservoir would cost about \$66 million if the project were to be started today. The reservoir was first proposed in 1968 at a cost of about \$2.5 million. To date, about a

half-million dollars has been spent in the last 34 years on engineering reports and updates to the plan.

Aug. 3, 2012

Republican candidate for state representative Trent McKnight stumbled in last-minute election returns, falling to Drew Springer who will likely be the shoo-in for the seat.

Garza County sheriff's officials seized a number of neglected horses near Southland recently. Criminal charges are pending with the owner of the horses.

Some members of the Post City Council say the White River Municipal Water District board of directors in trying to strong-arm member cities into increasing their drought status in order to vie for state and federal emergency funding. The City Council vote to not apply for a \$350,000 grant as part of a nearly \$2.5 million package the district was eligible for, seemingly in order to send a message to the water district it would not succumb to political pressure.

Aug. 10, 2012

Three new businesses have opened downtown, including the city's only fine-dining establishment. The Brazos River Steakhouse opened on East Main in the former and now renovated CoCoRa's diner. Other new businesses include Buffalo Creek Threads, a custom embroidery and monogramming shop and Caprock Radiance salon.

Aug. 17, 2012

The Post Independent School District board of trustees has called for a bond election on November's general election ballot to consider about \$28.5 million in renovations and other projects, including construction of a new high school. To raise the money, the board would have to raise taxes 2.5 cents per \$100 valuation of assessed property.

Cotton production across the High Plains was expected to be back near the 10-year average of 4.35 million bales this year, despite the lack of moisture that still plagues a significant portion of the area.

The annual 2012 Post Stampede Rodeo and parade were held last weekend with much success.

Aug. 24, 2012

A wind-energy project under construction in southern Lynn County will boast the tallest wind turbines in the nation, with blades measuring 185 feet, towering high on a 270-foot base.

Post Dispatch Editor Wayne Hodgkin has announced the newspaper will get a complete makeover with next week's edition. In addition, Publisher Chris Blackburn announced, single-copy sales will increase 25 cents from 50 to 75 cents each.

Aug. 31, 2012

An open-session evaluation of City Manager Arbie Taylor exposed a rift between he and members of the Post City Council this week. The open forum drew some criticism and, at times, heated responses between Taylor and council members, especially Councilwoman Anita Morris who accused Taylor of being unapproachable and belligerent.

Area students returned to classes for the 2012-2013 academic year this week. First-day enrollment for Post ISD showed an increase of 61 students.

Sept. 7, 2012

All county employees were expected to receive a 4-percent across-the-board raise under a new budget set to be approved by Garza County commissioners. The cost-of-living increases were noted because county employees had not received a raise in two years because of ongoing economic concerns across the state.

The Post Antelopes notched their first win of the season over the Morton Indians with a 31-7 defeat.

A federal court in Washington, D.C., unanimously struck down the state's newly drawn congressional district map saying it is discriminatory by aiming to limit Latino votes. The court ordered the state to re-draw maps by 2014.

Sept. 14, 2012

Post City Mayor Thessa Harp announced her pending resignation during a regular council meeting this week. Harp, whose seat was up for re-election in May, was expected to be moving from Post.

A grease fire that broke out in the historic Garza Hotel was limited to the kitchen, causing minimal damage.

The O.S. Ranch and the local ranching family of Giles Dalby were honored with the Ranching Award at the American Cowboy Culture dinner and awards program during the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration last week in Lubbock.

Sept. 21, 2012

The owner of a local doughnut shop was arrested and charged with assault after the broom-wielding shop owner chased a 14-year-old boy from the business, accusing him of shoplifting. Sueng Hoon Lee, 45, was charged with injury to a child, a third-degree felony.

Construction began this week on a tree irrigation and artificial grass project along the medians on Main Street. The \$174,000 project, approved by the City Council, was expected to be less intrusive on businesses than the brick-repaving project completed over the summer.

Sept. 28, 2012

Dozens of students throughout the Post Independent School District gathered Wednesday in front of their schools' flagpoles to pray for their schools, classmates and leaders at the annual See You at the Pole event. The event was organized by Moms in Prayer, a local group of mothers who gather weekly at the school to pray for their children.

The Post Antelopes remain undefeated going into their homecoming game against Denver City. The Antelopes notched their fourth win of the season Friday in a 22-13 defeat of the visiting Tahoka Bulldogs.

Oct. 5, 2012

The Post Dispatch published this week a story that soon would draw the ire of many people throughout the county centering on a local ministry of which local law enforcement accused of indirectly contributing the increase in crime throughout the county.

Garza County sheriff's Chief Deputy Tommy Binford told the Dispatch that residents and past residents of Five Stones Ministries, which caters to convicted drug and alcohol offenders, were accused or suspected in a number of crimes throughout Post City, including burglary, petty crime, counterfeiting and prostitution.

During halftime festivities during the Post High School homecoming Friday night, Kayla Comeaux was named homecoming queen and Tori Whisenant was named band sweetheart.

Oct. 12, 2012

Former Mayor Archie Gill was unanimously appointed to fill the unexpired term of the outgoing Thessa Harp, who announced her pending resignation during last month's regular City Council meeting.

Garza County's first freeze of the season came 60 years to the day after the earliest such event on record, according to officials with the National Weather Service in Lubbock.

The first bale of the 2012 cotton crop ginned at Close City Co-op was brought in Oct. 4 by Grassland resident Mike Aten. The cotton is dryland-farmed and weighed in at 525 pounds with a seed weight of 720.

Oct. 19, 2012

Post City Manager Arbie Taylor announced his resignation effective Nov. 16 to members of the City Council. Taylor had been in the position for the last three and a half years and caps off an contentious tenure with members of the City Council.

Garza Museum director Linda Puckett told county commissioners during their regular meeting this week that a bat colony at the museum was threatening the health of its employees and visitors and the structural integrity of the 100-year-old building.

