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The Post Dispatch

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87th Year, Number 46

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Friday, July 6, 2012

10 Pages - 50¢

High Plains cotton acreage down 9 percent from 2011

By Mary Jane Buerkle
 Special to the Dispatch

High Plains producers planted less cotton than they did in 2011, according to the June 29 USDA Planted Acreage Report.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service reports that 4.15 million acres of High Plains land were planted to cotton this year, a 9.1 percent decrease from 4.57 million acres planted in 2011.

The bulk of the shift came from the

northern portion of PCG's service area, where acreage went from 1.25 million in 2011 to just 960,000 in 2012, a 23 percent decrease. Planted acreage was down just 4 percent in the Southern High Plains.

Professor Darren Hudson of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Texas Tech said the decrease likely can be attributed to price and multiple crop options, particularly in the north. As cotton prices dropped relative to corn, he said, growers may have opted into planting more corn, or

another crop.

Although overall progress of this year's High Plains cotton crop is better than 2011, growers still face challenges.

Rains earlier in the month helped firmly establish crops on irrigated and most dryland acreage, but with that moisture came hail and high winds that forced some farmers to replant. Additional rain still is needed across the en-

HIGH PLAINS COTTON
 continued on page 10



Photo by Wayne Hodgin/The Post Dispatch

The Lewis family celebrate their reunion with family pet Naula along with local rescuers.



David Hernandez of Post plows cotton on Jerry Thuett's land off U.S. 380 in Garza County on Tuesday morning. Reports show the amount of cotton planted across the area decreased this year.

Calif. family reunited with beloved dog

By Wayne Hodgin
 The Post Dispatch

A family from Lake Arrowhead, Calif., whose daughter and son-in-law were in a one-vehicle accident in the early morning hours of March 25 on U.S. 84 North, has been reunited with their dog after it went missing after the wreck.

Naula, a 1 1/2-year-old pit bull/beagle mix, escaped in the aftermath of the accident about 17 miles south of Post, and was by all accounts considered to be dead and gone.

The family, however, never gave up hope.

Nancy Lewis, whose 20-year-old daughter Kai-lee Carlson was involved in the wreck, used all means of modern technology to keep the search going from their West Coast home.

Lewis and her husband flew out from California soon after the wreck not only to check on the safety of their

daughter and son-in-law, but also to help find Naula. After searching the badlands south of Post for a number of days, the family had to return home.

"I continued to post in all the possible avenues of modern technology," Lewis said.

Using Facebook, Craig's List and old-fashioned word of mouth, Lewis continued to keep in contact with Garza County residents and others across the area.

But it was Tina Anderson of Lubbock who actually found the dog.

"I saw their ad on Craig's List asking for information for their lost dog, so I went hunting for her," Anderson said.

Anderson drove from her home in Lubbock down around the Fluvanna area searching for Naula.

CALIF. FAMILY...
 continued on page 8

Southern humorist enters Texas market with Dispatch column

The Post Dispatch

Best-selling author and Southern humorist Ronda Rich joins the pages of the Post Dispatch this week as a regular weekly columnist.

A storyteller of bodacious Southern proportions, Rich weaves stories that range from the hilarious to heart-warming Southern life.

Her column — called "Dixie Divas" — is syndicated in several dozen newspapers in states across the South, and — with her appearance in the Post Dispatch — that list now includes Texas.

"This is my first newspaper in Texas, and I'm so excited," Rich said. "My column runs

in more than 50 newspapers across the Southeast, but this is a Texas first."

As a young girl, Rich was trained and educated as a journalist and started this world of words as a sports writer.

She was the first female sports journalist who covered the NASCAR circuit.

"Once newspaper ink seeps into your blood, you are stained for life," she said. "Doing a syndicated column addressed my love for both newspaper journalism and the South."

An 11th generation Georgian, descended from the Scotch-Irish who settled into the foothills of the Appala-

chians, Rich inherited her family's sole wealth — a talent for storytelling.

"One of the greatest contributions Southerners have made to the world is the stories we tell in prose, song and poetry or just by sharing a good tale with good friends," she said. "Whether it's sitting around the kitchen table exchanging tales over a cup of coffee, grouping in the church yard after service, congregating at the post office or huddling at the beauty or barber shop, Southerners are prolific storytellers."

One of the aspects of her columns — read as enthusiastically by both men and women — is about Southern



Ronda Rich

womanhood, and, she said, the women of Texas are just as proud of their heritage as any.

SOUTHERN HUMORIST...
 continued on page 8

County will open only one location for early voting

The Post Dispatch

The runoff election for the 2012 general election primary will be July 31.

Garza County Elections Supervisor Jim Plummer said both the local Democratic and Republican organizations have contracted with the County Clerk's office to conduct a joint election for both parties.

Early voting will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., including the lunch hour, July 23-27 at the Garza

County Courthouse.

July 24 is the last day to request an absentee ballot from the local elections office.

Plummer said there will only be one consolidated voting precinct on the day of the runoff, which will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 31 at the Post Community Center, 113 W. Main St.

For information, or for a sample ballot, visit the Garza County website at garzacounty.net.

Rain Totals



City of Post
 June 27: zero
 June 28: zero
 June 29: zero
 June 30: zero
 July 1: zero
 July 2: zero
 July 3: zero

Month to date: zero
 Year to date: 14.27
 Normal: 10.48

Lake Alan Henry
 June 27: zero
 June 28: zero
 June 29: zero

June 30: zero
 July 1: zero
 July 2: zero
 July 3: zero
 Month to date: zero
 Year to date: 18.05
 Normal: 19.46

White River Lake
 June 27: zero
 June 28: zero
 June 29: zero
 June 30: zero
 July 1: zero
 July 2: zero
 July 3: zero

Month to date: zero
 Year to date: 19.27
 Normal: 11.35

Source: National Weather Service in Lubbock

OBITUARIES

JAMES BRIAN RAMIREZ

DALLAS — James Brian Ramirez, 28, of Dallas, died Sunday, June 24, 2012.

He was born March 11, 1984, in Post to James Quinonez and Nelda Ramirez. He worked for a telemarketing agency.

He was predeceased by his grandfather, Domingo Ramirez, and uncles Larry Quinonez and Able Quinonez.

Survivors include his father, James Quinonez, and mother, Nelda Ramirez, both of Dallas; daughter Abygale Ramirez of Post; sisters Catherin Nicole Quesada, Haley Quinonez and Vivian Quinonez, all of Dal-

las; grandparents Nicholas and Anastacia Tarango of Post and Roman and Rebecca Quinonez of Dallas; aunts Diane Ramirez, Mary Ortiz, Latisia Trevino, all of Dallas; uncle Robert Quinonez of Dallas.

Services were Saturday at the Church of God of Prophecy with the Rev. Clifford Colvin officiating.

