

# The Post Dispatch

A BUILDER IN GARZA COUNTY SINCE 1926

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

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75 CENTS

## Salt-cedar beetle damage widespread

### Expert believes the warm summer a factor

By Kay Ledbetter  
Special to the Dispatch

AMARILLO — Salt cedar along the waterways of the southern and eastern Panhandle is rapidly being defoliated and dying back, and one Texas A&M AgriLife Research entomologist believes he knows why.

When salt cedar beetles from Uzbekistan were released in 2006 by Dr. Jerry Michels and his entomology crew in parts of Lake Meredith and the Palo Duro Canyon, it was thought they would be more prolific eaters of salt cedar than other beetle species tried before.

Salt cedar displaces native vegetation and impacts the availability of water, Michels said. Numerous projects have been conducted across the state to see if salt cedar beetles can help control the salt cedar along the infested waterways. If the beetles repeatedly defoliate the trees for several years, the salt cedar will die back and leave more water.

"However, we've had such a surprise this year," he said. "This species of beetle has exploded all across the area from Wichita Falls to north of the Canadian

River on the eastern side of the Panhandle and all the way west into the Palo Duro Canyon."

Michels said he believes it can mostly be attributed to weather.

"We had a hot summer and it warmed up earlier, so we think they came out earlier and began multiplying quicker," he said. "And we didn't have a late season freeze in the spring that typically kills off a bunch, so they had a chance to rapidly multiply."

At the time of their release, the beetles from Uzbekistan seemed to be most suited to the climate at this latitude and longitude, and Michels said this year could be proof.

"We started getting calls about dying salt cedar in June and they just kept coming," he said. "We were happy with what we initially saw, and now we are just blown away when we are looking at the watersheds and river drainages — we've found the defoliation every place we've gone."

That includes west of Texas Highway 70 along the Canadian River and all along the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River as it travels east out of the Palo Duro Canyon to Estelline and the Red River north of Childress.

Michels said more research will be needed to try to determine what species the beetles are and track

See SALT-CEDAR, Page 6



Kay Ledbetter/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
**Dr. Jerry Michels, Texas A&M AgriLife Research entomologist in Amarillo, inspects damage to salt cedar trees along a waterway in the southeastern Panhandle.**

## Post Notes

### Brisket supper

The Pride of Post Band Boosters will have a brisket supper from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday at the school cafeteria — dine in or carry out. Tickets cost \$7, and are available from any booster or will be sold at the door.

### Class of 1987

The class of 1987 will have its 25th-year reunion Friday and Saturday. Events include the Bold Gold Antelope homecoming game Friday with a reception after in the Community Room at Citizen's Bank. A family picnic is planned at noon Saturday at Post City Park and will include other graduating classes from Post High School. A dinner for the Class of 1987 will follow at 7:30 p.m. At 9 p.m. the class will host an All Class Reunion Dance at the Post Rodeo Grounds for the classes of 1980 through 1992 with Vance Guthrie and Junction 84 performing. Contact Angela Massey at 806-778-7257 for information or visit post1987.myevent.com to purchase tickets.

### Class of 1952

The class of 1952 will hold its 60th reunion this weekend. Registration will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. today in the Community Room at Wells and a fish fry from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church. Saturday will begin with visitation from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Wells Fargo Community Room, with lunch to be determined. The class will gather for a group picture at 2 p.m. at the old high school, with a tour of the facility tentative. Saturday's agenda will conclude with dinner at 6 p.m. at the First Christian Church. For information, call 806-495-2081.

### Ragtown Gospel

Last weekend's "Mystery of the Hebrew Scribe" is being performed at Ragtown this weekend. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and a 3 p.m. Saturday matinee.

### Health fair

The Garza County Health fair will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Post Community Center (west entrance). Free blood-pressure checks, blood-sugar checks, cholesterol checks and pulse oxygen. Flu shots also will be offered for \$20, and Medicare is accepted. For information, call the Garza County Extension Office at 495-4400.

### EMT training

Post-Garza County EMS is sponsoring an EMT-Basic and Emergency Care Attendant (ECA) class from 6 to 10 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays Oct. 15 to Jan. 28, in the EMS training room above City Hall. Cost is 4400 plus books for EMT-Basic and \$250 plus books for ECA. For information, contact Rodney Tidwell at 495-1813.

More on page 6

## Corrections

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

## News on the go



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## Sales tax collections up 12 percent

By Wayne Hodgkin  
The Post Dispatch

Sales tax collections for August for the city of Post were up more than 12 percent over August 2011, according to information recently released by the state comptroller's office.

Total collections were \$91,427 compared to \$85,050 over the same period last year. Compared to last month, sales tax collections were down about 7 percent.

Even though August is typically a low-grossing month for sales tax collections, Post City Manager Arbie Taylor said it's good to see such a big increase.

"The city of Post benefits greatly from the high oil and gas prices, which I am sure accounts for a large part of the reported increase," Tay

See TAX, Page 6

## Crossing guards recognized



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Post Dispatch  
Gift certificates to Holly's Drive-In and awards in hand, school crossing guards smile after being recognized by the school board and Superintendent Mike Comeaux at a school board meeting Sept. 18. Standing with the group is Mike Holly, board president, second from left. Others standing, from left, are Arlene Guerrero, Jimmy Curtis, Gloria Curtis and Bonnie Guevara. Kneeling is DeAnn Guerrero and next to her a Curtis grandchild, Jacobie Graves. Comeaux didn't elaborate on the details of the incident, but the awards were obviously given in recognition of the guards' intervention in an incident Wednesday, Sept. 12, involving a donut shop owner and a middle school student.

## See You At The Pole



Wayne Hodgkin/The Post Dispatch  
**Post High School senior Dalton Holly leads about 100 other students in prayer Wednesday as they gathered for the See You At The Pole event. The annual gathering of Christian students of all ages was observed at all three local schools during the day and included prayer and Scripture-reading. The event, organized locally by Moms in Prayer, is held throughout the United States and the world.**

## Mothers gather weekly to pray for students, teachers, schools

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The Post Dispatch

See You at the Pole is a highly visible, once-a-year event with an emphasis on student participation. But behind the scenes is a less visible group — Moms in Prayer.

The group of mothers helps coordinate SYATP, but they also meet weekly and pray all year long, especially for school students, teachers and staff.

Originally organized about 13 years ago by former Post resident Debbie Brownlow, Moms in Prayer is now led by Tonya Kirkpatrick.

"It is just a group of moms," she

said last Tuesday after the group's weekly morning at the First United Methodist Church.

Non-denominational, the group represents an array of church affiliations, two languages and sometimes meets in other locations. But the usual meeting place is a half-basement room at the Methodist church — a quiet place with half-windows along one wall, comfortable furnishings and a casual decor that suits its primary use as a meeting space for Methodist youth. It also suits Moms in Prayer, even though one mom eschews the soft furniture to kneel through the meeting.

Any style of praying is accept-

able, Kirkpatrick said.

"Kneeling is allowed — not required," she said. "Neither is praying out loud."

And it's OK to bring a sausage McMuffin from McDonald's, she said, mentioning the custom of one member.

"It's a beautiful thing when we come together," Kirkpatrick said. A bilingual member and her mother, who speaks only Spanish, have broadened the cultural outlook of the members.

"We have realized that God is not American," Kirkpatrick said.

The women pray for each other's

See MOTHERS, Page 6

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## Deaths

### Jean Tipton



JEAN (CROSS) TIPTON

Memorial service for Doris Jean (Cross) Tipton, 84 of Post will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church. The Rev. Dr. Steve McMeans will officiate, assisted by Lynn McFadden and County Judge Lee Norman.

Burial will follow at Terrace Cemetery in Post.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday at Hudman Funeral Home, 615 W. Main St., Post.

Jean was born Aug. 11, 1928, in Garza County to Wren and Eugenia Cross. She was a beloved wife, mother, sister and friend.

She married Marshall Tipton on March 14, 1948, in the Close City community. He preceded her in death Aug. 23, 1974.

She was a homemaker and spent many happy hours caring for her grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her sisters Lorene Hunt, Marie Dietrich and brother Irvin Cross.

Jean is survived by daughter Jodine McFadden and husband, Lynn, of San Angelo and Marsha Norman and husband, Lee, of Post.

She was blessed with seven grandchildren: Laura May and husband, Matthew, of Atlanta; Janie Stach and husband, Philip, of Trophy Club; David Norman and wife, Brenda, of Post; Steve Norman and wife, Mary, of Post; Hailey Norris and husband, Gabe, of Alvin; and Leah McFadden and Marshall McFadden of San Angelo.

She is survived by 10 great-grandchildren: Tipton and Ivy May, Simon and Elliot Stach, Emily, Paylan and Marley Norman, Gage, Ryann and Brie Norris; and her sister Rosa Lee Smith and husband, Art, of Farmington, N.M.

The family suggest memorials be made to the Alzheimer's Association of San Angelo, 438 E. Huston Hart Expressway, San Angelo, TX 76903; or Odyssey Vista Care Hospice Foundation, 717 N. Harwood, Suite 1500, Dallas, TX 75201; or the charity of your choice.

## Celebrations



JESSIE WILMETH AND TIMOTHY SOTO

Ted and Lena McWethy of Allen, Okla., announce the engagement of their daughter Jessie Wilmeth to Timothy Soto, son of Greg Soto and Tammie Halliday of Post. A wedding is planned in October.

## Letters to the Editor

### A note from Hanaba Munn Welch, who edited last week's Dispatch:

Through an oversight, last week's coverage of the Sept. 16 regular meeting of the Post Independent School District board of trustees contained several errors. As most readers must have surmised, an unedited version of the story made it into print in place of the final version. I take full responsibility for the obvious flaws in the story — incorrect or missing names, in most cases.

Most Post residents probably filled in the blanks and made their own mental corrections as they read the report of the meeting, but, to set the record straight, the corrections are as follows:

The board member identified only as "Robbie" was Robbie Williams.

