

# The Post Dispatch

A BUILDER IN GARZA COUNTY SINCE 1926

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2012

THEPOSTDISPATCHONLINE.COM

75 CENTS

## Xcel Energy seeks rate increase

### Investments driven by expanding economy to further boost communities

#### Special to the Dispatch

AMARILLO — Xcel Energy is seeking a base rate increase for Texas retail customers to support the cost of generating and delivering energy critical to the growth of area communities and the economies that sustain them.

A proposal presented last week to the 79 Texas towns and cities served by the company, and to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, seeks to boost revenue by \$90.2 million per year.

Impacts on each customer class vary, but for residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month, the increase would average

\$6.61 per month, or 7.3 percent, with fuel costs factored in. For all customer classes combined, the total increase is 12 percent accounting for base rates and fuel costs.

"The economy of the Texas Panhandle and South Plains continues to outpace national economic growth," said Riley Hill, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Co., an Xcel Energy company. "Our customers expect us to invest wisely to modernize and upgrade our system to meet this growing demand and provide the reliable service necessary to sustain economic growth. This case is largely driven by these investments, which provide great value to our customers over the

long term.

"In addition to the value our customers will see, the investments also provide value to the communities we serve in the form of job growth and increased property and sales tax revenues paid by the company," Hill added.

Current rates are based on what it cost to run the system in 2009, Hill said. Since that time, the company has invested \$702 million to build new sources of power generation, new substations and new transmission and distribution lines. Between the summer of 2010 and the summer of 2012, peak electricity demand increased by almost 10 percent.

Even with higher base rates, overall bills should remain below 2008 levels, and Xcel Energy continues to rank as one of the lowest-cost electricity providers in the state, Hill said.

See RATE INCREASE, Page 8

## Good luck, Lopes



Cheryl Gill/For the Dispatch

Members of the Post High School Antelope varsity football team celebrate their 21-14 win over Abernathy on Nov. 9. The Antelopes (9-1) took a bye in the first round of the playoffs and will face the Sonora Broncos (8-2) tonight at Bulldog Stadium in Clyde. Sonora beat Ballinger, 35-10, in bi-district action last week. Tonight's game will be the third time the two teams have faced each other — all in playoff action. In 1998, Sonora won the game, 14-7, and Post won in 2009, 35-28.

## Southland water wells below state levels

### Engineer tells council water can be blended to bring it up to par

By Wayne Hodgkin  
The Post Dispatch

Dwight Brandt of Brandt Engineers of Amarillo told members of the Post City Council during its regular meeting last week the water tested from its new groundwater well near Southland was just "OK."

Brandt said after testing multiple wells in the area, the water quality exceeded state levels of fluoride, near exceeded nitrate levels and,

because of the wells' old casing, contained high levels of iron, manganese and aluminum.

"We can blend the water to bring the nitrate levels within state guidelines," Brandt said.

Brandt told council members he recommended continuing to flush the lines for three days and then testing the water again.

"Wells are expensive to drill," he said. "It just might

be a case of where the casing is just really old and it's not really a problem with the water. We're not sure yet, but that's what we're thinking at this point."

The wells had been pumping about 100 to 150 gallons per minutes, Brandt reported.

Brandt also told council members the recent wells being drilled by the city up

See WATER WELLS, Page 8

## Area prescribed burn association proposed

#### Special to the Dispatch

MATADOR — An effort is underway to form a prescribed burn association in the southern Rolling Plains of Texas.

This PBA will be modeled after other existing organizations around the state but will be tailored to the unique local needs of the communities that it will serve.

The intent is to fill a gap in an 18-county area nestled between the existing North Central Texas PBA to the east, the Texas Panhandle PBA to the north, the edge of the High Plains to the west, and the Interstate 20 corridor to the south.

Counties involved include Baylor, Borden, Cottle, Crosby, Dickens, Fisher, Foard, Garza, Hardeman, Haskell, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Motley, Scurry, Stonewall and Wilbarger.

"Given the extreme nature of the 2011 fire season, as well as previous busy fire seasons in 2006, 2008 and 2009, prescribed burning, or more appropriately the lack thereof, is becoming an important issue in Texas," said Derrick Holdstock with the Texas Department Parks and Wildlife.

Utilization of fire, where and when appropriate, is increasingly becoming an

See BURN BAN, Page 8

## Post Notes

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

#### Pep Thanksgiving

The annual communitywide Thanksgiving Festival will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22, at St. Philip Neri Hall in Pep in northwestern Hockley County. Turkey, dressing and trimmings and German sausage. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and younger. Call Anna Belle Walker at 806-933-4696.

#### Christmas in Gail

The 19th annual Lighting of the Star on Gail Mountain will be at 5:30 p.m. Friday at the Borden County Courthouse. Santa Claus will be available for children. Live music, children's activities, hayrides, ornament contest, door prizes. All are welcome. For information, email lightsforgail@yahoo.com or visit the Lighting of the Star on Gail Mountain Facebook page.

#### Christmas parade

The Post Area Chamber of Commerce annual Lighted Christmas Parade will be at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 in downtown Post. All businesses, churches, civic organizations and others are encouraged to participate in this year's event. Entry forms can be picked up in the Chamber office. For information, call Janice Plummer at 495-3461 or email chamberofcommerce@postcitytexas.com. Also visit postcitytexas.com.

#### Swine validations

Swine validations will be conducted Nov. 26 at 1 p.m. in the Southland Ag Building and at 4 p.m. in the Garza County Junior Livestock Association Show Barn. For questions or more information, contact the Garza County Extension Office at 495-4400.

#### Stock-show entries

Entries to all major stock shows are due by 5 p.m. Nov. 29 in the Garza County Extension Office. Call 495-4400 for information.

#### 4-H Christmas party

The Garza County 4-H youth Christmas party and food drive will be at 2 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Extension Office. Activities will include a scavenger hunt. Participants are asked to bring canned food items and a Christmas ornament to donate. Call 495-4400 for information.

#### Holiday dance

The Cowboy Christmas Ball will be from 8 p.m. to midnight Dec. 22 at the Dickens County Show Barn. Entertainment provided by recording artist DeAnne Roberts. Hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks. BYOB. Tickets cost \$15 and are available by emailing contact@spur2020.org or from any Spur 2020 member. Visit spur2020.org for information or call Cory Witters at 505-314-4852.

More POST NOTES on page 8

## Corrections

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

## News on the go



Use your smartphone to scan the quick response, or QR, code to visit us online.

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

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Advertising: 5 p.m. Mondays  
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\$25 a year in the county  
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## Menus Week of Nov. 26-30

### Post ISD

**Breakfast**  
**Monday:** Waffles, sausage, butter and syrup, fruit, milk  
**Tuesday:** Pop-Tart, sausage link, fruit, milk  
**Wednesday:** Cream of wheat, sausage, toast, fruit, milk  
**Thursday:** Doughnut, sausage link, fruit, milk  
**Friday:** Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, milk  
**Lunch**  
**Monday:** Beef and cheese chalupa, garden salad, salsa, refried beans, applesauce milk  
**Tuesday:** Country-fried steak, whipped potatoes with gravy, savory green beans roll, strawberry cup, milk  
**Wednesday:** Chicken fajitas, charro beans, seasoned corn orange smiles, salsa, milk  
**Thursday:** Chicken spaghetti, garden salad, apple slices, breadstick, baby carrots, milk  
**Friday:** Fish tacos, sweet potato fries, coleslaw, salsa, sliced peaches, milk

### Southland ISD

**Breakfast**  
**Monday:** Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, milk  
**Tuesday:** Sausage and egg biscuit, 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:** Corn dog, baked beans, baked chips, cookie, applesauce, milk  
**Tuesday:** Nachos grande, refried beans, corn, fruit, milk  
**Wednesday:** Chicken patty sandwich, oven fries, carrots with ranch, fruited gelatin, milk  
**Thursday:** Beefy macaroni, garden salad, cucumbers with ranch, bread stick, fresh grapes, milk  
**Friday:** Pizza choice, broccoli with ranch, garden salad, fresh fruit bowl, milk

### Trailblazers-Senior Citizens Center

**Monday:** Pork chops, black-eye peas, mashed potatoes, roll, Jell-O, milk  
**Tuesday:** Lasagna, English pea salad, garlic toast, milk, peanut butter cup  
**Wednesday:** Oven-fried chicken, potatoes, broccoli, roll, milk, fruit  
**Thursday:** Hamburger steak, baked potato, mix veggies, lazy cake, milk  
**Friday:** Taco pie, pinto beans, salad, pudding, milk

## Christmas Craft Show slated in Tahoka

### The Post Dispatch

TAHOKA — Area crafters are gearing up for the annual Christmas Craft Show set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Life Enrichment Center.

The popular event will

feature the talents of crafters from Tahoka, Lubbock and surrounding communities.

"There will be over 20 booths with a great variety of items," coordinator Amy Preston said. "We've added a few new vendors this year and will have many of our regulars back as well."

Admission is free, and visitors can expect to find a little bit of everything. The Phebe K. Warner Study Club will be preparing and selling lunch during the event.

The Life Enrichment Center is 1717 Main St. in Tahoka. For information, contact Preston at 806-759-1690.

## TDA Market Recap Nov. 19, 2012

For the week ending Nov. 17, feeder cattle price trends reported by Texas auctions ranged from \$5 higher to \$6 lower per hundredweight (cwt.) with the largest discounts on light-weight, unweaned calves.