Pallbearers were Cruz Trevino, Roman Trevino, Armando Rodriguez, Thomas Solis, Paul Trevino and Adrian Collazo.

Burial was in Terrace Cemetery in Post under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home.

NUEL LANDRETH

Nuel A. Landreth, 68, of Post, died Tuesday, June 26, 2012, in Lubbock.

He was born Nov. 12, 1943, in Guthrie, Okla., to Nuel Raymond and Mary Tuggle Landreth.

He was preceded in death by

his father and mother.

Survivors include his daughter Teresa Crenshaw of Post; sister Pat McCowen of Denton; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

Graveside services were Saturday at Terrace Cemetery Post.

RAYMOND RIVERA

Raymond Rivera, 88, of Post, died Monday, July 2, 2012, in Lubbock.

He was born Feb. 29, 1924, in Hamlin. He was a retired farmer and also worked for the city of Post.

He was preceded in death

by wife, Juanita Cisneros.

Survivors include nine children, 19 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Services are pending with Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

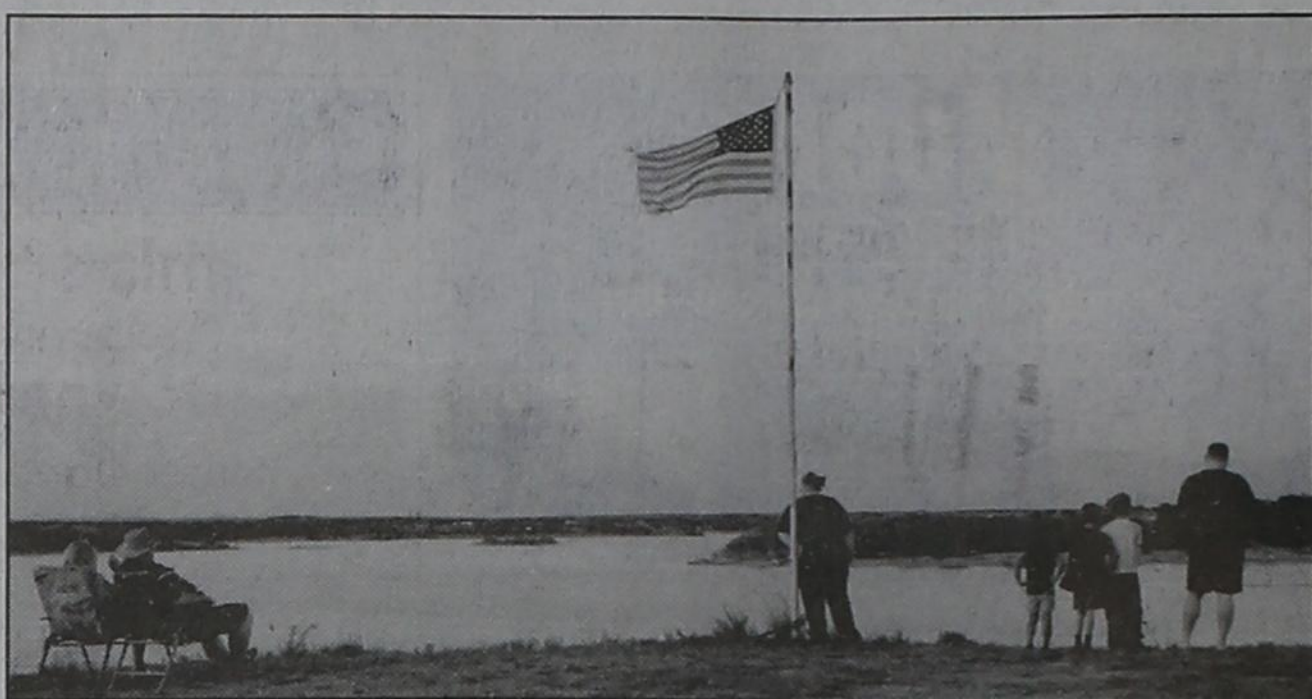
Great turnout for fireworks at White River

The Post-Dispatch
SPUR — Scores of area residents turned out to White River Lake on Saturday for a fireworks show and cookout ahead of the Fourth of July holiday.

The event was hosted by White River Marina and the White River Municipal Water District.

Free hot dogs and barbecue was served from 5 to 7 p.m. at the marina and live music from Kevin Rainwater and the Moonlighters entertained all evening.

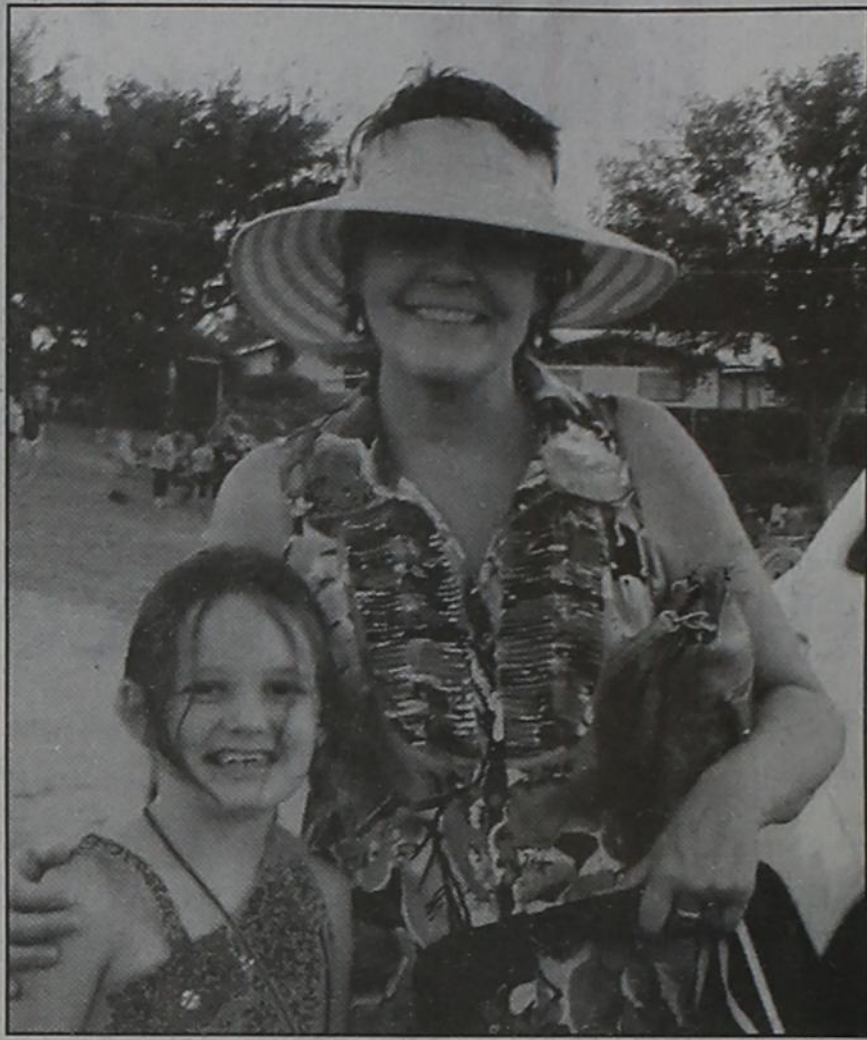
Tom Fulton, executive director of White River MWD, said about 400 hot dogs were served.



