

The Post Dispatch

A BUILDER IN GARZA COUNTY SINCE 1926

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2013

THEPOSTDISPATCHONLINE.COM

75 CENTS

State lawmakers head back to Austin

By Ed Sterling
For the Dispatch

AUSTIN — After passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 by Congress on Jan. 1, "98 percent of Americans and 97 percent of small businesses will not see their income taxes go up," President Obama said.

The act, signed by the president Jan. 2, extends unemployment benefits for 2 million Americans who are looking for work, makes no cuts to Social Security and Medicare and expands Medicaid benefits. But the Act postpones Congressional action on budget "sequestration" for two months, leaving question marks over the accounting and social intricacies of how much to cut or tweak entitlements and how much revenue to raise. So, the short- and long-term impacts on states remain unclear.

Dynamics of decisions made at the federal level add to the complexity of deliberations as state lawmakers convened Monday for the 83rd session of the Texas Legislature.

Systemic state budget deficits in recent years have left Texas unable to avoid shortfalls. In 2011, Texas resorted to using federal "stimulus" dollars to overcome a \$6 billion budget deficit. In 2012, sales tax revenues flowed in at healthier rates, and the state comptroller soon will release her biennial revenue estimate, giving lawmakers some idea of how much cash they will have to meet the needs of Texas.

Thirsty constituents, cattle, crops, industry are sure to be addressed this session. Widespread and chronic lack of water pose problems looking for legislative solutions. And, yes, Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 28 extended his drought emergency proclamation of July 5, 2011, to a majority of Texas' 254 counties.

Those multi-billion dollar cutbacks on education in the 82nd session of the Legislature will be addressed, and so will Medicaid. If Texas refuses to meet the required match to receive federal Medicaid funds by rejecting the Medicaid expansion, the Lone Star State could lose billions of federal dollars.

To that, Perry stated in a newspaper

See LEGISLATURE, Page 8

Line break leaves some Post customers without water on New Year's

By Wayne Hodgin
The Post Dispatch

A break in the Post water line from White River left about six or eight customers without water on New Year's Day last week.

Tom Fulton, general manager of the White River Municipal Water District, said the break occurred about 2:30 a.m. in the line that runs under the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River, just northwest of the city of Post.

"My guys worked about 30 hours straight to get those repairs made and get those customers back online," Fulton said.

He said his staff worked with staff from the city of Post to provide those customers with water from the city of Slaton during the time the water-line repairs were being made.

Fulton said parts were ordered later that day, and the repairs were able to be made.

"That water line is now nearly 60 years old," Fulton said. "This is one of the oldest lines in our district, and while it was built with top-of-the-line equipment at the time, age is really beginning to take a toll on it."

Fulton said the estimated cost to make the repairs that day was about \$15,000.

Christmas Angel



Wayne Hodgin/The Post Dispatch

Herschel Williams and her dog Annie stand at the doorstep of their home where a number of Christmas gifts were left to her by an unknown Christmas "angel." Williams said for 12 nights leading up to and including Christmas Eve, someone would leave her little gifts, including a card and candy, ring the doorbell and were never seen.

Yes, Herschel, there is a Santa Claus

Secret Christmas angel brings joy, memories to local woman

By Wayne Hodgin
The Post Dispatch

If you've picked up a newspaper in the last 100 years, you've likely seen the reprint of The (New York) Sun editorial that appeared in its Sept. 21, 1897, edition, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

The famous reply has become an indelible part of popular American folklore.

Post resident Herschel Williams says she's always believed in Santa — or at least the Christmas spirit — but now, she said, she's sure

the Jolly Old Elf himself is real.

Every night from Dec. 13 through Dec. 24 — an entire 12 days — someone would ring the doorbell to Williams' home, leave a gift and was never seen.

"That first night, I remember just sitting here in the living room watching TV, and I thought I heard the doorbell ring, but I wasn't sure," Williams said. "Even Annie, who barks at everyone and every noise, seemed not to hear it."

Williams said she opened the door and, not finding a

soul in sight, looked down to see a small gift and card on her doorstep.

"It was a small loaf of pumpkin bread and a Christmas ornament to hang on my tree," she said.

The card, which contained a poem centering on the centuries-old "The Twelve Days of Christmas" carol, was never signed. It just contained the poem and a short note from the gift-giver, explaining Williams would be receiving 12 gifts each night leading up to Christmas Eve and that

See ANGEL, 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.

Stock show entries

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

Storytime

The Post Public Library, 105 E. Main St., will host a storytime for parents and children from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday for children ages 18 months to 4 years old. Cuddle up and listen to some new and old favorites, enjoy colorful illustrations and get young ones acquainted with the library. For information, call the library at 990-2149.

Concessions help

The Garza County Junior Livestock Association is asking all 4-H members to bring a dozen baked good, individually wrapped, to be sold at the county livestock show, Jan. 17-19. All money raised through the concessions benefit the Syd Conner Memorial Scholarship fund. Workers also are needed for two-hour shifts throughout the weekend. Hours are 2-8 p.m. Thursday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m. to close Saturday. For information, call the Garza County Extension Office at 495-4400.

Cookbooks available

The 2012 Garza and Scurry Counties Hometown Holidays Cookbooks are available for \$10 at the Garza County Extension Office. For information, call 495-4400.

Chamber award noms

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

Christmas exhibit

"The Joy of Christmas," an inspiring exhibit of Nativities and 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.

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Correction

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

News on the go



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

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EDITOR/GENERAL MANAGER Wayne Hodgins

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

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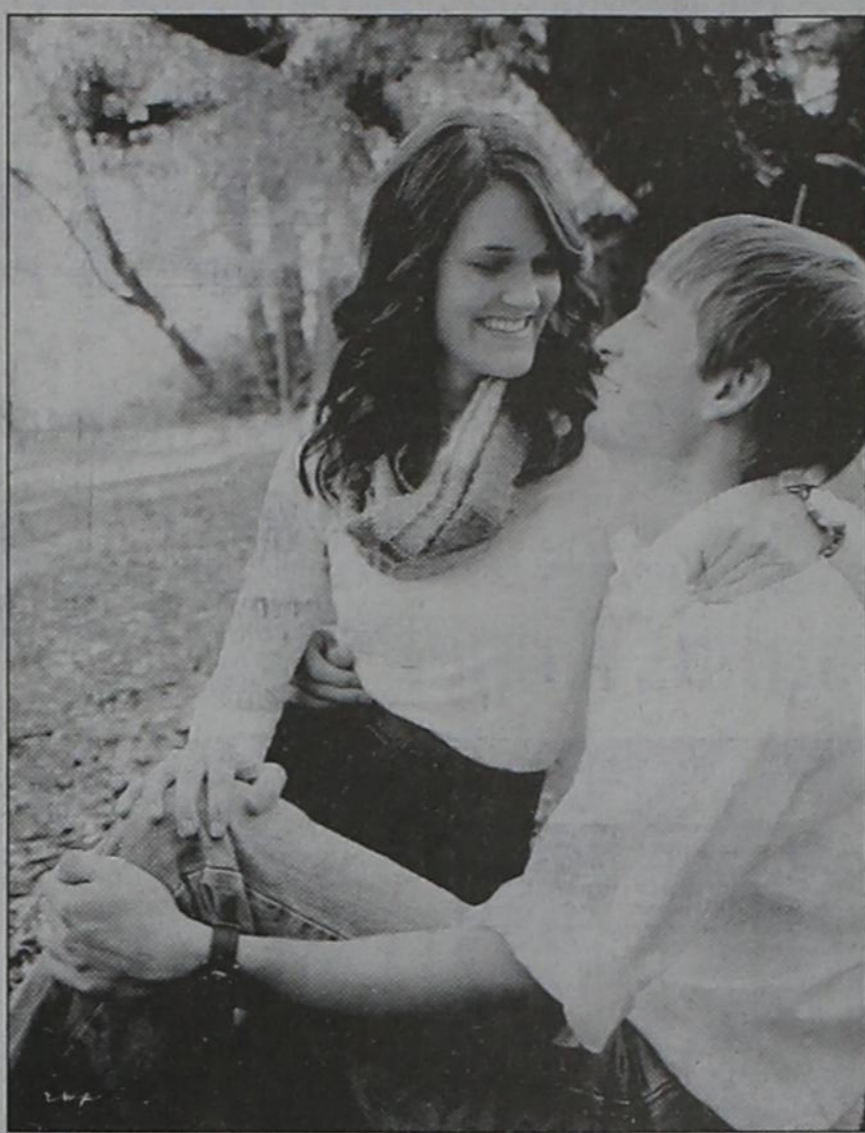


Letters to Celebrations

Anderson, Wilson to wed

Thanks to Christmas angel I had a wonderful Christmas and a most unusual one. I've always believed in there was a Santa and now I am positive he is real because he sent one of his little elves to my door late in the evening beginning 12 days of Christmas before Christmas. He would ring my doorbell, leave a gift, then run away. I was not to peek or he would leave the rest of my gifts for someone else. I enjoyed playing his game so much and since I don't know who he is I hope he will see my letter. I want to say thank you!

HERSCHEL WILLIAMS Post



Timothy Wilson, son of Robert and Julie Wilson of Post, and Jennifer Anderson, daughter of R.C. and Kay Anderson of Rockwall, announce their engagement.

They have planned a private-destination wedding

April 6 in St. Lucia. Timothy and Jennifer are both currently working in Angle Fire, N.M., and Timothy will begin medical school this summer at either Texas Tech or Texas A&M.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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.)