Dispatch Editor Wayne Hodgkin was recently threatened by an official with a local ministry, according to Garza County sheriff's reports, reportedly over a published account from Chief Deputy Tommy Binford that residents and former residents of the drug and alcohol ministry were contributing to the increase in crime throughout the county. According to reports, O.L. "Ferg" Ferguson, executive director of Five Stones Ministries, threatened Hodgkin and the newspaper if another story appeared in the paper.

Oct. 26, 2012

Garza County sheriff's officials have announced the arrests of two men out-of-state suspected in a string of burglaries between Garza, Lynn and Lubbock counties. The men, Anthony Charles Dean Goings, 30, of Kenesaw, Neb., and Edward William Van Winkle Jr., 26, of Homosassa, Fla., were arrested by Lubbock police.

A state appeals court in Amarillo has overturned the conviction of a Post resident accused in the Labor Day weekend burglary at the Post Independent School District transportation department. County Attorney Michael Munk said he would seek a new trial in the matter of Jerry Lynn Curtis, 26, also accused of stealing a bus battery.

The Pride of Post Band earned a Division 1 rating at the Region 16 North Zone University Interscholastic League Marching Band Contest last weekend at Lowery Field in Lubbock.

Nov. 2, 2012

The Post Antelopes beat the Floydada Whirlwinds, 26-16, last Friday and, in doing so, clinched a spot in the Class 2A Division II playoffs en route to a district championship.

White River Municipal Water District officials have extended the stage 3 drought contingency plan for another three months effective Nov. 1 through Jan. 31.

Nov. 9, 2012

President Barack Obama was re-elected to another four-year term by American voters this week, staving off a Republican attempt by former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Garza County voters voted with Romney. In other election news, Garza County voters approved the Post Independent School District's issuance of about \$28.5 million in bonds to make a number of renovations to campus facilities, including the construction of a new high school.

Nov. 16, 2012

The Post Antelopes won the district championship last Friday night at home in one of the most anticipated matchups of the week across the South Plains. Post took the win over the Abernathy Antelopes, 21-14.

After a years-long negotiation of a 40-year contract with White River Municipal Water District, member cities, including Post, Crosbyton, Ralls and Spur, have agreed to the contract, which has, in turn, been approved by the water board. Talks have been ongoing for the better part of three years.

Nov. 23, 2012

Xcel Energy is seeking a base rate increase for Texas retail customers to support the cost of generating and delivering energy critical to the growth of area communities. Xcel, which serves 79 Texas towns and cities, including Post, seeks to boost revenue by \$90.2 million. The increase would, on average boost electric bills by \$6.61 per month, or about 7.3 percent, for those customers using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month.

An engineer told members of the Post City Council its newly drilled water wells in Southland wasn't really up to state standards, although by blending the water would make it potable for customers.

Nov. 30, 2012

The Post Antelope varsity football season ended Nov. 23 in the area round of the playoffs to the Sonora Bulldogs in Clyde. Post fell 34-10 to Sonora, ending their 9-2 record and notching a district championship.

Less than a month after a state appeals court overturned his conviction in a school bus-battery theft case, Jerry Lynn Curtis, 26, of Post is back in custody of local law enforcement. Curtis was arrested Nov. 7 in Lubbock County on drug charges. Earlier this month, County Attorney Michael Munk said he had issued a warrant for Curtis' arrest in order to re-try him on charges stemming from a September 2011 burglary at the Post ISD maintenance facility.

The region's main water source this past week fell to within 3.5 feet of the threshold that dictates when the reservoir is dry. White River Lake, the main water source for the cities of Post, Crosbyton, Ralls and Spur, this past week fell to about 28.5 feet below the dam's spillway. At 32 feet below, the reservoir is considered dry by state standards.

Dec. 7, 2012

The Double Shovel Christmas Tree Farm has opened for business off U.S. 84 West north of Post City. The farm, operated by the Webb family, including Charlie and Jan and their three now-grown children, touts more than 2,000 drought-tolerant Afghan pines on an eight-acre spread situated off the Lubbock Highway at the Ragtown Gospel Theatre turn-in road.

A two-vehicle accident at the intersection of U.S. 380 and South Avenue F in Post sent both drivers to Lubbock area hospitals. Garza County sheriff's deputies say the intersection is one of the worst in the area as drivers tend to think the "loop" does not contain stop signs.

Pake Jones, son of Greg and Channa Jones of Post and a junior at Post High School, has been awarded the Gold Star, the 4-H organization's highest award across the state.

Dec. 14, 2012

The Post City Council has named longtime City Secretary Deana Watson as its newest city manager. The appointment comes about a month after Arbie Taylor's resignation from the position.

Garza County commissioners this week signed the necessary paperwork that will direct state emergency funds to White River Municipal Water District to start making necessary infrastructure improvements.

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6797 paid tribute last week to those residents of Garza County who fought and died during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. In attendance at a special wreath-laying ceremony was Claudette Miller of Lubbock, who's uncle John Miller is the namesake for the local VFW Post and the first local casualty of the attack.

Dec. 21, 2012

Garza County sheriff's Chief Deputy Tommy Binford announced this week he would be leaving his post at the sheriff's office effective at midnight Dec. 31. Binford will be joining the newly elected District Attorney Michael Munk in the 106th Judicial District as an investigator.

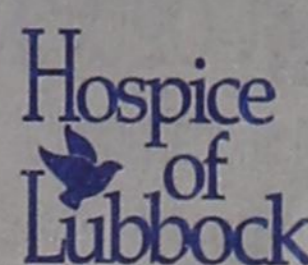
County Judge Lee Norman ruled this week that the second trial of Jerry Lynn Curtis, 26, of Post, accused in the September 2011 burglary and theft of the Post ISD maintenance facility would be paid for out of the county's indigent defense fund.

In light of last week's deadly shooting at a Connecticut elementary school, Texas Commissioner of Education Michael Williams ordered all school districts throughout the state to review their emergency operation plans.