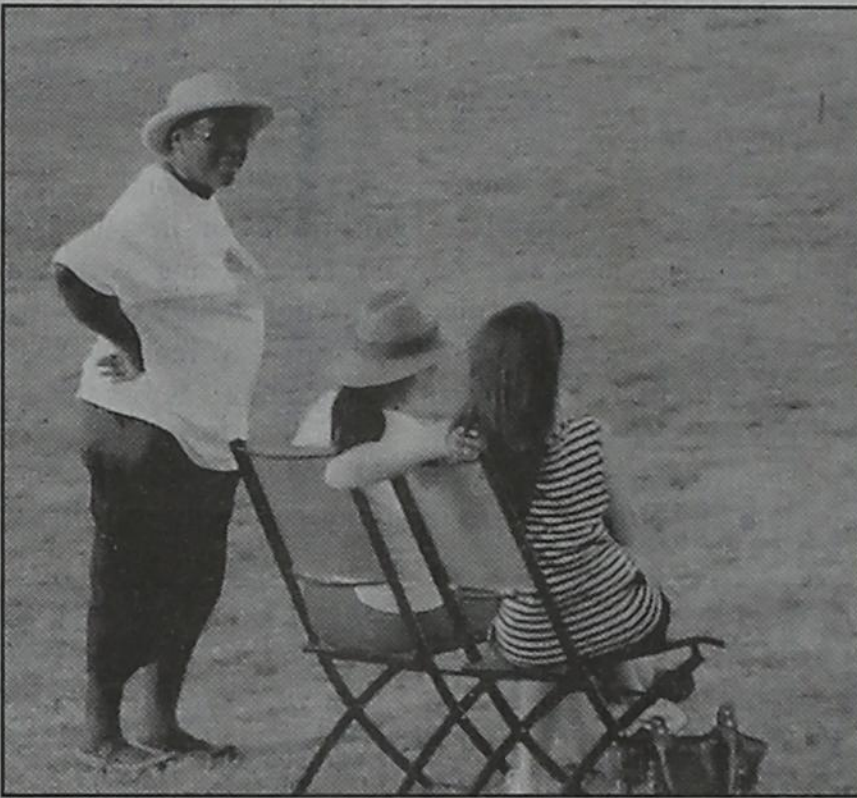
Photos by Elizabeth Moreno/The Post-Dispatch
Old Glory bats in the wind Saturday evening as area residents wait for the fireworks to begin at White River Lake.



Kevin Rainwater and the Moonlighters were the live entertainment for the Fourth of July event at White River Marina on Saturday.



Peggy Ashley of Post brought her granddaughter Reagan Ashley, 8, of Lubbock to White River Lake on Saturday for the fireworks show.



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Spots open for cotton school seminar

Special to the Dispatch

Registration remains open for the 32nd annual Texas International Cotton

School, scheduled for August 6-17 in Lubbock.

The intensive two-week program covers all aspects of cotton, from the field to the fabric. Since its inception, the school has been a collaboration between the Texas cotton merchants who make up the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the faculty and staff of Texas Tech's Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute.

During the two weeks of the school, more than 30 experts from across the United States instruct the students, who learn about the cotton marketing chain — including seed breeding, farm production, harvesting, ginning, warehousing, merchandising, and textile manufacturing.

All aspects of U.S. and global trade of cotton are covered, so the students obtain an understanding of what is required to successfully participate in the U.S. cotton market and to deliver the cottons needed in diverse export markets. They learn about the important quality attributes of cotton fibers and how these translate into processing efficiency and textile product quality.

Throughout the program, they have repeated opportunities to interact with the cotton merchants of the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the fiber and textile experts of Texas Tech University.

Sterling Terrell, cotton marketer with Ocho Gin and a graduate of the 2011 Texas International Cotton School, said that the program was of great benefit to him, especially since he was new to the cotton industry when he started at the gin.

"The most invaluable part was getting to know the people in the industry," Terrell said, adding that the program is an excellent investment that has returned much to him and the gin.

For more information, including tuition and curriculum, visit texasintl cottonschool.com or call Christi Chadwell, TICS coordinator, at (806) 742-2838 Ext. 233.

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Post resident Pat Cruse visits with friends before the fireworks at White River Lake on Saturday.

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4-H

Special to the Dispatch
Garza County 4-H members attended (Jul) Power Camp from



Blindfolded, Julie following direction from



Audree Williams, Kota McDonald,



Dakota McDonald

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4-H members attend Power Camp

Special to the Dispatch

29 in Cloudcroft, N.M.

Banks.

competitive games and dances. Participants also visited with representatives from the Texas Tech University Agriculture De-

partment and Xcel about college degrees and career paths.

Attending were Nathaniel Gill, Dakota McDon-

ald, Audree Williams, Julie Boren and County Agent Nancy McDonald.

Submitted by Nancy McDonald

Garza County 4-H members attended (July 25-29) Power Camp from June 25-

The camp was sponsored by area businesses including Xcel Energy, Citizens Bank of Post and ABC

Power Camp challenges youth through leadership initiatives, ropes courses, pampier pole, zip lines,



Blindfolded, Julie Boren wins the bean bag fight by following direction from her partner.



Nathaniel Gill leads his group on the ropes course.



Audree Williams, right, shares a laugh with fellow camp members. Hiking photo: Dakota McDonald, center, takes a break ...



Nathaniel Gill, Dakota McDonald, Audree Williams, Julie Boren and County Agent Nancy McDonald attended the Four H Power Camp June 25-29 in Cloudcroft, N.M.



Photos special to the Dispatch
Dakota McDonald takes a break with camp friends during a hike.

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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 the-postcitydispatch@gmail.com.

Church fundy

Members of the Church of God of Prophecy, 602 W. 14th St., will sell chili relleno plates from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$7. Call 495-3644 for take-out orders.

Jackalopes

The Post Jackalopes 12 and younger recreation track team practices from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Post High School track. Wear running shoes and bring water. Practice for the 13 and older group is 9:30 to 11 p.m. at the field house. For information, call Marcie Oden at 806-781-3247.

Record book judging

4-H participants are reminded that their record books are due to the district office by 5 p.m. today. Judging will be Wednesday at the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association in Lubbock. For information,

contact the Garza County Extension Office at 495-4400.