Menus: Week of Jan. 14-18

Post ISD

- Breakfast Monday: Pancake-sausage on a stick, syrup, fruit, milk Tuesday: Cheese omelet, toast, fruit, milk Wednesday: Cream-of-wheat, sausage, toast, fruit, milk Thursday: Cowboy bread, sausage link, fruit, milk Friday: Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch Monday: Beef nachos, refried beans, garden salad, salsa, hot cinnamon apples, milk Tuesday: Hot dog, potato rounds, fresh veggie cup, fresh seasonal fruit, milk Wednesday: Grilled cheese sandwich, vegetable soup, baby carrots, fruit cup, milk Thursday: Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, garden salad, green beans, apple slices, crispy treat, milk Friday: Hamburger, seasoned corn, baby carrots, sliced peaches, milk

Southland ISD

- Breakfast Monday: Pancake on a stick, fruit, juice, milk Tuesday: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk Wednesday: Breakfast bar or cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk Thursday: Muffins, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk Friday: Biscuits, sausage, gravy, fruit, juice, milk Lunch Monday: Beef and cheese chalupa, garden salad, refried beans, applesauce, tortilla chips, salsa, milk Tuesday: Country fried steak, whipped potatoes with gravy, green beans, hot roll, strawberry cup, milk Wednesday: Chicken fajitas, peppers and onions, charro beans, corn, tortilla chips, salsa, orange wedges, milk Thursday: Chicken spaghetti, garden salad, carrots with ranch, bread stick, apple slices, milk Friday: Fish tacos, corn tortillas, sweet potato fries, coleslaw, salsa, sliced peaches, milk

- Trailblazers-Senior Citizens Center: Monday: Polish sausage, diced potatoes, carrots, roll, fruit, milk Tuesday: Chicken fried steak, mash potatoes, green beans, roll, chocolate pudding, milk Wednesday: Hamburger steak, scalloped potatoes, mixed veggies, roll, banana pudding, milk Thursday: Barbecue chicken, mash potatoes, carrot and raisin salad, roll, fruit, milk Friday: Bakde ham, sweet potatoes, broccoli, roll, brownie, milk

Deaths

J.D. Wall

DENVER CITY — Funeral services for J.D. Wall, 86, of Denver City were Saturday at the First Assembly of God Church with the Rev. Ronnie Lunsford officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Denver City.

He passed away Jan. 2, 2013, in Denver City.

J.D. Wall was born on Sept. 5, 1926, in Garza County to James and Carrie Wall.

He married Merlie Robinson on Dec. 15, 1952, in Lovington, N.M. J.D. was a farmer in Denver City for many years. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife Merlie Wall in 2004, a son Emery Wall in 2006, three brothers and two sisters.

J.D. is survived by his daughter Tammy Merideth



J.D. WALL

of Denver City, grandson Jarrod Merideth of Denver City, granddaughters Jill Stanford of Grand Prairie and Tanja Baum of Germany, sister Faye Ramsey of Bushland, along with one niece and one nephew.

In Lieu of flowers donations may be made to Hospice House of Odessa at 903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa, TX 79761.

Ruth Hill

Ruth Hill, 88, of Post, died Friday, Dec. 28, 2012, at the Golden Plains Care Center. She was born Dec. 28, 1924, to Wille and Bessie (Rylant) Windham, here in Post.

She attended Post schools and graduated from Post High. She married Wiley Arthur Hill on Dec. 24, 1942, in Lubbock. He preceded her in death Jan. 30, 1983.

Ruth and Wiley made their home here in Post. Ruth worked for Bowen Abstract and then for the Postex Cotton Mill. She worked there until it closed. She then went to work for Sam Bevers as a bookkeeper. She enjoyed playing pranks on people, as well as others pulling pranks on her. She was a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who loved doing fun things with all her family. When Ruth was around, everyone had fun.

Ruth also was preceded in death by a daughter, Barbara Wylene Hill, on June 21, 1953.

She was a life long Baptist and a member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

She is survived by a daughter, Billye Ruth Lowe of Post, and a brother, Everette "Heavy" Windham of Slaton; grandchildren Wiley Dee Lowe and his wife, Melissa, of Littlefield and Ruth Deeann Pow-



RUTH HILL

ell and husband, Adon, of Arlington; great-grandchildren Wiley Erik Lowe and his wife, Kari, Daniel Powell, Jesse Powell, Benjamin Powell, Steven Lowe and Brenna Lowe. Ruth is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012, at the Calvary Baptist Church in Post with John Bill Hedrick of the Graham Chapel Methodist Church officiating and Brother Richard Butts, interim pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, assisting. Burial followed at the Terrace Cemetery. Arrangements were under the personal care of Dee and Janet Justice of Justice-Mason Funeral Home in Post.

Pallbearers were Dee Lowe, Adon Powell, Wiley Erik Lowe, Daniel Powell, Jesse Powell, Benjamin Powell, Steven Lowe and Brenna Lowe.

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 Larry Hagman

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
X G
W KWKQ T HZWI X INX JFFG IF
DXVV INX JFFG JRI IF IXVV
PY XUTXZWXQSD



South Plains Community Action Association Helping People, Changing Lives. Primary Health Care Program (PHC). Do you need medical assistance but can't afford it and don't qualify for other government programs? The PHC program provides access to primary health care services to Texas residents who are unable to access the same care through other funding sources or programs. Services available include diagnosis and treatment, family planning services, preventive health services, health education, laboratory, x-ray, and other appropriate diagnostic services. SPCAA PHC PROGRAM 1600 U.S. HWY 84 PO BOX 477 Post, Texas 79356 806-495-4543

They're Back! McRib Sandwiches Back For The Fall. Winter Warmth Peppermint Hot Chocolate & Peppermint Mocha. McDonald's 102 N Broadway Post, TX. I'm lovin' it

Oversize equipment damages bridge over U.S. 84 near Snyder

The Post Dispatch

An oversize load damaged the U.S. 80 overpass at U.S. 84 near Snyder on Tuesday.

The Texas Department of Public Safety was notified at 4:27 p.m. that a Price Construction truck had hit the bridge. Traffic was being diverted for

both highways.

The truck was identified as a 2012 Peterbilt Truck registered to Price Construction in Big Spring. It was hauling a rock crusher from Colorado City, traveling to near Justiceburg.

The truck was permitted for 14 foot in height and 156,000 pounds in weight. The over-

pass is marked as 14 feet and 5 inches.

The truck was traveling west on U.S. 84 and struck the underside of the overpass. No injuries were reported.

No other information was available from DPS officials on when the bridge would be opened back up to thru travel.



Courtesy photo/ Texas Department of Transportation

Officials assess the damage to the U.S. 80 bridge over U.S. 84 near Snyder on Tuesday after a tractor-trailer misjudged the height of the bridge as it passed westbound under the bridge. According to reports, the truck was hauling a rock crusher from Colorado City to Justiceburg in Garza County.

Conservation program apps now being accepted

The Post Dispatch

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is now accepting applications for funding opportunities with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program in the Garza County office, 210 W. Main St., Post.

NRCS in Texas has received its initial allocation of EQIP funding in 2013 and will begin ranking and obligating EQIP contracts after Feb. 15. All agriculture producers interested in submitting a contract application for 2013 should do so before this ranking deadline.

EQIP — one of the largest programs in the Farm Bill — is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state and federal regulations.

"EQIP is a valuable tool to help Garza County's agricultural producers implement conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations," said District Conservationist Glen Killough.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical assistance for the application of specific conservation practices; but the deadline for the first 2013 funding is Feb. 15.

Contracts are offered periodically depending on budgetary allocations. Applications made after the deadline will be considered in the next funding cycle. Higher priority will

be given to those applications that address national, state and local priorities and provide higher cost efficiency.

EQIP offers technical and financial help to install or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices that can benefit the soil, water, air, plants, livestock, and wildlife. Each county in the state is funded yearly to assist producers financially with these land management practices.

Last year, NRCS in Texas funded more than 4,000 EQIP contracts with \$76 million to accomplish conservation practices such as irrigation efficiency, minimum tillage, brush man-

agement and more on 2.1 million acres across the entire state.

In addition to helping our environment, Farm Bill conservation program funds support rural communities. In Texas, it is estimated each dollar of NRCS and private matching expenditures on NRCS conservation programs generates an additional \$2.54 in sales of goods and services.

For information, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center office in Post at 495-2056.

Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

Sworn in



Russel Skiles/For the Dispatch

Michael Munk is sworn in as district attorney for the 106th Judicial District on Jan. 2 at the Dawson County Courthouse by Dawson County Judge Allen Wells. Munk most recently served as Garza County attorney.

Texas water wars Texas water officials sue New Mexico

State says N.M. bogarting water from Rio Grande

The Post Dispatch

The state of Texas on Tuesday filed a complaint with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking it to command New Mexico to deliver water apportioned to Texas under the 1938 Rio Grande Compact between the states of Texas, New Mexico and Colorado to divide the waters of the Rio Grande.

"It is unfortunate that we have had to resort to legal action, but negotiations with New Mexico have been unsuccessful, and Texas is not getting the water that it is allocated and legally entitled to," said Carlos Rubinstein, commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Because of New Mexico's ongoing litigation to avoid its water obligation, Texas finally felt compelled to act to protect its rights to the water legally apportioned to it.

"The state of New Mexico is currently in active litigation in both state and federal courts in New Mexico in an attempt to circumvent the Rio Grande Compact and the operation by the United States of the Rio Grande Project," Rubinstein said.

"The complaint filed today by the state of Texas in the U.S. Supreme Court is not intended to adversely impact New Mexico's right to allocate its water resources, but is focused on protecting the rights of Texas to Rio Grande water under the 1938 Compact through the operation of the Rio Grande Project."

