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The Post Dispatch

78th Year Number 32 USPS 439-620 © 2004 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 75¢ Thursday, January 8, 2004



Alamo Restaurant is one of 10 Post businesses offering its customers copies of The Post Dispatch for sale inside its store. Other vendors are the Brady's Package Store, Chapa's Family Restaurant, Fast Stop, George's Restaurant, Nothin' Butt Smokes, Rick & Carolyn's Burgers & Fries, Town & Country, United Supermarkets and Wes-T-Go. The Post Dispatch expresses its appreciation to these businesses for their continued service to the community. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

Suspicious package prompts caution here

by Sheri Lewis

A marketing tool designed to convey new year greetings delivered an unexpected response in downtown Post last week. Several businesses were evacuated and intersections near the

courthouse were closed for more than two hours Dec. 31 following the discovery of a suspect package in the local Wells Fargo branch. Following an investigation by members of the Lubbock ATF squad, it was determined the package contained two small containers of Mexican jumping beans.

Sheriff Kenny Ratke's office received a call from a Wells Fargo representative at about 3:20 p.m. who reported hearing a "ticking sound" coming from inside a package. Four units responded, emptying the bank and evacuating the surrounding offices.

A perimeter around the bank building was barricaded, he said, and the Lubbock ATF bomb response team was notified. Local EMS and fire department personnel were placed on standby, and city personnel were called out to assist in barricading the intersections and alleys closest to the bank building.

In addition to sheriff's department personnel, Constable Eric Cravy and highway patrolmen assisted in handling the traffic flow around the barricaded perimeter.

The ATF team, including postal inspectors, arrived at about 4 p.m. Ratke said postal inspectors were involved in the investigation because of the bank's close proximity to the post office and because of the possibility that the package had been handled through standard mail services.

ATF personnel, wearing full "bunker gear," entered the bank and began their investigation. Mobile X-ray equipment was used, as was a probe, Ratke said. After some time, investigators exited the building carrying an envelope and a pair of clear plastic boxes. Inside each tiny box were four Mexican jumping beans.

"They were clicking," the sheriff said.

Jana Bullard, Wells Fargo store manager, said the envelope containing the boxes and beans originated with the Wells Fargo marketing department and was delivered by courier. The package was not a prank; instead, the theme of the jumping beans campaign was designed to encourage bank employees to "Get a Jump Start on the New Year."