Texas direct feeder cattle sales were \$1 lower. The Oklahoma City National Stockyards were steady to \$3 lower.

Feeder cattle prices continue to be pulled in both directions, with tight supplies supporting the market, but high grain prices, negative cattle feeding margins and dry conditions in many areas applying downward pressure.

Fed cattle cash prices were near unchanged, while wholesale beef values were higher for Choice-grade offerings, but lower for Select beef.

Cotton prices were higher on talk of Chinese purchases in spite of their large stockpiles. Wheat prices were lower as large world supplies and weak export demand for U.S. wheat continued to weigh on the market. Corn and grain sorghum were lower as weak export demand for U.S. corn and more favorable weather in South America more than offset the tight domestic supplies.

As for futures markets, feeder cattle, fed cattle, cotton and lumber were higher, but wheat and corn were lower.

Little rain fell statewide during the week with amounts less than one-half inch limited to parts of South and West Texas. According to the weekly USDA NASS crop progress report, cotton harvest advanced to 80 percent complete, well ahead of the 65 percent average for this date. Corn harvest has been completed and grain sorghum harvest was 91 percent complete compared to the normal 87 percent. Winter wheat planting advanced to 94 percent complete, slightly ahead of the 91 percent average, and 79 percent of the acreage has emerged. Wheat was reported in mostly fair to good condition, with much of the crop in need of rain. Pastures were rated in mostly fair to poor condition.

Week Ending	Previous Nov. 17	Previous Year
Texas Cash Markets		
Feeder Steers (\$/cwt)	154.64	153.16
Fed Cattle (\$/cwt)	125.85	125.92
Slaughter Lambs (\$/cwt)	130.00	136.00
Slaughter Goats (\$/cwt)	196.00	189.00
Cotton (¢/lb.)	69.25	67.75
Grain Sorghum (\$/cwt)	12.57	12.79
Wheat (\$/bu.)	8.31	8.78
Corn (\$/bu.)	7.74	7.87
Oranges (\$/carton)	13.40	13.40
Grapefruit (\$/carton)	17.30	17.30
Cabbage (\$/50 lbs.)	8.50	8.00

Futures Markets	145.60	144.20	147.42
Feeder Cattle (\$/cwt)	126.15	125.75	119.70
Fed Cattle (\$/cwt)	72.73	69.58	94.81
Cotton (¢/lb.)	8.76	9.22	6.69
Wheat (\$/bu.)	7.27	7.39	6.10
Corn (\$/bu.)	325.50	325.00	247.50

All cash prices above are market averages for locations covered by the USDA Market News program and do not reflect any particular sale at any specific location. Feeder cattle prices are for 500-600 pound medium and large No.1 steers at the Oklahoma City National Stockyards.

Futures prices are quoted for the nearest month contract on the last trading day of the week. MBF = thousand board feet. For additional information, contact TDA at (800) 835-5832 or visit our website, www.TexasAgriculture.gov.

## State set to implement new cattle ID rules

### Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — A requirement for adult cattle in Texas to have an approved form of permanent identification in place at change of ownership will go into effect Jan. 1.

The Texas Animal Health Commission amended its rules in June of this year to enhance the effective traceability of beef cattle movements in Texas, which is the cornerstone of disease control activities. Implementation of the changes was delayed to ensure cattle producers understand the requirements and can prepare for the changes.

The amended rule permanently cancels the brucellosis test requirement for adult cattle at change of ownership, which was unofficially suspended in the summer of 2011. Although testing of adult cattle is no longer required with the rule change, all sexually intact cattle, parturient or post parturient, or 18 months of age and older changing ownership must still be officially identified with Commission approved permanent identification.

This change primarily affects beef cattle, as dairy cattle in Texas have had an even more stringent identification requirement in place since 2008.

Before August 2011, official identification devices such as eartags were applied automatically at the time a brucellosis test was performed. The inadvertent loss of the identification devices applied to cattle when brucellosis testing stopped has threatened TAHC's ability to effectively trace cattle as part of any ongoing disease investigation.

The TAHC routinely performs cattle health investigations where the identification and location of exposed/infected animals is critical to success. For example, 30 brucellosis reactors, more than 300 bovine trichomoniasis-affected bulls and 22 bovine tuberculosis cases have been investigated by the TAHC to date in 2012.

The new traceability rule will help preserve the TAHC's ability to identify and trace animal movements quickly and effectively, no matter which disease is involved.

A complete list of acceptable identification devices/methods may be found at tahc.state.tx.us, but the most commonly used devices include USDA metal tags, brucellosis calthood vaccination tags, U.S. origin 840 series Radio Frequency Identification tags, and breed registration tattoos or firebrands.

Producers are encouraged to contact their veterinarian or TAHC to determine which method of tagging will be best for their operation.

Free USDA metal tags, and a limited number of free applicator pliers (dependent on available funding) will be provided by the TAHC to producers wishing to use them.

The tags and/or pliers may be obtained by contacting local TAHC field staff and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services representatives.

The TAHC is developing tag distribution partnerships with interested veterinary practitioners and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices.

Producers may locate the closest tag distributor online at tahc.state.tx.us.

## Got something on your mind?

### Send a letter to the editor!

The Post Dispatch welcomes letters from readers on topics of local, state, national and international importance. Email letters are preferred to thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com. All letters must include a first and last name, street address (no post office boxes), daytime phone number. Letters sent via U.S. mail may be sent to P.O. Box 426, Post, TX 79356.)

## 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 Joan Crawford

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

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Z O W C D M X M P P C I M I M I R Z U X

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## CHECKING THESE VITAL SIGNS CAN SAVE A LIFE.

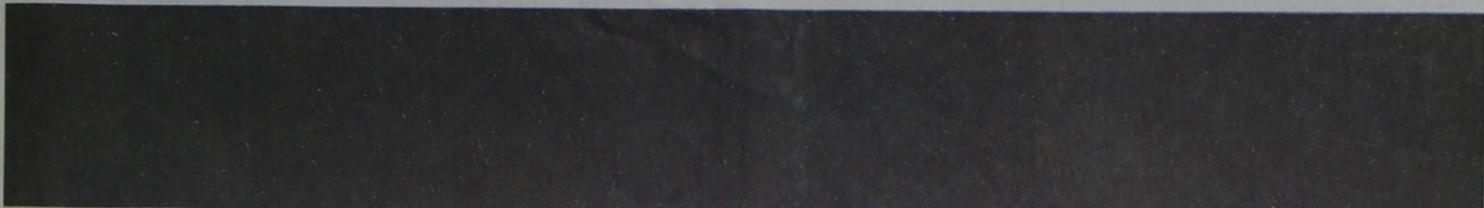
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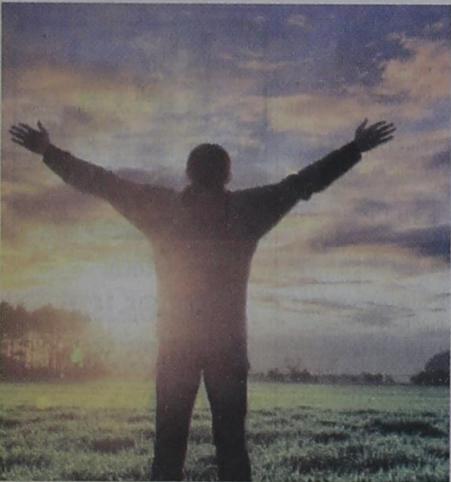
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*Always a Reason to*  
**GIVE  
THANKS**



Each day that we are privileged to serve you  
is truly a blessing.  
Happy Thanksgiving!



# Don't let foodborne illness spoil the holidays

By Paul Schattenberg  
Special to the Dispatch

COLLEGE STATION — While the holidays are a time for surprises, one holiday surprise to be avoided at all costs is foodborne bacteria, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"Foodborne bacteria can make people sick and take the joy out of the holidays," said Mary Bielamowicz, AgriLife Extension nutrition specialist and licensed dietitian, College Station. "Watching out for contamination and taking the proper steps to ensure better food preparation and preservation safety will reduce the chance of your holidays being spoiled by a food-related illness."

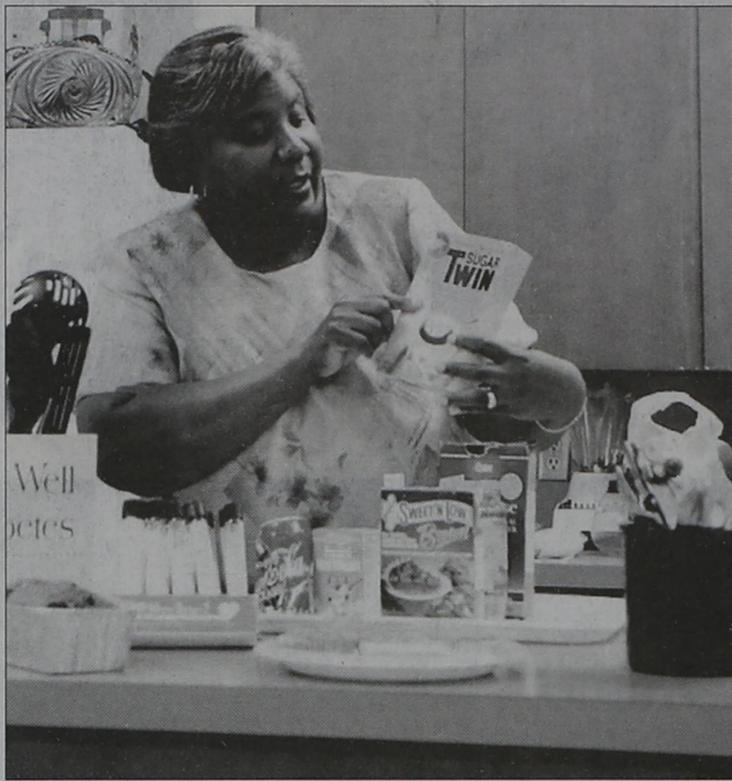
Bielamowicz said making sure all kitchen items — knives, cutting boards, cookware, serving pieces, dishes, food storage containers, etc. — are thoroughly cleaned before use is the first step toward fighting bacteria.