By ignoring the compact, New Mexico is already causing harm to water users in Texas, said Pat Gordon, Rio Grande Compact Commissioner, and it will only get worse in the future unless something is done now.

"These illegal diversions of wa-

ter in New Mexico are having an ongoing negative effect on the amount of water available for use by Texas farmers," Gordon said. "The city of El Paso also counts on Texas' water allocation for half of its water supply."

Gordon said attempts to negotiate a resolution with New Mexico were not successful and only resulted in New Mexico initiating aggressive litigation aimed at capturing water that belongs to the Rio Grande Project and the state of Texas.

"Our dispute is not with New Mexico farmers who are part of the Rio Grande Project," Gordon said. "Texas had no choice but to take action against the state of New Mexico in the U.S. Supreme Court to protect its rights under the 1938 Compact."

This is a complex legal action, but key points include:

- Historically, water apportioned under the Rio Grande Compact has resulted in about 57 percent of the water supply below the Elephant Butte Reservoir being delivered to New Mexico, and 43 percent being delivered across the New Mexico-Texas state line for Texas.

- The state of New Mexico has allowed a reduction of Texas' water supplies and the apportionment of

water it is entitled to under the Rio Grande Compact. New Mexico is illegally allowing diversions of both surface and underground water hydrologically connected to the Rio Grande downstream of Elephant Butte Reservoir. These extractions of water through 2011 have amounted to tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of acre-feet annually. The illegal diversion of this water is negatively impacting water flows in the river, taking water that is released for the Rio Grande Project beneficiaries, including the State of Texas. Essentially, New Mexico is delivering water to Texas at Elephant Butte Reservoir and then re-diverting Texas' water below the reservoir as it is being released to Texas.

- Grave and irreparable injury has occurred and will be suffered in the future by Texas and its citizens unless relief is afforded by the court to prevent New Mexico from using and withholding water which Texas is entitled to, and which New Mexico is obligated to deliver, under the Rio Grande Compact and Rio Grande Project Act.

- The state of Texas is requesting no action from the state of Colorado. They are included only because they are a signatory to the compact.

The U.S. Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction of this suit. If it accepts the case, the court has in similar cases appointed a special master to hear the case.

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Legends All about Jane

Hope everyone has started the New Year in a happy mode. Hey, I am most grateful just to have another year, and one to share with you a few legends.

With that in mind, last year my dear friend Donna Degan and I were having lunch when I noticed



LINDA PUCKETT

she was wearing a bracelet with the word "Legend" on it. Needless to say, I literally bought it off her arm. The plate read, "I figure if a girl wants to be a legend, she should just go ahead and be one," Calamity Jane.

Well, that bracelet has been one of my favorite pieces of jewelry ever since.

Martha Jane Cannary, aka Calamity Jane, did become quite a legend in her time. Her bio is quite interesting. She was born May 1, 1852, in Princeton, Mo., to Robert and Charlotte Cannary. She was the eldest of six children, having two brothers and three sisters.

In 1865, her father packed up the family and moved by wagon train to Virginia City, Mont. Her mother died along the way at Black Foot, Mont., in 1866 of "washtub pneumonia." They left Virginia City in the spring, moving

on to Salt Lake City. They arrived in the summer, and Mr. Cannary started farming on a 40-acre patch. They were there only one year when Robert Cannary died in 1867.

Historians say she was an orphan by age 12, but since her parents died in 1866 and 1867, she must have been 14 or 15. But at their deaths, Martha Jane took over as head of the family. She loaded up the wagon again and took her siblings to Fort Bridger in Wyoming Territory. From there they traveled on the Union Pacific Railroad to Piedmont, Wyo., arriving in 1868.

Martha Jane was forced to take any job she could get to provide for her large family, working as a cook, dishwasher, waitress, dance-hall girl, or even an ox-team driver.

In 1896 she wrote the following in her autobiography.

"In 1865 we migrated from our homes in Missouri by the overland route to Virginia City, Mont., taking five months to make the journey. While on the way, the greater portion of my time was spent in hunting along with the men and hunters of the party; in fact I was at all times with the men when there was excitement and adventure to be had.

"By the time we reached Virginia City, I was considered a remarkable good shot and a fearless rider for a girl of my age. I remember many occurrences on the journey from Missouri to Montana. Many times in crossing

the mountains, the conditions of the trail were so bad that we frequently had to lower the wagons over ledges by hand with ropes, for they were so rough and rugged the horses were of no use.

"We also had many exciting times fording streams, for many of the streams in our way were noted for quicksand and boggy places, where, unless we were very careful, we would have lost horses and all. Then we had many dangers to encounter in the way of streams swelling on account of heavy rains.

"On occasion of that kind, the men would usually select the best place to cross the streams, myself, on more than one occasion, have mounted my pony and swam across the stream several times merely to amuse myself, and have had many narrow escapes from having both myself and pony washed away to certain death, but, as the pioneers of those days had plenty of courage, we overcame all obstacles and reached Virginia City in safety. Mother died at Black Foot, Mont., 1866, where we buried her."

Part two of the Calamity Jane story continues next week as we learn more about a gal that some referred to as a folk hero, an American frontierswoman, performing artist, scout and Indian fighter. See you next week.

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

Nancy's Notions Quality counts

It's that time of year again! The Garza County Junior Livestock Association will host its annual project show Jan. 18 at the Syd Conner Memorial Livestock Barn.

It is so enjoyable to watch the anticipation on the kids' faces as they enter the show ring each year. These youth have worked endless hours on their animal projects in preparation for this contest.

Eligibility to enter the show includes a current membership of Post FFA, Southland FFA or Garza County 4-H along with a new requirement in 2012 called Quality Counts.

Quality Counts requires exhibitors to pass an online test that measures their knowledge on quality assurance and character education content items.

The Quality Counts Program has now been in existence statewide for six years. During this time, it has reached an average of 30,000 Texas youth per year through the 4-H and FFA programs. Program outcomes clearly demonstrate youth being more knowledgeable of best management practices associated with livestock projects. More importantly, the program's impact has demonstrated positive changes in personal character attributes as well as adoption of livestock best management practices.

Quality Counts "verification" is required for all youth exhibiting livestock at major livestock shows in Texas including the Fort Worth Livestock Show, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Star of Texas Fair in Austin, San Angelo Livestock Show, Sandhills Stock Show in Odessa, State Fair of Texas in

Dallas, and Heart O' Texas Fair in Waco.

Youth educators and the major livestock shows in Texas believe strongly in Quality Counts. Collectively, they are confident this significant step of requiring youth to be "Quality Counts Verified," starting in 2012, will strengthen and enhance the youth livestock program in Texas.

For more information on the Quality Counts Program, visit qualitycounts.tamu.edu.

Working along with the 4-H and FFA exhibitors in Garza County are many parents, project advisers and GCJLA volunteers who make this show happen. The association meets several times each year and holds an annual fundraiser in October. Membership fees are \$25 per year and membership is open. Continued financial support from businesses and individuals at the annual sale has allowed projects to continue through years. GCJLA volunteers work tirelessly to secure donors and mentor the exhibitors. GCJLA officers for 2013 include: President Milton Williams, Vice President Keith Williams, Recording Secretary Chad Huckaby and Corresponding Secretary Janece Williams.

I encourage each of you to support our county youth either by joining the association, buying an animal at the sale, donating to the jackpot, or donating an auction item. But before you donate, I encourage you go out to the show barn Thursday when they are weighing their animals in or Friday when they are washing and grooming their animals and talk with the exhibitors. Ask them questions. How they feed and when? How often they exercise them? What exercises they like best? I assure you, they will be excited to tell you about their project!

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



NANCY MCDONALD

CHECKING THESE VITAL SIGNS CAN SAVE A LIFE.

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Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

Cryptogram Solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
M	J	S	K	X	L	B	N	W	C	G	V	P	Q	F	T	E	Z	D	I	R	A	H	U	Y	O

I DIDN'T WRITE THE BOOK TO
W KWKQ I HZWIX INX JFFG IF
SELL THE BOOK, BUT TO TELL
DXVV INX JFFG JRI IF IXVV
MY EXPERIENCES
PY XUTXZWXQSD

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Church Directory

Assembly of God
Bethel Assembly of God (Bi-Lingual)- 407 May street
Lifeline Church- 108 N. Broadway

Baptist
Calvary Baptist Church- 210 E. 6th Street, 990-2342
First Baptist Church, Post- 402 W. Main Street, 495-3554
First Baptist Church, Wilson- 806-628-6333
Grace Baptist Church- 820 N. Avenue S- 990-3497
Justiceburg Baptist Church- Justiceburg
Pleasant Home Baptist Church- E. 14th & N Ave F
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

Nondenominational
Family Harvest Church- (806) 495-1400

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The Idle American Bigger than life

It was, hands down, the most remarkable athletic feat I've ever witnessed. The scene was Dallas' American Airlines Center, where some 20,000 fans watched the Mavericks-Phoenix Suns NBA game April 5, 2009.

They saw a blow-out win by 26 points — and the Mavs' 140-point barrage could have been more.



DON NEWBURY

Memorable, too, was Josh Howard's 71-foot shot that beat the halftime buzzer. Moments later, however, an intermission feature drew greater applause. Fisher Floyd, a man from the stands in street clothes, hit a lay-up, free throw, 3-pointer and half-court shot. Fisher's "swishers," made in 45 seconds, have never been duplicated. What are the odds?

His feat has gone viral on YouTube with 5.5 million hits — some 3 million the first year. I found him to be engaging, gracious and caring during a phone conversation later. He politely answered questions, but seemed most interested in whether I saw him "blowing kisses to Lindsey," his bride of a year. She was seated behind the Mavericks' bench, where several players, unaware the kisses were directed slightly above their heads, blew them back!

