

The Post Dispatch

A BUILDER IN GARZA COUNTY SINCE 1926

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013

THEPOSTDISPATCHONLINE.COM

75 CENTS

Despite rains, cotton outlook unpredictable

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

In the midst of the driest three-year span since the late 1800s, this week's badly needed moisture was exactly what the region's cotton crop needed to give it enough staying power to sustain it through the growing season.

"This is such a timely rain, especially for those dryland farmers," said Mary Jane Buerkle, spokeswoman for Plains Cotton Growers in Lubbock. "While it won't be enough to pull us out of this historic drought, it's a boost to the crop. Farmers are looking at it as real blessing."

National Weather Service officials in Lubbock reported that nearly 2.5 inches of rain had fallen in some areas of Garza County, par-

ticularly around Lake Alan Henry, in a 24-hour window from 9:15 a.m. Monday to Tuesday. And it was still raining at that time. In the same time frame, Post had received 1.67 inches, and White River Lake had received 1.71 inches.

Weather forecasters predicted continued widespread, heavy showers through Wednesday morning with decreasing probabilities as the day and week wore on. Minor flooding was expected in low-lying areas.

The welcome rain was accompanied by unseasonably cooler temperatures — as much as 20 degrees cooler — brought to West Texas by an upper-level low that had originated oddly enough in the Northeast.

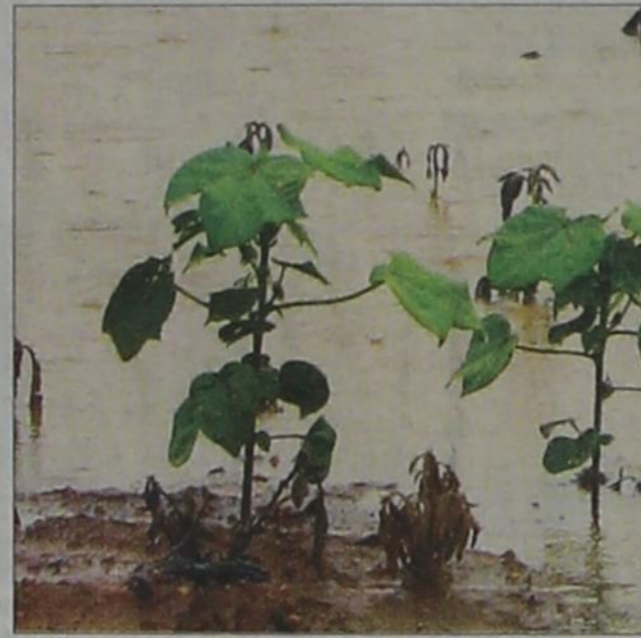
Most weather systems in the United States move from west to

east, but this wacky weather pattern moved westwardly toward the Desert Southwest. Weather experts say it's not unheard of for a weather system to move in a reverse direction, but it's certainly not uncommon.

As the low continued tracking west toward New Mexico on Wednesday, beneficial rain continued to fall in areas of the Southwest that for months have been plagued by severe drought. Flash-flood watches had been posted for most of the region because the rain had fallen so quickly on parched earth.

While the much-needed moisture was celebrated by both dryland producers and irrigators, who were allowed a brief respite from pump-

ing, the condition of this year's



Anna Gibson/The Post Dispatch

Cotton fields standing in inches-deep water was a common site Wednesday morning on top of the Cap as a backsliding cold front dumped up to 2.5 inches of rain in a 24-hour window on portions of Garza County. Other areas of the South Plains received lesser amounts of precipitation with the greater concentrations of rainfall south of the region and throughout the Rolling Plains.

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.

New exhibit

The OS Museum, 201 E. Main St., offers "The Many Faces of Art" as its 2013 summer exhibit. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The exhibit will close Sept. 28. For information, call Marie Neff at 806-495-3570.

Raffle Tickets

The Post Lions Club is selling raffle tickets for \$10 with cash prizes of \$1,000 for the club's annual Teachers Appreciation Dinner on Aug. 20. Tickets may be purchased from any Lions Club member or at Porter Hardware, 311 E. Main St. during regular business hours. For information call Jason Porter at 495-1040.

Puppet show

The Post Public Library, 105 E. Main St., will host the "Oceans of Fun" puppet show at 2:30 p.m. Monday for children ages pre-k through third grade. For information, call the library at 990-2149.

Cross country

Teams will meet for the first practice at 6 p.m. July 29 at the high school arena for a quick meeting and practice to follow. Enter arena through back doors. Call Coach Richard Soliz at 806-786-8550 for information.

Football camp

The Post Bold Football Camp for youth in grades 3-8 will be from 9 a.m. to noon July 29-Aug. 1 at the practice field. Cost is \$40 per camper or \$60 for two (sibling or friend). Registration forms can be downloaded at postisd.net and are due by Wednesday to coaches Steve Smith or Ron Holson. For information, call Post ISD 495-2770.

Fishing derby

The Post Masonic Lodge 1058 AF&M and the Texas Parks and Wildlife will host their fourth annual Fishing Derby for children ages 12 and younger will be from 8 to 11 a.m. Aug. 1 at Post City Park and followed by a hot dog lunch. Rods, reels and bait provided. For information call Archie Gill at 806-620-3830.

Volleyball camp

HIKI NO (Hee-Key-No) Volleyball Summer Camp will be Aug. 1-2 at Antelope Arena. Sessions will be from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$70 per student. Contact Coach Shelli Crow for information at 495-2770.

Corrections

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

News on the go



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House passes farm bill sans nutrition title

By Mary Jane Buerkle
Special to the Dispatch

Yes, it was a nontraditional path.
Yes, it was close.

But the fact remains the U.S. House of Representatives finally passed H.R. 2642, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013 by a vote of 216-208.

What made the process unconventional is the removal of the nutrition title from the bill, and the repeal of provisions of the 1938 and 1949 Acts, which are permanent law, but have been suspended as long as a five-year farm bill is in place.

However, the FARRM Act, as it stands now, would mandate the law revert to the provisions of the 2013 farm bill should Congress fail to pass a new farm bill in the future. The rest of the bill is the same as the House Agriculture Committee-approved bill taken to the floor in mid-June, with amendments offered and passed during floor debate.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, R-Oklahoma, said he would have preferred to keep the bill intact, minus some food stamp amendments believed to have halted passage previously, but that the split was the only way to move the bill forward and get it to the conference process.

Food stamp funding will continue at current levels under the Agriculture Appropriations Bill until Congress and the president decide otherwise.

"Today was an important step toward enacting a five-year farm bill this year that gives our farmers and ranchers certainty, provides regulatory relief to small businesses across the country, significantly reduces spending, and makes common-sense, market-oriented reforms to agricultural policy," Chairman Lucas said in a news release. "I look forward to continuing conversations with my House colleagues and starting conversations with my Senate colleagues on a path forward that ultimately gets a farm bill to the President's desk in the coming months."

No Democrats voted for the bill, and the Republicans, after a successful whip process, only had 12 defectors — none from Texas — who voted against the bill. Eleven members did not vote, including Gene Green, D-Texas. Republican representatives from Cotton Belt states who voted against the bill were Ron DeSantis of Florida; John Duncan of Tennessee; Trent Franks of Arizona; Phil Gingrey of Georgia; Tim Huelskamp of Kansas; Walter Jones of North Carolina; Tom McClintock of California;

See **BILL**, Page 7

Landowner beware



Wayne Hodgkin/The Post Dispatch

Oil hands work to insert casing into a wellhead at an oil-drilling site in Haskell County. Experts warn that byproducts of the drilling process can be environmentally harmful to nearby crops and other vegetation if not disposed of properly during land application.

Drilling process can hurt crop production

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

Experts warn the increase in drilling for petroleum and natural gas throughout the state is resulting in increased soil erosion and reduced crop production in some areas and urge landowners to be more proactive.

The disturbance caused by construction of drilling locations, including oilfield roads and installation of pipelines, in addition to on-site disposal of drilling fluids, can create problems if not managed properly.

Sam Feagley, a state environmental specialist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, said it is important for landowners to know what to do before and after drilling work to prevent major land damage. That damage, he noted, not only can take years to remediate but also can come at a tremendous cost.

"Drilling fluids are land-applied in many parts of Texas where drilling is occurring," Feagley said. "Improper application has severely damaged soils that have failed to recover even after many decades."

In many cases, Feagley noted, recycling those flu-

ids through proper land application could have prevented those adverse effects.

"There are numerous potential issues associated with land application of these materials," Feagley said. "If done properly on soils that can accept these types of materials, no detrimental effects should occur. However, if not applied properly, then numerous detrimental effects can occur that can take many years to remediate."

Applied properly, Feagley said, land application can provide beneficial environmental effects.

Unfortunately in Texas, however, the oil industry is self-regulated, so it becomes incumbent upon the landowner to ensure the environmental integrity of his or her own land.

Sodium is key in Texas

Fluids and muds used during oil and gas exploration are typically recycled during the drilling process until they can no longer be used, Feagley said. But then the remaining byproduct needs to be disposed of, and operators turn to landowners who will allow the "sludge" to be spread across their acreage.