2K walk/run

United Supermarkets will sponsor the South Plains Honor Flight 2K Walk/Run at 9 a.m. Saturday at the high school track. Registration fee is \$25. All proceeds will benefit local World War II veterans who want to visit the WWII memorial in Washington, D.C. For registration forms, donations and information, contact Dora Perez at 806-495-3217 or 806-300-7747.

Rotary Dog Dip

The Rotary Club of Post annual dog dip and low-cost vaccination clinic will be from 9 a.m. to noon July 14 at the Post Volunteer Fire Department, 202 S. Ave. H. The staff of the Garza County Animal Hospital will be conducting the low-cost vaccinations. For information, call the clinic at 495-3726.

VBS at First Baptist

Community Vacation Bible School will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 15-19 at First Baptist Church of Post. Call 928-0664 for information.

Horse show

The state 4-H horse show will be the week of July 21-28 in Abilene. For information, contact the Garza County Extension Office at 495-4400.

4-H camp

4-H'ers interested in attending 4-H Camp are urged to contact the Extension office at 806-495-4400. Prime Time I will be July 22-25 for grades 5-8 at Lake Brownwood; Prime Time II will be July 25-28 for grades 25 at Lake Brownwood; Horizons will be July 3-7 for grades 4-8 at Lake Brownwood.

Trailblazers fundy

The fourth annual Howdy Y'all Day will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 11 at the Garza County Trailblazers senior citizens center, 205 E. 10th St., Post. Hamburger plates with all the trimmings, including drink, dessert and chips will be sold for \$7. Raffle tickets also are being sold for a big-screen television with Blu-ray home theater system. Cost is six for \$5 or \$1 each. All welcome.

Post Elementary

Summer office hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Preregistration for the 2012-2013 school year is still open. If

your student attended this year they are automatically pre-enrolled for next year. Any child who will be 4 on or before Sept. 1 is eligible for a full-day prekindergarten program. Stop by the school office or call 495-3414 for information.

Trap shoot practice

Every Monday at 5 p.m. at Palmer Gun Club. Anyone interested in joining Shotgun Sports, contact Ray Mason at 781-8022 or Mark Kirkpatrick at 787-5104.

Parkinson's support

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

Donations needed

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

In and Around Close City

by Traci Freeman

Hello everyone! I hope everyone has had a good week so far. It's been dry, but a little cooler. We really could use a little moisture, so be sure and keep a good rain in your daily prayers. One farmer said in here the other morning about the past rain we had "that was the driest rain I ever saw!"

We had a really good turnout at the Ice Cream Social last weekend with around 80 people showing up. Nancy and I want to thank a few people that made it possible. Vance Guthrie and Hanks & Company for the wonderful music; Robbie Wilke for the use of his barn; G.B. Wilke for our "stage"; Lee Norman for the stairs so we didn't have to jump up on the stage; Charles and Sharon Morris for the chairs; all the ladies that made the wonderful ice cream and other goodies; others that helped us get ready were Russ Morris, Clinton and Kimberly Yarbrow.

We are using some of the funds that we have gathered over the years to help out in some other areas as we wait to see if we can get a historical grant to help out with the school. This year we did a Close City Community Memorial Scholarship. There were three recipients from Post High School: Kari Dunn, Nicole Ramirez and Jessica Rodriguez. Congratulations, girls!

Stan and Megan (Bush) Everitt are here visiting with their daughters, Xan and Maggie Mei. They flew in Tuesday evening to tons of friends and family waiting at the airport for them. The Everitt family live in Suzhou, China. Megan is the daughter of Ricky and Judy (Ballentine) Bush and the granddaughter of the late Elmo and Lucille Bush and Ted and the late Marilyn Williams. Welcome home Everitts!

Kyle and Kara Gunn got to say their vows before God and

friends in a church ceremony in June. Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Gunn!

I'm actually typing this on the July 3 because of deadlines, but by the time you read this the Fourth will be past. I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Independence Day. Next week I'll fill you in on all the happenings around Ragtown.

Visitors

Willie-Bob and Mini-Me, aka Will and Justin, stopped in for a Popsicle on Tuesday morning.

Quote of the week: "A fool flatters himself. A wise man flatters the fool," Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton

Did you know: Thee Liberty Bell got its crack from its very first ring. (To Mrs. Rankin, Mrs. Adams and Ms. Morris, if this is wrong blame the Internet. It's been a long time since my last history class.)

Close City Birthdays


July 8th - Bandy Gunn Pleasant; Jon Page
July 10th - Becky Justice, Belinda Fluitt
July 12th - James Melton

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

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

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

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Behold the Beautiful

Read 1 Samuel 16: 1-17

The LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

- 1 Samuel 16:7 (NRSV)

During renovation of our nearly-200-year-old house, the construction workers covered one unfinished wall with a blue plastic tarp to keep out drafts and to keep down the dust. When my four-year-old grandson saw it, he exclaimed, "Oh, Grammy! That's beautiful!" I had to laugh. What seemed unattractive to us adults he perceived as beautiful.

I think that God must see each of us as my grandson saw the tarp. When we see someone we may focus only on their haircut or clothes or jewelry. We may judge them to be anything from rich and successful to down-and-out. We may judge ourselves the same way, feeling acceptable or unacceptable based simply on how we look.

But God looks on the inside and sees who we truly are and how valuable each of us is. As we serve God and others, we become more inwardly and lastingly beautiful.

Sandra Vaughan (Pennsylvania, USA)

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Assembly of God
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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
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church- Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174
Southland Baptist Church- Southland
Temple Bautista- 315 W. Main
Trinity Baptist Church- 915 N. Ave O, 990-3038

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

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

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

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

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

Methodist
First United Methodist Church- 216 W. 10th, 990-2942

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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LEG

By Linda Puckett

The following is the family history of J.W. as written by Leat

Haire:

J.W. Stotts was born in Jonesboro, Ark., in 1896. He was orphaned at 12 and made his own way from that year forward, working at numerous jobs wherever he could find work.

He drifted to India

where he met and married Cora Maude O'Connell in 1903. Cora Maude was born in Indiana in 1878, one of the girls orphaned at a young age. She had made her way to India with Sally Vaughn in 1903. Her marriage to Stotts was a farming and ranching. He also was a musician and played the violin and dances. He had operated a saloon in El Dorado, Ark. and also in Quanah, Texas in 1903. He left Quanah to return to Hollis, Oklahoma where he farmed until 1914. Spring he bought a 40-acre Post farm four miles south of Southland and moved his family to Garza County.

The Ben Mining had traveled with us to Garza County and had a farm just west of Post. It was located just in Garza County. There were covered wagons and a covered. Chickens were placed in coops on the wagons.

We had three horses to drive 12 milk cows. We crossed the Red River the second year. The Red was not quick sand. The boy rode horse back, and D and the rest of us kids rode cow by the tail and them running. They were placed in an wagon, and we got across without missing. I entered Texas with a bawling cow, two tail with all my milk.