The board member identified only as "Nancy" was Nancy McDonald.

The board member identified only as "Kirkpatrick" was Drew Kirkpatrick.

The elementary school principal should have been identified as Staci Marts.

The middle school principal should have been identified as Marvin Self.

The reference to "systems for managing construction projects" should have read "systems for the delivery of construction services" — a fine point but a significant one relative to construction jargon.

The sentence that reported the board tabled an item regarding the possible authorization of \$40,000 worth of pre-bond election additional architectural work should have reported the board took no action on the item.

As for second- and fifth-graders going to sing at the Tahoka game, third- and fourth-graders also participated.

Also, probably the most grievous error, the caption for a front-page picture of school crossing guards also lacked names — also a case of an unedited caption going into print. You can see that picture with the correct caption in this issue of the Dispatch.

How do these things happen? Human error, and I'm the human.

Although the composition of the paper is done in Childress, the responsibility for the design of the pages and the selection of the news and the proofing of the content belongs to The Dispatch editor. In the last-minute flurry of putting the paper together, I just didn't proof the text carefully enough to spot these mistakes. Sorry.

Thankfully, Wayne Hodgins will be back as editor by the time you read these corrections.

If you like the new clean look of The Dispatch, let him know. If you find an error, let him know that too. But I think you'll have to look harder this week.

Hanaba Munn Welch

## 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 Charles Schulz Cryptogram Solution on page 5

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

L B T M Y E T V L B T Q Y E G R T C Y E C Z Y G E  
C L R Y E W L P N G O Y E F L B T C Q T F L R Y E  
D G W G F G F T E Y

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## Menus Week of Oct. 1-5

- Post ISD**  
Breakfast  
Monday: Breakfast pizza, fruit, milk  
Tuesday: Churros, sausage link, fruit, milk  
Wednesday: Oatmeal, bacon, toast, fruit, milk  
Thursday: Cinnamon rolls, sausage link, fruit, milk  
Friday: Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch  
Monday: Chicken and broccoli w penne pasta, garden salad, baby carrots, apple slices, breadsticks, milk  
Tuesday: Taco salad, lettuce and tomatoes, seasoned corn, fresh fruit bowl, milk  
Wednesday: Steak fingers, whipped potatoes with gravy, savory green beans, apple-pineapple delight, milk  
Thursday: Chicken quesadilla, black beans, baby carrots, orange smiles, salsa, milk  
Friday: Pizza, garden salad, fresh veggie cup, mixed fruit, milk
- Southland ISD**  
Breakfast  
Monday: Waffles, bacon, fruit, juice, milk  
Tuesday: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk  
Wednesday: Breakfast bar, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk  
Thursday: Muffins, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk  
Friday: Biscuits, sausage, gravy, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch  
Monday: Ravioli, corn, garden salad, cinnamon apples, milk  
Tuesday: Chili dog, baked fries, baked beans, fruited gelatin, milk  
Wednesday: Grilled cheese sandwich, vegetable soup, apples, pineapples, ice cream, milk  
Thursday: Chicken nuggets, macaroni cheese, garden salad, hot roll, apples, milk  
Friday: Hamburgers, lettuce and tomatoes, Western beans, carrots with ranch, peaches, rice crispy treat, milk

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## Oil, gas statistics

### Special to the Dispatch

#### AUGUST PERMITS TO DRILL

The Railroad Commission issued a total of 2,048 original drilling permits in August 2012 compared to 2,051 in August 2011. The August total included 1,808 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 58 to re-enter existing well bores, and 182 for re-completions. Permits issued in August 2012 included 634 oil, 163 gas, 1,169 oil and gas, 63 injection, one service and 18 other permits.

#### JULY CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

Texas preliminary July 2012 crude oil production averaged 1,300,694 barrels daily, up from the 960,612 barrels daily average of July 2011.

The preliminary Texas crude oil production figure for July 2012 is 40,321,511 barrels, up from 29,778,956 barrels reported during July 2011.

#### AUGUST OIL AND GAS COMPLETIONS

In August 2012, operators reported 967 oil, 230 gas, 34 injection and one other completion compared to 365 oil, 240 gas, 46 injection and zero other completions in August 2011.

Total well completions for 2012 year to date are 9,965 up from 5,341 recorded during the same period in 2011.

Operators reported 828 holes plugged and five dry holes in August 2012 compared to 175 holes plugged and zero dry holes in August 2011.

#### JULY NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

Texas oil and gas wells produced 533,864,038 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for July 2012 down from the July 2011 preliminary gas production total of 548,055,805 Mcf. Texas preliminary July total gas production averaged 17,221,421 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) a day.

Texas production in July 2012 came from 143,666 oil wells and 89,578 gas wells.

#### AUGUST TEXAS OIL AND GAS DRILLING PERMITS AND COMPLETIONS BY DISTRICT

RRC District: (1) SAN ANTONIO AREA  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 332  
Oil Completions: 137  
Gas Completions: 5  
RRC District: (2) REFUGIO AREA  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 145  
Oil Completions: 82  
Gas Completions: 22  
RRC District: (3) SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 99  
Oil Completions: 47  
Gas Completions: 24  
RRC District: (4) DEEP SOUTH TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 59  
Oil Completions: 4  
Gas Completions: 9  
RRC District: (5) EAST CENTRAL TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 33  
Oil Completions: 6  
Gas Completions: 13

RRC District: (6) EAST TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 65  
Oil Completions: 8  
Gas Completions: 39  
RRC District: (7B) WEST CENTRAL TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 117  
Oil Completions: 18  
Gas Completions: 0

RRC District: (7C) SAN ANGELO AREA  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 201  
Oil Completions: 96  
Gas Completions: 4

RRC District: (8) MIDLAND  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 622  
Oil Completions: 401  
Gas Completions: 2

RRC District: (8A) LUBBOCK AREA  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 100  
Oil Completions: 76  
Gas Completions: 0

RRC District: (9) NORTH TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 177  
Oil Completions: 50  
Gas Completions: 94

RRC District: (10) PANHANDLE  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 98  
Oil Completions: 42  
Gas Completions: 18

#### JULY TEXAS TOP 10 OIL PRODUCING COUNTIES RANKED BY PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION

COUNTY - CRUDE OIL (BBLs)  
1. KARNES - 2,783,179  
2. ANDREWS - 2,584,741  
3. ECTOR - 1,977,763  
4. GAINES - 1,944,304  
5. GONZALES - 1,808,851  
6. YOAKUM - 1,761,818  
7. MIDLAND - 1,687,734  
8. MARTIN - 1,636,784  
9. LASALLE - 1,591,526  
10. UPTON - 1,513,311

#### JULY TEXAS TOP 10 GAS PRODUCING COUNTIES RANKED BY PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION

COUNTY - TOTAL GAS (MCF)  
1. TARRANT - 68,775,120  
2. JOHNSON - 35,253,329  
3. WEBB - 21,884,549  
4. PECOS - 20,564,411  
5. PANOLA - 19,065,929  
6. WISE - 18,464,285  
7. DENTON - 17,767,745  
8. FREESTONE - 15,836,519  
9. NACOGDOCHES - 11,412,779  
10. ZAPATA - 11,387,969

## Haley-Gadd families gather

### Special to the Dispatch

Descendents of Garza County pioneers Oliver F. and Emily Gadd Haley gathered for their annual reunion Saturday at the barn of Ron and Martha Haley in Lubbock.

Representing the families of the following children of the Haleys were:

Lorine Haley Gerner family, including Kenneth Gerner of Houston, Louise Gerner of Dallas, Jerry and Helen Gerner of Post and

daughter Kathy Wall and sons Aiden and Corbin of Lubbock.

Ruby Haley Claborn family, including Mary Lee Claborn, Peggy Clayborn and Monique Hendrix, all of Post.

V.P. (Virgil) Haley family, including Dennis Haley of Hondo.

R.W. (Rollie) Haley family, including Ron and Martha Haley and daughter Danielle Gillmore and children Anna, William and Jacob, all of Lubbock.

Addie Haley Brown fami-

ly, including Larry and Betty Brown of Lubbock.

J.M. Haley family, including Karen Burns and granddaughter Bethany Scott of Lubbock and Karen's friend Peter Riesz of Victoria.

The family shared food, laughter and stories. New details of the life of the pioneer struggles were discovered and passed on to the next generation.

Submitted by Peggy Claborn

## Oil production statistics and allowables for October

### Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — The Texas average rig count as of Sept. 21, was 877, representing about 49 percent of all active land rigs in the United States.

In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 474 million barrels of oil and 7.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The Railroad Commission's estimated final production for July 2012 is 49,002,732 barrels of crude oil and 524,613,151 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary July 2012 production totals of 40,321,511 barrels of crude oil and 441,853,913 Mcf of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.2153 for crude oil and 1.1873 for gas well gas. These production totals do not in-

clude casinghead gas or condensate.

Texas natural gas storage reported to the commission for August 2012 was 391,994,296 Mcf compared to 353,961,061 Mcf in August 2011. The September 2012 gas storage estimate is 404,036,307 Mcf.

The Texas Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Division set initial October 2012 natural gas production allowables for prorated fields in the

state to meet market demand of 9,784,268 Mcf (thousand cubic feet).

In setting the initial October 2012 allowables, the commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers' demand forecasts for the coming month, and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowables will be adjusted after actual production for October 2012 is reported.

