

The Post Dispatch

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FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013

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75 CENTS

Voters re-seat Gill as Post City mayor

By Wayne Hodgin
The Post Dispatch

Voters within the city of Post have elected Mayor Archie Gill to his second first term at the helm of the Post City Council.

Gill was longtime mayor of the city of Post from 1999 to 2005 and most recently was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Thressa Harp, who resigned last October.

Gill said this week he was glad the residents of Post had the confidence to support him for another run.

"I'm happy to have the

chance to serve once again," Gill said. "I thank everyone who came out to vote on Saturday."

Gill faced opposition from local business owner T.K. Thompson.

Thompson received 29 votes to Gill's 230, according to unofficial returns, which were to be canvassed and certified at Tuesday's regular City Council meeting.

Voters casted a total of 113 early ballots with 146 casting day-of ballots. Turnout was 14 percent.

School board
Incumbent representa-

tives Drew Kirkpatrick and Robbie Williams also were re-seated to second terms on the Post Independent School District board of trustees.

Kirkpatrick received 382 votes, and Williams received 331.

Also running for the at-large spots was Ray Perez, who received only 129 votes.

Turnout for the school board election was about 33 percent.

No information was available regarding the number of voters casting early ballots.



File photo
Archie Gill is sworn in last October after being appointed to fill the unexpired term of Thressa Harp. Gill was elected to his first term as mayor last week. He also served from 1999-2005.

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.

Volunteers needed

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6797 is placing U.S. veteran grave markers at Terrace cemetery beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday. Please bring a battery operated drill with a large bit and ready to work, the 350 grave markers will go in much quicker. Also, not all graves are marked for each Veteran; so if your family member is a veteran with an unmarked grave stone, please let J.W. Jolly or Chuck Rattliff know where they can be found by stopping by on Saturday or calling 990-3128 or 495-2026. Veteran flags will be put out at each grave May 25 and help is needed then as well.

Memorial service

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6796 will honor all local veterans with a Memorial Day breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. May 27 at the lodge, 1006 E. Main St. Begins. A ceremony will follow at 10 a.m. at the Courthouse. Local residents are asked to fly flags at half-staff until noon May 24.

Fish fry

Trailblazers, 205 E. 10th St., will have a fish fry fundraiser from 5 to 7 p.m. today. Cost is \$7 per plate. Raffle tickets will be sold for a Kindle Fire HD 8.5 screen, \$100 app card and case. For information, call Doylene at 495-2998.

4-H Play Days

The Garza County 4-H will have its annual Play Days on Saturday, also on June 1 and 15 at the Lonesome Pine Equestrian Center. For information, contact the Extension Office at 495-4400 or Danya Peterson at 520-405-0221.

Athletic banquet

The Post High School athletic banquet, sponsored by the Antelope Booster Club, will be at 6 p.m. May 20 at the Post ISD cafeteria. Advanced tickets are available from Post High School athletes for \$10 each or \$12 at the door. For information, call the school at 495-2770.

County Commission

The Garza County Commission meets at 9 a.m. the second and fourth Mondays of the month in Commission Chambers at the Garza County Courthouse, 300 W. Main St. For information, call 495-4430.

School board

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

Corrections

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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USPS 439-620



Much-needed rainfall graces county areas

By Wayne Hodgin
The Post Dispatch

Depending on who you ask and where they live, areas of Post have received anywhere from a half-inch to an inch of rain over the last week, with a majority of that falling last Thursday and Friday evenings.

The rain, although welcome, didn't seem to do much for this parched area of West Texas.

Despite one of the coolest springs on record across the South Plains, Mark Conders, meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Lubbock, said those temperatures by the weekend are expected to approach the century mark.

"We'll see our temperature back up to normal range Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the upper 90s," he said. "So our weather pattern is beginning to trend much more closer to normal than what we've been seeing."

Conders said May so far has recorded the coldest temperatures on record across the South Plains with one of the latest freezes the area has seen.

The outlook for the summer, Conders said, was much of the same weather pattern the area has seen over the last couple of years.

"Looking at our three-month outlook for May, June and July, we can expect greater chances of above normal temps and greater chances of below normal precip," he said. "But, then again, this is West Texas."

RAINFALL TOTALS

Following numbers represented the recorded rainfall in the represented areas on May 6 and 7 and May 9 and 10.

Post — 0.68 inches
Lake Alan Henry — 0.78 inches
White River Lake — 0.75 inches



Anna Gibson/The Post Dispatch
Water collects at the intersection of U.S. 84 and 380 last week after a brief downfall of rain in Post. The area has seen anywhere from a half-inch to an inch of rain over the last several days.

Berry competes



Drew Kirkpatrick/For the Dispatch

Post High School senior Haily Berry finished in fourth place in the triple jump event last weekend at the state track meet in Austin with a jump of 37 feet, 2.5 inches. Berry was bested by first place jumper Kenija Collier of Tatum at 42 feet, 2.25 inches; Lauren Bedrich of Rogers at 37 feet, 8 inches, for second place; and third place finisher Terralyn Williams of East Bernard with a jump of 37 feet, 5.5 inches. Berry will continue her track and field career in the fall at West Texas A&M.

Dunn returns to state UIL academic meet

By Anna Gibson
The Post Dispatch

Katie Dunn, a junior at Post High School, will go to the state UIL academic meet for news writing and editorial writing May 21st in Austin.

Dunn has been writing since the seventh grade because of her mothers' encouragement and association with UIL writing events.

Dunn has been a part of the regional events the past three years of high school. She won a spot in editorial writing her freshmen year also was an alternate to state in news writing.

In 2013 Dunn placed third at district in news writing and first place at the regional meet. In 2012 she placed second at district and fourth at regional. In 2011 Dunn placed third at regional in news writing and at district placed second in editorials.

Her plans after graduation are to attend South Plains and transfer to Texas Tech to study sports medicine.

"UIL writing has given me something to be successful at and enjoy," Dunn said.

Dunn encourages other students to try writing.

"As opposed to mathematics or history, writing only needs a few basics such as grammar and spelling," she said. "The most important part about competing is knowing how to get the most important information and writing your paper in a timely manner."



Katie Dunn

Earthquake felt southeast of Post City

By Wayne Hodgin
The Post Dispatch

A magnitude 2.6 earthquake last week about 17 miles northeast of Snyder apparently did little damage in northern Scurry County.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the quake was recorded a few minutes after 8 a.m. May 6. Reports listed the quake as one of 25 recorded worldwide that day by the USGS and one of 11 recorded in the continental United States.

The quake isn't the first to be recorded in the area. In September 2011, residents in northern Scurry were rocked by a modest 4.3-magnitude quake that was felt as far north as Lubbock and as far east as Louisiana.

Arthur McGarr, a geophysicist with the USGS in Menlo Park, Calif., said the earthquakes in the area

are attributed to substantial increase in oil and gas production.

"These types of earthquakes are what we refer to as 'induced,' meaning they are not naturally occurring," McGarr said.

While some people would attribute these induced quakes to hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, McGarr said, it's not the procedure itself that causing the phenomenon but more accurately the process of injecting water into the reservoir to stimulate oil production.

"Fracking technology has been a phenomenal success all across the country, but particularly in your area, where these companies are having to bust through large amounts of shale in order to extract more oil and gas," McGarr said. "In order to push

See **QUAKE**, Page 9

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Deaths

Joan Blacklock

Services for Joan Blacklock, 75, of Post were held at 3 PM Saturday, May 11, 2013 in the Hudman Funeral Home Chapel with Bo Jackson officiating. Burial in Terrace Cemetery was under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home.

She died on Thursday, May 9, 2013 in Post. She was born to Roy and Laura (Byrd) Holly on October 1, 1937 in Afton, Tx. She married Jackie Blacklock on December 20, 1952 in Post. He preceded her in death on October 27,



JOAN BLACKLOCK

Survivors include 2 Daughters: Jerri and husband Tommy Reed of Justiceburg and Janet Blacklock of Post, 2 Sons: Jackie

Ray Blacklock of Wolf-orth and Joe Blacklock of Lubbock, 2 Sisters: Rene Mason of Post and Brenda Angerer of

Lubbock, 6 Grandchildren and 10 Great Grandchildren.