We camped where could find stock was the way. We heard coyotes near White Mining and I had

There

By Russell Graves

Moonless nights are especially magical. Look at the stars and wonder is out there and who looking back has faith, and collectively, log as there has been

I'm no astronomer, but I look into the night sky and marvel at the constellations. I can name and starry beauty of the fuzzy, orbital arm of the Milky Galaxy that spans south across the dark a patchwork of nebulae, planets, and galaxies to the naked eye, see just a random collection of points of light. The however, saw the patterned stars into and named them after mythical creatures and constellations, or stars, creep across the sky as the earth rotates for those willing to provides quite a show during the dark hours of the day.

As my kids get older, are becoming fascinated with the stars, the sky, and holds. Recently, I saw a pasture with both of well away from town - stared out again, wondered out Polaris (the North Star) and told out to the

COLUMNS



The Doctor Is In By Dr. Benjamin Edwards

Why I left traditional medicine

I've been asked many times recently why I am focusing on nutrition and not traditional medicine. So, I thought I'd try to summarize it today, and then next week move on to something more interesting.

I saw a 30-something-year-old gentleman from Lubbock a couple months ago in my clinic. It was his first time to see me, and his complaint was "severe joint pain for 10 years." He had been seeing a rheumatologist, internist and orthopedic over the past many years. He had been on and off various medicines without much benefit.

At his last doctor appointment in Lubbock he was advised to file for disability, take his hydrocodone and "lay around the house." He is an electrician with a wife and two kids and didn't like the thought of laying around the house the rest of his life.

I spent nearly two hours counseling him on nutrition, and he implemented what I educated him on. The "miracle cure" that was waiting inside of him was unleashed.

Two weeks later we spoke on the phone, and his pain was gone. He could walk around the park with his wife for the first time in five years, and he could play with his kids again. He simply gave his body what it needed, avoided what was

toxic, and the body healed itself.

I saw a gentleman Monday night and we stopped his last blood pressure pill because his blood pressure readings were too low. I first saw him a month ago, and he was on four different blood pressure pills. He implemented proper nutrition, sleep, hydration, stress relief and exercise and his body healed itself. He unleashed the miracle cure God has placed in him and in all of us already.

This new road I'm on all started because my nurse practitioner, Shane Frankl, can now eat wheat and not have any abdominal pain, bloating, bloody diarrhea and joint aches. He was diagnosed with celiac disease 10 years ago, and his 6-year-old son was exhibiting the same symptoms.

Shane and his son are both now symptom-free. Whether you want to call that "cured" (which is too controversial for most people because celiac is an incurable disease) or just call him "in remission" or try and say he was misdiagnosed to begin with doesn't matter. He, and more importantly, his 6-year-old boy were suffering, and now they are not. I can't ignore that.

I could go on and on with stories of diabetics, autoimmune disease patients, chronic

heartburn patients, chronic sinus patients and that is just in the last six months.

The bottom line is that when I walked into the next patient's room, I could not, as an ethical, moral person, at least just mention there might be another answer to their symptoms.

To only offer the traditional answer of symptomatic relief with pharmaceuticals and not tell them about a potential curative answer when I've seen it work with my own eyes was something I simply couldn't do and still sleep with a clean conscience at night.

So, even though my own profession may look at me a little different, my income just went way down, and I've forfeited the respectable and prestigious role as the county's only doctor, I can now sleep well at night.

I know I'm doing what I'm supposed to do. I can spend the amount of time I need with a patient. I can treat the whole patient — mind, body and spirit. I can convey a message that has been given to me that allows the body's own healing potential to be unleashed.

Dr. Benjamin Edwards is the former physician at the Garza County Health Clinic and now is in private practice in downtown Post.

Daddy's sentiment — or not

By Ronda Rich
Dixie Divas



Ronda Rich

I never took my daddy for the sentimental kind. And in this assessment, I was not alone. He was a man's man with a generous heart and compassionate spirit but sentiment seemed to have no place in his life.

I suppose it's because his young life had been so hard, so downright sorrowful that he closed his heart and mind to looking back. For that's what we sentimental people do — we look back. We find the tender parts of the past that trails behind, us and we hold them dear forever in our memory. We keep those times alive. But Daddy? He scoffed at birthdays, grumbled at Christmas presents and never met an anniversary he cared to remember. Hallmark lost nothing when he died, for he had quite possibly never bought a card of any kind.

That's why I was surprised at what I found, astounded even that no one, my sister particularly, had found it previously. But there it was in the little desk that sat in our family den as far back as I could remember. I pulled a drawer out to find pencils, pens, pictures, coupons expired by 10 years, bits of something and pieces of nothing. In the back of the drawer was a little black cardboard book scripted across the front with "Autographs."

Curious, I pulled it out and discovered that Daddy, maybe for just a brief, misled period in his life, had indeed been sentimental. Apparently, he toted this little book

around and had people sign it, including Tootsie who, on July 22, 1938, had written about kisses on the first page. More than a few entries were from women who had great affection for Daddy. I knew he was handsome, so I should have figured the ladies liked him. But who knew they liked him this much?

The book covers slightly more than two years, but there are three handwritten passages from a woman named Bonelle. I knew her as Mama.

The first passage was March 4, 1940, and she, with the twirling way she had with words, wrote a lilting little poem, "I'd like to live in a cozy house that's built on Friendship Street where folks like you are apt to come and we could often meet." It has a few more lines to it but she was clearly saying, "We're just friends."

By April 23, she had started to change her tone a little bit. She liked him better but still acted a bit aloof.

"I will always remember the times we have spent together and how much I enjoyed being with you. You

were always so nice to me. Though you we may drift apart and you may be many miles away, just remember I'll be thinking of you and the days that are past and gone. May you someday find someone you will love and trust and may Jesus lead you in the right way and forever bless you."

Now, anyone can see she is clearly hoping to be that one, but she's acting like she isn't expecting to be. She's playing it cool. I suspect she didn't know she had competition from Mildred who wrote, "I will always love you. Yours until the Statue of Liberty walks down Broadway."

I'm still not over all of this. It's been quite a jarring experience. Just when you think you know someone then, lo and behold, you discover that his stiff upper lip had a sentimental quiver to it.

Mama, of course, won and, fittingly, wrote the last entry in the book. They were married by then and she began with, "Darling." It's pretty mushy so I'll spare you the details of young love.

But I'm thinking now maybe Daddy wasn't sentimental. After all, I can only find what others wrote to him. Nothing he wrote.

I guess he was a collector of sentiment and not a personal participant.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist and best-selling author of "What Southern Women Know (That Every Woman Should)." Visit rondarich.com to sign up for her weekly newsletter.



The Paperboy

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

My father-in-law, Ronald B. Sims, is a stand-up man. He had a stellar career in the Army, in which his body was used daily in a variety of ways fighting for his country in Vietnam.