See **DRILLING**, Page 8

New chapter started at Post Public Library

By Wayne Hodgkin
The Post Dispatch

As the New Media age continues to revolutionize the world and those of us in it, so too does the era continue to contribute greatly to the evolution of the traditional library.

Once considered the guardian of information, libraries are changing to suit the needs of their public by expanding options geared toward a more technology-inclined generation of readers.

The Post Public Library has recently expanded reading options for residents throughout Garza County by adding the convenience of electronic reading to its repertoire of resources.

Librarian Peggy Ashley said the e-lending software allows library members the convenience and ease of borrowing books by downloading them to their computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone without actually stepping foot inside the library.

See **LIBRARY**, Page 7



Anna Gibson/The Post Dispatch

Issiah Angel and Damian Garcia enjoy the digital commons areas at the Post Public Library.

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Celebrations



Robbie Francis and Melissa nee Vanleave were married June 29th on Lake Ray Hubbard. Her children, Rylee and Parker, attended the bride and groom.

Francis, Vanleave nuptials

Robbie Francis and Melissa Vanleave, both of Lubbock, Texas, were married at 11 o'clock on June 29th, 2013. The ceremony was performed on the Harbor Lights boat on Lake Ray Hubbard in Rockwall, Texas.

Melissa is the daughter of Randy and Glenda Richards of Lubbock, Texas. Robbie is the son of Neal and Jenny Francis of Post, Texas.

Melissa was accompanied down the aisle with her children, Rylee and Parker.

Surrounded by immediate family and close friends, the couple's ceremony was led by Captain Ray Pritchard.

An intimate reception and lunch was held immediately following the ceremony.

Melissa is a second grade teacher at Lubbock Cooper South Elementary and Robbie is the Market Human Resource Manager for Sam's Club. The family will reside in Lubbock, Texas.

Crosby WMU group to host golf tourney

The inaugural Christian Women's Job Corps of Crosby County will have a golf scramble Aug. 5 at Roaring Springs Golf Ranch.

Golfers throughout the area are invited to play in the fundraising event beginning at 8 a.m. with staggered tee times. Cash prizes will be awarded: first place will receive \$100 per team member; second place will receive \$75 per team member; and third place will receive \$50 per team member.

Entry fees for teams of

four to six players are \$50 per person for 18 holes plus cart fee. A brown bag lunch is provided.

To reserve a spot for your team, mail entries and fees to: CWJC of Crosby County, P.O. Box 472, Crosbyton, TX 79322.

All entries must be received by July 29. Entry forms are available at cwjccrosbycounty.org.

CWJC of Crosby County, a ministry of Women's Missionary Union, provides job and life skills training to women in need. Its

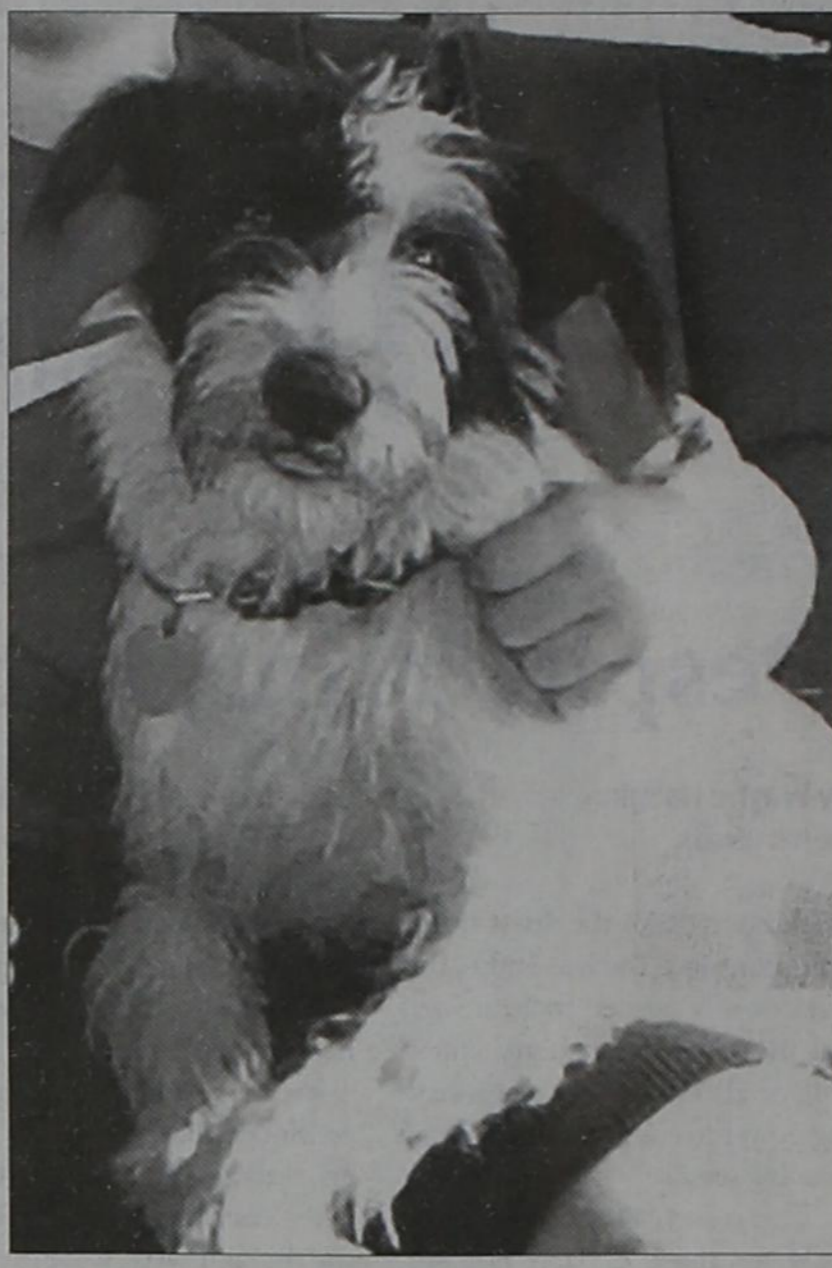
mission is to educate, motivate and encourage success in women through an encounter with Jesus Christ.

The group first meeting of the year will be Sept. 3 at no cost to the participant.

For information about the scramble or the classes available through Christian Women's Job Corps of Crosby County, contact Jane Morris at 806-778-8108 or on the group's website.

The Post Dispatch

Pet of the Week



Janice Plummer/For the Dispatch

Hank had been at the Post Animal Refuge Center for more than a year before he was recently adopted by a local family. His previous owner had left him, starving and covered with ticks on the side of the highway last summer. For information on adopting an animal, contact the shelter at postarc@yahoo.com or on Facebook at Post Arc.

Menus

Menus: Week of July 22-26

Trailblazers

Lunch

Monday: Chicken and rice casserole, carrots, broccoli, bread pudding, roll, milk

Tuesday: Lasagna, veggies, garlic bread, cookie, milk

Wednesday: Roast beef, diced potatoes, peas and carrots, roll, lazy cake, milk

Thursday: Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, pinto beans, tortilla, pears, milk

Friday: Charbroil patty, mashed potatoes, carrots, roll, cake, milk



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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.)

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Guest column

Immigration reform must include results on border security

I know of no one, including me, who believes our broken immigration system is acceptable.

And while Americans are an extraordinarily compassionate and generous people, they have learned from painful experience to be skeptical about endless Washington broken promises to restore law and order to our dysfunctional immigration system.



SENATOR JOHN CORNYN

Border states, like Texas, have borne the brunt of the federal government's failure to deal effectively with this issue.

Now, more than ever, we don't need promises, we need guaranteed results.

Crucially, this requires Congress, among other things, to establish a legal definition of a "secure border" and make its attainment an irrevocable

requirement in the broader context of immigration reform.

This has been the crux of my efforts to amend the bill, both in the Judiciary Committee and on the Senate floor, with my RESULTS amendment.

Unfortunately, the bill we're set to vote on amounts to just another unenforceable promise. For this reason, and others that follow, I cannot support it. We can and must do better.

For starters, it's based on dishonest accounting. Before the Schumer-Corker-Hoeven amendment was added (which increases spending by roughly \$40 billion), the bill's proponents claimed it would reduce the deficit by \$197 billion over 10 years. This is false.

The only way supporters are able to claim these "savings" in the first place is by raiding the Social Security Trust Fund to the tune of \$211 billion. This is called "double-counting," and it's a favorite in Washington's cookbook of budget gimmickry.

The Gang of Eight effectively pledges to use the same money to pay for (a) the current bill, and (b) future Social Security benefits. This, of course, is impossible. An honest accounting of the numbers leaves us with a

\$14 billion increase in the deficit.

This is not to say that border security doesn't merit greater funding. But if we're going to spend taxpayer dollars, let's at least be honest about it.

It shouldn't take Obamacare-style accounting tricks to garner the necessary votes. Furthermore, any new spending must come with a guarantee that the border will, in fact, be honest and legal commerce facilitated.