"Make sure you follow the basic food safety rules, which are to clean, separate, cook and chill," she said. "Be sure you and anyone helping you washes their hands thoroughly with warm water and soap before handling any food."

She said raw meat should be separated from fruits and vegetables in the grocery store and refrigerator, as well as on the kitchen counter.

"Make sure your refrigerator is set at 40 degrees or lower and keep the door closed as much as possible during food preparation and storage," she said. "Perishable foods should be refrigerated within two hours after purchase."

"Cook foods to their proper



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo

To help prevent foodborne illness during the holidays, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service suggests following basic food safety steps — clean, separate, cook and chill — and to throw out "questionable" leftovers.

temperature and refrigerate them promptly after cooking to reduce opportunities for bacterial growth."

Bielamowicz said leftovers should be eaten within three to four days after refrigeration.

"Remember that food may often smell or even taste fine after that time, but it still may have enough bacteria to make someone ill," she said. "The general rule for food safety when it comes to leftovers is:

"When in doubt, throw it out."

Bielamowicz said the non-profit Partnership for Food Safety, whose stated mission is to "end illness and death from foodborne infections in the United States," has developed a Holiday Food Safety Success Kit available to families wanting to learn more about the basics of food safety.

The kit, which can be found at holidayfoodsafety.org, provides food safety advice and

meal planning information. It also contains information on buying and cooking a turkey and has a holiday menu planner, holiday recipes, and fun and educational activities for children.

More information on food safety can be found at the Fight BAC! website at fightbac.org as well as at foodsafety.gov, which provides consumer food safety information from various government sources.

## Nancy's Notions The vocabulary of olive oil

A lot of claims are made on olive oil labels. What do these various terms mean and how important are they?

Extra-virgin olive oil: As long as the product has not been adulterated with

seed or nut oils, it is customarily labeled as "extra-virgin olive oil," but the U.S. government does not test for the presence of

refined olive oil, olive pomace oil or sensory quality, according to International Olive Council standards. A petition has been filed at the federal level, however, to enforce the IOC standards for "extra virgin" in the United States.

Pure olive oil: This is refined olive oil (which is odorless and tasteless) that has been flavored with a little extra-virgin olive oil. As long as it is not rancid, and the flavoring oil was good, this is a fine product for cooking and any use that does not require a lot of fruity olive oil flavor. It is much less expensive than real extra virgin.

Light Olive Oil: This is essentially the same thing as "pure" olive oil. It is made from refined olive oil that is "light in flavor." The amount of fat and number of calories are the same as any other olive oil.

Maximum acidity (or free acidity): The free fatty acid level is an indication of the quality of the fruit going into the olive oil. It is a very crude measure of quality, so unfortunately a low free fatty acid level does not automatically translate into good-tasting oil. IOC standards require less than 0.8 percent free acidity for "extra virgin" classification.

First cold press: This is a relic of the days when olive paste was actually pressed between mats to extract the oil (nowadays almost all extraction is done with a centrifuge). The second (hot) press was done to

squeeze out more oil from the fermented waste pomace producing very low quality oil, which was then refined or burned in lamps. In Europe, only oil truly pressed on mats can make this claim.

Harvest date: Look for recently made oil. Some producers indicate the date when the olives were harvested, others put a "use by" date, which is usually two years after the oil was made. The important thing is to use the oil right away, within a year in most cases; olive oil does not get better with age.

Bottled (or produced) in Italy: Because of the way the laws are written and enforced, this is not always a reliable indicator that an oil was really made in Italy from Italian olives. Some producers put an indication of the source of the oil (usually Spain, Greece or Tunisia) on the back label. "California olive oil," however, does have meaning: only oil made from 100 percent California olives can make that claim.

Seals and medals: The European system of designated origins symbols indicate that an oil was truly produced in a particular region and is typical of that area. The California Olive Oil Council awards a certification seal to California oils that meet IOC standards after being tested by a sensory panel. A number of fairs have olive oil competitions that are judged by trained tasters; these medals are usually a good indicator of a high-quality oil, as long as the year of the award coincides with that specific oil and it was awarded by a reputable organization.

The source of my information is from the University of California Cooperative Extension page on food safety and consumer awareness. Hopefully this will help answer some questions I've received concerning extra-virgin olive oil.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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



NANCY MCDONALD

The Post Dispatch hopes you had a wonderful

Happy Thanksgiving!

### Church Directory

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**Lyntegar Electric Cooperative Inc.**

Tahoka • 998-4588  
Lamesa • 872-2632  
Sundown • 229-3741

- 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  
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# The 501 Faux, false, fake

My Arkansas friend Beverly has a fake fireplace in her big new house. She likes it. I forgot to ask her if it crackles. If it does, there's no doubt a setting on her remote control for the "fire" to adjust the crackling volume. If she wants to add the smell of burning wood, no doubt someone is selling that fragrance for an electrical potpourri pot.

Does her marvelous set of flaming ceramic logs and glowing coals put out heat? Yes. Just because something is faux doesn't mean it doesn't work.

In case you can't tell, I've got mixed feelings about all things faux. I should get over it. If my husband and I ever get a fireplace, it'll probably be one like hers. In a few years, I won't know the difference.

How about that word "faux"? It's French, of course, America's primary go-to language for all words and phrases that don't sound quite chic enough in English.

True or false: "Faux" means "false." True. "Faux" is the word to use to avoid saying "fake," unless you want to say "fake." Then go for it.

Take Beverly's fake-faux fireplace. If you smelled the burning pine, heard the crackling logs and then entered the hearth room, you'd initially think everything was authentic — a real-life case of trompe l'oeil.

Interesting, isn't it, that deceptive stuff sounds better in French? If you don't know the literal translation of "trompe l'oeil," it's "trick the eye," the artsy phrase of choice to describe things like painted fake staircases that can cause unwary

viewers to walk unsuspectingly into walls. Yep, if you're going to be tricked by a painter, it somehow softens the blow when it happens in French. My theory.

By the way, if you dislike the French for sabotaging English, think twice. We are the ones doing the borrowing. Furthermore, it works both ways. The French nearly all say "le weekend" now instead of "fin de la semaine." That makes some Frenchmen mad. Obviously mother tongues don't always meet the challenges of expression, apologies to mother tongues everywhere.

Take "gemutlichkeit," the German word that's crept into English to describe a coziness where everyone is at peace with everyone else, typically with a beer stein in hand and swaying to a folk tune, jovially relaxed in a group setting, probably something like when people smoke marijuana together (my knowledge is secondhand), except with a bit more energy. Let's see if I'm right.

**DICTIONARY PAUSE.** "Geniality; friendliness" is what my dictionary says. Talk about a lackluster definition. I like mine better.

In the dictionary of my mind, and probably yours too, definitions are more than words. They all carry connotations and evoke images. Sometimes it's just too much, this burden of language(s).

Shall we all just go to Beverly's hearth to sit in silence, staring into the flames, our brains turned off? We could invent a new gemutlichkeit — something beyond words.

If the world didn't already have enough faux religions, I'd tell her to expect us.

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



HANABA MUNN WELCH

# Paperboy For small businesses, shopping local is key

During tough economic times, businesses do many things to survive including cutting costs, raising prices and trimming payroll. Small business owners look for ways to maintain and stay in business.

In the newspaper business, we need local businesses to not only survive, but thrive. Part of what we do is help them move their

products and services. As we close in on the end of the year, we're making it cost effective for you to advertise. We maintain competitive rates and have grown circulation throughout the year so more eyeballs see our clients' ads.

It's a simple concept, and can be successful when our customers take advantage of it. However, the other side of that equation is getting our readers to support local businesses.

Many families have tightened their belts, and that's great. Unfortunately, too many families continue to spend their money out of town, damaging the local economy.

We live in towns that usually don't provide everything we need. But for the things we do need, regardless if it's one item or 20, wouldn't it be more prudent to make those purchases locally?

When you shop locally, you're helping to keep the doors open. You're helping to keep your friends and neighbors employed. You're helping your local tax base.

Do any of you honestly think if you go to a local store instead of a big-box store in a nearby town that you're going to damage that large store? Now flip that. If you go to a big-box store instead of your local store, are you going to damage your community?

Our local businesses need your support. They want your support. We must enter a partnership of local support to sustain these businesses through hard times. If we don't, more doors will close.

For decades, we've seen small businesses shut their doors in our small towns. Some will say it's because they were priced too high. Some will say it's because it's more convenient to go to one place to get all of their items.

Maybe so. But is it more convenient to travel 30 or 60 miles roundtrip to shop? What happens when there are no more local stores? I'll give you a clue, it's over.

