

HOME OF ALLISHA BELONGIA

# The Post Dispatch

A BUILDER IN GARZA COUNTY SINCE 1926

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2014

THEPOSTDISPATCHONLINE.COM

75 CENTS

## Garza taxpayers lead state in public debt

But, law enforcement facilities bolster jobs, County Judge says

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
For the Dispatch

Garza County residents owe more per capita in local government debt than those in any other county in the state of Texas, according to information released recently by the state comptroller's office.

In fact, Garza County residents owe 21 percent more per capita in government debt at \$44 million than even the state is indebted to itself at \$41 billion.

"Debt at a Glance" is the name for Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' online source of information about all kinds of government debt across Texas, including how much Garza County residents owe on average for the county's debt outstanding — \$6,875 each. The comptroller's website is [texas Transparency.org](http://texas Transparency.org). "Debt outstanding" is defined as the principal owed over the remaining life of all debt issues.

The listing would seem a dubious honor, but a second glance brings the other side of the financial picture into view.

The proportionately high debt doesn't translate into a greater tax burden for the 6,400-plus residents of Garza County. Rather, long-term indebtedness through bonds and certificates of obligation has enabled the county to build three facilities that produce revenue rather than draw money from county coffers.

So far, so good, both for bondholders and taxpayers.

The three facilities are the Garza County jail, the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility and the Garza County Regional Juvenile Center.

The old slogan "crime doesn't pay" may be true for those incarcerated in all three places, but crime is paying off nicely for Garza County where the three facilities are operating now at close to full capacity, County Judge Lee Norman said.

"All of them have good revenue streams coming in," he said. "All of them combined have the best occupancy rate that we've ever had."

The Dalby prison houses federal inmates. The juvenile detention center houses youth from across the state and provides specialized treatment programs for different classes of young offenders. The Garza County jail houses both local and out-of-county prisoners.

The total cost for all three, interest excluded, is \$47.2 million, according to the Texas Bond Review Board.

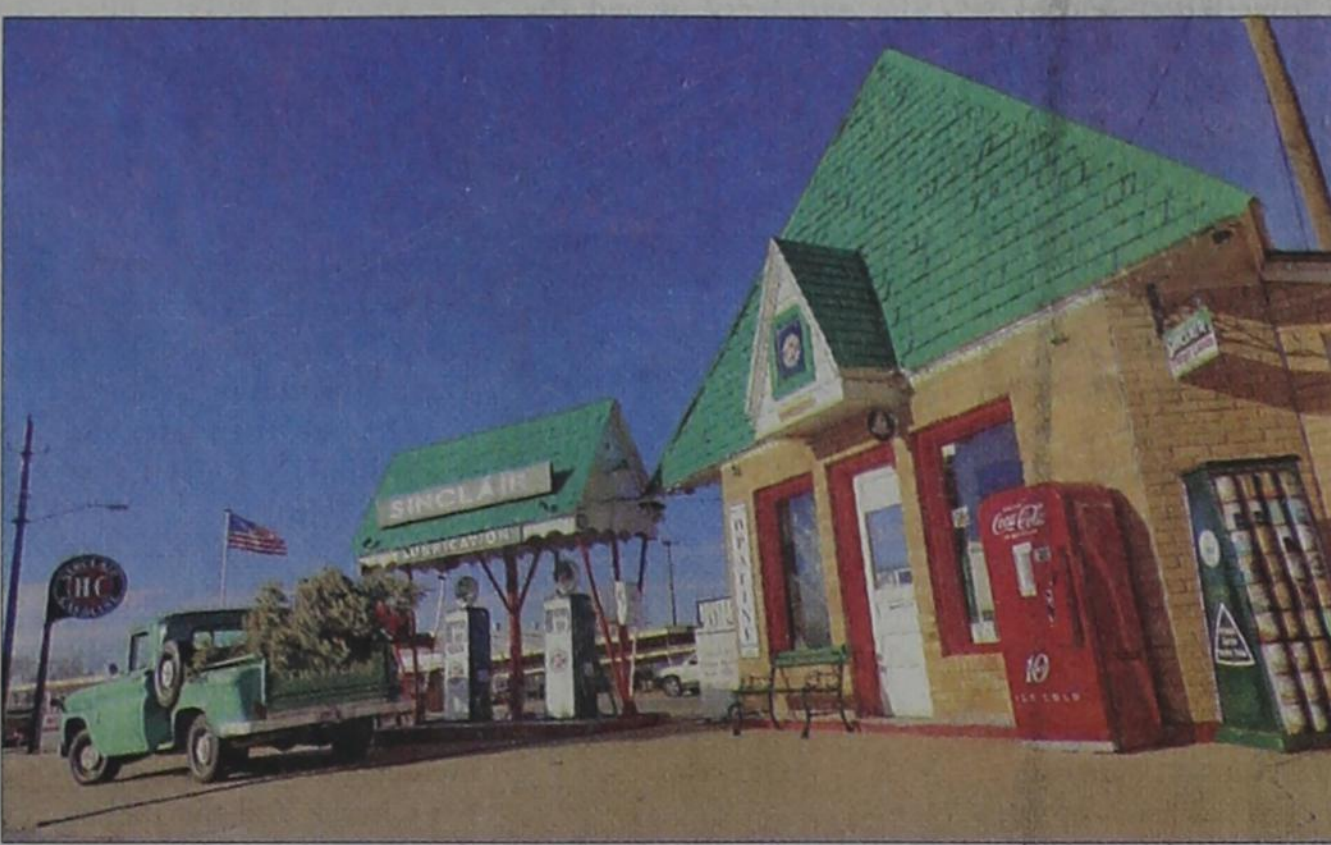
The county built the existing county jail in 2008 twice as big as it needed to be to serve Garza County needs — 96 beds instead of 48. The jail makes money from the extra cell space.

"We rent those beds out to surrounding counties, and that pays the whole debt on that facility," Norman said.

The greatest income is from the federal prison. "The Dalby Unit pays us almost a million and a half dollars a year," Norman said, pulling the figures from his memory. "The detention center doesn't pay that much. It probably pays \$60,000 a year."

See DEBT, Page 8

## Nostalgia



Hanaba Munn Welch/Blackburn Media Group

A slice of service station history, the old Triangle Sinclair Station in Snyder shows off the restoration skills of Lynn Fuller, owner, and also his friend, Franklin Bryant of Ira, who owns The Jersey Lily in Post. Bryant helped Fuller restore the gasoline pumps and some other vintage items. The station dates from 1935. Most of the memorabilia and old equipment is from the 1930s through the 1960s. Fuller's fully restored Schwinn Phantom bicycle is viewable through the windows of the station building. Fuller first drove his dad's 1963 Chevrolet pickup when he was 13 and the pickup was new. During the holiday season, the pickup bed held a Christmas tree, as if freshly felled from a nearby forest.

## Visions of the Past at Triangle Sinclair Station

Hanaba Munn Welch  
For the Dispatch

Running low on nostalgia? Stop and fill up at the Triangle Sinclair Station in Snyder -- for free.