That's why this bill is fundamentally flawed: It makes a lot of eyebrow-raising promises - such as doubling the number of Border Patrol agents and building an additional 700 miles of fencing - but it has no reliable mechanism for ensuring accountability and measuring results.

Rather, it requires only an ill-defined certification by the Secretary of Homeland Security, who can single-handedly determine whether or not the border is "secure." Americans should ask themselves: Do we want to place such tremendous power in the hands of a political appointee? I do not.

Our broken border is not a problem that can be fixed with money alone. Nor is it something that can be fixed with hastily drafted amendments that are long on symbolism but short on substance.

The solution, I believe, lies at the intersection of two deeply held American traits: compassion for our fellow man and respect for the rule of law. This bill was not a serious attempt to find that intersection.

This debate is not over - we've only reached half time.

My hope is that the House of Representatives will rescue this bill by strengthening its security provisions. This will allow us to assemble a conference committee where we can deliver the guarantees and the results Texans deserve, not the hollow promises they've been getting. This will be a fundamental requirement for any bill to have a chance of passing both chambers of Congress.

We must get this right. The future of a great nation is at stake and the consequences will reverberate for generations.

John Cornyn III is the senior U.S. senator for Texas, serving since 2002. He is a member of the Republican Party and the current Senate Minority Whip for the 113th Congress.

Rotary Dog Dip



Anna Gibson/The Post Dispatch

The members of the Post Rotary Club, including Charles Harding, James Boren, Christopher Atkinson and Dave Tyler, assist with animals during the 26th annual dog dip and pet vaccination clinic last Saturday at the Post Fire Department. The event is organized each year by local Rotarians as a fundraiser and is also sponsored by Garza County Animal Hospital staff members who administer the vaccines at a reduced cost to participants. This year, about 74 dog dips and 91 rabies shots were given.

Audit: RRC effectively using funds to plug wells

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — The State Auditor's Office recently released a report on the Railroad Commission's administration of a fund that uses industry fees to plug abandoned wells and clean up abandoned oil field sites, concluding the commission is effectively overseeing the fund.

The current Oil and Gas Regulation and Cleanup Fund (formerly called the Oilfield Cleanup Fund) was created by the Texas Legislature in 1991 to use industry fees to plug abandoned wells and remediate abandoned sites statewide that pose a potential high pollution risk.

From Fiscal Year 1992 through Fiscal Year 2012, the Commission has used the fund to plug 29,004 abandoned wells statewide at a cost of \$188.3 million. Since Fiscal Year 1992, the fund also has been used to clean up, assess and investigate 4,950 abandoned oil field sites at a cost of \$60.5 million. For Fiscal Year 2013, the Commission has \$18.9 million available to plug abandoned wells

and clean-up abandoned oil field sites.

The State Audit Report key findings include:

- The Commission follows a process for prioritizing and recommending oil and gas wells for plugging that incorporates risk-based factors.
- The Commission establishes annual operational goals for the number of wells each Commission district office should plug.
- The Commission has designed and implemented effective processes and related controls to help ensure that regulated entities establish and maintain financial assurances in amounts consistent with state law and administrative rules.
- The Commission has adequate processes and controls to help ensure that it sends demand notices to operators that do not submit required annual organizational reports.

The Oil and Gas Regulation and Cleanup Fund latest annual report for Fiscal Year 2012 is available at rrc.state.tx.us.




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Yesteryears

10 years ago
July 17, 2003

Former Post resident Lindsey D'Ann Curb participated in the 2003 World Special Olympic Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland. Curb, 19, entered three events in aquatics, where she won a silver medal in the 24-meter backstroke, silver in the 4-by-25 meter relay and a fourth place ribbon the 25-meter freestyle.

Wells Fargo announced the creation of a community-based program to help provide financial support to schools during a time of unprecedented budget shortfalls.

20 years ago
July 21, 1993

Post High School's weight room may not be listed on the Texas Tourism's guide for luxurious accommodations, but it has become a regular stop on a bicycle trek for members of the Journey of Hope. For three years now, members of the cross-country ride have made the relatively short jaunt from Lubbock down Highway 84 looking forward to a night in the spacious confines of the Bold Gold weight room.

Graham Chapel Church of Christ celebrated its 85th anniversary with a Gospel Meeting each night of July 25-28.

30 years ago
July 20, 1983

The 34th annual Greenbelt Bowl Football Classic will be held in Childress. With Post's own Toby Craft participating. The 6-foot, 210-pound guard-tackle will play on the West Team. Craft is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Buck Craft. He played his high school football for the Post Antelopes and received numerous honors while a member of the team.

Piggly Wiggly advertised for their Closing-Out Sale, which began July 21, 1983, while United Supermarket advertised big.

40 years ago
July 19, 1973

Post's Babe Ruth League All-Star team is playing this week in the double elimination District IV Babe Ruth Tournament at Lamesa. Team members are Ralph Howell, Danny Saldivar, Ray Martinez, Jimmy Dorland, Shorty Hester, Charles Clanton, Garland Dudley, Joe Clary, Bryan Davis, Larry Kosian, Benny Greene, Rodney King, Mike Hair, Buddy Britton and Kendon Wheeler.

Ralph Howell placed third in the mile run, intermediate division at the West Texas AAU Junior Olympics in Borger to qualify for the state AAU Junior Olympics at Robinson, near Waco on July 28.

50 years ago
July 18, 1963

Post's water situation was reported in good shape by the Mayor Harold Lucas, thanks, as he put it, "to the cooperation of 95 percent of local householders in not running lawn sprinklers except on weekends." Mayor Lucas said, "Almost everybody has been very cooperative" since the city's appeal in last Thursday's Dispatch for water conservation by turning off lawn sprinklers, however the mayor made it clear that this type of cooperation must continue throughout the rest of the summer.

Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store Sales
Round Steak \$79 per lb.
T-Bone Steak \$89 per lb.
Picnic 3 lb can. \$1.79
Pork chops \$59 per lb.

60 years ago
July 16, 1953

The Garza County commissioners ordered elections Aug. 15 for levying of a 15-cent special road tax and reallocation of county taxes. The elections were ordered after submission to commissioners a petition of more than 200 residents qualified property taxpaying voters. The 15-cent road tax and reallocation of county funds are deemed necessary as the only means of raising money with which to operate the Garza County Memorial Hospital without raising county valuations, which would also increase the state tax.

70 years ago
July 15, 1943

Washington, D.C. - The American Red Cross has announced that there is substantial evidence that letters written by the next of kin to American prisoners held in Japanese prison camps have been received in considerable number. The greatest assurance rests in the fact that relatives within the last week have received letters from prisoners held in Japan acknowledging receipt of mail. Among those was Mrs. Hoyal C. Johnson of Washington who received a letter from her son, Lt. Harlan T. Johnson, Navy aviator held in Zensuji Prison Camp, Japan. Writing to his wife and his mother he said: "I have received six of your letters. It is impossible to say what letters mean to us here. It is such a grand pleasure that it hurts at first. Then you read, re-read and re-read the letters until you are again happily at home."

Compiled by Anna Gibson

The Paperboy Crazy ideas with amazing ingenuity

Sometimes when surfing the Internet, you come across some pretty cool things. There is a new product being developed, and I imagine we'll see it on store shelves in the coming years. It seems a couple came up with the idea to have a diaper monitor a baby's urine to monitor various health aspects.

The startup company, Pixie Scientific Smart Diapers, or simply Smart Diapers, are, disposable diapers designed to read your child's health data and a mobile app that tracks the data over time.

Through studying the urine, the diapers can reveal signs of type-1 diabetes, urinary tract infections, dehydration and developing kidney problems.

The technology is simple and uses a QR code on a baby's diaper to collect data, which is then sent to the parents' smartphones. If there is an issue, they can then send the information directly to their pediatrician for a diagnosis.

"Our goal is not to create another quantified self-gadget but to create a product that is unobtrusive in your daily life and only speaks up when there is a reason to see a pediatrician or specialist," developers say.

So, by using technology, and assuming Smart Diapers come to fruition and become commonplace, families will be able to have advanced warning of health issues and could actually act on the information quickly.

I suppose if they can do this in a diaper, they could do it on some device for adults as well. Perhaps we'll have the ability to do our business on something similar to an Early Pregnancy Test and buy ourselves some time or even save our own life.

Remaining in the realm of technology, when was the last time you were on a new tractor?

If it's been awhile, you'll have to take my word for it that today's agriculture equipment is full of technology. From GPS guidance systems to autopilot, you can get just about anything on modern equipment and the technology can save farming operations money over time.

A new advancement in agriculture is a robot that can pick fruit and vegetables.

Still years away from the market, engineers from California's Silicon Valley have been busy testing a Lettuce Bot. The robot can "thin" a field of lettuce in the time it takes 20 workers to do the same thing.

The robots are not just picking anything and everything either. They are picking the produce ready for market. They can also pick without bruising.

Researchers say the Lettuce Bot can also maintain the plants and enrich the soil during growing season, allowing for a higher yield.

Pretty amazing stuff from the world of science.