Before heading out of town to shop, check your list and see what can be purchased locally.

If we work together to help our communities survive, we all win. If we don't, I fear many of our stores will close.

For our part, we'll attempt to deal in volume and work with our businesses without raising our advertising prices.

At the end of the day, your local business owner is depending on you. They will gladly welcome your business.

I find it ironic that people won't give a second thought about heading out of town to shop while at the same time patronizing local businesses for support on everything from school projects to sports teams.

It's a two-way street. If you want your local businesses to support youth and various civic projects, you need to shop with them. If not, we'll continue to see the hollowing out of our communities.

As a local business owner, I'm asking that you make a conscious decision to buy what you can locally. Doing so can make a huge difference for the merchant and our small towns.

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



CHRIS BLACKBURN

## Farm briefs

### Programs finalized for commodity symposium

David Wasserman with the Cook Political Report will be the keynote speaker for the 12th annual Texas Commodity Symposium and Luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday in Amarillo.

Wasserman is responsible for handicapping and analyzing U.S. House races for the publication, and will provide an overview of the 2012 elections and their potential implications.

The Symposium will be held in conjunction with the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show in the Grand Plaza Room at the Amarillo Civic Center. The free event will begin at 9:30 a.m.

In addition to Wasserman, the symposium will examine a variety of issues that impact producers and the agribusiness sector. Featured topics this year include the farm bill and agricultural policy, establishment of a state grain indemnity fund, water technology, and program updates Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency.

The Water Conservation Advisory Council also will recognize its 2012 Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture recipients at the event.

The symposium, which is hosted by the Corn Producers Association of Texas, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., Texas Grain Sorghum Association, Texas Peanut Producers Board, Texas Wheat Producers Association and Southwest Council of Agribusiness, will conclude with the annual Ag Appreciation Luncheon, presented by the symposium and the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Ag Council.

"This is a great opportunity to hear a diverse group of speakers addressing the main issues affecting agriculture on the Texas High Plains," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said.

For information, contact Mary Jane Buerkle at Plains Cotton Growers at 806-792-4904.

### West Plains Ag Conference slated in Levelland

This year's West Plains Ag Conference, conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, is set from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 11 in the Sundown Room of the Student Center at South Plains College, 1401 South College Ave., Levelland.

"We'll again be looking at our area's traditional crops of cotton and grain sorghum, but we'll also have a substantial amount of information on alternative crops such as corn and vegetable production," said Kerry Siders, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management agent in Hockley and Cochran counties. "The topics we've selected are those we get the most questions on, so I think this program will be time well spent for anyone farming on the South Plains."

Five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units — one laws and regulations, one integrated pest management and three general — and five Texas Certified Crop Advisor continuing education units will be offered.

The program's topics and speakers will include:

- Pesticide Laws and Regulations, Casey Summers, Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide inspector, Lubbock.
- Sorghum and Corn Production, Calvin Trostle, AgriLife Extension agronomist, Lubbock.
- Cotton Variety Trial Update, Mark Kelley, AgriLife Extension agronomist, Lubbock.
- Vegetable Production Opportunities, Russell

Wallace, AgriLife Extension vegetable specialist, Lubbock.

Registration will be \$35 at the door. The fee includes lunch.

### High Plains Ag Conference is Dec. 7

A wide range of agricultural topics will greet participants to this year's High Plains Ag Conference set from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 East Farm-to-Market 1294, Lubbock.

"This year's conference will address traditional crops for our area such as corn and grain sorghum, but we'll also be taking a look at strawberry production and pigweed control," said Robert Scott, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent in Lubbock County. "The topics are timely and I think it will be a day well-spent for those wanting to catch up on the latest developments in High Plains agriculture."

The program conducted by AgriLife Extension will offer five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units — one laws and regulations, one integrated pest management and three general; and five Texas Certified Crop Adviser continuing education units — three crop management and two pest management.

Individual pre-registration is \$35 by Dec. 3 and \$45 thereafter. The fees include lunch. For information and to preregister, contact Scott at 806-775-1680, rj-scott@tam.u.edu.

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- Bunsen burner valve (2 wds)
- Dwell
- "\_\_\_, humbug!"
- Sudets
- Secreta
- Hot
- Genuine
- "Catch-22" pilot
- Compassionate
- Kind of lineup (hyphenated)
- "Relax, and that's an order!" (2 wds)
- \_\_\_ Appia
- Grinder
- Wingdings
- Coastal raptor
- Comes to an end
- Willing to undertake new, daring enterprises
- Entertained
- \_\_\_ Scotia
- Charging need
- Clinch, with "up"
- Certain digital watch face (acronym)
- Units of light intensity
- Long, narrow two-edged swords with guarded hilts
- Dreads
- "Rocky \_\_\_"
- "I, Claudius" role
- Admission pass
- Fold, spindle or mutilate fabric
- "... happily \_\_\_ after"
- Infomercials, e.g.
- Asserts as a fact
- One who avoids giving a direct answer
- Instructions to report for duty
- Note
- Outer layer of a pistachio
- Heavy-napped cotton twill fabric
- 100 Indonesian sen
- \_\_\_ State, nickname for New York
- One taking orders
- WWI French soldier
- Member of Quechuan people in Peru
- "-zoic" things
- \_\_\_ of the above
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### PUZZLE SOLUTION

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- Bagpipes country
- Accounts
- About
- Black and white bearlike mammals
- Field worker
- Bow
- Practice
- Shepherd's pie ingredients
- The plant and animal life of particular regions
- Dead (2 wds)
- Lots
- Belches
- Justification
- "\_\_\_ Maria"
- 100 kuru
- Holiday music

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## Sports roundup

### JV boys hoops team wins first game

The Post High School junior varsity basketball team kicked off its season Nov. 15 with a win on the road in Childress. Jabren Rodriguez led the scoring with eight; Ricky Fontenot added seven; Jarred Curtis and Cambry Gilbert both added six; Blaine Reece and Shandon Wiley both had two buckets each; and Wyatt Gray and Josiel Delgadillo each had one bucket each.

Post 13-12-6-8 = 39  
Childress 3- 4- 8- 9 = 24

Jerry Pyles

### JH boys A teams face Floydada, Childress

The seventh-grade A boys basketball team won, 22-16, against Floydada at home Monday night. Leading scorers were Chance Courtney 12; Mike Phergson 5; Aric Garza 3; Damian Garcia 2.

The eighth-grade team lost its contest, 28-41. Leading scorers were A.J. Reed 11; Bryce Phelps 7; Colton Smith 6; A.J. Escobedo 2; T.J. Redman 2.

The seventh-grade team won its first game of the season, 29-8, on the road in Childress Nov. 15. Leading scorers were

Mike Phergson 10; Chance Courtney 4; Damian Garcia 4; Pacey Blevins 4; Aric Garza 3; Lucas Record 2; and Valente Perez 2.

The eighth grade A team lost to Childress, 40-18. Leading scorers were: A.J. Reed 8; Colton Smith 4; Augie Menchaca 2; Bryce Phelps 2; Dylan Morris 2.

Billy Garza

### JH boys B teams improving

The Post Junior High seventh grade B basketball team won, 28-8, Nov. 15 in Childress. The eighth-grade B team lost, 37-19. Coach Richard Soliz said team's played well for their first games. "We all still have a lot to learn, but the boys listen and are eager about the game," he said.

On Monday, the seventh grade B team lost, 34-16, to Floydada. Top scorers were Ian Haworth with seven; Colton Thompsin with four; Ezra Gill and Zerek Gonzales had a bucket each; and Pete Lazcano scored one point.

The eighth-grade B team lost, 35-32, also to Floydada. Top scorers were Kevin Finch with 23 points; Caiden Dugger with five; Noe Hernandez and Chase Morris each added two points.

"Despite the losses, the boys played hard the whole game and are showing signs of improvement," Soliz said.

Wayne Hodgkin



## Cimental vies for Distinguished Youth program

### Special to the Dispatch

Cloe Jo Cimental, daughter of Bradley and Cha'la Cimental of Post, has been selected as a candidate in the Distinguished Youth of Texas Scholarship and Recognition Program to be Nov. 23-25 at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in San Antonio.

Cimental is the granddaughter of Joe and Melba Cimental and Jan Smith and great-granddaughter of Edna Smith, all of Post.

During the weekend competition, two students will be chosen to receive a \$1,000 cash scholarship and the right to serve as a state program titleholder for one year. In add, more than \$5,000 in awards and prizes will be presented to various participants.

The Distinguished Youth Program is designed to recognize girls in grades 2

through 7 who rank high academically and who are leaders in their schools and communities. The judging criteria used to select the two state titleholders includes academic record, community and school service, personality and interview.

"This program truly reflects the female youth in the 21st century," founder Warren Alexander said. "The candidates are well-rounded, intelligent students. Sixty percent of the judging involved written resume, with another significant portion being the interview with the judges."

The program finals will be Nov. 25 at the hotel and will culminate in the naming of Little Miss of Texas and the new Young Miss of Texas.

Cimental is being sponsored by the George R. Brown Partnership, Nina Ortiz and her grandparents,



Chelby Morris/Special to the Dispatch

The Post Junior High School B team won third place at the O'Donnell Boys Invitational Tournament on Saturday. They lost the opening game against O'Donnell's A team, 65-17, then beat Morton, 26-25. Pictured are (back row) coach Richard Soliz, Stetson Boles, Alex Alvarado, Danny Soria, Blaze Smith, Blake Havens, Austin Walls; (front row) Kobe Ammons, Jonathan Rodriguez, Jonathan Hernandez, Kevin Finch, Ian Haworth, Chase Morris, Fidel Trinidad.