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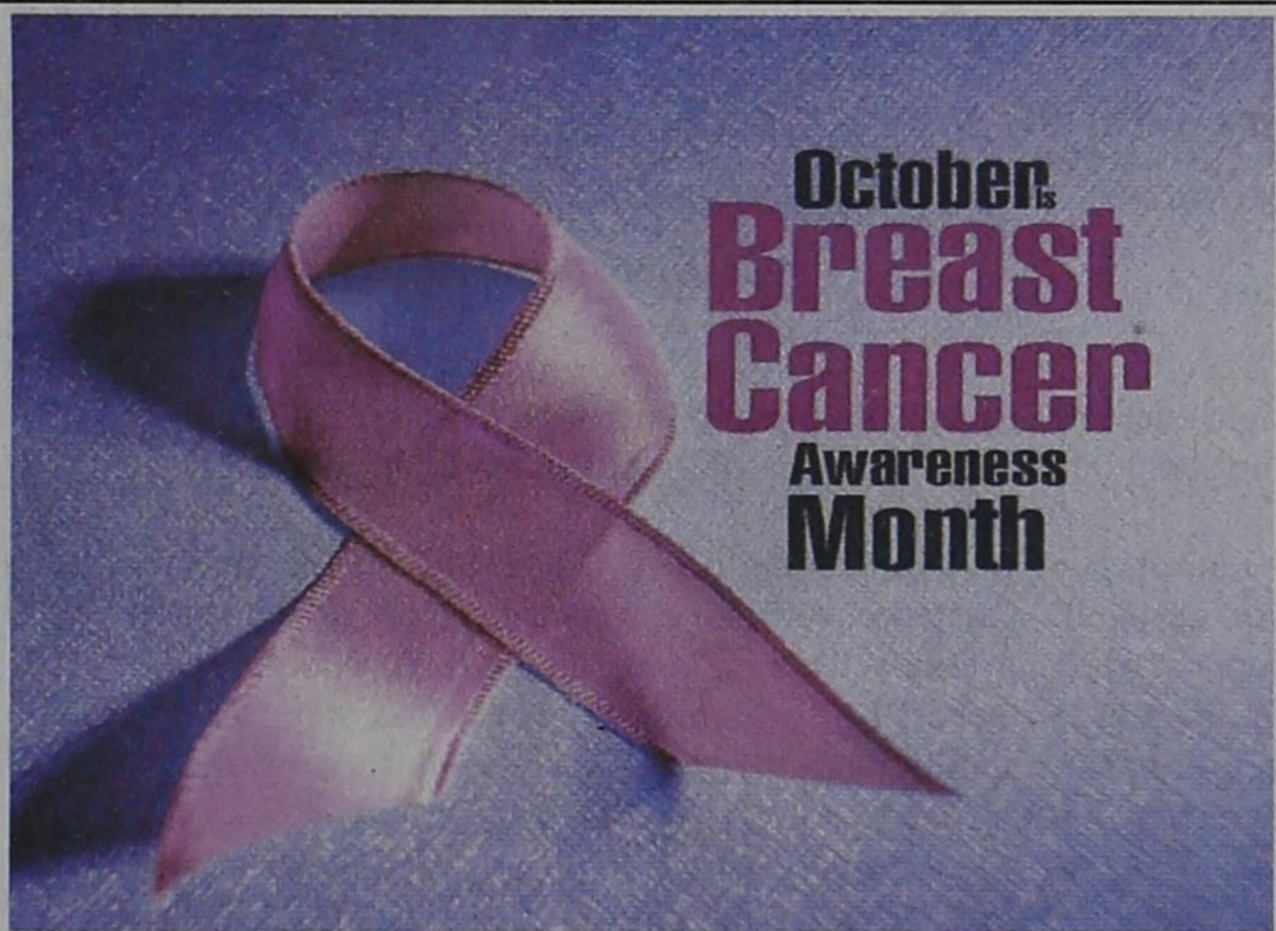
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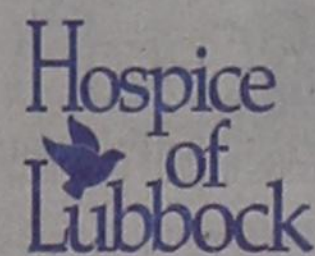
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*Thank you for reading  
the Post Dispatch!*



## In and around Close City

Hi everyone. hope you are all have a great week. We had a few guys start killing cotton so we will be ginning in no time. If you're ever out and about and want to stop in a see what its all about, feel free we'd be glad to show you how its done just



TRACI FREEMAN

be sure and come to the office first. Speaking of cotton, my daughter had to do a presentation in her speech class this past week, and I couldn't have been prouder. She chose cotton for her speech. Cool choice, Alea Rae!

It's been a bit of a roller-coaster at our house this week. As most of you know our middle son, Reece, joined the Marines. We took him to Amarillo on Monday from there he traveled to San Diego for Boot Camp. It's been really hard on me, letting him go, but I cannot begin to tell you how very proud of him we are.

Thank you to everyone that has sent well wishes his way. We are counting the days until Dec. 20 when we get to hug his neck!

On a bright note around our house, we will be gaining another daughter in December as well, when Reece comes home he and our precious Allisha will be married, and we couldn't be happier for them!

All of us in Close City want to send our deepest sympathies out to the family of Doris Jean Tipton, who passed away Tuesday evening. The Tipton family has always been a big part of our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.

The South Plains Fair has made a name for "Morris Farms," aka Kristi and Poopsie. Kristi submitted a watermelon that Charles planted and watered and Kristi turned on a regular basis. It weighed in at 60 pounds and won the grand prize. Way to go guys!

### Visitors

We got to visit with Kerri Stephens from Los Alamitos, Calif., the other day. I just love her and can't wait till she comes back next summer! Kerri is a cousin to Jon Bill Hedrick and also to the Kennedys.

Bobby and Nita Terry also stopped in for a visit on Wednesday. Bobby is a little down in his back so hope he is better really soon!

Did you know: Cotton has been cultivated in many

different parts of the world for more than 5,000 years.

Quote of the week: "If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams," taken from Nikki Dee Ray's Facebook page.

**Close City Birthdays**  
September 30th - Corky Bullard

October 1st - Jake Morris, Charles Morris, John Shults  
October 3rd - Dylan Thomas  
October 4th - Jay Young, Raylea Underwood

**Close City Anniversaries**  
October 3rd - Jack and Jean Morris

We have several people in and around the county that are under the weather some and we want them to know we are thinking and praying for them Gene Kennedy, Chick Stevens, Patrick Fluitt, Steven Fluitt, Syan Thomas, Shellee Odom, Melinda Fannon, Jack Ballentine, Ferg, Christina Aguilar, Velma Brown. I'm sure there are others but these are those that came to mind while I'm typing.

Ragtown folks in the nursing homes we need to remember are: Claudine Tipton; Carmen Abraham; Jewel White in Lubbock. Others are, Mack Ledbetter in Post; John and Mary Gist in Lubbock in Lubbock. Please let me know if there is anyone I need to add to this list.

Everyone have a great week. Keep rain, the crops and our county in your daily prayers. See ya next week!

Traci Freeman is a resident of the Close City community. Email her at close.city.gin@pcca.com.

## Nancy's Notions

### Making time for thyme

So far we have discussed seven different herbs, and I have three more to share: thyme, sage and rosemary.

Herbs are an excellent way to season foods naturally. Foods in their rawest, most natural form (minimal processing) are the healthiest.

Thyme is a member of the mint family and valued as both ornamentals and sweet herbs. They have small lavender or pink flowers and are planted in the rock garden, border for ornament, or in the herb garden. They grow especially well in somewhat dry, sunny conditions.



NANCY MCDONALD

To achieve optimum results, plant the seed indoors in early spring. Thyme is very hardy and will grow under most conditions. It prefers full sun and a soil that is light and sandy or loamy.

Thyme requires minimal fertilization unless the soil quality is of extremely poor quality. It also propagates easily from tip cuttings. Since it grows slowly, especially early in its life, weed-control is essential. Mulching with straw is helpful.

Thyme is harvested in mid-summer, just prior to flowering. Secondary growth will occur for the balance of the year, and this growth should be left to grow, or winter hardiness will be sacrificed.

Ants like to build their nests in thyme beds and can disrupt the roots. If grown in damp or humid conditions, molds and rots can become a problem. Care should be taken that thyme plants are not sitting in wet areas throughout the winter months.

A Mediterranean herb, thyme holds

its flavor in cooking and blends well with other flavors of the region, like garlic, olive oil and tomatoes. Thyme is flavorful fresh or dried and makes a nice complement to tomato sauces, cheeses, eggs and vegetables. It can also be used to flavor jellies, breads, vinegars, marinades and sauces.

You could simply broil or grill halibut fillets marinated in the juice from a squeezed orange and lemon then topped with sprigs of thyme. Accompany it with seasonal vegetables this would be a great choice for a healthy supper, full of important vitamins and minerals, plus a dose of heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids.

Following is a dry rub mixture that can be used on meat before grilling and stored easily in an airtight container. In a medium bowl, combine all ingredients. Mix well, and store.

### Dry Rub

- 1/2 cup paprika
- 3 tablespoons cayenne pepper
- 5 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper
- 6 tablespoons garlic powder
- 3 tablespoons onion powder
- 6 tablespoons salt
- 2 1/2 tablespoons dried oregano
- 2 1/2 tablespoons dried thyme

I want to remind everyone about our annual health fair at the community center on Wednesday October 3. This is a free event with area health organizations represented. Flu shots will be available. I will have the Herbs Made Easy wheels and recipes book that were developed by Texas A&M nutritionists available for purchase if you are interested. See you there.

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

**Clay Miller**

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## On My Doorstep

*We are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. . . .*

*Whoever shares with others should do it generously.*

**- Romans 12:6, 8 (TEV)**

After I had two children in two years, I couldn't be counted on to even show up at church—mostly because often one or both of my two young children would have the sniffles. Ironically, before this time, I was on the church staff in children's ministry, where daily I could use my gift of teaching. I mourned the loss of my ministry.

Then one morning, a friend who is also a stay-at-home mom called me — in tears, overwhelmed, and lonely. I told her I'd be

right over and bring my kids to play with hers. We talked all morning about our similar struggles, and she seemed to grow stronger.