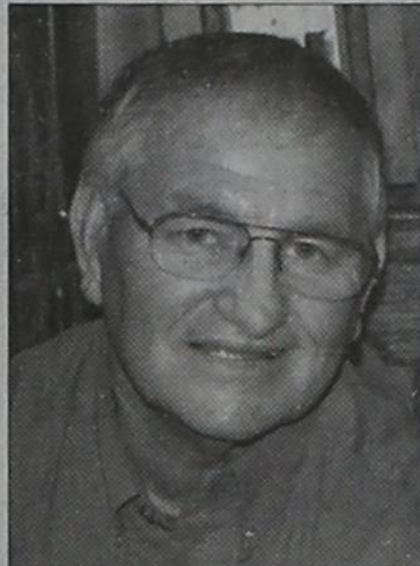
Pallbearers were Todd Angerer, Tony Angerer, Garrett White, Eddie Holly, Frankie Joe Kinman, Raymie Holly and Ron Mason. Honorary pallbearers were Will Reed, Chris Dawson, Randon Blacklock, Colt Blacklock, Cody Joe Blacklock and Jason Blacklock.

Jerry Hays

Gerald "Jerry" Hays was born to Jim and Mattie Hays on February 22, 1939 and departed this life on May 7, 2013.

Jerry had lived a lifelong devotion to family, friends and the Post community. Born and raised in Post, Jerry served his hometown proudly. Stationed in Korea, Jerry served his country from December 1, 1961, to November 30, 1963. He returned to Post and worked for the Texas Department of Transportation, engineering division, until his retirement in 1999. Jerry also served a term on the Post I.S.D. School Board.

After retirement from the state, Jerry was elected to serve as County and



JERRY HAYS

District Clerk of Garza County.

He was an active member of the Post Rotary Club and served as deacon of Cavalry Baptist Church.

Jerry touched the hearts of many with his love and care for Kelsey, who never failed

to bring a smile to his face. Not only will Jerry be remembered for his devotion to family but also for his zest for life, kindness, sense of humor and grace.

He is survived by the love of his life, Kay; children, Rodney and Alison Hays of Georgetown, Kelsey of Post and Karron of Post; brothers, Herb of Austin, Donnie of Austin, Pete of Post, Jackie of Post and sister, Rheba Propst of Post.

Memorial service to honor the memory of Jerry was held Saturday, May 11, 2013, Calvary Baptist Church of Post, Texas.

Memorials may be made in Jerry's memory to Calvary Baptist Church.

Anita Jo Martinez

Anita Jo Martinez, 40, of Post died Thursday May 9, 2013, at the University Medical Center in Lubbock.

Anita was born January 12, 1973, in Post to Joe and Olivia (Collazo) Martinez. She attended school in Post and Southland. After getting out of school she worked for Conoco, The Dalby Unit and later for United Supermarket here in Post. She was a member of the Assembly of God Church.

She is preceded in death

by her mother: Olivia Rodriguez Martinez August 28, 2004. Anita was especially proud of her children: Brandon and Olivia (Livy), along with her family and friends.

Anita is survived by: one son: Brandon M. Soto; and one daughter: Olivia (Livy) Martinez, both of Post. Her Father: Joe Martinez of Post. Two sisters: Deborah Ann Martinez and JoAnn Martinez, both of Post.

Services were 2:00 p.m. Monday May 13, 2013 in

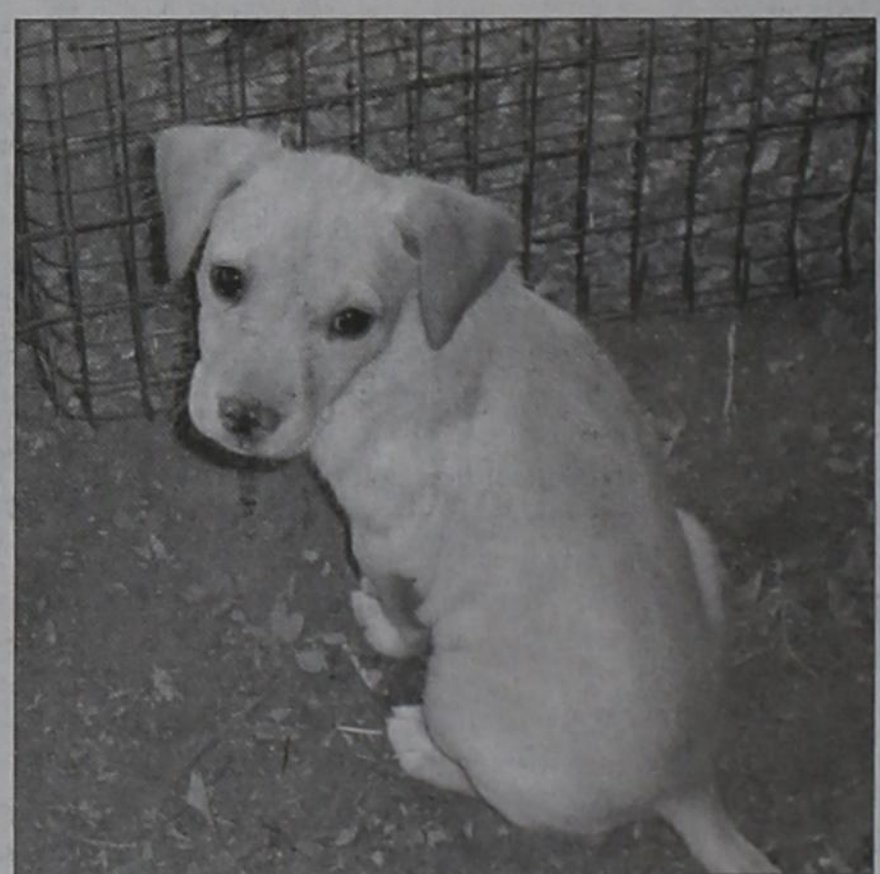
the First Baptist Church of Post. The Rev. Homar Builtron of the New Hope Foursquare Church of Lubbock officiated. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery. Arrangements were under the personal care of Dee and Janet Justice, Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were: Cecil Martinez, Jr., Steven Martinez, Jackie Burkett, Shane Redman, Amando Chapa and Jesse Collazo, III. Honorary pallbearer was: Tommy Binford.

Menus: Week of May 20-24

| Southland ISD | milk |
|--|---|
| Breakfast | Friday: Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, milk |
| Monday: Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, milk | Lunch |
| Tuesday: Quesadilla, fruit, juice, milk | Monday: Pizza sticks, garden salad, baby carrots, apple slices, breadstick, milk variety |
| Wednesday: Breakfast bars, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk | Tuesday: Ultimate taco, salad, seasoned corn, fresh fruit cup, milk variety |
| Thursday: Muffins, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk | Wednesday: Steak fingers, whipped potatoes, green beans, gravy, apple-pinnacle d'lite, milk variety |
| Friday: Biscuits, sausage, gravy, fruit, juice, milk | Thursday: Barbecue on bun, black beans, baby carrots, orange smiles, salsa, milk variety |
| Lunch | Friday: Pizza choice, garden salad, fresh veggie cup, mixed fruit, milk variety |
| Monday: Ravioli, corn, garden salad, fruit, milk | Trailblazers |
| Tuesday: Hot dogs, baked fries, veggie cup with ranch, fresh fruit, milk | Lunch |
| Wednesday: Sack lunches, cookie, fruit cup, milk | Monday: Goulash, mixed veggies, spinach, cornbread, fruit salad, milk |
| Thursday: Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, garden salad, apple slices, milk | Tuesday: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, carrots, roll, Jell-O, milk |
| Friday: Sack lunches, milk | Wednesday: Chicken spaghetti, mixed veggies, salad, garlic toast, cookie, milk |
| Post ISD | Thursday: Ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, pudding, milk |
| Breakfast | Friday: Barbecue on bun, potato salad, baked beans, cobbler, milk |
| Monday: Waffles, sausage, butter and syrup, fruit, milk | |
| Tuesday: Cheese omelets, toast, fruit, milk | |
| Wednesday: Oatmeal, bacon, toast, fruit, milk | |
| Thursday: Cinnamon rolls, sausage link, fruit, | |

Pet of the Week



Janice Plummer/For the Dispatch

This is Sunny, one of four Lab mix puppies at the Post Animal Refuge shelter. There are two males and two females, all about eight weeks old. For adoption information, contact Post Animal Refuge Center at Postarc@yahoo.com or on Facebook at Post Arc.