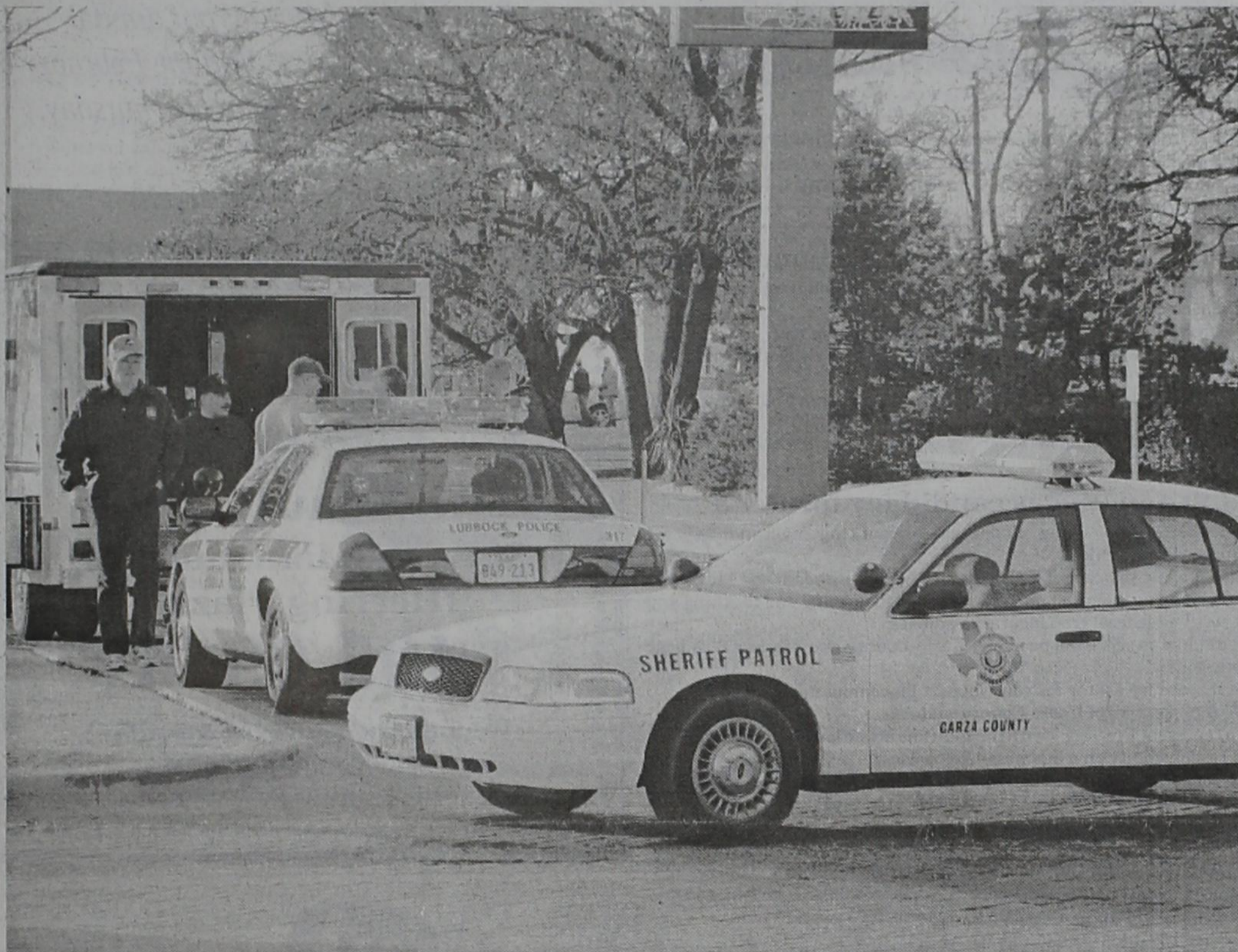
Other Wells Fargo branches were sent similar packages, she said. A note of apology, as well as a warning of the potential confusion the jumping beans may cause, has been distributed, Bullard said.

"We take the safety of our employees and customers very seriously," she said, "and we will always err on the side of caution."

Ratke said bank employees did not overreact in their handling of the situation.

"I think they did exactly the right thing," he said.

According to Internet sources, the Mexican jumping bean begins with the female Jumping Bean moth, which lays her eggs on the flowers of a specific deciduous shrub native to the Chihuahua, Mexico, area. After a few weeks, the eggs hatch and the tiny insect larvae eats its way into the inside of the flower's capsule. The capsule eventually hardens. As the larvae evolves, it contracts its tiny body, causing the bean to jump.



Bomb Squad in Post

A suspicious package at Wells Fargo prompted caution on West Main Street on December 31 with Lubbock ATF and local law officers taking special precautions. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

Post Notes

Church plans Saturday fundraiser

The Calvary Baptist Church, 6th and Avenue H, announces "Rising Up From The Ruins," a Mexican style supper, to help raise funds for the basement and foundational repairs at the church. The plates are \$6 each and will be available at the Post School cafeteria from 4:30 to 7 p.m., Saturday, January 10. Call 495-2342 or 495-3342 for more information. Carry-outs are available.

Willy Awards Gala January 24

The Garza Theatre's annual Willy Awards Gala will be held Saturday, January 24. Call the theatre box office at 495-4005 for reservations.

Free computer training

The Post-Garza County Community Network is offering free computer training to Post and Garza County residents. Level I Excel classes will be held January 20, 22, 27 and 29 at the PHS Media Center. The class is designed for those already familiar with Excel and will focus on formulas and formatting. A FrontPage/Web Design course will be held February 3, 5 and 10 and 12. This course will cover basics of web page design and publishing. Contact Shellee Odom at 495-3343 or e-mail to sdomod@post.k12.tx.us. Class size is limited for both courses.

PHS Class of '94 round-up

The Post High School Class of 1994 is seeking info on classmates to invite to the 10 year reunion later this summer. Anyone with information on classmates should contact Shelly Haney at postclassof94@yahoo.com or leave a message with Rebecca Haney at 495-2960.