Now, at the age of 72, Ronald has been through numerous surgeries, several of which have left him in the same or worse condition. He has a difficult time getting around, and his quality of life is far from what he was anticipating at this age.

Ronald has three daughters, several grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He's been married for 51 years, and he and his wife Becky continue to love and care for family members.

Ronald worked in law en-

forcement for several years following the Army and served as Childress County Sheriff in the 1980s. He's as straight of an arrow as anyone I've ever known.

With Ronald, there's right and wrong and very little gray in between. He keeps it simple.

Ronald loves God, country and family, and would fight to the death for all three to this very day. He's someone I respect a great deal. He's earned it.

With our minds focused on our country this time of year, I find myself thinking of the sacrifices of Ronald and millions like him.

In speaking with Ronald and other Americans, I've come to the conclusion our elected of-

ficials should take a long, hard look at how we care for those who return from war. Trust me, we are lacking severely in this department.

A couple of times over the last month, I've written columns of what I consider underrepresentation at the local and national level for rural Americans. Why mention this now. Most of our fighting men and women come from rural America. To me, there is a direct correlation of the two.

Do you honestly think we would neglect our veterans if they were the children of millionaires?

They are part of the multitudes that have a diminishing voice in this country and it's wrong.

If you feel like taking action or would like to try and make a difference in issues concerning rural America, please provide

Yesteryears

20 Years Ago
July 8, 1992

Calling the vote on a motion to hire a local attorney "a joke," Post City Councilman Larry Mills told fellow council members Monday night they were voting "without knowing what you're voting for," and "this is a railroad job if I ever saw one." Councilman Jimmy Holleman called for "hiring a local attorney," but did not explain why 20-year veteran City Attorney Harvey Morton was to be relieved of duties. Mayor Jackson called a vote on the motion and amendment to the motion, which still was not clearly stated, but implied the council would take action to hire a local

attorney. Council members Maxine Conoly, who had seconded the motion, Hollerman, Dan Lamb and Jim Schooler, voted yes. Mills voted no. The action set no timetable for the transition and no designation was made for preparing a job description.

Members of the city of Post Redistricting Committee, chaired by Marion Cruse, presented five plans for citizen review at the public hearing Monday evening, held at the Holy Cross Catholic Church. Seven citizens attended the hearing along with committee members. Cruse, Noah Gutierrez, Margaret Barley, Lois Cook, Victor Ashley, Robert Lopes, city employee Delbert Rudd and City Attorney Harvey Morton also attended the meeting. All five plans provide for five individual voting wards, divided generally into northeast, northwest, central, southwest and southeast quadrants.

Cori Weaver, a recent graduate of Southland High School, has been selected to represent her district in the 1992 Texas Six-Man Coaches Association All-Star basketball game in Wichita Falls.

30 Years Ago

July 8, 1982

Several hundred people toured the Garza Historical Museum during the three-day holiday weekend to view the new permanent exhibits. Many took advantage of the special price and purchased copies of the Garza County history book "Wagon Wheels." Some 30 new members were registered.

Thousands enjoy festivities during 75th Celebration. With gorgeous weather, some attending from Ohio, Tennessee, California, all over Texas and other states, the Jubilee weekend has come and gone and what can one say but a job well done to Charles Hardin, chairman of the Jubilee, and the hundreds of volunteers who contributed to making the weekend such a tremendous success.

The annual awards presentations were held Tuesday night at the Little League Park and honored Minor League and Little League players alike. Seven sportsmanship winners were announced in the Little League with the honors going to Brooke Capps of the Cardinals, Curtis Williams of the Yankees, Victor Chapa of the A's, Dustin Ammons of the Red Sox, Kent Ammons of the Dodgers, Cory Hair of the Giants, and Mike Wells of the Tigers.

Downtown Merchants Association

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Oil and gas production statistics and allowables from last week

AUSTIN — The Texas average rig count as of June 22 was 938, representing about 49 percent of all active land rigs in the United States. In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 437 million barrels of oil and 7.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The Commission's estimated final production for April 2012 is 41,711,182 barrels of crude oil and

491,644,000 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The Commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary April 2012 production totals of 35,939,326 barrels of crude oil and 424,856,550 Mcf of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.1606 for crude oil and 1.1572 for gas well gas. (These production totals do

not include casinghead gas or condensate.)

Texas natural gas storage reported to the Commission for May 2012 was 397,325,849 Mcf compared to 395,952,262 Mcf in May 2011. The June 2012 gas storage estimate is 402,021,384 Mcf.

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

in the state to meet market demand of 10,530,548 Mcf (thousand cubic feet). In setting the initial July 2012 allowables, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers' demand forecasts for the coming month, and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowables will be adjusted after actual production for July 2012 is reported.

Menus: Week of July 9-13

Trailblazers Senior Citizens Center

Lunch Monday
Salmon patty, lima beans, coleslaw, cornbread, tropical fruit, milk

Tuesday
Beef taco bake, Spanish

rice, cauliflower salad, apple crisp, milk

Wednesday
Chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, stewed okra, pumpkin squash, milk

Thursday
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, winter veggies, roll, apple, milk

Friday
Fish sandwich, potato wedges, coleslaw, peaches, milk

Comptroller to offer free tax-filing seminar

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — During the month of July, the Comptroller's office will conduct 15 free taxpayer seminars across the state.

At these seminars, taxpayers can learn how to properly fill out tax forms and file and pay taxes electronically. Information about e-services also will

be available to help taxpayers manage their accounts online.

Comptroller representatives will be on hand to answer questions and provide assistance to attendees.

"We want to empower Texas business owners by making resources and information accessible. Conducting these seminars and making our team of tax spe-

cialists available provides much needed guidance for businesses," said R.J. DeSilva, spokesperson for the Comptroller's office.

A complete list of locations, dates and times of the taxpayer seminars is available at window.state.tx. Those who are unable to attend the seminars can call the Comptroller's tax assistance line at 1-800-252-5555.

AAA Texas: Travel increases ahead of midweek holiday

Special to the Dispatch

By land, air, rail and ocean, nearly 3 million Texans will travel this week to celebrate our nation's Independence Day, according to AAA Texas.

The holiday travel period is defined as Tuesday, July 3, to Sunday, July 8, however, since the Fourth of July falls on a Wednesday, AAA Texas forecasts 54 percent of the travelers left over the weekend and the remaining 46 percent left Monday and would be gone through

Wednesday.

"Since this year's Fourth of July falls in the middle of the week, that contributes to an increase in travel volume and gives people more departure day options," AAA Texas spokeswoman Rhonda Wilson said. "For some families, they may be using this holiday week as their extended summer vacation."

According to a recent AAA Texas Summer Travel Poll of more than 350 AAA Texas members, 75 percent said they would be talking

at least one summer trip this year. That was three percent more than those who were polled last year.