Become a fan of the Post Dispatch on Facebook.



Make sure your child's safety seat measures up.

Our family has been on the receiving end of an out-pouring of love and support since Jerry's tragic accident and during our loss. We are in awe of the wonderful care and concern you gave us these past weeks. You have blessed us with prayer, visits, calls, food, flowers, cards and encouragement.

You have made us feel that our loss is your loss and we thank you for making our burden lighter. We pray God's blessing over each of you.

The family of Jerry Hays - Kay, Rodney and Alison, Kelsey, Karron and siblings Herb, Rheba, Pete, Donnie and Jackie.

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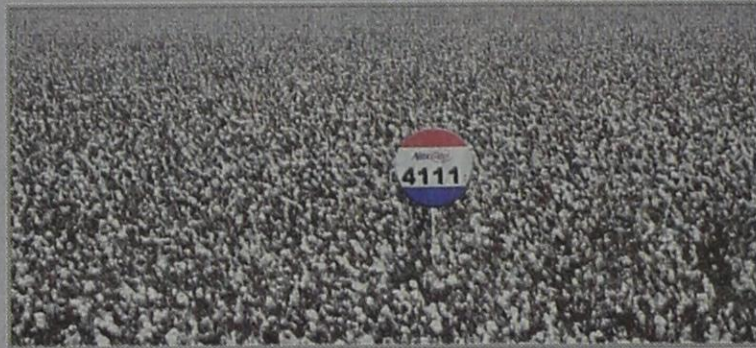
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NG 3348 B2RF - Parmer County, Texas



| YIELD | STAPLE | MIC | STRENGTH | LOAN |
|-------------|--------|-----|----------|----------|
| 1,446 lb/ac | 35.4 | 3.8 | 30.0 | \$0.5445 |

NG 4111 RF - Floyd County, Texas



| YIELD | STAPLE | MIC | STRENGTH | LOAN |
|-------------|--------|-----|----------|----------|
| 1,473 lb/ac | 35.2 | 3.7 | 32.0 | \$0.5589 |

NG 1511 B2RF - Terry County, Texas



| YIELD | STAPLE | MIC | STRENGTH | LOAN |
|-------------|--------|-----|----------|----------|
| 1,848 lb/ac | 36.0 | 4.5 | 30.7 | \$0.5759 |

NG 4012 B2RF - Dawson County, Texas



| YIELD | STAPLE | MIC | STRENGTH | LOAN |
|-----------|--------|------|----------|----------|
| 559 lb/ac | 36.2 | 4.19 | 32.4 | \$0.5730 |

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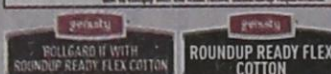
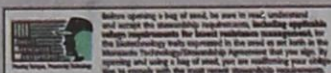
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Legends KKK activity in early Garza history

Well folks, here we go into another murder and mayhem story. A few weeks back, a swell couple visited the museum, Buster and Janet Ream. They were in town doing some research on the shooting death of Buddy's grandfather James Elbert (E.L.) Bracken. To put it bluntly, Mr. Bracken was shot behind bars, taking three shots to the abdomen, and apparently dying instantly.

This particular story begins back in 1927. It seems that Garza County had its share of criminal activity going on; even some notable men in the county were members of the KKK, also known as the Ku Klux Klan. On one occasion that we know of was referenced in the book "Post City, Texas" by Eaves and Hutchinson on page 88-90. That incidence occurred sometime previous to Aug. 10, 1910. M.L. Harkey, Garza County Attorney, sent the following message to the



LINDA
PUCKETT

Battle Creek office:

"Mr. C.W. Post:

"You must come to Post City at once. I (Harkey) was waylaid and assaulted by six men. They have also given Jim Hartford two days in which to leave Post City or be killed. Cause of trouble following your instructions as to election. Advise by wire. The message was signed by M.L. Harkey."

Long story short, a prominent fellow in town had received a letter instructing him to inform Harkey that he was to leave town at once. The man told Harkey of the threat, but he didn't heed the warning.

It was on the night of Aug. 10 as Harkey and Dr. A.R. Ponton were hunting up on top of the Cap when they were seized by six men wearing white hoods. They were blindfolded and tied up.

The leader of the gang told Harkey that his life would be spared if he got out of Post City before the night of the second day following. If he was still in town at that time, he would be killed. He then told the gang to get on with the party.

Two of the men held Harkey to prevent his falling and another stuck a gun to his forehead while the others beat him with a black snake whip. After the beating and he was covered in blood, they struck him in the back of the head, leaving him unconscious. The hooded clan member then disappeared.

Ponton was able to free them, and they made their way back to town.

After being treated for his wounds, Harkey notified the sheriff, who did nothing about his claims. The next day he left town quietly and went to Big Spring where he contacted Gov. T.M. Campbell in Austin. The governor ordered the Texas Rangers to Post City to take care of the situation, and Harkey returned with the Rangers.

Six prominent men were arrested and charged. The Rangers left town, and Harkey left with them. The clan members were tried during that month in Judge J.M. Boren's court and found not guilty.

This whole incident sounds like some old "B" movie, but this stuff really did happen. Did you know the KKK still exists?

I revisited this story to make the point that our sleepy little town has a few dirty little secrets. Remember the five-part series I wrote on W.F. Cato? That was a very telling story. T. Lynsay Baker wrote a book called "Gangster Tour of Texas" and included a chapter about Post entitled "The Post Morphine Ring-Dope Dealing At The Edge Of The Caprock." His story was pretty much what I had already shared with you in "Legends," same newspaper accounts that Cato's son provided to us and those documents our attorney friend Terry Cross contributed.

So here we are in 1927, a time when Post was pretty corrupt with drugs, prostitution, boot-legging and even murder.

I'm really amazed, or maybe naive is a better word. Was this something everybody knew about or feared? In times like this I wish some old timers were around to enlighten me. I bet Bryan Williams could tell me a lot.

Don't miss next week's "Legends" as this story unfolds. See you then.

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

Nancy's Notions 'Click It or Ticket' campaign saves lives

It is Click It or Tick It time again. As a certification Passenger Safety Technician, I wanted to share some comments sent from Bev Kellner, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program specialist with passenger safety. This year's Texas Department of Public Safety Click It or Ticket campaign is scheduled for May 20-June 2, which includes Memorial Day Weekend.

"AgriLife Extension is again actively supporting this important public safety initiative," Kellner said. "We want to help bring attention to the campaign, as well as 'inform and transform' those people who are still not convinced of the importance of seat belt use."



NANCY
MCDONALD

During the campaign, extra law enforcement authorities will be on the roads enforcing the seat belt and child restraint laws in an effort to save lives, she noted.

"This year makes the 45th anniversary of the enactment of legislation making it mandatory for passenger vehicles to have safety belts," Kellner said. "You'd think that after so many years of having seat belts standard in vehicles, buckling your seat belt before driving off would be second nature, but for many people it's not."

She added that Texas passed its first seat belt law in 1985.

"Over the years, seat belt laws in Texas and nationally have prevented millions of deaths and injuries. And while most motorists buckle up, some groups — especially pickup truck drivers and their passengers, teens and people who live in rural areas — are still not convinced," Kellner said. "In fact, crash data from the Texas Department of Transportation shows there has been an 11 percent increase in traffic fatalities from 2011 to 2012."

Wearing a seat belt is the single most important thing that drivers and passengers can do to help survive a crash, she said. Yet in Texas last year, 45 percent of those

killed in crashes were reported as being unrestrained.

"According to a recent study conducted in 18 Texas cities by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, only 78.4 percent of the state's teens wear their seat belts, Kellner said. "And in rural Texas, where most fatalities occur, seat belt use is also lower than average."

Kellner said pickup truck drivers and their passengers are often under the false impression that their larger vehicle will protect them in a crash.