'Grandma Brag Pages' set for Feb. 12

The Post Dispatch annual "Grandma Brag Pages" will be published February 12, with a deadline of Friday, February 6. The special edition features photos of grandchildren and are priced at \$10 (for one or two in a photo), \$20 and \$40 (for larger groups of children). Call The Post Dispatch at 495-2816 for more details.

Stocksow entries due January 8

All exhibitors planning to show in the Garza County Jr Livestock Show must have entries in the Extension Service office by 5 p.m. Thursday, January 8. 4-H'ers will need to bring checks or enough money to pay for all validation tags at time of entry.

GCJLA Stock Show & Sale Set for January 14-17, 2004

Preparation for the 40th Annual Garza County Jr. Livestock Show to be held January 14-17 is in full swing. The annual event will kick off with weighing in of animals on Wednesday the 14th. from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

The Steer show will be Thursday the 15th. at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Swine Show at 6:30 p.m. with J. D. Ragland, Floyd County Extension Agent, judging the events.

The Lamb show is Friday, January 16th. at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Goat show at 6:30 p.m.. Kevin Newsome, Ballinger ISD Vo-Ag Instructor, will serve as Judge for these events. Immediately following the Goat Show will be the popular Pee-Wee Goat Show for youth ages 8 and under.

On tap for Saturday the 17th. are the Awards presentations at 9:00 a.m. with the Sale immediately following. The Buyers Appreciation Lunch will follow the Sale.

Local newspaper offers New Year special

The Post Dispatch has launched a New Year special, offering a new subscriber bargain of \$20 for 20 months.

The special subscription rate is limited to new subscribers and continues through January 31, 2004.

Call The Post Dispatch at 495-2816, or send payment to The Post Dispatch, P.O. Box 490, Post, Texas 79356.

KPOS Radio plans live basketball game reports

KPOS Radio will broadcast live basketball game reports beginning with the January 23 game at Roosevelt. The live reports will be aired at the end of each period for both varsity Lady Lope and Antelope games on Friday nights. DVD video recordings of the Friday games are also aired on Post City Television (Cebridge Media Channel 12) on Saturdays and Sundays at 1, 5 and 10 p.m.

The concession stand will be open each day with Post FFA in charge Wednesday afternoon, Southland FFA Thursday, and Garza County 4-H Friday.

4-H, FFA and Pee-Wee entry fees for the stock show are due in the Extension office by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, January 8th..

Democrats, Republicans announce candidates for March primary elections

Candidates for county offices in both Democratic and Republican party primaries have been announced following the December 31 filing deadline.

Two races are shaping up for voters in the Democratic Party primary. Two candidates - Jon Smith and Cliff Laws - have tossed their hats into the ring for the party's nomination for sheriff, while a pair of newcomers - Ken Young and Linda Lambert - will challenge incumbent John Valdez for the nomination for Precinct 3 commissioner.

Other Democratic Party candidates include Judy Bush, tax collector & assessor; Leslie C. Acker, county attorney; Daniel Yarbro, constable, Precinct 1; Eric Cravy, constable, Precinct 2; and Lee Norman, Precinct 1 commissioner.

Republican Party primary voters will see the following names listed on the ballot: Kenny Ratke, sheriff; Randy Nielson, constable, Precinct 1; Gary McDaniel, commissioner, Precinct 1; Ross Aten, Republican county chairman; and Kenda Bartlett, chairman, Precinct 9.

Local News on Cebridge Media Channel 12 Daily at 1, 5 and 10 p.m.

Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush

Hey everyone,



It's early Tuesday morning and it's COLD!!!! At 7:19 they are saying 9 degrees. If only we could get some moisture. Maybe if when saying your bedtime prayers, everyone would tell the good Lord we need some rain, just maybe. All this dry weather is scary to me. I certainly don't remember going this long without some kind of moisture and looking back at the recordings we just had the second driest year ever recorded. So maybe a few extra prayers would not hurt.