Lynn Fuller, owner of the vintage filling station, doesn't charge anyone for looking at the restored station, complete with old gas pumps, a classic Coca Cola vending machine, flat-fixing equipment, a bell-ringing "Tireflator" machine for airing tires, an outdoor display of various brands of motor oil in cans, an oil-changing machine and other paraphernalia from the 1930s through the mid-20th century.

The sign says 29.9 for regular gas. When Fuller's friends try to hold him to the early 1960s price, he offers them a few ounces of gasoline in a glass jar -- exactly what 29.9 cents will buy at today's prices.

Inside the station, various memorabilia is on display -- everything from old Sinclair give-away roadmaps to little books for Sinclair dinosaur stamps. That's not to mention the pay phone on the wall and the classic fan sitting on the desk for hot days. Even the soap in the tiny restroom is a vintage brand. A 1937 calendar on the wall touts the Sinclair products of J. R. Craighead, distributor of the Opaline and Pennsylvania motor oil and Sinclair's H-C Gasoline sold by the station in its heyday. Old fan belts hang just above the calendar.

The station was built in 1935. Fuller's pumps are from the 1940s -- perfectly restored by Fuller and his friend Franklin Bryant of Ira, a fellow restorer. (Bryant owns

The Jersey Lily antiques and collectibles business in Post.)

"We restore stuff together," Fuller said. "He does gas pumps mostly."

Other people have also helped Fuller with his project and have given him many of the items that have turned the interior of the tiny building into a mini-museum. Anyone can look in the windows any time, day or night (thanks to his security lighting), and sometimes lucky visitors find Fuller at the station, willing to let them come inside to view everything on display up close and soak up the back-in-time feel of the special place.

Under the station is a full basement. "They bootlegged out of it," Fuller said. "Old folks around here tell me during Prohibition five dollars would get you two gallons of gas and a fifth of whiskey."

Now the station is a popular place for people to take pictures. Fuller even has a sign in the window to let folks know he's happy for them to use the place as a backdrop for personal snapshots. Dino, the iconic Sinclair dinosaur, is just the right size for anyone to pose sitting on his sturdy neck. Dino, made of aluminum and painted Sinclair green, is bolted to the concrete just under a tall authentic Sinclair sign that also harks to an era when Sinclair was a major brand in Texas. The station is especially popular when Snyder draws outsiders for special events.

"We have a bike (motorcycle) fest each year," Fuller said.

Last year's bike rally drew 4,000 riders.

See STATION Page 8

## 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.

### Church revival

The Post Church of the Nazarene, 202 W. 10th St., Post, will have revival services with the Rev. Pat Burkhalter from Jan. 29 through Feb. 2. Services through Saturday will begin at 7 p.m., and Sunday services will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend. For information contact the Rev. Chuck Gibson at 806-928-8611.

### Trade Days

Post Downtown Trade Day is slated for Feb. 1 throughout the East Main Street business corridor and also at the Post Community Center.

### Chili supper

The annual chili supper benefiting the Post Volunteer Fire Department will be Feb. 8.

### Chamber banquet

The Post Area Chamber of Commerce annual awards banquet will be Feb. 22. Make plans to attend now. Business and Citizen of the Year ballots will be sent soon.

### Tabana Yuane

The annual sunrise wind ceremony predicting the upcoming crop season will be March 22 at City Park.

See NOTES, Page 2

## Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgins at 806-495-2816 or [thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com](mailto:thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com).

## News on the go



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PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING The White River Municipal Water District (WRMWD) will hold a public meeting at: 7 p.m. Thursday, February 13, 2014 at the Heritage House, 109 N. Ave. N, in Post The purpose of this meeting is to provide information regarding the proposed master plan of park improvements on property adjacent to White River Lake. The proposed master plan, park and multi-use trail system improvements are being partially funded by an 80 percent grant through the Texas Recreation Trails Fund, administered by Texas Parks & Wildlife. Only comments relative to the proposal may be presented at the meeting. All interested parties are invited to attend this public meeting. Anyone who may need special accommodations are asked to contact Phil Elledge at 903-531-0131 at least seven (7) days prior to the Public Meeting. Every effort will be made to accommodate those needs. WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT 2880 FM 2794 SPUR, TEXAS 79370 806-263-4240

Deaths

Sherita Hair



SHERITA HAIR on Aug. 8, 1970, in Post. She and Jerry owned the

POST — Services for Sherita Hair, 60, of Post were Saturday at First Baptist Church of Post with Bo Jackson officiating. Burial was in Terrace Cemetery was under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home. She died Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014.

Sherita was born on July 5, 1953, in Lubbock to Nolan Ray and Margie (Edwards) Harper. She married Jerry Hair

Phillips Service Station as well as the Post Beverage Barn.

Survivors include her husband, Jerry Hair, of Post; children Cristy, Misty, Travis and Jerrad, all of Post; her mother of Post; brothers Sammy Harper of Lubbock and Eddie Harper of Louisiana; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

Alva Iris Shepherd



ALVA SHEPHERD

POST — Alva Iris Booth Shepherd, 84, died Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at her home with her family by her side. Services were Saturday at the Heritage House in Post with James Davenport and the Rev. Joey Hamlin, pastor of Family Harvest Church officiating. Burial followed in Terrace Cemetery in Post. Arrangements were under the personal care of Dee and Janet Justice of Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

Serving as pallbearers were Don Eilenberger, James Paul Davenport, Everett Locke, Evan Witt, Randy Mallory and John Mesej.

Born September 14, 1929, to David Samuel and Cora Manerva (Christian) Robertson in Maud, Oklahoma, Alva later graduated from

high school at Maysville. In 1950 she married Leonard Booth, who preceded her in death.

Mrs. Booth lived in Lubbock and in 1963 came to Post, where she and her husband owned and operated a boot shop and Western wear store for several years. She also was a

licensed-vocational nurse and worked for Garza Memorial Hospital and West Texas Hospital in Lubbock for 22 years, then later she worked for Dr. Larry Leininger in Post.

In 1986, Alva married O.G. "Junior" Shepherd, who preceded her in death on August 8, 1986.

Mrs. Shepherd was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Miller/Luman VFW Post 6797. She volunteered at the Alamo Restaurant and financially invested in it also.

Survivors include son David Booth of Post and stepdaughters Wanda Jewell and Treasa Brown, both of Lubbock. Also surviving Alva are many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Robert Elton Johnson

CANYON LAKE — Robert Elton Johnson, 67, formerly of Post, died Monday, Jan. 27, 2014, at his home. Services were pending with Justice-Mason Funeral Home in Post. Robert was the son of the late W.S. "Billy" and Bonnie Johnson.

Poka Lambro Scholarship Applications Now Available

Poka Lambro is now accepting applications for \$2500 scholarships. Area high school students whose parents are customers of Poka Lambro may apply. Recipients are selected based on the following criteria:

- Academic achievement
Involvement in extra-curricular activities
Educator Recommendations
Eligibility requirements:
Applicant must be graduating from an area high school
The parent or legal guardian with whom the applicant resides must be a

customer of Poka Lambro Scholarship Applications have been mailed to area schools and may also be picked up from any Poka Lambro store or printed from the Poka Lambro website - www.poka.com. Entry deadline is March 7, 2014. For additional information, please contact Amy Preston at 800-422-2387.