"Yet, pickup trucks are twice as likely to rollover than passenger cars and pickup crashes can be especially serious — even deadly — due to their tendency to roll over and for unbelted occupants to be thrown from the vehicle," she said.

Teens are inexperienced drivers and are subject to distractions in the vehicle, Kellner added. And while seat belts are life-savers for young drivers and their passengers, they are not being consistently worn by them on every trip.

"The Click It or Ticket campaign has been successful in bringing Texas's seat belt rate from 76.1 percent in 2002, when it started, to 94 percent today," she said. "It is estimated the campaign can be credited with saving almost 3,700 lives and preventing more than 50,000 injuries in Texas."

Since 2009, Texas law requires all vehicle occupants — front and back — to buckle up 100 percent of the time. And children younger than eight years old, unless taller than 4-foot-9, must be in a child restraint. Fines for seat belt violations can range from \$25 dollars to \$250.

Enforcement will increase this month, and drivers and passengers not wearing seat belts will face fines of up to \$200, plus court costs, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

"Motorists can save money and, more importantly, save lives by buckling up on every trip," Kellner said.

For more information on passenger safety, give me a call at 495-4400.

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

USDA announces Conservation Reserve Program sign-up

Special to the Dispatch

Farmers and ranchers are reminded the U.S. Department of Agriculture will conduct a four-week Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up beginning Monday and ending June 14.

Also announced was the restart of sign-up for continuous CRP, including

the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative, the Highly Erodible Land Initiative, the Grassland Restoration Initiative, the Pollinator Habitat Initiative and other related initiatives.

Sign-up for continuous CRP will continue through Sept. 30.

"As always, we expect strong competition to enroll acres into CRP, and we urge interested producers to maximize their environmental benefits and to make cost-effective offers," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

CRP is an important program for protecting environmentally sensitive lands from erosion and sedimentation and for

ensuring the sustainability of groundwater, lakes, rivers, ponds and streams.

Through the voluntary participation of farmers and ranchers, CRP helps protect natural resources, preserve wildlife habitat and bring good-paying jobs to rural America related to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation.

Vilsack encouraged

producers to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis.

CRP has a 27-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the

United States.

Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

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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
Southland Baptist Church - Southland
Temple Bautista - 315 W. Main
Trinity Baptist Church - 915 N. Ave O, 990-3038

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

Church of Christ
Church of Christ - 108 N. Ave M 495-2326
Graham Chapel Church of Christ - 15th & Ave S

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

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

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

Methodist
First United Methodist Church - 216 W. 10th, 990-2942
Graham Chapel United Methodist Church (Pastor: John Hedrick) - 611 FM #1313 806-549-1400

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

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

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Scott Buckles re-elected to conservation board

Special to the Dispatch

TEMPLE — Scott Buckles of Stratford was re-elected May 7 to serve another two-year term on the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Buckles represents State District 1, which consists of 51 counties in the panhandle and south plains region of Texas, including Garza County. District One encompasses 49 soil and water conservation districts.

Buckles has been a member of the TSS-WCB since May 2011 and is the managing partner of Buckles Farms Partnership located in Sherman County. The family operation has been in business since 1917 and currently produces corn, grain, sorghum, wheat and cattle. Buckles is also involved in other retail businesses including

crop and aerial spraying.

In other conservation capacities, Buckles has served 18 years on the board of directors of the Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District headquartered in Stratford. Additionally to serving on his local SWCD board, Buckles served on the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts board of directors. In the statewide organization he has served as vice president and as president. Buckles is also a past president of the Panhandle Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs through the State's 216 soil and water conservation districts.

Franchise tax bill moves toward passage

By Ed Sterling

For the Dispatch

AUSTIN — Procedural deadlines for legislation began to hit last week, ending the forward progress and the hopes of more than half of the 6,000-or-so House bills and Senate bills filed by Texas lawmakers since November 2012.

And while the main state budget bill for fiscal years 2014-2015 stayed apparently motionless in a conference committee of five Senate members and five House members, a number of bills survived votes and passed through their respective originating chambers.

For example, the House on May 8 approved House Bill 500, legislation that permanently exempts businesses with gross revenues of \$1 million or less from paying the margin or "franchise" tax. The current exemption is set to expire next year.

The Legislature enacted the tax in 2009 to offset a reduction in residential property taxes. Other bills filed this session attempt to do away with the tax entirely.

Primary author of HB 500 is Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, chair of the powerful House Committee on Ways and Means. Hilderbran, who said the legislation would spell \$667 million in tax relief to Texas businesses, pointed out that HB 500 also:

- Extends the exemption to businesses grossing more than \$1 million annually by creating a guaranteed \$1 million deduction.

- Ensures that the cost of goods sold deduction "is offered to most businesses equally" by including those engaged in rental, auto repair, transportation, real estate and medicine.

HB 500 is awaiting deliberation by the Senate Finance Committee's subcommittee on Fiscal Matters.

Retirement buy-in may change

State employees and current teachers would contribute more of their paycheck for their retirement under SB 1458 passed by the Senate on May 8.

Authored by Senate State Affairs Chair Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, the legislation, he said, is to reform the state Teachers Retirement System and make it actuarially sound. The bill, which gained unanimous support in the Senate, was approved by the House Pensions Committee on May 10 and soon will be scheduled for debate on the House floor.

"We were upside down earlier because we were relying too much on investment

returns. This puts us in a situation where we are actually having long term fixed contribution rates that should support this system for a long time," Duncan explained in a Senate News Service report.

Active teachers now pay a state-matched 6.4 percent of their gross pay into the Teachers Retirement System. Under SB 1458, the rate would go up in increments over the next four years to 7.7 percent in 2017 and the state contribution would increase to 6.8 percent. And, Duncan said, all school districts, for the first time, would help foot the bill by contributing 1.5 percent of their annual salary scale into the teacher retirement fund. The bill, many sessions in the making, also addresses retirement age calculations, health care for retirees and cost of living benefit increases.

Bill reduces number of tests

HB 5 by Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock, R-Killeen, chair of the House Education Committee and sponsored by Senate Education Committee Chair Dan Patrick, R-Houston, is now in a 10-member conference committee tasked with reaching agreement on amendments attached to the bill as the Senate passed it on May 6.

Currently, a high school student must pass 15 end-of-course exams to graduate. HB 5 seeks to cut that number to five while also creating a degree program to give students more flexibility when choosing classes. The five end-of-course exams, if the bill passes, would be U.S. history, English I, English II, algebra I, and biology. Two more exams, algebra II and English III, would be optional and wouldn't be required to graduate nor would they affect school accountability ratings, Patrick said.

Car sticker bill advances

Legislation by Senate Jurisprudence Committee Chair Royce West, D-Dallas, would combine automobile registration and inspection stickers into one sticker.

Interim research that provided groundwork for West's SB 1350 suggests that a one-sticker system would reduce fraudulent inspections and save the state money. If the House passes SB 1350, Texas will join 27 other states that have enacted similar laws.

Sales tax receipts increase

State Comptroller Susan Combs on May 8 announced that state sales tax revenue in April was \$2.15 billion, up 3.9 percent compared to April 2012.

"As expected," Combs said, "the rate of growth in state sales tax revenue is moderating compared to double-digit growth rates we recently experienced."

TDA Market Recap

Cattle markets continue to drop

Special to the Dispatch

For the week ending May 11, 2013, feeder cattle prices reported by Texas auctions ranged from \$10 lower to \$5 higher per hundred-weight (cwt) compared to the previous week. Texas direct feeder cattle sales were \$3 to \$7 lower and the Oklahoma City National Stockyards were steady to \$4 lower. In many locations, heavier-weight cattle were on the lower end of the price spectrum.

Lower fed cattle markets, lower feeder cattle futures and continued negative cattle feeding margins pressured the market. However, tight supplies and improved pasture conditions in some areas were also supportive. Fed cattle cash prices were \$2 lower. Choice wholesale beef prices hit a new record-high of \$205.49 per cwt on Thursday and were up more than \$3 per cwt for the week.

Weekly beef exports fell to less than half the prior four-week average and cumulative sales for the year were nearly 10 percent behind last

year's pace.