Friends — and he had many — describe him only in superlatives. He was captain of his district champion Highland Park High School basketball team and was the league's offensive player of the year for 2000-2001. At the

University of California-Santa Barbara, where he graduated with honors, he introduced a new game — Frisbees — played with tennis rules.

Friends and family agree his specialty was making virtually everything competitive, always "edge-searching." His adventurous spirit dates back to 1986, when "Top Gun" was a movie hit. Just 4 years old at the time, he was "hooked" — always probing, "what-iffing" and fixing whatever was broken.

Perhaps no one was ever more in love with life. His Christian principles and knack for making friends at warp speed were evident.

His checklist of "things to do" included flying in a fighter jet. A while back he won such a ride as the high bidder at a charity auction.

Dressed in aviation gear, he made three trips to a Lancaster airport for a flight with Nellie, himself a Highland Park High School graduate. (Rather flew 60-plus missions in Vietnam and was a former Braniff pilot. He loved the Delfin L-29 aircraft he'd spent years restoring and frequently offered rides to charity beneficiaries.) Weather scrubbed the first two efforts, but Dec. 13 dawned bright and clear.

A friend accompanied Fisher to the airport. There were exchanges of phone texts until take-off and animated, first-hand descriptions were anticipated upon return.

But it was not to be. There were no second or third-hand descriptions, either, or any kind of distress signals prior to the crash of the two-seater plane in Kaufman County, where both men perished about a half-hour after take-off.

The tragedy is inexplicable. Again, what are the odds? Fisher Floyd's memorial

service was Dec. 18 at Highland Park United Methodist Church, where he, his wife and two sons — Ryder, 2, and Hudson, 1 — had planned to become members in January.

Real friends, it is said, are counted not by hand, but by heart. Fisher, a picture of humility whose spirit brought out the best in others, must have had a giant heart. It would have taken a facility the size of the AAC to contain the mass of mourners. Seating at the church accommodates about 1,000 people; some 1,600 came.

The family has received hundreds of condolences. One referenced Fisher's being "kind, decent, happy." It was signed "Averill Mitchell, usher, Sections 117-118, AAC." Another mourner said Fisher made friends more quickly than anyone he'd ever known, and he was "an even better husband and father."

Dallas Coach Rick Carlisle was among the speakers. At the service — as well as at the Mavs' game the same evening — he chose the champagne-soaked red tie he'd worn when Dallas won the 2011 NBA title in Miami, mentioning "it would never be worn again." Fisher's memory was further honored with a tribute preceding the game; at halftime, the historic video of his four "swishers" was shown.

At the funeral, sister-in-law Lisa Cheney Moore, offered a consoling thought — God called Fisher home to help welcome 20 children from Connecticut.

Much in life baffles, exceeding our understanding. We pray for clarity on the other side of the river.

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

The Paperboy Technology won't help you in a disaster

Don't be too dependent on the device in your hand. Here we are — January of the year 2013. We are officially in the future, so to speak.

Technology has taken over the world, and nothing can stop the current trajectory we are on.

From computer chips in dogs (which allow you to track them by phone) to voice controlled cars, man we have it all.

The typical smart phone makes Captain Kirk's communication device look like a poor man's flip phone.

Children ages 3 years old and up can now take an iPad or similar device and actually navigate it. I've seen this with my own eyes.

The power infrastructure, at least in this part of the world, is also seeing a massive upgrade with new power poles and lines. Once complete, our grid should be able to handle almost anything mother nature can throw at it.

Compare that to four years ago when several towns, particularly in the eastern Texas Panhandle and western Oklahoma had power poles snapped by an incredible ice storm.

Hopefully, those days are behind us. However, as witnessed by Hurricane Sandy, we can be thrown into the dark ages on short notice. And when events like it happen, we now know we have a couple of generations helpless without power.

Last week, I was explaining to my sons (ages 9 and 7) how to start a fire using nature (flint and steel or by rubbing sticks

together). They could not believe it.

It got me to thinking that unless your children are being taught by someone or are in an organization such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, they could easily lack basic survival skills.

Likewise, many families in general, probably more in urban areas, lack basic survival skills.

That being the case, I highly doubt most families have survival kits and rations to get them a week or two down the road.

Like the good people of the Northeast, if things went south and the grid did go down, many would be in grave danger should the worst happen.

As Hurricane Sandy approached the East Coast back a couple of months ago, people were instructed to go to websites for instruction on shelter, food, etc. The only problem is when the grid went down, there was no power and cell phones died. Once that occurred, people were clueless as to what to do and where to go.

It is vital that people understand that regardless of how much technology governs our lives, it can be taken away in minutes. If that happened in your town, how prepared are you to deal with it?

I encourage everyone out there to have a plan and basic necessities to survive. If you don't, you could find yourself in a real bad way.

The one thing technology will never replace in our society is common sense. Unfortunately, the lack of common sense and basic understanding of survival led to many deaths in the Northeast. With such a fresh example in our collective minds, be sure you're prepared for the worst. It's the right thing to do.

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

The 501 A cow's holy grail? The other side of the fence

If you're out of cattle cubes, don't let the cows in the yard on New Year's Day.

When I pulled into our yard towing a little travel trailer, I should have known the cows would assume the little RV was some sort of exotic feed wagon. Cows are eternally hopeful and not very discerning.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Of course, when you're pulling a trailer, it takes longer to get through a gate, and, if you're alone, it takes longer to get the gate closed.

Three cows got into the yard. Better than a total stampede.

It's not like our yard is lush and green. It's mostly dead. We let the Bermuda and other species grow tall this

summer, an experiment to allow various native grasses to go to seed. The bovine trio appreciated the vista and immediately started chomping away on the tall dry stuff.

What to do? I couldn't shoo them out. They wanted to be nowhere else. The other cows regarded them jealously from just across the fence.

My first thought was to drive to town to buy a sack of cubes to coax them out. Cubes make all things possible. I knew chances were slim I'd find a livestock feed merchant open, but I unhitched the trailer and headed to town anyway, managing to get out of the yard without letting any more cows in. So far, so good.

Sure enough, on New Year's Day, only deer corn was for sale. I would have

bought a sack, but it suddenly occurred to me I might persuade the cows to leave the yard with hay. I'd temporarily forgotten the little high-dollar bales of prairie hay we'd bought during the infamous summer of 2011. Most of those bales remain stacked in the barn.

More advice: If you've had somewhat recent knee surgery, climbing over cattle panels and heaving a bale of hay onto the top of an SUV isn't quite as easy as it used to be. If cows are watching and calculating in their cow brains how to get to you when you're standing atop a spindly wire panel and wrestling a bale over thin air to land it on a luggage rack almost out of reach, the stakes increase.

What's worse than three cows on the lawn? Five. That's how many ended up in the yard after the hay experiment. I'd traded one for three, somehow doubling the longhorn count. Not good. Goat-like, those two nibbled a defenseless shrub.

So I drove back to town for deer corn.

The yard cows sampled the corn and went back to the grass. Only after I served corn to some of their compadres across the fence did jealousy work in reverse. Hearing their counterparts in the main herd crunch on corn was more than the yard cows could stand. I opened the gate, and out they went. They'd have sold their birthrights for that corn.

Moral: The grass may not be greener on the other side of the fence, but the corn sounds better.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a contributor and columnist for The Post Dispatch.

Justice-Mason Funeral Home

301 West Main Street
806-495-2833

Across

1. Apprehension about what is going to happen
9. Coin
15. Drive off
16. Heathens
17. Intact
18. Swallow
19. ___ it on thick
20. "Malcolm X" director
21. Atlanta-based station (acronym)
22. Blackguard
23. Be a snitch
25. Pre-Christian priests among the Celts
27. Bank offering, for short (acronym)
28. Like a brigadier general (2 wds)
30. Brio
31. Henry Clay, for one
34. Meeting at a certain time and place, esp. lovers
36. Very, to Verdi
37. Grassland
38. Christmas wish
39. Not now (2 wds)
41. Went bad
42. Egyptian fertility goddess
43. Try to forget
45. Engage in passive activities, often with "out"
46. Put things in order (2 wds)
47. Declines
51. Egg cells
52. Driver's lic. and others
53. "Acid" (acronym)
55. "Fantasy Island" prop
56. Second shot
58. By no means (3 wd)
60. One who runs away to get married
61. Club restriction? (2 wds)
62. Beat
63. Mountain range between France and Spain

Down

1. ___ Ste. Marie
2. Arm bones
3. Woman prophet
4. The "p" in m.p.g.
5. Carbon compound
6. More rude
7. Directs
8. Dusk, to Donne
9. Dry by centrifugal forces
10. Imitates a hot dog
11. ___ roll
12. Small tropical wormlike amphibian
13. Financial protection for property
14. Alienated
21. Beauty pageant wear

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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62									63				

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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62									63				

Yesteryears

10 Years Ago January 9, 2003

One of the community's newest residents, Aldo Andres Mendoza, made his debut early Monday morning on U.S. 84 just south of Southland. At 5:32 a.m. the seven-pound, four-ounce boy measuring 19½ inches in length, was delivered in the back of an ambulance by Post EMT Rodney Tidwell, assisted by Jason Powell and Betty Posey.

The Post City Council at its regular meeting Tuesday evening approved a contract for \$3.8 million for the installation of pipe and tanks for the emergency water supply project. Work on the tanks and pipeline, which will bring water from Slaton to Post, will begin immediately.