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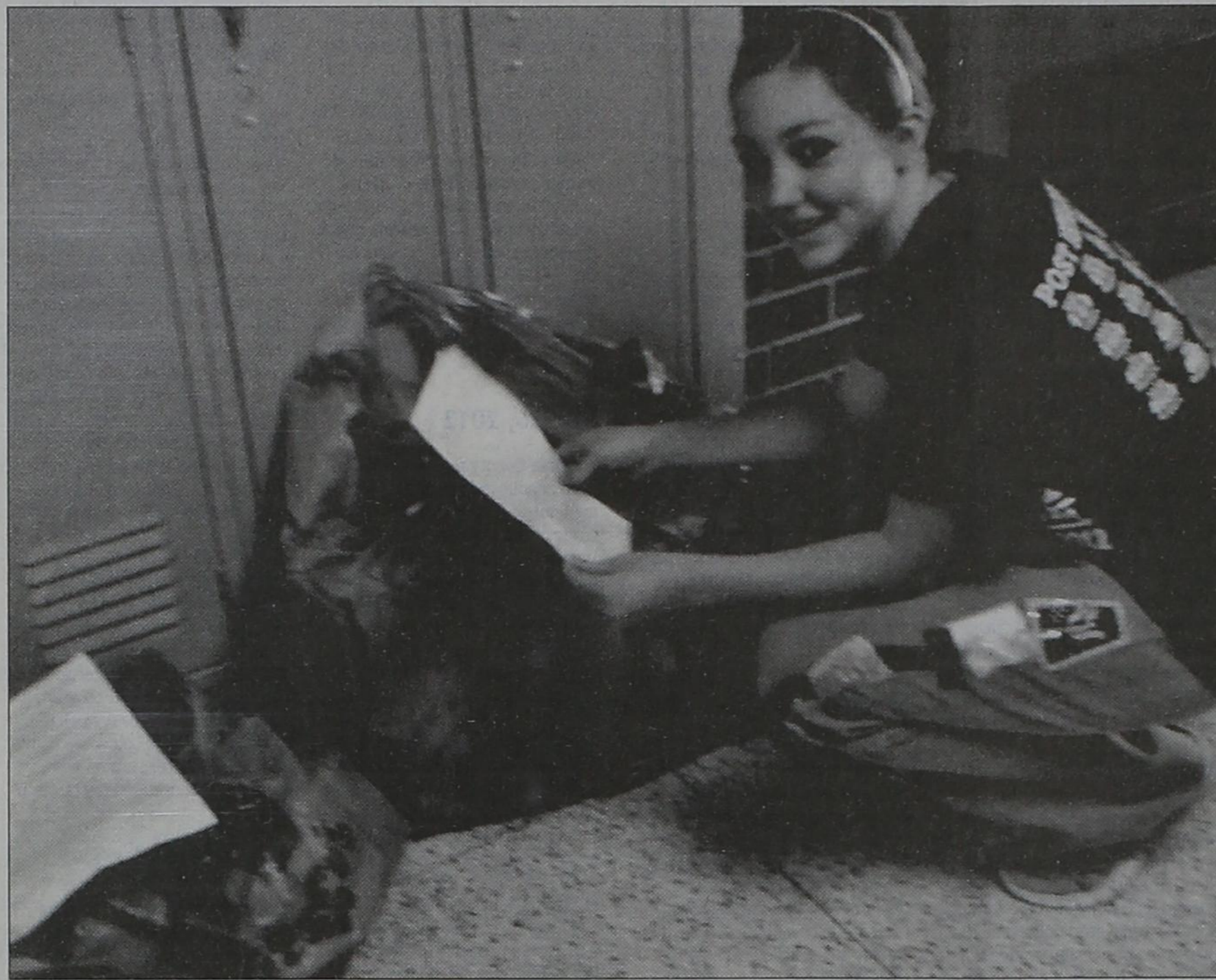
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Special to the Dispatch

Kalley Comeaux helps to sort toys and books for the Post Lions Club Toys for Tots Program as her service project for National Junior High Honor Society.

Lions Club book drive a success

The Post Dispatch

The Post Lions Club's annual Christmas Toys for Tots program has completed the toy and book round-up, collecting \$4,300 and serving 57 families and 142 kids with

the delivery of these gifts currently under way.

Generous donations from H&M Dirt, Strawn Transport & Acid Co., Poka Lambro, James and Amy Easterling, Post ISD Middle School Student Council, a grant from the

Lubbock Area Foundation/Post Garza County Endowment, PISD High School National Honor Society and many others made this annual event another success. The Post Lions Club was formed and called to serve our

community, state, nation and Lions International the world. Also, this time of year, the club sponsors the Salvation Army Kettle Drive, ringing the bell at United Supermarket on most December Saturdays.

High Plains cotton production numbers trend downward

By Mary Jane Buerkle
Special to the Dispatch

As expected, the National Agricultural Statistics Service's district estimates for the Texas High Plains dropped from 3.96 million bales in the October report to just more than 3.4 million bales in their report released Tuesday.

Many gins already have finished their season, and High Plains cotton industry experts believe the final number will be even lower than that when the 2012 crop year comes to a close.

"Based on cotton ginned and classed to date and remaining cotton to be ginned, I'd be surprised if we hit the three million bale mark," said Steve Verett, executive vice president for Plains Cotton Growers in Lubbock. "I think that along with the continued drought, the results of the early freeze are beginning to show up in these production numbers."

According to the NASS report, that 3.4 million bales for the High Plains would be almost 62 percent of the state's total crop of an estimated 5.5 million bales,

down 400,000 from the estimate in the November report, which did not include district numbers.

Planted acres and harvested acres are unchanged from the October report — 4.23 million acres planted on the High Plains, and 3.11 million acres expected to be harvested. However, the yield estimates are down for both portions of the Plains Cotton Growers service area, with an average yield of 726 pounds to the acre in the northern half and 458 pounds to the acre in the southern half.