Christopher Blackburn is publisher of this newspaper and CEO of Blackburn Media Group.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

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Lifeline Church- 108 N. Broadway

Baptist
Calvary Baptist Church- 210 E. 6th Street, 990-2342
First Baptist Church, Post- 402 W. Main Street, 495-3554
First Baptist Church, Wilson- 806-628-6333
Grace Baptist Church- 820 N. Avenue S- 990-3497
Justiceburg Baptist Church- Justiceburg
Pleasant Home Baptist Church- E. 14th & N Ave F
Southland Baptist Church- Southland
Temple Bautista- 315 W. Main
Trinity Baptist Church- 915 N. Ave O, 990-3038

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

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

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

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

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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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USDA News

Grant to fund household water well systems

The USDA Rural Development announces the availability of Rural Utilities Service grant funds to be competitively awarded for the Household Water Well System Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2013.

RUS will make grants to qualified private non-profit organizations to help establish lending programs for homeowners to borrow up to \$11,000 to construct or repair household water wells for an existing home.

Of particular note this year, in an effort to address the extreme drought conditions in rural areas, RUS will assign administrative discretion points to applications proposing to serve areas with severe, extreme or exceptional drought, as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The deadline for completed applications for a HWWS grant is July 26.

Applications in either paper or electronic format must be postmarked or time-stamped electronically on or before the deadline. Late applications will be ineligible for grant consideration.

Applications may be submitted to the following addresses:

- Grants.gov.
- Water Programs Division, Rural Utilities Service, STOP:1570, Room 2233-S, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1570.

For additional information, contact the Rural Development State Office at 254-742-9789.

USDA offers grants for rural education, health

The USDA is now accepting applications for grants to provide access to education, training and healthcare resources in rural areas. Funding is authorized through the Department's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

"Schools and health care facilities in rural Texas have increasingly tighter budgets each year," said Paco Valentin, director of the rural development for the state USDA office. "Distance learning and telemedicine grants are powerful tools for providing expanded educational and medical opportunities which otherwise may be unavailable to students and residents of rural communities."

Under this notice, USDA may provide up to

\$17.5 million in grants. Funds can be used to buy equipment and provide technical assistance. To be eligible, applicants must serve a rural area, demonstrate economic need and provide at least 15 percent in matching funds.

Awards range up to \$500,000. In 2012, USDA Rural Development provided 58 DLT grants for projects in 36 states. Since the program began, 1,400 projects have been funded.

For example, Ranger College received a \$322,504 grant in 2012 to purchase a distance learning system that will address the educational and economic needs for 6,500 high school students in Brown, Eastland, Young and Erath counties.

With this new system, Ranger College works directly with high school sites to deliver dual credit courses as well as other courses and degrees previously unavailable.

Teachers and other resources from the college can now extend into the high school classrooms via distance learning connections to benefit students and high school teachers.

Applications are due Aug. 12. For details about eligibility rules and application procedures, call Jason Coulter, director of the USDA's Rural Development Service Center in Lubbock at 806-785-5644.

Low-interest loans available to fund community projects

USDA Rural Development has recently been awarded more than \$60 million in additional funding to be dispersed for community facility projects throughout Texas.

Funding is authorized through the Department's Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan Program.

"We are very pleased to announce available funding in the form of low interest loans used to develop or improve essential facilities and equipment in rural communities that have experienced a lack of capital during these challenging

times," said Paco Valentin, Rural Development Texas State Director. "Funds to promote local and regional food systems, healthcare and education broadband protocol, renewable energy/energy efficiency projects, public safety/public service facilities and equipment, are in much demand these days."

USDA Rural Developments' community programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by providing funds to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations and Indian Tribes for essential community facilities and services.

Funds may be used for a wide range of various community projects. These include, but are not limited to, projects such as those which will enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, farmers markets, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, and community centers.

Funding can also be used for new and improved water and wastewater facilities or to purchase public safety equipment such as ambulances, firefighting equipment, and other emergency required implements.

Community Programs can make and guarantee loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments.

Community Programs can guarantee loans made and serviced by lenders such as banks, savings and loans, mortgage companies part of bank holding companies, banks of the Farm Credit System, or insurance companies regulated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Community Programs may guarantee up to 90 percent of any loss of interest or principal on the loan. Community Programs can also make direct loans to applicants who are unable to obtain commercial credit.

Nancy's Notions

Slow cooking saves time, energy all year

Do you remember when you were younger and coming home to the smell of a home-cooked meal? Was it cooked in a slower cooker? Slow cookers are a great way to prepare food and can be used throughout the year.

Using a slower cooker saves on electricity and could avoid unwanted heat from the oven in the kitchen. Another advantage to using a slower cooker is that it can save time, allowing you more time to enjoy your family. Let's look at how to properly use a slow cooker.

Be sure to keep all perishable foods refrigerated until right before you need them to be placed in the cooker. If you have previously cut up foods, keep those foods stored separately in the refrigerator. Keeping

foods cold prior to using them assures that bacteria will not be growing on the foods, thus not having a "head start" if they are left out at room temperature.

It's important to remember slower cookers come in a variety of sizes, so the amount of food you place in them will vary depending on the size of the cooker. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines on the sizes and amounts of food that should be placed in your specific cooker. Keeping the lid closed at all times helps to keep the steam/moisture in and ensures the food is cooking properly.

The majority of cookers now have numerous settings. Different foods will take different amounts of time to cook. If you're leaving for the day, it is recommended that foods be cooked on the low setting; however,

if you're at home and wish to cook it quickly, the high setting might be more appropriate for the meal you have selected.

When possible, turn the cooker on high for an hour or so and then turn it down to a lower setting. If you do not have time for this step, set the cooker on low, go to work, and come home to a deliciously cooked meal.

Should the power go out while cooking in a slow cooker, it is important to remember a few things. If you are home, immediately pull the food out and continue cooking it by another method. If you are not home and the power goes out, throw away the food, even if it looks done.

Food safety should always be a top priority in your kitchen. Remember to always cook foods to proper internal temperatures, follow good personal hygiene, and clean and sanitize all food contact surfaces.

On July 30, I will offer a class from noon to 1 p.m. at the Garza County Extension Office, called "Fast Food with Slow Cookers." Cost is \$12 per person and includes lunch and a recipe booklet. Topics include new guidelines for testing slow cookers, cooking to the correct temperatures and choosing the right recipe for your slow cooker.

Space is limited to the first 20 people. To register, call the Garza County Extension office in Post at 495-4400.

For information on cooking with slow cookers or food safety, contact your local county Extension agent for family and consumer science.