Cotton cash prices were lower, but futures were higher because the slow planting progress, a report that planted acres in South Texas were nearly half of normal and projections for much smaller than expected U.S. production in 2013. Weekly cotton exports were slightly less than the average needed to meet projections for the marketing year. Wheat prices declined following beneficial rains on parts of the U.S. Plains and much lower than expected weekly export inspections. The first USDA winter wheat production forecast for 2013 showed production down 10 percent for the U.S. and 44 percent lower in Texas as drought reduced both harvested acres and yield. Corn prices were lower due after reports showed lower than expected weekly export sales and higher than expected projected ending stocks.

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

| Texas Cash Markets: | | Week Ending May 11, 2013 | Previous Week | Previous Year |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Feeder Steers | (\$/cwt) | 153.12 | 158.58 | 178.88 |
| Fed Cattle | (\$/cwt) | 125.95 | 128.00 | 119.97 |
| Slaughter Lambs | (\$/cwt) | 110.00 | 113.00 | 140.00 |
| Slaughter Goats | (\$/cwt) | 190.00 | 188.00 | 204.00 |
| Cotton | (¢/lb.) | 81.50 | 81.75 | 74.00 |
| Grain Sorghum | (\$/cwt) | 11.70 | 12.03 | 10.20 |
| Wheat | (\$/bu.) | 7.43 | 7.62 | 5.49 |
| Corn | (\$/bu.) | 7.17 | 7.35 | 6.17 |
| Onions | (\$/40 lbs.) | 13.00 | 12.50 | No Quote |
| Watermelons | (\$/lb.) | 0.25 | No Quote | 0.18 |

| Futures Markets: | | Week Ending May 11, 2013 | Previous Week | Previous Year |
|------------------|----------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Feeder Cattle | (\$/cwt) | 135.37 | 138.77 | 149.70 |
| Fed Cattle | (\$/cwt) | 120.45 | 121.82 | 115.15 |
| Cotton | (¢/lb.) | 86.48 | 84.72 | 78.97 |
| Wheat | (\$/bu.) | 7.72 | 7.90 | 6.01 |
| Corn | (\$/bu.) | 6.88 | 7.00 | 6.08 |
| Lumber | (\$/MBF) | 335.00 | 338.60 | 302.50 |

MBF = thousand board feet

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. Timber prices are from the Texas A&M Forest Service, bimonthly "Texas Timber Price Trends."

For additional information, contact TDA at 800-835-5832 or www.TexasAgriculture.gov.

Click It or Ticket campaign gears up

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — Texans wear their belt buckles with a certain Lone Star pride, but it's the buckles in their vehicles that could save their lives.

More functional than fashionable, life-saving seat belts first debuted 45 years ago when Lyndon B. Johnson's National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and The Highway Safety Act went into effect mandating that all automobiles have seat belts as a standard feature.

To honor President Johnson's pioneering dedication to safety, the Texas Department of Transportation last week launched its 12th annual Click It or Ticket campaign at the LBJ Library in Austin with a car show demonstrating the progression of seat belts through the ages.

"The cost of not wearing seat belts is far greater than a ticket or fine," said Phil Wilson, TxDOT executive director. "Simply put, a seat belt could save your life. Public awareness is working, but we still see some teenagers, pickup truck passengers and rural Texans who aren't buckling up."

Taking a cue from Johnson's leadership, Texas has made seat belt safety a major priority and is proud to be one of the most buckled up states in the union. When the Click It or Ticket campaign began in 2002, only 76 percent of Texans buckled up. Today, 94 percent are wearing seat belts.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates the Click It or Ticket campaign has saved nearly 3,700 lives and prevented more than 50,000 serious injuries since its launch. The increase in seat belt usage also has saved an estimated \$10 billion in wages and productivity

losses, medical expenses, insurance premiums, taxes and other costs.

Despite an increase in seat belt compliance, there is more work to be done with the lives of Texans at stake. Initial TxDOT data from 2012 indicates traffic-related fatalities in Texas are up by 11 percent. In 2012, there were 3,400 fatalities due to traffic crashes across the state.

Data also show that only 82 percent of pickup passengers are buckled when riding compared to more than 91 percent of passengers riding in cars. Pickups are more likely than passenger cars to roll over or eject unrestrained occupants in a crash.

As part of the Click It or Ticket initiative, law enforcement officials across the state will be looking for and ticketing unbuckled drivers and passengers in an effort to raise safety awareness and prevent fatalities.

By Texas law, all occupants of a vehicle, including back seat passengers, must wear a seat belt. Each unbuckled occupant faces a ticket and fines up to \$200, plus court costs. Last year, more than 21,200 seat belt citations were issued during the Click It or Ticket campaign.

This year's campaign enforcement period dates are May 20 to June 2.

ON THE WEB

Learn more about Click It or Ticket by liking the TxDOT Facebook page at facebook.com/bdot or visiting texas-clickitorticket.com.

Go Lopes, Go!

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The Paperboy

Can we reverse a disturbing trend?

What sets Americans apart from citizens of other countries? To me, one of the things which makes us unique is our volunteerism. From scouting to booster clubs to the American Red Cross and Lions Club - we've always stood together for the greater good.

Are we as giving of our time as we once were? I fear we are not. I sincerely hope it is a trend we can reverse.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

When you think of your community and those worker bees behind the scene, who comes to mind? Is it the same few people who do all the work?

Volunteerism is one of those things that I consider an acquired taste. You may not like it until you've tried it a couple of times.

When I moved to the small town from college as a single man, I had no choice when it came to volunteering for things. Seniors I knew and respected were very quick in convincing me of what I needed to be doing to help my community. At the time, I thought everyone volunteered for things.

As I've matured, I now understand that only a few of us get involved and step up to the plate.

Now, it's looking like small towns are becoming apathetic. When the voters stop voting and people stop running for local office, I see that as a negative. When 20 volunteers are needed on a worthwhile project and you only get eight workers, that's a problem.

I understand time is precious. I understand life is stressful. But hasn't that always been the case?

Our society - one in which we lack the proper respect for our elders and one which has seen the end of the nuclear family - is in trouble. And guess what, without some intervention and some volunteerism, it's not going to get any better.

The United States has changed a great deal since the 1970s when divorces became

commonplace. That's about two generations ago now and we've seen the trend continue. Along with a high divorce rate, we have a growing number of babies born out of wedlock. Friends, something has to give.

Guess what? If we, as a society, do not step forward with love in our hearts and begin to reach out to our youth, particularly young men, we will never heal and strengthen our communities.

We need programs beyond sports which enable stable men to mentor and spend time with our younger male counterparts. Whether it's a school endeavor or begins at the grassroots level, we need the men of small town America to step forward. Dear reader, it most certainly does take a village when it comes to our society. The youth in our communities have a tougher row to hoe than at any time I can think of. It is up to volunteers to sacrifice time and effort and reach out.

When this is done, and you see the difference you've made in a young person's life, it will be one of the most gratifying experiences of your life.

I encourage as many as possible to set the course for involvement before the start of school next year. Through our schools, churches and youth programs, we can turn apathy into energy. We can shed the light on the importance of community involvement. Most importantly, we can raise the kind of men our society needs and change the face of our communities for the better.

Gentlemen, if you've read this column and are in agreement, and there are programs in your respective communities which allow you to get involved with local youth, I implore you to volunteer. Society needs good men to take control of their communities and make a difference. The alternative is no longer acceptable.

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

Yesteryears

10 years ago
May 15, 2003

Citing continued budget problems in Austin, Garza County Judge Giles W. Dalby asked county commissioners at the regular meeting Monday to join him in signing a resolution urging the legislature to find a "statewide solution to the budget crisis," instead of transferring financial burden to "counties and their ad valorem taxpayers."

Municipal Judge Jim Plummer announced his impending resignation from the position at the May 6 Post City Council meeting. The council approved advertising for replacements. Plummer will continue to serve until June. He said he wanted to devote more time to personal and business interests.

Parents, students, teachers and volunteers enjoyed last week's Post Elementary School Field Day, which was held at the Post ISD track/practice field. Relay races, obstacle courses and tug-of-war were just a few of the competitions for participants.