Elizabeth Moreno/The Post Dispatch

Gifted and talented students at Post Elementary are conducting their annual food drive for the holidays. Each grade level is competing to collect the most items. Currently, the first-grade students are outpacing their peers, having collected enough canned food items to feed 31 families throughout Garza County.

## Thanksgiving in the Hall



Elizabeth Moreno/The Post Dispatch

Post Elementary School had its annual Thanksgiving in the Hall event Tuesday. Students bring sack lunches and dine "Indian-style" in the hallways of the school.

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Getting arrested and convicted in Texas for DWI, can cost you up to \$17,000. So, before you go out collecting digits, line up a P.A.S.S. (Person Appointed to Stay Sober) who you can call for a safe ride home. Because, if you're pulled over for DWI, your socializing days are numbered.

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4. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE SEATED IN THE REAR SEAT OF A VEHICLE.

Save a Life  
Texas Department of Transportation

**RATE INCREASE**  
From Page 1

Natural gas is used to generate more than half the power consumed across the region, and prices for this commodity have fallen sharply over the past four years, leading to significant savings on monthly bills. So far this year, Xcel Energy has lowered fuel costs twice, saving typical residential customers close to \$10 a month, Hill said.

"Nonetheless, we understand the impact of this

proposed increase on our customers, and we offer an extensive suite of programs to help manage and decrease energy needs," Hill said. "While all customers contribute to the costs of keeping our system safe and reliable, customers can reduce their individual costs by participating in these energy efficiency programs. Combined, these efforts help us strike a reasonable balance between the need to invest in our system and the need to ensure competitive rates and bills."

**WATER WELLS**  
From Page 1

on the Caprock were not viable and contained a lot of saltwater.

Post officials over the last several months have eagerly sought out alternative sources of water other than White River Lake to ensure a future and emergency water guarantee for residents and to become less dependent on White River, freeing up that water for residents in served by the White River Municipal Water District.

In other business during the council's Nov. 13 meeting, council members agreed to enter into a contract with Brandt Engineers for a seal-coating project.

Brandt told the council the most feasible way to do the project was to enter into multiple intergovernmental agreements with surrounding communities, which all would pool money into a fund. The company would issue bids for one lump project to include those communities.

"I've found that throughout the years, this is the best and most-feasible way to

do these types of projects," Brandt said. "It makes it easier on us and more affordable for the communities."

Also last week, council members appointed Ysenia Rivera as fire marshal for the city of Post. Rivera will take over the duties from the retiring David Watson.

Council members also agreed to change the time of their regular monthly meeting. The new time will be at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled meeting will be Dec. 11 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

**POST NOTES**  
From Page 1

**Toys for Tots**  
The Post Lions Club is seeking donations to purchase books for children in Post for the annual Toys for Tots program. Applications from parents of children ages birth through 18 years who may need help with Christmas gifts may be picked up in the elementary school office or obtained from any Post Lions Club member. Donations from area businesses also are welcome. For information, contact Byron Garrison at 990-9898.

**Book drive**  
The Post High School chapter of the National Honor Society will be collecting books for children ages newborn to 12th grade for its Christmas community service project. New books will be collected and given to the Post Lions Club for its annual Toys for Tots campaign. To donate, drop off books in the designated boxes at the high school library, elementary or middle school teachers lounges. For information, contact Amy Easterling at 990-9870 or email aeasterling@postisd.net. Deadline for book-giving and monetary donations is Dec. 14.

**Book fair**  
Students at Post Elementary School will celebrate Book Fair Week Nov. 12-16. The school will have a Family Book Fair Night from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 13 at the school library. For information, contact Connie Flores, school librarian, at 495-3414 or email cflores@postisd.net.

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

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

**BURN BAN**  
From Page 1

important tool for land managers, fire departments

and natural-resource agencies as a way to reduce hazardous fuel loads.

"These fuels, if burned under the extreme conditions of a wildfire, could

cause greater damage to property or rangeland resources and could pose greater risks to emergency responders and the public than if they were burned

under prescribed conditions for the purposes of rangeland or wildlife management, or hazardous fuel mitigation at the wildland/urban interface," Holdstock said.

While a Texas landowner has the right to utilize prescribed fire under the law, they often lack the experience or confidence to carry out the burns without technical help.

"This is where PBAs can help," Holdstock said.

PBAs are organized landowner cooperatives that are user owned, controlled and operated. PBAs share

- knowledge, experience and equipment among contributing members to increase the application and safety of prescribed fire as a management tool.
- The primary benefits to landowners are these:
- Support of a locally led and run organization of neighbors helping neighbors,
  - Reduced costs of fire management,
  - Reduced risk through increased experience, equipment, training, and technical assistance,
  - Community support and assistance,

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## November 25, 2012

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## The Post Dispatch

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# 54th Carol of Lights slated for Dec. 1

**Callie Jones**  
Special to the Dispatch

Texas Tech University hosts the 54th annual Carol of Lights celebration "Illuminate" on Dec. 1. The night kicks off with the traditional carillon concert at 6:30 p.m. performed by Tom Hughes, and the outdoor ceremony will follow at 7 p.m.

The Residence Halls Association has sponsored the event since its creation in 1956, growing it into the tradition it is today, drawing crowds of more than 20,000 each year.

The Texas Tech choirs, trombone groups, Masked Rider and Raider Red will be present, and with the flip of a switch to begin the ceremony, more than 25,000 red, orange and white lights will illuminate the night sky.

As Texas Tech and RHA continue their commitment to sustainability, nearly all of this year's lights will be transitioned to LED bulbs, projected to reduce energy consumption by 87 percent.

The event will be held in Memorial Circle, the Science Quad and Engineering Key. Parking will be



Photo by Sothy Eng/Texas Tech

The 54th annual Carol of Lights celebration at Texas Tech University will be Dec. 1 in Memorial Circle.

available in the Commuter North parking lot adjacent to Jones AT&T Stadium. Vehicle traffic on campus streets in the vicinity of Memorial Circle will be restricted at 5:30 p.m. and will remain closed until the conclusion of the event.

Immediately following the Carol of Lights, the Texas Tech School of Music will host its annual Carols Concert at Hemmle Recital Hall beginning at 8

p.m. The lights will be lit every night from dusk until midnight from Dec. 2 through Jan. 1.

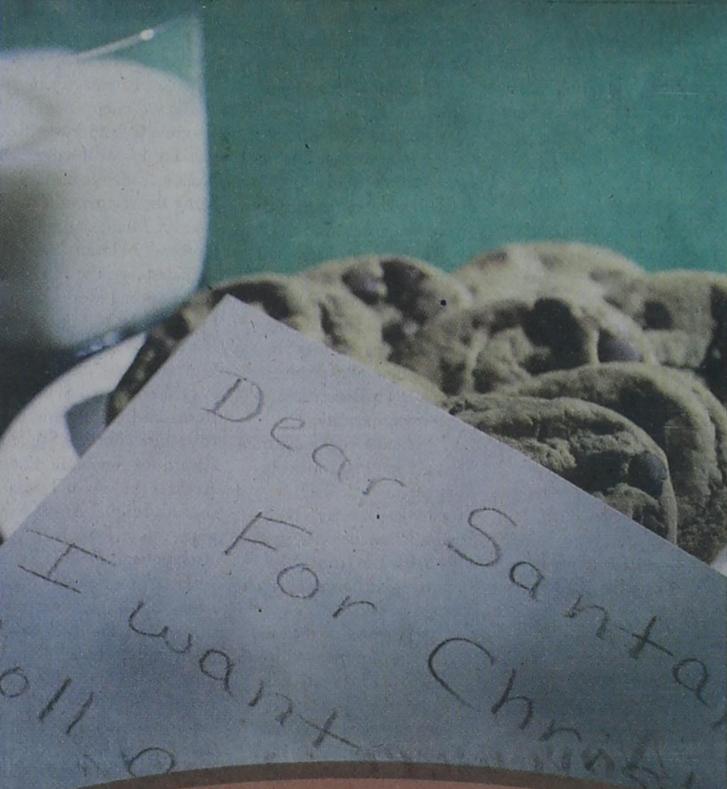
RHA is one of the largest organizations at Texas Tech. Its main goals are to promote a high quality of leadership in a democratic form of student government and provide the best possible living and learning experience for students living in the residence halls.

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I want  
For Christmas*

*Letters to Santa*

LETTERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE DEC. 21 EDITION

SANTA LETTERS DUE DECEMBER 7.

**The Post Dispatch**

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# Legends

## Letter from Mr. Post from his father

As you all know, Legends' focus is primarily on the past, and to compare it with today's society is like herding dinosaurs or something.

Remember when we had our heroes or movie idols and singers who we really looked up to? What happened to the space program? What about the American dream? Why have the American people fallen under the spell of a black man from

LINDA PUCKETT

Kenya who just gave away our America to Mexico to get re-elected?

You notice I didn't say United States, that's because we are not "united."

My daughter Donna asked me, "Mom, why do people from other countries come to America and then try changing it to be like their country? Why don't they just stay there?"

Well, I can't answer my own questions, and we Americans can't seem to stop our downward spiral. The answer must be with a higher power, one that doesn't reside in the town that ends with D.C.