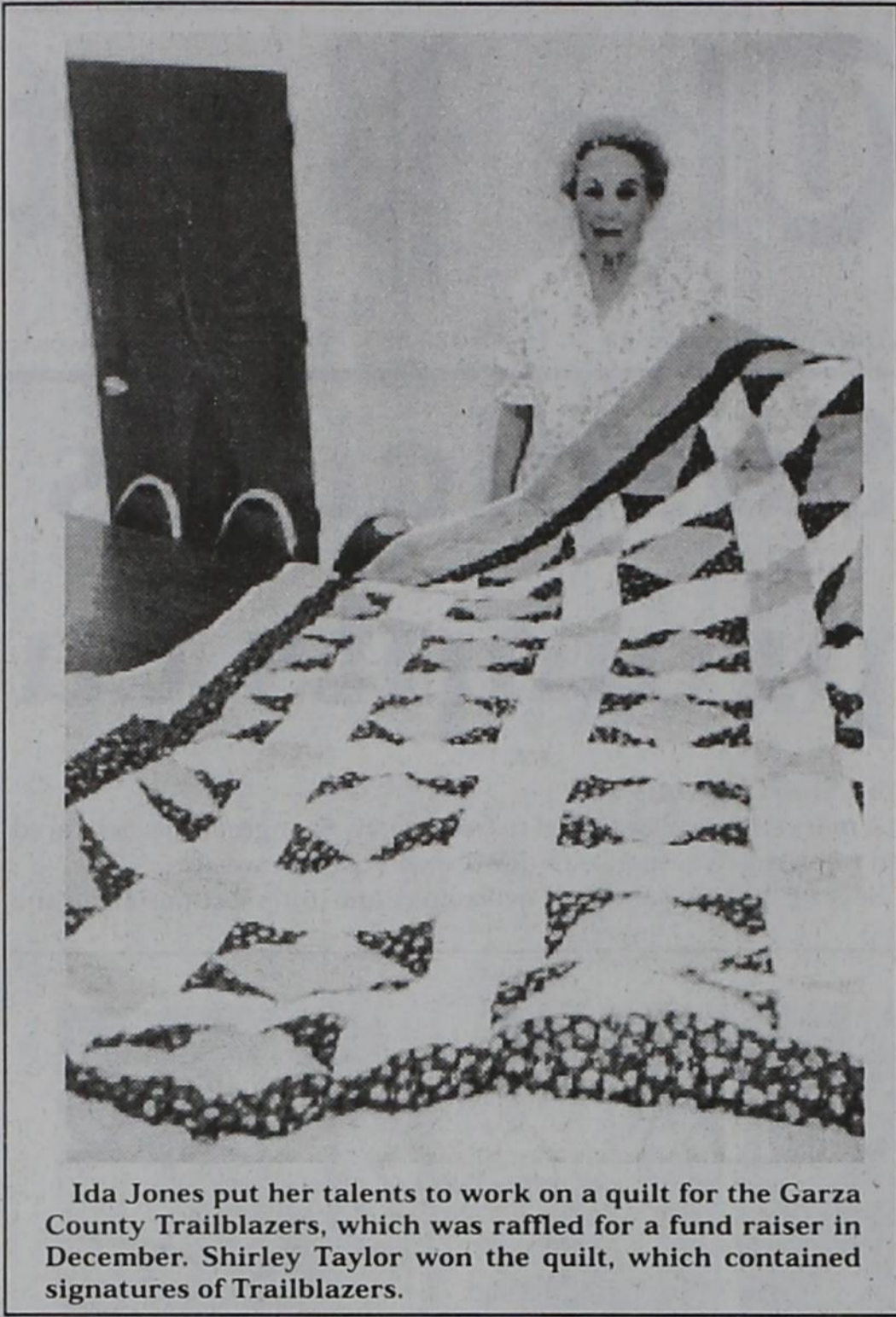
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Claudia Odom gave me a call this week and wants to wish her grandson, Shelby a very happy 9th birthday. >From me also Shelby. You have a great one. It is today, Tuesday the 6th.