20 years ago
May 19, 1993

A face to face meeting between members of the Post City Council and the White River Water District board of directors has resulted in the city agreeing to drop its protest over water prices charged by the district and the district turning back to city control water taps in the Cedar Hills development. Dan Lam, Jim Schooler and Maxine Conely from the Post City Council, Mayor Jim Jackson and interim City Manager Delber Rudd met with the White River Water District board of directors in an effort to solve the longstanding differences between the two governing entities.

"We need to see this thing solved and get along," said council member Schooler.

Local artist Bill Mueller doubled up the awards in the annual Post Art Guild's Spring Art Show, winning both the Best of Show and the People's Choice awards for his photograph "Double Double." Joining Mueller with a Best of Show award of her own was Shirley White. White's entry, a pastel portrait entitled "Ruidoso Maiden" earned her a \$60 cash award. White also received several purchase awards for her work.

The Post High School choir recently performed in San Antonio at the American Classic Music Festival's Bluebonnet Classic. The choir earned a superior rating for their concert performance and an Outstanding in Class for their overall performance.

30 years ago
May 18, 1983

The city of Post received this week the latest report from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and discovered a \$10,000 decrease in its net payment for the period ending May 6, compared to the same period last year.

40 years ago
May 17, 1973

White River Municipal Water District directors by resolution last Thursday night voted to spend up to \$30,000 to build and furnish and addition to the filtration plant that will include a directors' meeting room, a new office for Al O'Brien, water district manager, and additional restrooms. Added heating and air-conditioning is included.

50 years ago
May 16, 1963

Game Warden William D. "Bud" Howell hinted yesterday that the net is tightening on the "Catfish Comancheros." Howell, who is with other game wardens in the area has been at work almost night and day on the illegal practice of fish poisoning in Garza and surrounding counties, said yesterday "we have some good clues and we are after them." Garza County farm and ranch ponds have been the hardest hit in the worst outbreak of fish poisoning in the area's history.

James Bartek was congratulated by John D. Wells of Plano upon winning top individual honors in the soils judging contest here. Wells is president of the Texas Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

Bill Kirk of the University of Illinois soils judging team has just donned the western hat he won as a door prize at the soils judging award dinner. Congratulations Kirk after presenting the hat is Charlie Luttrell of the Post Chamber of Commerce.

Compiled by Anna Gibson

Justice-Mason Funeral Home

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cirques (Welsh)
5. Behave in a certain manner
8. Foot apparel
10. Apothecaries' unit
12. Clown venue
14. Old Italian monetary units
16. Light spar
17. In heat
20. Oprah musical
23. Mahjong pieces
24. New Rochelle college
25. Copyread
27. Male sheep
28. Yeddo
29. Sizable roll of cash
32. Greatest in an indefinitely large series
35. Glass with many small bubbles
38. Polite interruption sound
40. With a red quality
41. Slated window coverings
47. Common piercing location
48. Electronic communication
49. Draft animal harnesses
50. Less light
52. Fiddled while Rome burned
53. Diacritical mark
54. Naval Training Program
55. Abnormally closed sac in the body

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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22. H___: watering device
26. Nerd or wonk
30. Befuddled
31. Set or draw the boundaries of
32. The central area of a church
33. Titan mother of Helios
34. "Daisy Miller" author James
36. European sea eagle
37. High-powered
39. Cantaloupe or honeydew
42. Old subway entry disc
43. Statue of L___y: NYC lady
44. Fable author
45. Indistinctly
46. Musers' conveyances
51. Soak flax or hemp

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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CLUES DOWN

1. Reciprocal of a sine
2. Card game
3. Change shape
4. A way to ooze out
5. Chicago planetarium
6. Clearly delineated
7. Estonia's 2nd largest city
9. Killing yourself
11. Very large red gum tree
13. Impassive
15. A deep lethargic sleep
18. One of the forearm bones
19. Line formed by joining two pieces
21. Belonging to Apollo's mother

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Details

The Post Dispatch BEST OF POST, TX 2013

WOTE!

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- Each item must be filled out completely
- One ballot per person per week
- Must choose from locality

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BURGER

DESSERT/ICE CREAM

SALON

HAIR STYLIST

PLACE FOR A COLD DRINK

LOCAL DOCTOR

LOCAL NURSE

CUSTOMER SERVICE

MEXICAN FOOD

FAMILY RESTAURANT

GRAPHIC DESIGN

LOCAL BAND

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Ballots may be dropped off at the Dispatch office or mailed to 123 E. Main St., Post, Texas 79356

Idle American Going in circles

The world would have been short-changed (OK, in some cases, "long-changed") had the wheel not been invented many moons ago.

Geometry would have been incomplete, wagons could not have been circled and there'd have been no tune called "Roll Out the Barrel."

We'd have missed "going in circles," and chariot rides would have been rough even for the toughest gladiators.

Caissons in the Army's chorus would have moved along in some other manner. We'd have needed some symbol other than "zero" to denote lowest test scores at

school, and the Arctic would have gone "circleless."

On top of that, we wouldn't have had rolling pins — a foothold for male chauvinism — and one Dale Scarth might not have been able to graphically convey to the former Helen Marie Johnson the way to his heart was indeed through his tummy.

Scarth, who rose through the ranks of what was then Texas Electric Service Co. from engineer to president (1949-1989), in his youth dug postholes for Kansas rural electric lines. The year was 1947; he was freshly discharged from World War II military service. Soon, Scarth was smitten with his true love. He looked forward to walking her home after work each day.

His workday ended 90 minutes before hers, so he often whiled away the time in a Fredonia cabinet shop. He's always been handy with his hands, and in retirement

has made hundreds of wire "doo-hickies" handy for engaging those pesky top buttons on dress shirts. His invention provides yet another use for welding wire.

As the courtship advanced, Scarth decided to make Helen a rolling pin. He wasn't about to be the object of fun-poking that inevitably would have been offered by friends in town if he carried it on their walk to her home. Without an auto of his own, he carefully placed it on the back seat of her dad's car parked nearby.

The same evening following dinner, he and Helen cozied up on the front porch swing — a frequent pastime. This setting beckoned when the weather was nice, fireflies cavorted and things were right for sweet nothings to be shared by the light of the silvery moon.

Scarth popped the question, and she accepted. Immediately, she raced back inside to tell her folks about the marriage proposal. Helen's dad responded in a deep, gruff voice. "Does that thing in the back seat of the car have anything to do with that thing on your finger?"

It probably did. Dale and the Scarths' four children agree she was a world-class baker. The couple was married for 64 years, ending with her death in 2011.

My Uncle Mort identifies with rolling pins, even though their use has diminished greatly in recent decades. Mostly, they are seen now in museums and rarely in kitchens.

"When I was a kid, my dad always urged me to search for a 'working wife,'" my almost 101-year-old kin told me. Mort asked his dad how in the world he could be sure, and was told to go over to the girl's house "of a morning." There, he could go straight to the woodpile out back to learn if her mom was a "working woman." Mort still was puzzled.

"If there's biscuit dough hanging from the ax handle, a working woman lives there," Mort's dad said.

Some years ago, my wife made one of her occasional trips to Canton for the community's heralded "First Monday" sale. Brenda was gone for a couple of days, hurrying from booth to booth at the big attraction.

While she was away, I decided to do something I'd rarely done before — clean house. I buffed, painted, vacuumed and mopped — the whole deal. I fully expected to be lavished with praise when she saw all I had done. Upon her return, I escorted her into every room, expecting thankful comments. Instead, she was stone silent, saying nothing. Finally, I asked, "Isn't there something you'd like to say?"

Pausing, she finally responded. "Yes, it's a thankless job, isn't it?"

I have to give her credit, though, for her emphasis on healthy meals.

Nowadays, she's pushing blended diets.

Last night, we drank a chicken.

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



Courtesy photo

Post 4H'er and third-grader Jaden Carroll competes in the District 4-H archery competition. Watching closely is a volunteer.

4-H Youth Compete at District Archery Match

By Greg Jones
Special to the Dispatch

Garza County 4-H youth recently participated in the District 2 4-H Archery Match held at South Plains Archery Club, outside Lubbock.

Six 4-Hers from Garza

County were part of the 90 youth that took part in this year's shoot.