Forts Trail hosts regional Tourism and Preservation Roundup

ABILENE — The Texas Forts Trail will host its annual "Tourism and Preservation Roundup" on Thursday, February 6, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Coggin Avenue Baptist Church in Brownwood.

This year's RoundUp features guest speaker Chet Garner, "the Daytripper," and celebrates the Texas Forts Trail's 15th anniversary. RoundUp participants have the opportunity to network with peers from across the region, learn time-saving tricks and tools, and be among the first to be "in the know" about the region's new sites and events. Chamber, museum and tourism directors, cook-off, festival and special event managers, county historical commission members and individuals interested in promoting tourism within the region are invited to attend this one-day workshop.

Registration includes lunch and is \$45 per person if registered on or before Tuesday, February 4; \$60 for late or at-the-door registration. For those who can only attend lunch, reservations are required and due on or before Tuesday, February 4; cost is \$25 per person. The Roundup is sponsored by the Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau, the San Angelo Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce, the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Midwest Community Network, and Frontier Texas! For more information or to register, please contact the Texas Forts Trail Region at 325/795-1762 or at tft@texasfortstrail.com.

Menus

Menus: Week of Feb. 3-7

SOUTHLAND ISD

- Breakfast
Monday: Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, milk
Tuesday: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk
Wednesday: Cherry or apple strudel, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk
Thursday: Muffins, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk
Friday: Biscuits, gravy, sausage, fruit, juice, milk

- Lunch
Monday: Toasted ham and cheese sandwich, veggie cup, garden salad, oranges, baked chips, cookies, milk
Tuesday: Crispy beef taco, charro beans, garden salad, salsa, cinnamon applesauce, milk
Wednesday: Steak fingers, whipped potatoes with gravy, carrot coins, fruit, hot roll, milk
Thursday: Spaghetti with meatballs, garden salad, savory green beans, sliced peaches, milk
Friday: Hot dogs, tater tots, cucumber dippers, fresh seasonal fruit, milk

NOTES

From Page 1

Military exhibit

The Garza County Historical Museum, 119 N. Ave. N, Post, has a new exhibit of more than 100 cast-dyed military warplane models on display as part of the 72nd anniversary of the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. The planes were donated by U.S. Marine Corps veteran Patrick Reilly and will be part of the museum's permanent collection. This county museum is housed in an old sanitarium built in 1912 by C.W. Post. Exhibits feature artifacts significant to the county and of general interest to visitors. For information, call 806-495-2207.

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.

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. The Post Public Library website now offers life-learning

resources for GED test preparation, job search and workplace skills. Visit wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/pplib to register. For information, contact librarian Peggy Ashley at 990-2149.

Veterans benefits

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

School board

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

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# Capital Highlights Perry touches on pot policy in international forum

By Ed Sterling  
For the Dispatch

AUSTIN — With the end of his longevity record of 14 years as governor less than a year away, Rick Perry took part in policy discussions at the 2014 World Economic Forum Jan. 21-25 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

Perry was the only U.S. state governor to attend the forum, the governor's office said. Besides his headline-grabbing words suggesting a softer approach through drug courts on state marijuana laws, Perry said Texas is the place to be for companies seeking a business-friendly environment.

On Jan. 23, during the forum's widely publicized panel discussion on drug policy, Perry said, "I'm probably the only person who is going to be an anti-legalization person on the stage tonight." But, in the context of Tenth Amendment/state sovereignty, Perry added, "As the governor of the second-largest state in the country, what I can do is start us on policies that can start us on the road towards decriminalization."

Also on Jan. 23, while Perry was beyond Texas borders, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, as acting governor, proclaimed a liquefied petroleum gas emergency.

Texas, as a leading producer of the fuel, intends to help alleviate shortages in other states hit by extreme winter weather, Dewhurst proclaimed.

Pursuant to the proclamation, the state of Texas temporarily waived its state licensing, permitting and certification requirements for LPG trucks and operators that meet federal requirements and those of any other state whose governor has declared an LPG emergency. Such states include: Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont and Wisconsin.

## Campaign reports come in

Candidates' semiannual campaign finance reports were filed with the Texas Ethics Commission on Jan. 15. Republican Greg Abbott and Democrat Wendy Davis reportedly raised in the neighborhood of \$12 million each over the last six months, making them the top fundraisers among candidates for various state offices.

Campaign donations of \$50 or more must be reported, are public information, and can be looked up via the Texas Ethics Commission's website, ethics.state.tx.us.

Abbott, the current attorney general of Texas, and Davis, a state senator from Fort Worth, are considered frontrunners in races to be their respective parties' nominees for governor in the March 4 primary election. Early voting in that election begins Feb. 18 and ends on Feb. 28.

Of many issues that Abbott and Davis have tangled over so far in the campaign, the one that seems to get the most attention is abortion. Davis favors a woman's right to choose and Abbott is anti-abortion.

## 3 species will be studied

State Comptroller Susan Combs on Jan. 23 announced plans to support research by state-funded universities on three animal species: freshwater mussels (12 varieties); the spot-tailed earless lizard; and the massasauga, a desert-dwelling, venomous pit viper.

"This will help ensure the best science is available when determining if a species should be listed (as endangered or protected under the federal Endangered Species Act) thereby bringing more scientific rigor to the process," Combs said.

Ranges of those species "potentially cover 190 of the 254 Texas counties and the economies in these counties contribute about \$1.3 trillion of our state's gross domestic product," Combs

said. The state will use a competitive process to select the universities that will conduct the studies.

Test-passing rate lauded  
On Jan. 21 the Texas Education Agency announced that nearly 309,000 students in the class of 2015 have taken all or most of the end-of-course assessments required for graduation.

Of that number, some 76 percent of students who are in their junior year of high school already have passed the assessments they have taken and are on track to graduate under current requirements.

Education Commissioner Michael Williams praised the achievement.

## Jobless rate drops more

Texas Workforce Commission on Jan. 24 reported that the state economy "saw positive job growth in December with the addition of 17,600 seasonally adjusted total non-farm positions over the month."

Texas' unemployment rate decreased for the fifth consecutive month, down to 6.0 percent in December and employers added 252,400 jobs in 2013, according to the agency.

The national unemployment rate is 6.7 percent.

## Justice passes milestone

Nathan L. Hecht, chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court, became the body's longest-serving member on Jan. 26. Hecht's first day as a member of the body was more than 25 years ago, on Jan. 1, 1988.

Hecht surpassed the tenure of the previous longest-serving justice, Joe Greenhill, who retired from the court in 1982 and died in 2011. Greenhill served 10 years as chief justice. Hecht was appointed chief justice by Gov. Perry last fall, succeeding Wallace B. Jefferson at the post.