Later I thought of another childhood friend. She is a mother of six, on public assistance, with no car and utterly alone with no support from her family. Though I continually feel inadequate in the face of her needs, I'm beginning to see various ways I can help. I am learning through my relationships with these women that being a friend can be a powerful, challenging ministry.

**Renee Lannan (Pennsylvania, USA)**

### 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 Paperboy

## Fourth and goal:

### We're all in this together

We're entering the fourth quarter of a tough year. Like the fourth quarter of a football game, to local small businesses, this quarter is extremely important.

During 2012, you've noticed several positive changes to your publication. As a coach, or in this case a boss, I am very proud of my team. They've faced adversity and have persevered. Now, as we enter the fourth quarter, we have a chance to pull off the upset!



CHRIS BLACKBURN

In this game, the game of business, it's a battle for survival. Sometimes it comes down to a belief. Do you honestly believe in your heart that you can win this game? Do you have faith in one another to the point that there is no doubt in your mind your teammates are going to stand arm-in-arm with you and perform?

This year we've had tough economic times. That should not be a secret. In fact, we've seen a multitude of businesses close. Whether it's a flower shop, a hardware store or a farmer, we don't like seeing people go out of business.

In that same breath, are you doing your part when it comes to keeping our small businesses alive. Are you, as "fans," doing what you can to support your "team?"

I believe in my heart we are blessed to live in small towns. I also believe we should do our part, as residents of these communities, to help our businesses survive.

During 2012, we've watched our readership grow. It's a trend we plan to continue by giving you a good product to read. That readership leads to commerce for our advertisers. The better

newspaper we put out, the more readers. The more readers, the more people who see your ads.

In this fourth quarter, which begins next week, we want your support. We want you to read our newspapers. We want you to provide input. And if you're a small business owner, we want to work with you so that you win this fourth quarter.

I would like to see every business in this town advertise with us! Even if it's just a small 1-column-by-1-inch ad. I'd love to see an "all in" approach.

Throughout these tough economic times, we've stood by our commitment to help our small businesses with attractive rates. You know this to be true.

You've also noticed better coverage of your community. We're far from perfect, but I think you'll agree we have a strong trend. We are set up to help us all win the fourth quarter!

During the fourth quarter of 2012, let's take pride in our communities! Let's work together to support our local businesses. Hopefully you'll see their goods and services right here in these pages and you'll be armed with the information you need to go out and purchase items locally.

We may not be living in the best of times, but that's not to say we have to have a loser mentality. It's time to roll up our sleeves and battle every single week during this quarter. When we're victorious, the momentum will carry over to the next game! — 2013.

We all face challenges. I encourage everyone to be fearless and tackle these challenges head on and with every fiber of our being. This is not a time to cower in a corner. It's time to hustle and be our best! Are you up to the challenge?

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

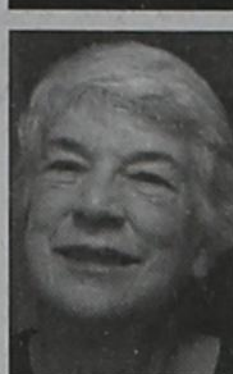
# The 501

## Sheeps, cows and strangers – oh my!

Sheep and cows are alike when it comes to all their stomachs, but when it comes to accepting strangers, they react differently.

First, let's deal with those stomachs.

Did your mother ever tell you cows have four? Mine did. But calling every feature of a cow's digestive system a stomach is an



HANABA MUNN WELCH

oversimplification. Suffice it to say both cows and sheep are ruminants, meaning they relax and chew their cud to give a second chewing to all the regurgitated grass and stuff they ate in haste the first time around.

That's how I understand it. Once they chew it up good, it goes to a different stomach. Or something like that.

When cows and sheep chew their cuds, they look content, as if they are taking time to think about things, which must be

where our word "ruminate" comes from, which makes us humans ruminants too, figuratively.

When it comes to dealing with strangers, cows and sheep take different approaches — at least from what I've seen.

Sheep get scared. Several years ago, when sheep were the animal of choice on our farm, we introduced a black-faced Suffolk ram into our pure white Dorset-Rambouillet cross flock. They ran from him until they realized he was just another sheep.

It's not always about color. Sheep are suspicious of anything that's not their norm.

One winter our ewes ate cotton burrs drizzled with molasses. Interestingly enough, sheep can lick up but not down. They licked the syrup off their noses but couldn't reach their own chins, if sheep have chins.

If you have syrup on your jaw and you've got your nose in fluffy cotton burrs, you pick up enough lint to acquire a beard, of sorts. They looked bizarre, all munching away at the troughs, each with a cottony beard. Cotton looks like wool anyway. Maybe that's why they didn't scare each other.

We used a white plastic Dairy Queen pickle bucket with a bail to pour the molasses onto the burrs. One sheep discovered the

syrup bucket and stuck her head in it to lick it clean. Not a bad idea, but the bucket stuck on her head, meaning she couldn't see where she was going.

As the bucket-headed sheep went various directions, the rest of the flock scrambled to get away. They weren't taking any chances with something that had a bucket for a head — even if it was the molasses bucket.

Cows are different. More like humans, I'd say.

We just introduced 20 Charolais-longhorn heifers into our small herd of mature longhorns and crossbred offspring. The resident cows and calves didn't run from the newcomers. Instead, they stood their ground, literally.

At one point, the old cows blocked the entrance to the water tanks, horns touching, not letting the new heifers get a drink. Talk about unfriendly and territorial. Even our two smallest homegrown spring calves butted heads with the new heifers.

Instinct or learned behavior?

For cows, sheep or humans, who knows? In any case, it's worth some rumination.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a columnist and contributor to The Post Dispatch. Email her at hanaba.quanah@gmail.com.

# Tech joins in denim recycling program

### Special to the Dispatch

The Tech Retail Association at Texas Tech University is asking people to "drop their jeans" for a good cause as part of Cotton Inc.'s "Cotton. From Blue to Green." denim recycling program.

The program is a call to action to recycle old denim and give it a "new life" by converting it into natural cotton fiber insulation.

Collection points are at the Plains Cotton Growers office, any Lubbock County Farm Bureau Office and at several places on the Texas Tech campus through Oct. 31.

The "Cotton. From Blue to Green." denim recycling program will be at the following schools this fall: University of Kentucky, Texas Tech, Simmons College and the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Irvine and San Diego.

Cotton Inc. and Bonded Logic, the leading manufacturer in natural cotton fiber insulation, partnered for the 2006 inaugural launch of the "Cotton. From Blue to Green." denim recycling program. The denim collected on college campuses is given new life when it is converted to Ultra-Touch Denim Insulation and provided to communities in need to assist with building efforts, often in areas affected by natural disasters.

In addition to working with students on college campuses,

the denim-recycling program continues to gain momentum by partnering with retailers, consumers and corporate responsibility programs throughout the nation.

All denim collected through the "Cotton. From Blue to Green." program is recycled into UltraTouch Denim Insulation, and a portion of this insulation, up to about 250,000 square feet, will be distributed in 2013 to communities in need.

To date, the "Cotton. From Blue to Green." program has received nearly 850,000 pieces of denim, resulting in more than 1.7 million square feet of insulation. That's about 531 tons of denim diverted from landfills.

For more information on how to get involved, contact Emily Thompson at emily.a.thompson@ttu.edu. Learn more about the program at cottonfrombluetogreen.org.

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49													
51													
57													
59													

- 1. Beat around the bush
- 9. Gave out
- 14. Three before seven (2 wds)
- 15. Electrical conductor connecting several circuits
- 16. Something causing a response
- 17. Protect, in a way
- 18. Defensive spray
- 19. Shuts
- 20. More calm
- 23. Clothes drying frames
- 24. Hair piece?
- 25. Boastful remark
- 27. Raccoon cousin
- 28. Congers
- 29. Feline pet
- 32. Bromo ingredient
- 34. Bar
- 37. "The Matrix" hero
- 38. Long, long time
- 40. Bambino watcher
- 41. Abalone
- 43. More bloodshed
- 44. Sacred beetle of ancient Egypt
- 47. Algonquian language, e.g.
- 49. Japanese floor covering
- 50. Fill
- 51. Like some humor
- 52. Not constant
- 57. Extends
- 58. Achieve again
- 59. Eye sores
- 60. Ballpark figure

- 2. "A jealous mistress"; Emerson
- 3. "Fantasy Island" prop
- 4. Cap
- 5. Promoting religious unity
- 6. Medieval French hero
- 7. Bring out
- 8. Have coming
- 9. Sandpiper
- 10. Accompany to a party
- 11. Belittle
- 12. \_\_\_-guided bomb
- 13. Amount of hair
- 15. Since
- 20. Backgammon piece
- 21. Muse of lyric poetry
- 22. Calculated pro \_\_\_
- 24. Computer picture
- 26. "\_\_\_ for the poor"
- 28. Halftime lead, e.g.
- 29. Curry ingredient
- 30. Holding one's piece
- 31. Rip
- 33. Verses written in short-

- long metrical feet
- 35. Cupids
- 36. Hindu woman's dress
- 39. Kind of mark
- 41. California county
- 42. Flaxlike fibers used for making fabrics
- 43. Suggests (2 wds)
- 44. Mixes up
- 45. 200 milligrams
- 46. Abnormal muscle relaxation
- 48. Bison features
- 53. Store convenience, for short
- 54. Bleat
- 55. On, as a lamp
- 56. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

E	T	A	M	A	S	T	E	S	E	S	T	S
R	E	A	T	A	T	A	R	E	S	G	N	A
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S	E	S	E	S	O	L	C	L	O	A	C	E
E	C	N	E	S	A	S	E	S	E	S	E	S
B	U	S	B	A	R	A	R	E	A	R	E	A
D	E	A	L	T	E	R	E	D	E	R	E	D

**Cryptogram Solution**

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
BEYGTDXM JFCR P W K Q O V S A Z I U N L H

I DON'T DESIGN CLOTHES, I DESIGN  
J G K W A G T S J X W Y R K A M T S J G T S J X W  
DREAMS  
G V T B P S



## SALT-CEDAR

From Page 1

their path from the various release points. He and other entomologists will be tracking their movement to help better understand what helped them to thrive this year.