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



NANCY MCDONALD

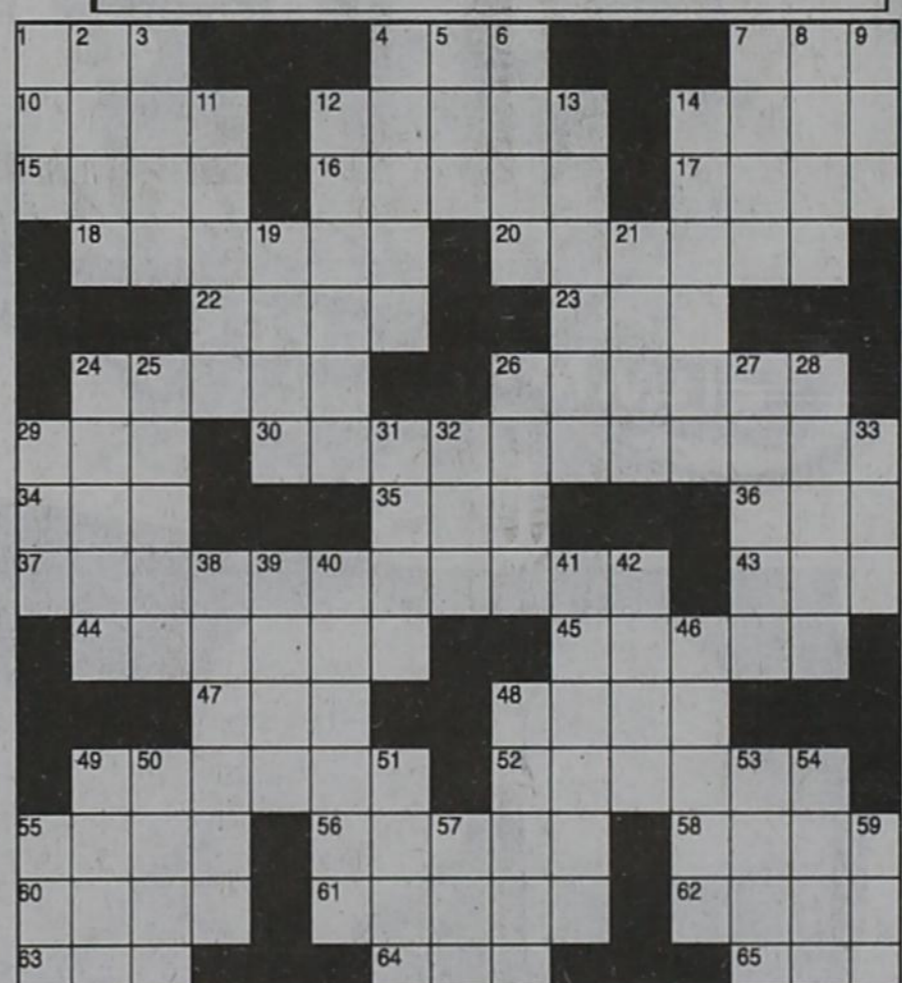
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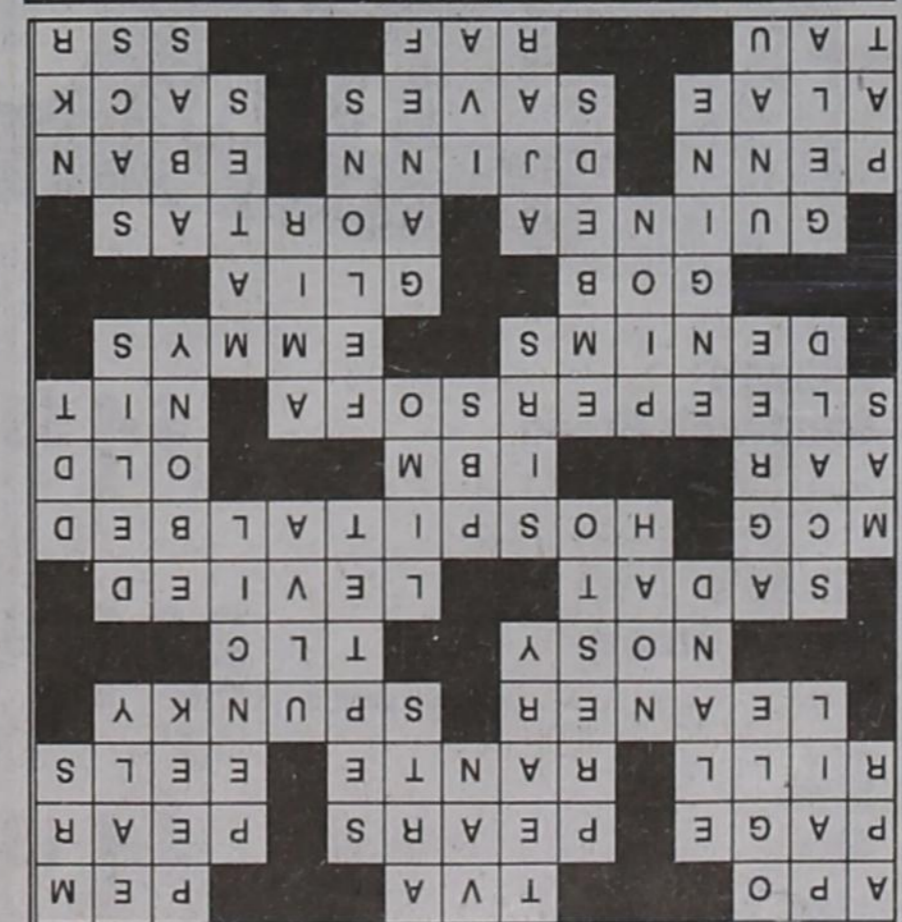
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- Jeans
- Annual TV awards
- Lump of slimy stuff
- Latin for England: An__
- W. African country
- Arteries
- Sean __, actor
- Genie
- Mesotron
- Implants
- Criminals
- Pistons forward Johnson
- Small food shops
- More (Spanish)
- Gentlemen
- Non-commercial TV (abbr.)
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- Car motor
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

POST DISPATCH



PUZZLE SOLUTION



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- His ark
- Protoctist genus
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Concur
- Luxury car
- Dark black

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READING NEWSPAPERS
 IS A QUESTION LIKE NO OTHER

Capital Highlights Lawmakers pass new abortion regulations

By Ed Sterling
For the Dispatch

AUSTIN — Legislation relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers and facilities was passed by the Texas Senate on July 13, and now moves to the governor's mansion to be signed into law.

Thousands of demonstrators journeyed to the Capitol, hoping to influence the outcome and witness the proceedings.

House Bill 2 amends various sections of the state Health and Safety Code and the state Occupations Code, requiring clinics that provide abortions to meet ambulatory care standards and doctors who perform abortions to obtain admitting privileges at a nearby hospital.

HB 2 also requires that abortion-inducing medications such as RU-486 be administered in person by a doctor and prohibits an abortion past the 20th week of pregnancy.

Also under the bill, pregnancies resulting from rape or incest would not receive special consideration on medical, psychological or moral grounds.

Proponents of HB 2 argued the legislation would improve women's health care by raising clinic standards and prevent fetal pain they believe is felt when an abortion is performed.

Opponents argued HB 2 would abridge the constitutionally protected right of a woman to choose, intervene in the doctor-patient relationship and impose a burden on women who do not live within a reasonable distance of a licensed facility.

Final passage in the

Senate came on a 19-11 vote, matching earlier votes in which a Republican majority tabled some 20 amendments offered by Democrats during the course of a 10-hour floor debate.

HB 2 was passed by the House on July 10 on a partisan vote of 96-49 before moving to the Senate for consideration. Rep. Jodie Laubenberg, R-Parker, carried the bill in the House, and Sen. Glenn Hegar, R-Katy, carried the bill in the Senate. Laubenberg and Hegar failed to move the same legislation in the 140-day regular session, which ended May 27, and in the 30-day first called session, which ended June 25.

Hegar issued a news release July 13 soon after HB 2 passed, saying, "This new law adds a critical protection for a new class of citizens, preborn children who have been proven to feel pain" and "the provisions of the bill will make abortions safer procedures, lowering the risk of harm to the pregnant mother or to any live-born children by increasing accountability and standards for abortion providers."

Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, led Senate opposition to the abortion-restricting bills in the first and second called sessions. "The law passed last night will undoubtedly be challenged in court. It's unconstitutional and bad for our families," she said.

Gov. Rick Perry called the special sessions, ordering lawmakers to pass new abortion restrictions. He praised the passage of HB 2, as did Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Attorney General Greg Abbott, the

state's chief legal officer.

New paths for Perry, Abbott

Perry on July 9 announced he would not seek another term as the state's chief executive in 2014, and Abbott on July 14 announced his plan to seek the governorship.

Perry's announcement fueled speculation of a second run for the presidency. Perry ran unsuccessfully as a presidential candidate in the 2012 election, losing to former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

If Perry runs, he may have a GOP primary challenger in fellow Texan Ted Cruz, a freshman U.S. senator from Houston and a former state solicitor general under Abbott.

With Abbott's announcement made, attention turns to Dewhurst, who as lieutenant governor is in line to be interim governor should Perry resign from office to concentrate on a presidential run.

No Democrat has announced for governor, but Sen. Davis reportedly is exploring the possibility.

Givebacks total \$1 billion

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs on July 10 reported she has returned \$1 billion in unclaimed property to rightful owners since she took office in 2007.

This is the largest sum of money ever returned by a Texas comptroller, she said, adding that since she took office in January 2007, she has been committed to return as much unclaimed money as possible to owners who may have forgotten about it.

The Idle American Oh, Canada! — or bust

If "getting there is half the fun," our recent Canada/New England cruise from Quebec City to Boston defies the long-held belief that two halves make a whole. With multiple highlights on board equaling or surpassing the "getting there," there were several "halves!"

It was a storybook adventure, book-ended by two of North America's most historic cities. Weather was near-perfect — daily temperatures



DON NEWBURY

in the low 70s — and the scenery, spectacular.

The four stops on Holland America's weeklong cruise on the midsized Veendam offered enticing ports. So, any thought of skipping even one was quickly dismissed.

To fully enjoy any vacation, one needs to shift into neutral — a gear I strive for routinely. (Some people find it easier to find reverse gear on a stick-shift car than neutral in leisure time.)

We've yet to cruise without experiencing unanticipated delights. This time, a fellow cruiser's question — "Reckon they'll dance the 'Hucklebuck'?" — should have been a tip-off.

Upon boarding with some 1,400 other guests, we learned this was one of six Holland America cruises featuring "Dancing with the Stars at Sea." The popular TV show's personalities were on board to entertain, teach and visit. Then, the "Hucklebuck" question made sense — remember the 1960s song? Chubby Checker claimed those who couldn't do it "might be out of luck."

Vacationers choosing this cruise are awash in choices — even before Veendam boarding. Both Quebec City and Boston are steeped in history. However, the recommendation is to spend extra days in QC, since most Americans aren't aware of its history, charm, beauty and marvelous blending of old and new.

England prevailed in the Battle of 1759, but French influence remains strongest. Sounds of the beautiful French language sweeten the air. (Their written words have bunches of extra letters — such as "eaux," which is pronounced simply "o." A Canadian woman called her dog "Fido," uh, "Phydeaux.")

Indeed, Galinda, the "good witch" in Broadway's "Wicked," might be confounded there. She asked her prof, "Why you can't just teach us history instead of always harping on the past?"

Quebec City, now 405 years old, is an all-

season favorite, appropriately called North America's most European city.