# AgriLife Extension New rangeland expert available to Garza residents

By Steve Byrns  
Special to the Dispatch

SAN ANGELO — Morgan Russell has joined the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as the new range specialist.

Although headquartered at San Angelo, Russell will be responsible for the leadership and coordination of the AgriLife Extension's range education component in 28 West Texas counties, including those in the West Central, Rolling Plains and South Plains districts.

Among those counties included are Crosby, Borden, Garza, Haskell, Knox and Stonewall counties; also Dickens and King counties.

Robert Lyons, assistant chairman with the Texas A&M University Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, said the Extension faculty is pleased to welcome Russell to West Texas.

"Dr. Russell has the background, knowledge, enthusiasm and drive needed to successfully assist our county staffs in meeting the needs of their residents," Lyons said.

Lyons said the scope of her responsibilities will include providing technical expertise, training and teaching materials for AgriLife Extension agents, specialists, residents and organizations for effective management of the rangeland resource.

"Native range makes up the bulk of the agricultural endeavors in most of the counties within this region in terms of total acreage," Lyons said. "Proper range management in this area of the state is very vital, because a healthy range resource is paramount to successful livestock and wildlife management. It also helps maintaining viable aquifers and improve recharge zones to maintain those aquifers not only for agricultural purposes, but also for our state's growing population."

A native of Ruidoso, N.M., Russell earned doctorate and master's degrees in range science from North Dakota State University and New Mexico State University, respectively. She also holds a bachelor's degree in animal science and agricultural communications from Utah State University.

She has a strong background in prescribed burning of native rangelands and working with livestock grazing, including behavioral studies, diet quality and selection, stocking rates, post-fire and drought grazing strategies and breed differences of desert-adapted cattle.

Russell's professional activities include memberships in the Society for Range Management, International Association of Wildland Fire, Ecological Society of America, American Society of Animal Science and the American Quarter Horse Association.

The counties Russell has primary responsibilities in are:

- Far West District: Howard.
- Rolling Plains District: Dickens, King, Knox, Kent, Stonewall and Haskell.
- South Plains District: Crosby, Garza, Borden, Scurry and Mitchell.
- West Central District: Tom Green, Irion, Concho, McCulloch, San Saba, Sterling, Coke, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, Nolan, Taylor, Callahan, Fisher, Jones and Shackelford.

Russell fills the position formerly held by Allan McGinty, who retired in 2010.

Prices Good Thru 02/22/14



to Our Pro-Bowl Trip Winners Matt & Molly



Scott Stanfield, Allsup's (left), and John Taylor, Pepsi (far right) present an All-Inclusive Trip to the ProBowl to Matt & Molly Flotte of Cloudcroft, NM (center).

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FOR

# 2014 Garza County Junior Livestock Show



Goat Reserve grand champion buckle is sponsored by Kenny & Carla Reiter to Taylor Osborn.



Lamb Reserve grand champion buckle is sponsored by Garza Abstract represented by Paige Huckaby goes to Matti Smith.



Market Rabbit Reserve Grand buckle sponsored by Thompson & Thompson Victoria Huckaby.



The Steer Grand Champion Buckle is sponsored by Big Country Electric Cooperative to Pake Jones.



Swine Grand Champion Buckle is sponsored by Crown Unlimited Inc. Callie Odom.



Goat Grand Champion Buckle is sponsored by Milton & Billie Williams and Keith & Roxanne Osborn represented by Milton Williams goes to Taylor Osborn



Presenting Senior showmanship buckles for sponsor Lynn/Garza Farm Bureau is Keith Williams. Senior - Beef - Pake Jones



Grassland Co-op Gin sponsored the Senior showmanship buckle for the Goat show. Senior - Alexander Ramirez



Senior Lamb Showmanship - Matti Smith



Presenting Junior showmanship buckles for sponsor Centennial Bank of Post is Michael Crump. Junior Beef - Blaine Graves



Gary McDaniel sponsored the Junior showmanship buckle for the Goat show. Junior - Kolton Wink



Junior Lamb - Landon Greer

# Senior Livestock Association Sale



Reserve grand champion Steer buckle is sponsored by Gary McDaniel goes to Pake Jones.



Swine Reserve grand champion buckle is sponsored by Delton, Dusti, Brian, Blaine & Bandy Osborn represented by Dusti Osborn goes to Auggie Menchaca represented by Blaine Osborn.



Grand Champion Heifer Buckle sponsored by The Graves Family represented by Sydney Graves and the buckle goes to Elizabeth Payton.



Lamb Grand Champion Buckle is sponsored by South Plains Electric co-op Matti Smith.



Grand Champion Market Rabbit Buckle sponsored by West Texas Testers Latham Huckaby.



D & D Dawson Enterprises sponsored the Senior showmanship buckle for the Market Rabbits. Senior - Victoria Huckaby



Senior Showmanship Swine - Katie Dunn



It takes a lot of work to put a show like this on and several youth pitch in to help without having to be asked. But, there always seems to be one that goes the extra mile in assisting others and demonstrating leadership. The Garza County Jr. Livestock Association Directors select one to receive the coveted All Around Sportsmanship Buckle. Caprock Telephone Co., Inc. of Spur is the sponsor. This year's winner is Blaine Osborn.



Standard Energy Services sponsored the Junior showmanship buckle for the Rabbit Show and is represented by Terry Payton and the buckle goes to junior Kelson Lee.



Junior Swine - Cory Hamilton



Junior Top Hand Award is sponsored by The Altman Group. Presenting the Junior Top Hand Award is Barry Altman. This year's winner is Latham Huckaby

# The Paperboy Don't feel sorry for us!

**W**e are hearing more and more about income inequality. Before delving into this subject, let me say up front it is a superficial issue being used to take the focus off of other fires currently raging throughout the federal government.

Since this column was written before President Obama's State of the Union on



**CHRIS BLACKBURN**

Tuesday night, I haven't a clue what he'll say on the topic, but I suspect he'll point out the obvious. He may even want to raise the minimum wage. Regardless, this is a topic I'm glad has surfaced because maybe it can be put to rest for good. That is, if people have common sense...

I suppose in a utopian society where we all wear robes and live off the land that income equality would be great. No rich, no middle, no poor — just a beautiful society where we drink clean water from the crystal clear river, feed each other grapes and enjoy each 72-degree day.

Unfortunately, we are far from that as a society. However, we are the richest country on Earth. Even our poor would be considered wealthy in most of the countries on Earth.

Income inequality, or class warfare, is a silly argument and everyone should know that a society without wealth — where everyone gets the same — is a very poor society.

When politicians speak this way it says to me, "Hey, I'm real smart, and you're real dumb, so I'm going to tell everybody what to do and how to live. You over here are too good so we're going to handicap you. You over here are not good enough so we're going to give you stuff for free."

Where's the pride in this thought pattern? Where's the motivation to say, "I did it!"

Shouldn't I value my friend for the friendship they provide me? I have never thought of any of my friends better than the other. What their net worth is does not figure into the equation.