Garza County officials elected in the November general election were administered oaths of office Jan. 2. Participating at the event were Justice of the Peace Dee C. Justice, Commissioner Mason McClellan, Justice of the Peace Sheila Melton, Treasurer Ruth Ann Young, Clerk Jerry Hays and Commissioner Mike Sanchez. Judge Giles W. Dalby, who administered the oath, took his oath of office earlier with Hays administering.

Jackie and Joanne Blacklock celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. They were married Dec. 20, 1952 and have four children; Jackie, Joe, Jerri and Janet.

Brian and Leah Davenport of Post have announced the birth of a son,

Landon Grant, at 4:48 p.m. Oct. 24 at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

20 Years Ago January 6, 1993

A U.S. mail truck bound Dallas to Lubbock made an unscheduled stop in Post in the early morning hours of Dec. 30, when a fire broke out in the cargo area of the truck.

Ida Mae Wilks, a well-known Garza County rancher, was named to the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee by delegates to the county ASCS convention Dec. 17, 1992.

Post ISD's basketball playing area will double soon, as work is completed on the new maple floor in the middle school gym. The new hardwood floor will allow the district to hold basketball games in the middle school gym, easing pressure on the high school floor which is currently the only playing surface for inter-scholastic sports in the county.

Janell Jones, daughter of Darrell and Ruby Jones, was among 1,200 Texas Tech University students to receive her Bachelor of Science degree during graduation ceremonies Dec. 19, 1992, at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum. Jones a 1989 graduate of Post High School, was one of the first graduates to earn a degree in agricultural communications after Tech's Board of Regents approved the curriculum and degree during the 1992 fall semester.

30 Years Ago January 9, 1983

Lloyd Isreal, 25, of Snyder, second victim of Monday's explosion near Clairemont, died as a result of his burn injuries in the Kent County oil field explosion that had already claimed the life of David Brecheen III, 32, a Snyder resident.

Jim Jackson was re-elected president of the Post EMT Club for the fifth straight year when elections were held at the club's Tuesday night meeting Jan. 3.

Margie Pennell, employee of the First National Bank, was presented with the annual service award, presented by the West Texas Bankshares Corp. during the annual Christmas party held at the Lubbock Civic Center.

40 Years Ago January 11, 1973

An additional inch of snow fell last night, bringing the total to four inches here.

Noel Samuel Martinez, 18-year old farm laborer, was killed about 7:45 p.m. Saturday night when the pickup he was driving failed to stop on icy pavement and slid into the tracks in the path of a southbound Santa Fe freight train at the East Main Street crossing.

Eddie Burton has returned to Postex Plant to succeed Vic Slater as manager of Burlington Industries' Postex Plant and Postex-Hall in Memphis. Slater left yesterday for Asheville, N.C., where he will manage BI's new blanket plant.

Joint services for Mr. and Mrs. Otto Earl Terry, former Garza County residents, who were found dead in their farm home four miles northeast of Tahoka on Monday, were held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church of Tahoka with the Rev. Jim Turner officiating. Justice of the Peace N.E. Wood ruled the death due to asphyxiation. The victims were thought to have been dead 12 to 18 hours when they were discovered. The bodies were discovered by their son Walton Terry and John Curry, both of Tahoka.

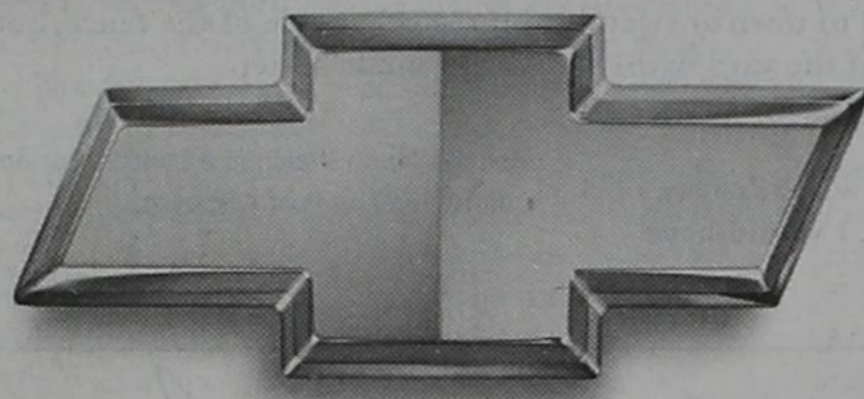
50 Years Ago January 10, 1963

Little Garza County 1963 is Susan Tijerina Menchaca, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Miguel (Mike) Menchaca. She was born at 7:56 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, in Garza Memorial Hospital to win the annual first baby contest sponsored by the hospital and some dozen progressive Post merchants.

Leander Richard won a directed verdict of not guilty to charges of assault with intent to murder and assault with a deadly weapon in district court trial here Monday. Richard was charged after allegedly taking knife swipe at Deputy Sheriff Lloyd Merritt early in December.

Garza County's 1962 cotton harvest headed into the home stretch today with 18,544 bales ginned up to mid-afternoon yesterday at the county's seven gins.

Compiled by Elizabeth Moreno



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- 2002 Ford F250 Ext Cab 2WD, long bed, 7.3L Diesel, manual transmission, XLT package, white/gray cloth #50787.....\$6,995
- 2005 Lincoln Towncar, Signature 4 Series, V8, Auto, white/tan leather, 68K #50604.....\$12,950
- 2005 Chevrolet 2500HD Crew Cab 4X4, white/tan leather, 6.0 V8 auto, 171K, good clean truck #50613.....\$10,800
- 2007 Chrysler Pacifica SUV silver/gray cloth, V6 Auto, 6 passenger, aluminum wheels, touring edition, 86k, #50782.....\$9,995
- 2007 Dodge Durango SLT 4X4, Gray-Gray Leather, 3rd Row Seat, 78K.....\$15,000
- 2007 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, white/black cloth, 5.3 V8, 107K, LT1, New Body Style, #50806.....\$15,500
- 2007 Dodge Durango SLT, 4X4, gray/gray leather, all power, V6 auto, 78K #50695.....\$15,000
- 2007 Hummer H2 SUT, White/black leather, new after market tires & wheels, #50863.....\$29,500
- 2008 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, white/charcoal cloth, 5.3 V8 Auto, LT package, steering wheel controls, power seat, 62K #50865.....\$19,995
- 2008 Buick Enclave CX-AWD gold/tan leather, power seats, V6, aluminum wheels 16K #50843.....\$19,500
- 2008 Chevrolet Colorado Crew Cab 2WD red/ebony cloth, 1LT, 71K #50606.....\$14,950
- 2008 Jeep Unlimited X4X4 red/gray cloth, auto, step rails, tow pkg, V6, 15K #50873.....\$21,000
- 2008 Kia Rio LX 4 door sedan, gold/tan cloth, 4 cyl auto, a/c, 14K #8200.....\$13,938
- 2009 Chevy 2500HD Crew Cab 4X4 diesel, Bruton/f/b, white/black leather, 91K #50563.....\$29,000

- 2010 Chevy Equinox LT white/charcoal cloth, 4 cyl, XM, pwr win/locks, 40K #50839.....\$19,500
- 2010 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ, maroon/brown leather, dual dvd, tow pkg, 19K #50634.....\$28,000
- 2010 Chevrolet Traverse, silver/gray cloth, Bluetooth, rear camera, 71K, #50545.....\$19,250
- 2010 (2) Chevrolet Impalas LT, V6, 26k, goldmist/charcoal cloth.....\$18,075
- 2010 Chevrolet Impala, Sedan, V6, Auto, P/W/L, Silver/Gray Cloth, 95K #50514.....\$9,250
- 2010 Chevrolet Malibu LS 4dr, silver/gray cloth, 4 cyl, auto, pwr l/w/s, cruise #50762.....\$15,500
- 2010 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, Black/black leather, LTZ, sunroof, V8, heated seats, 14K #50840.....\$29,900
- 2010 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, silver/ebony cloth, 5.3 V8, power seat, steering wheel controls, 27K #50819.....\$24,900
- 2010 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 4X4, white/charcoal cloth, 5.3 V8 Auto, power seat, remote start, 49K #50864.....\$24,500
- 2010 Chevrolet 2500HD Crew Cab 4X4, 6.0L V8, silver/black leather, steering wheel controls, remote start, HD tow package, LT1 equipment package, 32K #50888.....\$29,500
- 2010 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD white/gray cloth, 5.3 V8 auto, front bucket seats, LT1 equipment package, 25K #50836.....\$27,000
- 2011 GMC Sierra Denali Crew Cab AWD, Diamond White/Tan leather, 6.2L V8 Auto, Bose Stereo, 16K #50827 Like New.....\$40,500
- 2011 Cadillac SRX Crystal red/black leather, one owner, like new #50880.....\$35,700
- 2012 Chevy Malibu LT Sedan, white/black cloth, 4 cyl auto 15K, #30072.....\$18,750
- 2012 Chevrolet 3500HD Crew Cab Dooley, 4X4, Diesel, white/charcoal cloth, work truck package, power windows & locks, tow package 14K #50852.....\$41,500
- 2012 Chevy Suburban LT2WD, silver/gray leather, 2nd row bench, luxury, 9K #30090.....\$35,550

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Sports roundup

Lopes outscore New Deal Lions

The Post Antelopes boys varsity basketball team won, 44-38, Monday against the New Deal Lions at Antelope Arena. Leading scorers for the Lopes were Dalton Holly with 13, Bryan Smith is 9 and Austin Garza with 7.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	12	9	12	11	44
New Deal	8	7	11	12	38

Slaton edges by Lady Lopes in district opener

The Post Lady Lopes played hard Jan. 4 in their district opener against rival Slaton. The game was within five points a few times, but the Lady Lopes couldn't shut down the freshman standout from Slaton, Luera, who finished with 22 points. Taylor Osborn finished with a solid 15 points on the evening and Haily Berry contributed 11 for the Lady Lopes.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	9	16	10	10	45
Slaton	14	19	12	9	54

JV girls fall to Slaton

The Post Junior Varsity suffered a devastating defeat against district rival Slaton to open the 2012-2013 basketball district play on Jan. 4. The subvarsity ladies couldn't get past the Slaton JV press and couldn't get shots to fall when they did run an offense.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	3	4	4	2	13
Slaton	12	16	12	17	56

December 27-29, 2012

Slaton Holiday Tournament - Slaton, Texas

Slaton tourney proves tough for Lady Lopes

The Lady Lopes were knocked out of the Slaton Tournament on Dec. 28 after their third loss. The varsity seemed to be feeling the sluggishness of the holidays by getting down early in all three games, but making gallant comebacks; however, it was too little too late for the hard-fighting Lady Lopes.