As for the 2.98 million Texans who will travel this week, the majority will go by car or truck.

The recent decline in gas prices may have encouraged more people to travel. The statewide average price for gas is now \$3.20 for a gallon of regular unleaded. That means it will cost drivers an average of \$45 to fill up a typical family sized car's 14-gallon tank.

Taxpayer Seminars: July 2012

The Texas Comptroller's office offers sales and use tax seminars across the state throughout the year. New taxpayers are especially encouraged to attend these overviews of tax responsibilities for buyers, sellers, and service providers. The seminars are free and no registration is required.

The attendees set the pace of the seminars so bring all of your questions concerning tax rules, updates, forms and procedures.

LUBBOCK — Tuesday, July 10
6 to 8 p.m. at the Lubbock Small Business Development Center, 2579 S. Loop 289, Suite 14. Call 806-783-0316 for information.

MIDLAND — Tuesday, July 24
6 to 8 p.m. at the University of Texas at the Permian Basin Small Business Development Center, Center of Energy and Economic Diversification (CEED) Building, Room 1324, 1400 North FM 1788. Call 432-550-3027 for information.

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TEXAS MONTHLY OIL AND GAS STATISTICS

MAY PERMITS TO DRILL

The Commission issued a total of 2,530 original drilling permits in May 2012 compared to 2,306 in May 2011. The May total included 2,301 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 62 to re-enter existing well bores, and 167 for re-completions. Permits issued in May 2012 included 694 oil, 169 gas, 1,569 oil and gas, 68 injection, six service and 24 other permits.

APRIL CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

Texas preliminary April 2012 crude oil production averaged 1,197,978 barrels daily, up from the 958,283 barrels daily average of April 2011.

The preliminary Texas crude oil production figure for April 2012 is 35,939,326 barrels, up from 28,748,479 barrels reported during April 2011.

MAY OIL AND GAS COMPLETIONS

In May 2012, operators re-

ported 887 oil, 336 gas, 32 injection and one other completion compared to 353 oil, 152 gas, 36 injection and one other completion in May 2011.

Total well completions for 2012 year to date are 6,246 up from 3,575 recorded during the same period in 2011.

Operators reported 1,122 holes plugged and one dry hole in May 2012 compared to 516 holes plugged and one dry hole in May 2011.

APRIL NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

Texas oil and gas wells produced 505,775,608 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for April 2012 down from the April 2011 preliminary gas production total of 542,087,609 Mcf. Texas preliminary April total gas production averaged 16,859,187 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) a day.

Texas production in April 2012 came from 140,477 oil

wells and 86,026 gas wells.

MAY TEXAS OIL AND GAS DRILLING PERMITS AND COMPLETIONS BY DISTRICT

RRC District: (1) SAN ANTONIO AREA

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 549
Oil Completions: 179
Gas Completions: 25

RRC District: (2) REFUGIO AREA

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 150
Oil Completions: 58
Gas Completions: 12

RRC District: (3) SOUTH-EAST TEXAS

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 99
Oil Completions: 29
Gas Completions: 18

RRC District: (4) DEEP SOUTH TEXAS

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 67
Oil Completions: 1

Gas Completions: 27

RRC District: (5) EAST CENTRAL TEXAS

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 25
Oil Completions: 1
Gas Completions: 2

RRC District: (6) EAST TEXAS

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 51
Oil Completions: 9
Gas Completions: 49

RRC District: (7B) WEST CENTRAL TEXAS

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 123
Oil Completions: 45
Gas Completions: 5

RRC District: (7C) SAN ANGELO AREA

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 249
Oil Completions: 79
Gas Completions: 19

RRC District: (8) MIDLAND

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas

Holes: 755
Oil Completions: 390
Gas Completions: 3

RRC District: (8A) LUBBOCK AREA

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 108
Oil Completions: 61
Gas Completions: 2

RRC District: (9) NORTH TEXAS

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 269
Oil Completions: 21
Gas Completions: 151

RRC District: (10) PANHANDLE

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 85
Oil Completions: 14
Gas Completions: 23

APRIL TEXAS TOP TEN OIL PRODUCING COUNTIES RANKED BY PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION

COUNTY - CRUDE OIL

(BBLs)

1. ANDREWS - 2,356,571
2. KARNES - 2,197,215
3. GAINES - 2,032,952
4. ECTOR - 1,783,067
5. YOAKUM - 1,727,293
6. UPTON - 1,552,593
7. MIDLAND - 1,447,992
8. MARTIN - 1,441,011
9. HOCKLEY - 1,246,813
10. SCURRY - 1,161,987

APRIL TEXAS TOP TEN GAS PRODUCING COUNTIES RANKED BY PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION

COUNTY - TOTAL GAS (MCF)

1. TARRANT - 63,403,616
2. JOHNSON - 34,360,181
3. PECOS - 20,044,592
4. PANOLA - 18,061,853
5. WISE - 17,564,262
6. DENTON - 16,907,667
7. FREESTONE - 16,080,063
8. WEBB - 15,240,188
9. NACOGDOCHES - 11,416,459
10. ROBERTSON - 10,013,700

CALIF. FAMILY...

continued from page 1

The dog had been spotted several times by area residents, including State Trooper Israel Perez, who investigated the initial accident back in March.

Anderson began searching and knocking on doors, and it didn't take long before she found the missing pup.

"She was hiding under a mobile home out there," she said. "I could tell that whomever owned the place had been feeding her, but she was still very timid."

Anderson contacted the Lewis family right away.

The date was June 25 — three months to the day of the wreck.

"I feel like God led us to their dog," Anderson said.

After Anderson contacted

Naula's family, an ecstatic Lewis and her daughter Kailee were on the next flight out of Los Angeles International en route to Lubbock, while Lewis' husband, sister and niece drove out in a RV.

With a little help from Garza County sheriff's deputies, Naula was captured and returned to the Lewises.

Nancy Lewis said she was overwhelmed at the outpouring of concern from area residents.

"We are just overjoyed," Lewis said last Thursday.

After being checked out by a Lubbock veterinarian, Naula will have to have surgery for a shattered hip.

"Her hip, the doctor said, would require some surgery, and she'll have to be treated for a blood illness caused by a tick infestation. Other than that, she's alive and well, and all of us just couldn't be happier."

"How she survived out there on her own, I'll never know."

Lewis said finding Naula would allow her daughter and son-in-law some closure to this horrible chapter in their lives.

"The wreck really took a toll on them physically and emotionally, and losing Naula just added insult to injury," Lewis said. "It was definitely a turning point in their lives, but it ended on happy note."

"I feel like we all can get back to our lives now."

SOUTHERN HUMORIST...

continued from page 1

"I've always said that Texas women are such great Southern women," Rich said. "There's a certain pride in heritage and womanhood in Texas you don't find in some other places. I applaud the women I see when I visit Texas because there's beauty, charm and a feminine independence that is quite admirable to me."