"Where these infestations originated is a bit unclear," he said. "We made releases of this species at Palo Duro Canyon in 2007. The Palo Duro Canyon study was flooded out. The cages were destroyed and we figured the beetles were carried downstream."

But, Michels said, other releases of this species were made near Matador by Chip Ruthven, manager of the Matador Wildlife Management Area, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Dallas in 2004 and later.

"The one thing that may give us a clue as to what and where the beetles came from is the work James Tracy, a doctorate



Kay Ledbetter/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**(Left) Water-hog salt cedar trees were defoliated and killed off for the year with the proliferation of salt cedar beetles this summer along Mulberry Creek in the southeastern Panhandle.**

student at Texas A&M University, is doing."

Michels said the Matador beetles may have interbred with another species of the beetle from Tunisia that had been released in the Pecos River area, and the Palo Duro Canyon beetles came from a group in

New Mexico that may have hybridized with a species of the beetle from Crete. Multiple releases were made at early sites, beginning as early as 2004 with some from Posidi, Greece.

"We may be able to tell where the current beetles come from by looking at the amount

and type of hybridization we see in the beetles we collect," he said.

Michels said some of the beetles released have worked, while others didn't. But there has been some hybridization taking place through the years.

"These beetles come out ev



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**Salt cedar beetles came out by the hundreds and rapidly multiplied this summer, defoliating salt cedar trees along waterways in the eastern and southern parts of the Panhandle.**

## TAX

From Page 1

tax to help offset our property tax rate, helping us keep the ad valorem rate as low as possible."

Statewide, total sales tax collections for August were \$2.34 billion, up 18.5 percent compared to August 2011.

"The strong business and consumer spending trend boosted the monthly sales tax revenue, as did money remitted at the close of the state's tax amnesty which ended in August," state Comptroller Susan Combs said. "The state's sales tax revenue for fiscal 2012 was \$24.1 billion, about 12.6 percent higher than the previous fiscal

year. Collections from business sectors such as the oil and natural gas industry and consumer sectors including retail trade increased sales tax revenue for the fiscal year."

Local sales tax allocations totaling \$559.2 million will be sent out this month to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts — an increase of about 4.2 percent compared to last year, according to the comptroller's office.

For details of local sales tax allocations in June to individual cities and counties, visit the state comptroller's website at window.state.tx.us.

## LOCAL SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

Local sales tax allocations for the month of August 2012 compared with the same month last year.

City	Net Payment This Period Year % Change 2012 Payments To Date	Comparable Payment Prior To Date 2011 Payments To Date %Change
Post	\$91,427 7.49%	\$85,050 \$755,543
	12.23%	

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

## MOTHERS

From Page 1

children and also for people who work at the school — not just the teachers and administration but also the bus drivers, custodians, maintenance workers and other members of the staff and everyone's spouses.

"A lot of times people will come to one of our ladies asking for prayer," Kirkpatrick said.

Those requests are honored. A handbook gives structure

to the weekly meetings, and the group follows a calendar that coordinates with the school calendar. Each week's meeting centers on a certain Scripture. Last week's passage was Matthew 5:16, modified to serve as a prayer:

"Let (fill in the student's name) light shine before others, that they may see (his or her) good deeds and glorify you, our Father in heaven."

Prayer requests come first followed by the reading of Scripture.

"We are not Bible scholars," Kirkpatrick said. "We are

moms, housewives. We are really pretty simple. We are definitely not perfect. We make mistakes."

Through it all, the members draw inspiration from each other.

"To hear another mom pray over your child, that's one of the most special things a friend can give to another," she said.

It's not just about children and grandchildren of the group members.

"We don't just have our kids," she said. "We are responsible for ... those kids that we are around. We are

also responsible for praying for them."

The group has room for more members.

"We would welcome anybody," Kirkpatrick said. "We would be very happy to have more moms come and join us."

If someone wants to start another group to accommodate women who can't meet on Wednesday mornings, existing Moms in Prayer "would help them know who to get that going — lunch, evening, whatever," Kirkpatrick said.

Current members are Kirkpatrick, Lonna Graves, Kellie Macy, Shana Cooper, Raylynn Kirkpatrick and Elena Araiza.

Besides helping with SYATP activities Wednesday, Moms in Prayer joined earlier this year with the Methodist church to host a luncheon for teachers attending a session preparatory to the school year.

Moms in Prayer distributed 75 of their calendars to the teachers.

At another time during the year, Moms in Prayer serves a

soup luncheon to teachers.

One of the questions at the pre-school luncheon was from a teacher who remembered last year's tasty soup:

"This doesn't take the place of soup, does it?"

"They definitely remember we do the soup," Kirkpatrick said.

But more than anything else, it's about prayer and the morning meetings that week after week draw together a diverse group of women from different churches to pray together, some on their knees and some not.

## POST NOTES

From Page 1

### Hunter education

A hunter-education course will be offered Oct. 20-21 at the Post High School cafeteria and instructed by local Game Warden Drew Spencer. The course is open

to all, especially children ages 9-17. Cost is \$15. For information, call Spencer at 806-773-4179 or email drew.spencer@tpwd.state.tx.us. More information on hunter education also can be found online at tpwd.state.tx.us.

### 4-H enrollment

Enrollment for the 2012-2013 4-H year is now ongoing on 4-H Connect. Those interested are asked

to contact the Extension Office at 495-4400 for information. Current members must re-enroll at 4-H Connect. Registration will continue through Oct. 31.

### Food/nutrition project

The Garza County Extension Service is sponsoring a food and nutrition project at 4 p.m. Wednesdays that will continue through October. Youth grades 3

and up are invited. Call 495-4400 for information.

### Parkinson's support

The West Texas Parkinsonism Society meets at noon the first Tuesday of each month in the library at the Covenant Neuroscience Institute, 3610 22nd St., Lubbock. Lunch provided.

### Donations needed

Five-Stone Ministries, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, is in need of the following items: men's work clothes, men's work shoes, workable washers and dryers. Some women's items also are needed. For information, contact O.L. Ferguson at 806-781-1156. Monetary donations welcome at P.O. Drawer 669, Post, Texas, 79356. All donations are tax deductible.

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.

For many more moments like these,



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# Oil from algae closer to reality

**By Kathleen Phillips**  
Special to the Dispatch

**COLLEGE STATION** — A team of researchers that has been working on getting fuel-grade oil out of algae may be within four years of a near-commercial-scale production level.

The team, with a combined expertise from agriculture to engineering, has received a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant to help hasten the process, according to Tim Devarenne, a Texas A&M AgriLife Research biochemist and collaborator on the project.

The challenge is to help the oil-laden alga, *Botryococcus braunii*, live up to its potential, Devarenne said.

Known by scientists for more than 100 years, *B. braunii* is the shirker of the algae world, seemingly floating aimlessly in bubbling tanks of water in no hurry to grow up and be pressed into oil. Other algae go through life as self-starters on a fast-track to success but don't produce oil like *B. braunii*. The researchers want the useful traits from each to commingle.

"We're interested in taking the genetic information out of the slow-growing alga — the genetic information for producing the hydrocarbons — and transferring that into a faster growing alga," Devarenne said. "Then maybe we can more economically produce these oils."

For his part of the study, Devarenne will study the *B.*

*braunii*'s molecular biology to find out what genes are responsible for production of the oil. His lab will also try to understand the function of those genes and how they contribute to the production of the oil.

"By understanding the molecular mechanisms, we can maybe manipulate the alga to produce more or better oil," he said.

Another key aspect to these studies is encouraging *B. braunii* to live life in the fast lane, Devarenne explained, using a device invented by Arum Han, lead researcher on the project and a professor of electrical engineering at Texas A&M University.

Called a "microfluidic lab-on chip," the device is about the size of a business card but has hundreds to thousands of microscopic wells, Devarenne said.

"These little wells can each hold an individual alga cell, and we can treat each well differently in terms of media compositions or light amounts, for example," he explained. "So we can see how different parameters affect growth rate, oil production and biomass accumulation."

"In that little microfluidic device, we can screen hundreds to thousands of different growth conditions at once and do in a week's time what in a normal lab atmosphere would take probably a year to screen," Devarenne added. "So essentially we can miniaturize everything and screen high volumes of algae to find optimal growth



Kathleen Phillips/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**A team of researchers that has been working on getting fuel-grade oil out of algae may be within four years of a near-commercial-scale production level. The team, with a combined expertise from agriculture to engineering, has received a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant to help hasten the process, said Tim Devarenne, a Texas A&M AgriLife Research biochemist and collaborator on the project.**

conditions to make the best amount of oil."

In addition to providing an alternative fuel source to power conventional combustion engines, fuels derived from algae would be easier on the environment, Devarenne said.

"If we harvest algae and process them into fuels, we don't emit any excess carbon into the atmosphere that is currently being emitted from petroleum fossil fuels," he said.

When the fast-growing traits have been combined with the hydrocarbon-pro-

ducing capabilities in one alga, team member Tzachi Samocha with AgriLife Research in Corpus Christi will help determine how to grow it on a large scale.

Upon completion of those studies, Devarenne said, the team may work with the fuel industry to scale up production even farther.

"If we can produce an alga that produces high amounts of oil and grows fast," he said, "an industry partner could grow large amounts of it, extract the oil, convert that oil into gasoline or diesel fuel and sell it just like at

a normal gasoline pump." The product could also be doubly helpful for the environment, he said.