ONCE AGAIN, HATS OFF
I hated to see the tree lights go off on main street. Wish we could leave them on year round. They made the downtown area so pretty. To the City boys, you did a great job. **BLONDE POLICE OFFICER**
A blonde police officer pulls over

a blond in a convertible sports car for speeding. She walks over to the car and asks the blond driver for some I.D. The blonde convertible driver searches through her purse in vain. Finally she asks, "What does it look like?" The blond police officer tells her "Its that thing with your picture on it" The blonde driver searches a few more seconds, pulls out her compact, opens it, and sure enough sees her picture. She hands the compact to the blonde cop. After a few seconds looking into the compact the blonde cop rolls her eyes, hands the compact back to the blonde convertible driver and says, "If you would have told me you were a police officer when I first pulled you over we could have avoided this whole thing."

WATCH OUT FOR THOSE KIDS
I have never seen so many little scooters and new bikes!!!! Just a friendly reminder to all of you to watch out for those kids. There are several with their first time big bikes and they are learning to control them. They need a little extra space and time, so watch out for them.

MORE HAPPY BIRTHDAYS
I also want to say happy birthday to my grandson, Zachary Bush and to my son-in-law, Robby Dean. They celebrate their birthdays on the same day, January third. So, happy birthday guys.
TILL NEXT WEEK
Guess that is all for this week. May God bless each of you. Don't forget to add a special prayer for rain. May God bless each of you. See you next week.



Ida Jones put her talents to work on a quilt for the Garza County Trailblazers, which was raffled for a fund raiser in December. Shirley Taylor won the quilt, which contained signatures of Trailblazers.

Lambert files for Precinct 3 commissioner

I am Linda Lambert and I am running for County Commissioner Precinct 3 in the Democratic primary. Hello again to you I know and hello to you I have not met. We all like sales; therefore, let's sell our thoughts to each other and make a profit at the same time for our county. Lee and I bought our place here on Hwy. 651 in Garza County nearly 20 years ago and plan to stay. I need your support and vote. Thank you.

Young announces candidacy for Pct 3

My name is Ken Young, and I am announcing my candidacy for Commissioner, Precinct 3. I am a lifelong resident of Garza County. My wife, Sherri, and I have two children, Ashley and J.D. I am self-employed in farming and ranching and am a certified federal crop insurance adjuster. I would like to serve the people of Garza County and Precinct 3 as your commissioner. Two reasons for asking for your support for commissioner are:
1. To represent all of Garza County, and
2. To represent Precinct 3 with the full-time attention needed to maintain fiscal responsibility on a business-like basis. Your vote and support through this election would be greatly appreciated.

Hines gets academic honor at Clarendon

Samuel Hines of Post was named to the President's List at Clarendon College in recognition of his academic achievements in the fall semester. The President's List recognizes full-time students who maintained a 4.0 grade point average. A total of 49 students were named to the college's honors lists for the fall semester.

Local Video News
Cebridge Media Channel 12
1, 5 & 10 p.m. Daily

Cynthia Howell-Zellmer, Robert Mansker exchange wedding vows

Cynthia Ann Howell-Zellmer and Robert Kent Mansker, both of Lubbock, were wed in a 5 p.m. double ring ceremony Dec. 31, 2003, in the home of the groom's sister, Robert Mansker, father of the groom, officiated the ceremony. The bride is the daughter of Fred and Irene Howell of Post. The groom is the son of Robert and Elene Mansker of Lubbock. Given in marriage by her children, Jason and Christina Zellmer, the bride chose for her wedding a two-piece champagne pink satin floor-length gown. She carried a bouquet comprised of Casa Blanca lilies, white roses, larkspur and ivy. Serving as maid of honor was Christina Irene Zellmer. The other bridal attendant was Brooke Lane Mansker, the bride's stepdaughter. Each wore a floor-length gown of coordinating colors. Best man was Robert Keith Mansker. Jason Andrew Zellmer was groomsman. Guests included the couple's immediate family members, as well as Jessica Howell of Cumming, Ga., the bride's niece, and Valerie Wiegman of Grand Prairie, a family friend. The groom is employed as an engineer for Harmon Tank Co.

Plan ahead now ... for our annual Grandma Brag Pages ... deadline February 6 for the Valentine's edition on Thursday, February 12
Call 495-2816 for details

Cynthia Colvin

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Brian Kingston seeks District Attorney office

Brian Kingston announced his candidacy last week for district attorney of the 106th Judicial District, consisting of Garza, Lynn, Dawson and Gaines counties.