All was pristine; we found nothing in need of paint during our four-day visit. We understand, too, why winter sports enthusiasts pray for snow to come early and stay late in this winter wonderland.

Montmorency Falls beckons. Raging from a drop-off 100 feet higher than Niagara Falls, it provided lighting to Quebec City's historic Le Chateau Frontenac Hotel when hydroelectricity was harnessed 100 years ago. The hotel, imposed against an azure Canadian sky, is within yelling distance of the Veendam when the vessel is in port.

On board, we were as active — or vegetative — as we chose. Often, we wound up in the ship's impressive library, sometimes awake.

With the Stars' presence, many legs were shaken and "light fantasies" tripped. (Truth to tell, some "heavy fantasies" danced, too.)

About 200 vacationers chose this cruise because the stars were on board. Some, though — like me — admitted limitations. I'd finish second in a dance contest against a person with two left feet.

Of great intrigue were ports of call up the St. Lawrence River into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and finally the Atlantic Ocean. We treasured time at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Bar Harbor, Maine.

We were never disappointed; flowers were everywhere; yards, well-groomed. "We'd spend our last two bucks on gasoline for the mower," one resident said.

In Sydney, Nova Scotia, the world's largest illuminated "fiddle" — 10 tons and 42 feet tall, — was an "eye-catcher." Yep, they called it a "fiddle" — like we do in these parts, where "if you're gonna have a hit in Texas, you gotta have a fiddle in the band." (Bagpipes are big there, too. However, a man of Scottish descent claimed the Irish gave the Scots bagpipes as a practical joke!)

Before boarding a plane in Boston, we toured that historic city, where facts memorized decades ago came alive.

Back home, we hear Canada calling, and we intend to return, perhaps next time enjoying vivid fall foliage from the Veendam's deck.

If fanciers of polka, jive, samba, waltz or even the "Hucklebuck" choose the deck, we'll move to the side.

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

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COTTON

From Page 1

overall cotton crop continue to run the gamut, making it hard to categorize.

"There are several things going on," said Dana Porter, an agricultural engineer specializing in irrigation with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Lubbock. "First of all, for a lot of the state, especially throughout the Plains areas of Texas, we're in the third year of drought. That presents its own problems, particularly where we have declining well capacities and regulatory pumping limits."

All these things have come together to amplify the importance of increasing irrigation efficiency.

For years, irrigators throughout the area have been converting to highly efficient low-pressure systems, such as low-

energy precision application, commonly known as LEPA, low-elevation spray application and subsurface drip irrigation.

"We have a very high adoption rate of these systems, and we have the technology to be very efficient, so mainly we're fine-tuning the management these days," she said. But irrigation is most always supplemental, Porter said, especially across the Plains regions of Texas. It depends upon help from Mother Nature, and that help has been limited for years.

"As far as annual rainfall, we're still way behind — about half what we should have," she said.

These recent good rains will help the crops, but the outlook is still going to depend upon its growth stage, its foundation of soil moisture and how well it had been irrigated.

"On a case-by-case basis, at the field level, it's all over

the map," she said. "We have some fields that are in pretty good shape and others that are really stressed."

Prior to this week's rains and cooler weather, crops, pastures and rangeland throughout the South Plains were struggling from the drought and experiencing typical summertime conditions for July. Highs reached into the upper 90s and above, accompanied by windy conditions.

Extension experts were reporting that peanut and sorghum crops were progressing. About 40 percent of the cotton lost to hail last month has been replanted to grain. Cotton was beginning to bloom and had reached mid-stage as irrigators struggled to keep up with crop demands.

With reports from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The 501 Good hearing limits imagination

If you're not hard of hearing, you miss a lot.

Say what? You heard me. When something is said and you hear it perfectly, many interesting thoughts never happen.

Just yesterday, I thought the television weather guy mentioned "Cuban" air. If I'd been paying closer attention, I probably would have heard him right the first time. He said "humid" air.

But my mind was already in the Caribbean. I imagined air blowing across the Island of Cuba and wafting next across the southeastern United States, carrying

the Latin sounds of Havana street musicians into Georgia (if Havana still has street musicians), faint but audible to anyone who might be listening when the Cuban air blew by. Smells of Cuban food would also be carried aloft and would confound the sensory perceptions of the Georgians.

What about Florida? They're already Cubanized, so the air wouldn't be noticed until it hit Georgia.

Then I realized my hearing deficiency had kicked in. It's not that I don't hear. I hear just fine. I just don't always understand.

Makes me think of the old guy who explained the phenomenon so well:

"I'm not hard of hearing. People have gone to mumblin'."

Sure enough.

Could be I've always had some hearing difficulties. I didn't do so well on a hearing test in the fourth grade. After a trip to an audiologist, it was

determined I just had a cold. But my mother was in a tizzy for a while. Me, I was feeling somewhat grown up and proud of myself to have inherited one of my father's traits. Now that I don't have a cold to blame for my poor hearing, maybe that's how I should handle the situation. I'm all grown up and proud to be like Daddy. I could do worse.

Years ago I worked with a man named Fred whose hearing was worse than mine. Nothing beats a conversation between two people who don't hear well. Fred was a rural letter carrier, and I was a city letter carrier. We were working across the mailroom from each other prior to hitting the country roads and city streets, respectively. He said he'd heard about somebody who had a lawn mower for sale, knowing I was interested in buying a used riding lawn mower. I told him that I would be interested in buying a longhorn and asked him who was selling a longhorn, inasmuch as I wanted to acquire some longhorns. Fred told me who was selling the lawn mower, and I asked him if he knew how much they wanted for the longhorn. And so it went, back and forth, until Fred's colleague Leroy stopped casing mail and turned to Fred and said, "Fred, she's saying 'longhorn' and you're saying 'lawn mower.'" One postal clerk expressed dismay that our conversation had been interrupted. He'd wanted to see how far we'd go.

If I've previously recounted the longhorn-lawn mower story, sorry. Maybe you don't remember either.

A little memory loss can make things new.

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



HANABA MUNN WELCH

BILL

From Page 1

Matt Salmon of Arizona; and Mark Sanford of South Carolina.

The bill still has a relatively tough path through conference, and the White House already has threatened a veto.

Members of the conference committee are chosen by Agriculture Committee leadership in both the House and the Senate, and it is highly likely the High Plains will have representation in that group. The conference committee is charged with combining the two versions of the bill into a final, five-year

legislative package that can be approved by the Congress and presented to President Barack Obama for a decision.

However, with the expiration of the one-year extension looming, conference committee leaders will have more pressure to craft a bipartisan bill relatively quickly.

"We have said from the beginning that this is not a perfect bill, nor was this a perfect process, but we cannot let perfect be the enemy of good," said Steve Verett, executive vice president for Plains Cotton Growers in Lubbock. "The House Agriculture Committee has worked diligently to put together a bill that reduces spending and of-

fers significant reforms, and we thank Chairman Lucas, Subcommittee Chairman Mike Conaway, Reps. Randy Neugebauer and Mac Thornberry, and all of the members who helped get us one step closer to having a five-year comprehensive bill.

"We also thank Ranking Member Collin Peterson from Minnesota for his efforts, even though he could not support final passage because of the food stamp split," Verett said. "He is a tremendous friend to agriculture, and he and Chairman Lucas will continue to stand together, along with the rest of the conference committee, to move this bill across the finish line."

LIBRARY

From Page 1

"People are busier now than ever before," Ashley said. "We want to be able to tailor our resources to the needs of our patrons so our services better fit into their everyday lives."

Prior to the digital revolution, library patrons used library services on library terms.

"The advent of technology now offers us a way to expand our services by allowing library users to access books electronically 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Ashley said. "We have a lot of resources here at the library, but our building closes at 5 o'clock. This new option for our patrons allows them to check books out whenever they want."

To enjoy the library's digital collection, all users need is an Internet connection and their library card. The service is free, and titles automatically expire at the end of the lending period, so there is no need to worry about late fees. Library officials purchase titles and also set the number of available copies for checkout.

"When you log on, you'll be asked to select your library from the drop-down menu and enter your library

card number to borrow titles, create wish lists, place holds and more," Ashley said. "You can browse featured titles on the homepage of our digital library website and quickly tell if the title is available. The site's search feature allows users to search by title, author, subject and more."

Each ebook is customizable and its font, font sizes and line spacing are adjustable to meet individual reading preferences. Readers also can search words and phrases, add bookmarks to easily return to the chapter and page at a later time and the ability to rate books to let other readers know the average enjoyability of the title.

The program also is accessible via application software, commonly known as an "app," available through your favorite app store that is easily downloaded to your tablet or smartphone.

For titles not yet available from the local library, patrons are able to place titles on hold and will receive notification via email if and when it becomes available in the future.

The reader's e-borrowing account also allows him or her access to a personal bookshelf, which contains current checkouts and number of remaining

checkouts, a way to access and edit holds and ways to access wishlists, rated titles and more.

The programs help feature also provides users with immediate support and contact information for troubleshooting.

Another great feature offered through the new technology at the library is a way for patrons to purchase electronic titles themselves that in turn also will be available to the library and its other users to enjoy.