"What is somewhat beneficial about growing algae is that you can use municipal wastewater to grow algae and they'll clean up the wastewater," Devarenne noted. "A lot of people have an idea of growing their algae ponds next to coal-burning power plants where they'll take the CO2 emissions from the power plant and feed it to the algae."

"Algae take CO2 out of the atmosphere to make the

oil and then when we burn the oil as fuel, we just put that CO2 back into the atmosphere," he added. "That is different from petroleum because the CO2 from petroleum has been stored underground for hundreds of millions of years and then we release that into the atmosphere when we burn fuels created from petroleum."

Also collaborating on the project are David Stern from the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research and Jefferson Tester from Cornell University.

# Beef producers advised to get soil test

**By Blair Fannin**  
Special to the Dispatch

**BRYAN** — A Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service soil fertility expert advised beef producers to get a soil test as residual nutrients from previous fertilizer applications may still be in reserve.

"We are still facing drought conditions as we did last year, and if producers applied fertilizer last year or this year, they didn't grow much of a forage crop," said Mark McFarland, AgriLife Extension state soil fertility specialist in College Station, at the recent Beef and Forage Expo in Bryan. "As a result, there can be a substantial amount of that fertilizer remaining in the soil for next year."

McFarland said to be certain, producers are advised to soil test each field they plan to fertilize.

"Fertilizer prices remain very high," he said. "We are looking at 50 cents to 70 cents per pound of nutrient for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. It is a significant part of the overall input cost for forage production."

A soil test is a "tried and tested method" for determining the correct fertilizer product and rate of application, he said. Applying unnecessary nutrients is expensive and does not improve forage yield or quality.

"A soil test allows us to credit any carryover fertilizer due to the drought and can save producers a significant amount of money," McFarland said.

In areas where soil acidity is a concern, soil testing should be done in late fall so that limestone, if needed, can be applied and allowed to react and increase pH by next year. In other areas, soil testing for warm-season forage production should be done in winter or early spring.

Meanwhile, McFarland also discussed alternative fertilizers for producers to consider. There are several viable options, including livestock manures, poultry litter, composts and municipal biosolids. Producers should request a nutrient analysis for any product they are considering and compare the cost to standard fertilizer on a pound-of-nutrient basis, McFarland said.

"Good quality poultry litter may be worth \$62 or more per ton," he said. "But you also

will need a good soil test to determine if an alternative fertilizer has a nutrient content that is an economical fit for a particular hayfield or pasture."

McFarland also said to consider delivery and spreading of products as well.

"Hauling and spreading costs are extremely high, so you also need to consider those in any product comparison."

McFarland said soil sample forms and other information related to forage fertility are available online at [soilcrop.tamu.edu](http://soilcrop.tamu.edu).

"There you will find detailed information that will assist your forage production program," he said. "Another good source is the AgriLife Extension agent in your county. They are a great resource if you have questions on how to respond to the drought."

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# Sports roundup

## Post undefeated going into homecoming

### The Post Dispatch

The Post Antelopes notched their fourth win of the season Friday with 22-13 defeat of the visiting Tahoka Bulldogs.

The triple threat of quarterback Pake Jones, tailback D.J. Brown and fullback Bran Smith continue to push the Lopes' ground game.

Jones was named offensive player of the game, with 83 yards rushing. Defensive kudos went to Paul Martinez with nine tackles from the nose guard position.

Bold Gold Player of the Week was Bryan Smith, who rushed for 87 yards and a touchdown to put the game out of Tahoka's reach. Smith also had nine tackles as linebacker.

Post faces Denver City in tonight's homecoming game at Redman Stadium.

Wayne Hodgkin

### Boxscore

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Final
Tahoka	7	0	0	6	13
Post	6	0	9	7	12

### Team Stats

	Tahoka	Post
First downs	11	16
Total Net Yards	268	273
Avg. Gain Per Play	7.7	6.3
Net Yds Rushing	92	260
Rushes	27	41
Avg. per Rush	3.4	6.3
Net Yds Passing	176	13
Passes Attempted	16	7
Passes Completed	8	2
Yds per Pass	22	6.5
Had Intercepted	1	0
Punts	2	2
Avg. Punt	69	90
Penalties	8	7
Penalty Yds	65	62
Fumbles	1	4
Fumble Lost	1	0

### QB Individual Stats

	Comp	Att	Comp %	Int	Yds	TD
Pake Jones	2	7	29	0	13	1

### RB Individual Stats

	Rushes	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long
DJ Brown	17	92	5.4	1	19
Bryan Smith	21	83	4	1	
Pake Jones	11	76	6.9		
Dalton Holly	2	9	4.5		

### WR Individual Stats

	Catches	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Dalton Holly	1	7	7	0	7
Troy Copeland	1	6	6	1	6



Taylor Osborn/For the Dispatch

Post Antelope D.J. Brown staves off an attempt by a Tahoka defender as he jumps to receive an interception during Friday's game with the visiting Bulldogs.

## JV team rolls over Bulldogs

The junior varsity Antelopes (4-0) scored 32 unanswered points in beating the Tahoka Bulldogs (0-3) 32-6 Sept. 20 in Tahoka.

The Bulldogs scored first to take an early 6-0 lead. The Lopes responded quickly by scoring and converting the PAT to take the lead 8-6 and never trail in the game again. Cambry Gilbert scored from five yards out and Gilbert also added the 2-point run. The score would remain 8-6 for the rest of the first half.

Jerry Pyles

### Boxscore

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Final
Tahoka	6	0	0	0	6
Post	8	0	21	3	32

## Volleyball

The Lady Lopes volleyball team is 2-7 after dropping a four-game match Tuesday to Littlefield. The Post team notched one win in third round of the 1-3 game. The Lady Lopes will open district play next week in Brownfield.

The junior varsity team won both games in its two-game match with Littlefield, 25-16, 26-24. The local team will also travel next to Brownfield.

The eighth grade girls A team is 4-7 overall and 0-1 in district play after a 1-2 loss to Denver City. The B team is 0-3 overall and 0-1 in district with a loss 0-2 to Denver City as well. The A team will travel to Lamesa on Monday, and the B team will play Saturday in the Seminole tournament.

The seventh grade girls A team is 2-4 overall and 0-1 in district with a 0-2 loss Monday to Denver City. The B team is 0-3 overall and 0-1 in district also with a 0-2 loss to Denver City on Monday. The A team next travels to Lamesa on Monday, and the B team will play Saturday in the Seminole tournament.

Wayne Hodgkin

# Garza County Health Fair

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

10:00 am-2:00 pm

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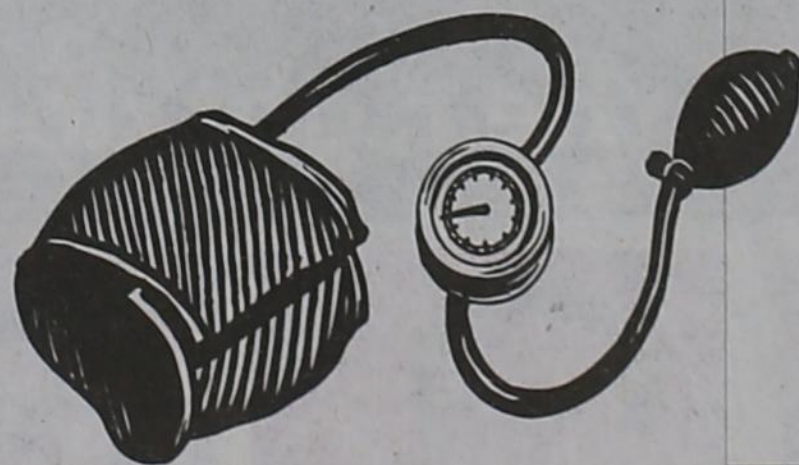
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## The Doctor is in B-17 could be the cure to cancer

After last week's article, I have been asked by various folks to discuss some of the alternative treatments these physicians around the world utilize to treat cancer.

The treatments are numerous, including hyperthermia; high-dose intravenous vitamin C; full-spectrum nutrition, including juice fasting; various detoxification routines, including coffee enemas, which stimulates a nerve to the liver causing a release of the toxins building up in the liver as the tumor breaks down; oxygenation therapy, including hyperbaric chambers, biological vaccines that take proteins out of the urine made by cancer cells and form a vaccine that is injected back into the patient.

Many of the advances in treatment are brand new, using cutting-edge technology from around the globe and others are simple nutritional compounds that have been used for ages. One of these old but goodies is Laetrile.

Laetrile, also known as amygdalin or vitamin B-17, has been used for decades in alternative cancer treatments as a non-toxic anticancer agent. Found in the kernels of apricot, peaches and almonds, it has been considered responsible for cancer-free tribes such as the Hunza and Karakorum.

B-17 is a molecule that breaks down into two parts of glucose, one part hydrogen cyanide and one part benzaldehyde. Our body uses one particular enzyme called rhodanese, which is present in normal cells but not cancer cells.

Rhodanese breaks down the hydrogen cyanide and benzaldehyde into two further products thiocyanate and benzoic acid, which are not just harmless, but also form the metabolic pool to produce vitamin B12 in the body. This breakdown happens within 80 minutes of consuming B-17, with any excess of the byproducts being released harmlessly via the urinary system.

In cancer cells, Rhodanese does not exist, instead B-17 comes in contact with large amounts of another enzyme, beta-glucosidase. The metabolic product combines hydrogen cyanide and benzaldehyde (which now have no other degradation pathway to take) into a toxic molecule that kills the cancer cells. Because of the differences in enzymatic content, B-17 demonstrates selective toxicity to cancer cells, wherein only cancer cells are specifically targeted and destroyed.

So, basically, vitamin B-17 is broken down into a non-toxic product in normal human cells but because of a lack of an enzyme in cancer cells the B-17 turns into cyanide and kills the cancer cell.