The world's cotton crop for 2012/2013 is estimated to be 116.9 million bales. The U.S. cotton crop production estimate is 17.26 million bales, down 190,000 bales 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 over 35 for the Lubbock and Lamesa offices. Both offices have seen bark content increase over the past couple of weeks.

Springer visits Post as part of 22-stop district tour

The Post Dispatch

Last Wednesday as part of a 22-stop tour, Rep.-Elect Drew Springer met with local constituents at the Heritage House in Post.

Springer discussed the upcoming legislative session and took questions on topics that ranged from the state's water plan to overcoming regulations and unfunded mandates.

"One of my biggest goals is to take a look at regulations on local governments and schools and see how we can simplify them and make them align more with common sense and local control," Springer said. "There is no reason for the state to mandate how many cigarette butts can be in a hospital parking lot."

Springer has lobbied to be placed on the Agriculture Committee and the Natural Resources Committee for the 83rd Session. A place on these committees would give House Dis-

trict 68 a strong voice on rural issues like water and ranching.

Mark Kirpatrick expressed concern over how the state was going to deal with the state water plan and the ongoing drought.

"State leaders are finally realizing that this is a problem that needs addressing," Springer said. "This will be the big issue this session, and I intend to make sure that West Texas is well represented, so our property rights are protected and not overlooked by those in urban areas."

A recurring concern amongst constituents across the district dealt with the tragic murders in Newtown, Conn.

"I think the underlying problem is not a lack of gun control but a shortage of mental healthcare," Springer said. "All 'gun-free zones' do is prevent good people from protecting themselves when bad people make poor decisions."

Springer applauded David Thweatt, a superintendent in HD-68, for allowing certain teachers in Harold ISD to carry a concealed handgun in their classrooms. He hopes more school districts will follow suit and enact similar policies at the local level.

Other recurring issues on the tour included transportation infrastructure, Texas Commission for Environmental Quality overstep, standardized tests, vocational education, rural healthcare and Medicaid fraud.

HD-68 is one of the largest districts in the state of Texas, it contains a total of 22 counties and stretches as far east as Cooke County, as far west as Crosby County, and as far north as Wheeler County.

The Texas Legislature meets for only 140 days every two years. The next session, convenes in January and will last until the end of May. Springer will be sworn in at noon on Jan. 8.

The Post Dispatch

Garza County sheriff's deputies arrested a 24-year-old Post resident early Dec. 18 on drug charges after patrol officers saw his car parked illegally on the street outside his residence.

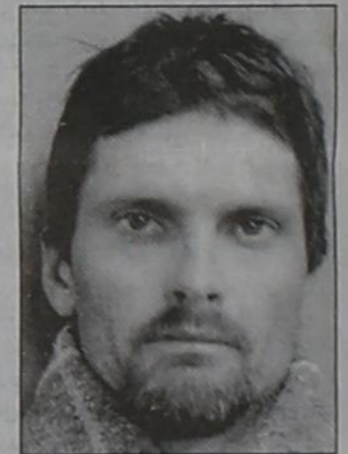
As deputies were patrolling in the 200 block of North Avenue L about 1 a.m. Tuesday morning, they noticed a vehicle parked the wrong way on the street outside of a residence.

As they approached the vehicle, they noticed a male behind the steering wheel and a female passenger. After asking the couple to step out of the car, the driver, Michael Jan Bauer, was found to be in possession of marijuana.

He was arrested and taken to the Garza County jail on one charge of possession less than 2 ounces.

Bauer posted a \$1,500 bond late Tuesday afternoon and was released.

Bauer also was cited with an open container violation. His passenger was not arrested.



BAUER

Wayne Hodgins

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
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church- Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174
Southland Baptist Church- Southland
Temple Bautista- 315 W. Main
Trinity Baptist Church- 915 N. Ave O, 990-3038

Catholic

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

Church of Christ

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

Graham Chapel Church of Christ- 15th & Ave S

Church of God

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

Disciples of Christ

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

Evangelical Methodist

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

Methodist

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

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

Nazarene

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

Presbyterian

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

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The Post Dispatch

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The Idle American

A heartbeat for humanity

Rarely does one meet an individual with a heartbeat so strong for humanity and a "what's in it for others" attitude. His smile engages and his countenance ignores advancing years. He glows with goodwill, projecting unbounded love for others — a grand example of "The Greatest Generation."

I met him recently. You may think he's a giant Texan — one with life's papers neatly arranged into chapters, ready for saint-hood.



DON NEWBURY

And, you'd be wrong. He stands 5-foot-6 and never weighed more than 165. He lied twice at age 15 to join the Navy, embraced overcoming as a "way of life" and never considered himself extraordinary.

But he is. In Galveston, where he's lived 70 of his first 85 years, Eddie Janek is beloved. On the streets, fellow motorists "honk hellos"; in stores, owners and custodians — and all in between — stop what they're doing to greet "Mr. Eddie."

His arrivals include more than "howdies." Friends want to hug a guy who has served them far longer than most know. Shucks, even short memories recall his efforts for the common good during his 16 years as a county commissioner. And men whose hair is starting to gray remember life lessons learned from his coaching Little League, Pony League and American Legion baseball teams for 34 years.

Those closest to him know how circumstances greatly altered his course just over a decade ago. That's when dreaded Alzheimer's laid claim to his beloved wife, Doris, and that's when he dedicated the bulk of his time to her home health care.

It's just the way this man is wound. Words of the poet Emerson fit best: "When duty whispers down, 'thou must,' the youth replies 'I can.'"

Duty first "whispered down" to Eddie in 1942. A fatherless child of the depression, he spent most of his youth on a "hand-me-down" Hill County farm near West.

His "fib of being 15" was found out, and the Navy sent him home. Undeterred, Eddie altered his Catholic confirmation records, and he was in "Navy whites" again.

Perhaps the doctor who performed his Navy physical exam deserves a medal; had his findings

been recorded more accurately, Janek wouldn't have been accepted.