Such superficial observations should be far from your mind. For instance, I have good friends who work on our highways. I have good friends who work at our prison. I have good friends who work in law enforcement. I have good friends who teach. Do any of us think for a second the vast majority of these individuals is going to become wealthy doing their jobs?

No. Do they bust their tails and provide a good life for their families?

Absolutely. Are they essential in our day-to-day lives? Of course.

Here in the sticks we know each other. There aren't many secrets. We know who is rich, and we know who is poor. We help those in need, and most of the time we get along.

I always find it ironic when millionaires tell us how wrong it is that the superwealthy are somehow hurting us by being rich.

Our millionaire president, his billionaire buddies, and all of the millionaire movie stars and celebrities he hangs out with, like to point out how bad they feel for being rich because us poor folk are so oppressed.

Guess what? That's not oppression. It's depression.

The Americans I hang out with want to be left alone. They want to be able to use more of their hard-earned money. They want to feel free to make their own decisions without some bureaucratic red tape standing in their way.

As Americans, we are free to pursue our dreams. We are free to achieve our goals. Many times we fail. So what? As Americans, we are free to get up off the mat and try again.

We have Americans who chase dreams. Thank God! Because when people like Henry Ford, Steve Jobs and Bill Gates achieve their dreams, they create incredible products that advance our world. More importantly, they create millions of jobs, which create wealth.

I do not begrudge anyone for becoming what they can. If that's an awesome third-grade teacher, fantastic. If that's a doctor, great. Last I checked, we need both.

Frankly, I can think of dozens of issues far more important than a fabricated issue based on the manipulation of data.

You want to close the gap between the rich and poor in this country? How about encouraging couples to marry before they have children so those children are raised in a stable household? How about giving tax breaks to encourage financial support for youth facilities and programs around the country?

There are many ways to energize a workforce leading to a better life for U.S. residents. Why aren't we discussing lifting one another up in those terms?

Mr. President, don't judge me. Get out of the way and allow me to live in this country as it was designed. I appreciate the sentiment, but I place my trust in the residents of this country and not the government.

Look no further than the wallet, Mr. President. We're all rich compared to you guys. In a few months, you and your colleagues in Washington will have your beloved government in a negative \$17 trillion debt. To my knowledge, that's by far the most debt that exists anywhere on this planet.

I don't want an organization like that telling me what to do or how to live. That's not a job you or anyone else in Washington is very good at.

Chris Blackburn is CEO of Blackburn Media Group and publisher 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](mailto:chris@blackburnmediagroup.com) and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

# Legends The Story of Chester Tatum

**A** Southland native, Johnny P. Haire, brought to my attention the 1961 gun battle that left one man dead, 61 year-old farm hand Mr. Chester Tatum. Tatum was a well



**LINDA PUCKETT**

thought of black man who worked on Mr. J.O. Roberts' farm and for others all over the Pleasant Valley community. Earlier on the day of the shooting, the Sheriff's office received a call stating that Tatum was seen "acting strangely" over in the Lincoln Heights addition, also known as the "flats".

Officers checked out the call and took to the office of a local physician who talked to him for about 15 minutes, and according to Sheriff Claborn, found him to be answering all the questions quite rationally.

Deputy Corley took Tatum home to the Roberts farm. Roberts told them to leave him at his home, a little three-room house, but asked that the deputy return in about an hour to see how he was doing.

One officer was just getting ready to drive back to the farm when the call came that Tatum had shot 75 year-old J.O. Roberts. Tatum had worked for Roberts for over 20 years.

Sheriff Claborn said the shooting occurred when Roberts attempted to take Tatum some food. Tatum lived in a small house about 50 yards from the Farm house of Robert. Tatum called through the screen door as Roberts approached, "Don't come in here, Mr. Roberts." He began backing away from the door but Tatum fired through the screen door hitting Roberts in the stomach.

It was reported that Roberts was said to be holding his own at West Texas Hospital in Lubbock after undergoing surgery.

Tatum refused to answer the pleas of Garza County Sheriff Fay Claborn and Slaton Police Chief Gene Martin to come out of the house on the Roberts farm, located a mile west and one and a fourth mile south of Pleasant Valley in Northern Garza County. Instead he fired point blank through the door at Chief Martin with the slug grazing Martin's chin. Claborn and Martin had driven a patrol car within a few feet of

the front door. The gun battle lasted about 85 minutes with some 20 officers firing about 200 rounds of ammunition and six tear gas bombs into the house with Tatum shooting back through the door and window with only a pistol. The battle ended when Garza County Deputy Sheriff Elton Corley ran to the door of the house, shot the latch off the door, and Texas Ranger Captain Raymond Walters kicked it in. They found Chester Tatum dead on the floor with "a" gunshot wound to the chest.

Officers answering the call other than the ones already mentioned, included three other Slaton policemen, Sgt. Jim Paulk, Highway Patrol Capt. E.L. Posey, Sgt. E.L. Stroud and about a dozen highway patrolmen from Lubbock.

The three-room block building was riddled with bullets from rifles, shotguns, and pistols. Officers three times failed in their efforts to shoot tear gas bombs through the window into the house.

[Linda's note] What I have written here was from the newspaper article in Post Dispatch. I left out one part that related to one other shooting incident two years prior on the Roberts farm when Tatum fired his pistol with the bullet going through Roberts' door and ending up under his son's bed. Although the Roberts' home is west of the small house, Tatum told Roberts he had shot south. Now I would assume that maybe he was a little tipsy which would explain that incident.

Johnny Haire was just a kid, but recalls how he talked his grandmother into driving out there to see what was going on. He mentioned that back then you could do that. He said it really wasn't a good idea though because bullets were whizzing by. He also said that he had heard (over the years) that farmers had gathered out there for a cookout or something and somebody was making fun or razzing Mr. Tatum and got him all fired up. Someone else also mentioned they had heard that while he was in the flats he had been given a pistol.

My question would be; how did this man fight off 20 cops shooting 200 rounds, three tear gas bombs and armed with only a pistol? Then to die from only "one" shot to the chest.

Interesting story for sure. See you next week.

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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**  
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# LIVE ANTELOPE AND LADY ANTELOPE ACTION! POSTSPORTSRADIO.COM

## The 501 Give Granny '3' for keeping quiet

Grandson Cutter, age 7, is playing basketball. What to do to be sure he turns into a star on the hardwood? Should a grandmother offer pointers? Probably not. Cutter, decent ball handler, seems content with his skills. Eventually he'll score. Meanwhile, his team has been winning. After the last game, he was smiling big. "I won!" he said.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Maybe he'll end up in politics. Taking credit for all positive outcomes is the way that game is played. Right? Me, I remember my own first basketball game — a Saturday night contest at the school. I was a sixth-grader. Like a movie, the whole game replayed itself in my mind the next morning during the preacher's sermon. I lived again through every mistake.