"This is one of the best ideas that allows patrons to help contribute to the library while helping to build its title list," Ashley said. "It's just a terrific way to be able to give back to the library and help the community as well."

The electronic book-lending program is made possible through the West Texas Digital Library, a consortium of regional libraries including those in Post and in Crane, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Ector, Gaines, Hockley and Yoakum counties and the municipal libraries in Brownfield, Midland, Muleshoe, Olton and Springlake-Earth.

For information about the e-lending program, visit the Post Public Library at 105 E. Main St. or call 990-2149.

Thanks for reading!

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NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF EMORY RALPH STEVENS, Cause # 1979

Notice to all persons is hereby given that the original letters of Testamentary upon the estate of EMORY RALPH STEVENS, deceased, were issued to the undersigned 15th day of July, 2013, in the proceeding indicated below my signature hereto, which is still pending, and that I now hold such letter. All persons having claims against said estate, which is being administered, in Garza County, are hereby required to present the same at the address below given, before suit upon same are barred by the general statutes of limitation, before such estate is closed and within the time required by law to my attorney Preston L. Poole, Jr., at P.O. Box 296, Post, Texas 79356 or myself.

Glenda Oden Stevens, 3051 CR 20, Post, Texas 79356.

Glenda Oden Stevens
Glenda Oden Stevens, Independent Executrix

Dated 7/15

Ranching Heritage Center gets new director

Special to the Dispatch

LUBBOCK — Matt Brockman has been named executive director of the National Ranching Heritage Center at Texas Tech University.

Brockman comes to the NRHC from the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show, more commonly known as the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, where he was administrative manager.

"Given his extensive experience and network of contacts in related organizations, it is difficult to imagine anyone better suited to lead the National Ranching Heritage Center," said Acting Provost Rob Stewart. "Above all, Matt is genuinely passionate about the heritage and culture that the center stands for, and is excited about working to connect the center ever more closely to the academic and research missions of Texas Tech University. We are looking forward to very productive, long-term leadership in Matt."

Brockman will begin his new position Aug. 15.

"Ranching and its rich history is a treasured component of the American fabric," Brockman said. "The National Ranching Heritage Center illustrates that history with a unique approach that captivates and intrigues visitors. I'm humbled to join this great institution and university."

Carl Andersen, past president of the Ranching Heritage Association and interim executive director of the NRHC for the past eight months, knows Brockman well.

"I'm very excited about his appointment," Andersen said. "All of the staff and most of the executive committee of the Ranching Heritage Association board have visited with Matt and are confident that he has the leadership strength to fit our needs."

A graduate of Tarleton State University, Brockman has served as executive vice president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and as assistant



secretary for the association's foundation and the Cattle Raisers Museum.

He also has served as assistant commissioner for marketing and business development for the Texas Department of Agriculture and as director of legislative and industry affairs for the National Grain and Feed Association.

Dedicated in 1976, the NRHC is a museum and historical park dedicated to preserving ranching history. The NRHC is composed of about 50 authentic, furnished ranch buildings and structures that represent the history of ranching from the 1780s to the 1950s. The buildings have been moved from their original locations to the historical park.

The NRHC also has a growing collection of art and artifacts, ranging from letters to saddles to wagons to a locomotive, that enhance and complement the rich ranching history of the region.

The NRHC is open to the public free of charge at 3121 Fourth St., near the corner of visit go to nrhc.ttu.edu.

DRILLING

From Page 1

No two muds are the same, Feagley noted, as each operator has a "recipe" for each hole. Most muds will contain a combination of bentonite clay, barium sulfate, lime, soda ash, lignite and materials that prevent the loss of circulation — including ground peanut shells, mica, cellophane, walnut shells, cottonseed hulls — and add to the sealing ability of the material.

There are two types of oilfield byproduct: water-based and oil-based. Most of the time, Feagley said, it is the water-based material that is applied to the land, but it will contain dissolved solids and sodium.

"You need to determine if the soil will be changed due to salts and clays in a detrimental way," he said. "Sodium is the major problem we have with using this water. When we get a certain amount of sodium in the soil, it has a tendency to disperse the clay and organic particles then seal the pore space in the soil."

"Instead of having the ability to get water into and through the soil, that first increment of precipitation seals all the pore space and the water doesn't have any place to go, so we get runoff and eventually erosion."

Another concern is the chloride, which some plants can be sensitive to, he said. Also, the bentonite does not contain many nutrients but does add clay to the soil, "which is good in a sandy soil, but not so much in a clay soil, where you don't need any more clay," he said.

The typical contents of the oil-based materials are more acidic in nature, containing petroleum hydrocarbons and not as many dissolved solids, which limits soil capability, Feagley said.

"To counteract that acidity, adding limestone to the soil will raise the pH levels and allow that soil to be more productive," he said.

If excess sodium and poor drainage are a problem, he said, gypsum can be used to treat the soil.

"Once you get the gypsum or calcium sulfate mixed in, it replaces the sodium and re-opens the pore space, allowing water to move through and the salts are pushed out," Feagley said. "But you have to do the gypsum first before you add the water."

If applied properly in certain areas, drilling mud could benefit the soil by reducing compaction,

which allows for better tilling, and the addition of clay in sandy soils increases nutrient and water retention.

If applied improperly, however, the addition of unnecessary and sometimes harmful salts to the soil could intensify its clay content, making it impermeable and leading to runoff and erosion.

"It can take years to regenerate an area if the material is applied improperly," Feagley said. "Remediation takes time and can be very expensive for the landowner; it's not a quick fix to get salts in the soils out."

Costly mistakes

Landowners across the state are discovering, some much too late, the adverse effects drilling can have on their own land — and on their wallet.

Oil and gas production produces massive amounts of solid waste. For each foot drilled, according to the American Petroleum Institute, 1.2 barrels of solid waste are produced.

Sharon Wilson, director of the Texas Oil and Gas Accountability Project, an arm of the industry watchdog group Earthworks, said drilling companies will offer anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000 per acre to land-apply these materials in Texas.

"The industry argues that what they're taking out of the ground, they're putting back into the ground through land-farming," Wilson said. "But materials from inside the earth's crust don't belong on top of the earth's crust."

"Much of this material contains low concentrations of radioactive material, and during the drilling process becomes chemical-laden, containing drilling fluid, mud, drill cuttings, slurry, heavy metals and other impurities."

Once the sludge is spread out over the land, if done improperly, the cost to reclaim the land comes at a much higher cost. Most times, because of weak contract negotiations, Wilson said, the price to rehabilitate that land falls on an unsuspecting landowner who will blindly sign a contract while waiting for the money to come rolling in.

"I can't stress enough the importance of landowners seeking out the expert advice of a qualified attorney well-versed in the oil and gas industry," said Wilson, a resident of Allen and herself a mineral owner. "However, these qualified attorneys are hard to come by, especially in places such as the

Barnett and Eagle Ford shales, because the industry will go in there and put them all on retainer. This pre-empts them from representing landowners because, in effect, they're already working for the oil and gas companies. It becomes a conflict of interest."

Once a qualified attorney is found, Wilson urged landowners to consider an independent evaluation of not only the soil, water and air of their acreage, but also of the drilling fluid to be used, before any work is allowed.

"Drilling companies have analyses, but their analyses are designed only to meet regulations, and some even could be skewed to fit the data," Wilson said.

Slope, buffer zones, soil texture, electrical conductivity, exchangeable sodium percentage, depth to bedrock, water table and frequency of application are all parts of the rules and regulations governing the application of both water-based and oil-based materials.

"Before considering any commitments, whether by handshake or contract, or on a single property or multiple properties, get a lawyer and make sure they know the contents of the material and their soil," Wilson said. "A good company will work with you from application to years down the road when you can see how the crop responds, and make sure they are held financially accountable for any detrimental effect application has on your land."

Kay Ledbetter, a writer for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at College Station, contributed to this report.

On the web:

• For further reading, read "Land Application of Drilling Fluids: Landowner Considerations," a publication prepared for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service by the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University. The report can be accessed online at <http://bit.ly/19kUnA>.

• For information on soil testing, contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory at 979-845-4816, or the Garza County Extension office at 806-495-4400.

• For questions and assistance related to drilling fluid disposal or a land application program, contact the Railroad Commission of Texas district office in Midland at 432-694-5581 or online at rrc.state.tx.us.

Low enrollment cancels annual music camp

By Caleb Hudgens

The Knox County News-Courier

GOREE — The annual Bobby Boatright Western Swing Music Camp honoring the memory of the late renowned and beloved Western Swing fiddle player was canceled this year because of low enrollment numbers.

"We're not canceling the camp at all," camp director and retired educator J.W. Sollis said. "But this is the first time in 13 years we've had to call it off because of low numbers."

The fiddle and guitar camp provides both classrooms and dormitory space for the camp and the venue for the closing concert. Students age 10 and older learn by day and jam by night.

"If you like good music, we would've had it," Sollis said. "This could've been the best overall instructional group I have had at the camp."

Instructional lineup for this year's camp had included a number of well-known instrumentalists.