BOXSCORES

Lady Lopes 33, Vega 45

Team	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Final
Post	2	11	3	17	33
Vega	9	9	18	9	45

Taylor Osborn had 11 points, Haily Berry and Kelbie Oden each had 10 points.

Lady Lopes 36, Whitharral 46

Team	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Final
Post	8	8	6	14	36
Whitharral	8	8	9	21	46

Taylor Osborn had 13 points.

Lady Lopes 36, New Deal 47

Team	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Final
Post	5	9	7	15	36
New Deal	13	15	5	14	47

Callie Odom had 11 points.

Fouls blamed in Lady Lopes' loss to Anson

Junior Taylor Osborn had a good night putting in 14 points for the varsity Lady Lopes against Anson on Dec. 21 before the long holiday break. The Lady Lopes had a strong first quarter and looked like they would dominate the visiting team; however, foul trouble for the post players turned the game into an outside shooting war. The ladies couldn't recover from a very strong second quarter from Anson.



Photo courtesy PHS Photography
Post Antelope Bryan Smith looks to an open man in the Lopes' game last weekend against Seagraves at the Slaton Tournament.



Photo courtesy PHS Photography
Lady Lope Haily Berry takes a shot up against Vega during last weekend's tournament in Slaton.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	13	6	7	7	33
Anson	4	18	8	11	41

Post JV girls fall to Anson

The Post Junior Varsity couldn't finish with a win before the Christmas holiday break against Anson on Dec. 21. Scoring has been better for the Lady Lopes subvarsity, but missed free throws and turnovers continue to plague our young ladies and keep them from a win.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	6	2	3	9	20
Anson	15	3	8	6	32

Post girls take win over Morton

The Lady Lopes put on their usual fast-paced show for their fans Dec. 18 as they defeated a physical and quick Lady Maiden team from Morton. After figuring out how to shut down Morton's leading scorer in the second half, (she finished with 26 points), the Lady Lopes had no problem finishing strong with another win at home to improve their record to 12-7. Haily Berry had another great game with 20 points and Callie Odom contributed 11.

BOXSCORE	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F
Post	10	16	17	10	53
Morton	16	11	9	8	44

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LEGISLATURE

From Page 1

editorial published in July: "We have no interest in following the federal directive to expand our Medicaid ranks by over a million (people), and we are also rejecting calls to establish a so-called 'state' insurance exchange designed and ruled by federal guidelines, many of which have yet to be written. Neither of these is the proper role of the federal government and both represent brazen intrusions into the affairs of states."

Even if the Texas Legislature passes health care reform to cover more of its lower-income and older residents, the governor wields the veto pen. It takes a two-thirds vote in each house of the Legislature to override a veto.

Benefits extension granted

Pursuant to the passage of the federal Taxpayer Relief Act, the deadline for jobless Texans to qualify for emergency unemployment insurance benefits was extended to Jan. 1, 2014, the Texas Workforce Commission announced.

Those benefits extend to some 120,000 Texans who would have exhausted their unemployment benefits on Dec. 31, but not for those who already exhausted their regular state unemployment benefits, federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation, and Extended Benefits, the agency said.

Emergency unemployment benefits provide temporary income for those who have lost their jobs through no fault of

their own. Benefits are federally funded, and Texas employers will not be charged for any claims paid on this extension.

Spill settlement is reached

Transocean Deepwater Inc. defendants have agreed to pay \$1 billion in civil penalties and \$400 million in criminal fines for April 20, 2010, Gulf Coast oil spill originating from BP's Macondo well, widely known as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

But recovery efforts have just begun and "there remains a long road ahead to restore the Gulf," Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Commissioner Toby Baker said on Jan. 3.

Transocean is based in Zug, Switzerland. The fines are to be paid over a period of three years, per agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Capped wells among pluses

Texas Railroad Com-

mission, looking back on its accomplishments in 2012, noted that its agents "investigated, assessed or cleaned up 253 abandoned oilfield sites and plugged 764 orphaned wells using fees paid by the industry into the Oil & Gas Regulation & Cleanup Fund."

Water-use figures are in

A study by the Texas Water Development Board concludes "31 percent of annual single-family residential water use in Texas is dedicated to outdoor purposes, such as lawn and garden maintenance, pools, and car washing, with the rest used indoors."

In a Dec. 17 release, the agency stated the findings are based on an analysis of monthly water use data for 259 cities, and that average outdoor water use ranged from 20 to 53 percent of total household water use, with dryer areas of the state tending to use more than wetter areas.

ANGEL

From Page 1

she must not try to look or find out who the "Secret Santa" was.

"The note said that if I tried to find out who it was, that the gifts would stop," she said. "So I played along."

Every night for the next 12 nights, it was the same routine. Each night after dark, Williams' doorbell would ring, she would wait a few minutes, then she'd go to her door, open it and retrieve a small gift along with another card.

Each gift almost always contained a small amount of candy, a card and an ornament for Williams' tree.

Instead of two turtle doves, she received two pieces of Dove chocolate. Instead of three French horns, she received a French horn ornament. Four calling birds were four gold foil-wrapped chocolate coins. Five

golden rings was as simple as a Ring Pop. Other gifts including goldfish crackers, white chocolate-covered popcorn, hot chocolate mix and a CD of Christian music.

Each gift somehow tied back to the 12 days of Christmas of song.

Williams said it was the best Christmas she's had in a very long time.

"I'm 76 years old, I've raised a family and experienced a lot of things," she said. "But this is one of the sweetest things I've ever seen. I'll remember it always."

She said if she knew who her secret Christmas angel might be, she would enjoy thanking them for making her holidays memorable.

"If I thought I knew who it was, I would like to contact them and thank them for making my Christmas a very special one," she said. "But, then again, I kind of enjoy not knowing. The mystery is really wonderful in itself."

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LEA COUNTY STATE OF NEW MEXICO

TINA and ALBERTO MARQUEZ

Petitioners,

vs.

LEAH DAWN PICKERING and SCOTTIE GLEN ARMSTRONG,

Respondents.

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

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

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO: Scottie Glenn Armstrong

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

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

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

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

NELDA CUELLAR
Clerk of the District Court

By: /s/ Elva Rivas, Deputy

Published The Post Dispatch and The Lovington Daily Leader

POST NOTES

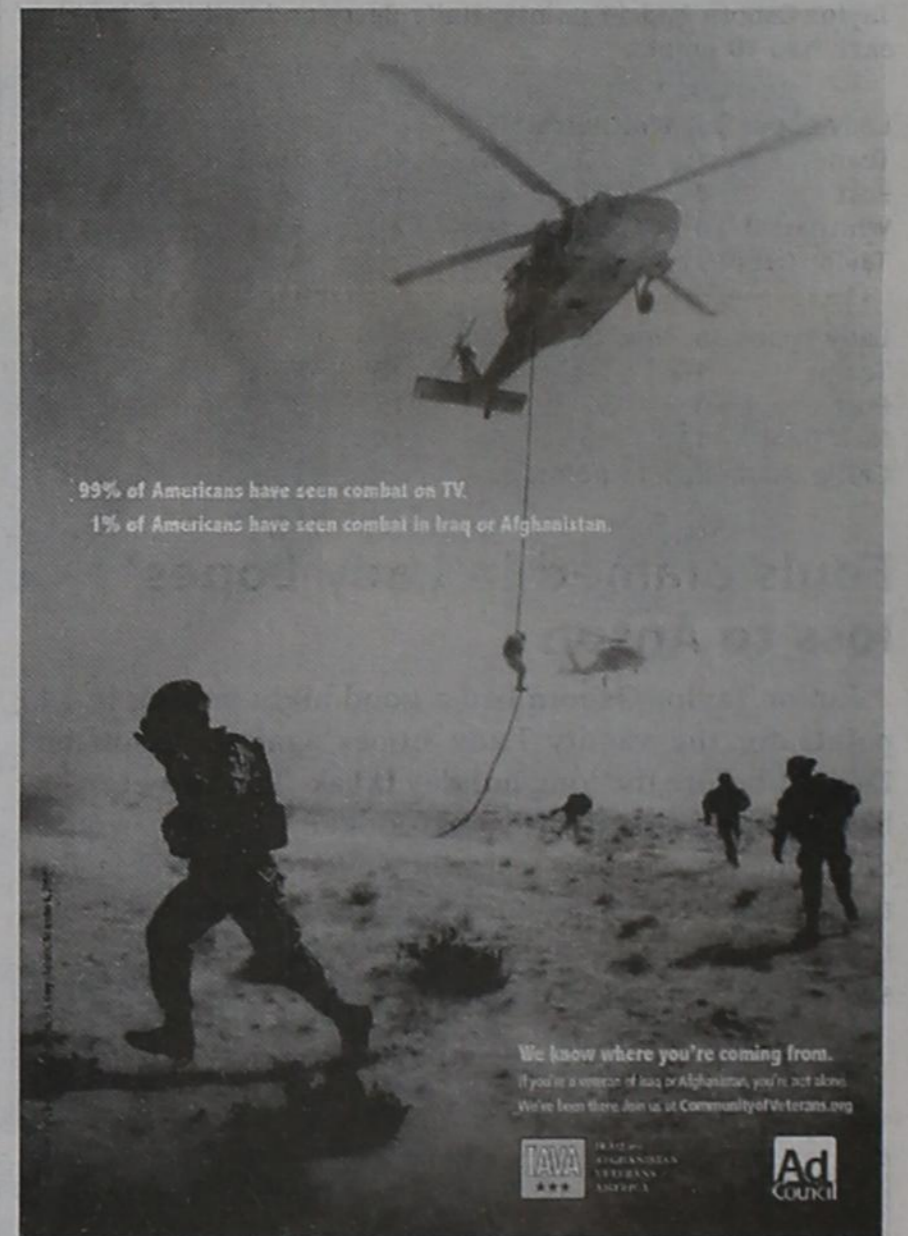
From Page 1

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 Singletary at esingletary@postisd.net or call 495-2770.