Of course, the best way to treat cancer is prevention. A diet rich in real food, like vegetables, fruit, nuts, natural grass-fed meats and wild-caught fish, plenty of fresh, clean water, and proper exercise and rest will create an environment that is nutritionally and hormonally sound. So, healthy cells will have no motivation to change into cancer cells.

So remember, let thy food be thy medicine and thy medicine be thy food.

Dr. Benjamin Edwards is a local physician specializing in holistic medicine and nutrition.



**BEN EDWARDS**

## Benefit estimator updated; sign-up dates still unknown

By Shawn Wade  
Special to the Dispatch

Even though no information has been released by USDA about when it will begin sign-up for the 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program, interest is growing in the program and the assistance it might provide to producers finishing up their second drought-impacted growing season.

In order to help producers determine if they could qualify for the 2011 SURE program, and estimate their level of assistance, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has released an updated version of the SURE Benefit Estimator for the 2011 crop year.

The new SURE Benefit Estimator can be downloaded at [agrilife.org/southplainscotton](http://agrilife.org/southplainscotton).

Like all previous versions, the 2011 SURE Benefit Estimator is a Microsoft Excel-based spreadsheet. A copy of Microsoft Excel is required to view and use

the estimator.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service developed the original SURE Benefit Estimator soon after passage of the 2008 Farm Bill with assistance from Plains Cotton Growers of Lubbock. The goal of the spreadsheet is to provide farmers with a tool that they can use to make preliminary determinations about SURE program eligibility on their operations.

It is important to note that final regulations governing the 2011 SURE program, including the state and national level crop prices that will be used to estimate benefits, have not been released by the Farm Service Agency and any benefit calculated by this version of the Texas AgriLife Extension SURE Benefit

Estimator could still vary from the official calculation a producer obtains from FSA during the sign-up process.

Going forward, the availability of additional 2011

program details, as well as inclusion of final 2011 market year average prices, will prompt an updated version of the SURE Benefit Estimator. PCG will report on the availability of all updates as soon as they are released.

This SURE benefit estimator is provided specifically to help producers calculate possible SURE payments. It does not calculate an exact actual payment due to the lack of a final set of program rules and price tables.

The SURE benefit estimator utilizes Direct and Counter-cyclical Program data and Federal Crop Insurance information for an eligible producer or entity to estimate the possible benefits that might be available through the SURE program.

Complete instructions for using the estimator and explanations of the various program parameters used to calculate the estimated SURE payment are included as well.

## Yesteryears

**10 Years Ago  
Oct. 3, 2002**

Travelers through Post on Sunday were surprised by First Baptist youth giving away free soft drinks at the intersection of U.S. 84 and Main Street. The student ministry used this time to share God's love by giving away almost 1,000 cold drinks," student pastor Lynn Williams said.

Ken Young brought in the first bale of cotton from this year's crop in Garza County Sept. 12 at Close City Gin.

The ThriftStore Cowboys will headline Saturday evening's big Founder's Day dance at Old Mill Trade Days Rainmaker Stage.

Navy Seaman Gary L. Eaton completed 12 weeks of basic training Sept. 26, 2002, in Illinois. He will report to Bremerton, Wash., for duty. Eaton is the son of Silvia Cruz and a 2002 PHS graduate.

**20 Years Ago  
Sept. 22, 1992**

Fourteen additional Texas counties, including Garza, have been approved for federal disaster unemployment assistance to help residents who lost their jobs when heavy rain and hail destroyed much of the area's cotton crop, U.S. Senator Phil Gram announced today.

Garza County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service staff members met with former secretary of agriculture Clay

Yeutter during the Texas State ASCS conference in Lubbock recently.

Joining in the event were Victor Ashley, Eydie Capps, Ferrel Wheeler, Jackie Cooper and Jami Williams.

Zoe Kirkpatrick donated copies of her new book, "Wildflowers of the Western Plains," to all three Post school libraries.

**30 Years Ago  
Sept. 22, 1982**

Post was virtually caught "unaware," last Tuesday night, as an apparent twister came over the downtown area, close enough to cause about \$75,000 damage.

Guy Allen, who won the 1981 OS Steer Roping, will head the list of steer ropers this year, as the 12th Annual OS Roping and Art Show gets off to a flying start. He is heading a list of 36 ropers returning for the roping.

Gonzalo Raymundo Rivera was honored in a meeting in plant manager Don Smith's office, commemorating 25 years of service with Postex Plant of Burlington Industries. Mrs. Buelah Hubbard, Postex employee was also presented her 25 years service pin and award from Don Smith.

Dr. Chun will set up practice at Garza Memorial Hospital in October. He comes here from Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, Ohio.

Legendary Baseball great, Mickey Mantle,

congratulated Johnnie Haire of Southland for his insurance honor.

**40 Years Ago  
Sept. 21, 1972**

Commonwealth Theatres announced this week it is closing down operations of the Tower Theatre here Sunday night.

Mrs. Tillman (Maggie Mae) Jones will be honored this Friday on her 90th birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rodriguez announce the birth of a daughter, Christina, born Sept. 14, in Garza Memorial Hospital.

Mel Street will be performing at the Western Lounge on Friday, Sept. 22.

Tommy Hill is the new manager of McCowen's Texaco Service Station No. 2.

**50 Years Ago  
Sept. 27, 1962**

The annual Garza County Fair will be held Saturday at the 4-H building.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jackson announce the birth of a son, Benny Wayne, born Sept. 19 at Garza Memorial Hospital.

A son, Gary Don, was born at Garza Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Don Sept. 19.

Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Gribble are the parents of a daughter, Kimberly Gail, born Sept. 19, at Garza Memorial Hospital.

Compiled by Elizabeth Moreno



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# Texas Tech sets another enrollment record

**By Chris Cook**  
Special to the Dispatch

Texas Tech established record enrollment figures for the fourth-straight fall semester as 32,611 students are on campus for classes.

"More and more students from across the state and nation are choosing Texas Tech as the place to pursue their dreams in higher education," said Kent Hance, chancellor of the Texas Tech University System. "As enrollment continues to grow at Texas Tech, we remain focused on raising the academic quality of our student body, and it is rewarding to see this reflected in the improved test scores of our new freshman class."

Providing a boost to the number are more than 4,700

first-time students enrolled at the university this fall, the second-most in school history, while undergraduate enrollment set a new standard with 26,583 students. Even with the increased number of first-time students, the average SAT scores improved significantly, which reflects better college readiness and the university's commitment to admitting top high school students.

"Once again, a record number of students are attending Texas Tech University for their education," said Lawrence Schovanec, interim president at Texas Tech. "As someone who's been here for many years, I am proud to see our continued growth in enrollment and quality."

Texas Tech's enrollment, on the rise over the last decade with a 27 percent growth,

places the school on course to reach an institutional goal of 40,000 by 2020. Additionally, more than 65 percent of the student body is from 300 miles away or further.

In addition, Texas Tech's graduation rates are higher than ever. Despite conferring a record 7,009 degrees during the 2011-12 academic year, an increase of 639 from the previous year, the university still reached the new enrollment benchmark after graduating its largest class.

"We have recruited the very best and brightest students from around the state and the country," Schovanec said. "Texas Tech University is proud to welcome these new students and welcome back all returning students. We are looking forward to a great year."

**By Kay Ledbetter**  
Special to the Dispatch

**COLLEGE STATION** — Two new cultivars have been released by the Texas A&M AgriLife Research small grains breeding team, said Amir Ibrahim, small grains breeder and geneticist in the department of soil and crop sciences.

The release of TAMO 411 oat variety and TAM 305 hard red winter wheat were approved recently by Mark Hussey, vice chancellor and dean of agriculture and life sciences at Texas A&M University.

Ibrahim said TAMO 411 is a dual-purpose winter oat developed by the statewide small grains breeding program under the leadership of Ibrahim, who is in the College Station Center of Excellence, and Jackie Rudd, an AgriLife Research wheat breeder in the Amarillo Center of Excellence.

TAMO 411 resulted from the cross of TAMO 405 and PlotSpike oats made in 2003, he said. Due to a combination of crown rust resistance and winter hardiness, this line will be suitable for growth in south, central and northeast Texas, as well as adjacent states with similar adaptation requirements.

"This new and improved cultivar combines excellent

grain yield, test weight, forage potential, winter hardiness and straw strength to resist lodging," Ibrahim said. "It also has excellent resistance to current races of crown rust in Texas and moderate resistance to current stem rust races prevalent in Texas."

TAMO 411 requires an average of 104 days to maturity and averaged 42 inches in height, while TAMO 405 is slightly earlier at 101 days and shorter at 36 inches, he said. While some taller oats have weak straw and tend to lodge, Ibrahim said TAMO 411 provides the added biomass but does not lose straw strength.

Ibrahim said TAMO 411 has been submitted for Plant Variety Protection. Authorized seed classes of TAMO 411 in the U.S. will be foundation, registered and certified. Breeder and foundation seed of TAMO 411 will be maintained by the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Foundation Seed unit.

TAMO 411 will be available for licensing to competing private entities and some certified seed should be available to producers for planting in fall 2013, he said.

TAM 305 wheat was approved for production in the Rolling Plains, South Texas and the Blacklands, Ibrahim said. These areas suffer losses from

leaf and stripe rusts, and "TAM 305 will provide excellent resistance to these diseases."

"Three years of performance testing indicated that TAM 305 is well adapted and will be competitive in these regions," he said.

"We've watched TAM 305 come up through the selection process and it should be a great fit for these areas," Rudd said. "Common parents used in the development of TAM 305 include TAM 200, TAM 105, and Century, which is a sibling of Fannin, as well as two different wild grass relatives."

The test weight of TAM 305 was 60 pounds per bushel when averaged over 31 sites, the same as TAM 112, and higher than TAM 401, which averaged 57 pounds per bushel, Ibrahim said.