Margaret "Maggie" Scales, a qualified teacher of both fiddle and violin, brings to the camp her experience with the fiddle. She has played and opened shows with many legends, such as Bobby Bare, Hank Williams Jr., Ray Price and Ronnie Mil-sap.

Ronny Dale Schultz who has taught many years at the camp is known for his ability to perform and teach many different instruments to campers.

Lead guitar instructor Joe Settlemires is one of Oklahoma's most prolific and celebrated musicians. He landed one of country music's most prestigious gigs, playing with the legendary Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, at the age of 19.

Settlemires also played with a "Who's Who" of country leg-

ends including Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, Red Foley, Tex Ritter, Harold Bradley and others. In addition, he backed up others in the popular and jazz genres like Bob Hope, Howard Roberts, as well as performing with the Oklahoma City Symphony.

After teaching at Oklahoma Christian College, he found a permanent home at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

Fort Worth musician Glenn McLaughlin is the beginning guitar, working his magic as an instructor with patience and knowledge and a knack for coaxing the best from his students. McLaughlin has taught at the camp for three years.

Grammy Award-winner Tommy Allsup and Boatright taught at the camp for years and organized the curriculum.

The camp was named in memory of Boatright after his death.

Retirement Celebration

Wells Fargo in Post requests the honor of your presence at a reception for Charles Hardin in gratitude of the 30 years of contribution he has made to Wells Fargo and the community.

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The Post Dispatch is looking for an independent and motivated professional for part-time office work beginning around the first of August. Skills required: computer, people, writ-

ing, photography (desired), basic math. Email cover letter and resume to Executive Editor Wayne Hodgkin at thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com. No phone calls. TFNP

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The District and County Clerk's office of Garza County is looking for a qualified person to serve as a Deputy Clerk. Qualifications, application and submission details can be found

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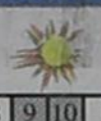
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Post Dispatch Weather Summary

Post's Seven Day Forecast

						
Friday Mostly Sunny 91 / 70	Saturday Mostly Sunny 93 / 70	Sunday Mostly Sunny 92 / 69	Monday Mostly Sunny 93 / 71	Tuesday Mostly Sunny 93 / 73	Wednesday Mostly Sunny 91 / 71	Thursday Partly Cloudy 90 / 72

Local UV Index



0-2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11+

0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure

Detailed Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 91°, humidity of 45%. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. The record high temperature for today is 108° set in 1989. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 70°. South wind 5 to 15 mph. The record low for tonight is 61° set in 1984. Saturday, skies will be mostly sunny with a high temperature of 93°, humidity of 38%. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Skies will be partly cloudy Saturday night with an overnight low of 70°. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Weather Trivia

What measurements are made by weather satellites?

Answer: They estimate temperatures, record cloud images, and map the ozone layer.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

Day	Peak Times		Day	Peak Times	
	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri	8:48-10:48	8:18-10:18	Tue	11:51-1:51	11:21-1:21
Sat	9:50-11:50	9:20-11:20	Wed	12:18-2:18	12:48-2:48
Sun	10:52-12:52	10:22-12:22	Thu	1:11-3:11	1:41-3:41
Mon	11:30-1:30	11:00-1:00			

www.WhatOurWeather.com

Weather History

July 19, 1974 - A severe thunderstorm with winds to 80 mph and up to two inches of rain washed out four to five foot deep sections of roadway in Lake Havasu City, Ariz. Three people in a car died as they were carried 3,000 feet down a wash by a 10-foot wall of water.

July 20, 1988 - The temperature at Redding, Calif. soared to an all-time record high of 118 degrees. Showers and thunderstorms produced much needed rains from New England to southern Texas. Salem, Ind. was deluged with 7.2 inches of rain, resulting in flash flooding.

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	
Fri	6:50 a.m.	8:53 p.m.	5:58 p.m.	3:32 a.m.	New 8/6
Sat	6:51 a.m.	8:52 p.m.	6:58 p.m.	4:32 a.m.	
Mon	6:52 a.m.	8:51 p.m.	8:44 p.m.	6:48 a.m.	First 8/14
Tue	6:53 a.m.	8:50 p.m.	9:29 p.m.	7:58 a.m.	
Wed	6:53 a.m.	8:50 p.m.	10:09 p.m.	9:06 a.m.	
Thu	6:54 a.m.	8:49 p.m.	10:47 p.m.	10:13 a.m.	

Last Week's Almanac & Growing Degree Days

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days	
7/9	96	73	92/67	0.00"	Date	Degree Days
7/10	97	73	92/68	0.00"	7/9	34
7/11	98	75	92/68	0.00"	7/10	35
7/12	131	74	92/68	0.00"	7/11	36
7/13	99	74	92/68	0.00"	7/12	52
7/14	101	61	92/68	0.05"		
7/15	75	60	92/68	0.21"		

Growing degree days are calculated by taking the average temperature for the day and subtracting the base temperature (50 degrees) from the average to assess how many growing days are attained.

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Tech's 75th Mesonet station is a first for Amarillo area

Special to the Dispatch

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech University recently launched its 75th weather station in the West Texas Mesonet network, in conjunction with the National Weather Service and the city of Amarillo.

The station was installed just near the city of Amarillo's Hollywood Road

Waste Water Treatment Plant, south of Hollywood Road and Grand. It is the first station installed in Amarillo or Potter/Randall counties, with several more planned in the future.

The station is unique with the addition of fire weather sensors, to assist forecasters in the determination of meteorological conditions that lead to

high wildfire danger.

WTM is an independent project started by Texas Tech, with a mission to provide accurate meteorological data for distribution across West Texas, including operational meteorology, agriculture and farming, research and media.

The first WTM weather data station was installed in June 2000 at Reese Cen-

ter, located 12 miles west of Lubbock. Now, with this latest addition, the WTM network covers 54 counties in the Texas Panhandle, South Plains, Rolling Plains, Permian Basin, Trans Pecos, Concho Valley, Big Country, Edwards Plateau, Hill Country and eastern New Mexico.

Dixie Divas Old-fashioned harmony

One day over lunch, my new-to-the-South-but-thoroughly-loving-it husband commented on the choir singing at our church as led by my brother-in-law Rodney.

"Among the several things I love about the music at church is that people sing different parts," he said. "At most churches today, everyone sings together."

True. Many churches have turned away from hymn singing and toward what is known as praise worship.



RONDA RICH

In doing so, an important feature of Southern history is falling to the wayside. As an advocate of our history and legacy, I chose a church that honors that tradition.

I smiled. "It's four-part harmony. Alto, soprano, tenor and bass."

Without request, I launched into a history lesson on shape-note singing and the importance it had to the rural South, especially the Appalachian Mountains.

The early colonists in New England had sought religious freedom in a new land called America. From the onset, they celebrated congregational singing with harmony.

It is, indeed, very pretty, as the higher-pitched voices of women sing notes that compliment their sound while the lower-pitched voices of men stay on their notes. Harmony singing filtered down through the mountains and stuck hard in the Southern Appalachians.

Not long ago, I ran across a tablet of mine from my 11th year of life. There, in my tiny cursive writing, were the notes I had taken during our annual singing school at church. It was taught by a local legend named Hyman Brown, a short, rotund man with lots of black, wavy hair and a big laugh that echoed as pretty as the piano sounded when his fingers danced across its keys. And when he sang? Oh my. It was the purest tenor. If his voice was an image, it would be a sparkling, clear, cool river.

He was an insurance salesman by trade, but he spent most of his weekday evenings teaching singing schools at churches. He and Daddy were great friends. When Hyman was killed by a drunk driver one cold January night, it fell to Mama to break the news the next morning. She had taken the call, roused me, a college sophomore, from bed and told me what happened.

"Get up and come to breakfast," she told me. "I want you to be with me when I tell your daddy. He'll take it hard."

She waited until he had finished eating, pushed his plate aside and was stirring his coffee. When she gently broke the news, unfiltered sadness fell across his face, aging him noticeably. After a long moment, he spoke.

"I knew somethin' was wrong when I heard the phone. It had a sad ring to it," Daddy lamented.

On the day of the funeral, Daddy stood on the front porch of the old Victorian-style funeral home. He watched as the casket of his dear friend was carried out, and he heaved the heaviest, most mournful sigh I had ever heard. I cried for my Daddy's great sorrow.

Hyman had been a formidable disciple of the Scotch-Irish practice of singing schools and shape-note singing. Our people believed steadfastly in storytelling, whiskey-making and music-making. My family, down through the generations, has fervently practiced all three. Singing schools were a tradition where harmony and sight reading with shaped notes were taught. I sing and play the piano — both woefully bad — by reading the shape of notes.

In churches like ours, the men gather on one side and the women on the other so they can sing parts and blend deliciously together. To me, it is simply beautiful to hear songs like "I'll Fly Away" or "When We All Get To Heaven" sung with such gusto, almost always ending with a soprano refrain.

"We need to have a singing school," I said to Rodney one day. "Otherwise, the kids comin' up won't know how to sing shape-noted harmony."

And that, to me, would be a tragic loss to our culture.

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



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