Computer classes

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



99% of Americans have seen combat on TV. 1% of Americans have seen combat in Iraq or Afghanistan.

NOT THE DIGITS YOU WANNA GET WHEN YOU GO OUT

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.

PERSON APPOINTED TO STAY SOBER WEEK PASS

Save a Life Texas Department of Transportation

NEW TEXAS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW

Save a Life Texas Department of Transportation

NEW TEXAS LAW Effective 9/1/2009

A child up to 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat.

Most children between ages 4 to 8 will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Safety experts recommend that all children under age 13 ride in the backseat. Adults and children must be buckled up whether they are in the front or back seat.

4 STEPS FOR KIDS

Make sure all children in your vehicle are properly secured. Use a child safety seat appropriate for their age, weight and height.

State law requires that you always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

<p>REAR-FACING SEATS From birth to as long as possible, up to the weight or height limit of the seat. At a minimum, keep rear-facing until age 1 and 20 lbs.</p>	<p>FORWARD-FACING SEATS From a minimum of age 1 and 20 lbs until the child reaches the upper weight or height limit of the seat.</p>	<p>BOOSTER SEATS From about age 4 to about age 8, or up to 4 feet 9 inches.</p>	<p>SAFETY BELTS From 8+ years old or taller than 4 feet 9 inches.</p>
---	---	--	--

Still not sure which safety seat is right for your child? Contact Safe Riders at 1-800-252-8255 for more information.

Honor Roll

Post ISD

Post Elementary School

A Honor Roll

1st Grade

Brailey Blacklock
Corey Blacklock
Jordyn Dissinger
Andrea Esparza
Diamond Espinoza
Alexandria Hernandez
Jesus Hernandez
Gallegos
Zaran Kirkpatrick
Jezreel Levario
Ashlyn Moore
Jericho Moore
Brailey Nelson
Bryson Nelson
Zoey Pequeno
Kaylen Perez
Kristen Perez
Benjymin Price
Nyrach Soto
Michael Tadlock
Reagan Workman

2nd Grade

Jose Cesillon
Emma Courtney
Camryn Cowley
Madison Gary
Abcde Gutierrez
Javen Perez
Kelby Short
Logan Tidwell
Samuel Walls

3rd Grade

Cohen Allred
Daisyana Cruz
Tristan Gomez
Shawn Looney
Damon Mauney
Briley Miller
Kalem Soto
Braylee Thomas

4th Grade

Cayce Britton
Treyson Crow
Carson Holson
Krece Kirkpatrick
Brennan Riker
Sterlin Self
Chelsea Thomas
Bailey Tidwell

5th Grade

Chris Dihenia
Dylan Greer
Dillon McKee
Chelsey Nelson
Jordan Self
Sadie Soto
Alexandra Turner

A-B Honor Roll

Early Education
Xavier Gomez
Yeuddi Montoya
Jayden Pewitt
Victor Rodriguez
Adrian Trinidad

1st Grade

Tucker Farris
Avory Gill

Ximena Gonzalez
Alyssa Lawson
Jadyan Martinez
Andrea Mendoza
Gemma Noell
Cruz Pantoja-Navarro
Malazia Pardue
Christopher Perez
Faith Sanchez
Avery Segura
Diego Silvas
Payton Smith
Natalia Soto
Johnny Winkle
Jalyan Zubia

2nd Grade

Aneliz Alaniz
Randall Bell
Raelea Blevins
Avery Cates
Sebastian Chapa
Isaiah Crawford
Emma Gamoneda
Gavin Gomez
Landon Hair
Marisol Hernandez
Jacob McClellan
Lean Moreno
Haley Perez
Jaylen Pittman
Chelsy Rodriguez
Jair Rodriguez
Madeline Roman
Zamora
Raymond Salas
Sadie Schoonover
Aracely Soto
Nadia Soto
Rayven Soto

3rd Grade

Shayla Brown
Jayden Carroll
Citlaly Contreras
Dillon Cowley
Iva Cruse
Marti Cruse
Knoah Escobedo
Jose Garcia
Zavan Gill
Laci Gonzales
Maria Gonzalez-Murillo
Hezekiah Gutierrez
Kyna Hudman
Shawn Iedbetter
Haley Lopez
Mia Martinez
Samantha Mathis
Jakeb Morris
Lillian Perez
Drew Porter
Abygale Ramirez
D'Leagh Ramos
Carter Rankin
Jhonathan Rodriguez
Yasmine Rodriguez-Martinez
Zachary Sawyer
Adisann Soto
Jenifer Trinidad
Mykaela Turner
Addee Williams
Evangelina Zubia

4th Grade

Clarissa Berkley
Cole Boren
Carolina Carrillo
Sklyar Christian

Maken Contreras
Cruz Delgado
Javen Diaz
M'Kenzie Eidson
Leah Gonzales
Jacob Isbell
Izaih Landa
Dafne Lopez
Blake Parrott
Kalista Pena
Taye Perez
Slayden Pittman
Nicholas Quintana
Jacki Sanchez
Magdalena Soria
Nathan Taylor
Emma Thompson
Kolton Wink

5th Grade

Colton Brady
J'Nia Brown
Paulina Ceja
Michael Dean
Chloe Dissinger
Madison Guthrie
Machala Hengen
Omar Lazcano
Audrey Moreno
Alea Silvas
Colter Smith
Krystal Soto
Brandon Trinidad
Sydney Walls
Montana Williams

Post Middle School

A Honor Roll

7th Grade
Lucas Record
Michaela Self

A-B Honor Roll

6th grade
Cristina Cesillion
Malina Gomez
Landon Greer
Hannah Miranda
Jadin Reece
Kara Thomas

7th grade

Brooke Blair
Austin Britton
Brandon Britton
Damian Amadeo
Garcia Rodriguez
Aric Garza
Ezra Gill
Leslie Gill
Isaac Gonzales
Jonathan Hernandez
Caycee Holson
Chloe Reiter
Saidi Soliz
Elizabeth Tanner
Amber Taylor

8th Grade

Kally Comeaux
Caiden Dugger
Agustin Menchaca
Chase Morris
Russell Morris
Kathryne Quintana
Blaze Smith
Colton Smith
Ericka Solis

Post High School

A Honor Roll

9th Grade

Mollie Burtch
Lauren Record

10th Grade

Casey Christian
Anahica Duran
Dakota Greer
Kelsey Griffin
Carson Kirkpatrick
Colton Stamey

11th grade

Katie Dunn
Cheyenne Gill
Sara Greer
David Hernandez
Campbell Kirkpatrick
Taylor Osborn

12th Grade

Kayla Comeaux
Morgan Deen
Michael Holly
Audree Williams

A-B Honor Roll

9th Grade

William Havens
Levi Stinson

10th Grade

Josiel Delgadillo
Ricky Garza
Erik Gomez
Jaime Marquez
Kortnee McKee
Kelbie Oden
Christian Perez
Alejo Rodriguez
Rosetta Taylor
Jayson Walden

11th Grade

Alan Alaniz
Jaime Ceja
Brandon Hervey
Sierra Isbell
Pake Jones
Rocio Montoya
Stephen Rodriguez
Matti Smith
Leslie Soliz

12th Grade

Breana Alvarado
Landry Babb
Haily Berry
Vance Blair
Julie Boren
Juan Cabrera
Caden Dean
Bobbie Escobar
Russel Graves
Patricia Lopez
Matthew Nava
Alexis Perez
David Ramirez
Kimberly Rivera
Daniel Shelton
Torie Whisenant

Southland ISD

Elementary

A Honor Roll

Kaden Auldrige
Julian Basquez
Cory Hamilton
Rebecca Nino
Matthew Short
Elijah Abston
Elizabeth Payton
Kaleb Auldrige
Matthew Basquez
Cordale Benham
Christopher Cardona
Joby Fogerson
Ryleigh Graves
Abigail Hernandez
Payton Robinson
Diana Rodriguez
Mallory Rodriguez
Vikki Torres
Mackenzie Valdez
Celeste Valencia
Nayeli Perez