You can disagree with me if you wish, I'm just venting while I can. The time is coming when we won't be able to voice our opinions. That's all I've got to say about that.

While doing research in Ann Arbor, Mich., recently, I came across this letter (dated Feb. 25, 1913), written by Charles Rowlin Post, father of C.W. Post. It's sort of refreshing to read kind words of compassion within a family. Hope you enjoy it as well.

Dear Charlie,

The box of fruit arrived yesterday and is much appreciated. It doesn't seem to have been injured in the freeze. I would much like to look in upon you "playing granger" [farmer] and see the loads of ripening fruit hanging upon the trees. In 1849 I was in Sacramento Valley and at

that time there were no citrus fruits grown there and all that was, was raised at the Missions South of San Francisco. What a change 63 years has wrought. Mr. Ray has had a nibble from some church in one of the suburbs of Los Angeles and has just returned from looking over the situation but is not ready to reveal the outcome for a while. His subject Sunday evening was about the "Frozen Paradise" but I didn't go out to hear it. Mother (Caroline) seems to have derived some benefit from the New Life Vibrator but I fear that her trouble is life-long. Still we keep trying anything and everything which promises relief. Age and her chronic condition make the case an obstinate one. Carroll (brother of C.W.) sent her a wheel chair but I have been able to get her into it but once. The last time she undertook a ride in the carriage over to Aurie's (other brother of C.W. who lived in Fort Worth), the pain went to her heart and I feared she would die in the carriage. Possibly an x-ray might reveal the trouble but she feels afraid to make the necessary exertion to get to the machine. She will give the Coal Oil a trial according to your recommendation.

I received a letter today from Rev. Martin Post (Roswell's brother) at Eagle Rock California where he is now living. It must be a new small place near Los Angeles. He wants help in buying an organ for the church.

The insurance on the two houses has expired and I have renewed one for three years and the other five years, the bill for which I enclosed. Ralph Smith will return home to Long Beach early in March, so Mrs. Roe was taking a bath. This is the second one that I have heard of her taking within the past two years. Perhaps there were others for she has had tough times.

With much love to you both. Thanks to Leila for her sweet valentine. That picture of you is a stunner. Yours, Father

See you next week.  
Linda Puckett is director of the Garza County Museum and Historical Commission.

# Yesteryears

## 10 Years Ago November 21, 2002

A 33-year old Post man was sentenced to three concurrent 25-year sentences Monday after pleading guilty to aggravated kidnapping, aggravated assault and burglary of a habitation. Gregorio "Greg" Matillas Soto Jr.'s guilty pleas eliminated the need for a trial that undoubtedly would have relied heavily on the testimonies of Soto's two young sons, 8-year-old Matthew and 4-year-old Sammy. Soto kidnapped Sammy on Father's Day, June 16. The child returned home after FBI officials located Soto and Sammy on June 17 in a Minneapolis homeless shelter.

The body of a 66-year-old Slaton man was found floating in Lake Alan Henry on Sunday afternoon, prompting an investigation by local law enforcement officials. Lee Maberry's body was pulled from the lake shortly after 5 p.m. Maberry's empty boat was spotted early Sunday morning and again at midday, but local authorities were not alerted until mid-afternoon.

Michael Ayala, formerly of Post, graduated magna cum laude at Virginia Commonwealth University on May 18 with a degree in biology. Ayala's academic honors include being the recipient of the Gary Rooney Memorial Scholarship and University Honors, as well as being inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and the Golden Key National Honor society. He was the first recipient of the 2002 Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award presented by the Carnegie Research Institute and twice received the multi-Cultural Student Affairs Award for Academic Excellence. Ayala is the son of Teresa Ayala and the late Miguel Angel Ayala Jr. and grandson of Francisca Ayala and Esequiel and Delfina Saldivar.

Post High School upperclassmen have been singled out for recognition in the 2002 Football Academic All-District list, according to information provided by high school officials. Seniors tabbed for recognition include Brice Easterling, Jonathan Eilenberger, Kenny Ratke, Brody Robertson and Jarrett Vickers. Juniors recognized included Kyle Gunn, Kris Hernandez, Zane Marts, Mark McCallister, Russell Merritt and Mitchell Mills.

## 20 Years Ago November 18, 1992

Bill Mueller's striking color print of lightning was selected as the People's Choice winner in the annual Caprock Photographers Fall Show. Mueller's picture was among 317 photos

submitted by 80 photographers that entered in this year's event.

John and Dianna Cordsen and their children will be honored a welcome reception Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Hotel Garza. John is the new managing editor at The Post Dispatch. The event was hosted by Wesley and Pat Burnett, former owners of The Post Dispatch.

Dustin Ammons, 1989 Post High School graduate and son of Allane and Don Ammons of Post, was one of 47 senior students at Texas Tech University recognized at a special Who's Who Among Students in America Universities and college induction ceremony last Sunday. Ammons is a political science major and plans to enroll in law school following graduation in the spring of 1993.

Cy and Charity Willson announce the birth of their daughter Kimberlin Jordan Lee. She was born Nov. 14 at 4:29 p.m. at St. Mary of the Plains Hospital.

Post High School choir members earning All-Region honors are Radley Nichols, Shelly Haney, Sara Hodges, Amber Little, Loren Voss and Ami Raben.

## 30 Years Ago November 10, 1982

Following a month-long investigation by Garza County law enforcement, two suspects were arrested for suspicion of burglary of Handy Hardware on Oct. 2. The two suspects, Julian Saldivar and Jerry Solis, were arrested Monday night by Garza County officers.

Nine Post natives are among the 989 students enrolled at Lubbock Christian College for the fall 1982 semester. Than number includes Melisa Tatum, Brent Mason, Melissa Feagin, Melinda Tatum, Stuart Price, Jody Palmer, Christian Beggs, Sonja Jones and Mario Luna.

Jimmy Ticer of Post will be appearing in the cast of the Western Texas College drama department production of "The Elephant Man," Nov. 19-22. Ticer, recipient of a drama scholarship to WTC, will be seen both as a Belgian policeman and the bishop.

The Post freshman football team closed out a perfect season, shutting out the Idalou Wildcats last week, 20-0, and capturing the district championship.

A new supermarket will open in Post on Nov. 11 at 8 a.m. The Piggly Wiggly Supermarket will open its doors for business under manager Morris Tyler. Assisting Tyler with duties of the store will be Cat Perez, assistant manager; Sam Ashcraft,

meat market manager; and Gabriel Zapata as produce manager.

## 40 Years Ago November 2, 1972

Gaynell King was elected 1972 football queen by the Antelope squad, her escort was senior quarterback John Johnson. Crystal Nichols was voted Band Sweetheart by her classmates, and Kent Kirkpatrick, band president and drum major was her escort. Kenneth Price, senior tailback, was crowned Pep Squad Beau on Friday night following his election by members of the pep squad. His escort was Sue Cowdrey.

Pete Morales, Post's long distance runner who is running for Baylor University, placed third in the Southwest Conference cross-country race Monday afternoon at College Station.

Gasoline, spilled while an air-filter was being cleaned, ignited and caused a fire that resulted in damaged at Foster's Garage, 615 N. Broadway about 7:30 a.m. yesterday.

Mrs. Marie Neff was elected president of the Post Art Guild of the Post Art Guild for the next two years at the Nov. 13 meeting held in the clubroom in the museum.

Army Pvt. Raymond Valdez of Post recently was assigned to Headquarters Company, U.S. forces Support District in Frankfurt, Germany.

## 50 Years Ago November 15, 1962

Members of the Garza County Historical Survey Committee presented the Historical Medallion to Marshall Mason for the old Ponton Sanitarium building at 117 N. Ave N. It was the first time the committee has presented one of the medallions at the building site. Members are committeeman Frank Runkles, Mrs. A.C. Surman, Walter Duckworth and Harold Lucas.

Students voted on who would cheer for the Post Junior High School's athletic teams to victory this year. They are Linda Altman, Marcia Newby, Scharlene Holland and Elaine Bland.

Post High School's marching band, which placed second to Floydada on Tuesday in marching competition at Seagraves, will compete in the Region 1 Marching Band contest at Lubbock on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gonzales announce the birth of a daughter, Ruth Ann, Nov. 6, in Garza Memorial Hospital.

Compiled by Elizabeth Moreno

# Sausage, turkey at annual Pep Thanksgiving

## Special to the Dispatch

PEP — The Pep community will have its 67th annual Thanksgiving Festival on Thanksgiving Day at St. Philip Neri Hall.

Pep is located in northwestern Hockley County on Highway 303, coming from Highway 54 turn south onto 303; coming from Highway 114, turn north onto 303.

The Pep community gathers

for a time of giving thanks by celebrating with a meal consisting of Pep's famous German sausage and turkey with all the trimmings.

In the fall of 1945, Pep had a community Thanksgiving Day meal in celebration of the safe return of all the young men who had served in the military during World War II. The following year, members of St. Philip's decided to continue this celebration in the form of a festival as a means of raising funds for church expenses.

Today, as always, all funds benefit the church.

The dinner will be served

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost for adult plates is \$10 and plates for children younger than 10 is \$5. Take-out plates will be available.

This year's festivities include a Country Store filled with handmade crafts and baked goods, including homemade bread and canned sauerkraut. A fishpond and grab bags will be available throughout the day for children.