Somehow, his weight and height — one inch over five feet and 98 pounds — were entered as 5-foot-2 and 105, thus meeting minimal requirements.

"The Navy didn't seem to care that I stuttered," Eddie laughed. "And I still do."

The military provided many "firsts," including first uses of tooth brushes, telephones, light switches — and, uh, commodores.

During four years in the Pacific, including landings at Leyte and Peleliu, he saw death up close. Strong in his memory are sounds of comrades praying at night for God's protection in the coming day.

Janek rightly treasures a sealed, glass-covered box that contains Presidential Unit Citations from the U.S., the Philippines and Korea — and 18 other awards. They were presumably lost forever when Hurricane Ike ravaged the first floor of his high-rise home.

Survivor of two wars, a stroke, a heart overhaul and a blood disease, Eddie remains upbeat — cherishing his wife, three sons and six grandchildren and lovingly tending his roses.

He's grateful to his son, Dr. Kyle Janek, who, as a state senator in 2001, wrote legislation providing high school diplomas for World War II participants. Eddie proudly marched across the stage in Galveston where 58 were so honored — one posthumously, three in wheelchairs and two on crutches.

He also is grateful to Texas A&M for the safe return of his medals! A few weeks after the 2008 storm, some A&M people, cleaning up Pelican Island five miles across the bay from Janek's home, found the muddied box. A&M President R. Bowen Loftin called Eddie about the find. The medals are again proudly displayed in the Janek home.

Upon meeting Eddie recently, we were inspired by his optimism and patriotism. Friends aren't surprised that his most recent project benefited a Galveston resident who needed funds for sight-restoring eye surgery. He wrote a check, then 53 letters to friends. Within days, \$42,000 was contributed, and the surgery is scheduled.

He's well on the way to restoration of flood-ravaged memorabilia. Eddie is at Mass on Saturday afternoons, and attends family and naval reunions from time to time.

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

The 501

Dumpsters are no place for books or pianos

Books and pianos are two things that deserve a better fate than the landfill. That said, I myself did once discard a cheap guitar that had spent too much time under a roof leak.

But if that guitar had been a piano, I couldn't have done it.

I rescued a Baptist piano once. It was a massive old upright parked in plain view outside the pastor's house, abandoned by a mission in favor of a new electronic organ. Outside is no place for any piano, much less one dedicated to God's service. I don't make that comment lightly. I once heard a Baptist preacher say the piano near him on the podium was a dedicated piano.

Anyway, when the pastor in charge of the outdoor piano told me I could have it, my heart leaped and my collection doubled. He probably thought I was an angel. No natty pastor living in a well-ordered, ranch-style

house has room for an old upright piano, sacred or not.

Indeed, when mid-century architecture took hold, wimpy little consoles or spinets or whatever they're called came into favor instead, except among folks who had grand enough abodes and enough money and reason to opt for grand pianos, more horizontal than vertical, just like their spacious new houses.

Yep, all old upright pianos need guardian angels. Even at a good price, nobody wants to risk buying one for a beginning pianist for fear it will take a pianist alongside the exercise bicycle and be even harder to put in a garage sale.

Sad but true. Now for books. I've discarded some tattered paperbacks, but real books are different. Unless a hardback has suffered worse damage than the aforementioned guitar, disposal doesn't fit my ethic.

So if you happened to see my lower half sticking out of a dumpster the other day, that's why.

As a rule, I toss newspapers blindly. Our primary recycling place is in a busy parking lot. It's no place for bin-diving, even for me, especially not in broad daylight.

But when I found myself

all alone at an alternate recycling center in a quiet neighborhood, I peered into the bin. A pile of books caught my attention.

An exterior protrusion near the bottom of the container stuck out just enough to accommodate my left toes. Suddenly I was a mountain climber without a safety rope. But instead of eyeing the summit, I focused on the treasure in the crevasse. I stretched down to reach the books.

They proved mostly to be new. Whoever had tossed them had ripped off all their fronts and backs so they'd qualify for the newspaper and junk mail bin. There they lay, each naked, like little featherless birds that had fallen in a heap from their nest. They almost chirped.

How could I resist? I couldn't.

As you read these thoughts, many of the books are now in the hands of friends and family, Christmas gifts from me, each thoughtfully matched to the recipient.

Better than pianos.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a contributor and columnist for the Knox County News-Courier. Email her at hanaba.quanah@gmail.com.

Legends

Tent shows and other entertainment in early Post City

Every time we turn on the television, most of what we hear and see is doom and gloom. This story, written by Boo Olson, makes you want to smile or laugh and just remember some of the better parts of the "good old days." Boy do we ever need that.

"We didn't have television in the 1920s and 1930s. We did have other entertainments. People worked longer hours then and didn't have the time or money to drive to a bigger city for amusement. The show came to us.

"Sometimes a Medicine Show would come to town. A traveling 'Doctor' standing on the back of his flat-bed truck, would give his spiel-selling his own patent medicine. 'An assistant, sometimes a Negro, provided entertainment to attract a crowd. He might play a banjo or harmonica, dance a jig, sing, or all of the above. We had to listen to the Doctor extol the virtues and many wonders of the bottled medicine—usually containing a generous amount of alcohol—but the show was free.

"The Home Talent Show was popular in that era. A lady under the auspices of a local civic group, who would share in the profits, was allowed to produce a musical to be held in the school auditorium. The town's people were recruited to act, sing, and dance in the production. The director taught simple ensemble choruses and dance steps to them. Children got into the act, and mothers made crepe paper costumes.

"People will go to any function if their children are participating, plus we delight in seeing adults we know get on stage and make fools of themselves, so these events drew big crowds.

"Carnivals came to town in the summer with Ferris Wheels and Merry-Go-Rounds, our words for carousels.