Coaches assisting the 4-Hers in their archery skills were Kyle Kirkpatrick and Trent and Melyssa McDonald.

The youth participating

in the event included, Junior Division (barebow) Chelsea Nelson, Jayden Carroll. Intermediate Division (barebow) Pacey Blevins, fourth; (compound aided) Pacey Blevins, fifth; Latham Huckaby and Tori Huckaby. Senior Division (NASP) Julie Boren, second.

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The 501 Cattle Calls

Human beings communicate with huge vocabularies that require dictionaries to record all the nuances of word meanings. Cows keep things simple.

That's my observation. I could be wrong. But no matter what, I'm pretty sure cows don't have dictionaries.

When a mama cow bellows for her calf (my computer doesn't think "beller" is a word), the calf knows his mama is looking for him and it's time for them to get together so the little one can nurse and so mama can be sure the calf is secure.

My smarty computer would have let me say the mama cow "bellows" for her calf. Too pretentious. We'll stick with "beller," my grandmother's word. Besides, people bellow our orders, usually imperiously. Cows beller, not imperiously but with the natural authority that comes with motherhood.

Enough stage setting. Now the story. It's been the weak calf week. Sunday morning I saw the little heifer calf by herself near the watering tanks, alone. Not good. At church, I got advice from the preacher. Dust pneumonia was his diagnosis. He told me which drugs work and which cowboy to call.

When an animal gets pneumonia, it seems it always gets called "dust" pneumonia, even when the disease is brought on more by hot and cold weather extremes than dust in the air. We've had

both. The cowboy came. His name is Greg and, like any good cowboy, he has a skill set that makes him a good substitute for a vet, especially on a Sunday and when wrangling is required. If I'd really wanted to save money, I could have gone to a farm supply store, bought the antibiotics and a syringe and caught the calf and shot her myself, but whatever injuries I might have incurred would have required treatment not allowable under IRS rules as business expenses. It was easier to call Greg.

That was Sunday. Today is Thursday. The calf seems to be a little better. I'm cautiously optimistic.

On Tuesday, the sickly calf tried unsuccessfully to nurse its mama and to follow her to the pasture. The calf ended up on the wrong side of a fence, where it spent all afternoon. My impression was that mama had decided the calf wasn't going to live and she couldn't be bothered.

As the adoptive mama, I took the calf water in a bucket. It didn't drink. Oh well.

At the end of the day, I happened to be with the calf when its mama seemed all of a sudden to have an overwhelming concern about her calf. I hid behind a tree. She was belling and trotting away from the herd, although not really in our direction. I moped back, doing my best little calf moo. She corrected her course and headed our direction. Finally, the calf did a single moo. Ultimately the two got together and the little calf nursed. I like to think I helped. I'm not a bellerer, but I'm a pretty good mooer.

Maybe I'll write a cow dictionary.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a columnist and contributor to the Post Dispatch.

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QUAKE

From Page 1

more of the oil that's trapped in those shale formations up to production level, vast amounts of water are being injected into the area."

While the oil industry-related earthquake phenomenon isn't completely understood, scientists believe the water actually helps shift usually stationary portions of the earth's lithosphere.

"Water is a natural lubricator," McGarr said. "When large amounts of water are pumped underground like that, it finds its way to a fault. Tectonic stress normally prevents those plates

from slipping, but the water lubricate them. When that happens those plates begin to shift, and that causes the earth to quake."

McGarr said induced earthquakes attributed to the oil and gas industry are rare and quite benign.

"Only recently have we begun to take count of these induced earthquakes as the oil and gas industry has really picked up over the last several years," he said.

A magnitude 2.6 is considered to be at the bottom end of a scale of an earthquake that can be felt, according to the USGS, which estimated that around 900,000 earthquakes of 2.5 or lesser are recorded each year.

Senate, House begin Farm Bill talks

By Mary Jane Buerkle
Special to the Dispatch

After months of uncertainty surrounding farm policy negotiations, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House moved swiftly over the past week, releasing their draft versions of the Farm Bill on Thursday and Friday, respectively.

The Senate Ag Committee will begin their markup of the bill on Tuesday, and the House Ag Committee is expected to begin their markup on Wednesday. After the committees complete their amendments, the bill will go the floor for debate, most likely in June.

With regard to cotton and the Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) program, the Senate bill is

the same as the bill passed last summer. In the crop insurance title, producers can buy area-wide coverage that would cover anywhere from 70 to 90 percent. The program carries an 80 percent premium subsidy and no reference price, which industry leaders believe is a policy that would help resolve the World Trade Organization dispute with Brazil, who has long criticized target price or reference price provisions for cotton.

The House bill has the exact same STAX provisions, but in the commodity title (Title 1), the House provides for a transitional direct payment for 2014 and 2015 only, in which the producer will be paid on 70 percent of their base in 2014 and 60 percent of

their base in 2015.

"The inclusion of the direct payment certainly is welcome, since we don't know how quickly the STAX program will be implemented," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said. "This will allow for a transition for our cotton producers from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program into a strictly crop insurance-based program."

Both the House and Senate bills include the establishment of enterprise units for irrigated and non-irrigated acreage beginning with the 2014 crop year. The House bill also includes the opportunity to elect different insurance coverage levels by practice, beginning with the 2015 crop.

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Soliz named Post Lions queen

The Post Dispatch

Post High School junior Andi Soliz has been named the Post Lions Club 2013 queen.

She is the daughter of Richard and Valerie Soliz of Post and recently competed as the Post Lions Club queen in the District 2 T 2 Convention in Lubbock.

Past District Governor Tom White introduced the contestants to the crowd of Lions and parents.

Abbie Burnett, 2012 queen of Cotton Center, made her final remarks before the Young Ladies Scholarship Contest.

District Governor Peg White said, "Andi was a beautiful young lady with great poise and confidence."

Post Boss Lion Chuck Ratliff said, "The Post Lions Club was very fortunate and thankful to have such a charming and delightful young lady to represent our club, Post High School and Post, Texas."

Cleveland graduates from MSU



Courtesy photo

Ross Alan Cleveland (center) graduated with a bachelor's degree in music with honors from Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts at Midwestern State University. The son of George and Nancy Cleveland is shown with his aunt and uncle Jim and Janice Plummer of Post. The commencement ceremony was May 11 at the Kay Yeager Coliseum in Wichita Falls. Ross will pursue his master's degree in music at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches in the fall.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Garza County 4-H trap shooting program recently competed in a regional event at Palmer Gun Club.

4-H'ers compete in annual trap shoot

By Greg Jones

Special to the Dispatch

Garza County 4-H hosted more than 50 shooters from across the South Plains at their annual trap shoot at Palmer Gun Club.

Monk Palmer, owner of the facility, allows 4-H'ers to utilize the facility as well as sponsors buckles for the winners. Many volunteers are vital to the success of putting on a quality shoot and their help and dedication to youth are outstanding.

Heading up this group of volunteers are certified shooting sports instructors Ray Mason and Mark Kirkpatrick. Their leadership and knowledge in assisting our youth are invaluable.

Garza County 4-H had 15 shooters partici-

pate in the county shoot. These youth, along with a few others, compete at shoots all across West Texas. Their next local event will be June 28-29 at the District 2 4-H Trap and Skeet invitational.

The trap portion of the shoot will be held at Palmers Gun Club, hosted by Garza County 4-H Shooting Sports coaches and volunteers, with an estimated 100 shooters and more than 200 to attending.

The results of the 2013 Garza County 4-H Trap Shoot by division include, Junior: Joby Fogerson, fourth. Intermediates: Dalton Stokes, first; Tucker Lee, fourth; Zachary Smith, Landon Greer, Dallyn Fogerson, Ty Jones, Lucas Record, Justin Self and Hunter Graves. Senior I: Colton Smith and Ethan Self. Senior II: Tyler Lee, third; Zeb Graves and Cale Fogerson.