They were legion. I remembered absolutely nothing good about my performance on the court. It's a wonder I didn't walk the aisle to confess what a sorry player I'd turned out to be — a disappointment to myself and others. Remorse filled my heart. Things eventually improved, but what a rough start to my years on the court. Cutter, au contraire, is blissfully unaware of any shortcomings in his abilities. Would it be OK for me to help him improve his game? Can I tell him, for instance, to stay between his man and the goal on defense? I've already asked the coach if that's still the rule of thumb, not wanting to contradict some new-fangled approach to

the game. The coach, a nice young man, said that's what they tell the boys at every practice. I asked Cutter if the coach had told him to stay between his man and the goal. "No," he said. "What do they tell you?" "Just guard 'em," he said. Cutter thinks he knows all about guarding. It's probably best he remain confident. After all, his guardees have yet to figure out they can drop back to get away from his unwelcome presence right in front of them.

So I'm keeping my grandmotherly mouth shut. It's part of my new skill set. Yet I couldn't help but check out a basketball at the Y to shoot some goals. I've gotta be ready if Cutter wants to play ball on our minuscule backyard court. I'm losing it. My aim was true, but I can't sink anything from the three-point line. The goal is just a little too far away. Did somebody move it? I knew I'd lost my ability to jump and touch the ceiling, but where'd my arm and wrist strength go? I finally made a few shots by putting my weight into the effort. My only observer was the old silver-haired guy jogging around the court on an elevated track. No doubt he was cheering me on in his own aging heart.

I shouldn't fret. In our back yard, we've barely got room for free throws. For now, it's the right-sized court for Cutter and me. It's getting too late to make him learn more nursery rhymes. Maybe we can at least play some basketball.

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

## Sports Roundup Winless Lopes persevere through district

The Post Dispatch  
Post's varsity Antelope basketball squad played two tough games against Childress on Jan. 24 and Slaton on Jan. 21. While the Antelopes made a valiant effort and did not relent, it was ultimately the Slaton Tigers and Childress Bobcats that came out victorious. Childress won, 84-53, while the score in the Slaton game was 64-41. The leading scorers in the Childress game were Campbell Kirkpatrick with 13 points, Bryan Smith with 12 points, Austin Garza with nine points, and Cambry Gilbert with nine points as well.

Leading scorers for the Antelopes during the Slaton game were Garza with 11 points, Jaybren Rodriguez with six points, Gilbert with six points as well, Shandon Wiley with five points, Bryan Smith managed five points, and Carson Kirkpatrick put up five as well. Post is now 0-9 on the regular season and 0-3 in district play, having lost some close games. The Antelopes will be going up against Roosevelt on Tuesday and will have a rematch with Slaton on Feb. 7.

Geoffrey Baumgartner

## Seventh, eighth grade Lopes dominate Slaton

The 8th grade team took on the Slaton Tigers and won with a score of 64-14. The Antelopes continue their winning streak, led by Chance Courtney, Dealean Reed, Michael Phergueson and Aric Garza. The Antelopes got after it on both sides of the ball and were very aggressive. The Antelopes go into action Monday against the Childress Bobcats. The 7th grade Antelopes team traveled to Slaton last Monday night and took on the Tigers. The Antelopes won with a

score of 42-17. Leading the way for the Antelopes were Jeremiah Martin, Benton Justic and Zach Smith. "I was very impressed with how well we played on both sides of the ball," coach Josh Reese said. The Antelopes will take on the Childress Bobcats this coming Monday night at Antelope Arena.

Staff reports

### 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 Barry Manilow

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ  
J

I A A  
FMFOBSRNLE BUQ KJB JLV VU  
I A I A I A  
NK RJMNL E JL NCAJHS UL USRFOK

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## Puzzle of the Week

### CLUES ACROSS

- Pock mark
- Yes, yes (span.)
- Cas... winter melons
- Inter... intervening period
- Moses' elder brother
- ... date: confirm
- Assist in wrongdoing
- Pilfer (slang)
- Ardor
- ... vidi, vici
- ... jan ... Window coverings
- Zilch
- ... Dhabi, Arabian capital
- A marching procession
- Winters, opposite
- Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences
- Cause to lose courage
- Paper bag
- Insecticide
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Volume equal to 2 butts
- Sew up a hawk's eyelids
- Elastance unit
- Stalk of a moss capsule
- Inanely foolish
- About vision
- Petersen film " ... Boot"
- Saddle horse
- New Haven school
- Tempo
- Skin lesions
- Thought
- Minerals
- Electronic intelligence
- A beloved person
- Totals
- Cheap lodging (Br. slang)
- Sidhartha author H...
- A type of fencing sword
- Epic... gourmet
- Honey badger
- Roman shields
- Vaccinium or ... berry
- Burl in wood
- Without hat
- No longer in use
- A dense growth of trees
- Lessen
- No (Scottish)
- Automobile
- Genus geum
- 36 inches
- Breezed through
- ... contendere, plead no contest
- Fleur-de-lis flower
- Famous March date
- Orange pekoe or green
- Agile, lively
- Blue grass genus

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

POST DISPATCH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13				14					15			
16				17					18			
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	50	51				52	53			54	55	56
57						58				59		
60						61				62		
63						64				65		

### PUZZLE SOLUTION

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V	E	D	I			S	E	H	O	S		E	C	V	F				
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H	V	T	P			C	O		E	N		I	N	I	S	V			
V	L	E	S			F	V	H	V	D		T	E	E	S				
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K	C	V	S			E	H	V	C	S		S	V	H	V				
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S	D	N	I			T	B	N	V	I		I	N	E	L				
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I	T	V	A			N	O	H	V	V		E	D	P	T				
S	V	B	V			I	S	I	S			R	V	C	S				

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# NCC responds to Brazilian cotton growers delegation comments

The National Cotton Council is deeply disappointed and disturbed by statements to the press made by representatives of the Brazilian cotton industry. If reports are accurate, a Brazilian cotton delegation visiting Washington has misrepresented the carefully negotiated agreement between U.S. and Brazilian grower organizations and wrongly portrayed the reformed cotton provisions in the farm legislation now being considered by Congress.

The growers' agreement was negotiated during a series of cordial meetings conducted in Brazil and the United States. During the meetings, the Brazilian growers received a detailed explanation of the insurance program, requested further modifications to cotton provisions (the insurance product had already been modified based on comments by Brazilian government officials), and spent considerable time discussing ways the U.S. and Brazilian grower organizations could cooperate. As a result of the discussions, U.S. growers asked Congress to make additional modifications to the cotton provisions and to broaden the scope of projects that could be conducted using the nearly \$500 million in funds transferred to the Brazilian Cotton Institute (BCI) under the U.S.-Brazil Framework Agreement.

In comments to the press, the Brazilian growers imply the acceptability of program reforms was contingent on the continued transfer of funds to the BCI. Throughout the negotiations, U.S. growers cautioned the Brazilian growers that the transfer of funds was increasingly controversial and in jeopardy. Certainly, U.S. growers were disappointed that Administration officials announced in August that the transfers would be terminated October 1, essentially abrogating the Framework Agreement under which Brazil has agreed to postpone retaliation while the new farm bill is developed by Congress. U.S. growers appreciate the

patience of the Brazilian government in delaying retaliation while work on the new farm bill is completed.