"In 1920s, we even had circuses. The tents were put up on what was then a vacant lot, southeast of the Court House. On the first day in town, there was a morning parade up and down Main Street. This was to advertise the afternoon and evening performances inside the tent. Calliope (or even pronounced 'cally-ope') music played 'Over the Waves.' There was a marching band followed by performers on horseback, and wagons with lions and tigers. There was even an elephant. These circuses weren't Barnum & Bailey, but the seemed big-time to us.

"Most small town didn't have big auditoriums or coliseums, so tent were a necessity for touring play-

ers. Brinkleys and Dudleys were two of the companies who played Post. They gave three act plays and had music and variety acts. For the price of general admission, there were bleachers (Chicken Roost) to sit on. Reserved seats (folding chairs) cost extra.

"Sometimes strong winds whipped the tents and rain pelted the heavy canvas, but they were sturdy, and the big poles holding up the tent stood firm.

"Harley Sadler's Tent Show was the all-time favorite. He usually came to Post in late October, when the cotton harvest was well underway, and the farmers had money. He had coal-burning stoves placed around the tent, and it was cold by this time. "There were variety acts before and between the acts of the play. The band consisted of a piano, trumpet, saxophone, and drums. They played songs such as 'Peg of My Heart,' 'Mexicali Rose,' 'Whispering' and 'When Irish Eyes are Smiling.'

"Harley Sadler's wife Billie acted in the plays and his daughter Gloria tap danced. The Stroud Twins dressed in matching white satin shirts and black velvet bell-bottomed trousers, were the best tap dancers he ever had. He had singers and accordion players, and without fail, the jugglers, Mundy and June.

"The show played Post three nights. On the second night, they presented 'Sainly Sinners and Heavenly Hypocrites.' This was the most popular of the 'Toby' plays. We always liked the plays, which cast Harley Sadler as Toby. Toby was a rube in overalls with a red bandana handkerchief hanging from his back pocket, wearing a red fright wig, had a tooth blacked out and freckles painted on his face. He played dumb but we knew he was really smart. Sometimes Toby would get so exasperated about something that he would be naughty and let slip a 'Hell' or 'Damn.' We'd fall out of our chairs laughing at his outrageousness. These were simpler times.

"The Candy Sale came after the second act. There were five pieces taffy in each box plus a surprise, or a coupon for one of the grand prizes set up on the stage. Candy sold for 25 cents a box. That was expensive back then, but most everybody got at least one box. It was only once a year, and there was always the chance of winning a big prize. Few did, but, maybe next time.

"Anyone who grew up in West Texas in those days will tell you that going to Harley Sadler's Tent Show is one of their happiest memories.

"The saga of the Sadler family had a tragic, Gloria died in childbirth and a few years later Harley died of a heart attack. Shortly after, Billie shot herself, a sad finale for a family who brought so much pleasure to so many."

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



HANABA MUNN WELCH

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Across

- Wedding pledges
- Detective, at times
- ___ on a Hot Tin Roof," Williams play
- Correct, as text
- #1 spot
- Comstarch brand
- Inhabitant of "The First State"
- Engine sound
- Fergie's ex
- Shops that forge metal
- Book part
- ___ Calloways" (Disney film)
- Crash site?
- Bent
- Auld lang syne
- Halo, e.g.
- Arduous journey
- Stage item
- Agenda
- Curtain fabric
- One of the two main branches of orthodox Islam
- Allow entrance
- 100 cents
- Missile with several warheads
- Andy's radio partner
- Alpine sight
- ___ Dee River
- Come to
- Container for nitroglycerin
- Substances that chemically corrode
- Carve
- Arch type
- Large in size or quantity
- Brews
- Flightless flock
- Paperlike cloth made from bark
- Big ___ Conference
- Eastern music
- Back

Down

- Sacred Hindu writings
- Black cat, maybe
- Fuse
- Tangle
- Toni Morrison's "___ Baby"
- Air force heroes
- Mosque V.I.P.
- Mercifulness
- Carnival boat (2 wds)
- Acquiesce
- High spots
- Dork
- Maxim
- Looks for
- God with a hammer
- Madcap comedy
- Perry Como's "___ Loves Mambo"
- ___ Lang Syne"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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16				17				18		
19				20				21		
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54				55	56			57		58
61				62				63		
64				65				66		
67				68				69		

PUZZLE SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	P	P	A	S	U	M	E	S	L	E
S	O	N	I	W	L	O	V	E	E	G
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O				A	R	E	M	E	N	D
				C	A	L	L	A	T	

Elves for the Elderly



Leslie Workman with Elves for the Elderly helps pack "necessity" bags for elderly folks here in town. This is the first year to make these bags and the organization reached 100 people in the Post, Spur and Jayton areas. Bags include: toiletries, small gifts, homemade jelly and, for some, coats, blankets, gloves and warm hats.

Special to the Dispatch

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BE
RM

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LEA COUNTY STATE OF NEW MEXICO

TINA and ALBERTO MARQUEZ
Petitioners,

vs.

LEAH DAWN PICKERING and
SCOTTIE GLEN ARMSTRONG,
Respondents.

No. PQ-2005-11
No. DM-2011-484
(Consolidated)

IN THE MATTER OF THE KINSHIP
GUARDIANSHIP OF S.D.A.,
a minor

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO: Scottie Glenn Armstrong

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Respondent Leah Dawn Pickering has filed a Motion for Relief from Judgment and for Supplemental Relief which is now pending in the above styled and numbered cause the general objects of which are to set aside the Order Appointing Kinship Guardian Without Consent of Both Respondents entered by the Court on March 16, 2006 awarding Tina Marquez and Alberto Marquez guardianship of your minor child S.D.A., a female child born September 17, 2005 and requesting the Court to restore sole legal and physical custody of said child to Leah Dawn Pickering, and

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that unless you file a responsive pleading or appearance in this cause on or before the 31st day of January 2013 that the court will proceed to a final hearing and that the court may enter judgment in favor of Respondent and against you by default.