A raffle drawing will be held after the meal. Raffle items include a queen-size quilt, a four-burner outdoor grill and a Kindle Fire. Raffle tickets cost \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. A donation of \$1 for one ticket will give you a chance to win all three prizes. Winners need not be present to win. Raffle tickets may be purchased from any parish member before Thanksgiving or may be purchased during the festival.

Make your plans to celebrate Thanksgiving Day by letting the community of Pep do all the preparing, cooking and cleanup.

For information, contact Anna Belle Walker at 806-245-6557 or Marcy Demel at 806-933-4324. For sausage information, contact Fette Demel at 806-245-6557, Dale Demel at 806-891-8247 or Lonnie Geisler at 906-252-8890.

German and breakfast sausage will be on sale at the parish hall from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21.

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\*Certain restrictions apply. See store for details. All services may not be available in all areas. Subject to credit approval. Offer ends 12/19/12. Drawing will be held 12/20/12. Kindle Fire is a registered product of Amazon. Poka Lambro not responsible for warranty of prize products.

**"Where Are The Good Old Days?"**

Copies of Post native Tom Nolen's book is available by writing him at 9656 CR 290, Buffalo, TX 75831, emailing tnolen26@yahoo.com or calling 903-536-2970. Cost is \$15 and includes shipping. Books will be mailed the following business day.

Thanks!

**Happy Thanksgiving**

We will be closed from 1 p.m. Thanksgiving Day until 5 a.m. Friday so that our family can mark the holiday with their families.

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## Oil industry

# Tech researchers develop improved fracturing techniques

By Kevin Slyker  
Special to the Dispatch

LUBBOCK — Global demand for oil and natural gas is forecast to climb significantly in the years to come. To keep up with increasing needs, well stimulation techniques such as hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) are becoming more and more important.

A team of Texas Tech University researchers has developed new techniques to enhance the process.

"Same cost, more output — the return is going to be a lot higher," said Mohamed Soliman, George Livermore Chair Professor and Department Chairman of Petroleum Engineering.

In recent years, new fracturing techniques have sought to enhance production of trapped hydrocarbons. Zipper frac, for example, is one of those techniques, which involves simultaneous stimulation of two parallel horizontal wells. In layman's terms, fractures in each stage propagate toward each other, so the induced stresses at the tips would force fractures further and increase output.

Soliman and two graduate students in petroleum engineering, Mehdi Rafiee and Elias Pirayesh, suggest that while the zipper frac is being practiced by the industry, it does not fully account for the mechanical properties of the sub-

terranean formation. The tips must be very close to observe the stress interference effect.

In another technique (alternating fracturing), a great degree of complexity can be achieved by designing fractures in an alternative sequence (Texas Two Step). Although this one looks more promising, it is operationally difficult to practice.

"We have developed two new techniques — both are simpler, but more effective," Rafiee said. "Multi laterals, same as zipper frac, different design and you create a more complex network."

The new patent pending design is a modified zipper frac (MZF), where fractures are initiated in a staggered pattern to induce stress, not only at the tips, but also in the middle area between fractures.

"The modified zipper frac increases complexity in the reservoir," Soliman said. "MZF achieves the goals that the zipper frac was supposed to achieve."

A second patent has been filed to cover an optimization technique that maximizes production through variable spacing between hydraulic fractures. Fractures are not spread equally; instead, measurements are taken after the first fracture to determine placement of subsequent fractures.

"After the first stage, you perform the optimization technique," said Rafiee.

"You determine the distance based on the stress interference, the complexity you need and the predicted fracture propagation."

The Office of Technology Commercialization at Texas Tech University has filed two patent applications to protect these methods and is actively engaging with oil and gas companies to begin using these improved rock fracturing techniques in the field.

"Dr. Soliman's technique is another great example of the innovation taking place at Texas Tech. His process will help advance the energy industry, which is a key to the growth of our regional and national economy and it is likely to see significant growth over the next several decades," said Jodey Arrington, Vice Chancellor for Research, Commercialization and Federal Relations at the System. "Texas Tech researchers are solving real problems and it's our job to make sure these solutions don't stay at Texas Tech, but get in to the marketplace where the benefit can be shared with the public."

"This is a lot simpler to apply, however the prospective company will need people to design it," Soliman said. "Not only do we have the technology, we have the pending patents, we have developed the software, and we have the people who can do it for them."

# More than 3 million Texans will travel this weekend

Special to the Dispatch

It's the time of year when people gather for home-cooked meals and time with loved ones.

AAA Texas forecasts nearly 3.3 million Texans will leave home to celebrate Thanksgiving — an increase of 1.6 percent over last year. The Thanksgiving holiday travel period is defined as round trips of 50 miles or more during the period of Wednesday, Nov. 21, to Sunday, Nov. 25.

"Thanksgiving is different from holidays earlier in the year in that it has a much greater focus on family," said Doug Shupe, AAA Texas spokesman. "From family members living far away congregating at a central location to college students returning home during their break, the Thanksgiving holiday is a time to reconnect."

Despite a sluggish economic recovery, overall travel this Thanksgiving will be up slightly across the state and nation. Economists say the small increase is a result of people feeling more confident today than one year ago and an economy that's holding steady.

"Our travel forecast shows the resiliency of Texans to economize their budgets so they can travel to be with one another for Thanksgiving," said AAA Texas Vice President Rhonda Wilson. "And those who will drive to their destinations this year will be especially thankful for the recent trend of falling gas prices."

As Texans prepare to hit the highways and byways for Thanksgiving Day travel, they'll be paying less money at the pump again this week. The statewide average price for a gallon of regular unleaded in Texas is now \$3.16. People in El Paso are paying the most on average at \$3.30, and people in Beaumont are paying the least at \$3.06.

Nationwide drivers are now paying an average of \$3.41, which is 25 cents more than the average in the Lone Star State.

"Traveling by car or truck is still the most economical and convenient way for many families to reach their holiday destinations," Shupe said.

AAA Texas forecasts travel volume by automobile will be up and continue to be the primary mode of transportation this Thanksgiving. Air travel is expected to drop 0.7 percent from last year, and travel via train and bus is expected to be up 11 percent.

Texas travelers plan to log an average of 714 miles round-trip during the upcoming holiday period, according to AAA. People surveyed in the Lone Star State expect to spend an average of \$802.

The top activities over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend will include visiting friends and family, dining, and shopping. Half of all travelers intend to shop, which is to be expected given that Black Friday occurs during the holiday weekend and is the busiest shopping day of the year.

## Veterans honored



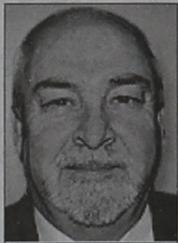
Submitted photo

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6797 honored veterans at Golden Plains Health Care Center on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, and were given T-shirts. Pictured, left to right, are: William Wiley, Walter McQueen, Ladies Auxiliary member Jaynie Dickson, Robert Buckley, war bride from England Doris Jones, Ladies Auxiliary President Rebecca Jolly, Dave Earick, Jackie Hays and Connie Bass.

# Hurst honored with top ag award

The Post Dispatch

Joe Hurst, general manager of Hurst Farm Supply in Lorenzo, recently was honored with an outstanding agricultural award by the Texas Tech College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources.



JOE HURST

The Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturalist Awards were given during the college's annual Pig Roast at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. The Pig Roast also features scholarship donors, recipients and intercollegiate judging teams.

Hurst was honored for developing a process for trading and selling late-model, used cotton strippers that enabled the firm to earn the title of the nation's top cotton stripper dealer for John Deere.

The company has dealerships in Lubbock, Slaton, Crosbyton, Colorado City, Snyder and Abernathy. Hurst is a long-time supporter of FFA, Texas Boys Ranch, Women's Protective Services and the American Museum of Agriculture.

He received his bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Texas Tech in 1979.

### REQUEST FOR CMAR SERVICES

The Board of Trustees of the Post ISD is requesting proposals for **CONSTRUCTION MANAGER-AT-RISK SERVICES ("CMAR Services")** for 2012 Bond Upgrade and Construction Projects (the "Project"). Interested parties may obtain an RFP packet with Project information from Jim Melton, BGR Architects, 2118 34th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79411, (806) 747-3881.

**Project Objective:** Construction of Post ISD Bond Upgrades

**Estimated Construction Budget - \$25,500,000**

**Architects - BGR Architects**

Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, and will be opened and read immediately thereafter. Please enclose **eight (8)** copies of your completed response. All responses are due no later than the deadline at the following address:

Mr. Michael Comeaux, Superintendent  
Post Independent School District  
501 S. Ave. K  
Post, Texas 79356  
Telephone: (806) 495-3343

All responses must be annotated with the following:  
**Proposal for Post ISD Bond Upgrade and Construction Program,  
Construction Manager at Risk RFP No. 2012-001**

Failure to have a response physically in the possession of the school district by the deadline shall result in the response not being considered, and such late proposals shall be returned unopened.

**THE SELECTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK SHALL BE A ONE STEP PROCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 2267, SUBCHAPTER F.** Any selected construction manager at risk will be required to execute modified AIA contract documents with the District.

Owner reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive irregularities and/or informalities as deemed in Owner's best interest.