In addition to her weekly column, Rich also is the best-

selling author of a number of books, including "What Southern Women Know (That Every Woman Should)" and her most recent, "What Southern Women Know About Faith."

Post Dispatch Editor Wayne Hodgkin first met Rich in 2007.

"Wayne can't get away from me. Where he goes, I keep tagging along," Rich said. "I've known him longer than I've known my husband!"

"This is our third newspaper together, and I have to be truthful in saying — I'm joyous at being reunited with him. We've always had a good, solid, professional relationship and joint admiration that has turned into a friendship. We both believe in the value of ethical journalism and good storytelling, so it's happy time to find us working together again."

Notice of Public Hearing on Budget

Garza Central Appraisal District

The Garza Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2013 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. located at 124 East Main Post, Texas 79356. A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget. \$ 373,487.29

The total amount of increase over the current year's budget. \$ 18,516.74

The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget. 3

The number of employees compensated under the current budget. 3

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office located at 124 East Main Post, Texas 79356.

The phone number of the Garza Central Appraisal District is: (806) 495-3518

The address is: 124 East Main Post, Texas 79356

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Legal Notice

WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Stage 2 Drought Contingency Plans Effective July 1, 2012 – September 30, 2012

Restrictions: Washing of cars, driveways, sidewalks, windows, eaves, and roofs is only allowed in some cases with the use of a bucket. Draining and filling of swimming pools, allowing unattended sprinkler systems water to runoff onto sidewalks or streets.

Time of Day Restrictions: 6 p.m. – 10 a.m.

Irrigation Schedules:

Customers with addresses ending in an even number (2, 4, 6, 8) may water on even numbered days of the month only during 6 p.m. – 10 a.m.

Customers with addresses ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7) may water on odd numbered days of the month only during 6 p.m. – 10 a.m.

Customers with no addresses or two addresses shall indicate in writing to the appropriate Member City or District officials as to an even or odd numbered schedule they choose.

Example: An address with 110 Main St. may water on July 10, 12, 14 etc. only during 6 p.m. – 10 a.m.

The Drought Contingency Plan is available at www.whiterivermunicipalwaterdistrict.com for additional information contact the District office at 806-263-4240.

White River Municipal Water District
2880 FM 2794
Spur, Texas, 79370

WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Etapa 2 Planes de Contingencia de Sequia

Effective Julio 1, 2012- Septiembre 30, 2012

Restricciones: El lavar vehiculos, las entradas, los banquetas, ventanas, aleros y techos solo se permite en algunos casos con el uso de una cubeta.

Restricciones de Horarios del dia: 6 p.m. – 10 a.m.

Horarios de riego:

Clientes con domicilios que terminan en numeros pares (2, 4, 6, 8) podran regar en los dias del mes numerados en pares solamente durante las 6 p.m. – 10 a.m.

Clientes con domicilios que terminan en numeros impares (1, 3, 5, 7) podran regar en los dias del mes numerados en impares solamente durante las 6 p.m. 0 10 a.m.

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TO WIT: One (1) Dark Red Hereford Bull, approximately 4 to 5 years old, approximately 1,800 pounds. Horn nubs. "FF" left side, "1" - Left Hindquarter, Eartag missing from left ear. Found on Eubanks pasture east of CR 227, approximately ¾

miles north of CR 134. If not claimed, will be sold at public auction July 19 at the Lubbock Stock Yard.

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404 S. Av H 8 a.m. Friday, July 6.

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Whitten competes in college rodeo finals

The Post Dispatch

R.H. Whitten, son of Jerry and Cathy Whitten of Wilson, recently competed in the tie-down calf-roping event last week at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo.

Whitten finished fourth in the nation in the event, representing West Texas A&M University in Canyon, where he recently completed his junior year.

The New Home resident is a two-time qualifier of the College National Finals.

Whitten plans to graduate from West Texas A&M with a degree in agriculture education and continue his pursuit of the Nationals Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Special to the Post Dispatch

R.H. Whitten of New Home competes in the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo. Whitten finished fourth in the nation at the competition. He will begin his senior year at West Texas A&M University in Canyon this fall.



Initiative helps motorists to reduce gas

Annual Clean Air Campaign Kicks Off with Hybrid Car Giveaway

AUSTIN—Summers are a time for family barbecues, weekends on the lake, and road trips. Along with these celebrations comes a significant uptick in miles traveled and gas consumed on Texas highways.

Fortunately, organizers of the state's *Drive Clean Across Texas* air quality campaign have plenty of practical advice for drivers looking to save money at the pump and reduce air pollution at the same time.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is launching its *Drive*

Clean campaign on the first full day of summer. The annual outreach program encourages motorists to implement cost-saving changes in driving and vehicle maintenance behaviors to reduce harmful emissions.

"Making sure your vehicle is in good shape is something each of us can do to reduce damaging air pollution," says Carlos Swonke, TxDOT's Environmental Affairs director. "That means replacing dirty air and fuel filters, getting regular oil changes, and

keeping the proper amount of air in your tires—all of which help reduce tailpipe emissions."

Other tips for driving cleaner on Texas roads include carpooling, driving the speed limit, combining errands into a single trip, and reducing idling at drive-thrus. These simple steps not only help eliminate vehicle emissions, but also increase fuel efficiency in cars and trucks.

For Texas drivers looking to replace their vehicle this year, a low-emission hybrid car or truck is a good

way to reduce air pollution. To reinforce this point, the *Drive Clean Across Texas* campaign will give away a 2012 Ford Fusion Hybrid to one lucky Texan. The vehicle is being donated by the Dallas Cowboys Football Club.

Texas drivers ages 18 and up can enter to win the brand-new Ford Fusion Hybrid, and get more tips on helping improve air quality, at www.DriveCleanAcrossTexas.org. The deadline for entering the online sweepstakes is September 23.

HIGH PLAINS COTTON

continued from page 1

entire area in order to sustain the crop.

Temperatures have exceeded the 100-degree mark over most of the High Plains in the past week, and although forecasts predict a slight drop in temperature over the next several days, chances of rain at this point are slim.

Statewide, USDA officials report 6.8 million acres of cotton were planted, a 4.2 percent decrease from 2011 when Texas producers planted 7.1 million acres. Nationwide, planted acreage is estimated at 12.4 million, down 14 percent from 2011.

The June acreage report is

based on producer surveys of actual planted acreage information. It is the market's first glimpse of how many acres have actually been planted to various crops during the current growing season and sets the stage for evaluating where the crop stands at this point.

Up until now acreage discussions have been based on survey results designed to get a handle on producer intentions before they had actually put a seed in the ground.

Mary Jane Buerkle is the director of communications and public affairs for Plains Cotton Growers in Lubbock.



We hope everyone had a great 4th of July celebration!



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