COLLOPY LAW OFFICES, LLC (Michael John Collopy) whose professional address is P.O. Box 2813, Hobbs, New Mexico 88241-2813 is the attorney for Respondent in said cause.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the District Court of Lea County, New Mexico this 19th day of December, 2012.

NELDA CUELLAR
Clerk of the District Court

By: /s/ Elva Rivas, Deputy

Top 10 Sports Moments of 2012

From the amazing successes of Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel and Olympic swimming star Michael Phelps to the turmoil at Penn State surrounding the Jerry Sandusky child-sex-abuse scandal, 2012 certainly was an eventful year in the sports world. The following are the year's biggest stories according to Fox Sports.

Tragic ending to 2012

Tragedy struck the NFL on back-to-back weekends in the final months of 2012. Kansas City's Jovan Belcher shot and killed his girlfriend and mother of his infant daughter, Kasandra Perkins, before driving to the Chiefs' practice facility and taking his own life in front of head coach Romeo Crennel and GM Scott Pioli. The following weekend, Cowboys lineman Josh Brent was charged with intoxication manslaughter for his role in a one-car accident that killed teammate Jerry Brown. And in just an eight-day period, the NFL found some of the thornier issues facing the league front and center: Domestic violence, gun abuse and players driving under the influence.

Swinging-gate

In March of 2012, the NFL announced that it had evidence that New Orleans Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams had created a pay-for-play system in which his players allegedly earned bonuses for inflicting injuries on opposing players. Williams would be suspended from the league indefinitely for his role in the Bountygate scandal, while Saints head coach Sean Payton was hit with a one-year suspension. Four current and former Saints players were also punished by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, with linebacker Jonathan Vilma suffering the toughest sanction (a full-season suspension) ... that is, until former commissioner Paul Tagliabue vacated all the player suspensions after being appointed to hear their appeal.

Rookie QBs don't play like rookies

Andrew Luck (12) became the first rookie to ever win nine games in his NFL debut. Robert Griffin III (right) is tied for the league lead in passer rating with a pretty good QB (that would be New England's three-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady). And neither may go further in the playoffs than Seattle's Russell Wilson. All told, it's the best crop of rookie passers since 1983. You remember them? John Elway, Dan Marino, Jim Kelly. Not bad company to be keeping.

Dodger Blue ... or is it green?

What a difference 12 months can make. When 2012 started, the Dodgers were in bankruptcy, thanks to the mismanagement of beleaguered owner Frank McCourt. As the year comes to a close, the franchise's financial fortunes have done a complete 180. Bought by the Guggenheim group in March for more than \$2 billion (a record purchase price for a professional sports franchise), the team has added more than \$600 million in player salaries.

Johnny Football becomes Johnny Heisman

Texas A&M was supposed to be out of its depth during its first sea-

son playing big-boy football in the almighty SEC. Someone forgot to tell Johnny Manziel. The redshirt freshman engineered arguably the biggest win of the college football season, leading the Aggies to an upset of then-No. 1 Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He then rode that momentum to an SEC-record 4,600 yards of total offense while becoming the first freshman ever to win the Heisman Trophy.

Summer of Serena

If losing most of the 2011 season to injury wasn't enough to make you think the end was near for Serena Williams' career, her ignominious first-round exit at the French Open might have done the trick. But just when we were ready to close the book on Williams, she added another chapter to it. In winning Wimbledon, Olympic gold and the U.S. Open in two of the more improbable months in tennis history, Williams aptly demonstrated she's far from finished.

Tiger was back, but Rory was better

For the first time since the 2009 Thanksgiving weekend incident that both tarnished his all-American image and derailed his seemingly inevitable pursuit of Jack Nicklaus' record 18 Grand Slam titles, Tiger Woods was, well, Tiger Woods again. Not only did Woods (left) win for the first time on the PGA Tour since '09, he finished the season with three wins. All of which only served to make him a worthy foil for Rory McIlroy (right), who added a second major championship to his resume while winning PGA Player of the Year honors.

Giants stun Patriots, Part II

New England wasn't going for a perfect 19-0 season, but that was about the only thing that was different as the Giants and Patriots met in the Super Bowl for the second time in five years. There was Eli Manning (pictured), engineering another last-minute drive to rally the Giants. There was another highlight catch for the ages, this time with Mario Manningham playing the role of David Tyree. And once again, the Pats could only watch as the Giants lifted the Lombardi Trophy.

Cabrera more than just a Triple threat

Regardless of where you stand on the great sabermetric debate of 2012 (and even if you do think the Angels' Mike Trout was robbed in the AL MVP voting), you have to be at least a little impressed with what Miguel Cabrera did in 2012. In batting .330 with 44 home runs and 139 RBI, the Tigers third baseman became just the 17th player and the first in 45 years to win the Triple Crown.

High Cal

The critics said it couldn't work. There was no way Kentucky head coach John Calipari was ever going to win a title in Lexington while turning over his entire starting lineup every year. Well, someone forgot to tell Anthony Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist. The centerpieces of a third consecutive No. 1 recruiting class proved to be No. 1 when it really mattered - at the Superdome in New Orleans, as the Wildcats cut down the nets following the eighth title in the program's storied history.

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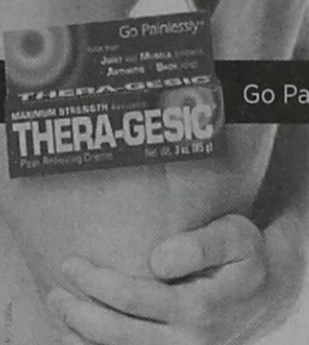


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Bids must be received at the Office of the County Commissioners Court, 200 San Augustine Street, Center, Texas 75935, prior to January 11th, 2013. Bids will be received by the County Commissioners Court at its regular meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. January 14th, 2013. The County reserves the right to refuse or reject any and all bids, as well as the right to negotiate all terms of the lease.