**WAIVER OF CLAIMS:** BY TENDERING A RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL, THE PROPOSER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IT HAS READ AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING A RESPONSE, AND THE PROCESS USED BY THE OWNER FOR SELECTING A CONSTRUCTION MANAGER-AT-RISK. FURTHER, BY SUBMITTING A RESPONSE, THE PROPOSER FULLY, VOLUNTARILY AND UNDERSTANDINGLY WAIVES AND RELEASES ANY AND ALL CLAIMS AGAINST OWNER, ARCHITECT OR ANY OF THEIR TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, AGENTS AND/OR EMPLOYEES THAT COULD ARISE OUT OF THE ADMINISTRATION, EVALUATION, OR RECOMMENDATION OF ANY PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL.

### LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DONNA RAE PHILLIPS, Cause No. 1964**

Notice to app persons is hereby given that the original letters of Testamentary upon the estate of DONNA RAE PHILLIPS, deceased, were issued to the undersigned 19th day of November 2012, in the proceeding indicated below my signature hereto, which is still pending, and that I now hold such letter. All persons having claims against said estate, which is being administered, in Garza County, are hereby required to present the same at the address below given, before suit upon same area barred by the general statutes of limitation, before such estate is closed and within the time required by law to my attorney Preston L. Poole Jr. at P.O. Box 296, Post, Texas, 79356, or myself, MARY HIRACHETA, 280 Tennessee Ave., Slaton, Texas, 79364.

**Mary Hiracheta**  
Independent Executrix  
Nov. 19, 2012

## The Post Dispatch

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**3.95**

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or 12 Pack, 700 ml. Bottles

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Large Wall Clock  
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Post Honey Bunches of Oats  
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# Post Classifieds

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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 TFN

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### REAL ESTATE

House for Sale: 1,960-sq.-ft. brick house on 180x160 lot. 3BR,

2 bath, 24x28 garage, fireplace, remodeled kitchen in 2011, energy-efficient windows, 50-year class IV metal shingle roof in 2012, storm cellar under a covered patio and mature oak trees. Located in Grassland-Tahoka ISD. Delbert and Brenda McCleskey. 806-561-5549 or 806-759-4549. 1214p

### MISCELLANEOUS

RV spaces available at Two Draw Lake. One trailer house hookup

also available. For information, call 806-778-0292 or 806-241-1398. 1130p

### FOR SALE

2005 4x4 Dodge 2500 flat-bed pickup for sale. For information, call 806-778-2715. 1123pd

'82 Avion travel trailer. 85-feet long. Good tires. Restored and decorated. Call 806-495-2555 or 781-0429. 1123p



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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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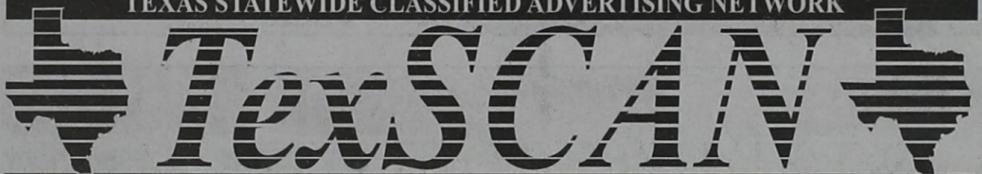
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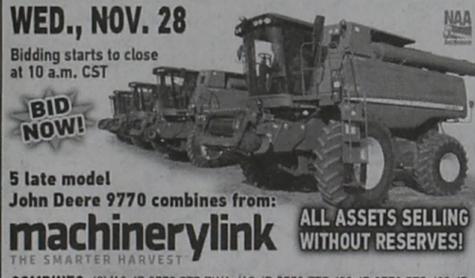
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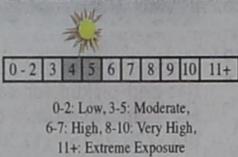
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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

<b>Friday</b> Partly Cloudy 65 / 44	<b>Saturday</b> Mostly Sunny 67 / 45	<b>Sunday</b> Mostly Sunny 71 / 49	<b>Monday</b> Partly Cloudy 73 / 51	<b>Tuesday</b> Sunny 72 / 48	<b>Wednesday</b> Sunny 71 / 45	<b>Thursday</b> Sunny 68 / 41

Local UV Index



Weather Trivia

What type of lightning can you not be struck by on the ground?  
**Answer:** Cloud-to-cloud lightning.

Weather History

**Nov. 16, 1988** - A powerful low pressure system in the north central United States produced high winds across the Great Lakes region, with wind gusts to 60 mph reported at Chicago. Heavy snow blanketed much of Minnesota, with 11 inches reported at International Falls.

**Nov. 17, 1989** - Freezing temperatures spread across the southeastern United States in the wake of the severe weather outbreak of the previous two days. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Gilbert, Ark. with a reading of 8 degrees.

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 65°, humidity of 51%. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. The record high temperature for today is 86° set in 1965. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 44°. South southeast wind 10 mph. The record low for tonight is 22° set in 1982. Saturday, skies will be mostly sunny with a high temperature of 67°, humidity of 55%. South wind 10 mph. Skies will be partly cloudy Saturday night with an overnight low of 45°. South wind 10 mph.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

	Peak Times		Peak Times	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
Fri	2:01-4:01	1:31-3:31	Tue	5:35-7:35
Sat	3:00-5:00	2:30-4:30	Wed	6:20-8:20
Sun	3:56-5:56	3:26-5:26	Thu	7:05-9:05
Mon	4:47-6:47	4:17-6:17		6:35-8:35

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
<b>First 11/20</b>	Fri 7:18 a.m.	5:43 p.m.	10:12 a.m.	8:48 p.m.
	Sat 7:18 a.m.	5:42 p.m.	11:05 a.m.	9:54 p.m.
	Sun 7:19 a.m.	5:42 p.m.	11:51 a.m.	10:59 p.m.
	Mon 7:20 a.m.	5:42 p.m.	12:31 p.m.	Next Day
<b>Full 11/28</b>	Tue 7:21 a.m.	5:41 p.m.	1:06 p.m.	12:02 a.m.
	Wed 7:22 a.m.	5:41 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1:02 a.m.
	Thu 7:23 a.m.	5:40 p.m.	2:12 p.m.	2:00 a.m.

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

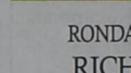
Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days	
11/6	78	39	65/38	0.00"	Date	Degree Days
11/7	80	44	65/38	0.00"	11/6	8
11/8	86	50	64/37	0.00"	11/7	12
11/9	84	58	64/37	0.01"	11/8	18
11/10	83	57	64/36	0.00"	11/9	21
11/11	58	35	63/36	0.00"		
11/12	53	22	63/36	0.00"		

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  
Paying it forward

This isn't really a Thanksgiving column. It's more of a Christmas column. Well, actually, it is a Thanksgiving column because it's about being thankful enough for your blessings that you share them at Christmas.

I thought I'd share these thoughts early enough that you could put them into practice over the next month if you would like. Over the last six months, three of my favorite people have left this earth to step into the presence of the Lord. Their absences mean that I'm going to be losing two favorite holiday traditions.



RONDA RICH

After Mr. Bobo's wife died, he went for eight years without a Christmas tree. He didn't think he missed it until the day I showed up on his doorstep with a tree, lights, decorations and a treetop angel. Tears ran down his cheeks when the tree was set up and lighted.

"How do I get this angel to stop blinking?" I mumbled to myself as I read the instructions but still couldn't figure it out. A little of a blinking angel goes a long way, and it was making me nervous.

"I love that it blinks!" he exclaimed. "It is the most beautiful angel that I have had to privilege to view. I believe I shall name her 'Ronda' for the angel who has brought this beautiful tree."

The next day, he called. "I sat here late into the night and watched this wonderful tree and angel. It has brought me such joy. Words can never express how indebted I am to you for this gift."

I bought him a remote so he could easily turn on and off the lights. For four years, it was the happiest gift I gave — a decorated Christmas tree to a man lonely for his departed wife and living in a retirement community.

Every year, he would call several times to tell me how much enjoyment the tree brought him. He would insist that friends come to see it. I shall miss terribly putting up that tree for my dear Mr. Bobo because it gave me joy to repay a similar kindness.

Many years ago, I was facing a lonely Christmas, too, and, disheartened, I wasn't planning on having a tree. My sweet friend, Reid, showed up at the door with a big, freshly cut pine and set it up. It was the most cherished tree of my life, so giving one to Mr. Bobo was simply paying forward the kindness that Reid gave me.

My dear friends, Guy and Pinky, are gone, too, this Christmas. For the past few years, they had been growing wearier and feebler. While Pinky gave me a subscription to Southern Living every year, I had given her casseroles and desserts so that when she hosted her precious family — her happiest tradition — she would not have to worry so much about cooking. It meant more to her than any jewel or book I could have given.

Every year, the readers of my weekly newsletter submit names of those who are elderly, lonely or shut-in and would appreciate receiving a card in the mail. I post the list, then readers select names and mail a card to cheer someone's day. Some even take the time to mail a card of cheer and encouragement to every person on the list. It is humbling and heart-warming to learn how many days are cheered by our annual Christmas card list.

As you reflect on your many blessings and celebrate them for Thanksgiving, please think of how you can share those blessings during Christmas. A card, a casserole or a Christmas tree could be the most important gift you give.

I guess what it boils down to is this: A merry Christmas starts with a happy, blessed Thanksgiving.

This year, let us all not just give thanks for our blessings, let's share our blessings with others during the Christmas season.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, author and storyteller. Her latest book, "There's A Better Day A-Comin'," is available at [rondarich.com](http://rondarich.com).

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