The comments by the Brazilian growers that they would support retaliation are deeply disappointing to U.S. growers who have delivered significant policy reform, supported further modifications to the cotton provisions, supported the request to expand authority to use the nearly \$500 million already transferred to the BCI, and supported maintaining the Framework Agreement. Although their comments were couched in politically correct terms like "single undertaking," it is clear the Brazilian growers simply want more money in addition to the policy reforms. It is also clear that they are willing to misrepresent the insurance program to achieve their objective.

Under the new insurance option, cotton growers could purchase supplemental insurance that includes a significant deductible that was actually increased in response to earlier criticisms. The insurance product covers a narrow band of lost income in the event that actual revenue does not meet a percentage of projected revenue. The product does not cover all losses and is not an incentive to over-produce. Acreage decisions will be determined by the market price of cotton relative to competing crops. This is not a program that will distort production or markets. Cotton growers would also be ineligible for other price and revenue programs available to grain and oilseed producers. The delegation singled out the premium subsidy under STAX, but it should be noted that the subsidy is set at the same level as several other existing policies available to U.S. growers.

The U.S. industry shares the concerns expressed regarding China's massive stockpiles of cotton. Those stockpiles are creating tremendous uncertainty in the global cotton market. However, we

strongly disagree with the characterization that STAX provides greater support in times of low prices. There is no price guarantee; the revenue coverage is based on prevailing market prices at planting time. If futures markets move lower, then support under insurance products also moves lower. Rather than criticize the United States for authorizing a modest insurance program that might provide some assistance to growers if China does dump their stocks, it would seem more appropriate for Brazilian growers to convey their concern directly to Chinese authorities, just as U.S. growers have already done.

Today's agricultural markets, including cotton's, are entirely different from the period evaluated by the WTO Panel, which was 1999 through 2005. Renewable fuels and the emergence of the Chinese and Indian economies have brought new influences and market drivers. A comparison of the 1999-2005 period with the most recent five years (2009 to 2013) shows that U.S. upland cotton planted area is down 21 percent, U.S. upland cotton production is down 23 percent, Brazilian cotton area is up 27 percent, and Brazilian production is up 62 percent. World cotton prices averaged 88 percent higher over the past five years than during the period of the WTO challenge.

In summary, the U.S. cotton industry is prepared to accept, and in fact, has promoted major policy reforms to settle the longstanding dispute. Further, the U.S. industry is willing, on final settlement, to make good its commitment to cooperate with the Brazilian industry. In addition, the U.S. industry supports the reinstatement of the Framework Agreement. But, it is time for the Brazilian industry to acknowledge that the new cotton insurance program is substantial reform. It is time to put this matter behind us, but the reported comments by the Brazilian delegation are not a step in the right direction.



A slice of service station history, the old Triangle Sinclair Station in Snyder shows off the restoration skills of Lynn Fuller, owner, and also his friend, Franklin Bryant of Ira, who owns The Jersey Lily in Post. Bryant helped Fuller restore the gasoline pumps and some other vintage items. The station dates from 1935. Most of the memorabilia and old equipment is from the 1930s through the 1960s. Fuller's fully restored Schwinn Phantom bicycle is viewable through the windows of the station building. Fuller first drove his dad's 1963 Chevrolet pickup when he was 13 and the pickup was new.



Lynn Fuller, owner of the old Triangle Sinclair Station in Snyder, leans on his 1963 Chevy pickup and visits with passers-through from Houston, Alli Nauert and Kirk Fuson. In the background is a 1940s gasoline pump restored by Fuller and his friend Franklin Bryant, owner of The Jersey Lily, an antiques and collectibles business in Post.

## DEBT

From Page 1

Norman is quick to say the reason for building the three facilities and for expanding the prison hasn't been just for money, even if the ventures have proven profitable.

"Our real emphasis is providing services and providing the jobs," he said. "It's afforded some second incomes when needed. It's another employment

opportunity."

The three facilities employ about 500 people.

"The Dalby hires over 300 people," Norman said. "Probably 350 with administration. The detention center is upwards of 80 people. The county jail is in the 50 range, just the jail, not counting the deputies."

Like a good news-bad news joke, the business of housing offenders shows no signs of declining, whatever ups and downs

the general economy experiences.

"It's a strong, steady business," Norman said, acknowledging the irony of looking at the incidence of crime in today's society as what it takes to keep the facilities profitable to the county from a dollars-and-cents point of view.

That's not to mention the significance of jobs provided and wages paid.

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

## STATION

From Page 1

"I guarantee you, 3,000 of them stopped to get pictures," Fuller said. "When we have those events, I just kind of sit up there and talk to people."

Fuller himself takes pictures of the bikers and prints them onsite, giving the pictures away but accepting donations to help maintain the station. This year he plans to have T-shirts and coffee mugs too for the fest.

Snyder counts the station as one of its main attractions, featuring it on a billboard among Snyder sites to see.

The old station is a popular place for high school reunion activities.

"We'll have an old car

from their (graduation) year," Fuller said.

Fuller, who divides his time between his home in Fort Worth and his place in the country near Snyder, spends time at the station when he can.

"I love sitting up there on Saturdays," Fuller said. "Everybody in town honks, waves."

It's a labor of love.

"You've got to be in it for the enjoyment of it -- not for profit," he said.

Fuller, semi-retired with a background in law enforcement and security work, has been restoring vintage collectibles like gas pumps and Coke machines as a hobby for 30 years. When the station came up for sale, he couldn't resist buying it.

"I loved that station ever since I was a kid," he said.

Now, more than just a restored building, it's a showplace for his shiny restorations.

"When I bought it, I really meant to keep it up a little bit, paint it," he said. "I don't know where to stop."

Even though a stopping point isn't in sight, Fuller now has the station equipped and enhanced enough to make all visitors feel like they've stepped back in time whether they're lucky enough to find the little station open for inside tours. They can always walk up to the pumps for a close-up look or walk out to the far point of the triangular site to look up at the old Sinclair sign and beneath it, to see the smiling Dino face to face, not exactly smiling but always ready for one more memorable snapshot.

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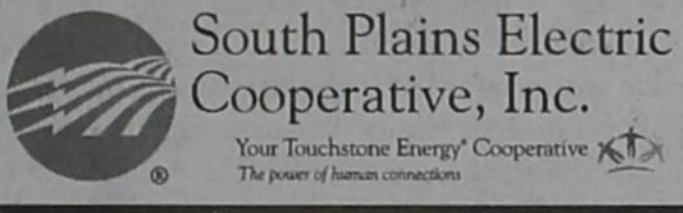
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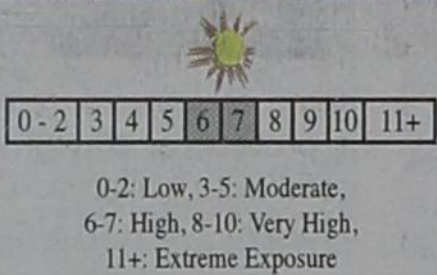
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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

<b>Friday</b> Mostly Sunny 73 / 37	<b>Saturday</b> Mostly Sunny 55 / 26	<b>Sunday</b> Mostly Sunny 51 / 31	<b>Monday</b> Mostly Sunny 56 / 31	<b>Tuesday</b> Mostly Sunny 50 / 28	<b>Wednesday</b> Sunny 54 / 30	<b>Thursday</b> Sunny 51 / 25

Local UV Index



Weather Trivia

What is the rush of water preceding a hurricane called?  
 Answer: Storm surge.