Also, Ibrahim said, milling and baking quality characteristics of TAM 305 were rated as "very good" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service's Hard Winter Wheat Quality Laboratory in Manhattan, Kan. Loaf volume was higher than the three check varieties and all other Texas entries evaluated.

TAM 305 also will be available for licensing and, like TAMO 411, should be available to producers for planting in fall 2013, he said.

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# State's most-congested roadway OK for expansion

Special to the Dispatch

A 10-mile section of Interstate 35 West in Fort Worth — part of which is ranked the state's most congested road in a recent state study — is expected to be under construction by mid-2013.

The stretch of roadway between I-30 and U.S. 287 was environmentally cleared this year by the Federal Highway Administration, allowing the estimated \$1.3 billion reconstruction and expansion project to move forward as part of the North Tarrant Express compre-

hensive development agreement.

Existing lanes will be rebuilt, and will remain free lanes, but two managed toll lanes will also be added in each direction.

The project will be built in two segments. Pre-construction activities on Segment 3B north of I-820 are already under way, while a financial public hearing for Segment 3A is tentatively set for this fall.

Subsequently, the Legislative Budget Board must review and approve the proposed project agreement, and the Office of the Attorney General must

make a determination of legal sufficiency before final approval of the public-private partnership. Texas Department of Transportation plans to have the entire project under contract by the end of the year.

The stretch of I-35W topped TxDOT's recently released 2012 list of the 100 Most Congested Roadways, which details where Texas motorists spend nearly \$3 billion in lost time and wasted fuel annually. The annual study helps TxDOT identify solutions to address congestion on state roadways.

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NOW HIRING at United Supermarket in Post for Stocker, Produce Clerk and Market Clean-Up positions. Any time availability is required. Go to [www.united-texas.com/careers](http://www.united-texas.com/careers) to submit your application and inquire about requirements for each position. TFNB

Full-time RN opening for

our Crosbyton-Interim office. If you are interested in working with our home-care agency, contact: Interim HealthCare - Crosbyton  
Renae Smith, RN/DHCS  
806-675-1516  
TFNB

Full-time RN opening for our Crosbyton-Interim office. If you are interested in working with our home-care agency, contact: Interim HealthCare - Crosbyton  
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FULL-TIME MECHANIC NEEDED at Post Tire and Lube, 495-1355. Apply in person.

## FOR SALE OR RENT

Covered trailer house with large covered metal deck, 60 yards from water. Cottonwood Lake near Quitaque, Tx. Call 940-937-7086. OK to leave message. TFNB

Trailer house with large screened-in porch. On the water. Cottonwood Lake near Quitaque, Tx. Contact

Susie 806-426-1112. Ok to leave message. TFNB

Metal barn on concrete slab, about 1,581 sf located on U.S. 84. Contact Dwan Read, Broker, USA Properties, 806-202-1101, or Barbara Hardin, sales agent, 806-778-2651. TFNB

Eyes light green. Wearing a blue collar with a red heart-shaped vaccination tag from Garza County Animal Hospital inscribed, "Mr. Dots." Last seen near Avenue M and Fourth Street. Cat is chubby and squints his eyes. Call 806-495-2442.

## LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: 24-inch black and gray Chihuahua. Call 495-3493.

LOST: Gray brindle cat with dark gray spots on his back and a stripe down his back.

## OIL/GAS

Got oil? Looking to buy/lease oil rich minerals. Call Chuck - 806-470-9797. READY TO DRILL (0928pd)



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## Now Accepting Applications

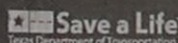
Post Housing Authority is now accepting applications for 1 bedroom units

For information on qualifications, please call 495-2233 or come by office located at 709 Caprock Drive. Office hours are 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon and 1:00PM - 5:00PM Monday - Friday



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[BuckleThemRight.org](http://BuckleThemRight.org)

## Mesothelioma

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may occur 30 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial and construction workers, along with their families (second hand exposure) are among those at risk for mesothelioma, lung cancer or gastro cancer (throat, stomach, colon). Call us for professional insight.

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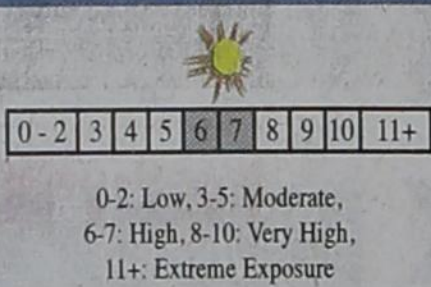


Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

<b>Friday</b> Isolated T-storms 77 / 59	<b>Saturday</b> Mostly Sunny 79 / 60	<b>Sunday</b> Partly Cloudy 81 / 57	<b>Monday</b> Partly Cloudy 79 / 57	<b>Tuesday</b> Mostly Sunny 82 / 59	<b>Wednesday</b> Partly Cloudy 80 / 58	<b>Thursday</b> Partly Cloudy 78 / 56

Local UV Index



Weather Trivia

What is a tornado family?  
 Answer: A series of tornadoes produced by a single supercell.

Weather History

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

**Sept. 29, 1927** - An outbreak of tornadoes from Oklahoma to Indiana caused 81 deaths and 25 million dollars damage. A tornado cut an eight-mile path across Saint Louis to Granite City Ill., killing 79 persons. The damage path at times was a mile and a quarter in width.

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 77°, humidity of 61%. East wind 5 to 10 mph. The record high temperature for today is 103° set in 1977. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a slight chance of showers, overnight low of 59°. Northeast wind 10 mph. The record low for tonight is 43° set in 1967. Saturday, skies will be mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers, high temperature of 79°, humidity of 57%. North northeast wind 5 mph.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	10:24-12:24	9:54-11:54	Tue	12:09-2:09	12:39-2:39
Sat	11:08-1:08	10:38-12:38	Wed	12:55-2:55	1:25-3:25
Sun	11:30-1:30	11:00-1:00	Thu	1:42-3:42	2:12-4:12
Mon	11:53-1:53	11:23-1:23			

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	
Fri	7:38 a.m.	7:34 p.m.	6:36 p.m.	6:14 a.m.	New 10/15
Sat	7:38 a.m.	7:32 p.m.	7:08 p.m.	7:11 a.m.	
Sun	7:39 a.m.	7:31 p.m.	7:41 p.m.	8:09 a.m.	First 10/21
Mon	7:40 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	8:16 p.m.	9:05 a.m.	
Tue	7:41 a.m.	7:28 p.m.	8:53 p.m.	10:01 a.m.	
Wed	7:41 a.m.	7:27 p.m.	9:32 p.m.	10:55 a.m.	
Thu	7:42 a.m.	7:26 p.m.	10:16 p.m.	11:48 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
9/18	77	54	83/58	0.00"	9/18	16	9/22	26
9/19	88	60	82/57	0.00"	9/19	24	9/23	22
9/20	90	57	82/57	0.00"	9/20	24	9/24	28
9/21	91	65	82/57	0.00"	9/21	28		
9/22	92	59	82/56	0.00"				
9/23	90	54	81/56	0.00"				
9/24	89	66	81/56	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.

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Dixie Divas  
**The ring**

It would never have occurred to me that it would mean as much as it has — never cross my mind that I would cherish it as I have. I suppose that's what makes it even more meaningful.

Mama wasn't fancy by any stretch of the imagination. A small cake of cornbread and a cold glass of buttermilk often sufficed just fine for her supper. A home-gown, juicy tomato thrilled her beyond measure, and presents were often wrapped with masking tape.

She was sturdy and solid, not fancy or frivolous.

"If I knew that I'd live long enough to get the use out of it, I'd buy me a new mattress and box springs," she said once about five years before she died.



RONDA RICH

It sums up the woman bred of the mountains that she was — money was not to be squandered and whatever was bought should do you for a long time.

That's why it seems odd if a person gave too much mind to it, that Mama had three sets of wedding rings in her lifetime. The first one bought back in 1940, when their "I do's" were said, has a diamond that is nothing much more than a speck. Gradually, they got a little bigger.

This I know — they were all Daddy's doings because Mama would have kept that first one and lived happily all of her life. She never

longed or lusted for expensive things.

The last one, though, she kept for 35 years. It is a round cluster of small diamonds set in yellow gold.

When Mama died and my sister Louise collected together her jewelry, she asked, out of the blue, on the Saturday after we had laid her to rest beside Daddy in that country church's cemetery, "Would you like to have this set of rings?"

Tears filled my eyes, and I reached out for them. "Oh," I whispered softly, for I had never thought of possessing those rings — the cluster and the thin gold band. "Yes. I would love it."

And so from that day forward, I have rarely been without those rings. They bring a comfort to my heart and spirit that words, no matter how grand, cannot describe. Something rather amazing happened, though, when Mama died and her rings moved to reside on my right hand — the sparkle of that ring seemed to multiply significantly.

As though it had been kissed by the lips of an angel.

"Have you noticed how this ring sparkles on my hand?" I asked Louise.

She nodded. "Yes, I have. I don't remember it shining like that on Mama's hand."

Others have mentioned it, too. One day during lunch, my friend, Sue, reached across the table to take my hand.

"Is that your Mama's ring?" she asked. I touched it lovingly with the forefinger of my other hand and nodded.

"I don't remember it having such a sparkle," she commented.

"No one else does, either," I said. "It's like a gift from God, reminding me that Mama is still with me."

"I know what you mean," she replied, explaining she had had a ring made from a tie tack that had belonged to her son Jay, who had been one of my best friends in college. A few years after we graduated, he died of a blood disorder with which he had been born. Sue and I stay close, joined by the bond of our mutual love for Jay.

She pointed to a horseshoe shaped ring studded with small diamonds. Jay was an avid horseman all his life.

"This was Jay's and I had it made into a woman's ring from his ring."

"It helps, doesn't it?" I asked.

"Yes," she replied softly. "It helps a lot."

Time marches on, and I move further away on earth from those who are gone but closer to them in eternity. Meanwhile, I am comforted by Mama's sparkle.

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

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