"I am a very hardworking, fair and experienced attorney, and I hope that I can earn the vote and respect of the residents of these counties on March 9 and Nov. 2, 2004," Kingston said.

A resident of Lynn County, Kingston served as an assistant district attorney for Lubbock County for approximately three years and in Austin for Travis County for more than nine years. During his tenure in Lubbock, he was chief of the Lubbock County Special Crimes Unit, chief of the Domestic Violence Division and chief of the Misdemeanor Unit. As an assistant district attorney, Kingston has been active in the daily prosecutions of felony crimes, such as child abuse, rape, robbery, murder, weapons violation, drugs and theft. He also has been involved in training other attorneys in prosecuting misdemeanor and felony cases.

"Having been actively engaged as a trial lawyer for over 15 years, I respect the law and I love being a part of the courtroom," he said. "I also greatly enjoy teaching others about the law, and I look forward to working with our district's police departments, sheriff departments, assistant district attorneys and residents of Garza, Lynn, Dawson and Gaines counties."

As an avid instructor of the law, Kingston has taught at police academies in Austin and Lubbock, the Texas Department of Public Safety Training Academy and at The University of Texas Law School. He continues to teach at the South Plains Association of Governments' Police Academy in Lubbock, the Lubbock County Sheriff's Academy and the

City of Lubbock Police Academy. To further his knowledge of the law and rapport with police officers, Kingston just completed a yearlong night course certifying him as a Texas peace officer.

The Republican candidate was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in 2001 to serve as vice chairman for the Governor's Planning Council for STOP Violence Against Women. He is a Member of the Texas State Bar Association and the Texas District and County Attorneys Association.

Prior to his career as a prosecutor, Kingston practiced civil litigation for Hammerman and Gainer in Austin and for the firm of Lynch, Chappell, Allday and Alsop, also in Austin.

A 1987 graduate of South Texas College of Law in Houston, Kingston earned his undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1984. An Army veteran, he served his country as a U.S. Army military policeman from 1976 to 1979.

Kingston lives in O'Donnell and is married to Rhonda Forbes Kingston. They have one child and are active members of the First Baptist Church in O'Donnell where he has served as a high school youth Sunday school teacher.



Brian Kingston



Kasey Hardin, daughter of Charles and Barbara Hardin, received a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology Dec. 13 from the University of North Texas.

Hardin graduated cum laude in ceremonies held in the UNT Coliseum in Denton. She was one of 2,000 graduates.

While attending the university, Hardin was a member of the women's golf team and was selected to the Sun Belt Conference All-Academic Team. She also received the Raptor Award given to the member of an athletic team with the highest academic achievement.

Out of school TAAS testing available

Individuals who are no longer enrolled in a Texas public school and who wish to register to take the exit level TAAS test may pick up a registration packet at Post High School Counselor's Office. The test registration form must be completed and returned in the pre-addressed envelope and must be received in Austin, Texas, no later than 5:00 P.M., January 23, 2004. A student can register for the TAAS test online by accessing the following web site at: <http://k12testing.tx.ncspearson.com/ooos> or by completing a registration form.

*** Taxation is immoral
- it is theft ***

VALOR announces extended service hours

VALOR Telecom has expanded its customer service hours from 50 hours per week to 75.

Effective immediately, the VALOR Call Center is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

The new customer service hours, devised in response to customer feedback, apply to all VALOR residential and small business customers, as well as Internet customers who want to inquire about Internet-related products and services or have billing questions.

"This move really underscores VALOR's continuing commitment to put the customer first," said Andrew Van De Kop, VALOR vice president of customer service and operations support. "Extending our Call Center's hours of operation will make VALOR even more accessible and convenient for our customers."

The new service schedule reflects findings from a recent study that showed 15 percent of VALOR's customer call volume was being received after 6 p.m. on weekends and on Saturdays.

In addition to expanding the cus-

tomers service hours, VALOR also recently completed the installation of a new, state-of-the-art Interactive Voice Response system that allows customers to check their current billing balances, confirm payments and the dates payments were posted, as well as access other important information. This automated information system is available to customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

VALOR's toll-free customer service number is 1-877-520-5220. Customers can also dial 811 locally from their landline phones to reach the Call Center.