A-B Honor Roll

Dade Aguilar
Camille Alvarez
Rey Flores
Bailey Fuhrman
Isaias Gallegos
Branson Harris
Sylee Peterson
Tommy Vizcaino
Elexia Bilberry
Madison Garcia
Joshua Macias
Daria White
Claira Cravey
Kalli Davis
Dylan Gossett
Kelson Lee
Trea Peterson
Aiden Rodela
Marina Sigala
Isiah Valdez
Dalton Davis
Lazaro Galindo
Timothy Guerrero
Latham Huckaby
Luke Moore
Lillian Newell
Alvarado Vizcaino
Zane Zarate

Secondary

A Honor Roll

Ryan Gosset
Nehemiah Guerrero
M'keison Guerrero
Corbin Mason

Moriah Sigala

Erick Alfaro
Maura Arenivar
Walker Booth
Ryan Magallanes
Jessica Payton
Alexis Zarate
Mallory Arguello
Reagan Booth
Cale Fogerson
Daniela Galindo
Aaron Garza
Melinda Hernandez
Kristen Hill
Bryce Meurer
Kaylei Schoonover
Linda Gonzales
Robbie Haney
Allen Schniers
Jaden Binford
Julia Kidd

A-B Honor Roll

Josiah Collazo
Averi Graves
Shadia Hernandez
Raven Douglass
Israel Guerra
Victoria Huckaby
Autumn Robinson
Marcos Flores
Dallyn Fogerson
Tucker Lee
Hope Miranda
Gisselle Saucedo
Taylor Schniers
Karlie Steffens
Hayden Benham
Kevin Dorman
Ashlee Graves
Allyson Martinez
Karina Perez
Aylin Saucedo
Gavin Schniers
Zachary Vizcaino
Riley Arguello
Wyatt Benham
Hera Douglass
Gilberto Flores
Zaron Garza
Madison Worley
Renee Armendariz
Angie Fuhrman
Taylor Graves
Angelica Hutsenpiller
Alex Magallanes
Richard Ramirez
Jose Rodriguez
Samantha Dorman
Chirsty Rodriguez



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Fax 806-990-3182



me to

2013

GARZA COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION STOCK SHOW

FRIDAY, JAN. 11

5 p.m.— Stock show entry deadline. All entry cards due at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Garza County, 215 W. Main St.. Pee-Wees are encouraged to participate in the goat and rabbit shows, but all entries must be turned in by this day.

THURSDAY, JAN. 17

5 p.m.— All animals must be at the show barn.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.— Weigh in.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18

Prep day for all exhibitors

SATURDAY, JAN. 19

9 a.m. — Swine Show

11 a.m. — Market Rabbit Show (Pee-Wee Rabbit Show will immediately follow.)

Noon — Heifer and Steer Show

2 p.m. — Lamb Show

3 p.m. — Goat Show (Pee-Wee Goat Show will immediately follow.)

THURSDAY, JAN. 24

6 p.m. — Buyer Appreciation Dinner, Awards and Livestock Sale; Post ISD cafeteria.

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HELP WANTED

Garza County Tax Assessor Office us accepting applications for an open position. The job requirements includes, but are not limited to, bookkeeping and clerical background, computer skills (2-plus years) and must be bondable. Applications may be picked up at the Treasurer's Office. 0118b

Dishwasher, hours 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 8 p.m. Also a cook for day shift and night shift. Apply in person at

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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Private Club Beer and Wine Permit

by MOORE LAND AND CATTLE, LLC, dba BRAZOS RIVER STEAKHOUSE, to be located at 206 E. MAIN ST., POST, GARZA COUNTY, TEXAS. Officer and Managing Member of said Limited Liability Company are Jimmy Joe Moore and Michelle Moore.

OIL/GAS

Now Accepting Applications

Post Housing Authority is now accepting applications for 1 and 4 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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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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Doctor-Lawyer in Full-time Law Practice
Richard A. Dodd, L.C.
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TexSCAN Week of January 6, 2013

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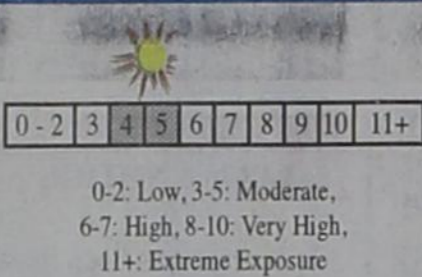
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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

Friday Mostly Sunny 64 / 31	Saturday Mostly Sunny 49 / 21	Sunday Sunny 39 / 21	Monday Mostly Sunny 39 / 18	Tuesday Partly Cloudy 37 / 15	Wednesday Partly Cloudy 40 / 22	Thursday Partly Cloudy 45 / 24

Local UV Index



Weather Trivia

Do tornadoes occur in January?
 Answer: Yes, the average year sees 47 tornadoes in its first month.

Weather History

Jan. 11, 1972 - Downslope winds hit the eastern slopes of the Rockies in northern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. Boulder, Colo. reported wind gusts to 143 mph and 25 million dollars in property damage.

Jan. 12, 1985 - A record snowstorm struck portions of western and south central Texas. The palm trees of San Antonio were blanketed with up to 13 and a half inches of snow, more snow than was ever previously received in an entire winter.

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 64°, humidity of 28%. Southwest wind 15 mph. The record high temperature for today is 76° set in 1990. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 31°. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. The record low for tonight is 4° set in 1982. Saturday, skies will be mostly sunny with a high temperature of 49°, humidity of 33%. North northwest wind 10 mph. Skies will be mostly clear Saturday night with an overnight low of 21°. North northeast wind 10 mph.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	10:51-12:51	11:21-1:21	Tue	2:54-4:54	2:24-4:24
Sat	11:50-1:50	---	Wed	3:40-5:40	3:10-5:10
Sun	1:14-3:14	12:44-2:44	Thu	4:26-6:26	3:56-5:56
Mon	2:05-4:05	1:35-3:35			

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	
New 1/11	Fri 7:49 a.m.	5:58 p.m.	7:26 a.m.	6:15 p.m.	Full 1/26
	Sat 7:49 a.m.	5:59 p.m.	8:14 a.m.	7:24 p.m.	
	Sun 7:49 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	8:57 a.m.	8:31 p.m.	
	Mon 7:49 a.m.	6:01 p.m.	9:36 a.m.	9:35 p.m.	
First 1/18	Tue 7:49 a.m.	6:02 p.m.	10:11 a.m.	10:36 p.m.	Last 2/3
	Wed 7:48 a.m.	6:03 p.m.	10:45 a.m.	11:35 p.m.	
	Thu 7:48 a.m.	6:04 p.m.	11:19 a.m.	Next Day	

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days	
					Date	Degree Days
1/1	39	22	51/24	0.00"	1/1	0
1/2	44	22	51/24	0.00"	1/5	0
1/3	39	22	51/24	0.00"	1/6	0
1/4	33	29	51/24	0.00"	1/7	0
1/5	55	27	51/24	0.00"	1/4	0
1/6	50	22	51/24	0.00"		
1/7	51	26	51/24	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

Don't mock how we talk

There I was, sitting at my desk, writing away, bothering no one when my phone rang.

It was Hollywood calling. "Hey," said a friend of ours who is a big-time movie producer. "I have you on speaker phone and the director of casting is here with me."

Now, don't go getting ahead of me and think they were calling to offer me a part of some kind. No, they were calling to ask about a famous friend of mine, whom

they wanted to offer a part in a major movie. I was asked a question, and as I began to answer, my "friend" said to me, "Now, speak where she can understand what you're saying." Apparently, he thought he was cute.

I fell dead silent. See, I hate people making fun of the way I talk. I happen to have a lovely, lyrical accent, and I'm proud of it. I bit my tongue, not because he didn't deserve a good comeback, but because I try to behave with gracious Southern manners when I am being introduced to someone for the first time. It's not because I don't have a good smart-aleck comment tucked away, because I got enough smart-aleck in my blood to get me all the way from Atlanta to New York City without even stopping to get a hamburger.

Sometimes, though, good manners have to win out over revenge.

Now, remember: I was sitting in my little corner of the world all the way across the country when they called me for help. I wasn't thinking, "Gee, I wish someone would call me up and make fun of the way I talk." I was minding my own business, being the same sweet girl I always am.

Despite the mocking comment, I was gracious and helpful. After hanging up the phone, I made a cup of coffee, took myself to the rocker on the back porch and sat down to have a good think about what had just

happened. My husband loves my accent. Why not all of Hollywood?

Why do people think it's acceptable to comment unkindly on Southern accents? Why in this day of political correctness where every comment about people of various nationalities, religions and political views are scrutinized and reprimanded publicly, is it still viewed perfectly fine to joke about Southern accents?

Where are the politically correct police who should be protecting us? Where are the advocates to spring up and protest on national television shows, "That is against what America stands for. We celebrate the diversity of accents and cultures."

Oh, but no. There is no one to stand up and fight for us. We're thrown to the wolves and expected to be gracious because that's what Southerners are — gracious to answer, my "friend" said to me, "Now, speak where she can understand what you're saying." Apparently, he thought he was cute.

I thought, too, about this: Never once in my entire life have I ever commented negatively on someone's accent. I have never been introduced to someone raised in Boston or Long Island and mimicked their words back to them or said sarcastically, "Where did that accent come from?" or "Will you say that again so I can understand?"

If I have ever had difficulty understanding someone's words, I always smile sweetly, genuinely and say, "I'm sorry. I didn't understand. I hear with a Southern accent."

Making a comment about a person's accent during an introduction is akin to saying, "This is Mary. She's fat." Now, if Mary is fat, the person being introduced can see that. Who would humiliate Mary by pointing that out?

Later, I explained to my friend in firm words spoken in an icy Southern accent how I felt about what had happened. He was contrite and offered a genuine apology. At heart, he is a fine and decent person.

I would tell you what I said to him, but I can't. My preacher reads this column.

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



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