

U.S. pushes for broad limits on Chinese textiles and clothing

By Martin Crutsinger
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — When U.S. and Chinese textile negotiators sat down last week in California, the administration's effort to help beleaguered American manufacturers could end up costing consumers some of the sweet deals they have been enjoying on clothing prices.

Some experts say America's clothing bill could rise by \$6 billion or more annually if domestic producers get what they want — a comprehensive deal limiting a broad array of Chinese imports.

Gary Hufbauer, a top trade expert at the Institute for International Economics, said the \$6 billion estimate would translate into roughly \$20 more on a U.S. consumer's annual clothing bill. But he cautioned that this could end up being a low estimate, given the tremendous impact Chinese imports have had in pushing clothing prices down in recent years.

"A comprehensive trade agreement would take the downward price pressure off not only for American producers but for other countries selling into the U.S. market," he said.

For the three months ending in June, clothing prices at the retail level were falling at an annual rate of 5.9 percent, reflecting in large

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Rising diesel costs add thousands to farmer's bills

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — The rising price of gasoline affects most people, but for farmers the increasing costs can add thousands of dollars to their fuel bills.

"We've seen diesel fuel prices up to 70 cents higher than they were last year at this time, and now they're even climbing more," said Neil Wolfgang, petroleum manager for the Ag Plus cooperative's energy division in New Haven.

The co-op sells regular off-road diesel fuel — the type used in heavy farm machinery — for \$2.24 a gallon. A year ago, it cost \$1.48 a gallon.

To fill an empty 600-gallon tank now, it costs more than \$450 more than last year. Wolfgang said many farmers fill up their tanks around this time of the year to get ready for harvest.

"It is a big concern," he told The News-Sentinel. "Having to pay prices of fuel right now will drastically hurt them for the fall."

Per-gallon diesel prices are close to regular unleaded prices at many service stations. Because the fuel does not include road taxes, the off-road diesel with higher sulfur content costs about 40 cents less per gallon than the diesel sold for road use. The off-road diesel used in the heavy machinery is also exempt from a 6 percent sales tax.

Alan Miller, a farm management specialist at Purdue University, estimated that on a typical Indiana farm, fuel costs for corn and soybean production will increase at least \$6 to \$18 an acre next year.

"Energy costs are a key element for that, and where we've seen the biggest percentage price increase for that is in the diesel," he said. "Fuel was only 3 percent of total production expenses in Indiana in 2004, and we're thinking that's certainly going to have to climb."

Some farms may respond to the higher prices by adopting new technology or modifying their approach to planting.

Brian Roemke farms about 3,600 acres with a brother and a neighbor about three miles southeast of Harlan. The farm is a no-till operation, which is a soil-conserving approach to planting that also uses less fuel.

"When all you're doing is running the planter, versus tilling the ground in the fall and having to work it two or three times in the spring, we easily cut (the fuel cost) 50 percent," Roemke said.

HAIR-RAISING LOCATION



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Ecco Goia stylist Alicia Fortner sets a customer's hair last week at the Terraces at SouthPark Shopping Center. Ecco Goia owner Karina Castaneda (right) also owns a shop in New York.

Stylist to the stars moves to SouthPark

Ecco Goia's clients include models, celebrities

By Ellison Clary
SPECIAL TO THE POST

A hair stylist to the stars, featured in the August edition of Allure magazine, is opening a version of her New York salon in Charlotte's SouthPark.

Karina Castaneda plans a September 6 grand opening for Ecco Goia, her newest salon in the Terraces at SouthPark shopping center. Castaneda bought the former Salon Arte from Ambreen Younus, who operated it there for seven years. Castaneda is changing

the name to Ecco Goia, the same name which she calls her salon on 57th Street in Manhattan.

The ownership change occurred July 29 and the salon opened under Castaneda on August 2. The staff is available for appointments immediately.

The Charlotte Ecco Goia remains a full-service salon featuring expert hair care and an appreciation for the esthetics, Castaneda said. She plans to keep the familiar Tuesday through Saturday operating schedule.

Castaneda is featured promi-

nently in the August issue of Allure. Under her name and photo on Page 156, Castaneda tells readers how she personally keeps her hair from tangling and how she schedules her own hair coloring.

The magazine said it asked six "sought-after hair experts" to share their wisdom.

Featured with Castaneda are Sally Hershberger of Los Angeles and Dawn Tracey of Beverly Hills as well as Tessa Jaycox Peltz, Paula Ivins Kingston and Eva Scrivo, all of New York City.

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Karina Castaneda

The owner of Ecco Goia, a hair salon in New York City, Castaneda has done hairstyling for Naomi Campbell and Venus and Serena Williams.

HAIR HISTORY: "My hair tangles easily and forms wild shapes. But I don't relax it. I color it, but it's so fragile for many chemicals."

ROUTINE: "Once a week I wash and condition, comb in a leave-in conditioner, and sit under my hooded dryer at home—the same amazing Kwik Dry I keep in the salon."

PRODUCTS: "Mossie Anouze keeps my hair from being waxy. Mossie Future Acidifying Conditioner by Deranger makes it easy to remove snorks. Jane Carter Solution Revitalizing Leave-in Conditioner helps retain moisture. Allapart Semi di Lini Cristallo Liquido makes my hair shiny."

SALON SCHEDULE: "About once every three months, I do a color change or extensions and a cut."

LESSON LEARNED: "I've been too aggressive with heat appliances and ended up with bald patches. Now I set a time limit of five minutes to style my hair. If it needs more than that, then I should really be wearing a hat."



A moisturizing shampoo, a detangling conditioner, and a glowing hair care product from Ecco Goia's "fragile" hair line.

Allure magazine dedicated space in its August issue to Karina Castaneda, owner of Ecco Goia salon in New York and Charlotte.

IS MR. GOODWRENCH HERE?



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

GMAC sponsored an automotive diagnosis tent Saturday at the Ebony Black Family Reunion at Marshall Park. GMAC is test-marketing a credit education program for potential auto buyers in Charlotte with the possibility of taking the program national.



As cell phone use grows, so does debate over tower placement

By Jim Salter
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — The Southampton Presbyterian Church has always suited its middle class south St. Louis neighborhood, quiet and friendly, a place so tight with its community that the neighborhood association met there.

But after two years of boisterous meetings and litigation, the 150-member church surrounded by closely-spaced red-brick homes is at odds with its neighbors over an issue that has nothing

to do with theology.

T-Mobile plans to construct a cell phone antenna along the chimney of the two-story, 89-year-old white-stone building. In return, the company will pay rent to the church.

"That revenue is in exchange for our potential well-being, our peace of mind and our property values," said David O'Brien, 33, who lives two homes down and remains unconvinced by studies downplaying the health threat of

low-level radio-frequency emissions.

"None of us are willing to take that risk," O'Brien said. "None of us are going to put our kids in a bedroom that's 70 feet away from something that might cause cancer or other problems."

In years past, cell towers and antennas stood anonymously in farm fields, on remote hilltops, on water towers. As cell phone use continues to grow, companies must find new places to

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