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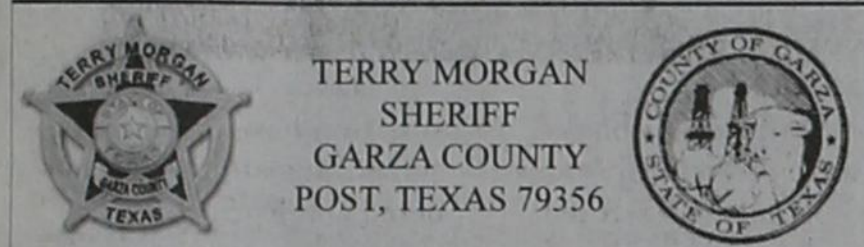
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Dixie Divas Paying for my raising

Mama's favorite phrase when I was growing up — particularly during the defiant teenage years, especially when I sass'd her — was "you're gonna pay for your raising one day, little lady. Let me assure you of that. You just wait until you have children and see how they behave."



RONDA RICH

She repeated it so oft it became ingrained in my subconscious, and I began to worry over that. Life is full of enough problems without volunteering to bring more upon yourself. So I decided to outsmart Mama and the powers of fate by not having children. After all, if you don't have children, how can you possibly pay for your previously childish ways?

Lately, though, I've been thinking perhaps I've outsmarted myself. Perhaps I've missed a good opportunity to leave behind wisdom and lessons of experience that my children could have passed on to their children and they to their children. Perhaps something I've learned down this journey of life would have helped someone two generations from now.

All this started playing in my mind when I wrote my latest book, "There's A Better Day A-Comin'."

Those words were the mantra of my parents — passed down to them from their folks, those hard-working, barely-getting-by people of the Appalachian foothills. For generations, the only way my people could make it when the skies refused to rain and crops lay dying was to assure one another, "There's a better day a-comin'. Just wait and see."

Mama and Daddy lived by that promise and I learned — finally — that better days do come again. They always do. No matter how hard or sad times are, better days always return. And sometimes a better day arrives when you least expect it.

As I wrote this book with its stories of promise and people who refused to give up when adversity rolled with the weight of a dump truck over them, I found that repeatedly I quoted Mama and Daddy. I shared their wisdom, so pure, so true and sometimes so simple.

"Be careful what you tell your best friend," Mama opined. "She may not always be your best friend. And when she's not, she'll tell your secrets."

"A man who lies to you will steal from you," Daddy said adamantly, tossing a forefinger meant to put a period on the end of that and stop any further debate.

"The best a man will ever treat you is before he marries you," Mama often counseled to any young woman seeking her counsel. "If you don't like it now, you're sure not gonna like it later."

"When you pray about something, put it in the Lord's hands and walk

away from it," Daddy lectured. "Don't keep pestering him with it. Pray about it, release it then stand on your faith."

This barely scratches the surface of their wisdom. They were thinkers who watched life, studied on the human behavior of others and assimilated observations from it all. Repeatedly, I quoted them because often there was the moral to a story that could be summed up in a quote from them.

Equally, though, I quoted myself taking away from experiences — both personally and those of others — bits and pieces of wisdom. From Mama and Daddy, I learned every situation has a "take away," some things to be remembered and learned from including some actions never to be repeated.

"It only takes one yes to wipe out a thousand no's," is a self-penned mantra I developed when first trying to capture the attention of New York publishing.

"Courage comes by choice and not by chance," was learned while observing heroes up close and personal. It inspired a chapter about the ones who taught me. As I proofed the book, I realized I had outsmarted myself.

Sure, I don't have to pay for my raising, but I've also missed the opportunity to pay it forward.

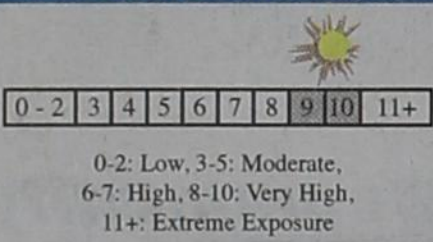
Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, storyteller and best-selling author. Her latest book, "There's A Better Day A-Comin'," is available at rondarich.com.

Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| Friday Sunny 99 / 70 | Saturday Mostly Sunny 96 / 64 | Sunday Sunny 95 / 62 | Monday Sunny 93 / 61 | Tuesday Sunny 88 / 62 | Wednesday Mostly Sunny 83 / 59 | Thursday Partly Cloudy 80 / 58 |

Local UV Index



Weather Trivia

What is the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning?
 Answer: In a watch, hurricane conditions are possible; in a warning, they are expected.

Weather History

May 17, 1983 - A golfer, playing the Fox Meadows Course in Memphis, Tenn., was struck by a bolt of lightning that went through his neck and down his spine, came out a pocket containing his key, and went into a nearby tree. Miraculously, he survived to tell the tale.

May 18, 1989 - Low pressure anchored over eastern Virginia kept showers and thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. Flash flooding was reported in Pennsylvania. Up to five inches of rain drenched Franklin County, Penn. in 24 hours.

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see sunny skies with a high temperature of 99°, humidity of 10%. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph. The record high temperature for today is 104° set in 1996. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 70°. South southwest wind 15 to 20 mph. The record low for tonight is 45° set in 2009. Saturday, skies will be mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 96°, humidity of 17%. South southwest wind 15 to 25 mph.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

| Peak Times | | | Peak Times | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Day | AM | PM | Day | AM | PM |
| Fri | 5:19-7:19 | 4:49-6:49 | Tue | 8:29-10:29 | 7:59-9:59 |
| Sat | 6:04-8:04 | 5:34-7:34 | Wed | 9:23-11:23 | 8:53-10:53 |
| Sun | 6:50-8:50 | 6:20-8:20 | Thu | 10:21-12:21 | 9:51-11:51 |
| Mon | 7:38-9:38 | 7:08-9:08 | | | |

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

| Day | Sunrise | Sunset | Moonrise | Moonset |
|------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| First 5/17 | Fri 6:43 a.m. | 8:40 p.m. | 1:10 p.m. | 1:42 a.m. |
| Sat | 6:42 a.m. | 8:41 p.m. | 2:06 p.m. | 2:16 a.m. |
| Sun | 6:42 a.m. | 8:41 p.m. | 3:04 p.m. | 2:49 a.m. |
| Mon | 6:41 a.m. | 8:42 p.m. | 4:05 p.m. | 3:23 a.m. |
| Full 5/24 | Tue 6:41 a.m. | 8:43 p.m. | 5:08 p.m. | 3:59 a.m. |
| Wed | 6:40 a.m. | 8:43 p.m. | 6:13 p.m. | 4:38 a.m. |
| Thu | 6:40 a.m. | 8:44 p.m. | 7:21 p.m. | 5:22 a.m. |

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

| Date | High | Low | Normals | Precip | Farmer's Growing Degree Days | |
|------|------|-----|---------|--------|------------------------------|-------------|
| | | | | | Date | Degree Days |
| 5/7 | 85 | 47 | 80/53 | 0.00" | 5/7 | 16 |
| 5/8 | 88 | 53 | 81/53 | 0.00" | 5/8 | 20 |
| 5/9 | 84 | 49 | 81/53 | 0.02" | 5/9 | 16 |
| 5/10 | 63 | 50 | 81/54 | 0.23" | 5/10 | 6 |
| 5/11 | 74 | 48 | 81/54 | 0.02" | | |
| 5/12 | 80 | 45 | 82/54 | 0.00" | | |
| 5/13 | 86 | 55 | 82/55 | 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.

USDA: Farm payments scheduled to resume

Special to the Dispatch

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have announced farm payments, which had been temporarily suspended due to sequestration, resumed May 8.

This includes payments for the 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), the Non-insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC).

"I'm pleased to announce that farmers and ranchers can expect to begin receiving their payments beginning today, May 8," said Farm Service Agency administrator Juan Garcia. "We appreciate the producers' patience during the delay. We're working diligently to get these payments out as quickly as possible."

On March 4, FSA began a temporary suspension of FSA program payments in order to assess the impact of sequestration and determine the least-disruptive process possible for carrying out required cuts.

The department will use the secretary's limited authority to transfer funds to avoid reducing these program payments.

Producers should be advised that program sign-up periods currently underway have the following enrollment deadlines: 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program - June 3rd; 2011 SURE - June 7; and the 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program - August 2nd. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible for appointments to enroll in these programs before the deadlines.

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