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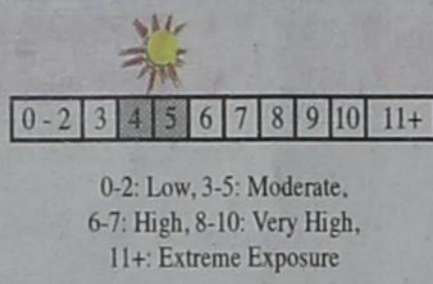
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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

Friday Sunny 60 / 29	Saturday Sunny 68 / 32	Sunday Sunny 70 / 32	Monday Sunny 58 / 28	Tuesday Mostly Cloudy 43 / 25	Wednesday Mostly Sunny 40 / 24	Thursday Sunny 45 / 21

Local UV Index



Weather Trivia

What type of lightning occurs most frequently?
Answer: Cloud to cloud lightning.

Weather History

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.

Dec. 29, 1830 - A very heavy snowstorm ushered in the "winter of the deep snow". The storm produced 30 inches of snow at Peoria, Ill. and 36 inches at Kansas City, Mo. The snow continued until the middle of February, causing great suffering among pioneers.

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see sunny skies with a high temperature of 60°, humidity of 11%. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. The record high temperature for today is 80° set in 2010. Expect mostly clear skies tonight with an overnight low of 29°. South southwest wind 10 mph. The record low for tonight is 9° set in 1983. Saturday, skies will be sunny with a high temperature of 68°, humidity of 13%. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Skies will be mostly clear Saturday night with an overnight low of 32°. Southwest wind 10 mph.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	11:30-1:30	11:00-1:00	Tue	1:50-3:50	2:20-4:20
Sat	---	11:31-1:31	Wed	2:35-4:35	3:05-5:05
Sun	12:18-2:18	12:48-2:48	Thu	3:21-5:21	3:51-5:51
Mon	1:04-3:04	1:34-3:34			

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	
Fri	7:48 a.m.	5:47 p.m.	6:22 p.m.	7:47 a.m.	New 1/11
Sat	7:48 a.m.	5:48 p.m.	7:17 p.m.	8:28 a.m.	
Sun	7:48 a.m.	5:49 p.m.	8:13 p.m.	9:07 a.m.	
Mon	7:48 a.m.	5:49 p.m.	9:10 p.m.	9:42 a.m.	
Tue	7:49 a.m.	5:50 p.m.	10:08 p.m.	10:16 a.m.	First 1/18
Wed	7:49 a.m.	5:51 p.m.	11:06 p.m.	10:49 a.m.	
Thu	7:49 a.m.	5:52 p.m.	No Rise	11:22 a.m.	

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days			
					Date	Degree Days	Date	Degree Days
12/13	65	26	53/26	0.00"	12/13	0	12/17	0
12/14	66	44	53/26	0.14"	12/14	5	12/18	0
12/15	56	37	53/26	0.00"	12/15	0	12/19	0
12/16	61	34	53/26	0.00"	12/16	0		
12/17	62	30	53/26	0.00"				
12/18	64	31	53/26	0.00"				
12/19	66	30	52/25	0.00"				

Growing degree days are calculated by taking the average temperature for the day and subtracting the base temperature (50 degrees) from the average to assess how many growing days are attained.

Dixie Divas
New Year's resolutions, or not

Of course, I'll be having black-eyed peas and collard greens for New Year's Day. It has become more than a tradition. It's almost downright superstition, though I hate to admit that.

And, of course, I'll make the usual resolutions. I'll commit those stubborn six pounds to a diet, pledge to work out more than once a week, promise to be kinder to those who are meaner and read my Bible daily.

It is safe to say I will not miss peas and collards on the first day of the new year and, by sometime in February, I will have already failed at all these resolutions. However, if I can stay away from a problem with the phone company, I may have a chance of stretching the "kinder to meaner" resolution to March.

This year, however, I'm brave enough about my past failures to audaciously add some brand spanking new ones. That's because I have a brand new husband, and I realize it is my wifely duty to help to make him a better man. I'll happily use some of my resolutions to do that.

Since you and I are such good friends, I don't mind sharing them with you and since my husband is a faithful reader of this column, he'll have a copy, too.

1. I plan to introduce him to a check register. It's helpful device that lists checks that are written and keeps a tally of money in the account. Now you should know — I'm fervent in bookkeeping and counting my pennies. He, though, totes checks in his pockets, writes them at will and never thinks to record them.

"I know what a check register is," he will say indignantly when I question whether he has ever seen one.

This year I resolve he will prove those words to me.

2. I will challenge him daily to show me he is carrying a pocketknife. Every farmer or Southern man knows a pocketknife is indispensable.

"I need something to cut the twine on these bales of hay for the horses," he said the other day.

I smiled. "That's why you're suppose to carry a pocketknife with you. You never know when you need to whip it out and cut something."

A wedding gift from our friend, Mike, was a pocketknife.

"Every man needs a pocket knife," Mike explained then tossed a nod in my direction. "And she really likes men who carry pocket knives. She says it's sexy."

3. There needs to be more reverence around our house paid to that great and mighty warrior, Gen. Robert E. Lee. I expect his birthday Jan. 19 to be treated with somber respect, and there should be no head-shaking over the fact some Southern states declare his birthday to be a state holiday. Gen. Lee is to the South what Bush Hogs are to farmers — a hero.

4. I am going to promote less hand-washing around here. My husband, who is not a doctor but often writes one on television, goes through a bar of soap every two days while a bottle of liquid soap lasts less than a week. I believe a few germs make us healthier. If you keep your body stripped of germs, how can you build up immunity to them? I will say, though, that of all my resolutions relating to the man of our house, this is the one I have the least faith in. It's probably a safer bet I will succeed in reading the Bible daily as opposed to this one. He likes clean.

So, those are my new, never-used-before resolutions. Maybe my husband will clip out this column, put it on the refrigerator and practice these things.

Or maybe I'll be repeating these resolutions again next year. Just like all my previous resolutions.

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

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