Weather History

**Jan. 31, 1911** - Tamarack, Calif. was without snow the first eight days of the month, but by the end of January had been buried under 390 inches of snow, a record monthly total for the United States.  
**Feb. 1, 1951** - The greatest ice storm of record in the United States produced glaze up to four inches thick from Texas to Pennsylvania, causing 25 deaths, 500 serious injuries and 100 million dollars in damage. Tennessee was the state hardest hit by the storm.

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 73°, humidity of 23%. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. The record high temperature for today is 82° set in 1967. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 37°. Southwest wind 10 to 20 mph. The record low for tonight is 9° set in 1985. Saturday, skies will be mostly sunny with a high temperature of 55°, humidity of 37%. East northeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Skies will be partly cloudy Saturday night with an overnight low of 26°. East northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	1:09-3:09	12:39-2:39	Tue	4:39-6:39	4:09-6:09
Sat	2:04-4:04	1:34-3:34	Wed	5:28-7:28	4:58-6:58
Sun	2:57-4:57	2:27-4:27	Thu	6:17-8:17	5:47-7:47
Mon	3:49-5:49	3:19-5:19			

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
<b>First 2/6</b>	Fri 7:40 a.m.	6:17 p.m.	7:58 a.m.	7:37 p.m.
Sat 7:40 a.m.	6:18 p.m.	8:41 a.m.	8:45 p.m.	
Sun 7:39 a.m.	6:19 p.m.	9:21 a.m.	9:51 p.m.	
<b>Full 2/14</b>	Mon 7:38 a.m.	6:20 p.m.	9:59 a.m.	10:55 p.m.
Tue 7:38 a.m.	6:20 p.m.	10:38 a.m.	11:56 p.m.	
Wed 7:37 a.m.	6:21 p.m.	11:17 a.m.	Next Day	
Thu 7:36 a.m.	6:22 p.m.	11:57 a.m.	12:55 a.m.	

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days	
					Date	Degree Days
1/21	63	21	52/24	0.00"	1/21	0
1/22	50	20	52/25	0.00"	1/22	0
1/23	36	11	52/25	0.00"	1/23	0
1/24	53	9	53/25	0.00"	1/24	0
1/25	64	21	53/25	0.00"		
1/26	69	30	53/25	0.00"		
1/27	41	15	53/25	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 Remembering Davey Allison

It happened recently. The 20th anniversary of the death of stock car racer Davey Allison. Maybe you remember him. Maybe you don't. But I shall never forget him.

The first time I met him was when he won an ARCA race at the track then called Atlanta International Raceway. I was a sports writer covering the event. He was happy but his joy was marred by the death of another driver that day. The next time I saw him was a couple of years later in Talladega. Never have I seen anyone as happy — just bursting with unbridled joy — as Davey was that day.



RONDA RICH

Neil Bonnett, part of the Alabama gang that included every racing Allison there ever was and a short tracker named Red Farmer, had been injured the previous week and was unable to drive his Junior Johnson-owned Chevrolet. He suggested Davey who had never driven in the big leagues but knew every short track turn in the Southeast by memory.

Junior agreed and what was resulted was public relations mania for everyone involved. After all, what is a better story than a hometown boy making his debut on the world's fastest super speedway, filling in for a man who is like an uncle to him, racing against his own father, Bobby?

Though I'm prone to overstatements, it is not one when I say that I have never seen anyone shimmer with such happiness. I'm grinning now just recalling how that tall, scrawny kid with that familiar Allison shoulder hunch did not quit smiling all weekend. Those few races where he filled in for Bonnett paid off. By the time the next season rolled around, Davey had a full-time ride with a top notch team and wealthy sponsorships. He won the pole for the Daytona 500 and put the sport on notice: An up-and-coming superstar had arrived. In the next Daytona 500, the Allison's ran one-and-two with Bobby winning.

We became good buddies in those youthful days when life was unblemished by worries and we, like too many kids, thought we were invincible and immortal. Remember those days? Remember when laughter rang brightly and we thought nothing of throwing all caution to the wind? Sometimes Davey would sidle up to me in the garage, elbow me then, with that twinkle in his brown eyes inherited from his dad, would tease about one of many somethings. He often strode up behind, pulled my hair then stepped out of sight when I turned around.

"I think," he said one day, grinning, "that that guy over there likes you." He pointed to the fence that separated the garage from the infield. There hanging onto the fencing was a pot-bellied, shirtless man who was far past three sheets in the wind. Davey winked. "He asked me to get your number for him."

There were many things he teased me about including a prank that Bobby had once played on me. I turned the tables on him one day when he had won the pole in Darlington by telling a story that Bobby had told me about Davey's first race in Birmingham and all the caution flags he brought out. Davey, usually good-natured, did not laugh when I told that one to the entire press room.

And then he died. It ended there at Talladega where it all started. He crashed a helicopter, landing to see Bonnett test. Three months earlier another friend, Alan Kulwick, had died in a plane crash. My spirit was so dark that I wondered if I would ever laugh again. Less than a year later, the amicable Bonnett died, too, during practice for the Daytona 500.

It's been 20 years without Davey Allison and I, at last, am able to laugh at his antics rather than recalling just the sorrow. And there are the lessons, too, that he taught.

Like we're not invincible. And, importantly, use every day to seize that which makes you bubble with happiness.

Ronda Rich is the best-selling author of My Life In The Pits. Visit www.rondarich.com to sign up for her weekly newsletter.

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## America's Farmers Grow Monsanto announces third annual school grant program

The Monsanto Fund is kicking off the third year of the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program. Monsanto announced recently that the program is expanding this year and are now in 1,289 counties in 39 states. Farmers again will have the opportunity to nominate their local public school district for a grant of either \$10,000 or \$25,000 for math and science education. Nominations are accepted through April 6, and winners will be announced in August. Farmers can nominate three easy ways: online at grow-ruleducation.com; by calling 877-267-3332; or via fax

or mail through paper forms available at the program's website. Since the program began, the Monsanto Fund has partnered with the America's Farmers Grow effort to provide nearly \$5 million in financial support for rural public school districts. Past winners from the Plain Cotton Growers service area include Dawson ISD, Dalhart ISD, Kress ISD, Levelland ISD, Shallowater ISD and Southland ISD.

The Post Dispatch

**TO sunny CALIFORNIA!** FROM THE WINDSWEPT TEXAS PLAINS  
 Happy 21st Birthday to our baby girl all the way out in Oceanside, CA! We love you more than words...  
 Mom, Dad, Ty & Tru

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