District Attorney Smith to serve on national faculty

Local District Attorney Ricky B. Smith, a member of the faculty of the National College of District Attorneys, has been invited to serve as a faculty member at the National Advocacy Center, teaching state and federal prosecutors from across the nation in the art of trial advocacy during the week of January 5, 2004.

Smith, who holds basic, intermediate, advance and master peace officer certifications and is board certified in criminal law, will work with student prosecutors to develop their skills in trying felony jury cases, particularly in the areas of case preparation, jury selection, opening and closing statements and direct and cross-examination of witnesses.

The National Advocacy Center is located on the campus of the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina, and is the national training center for federal and state law enforcement agencies and prosecutors.

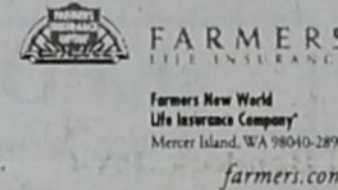
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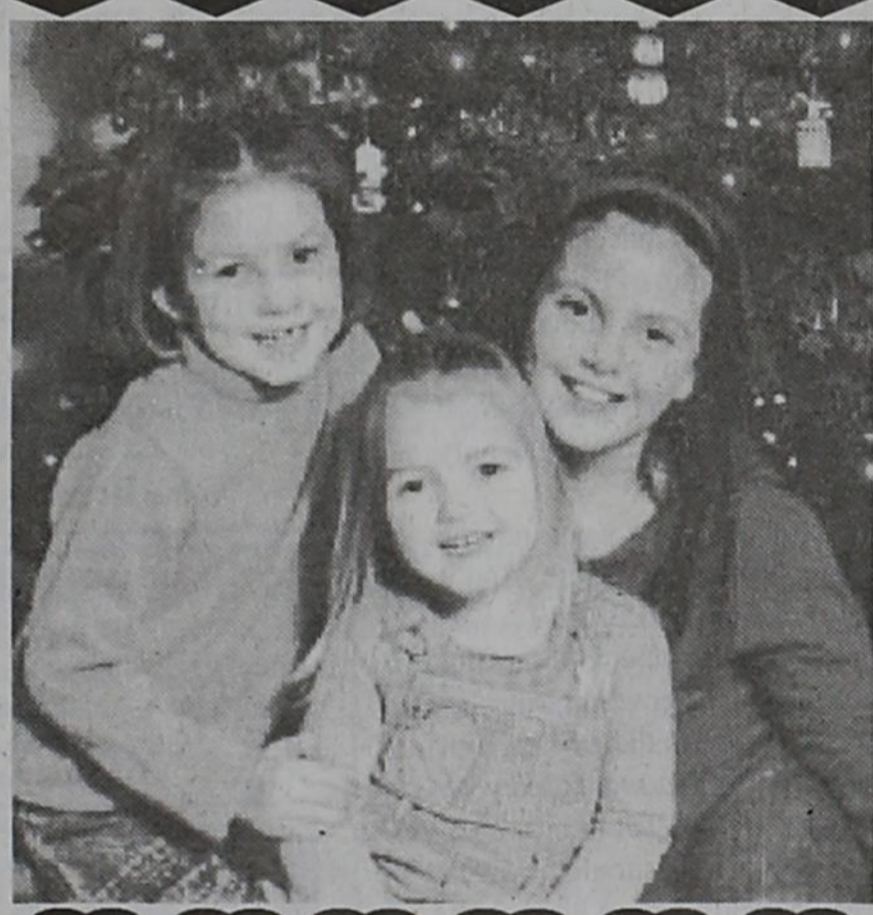
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Grandma Brag Pages Feb. 12, 2004



This size (four singles) \$40.

Bring your favorite photo of your grandchild to The Post Dispatch before Friday, Feb. 6 for our annual Valentine edition!! Please include names of children and grandparents, with phone number of submitter. ONLY \$10 per photo (no more than 2 children per photo in \$10 size). Larger sizes \$20 and \$40.

Use the handy mail slot in the front door when the office is closed or mail to

P.O. Box 490, Post, Texas 79356.
call 495-2816 for details

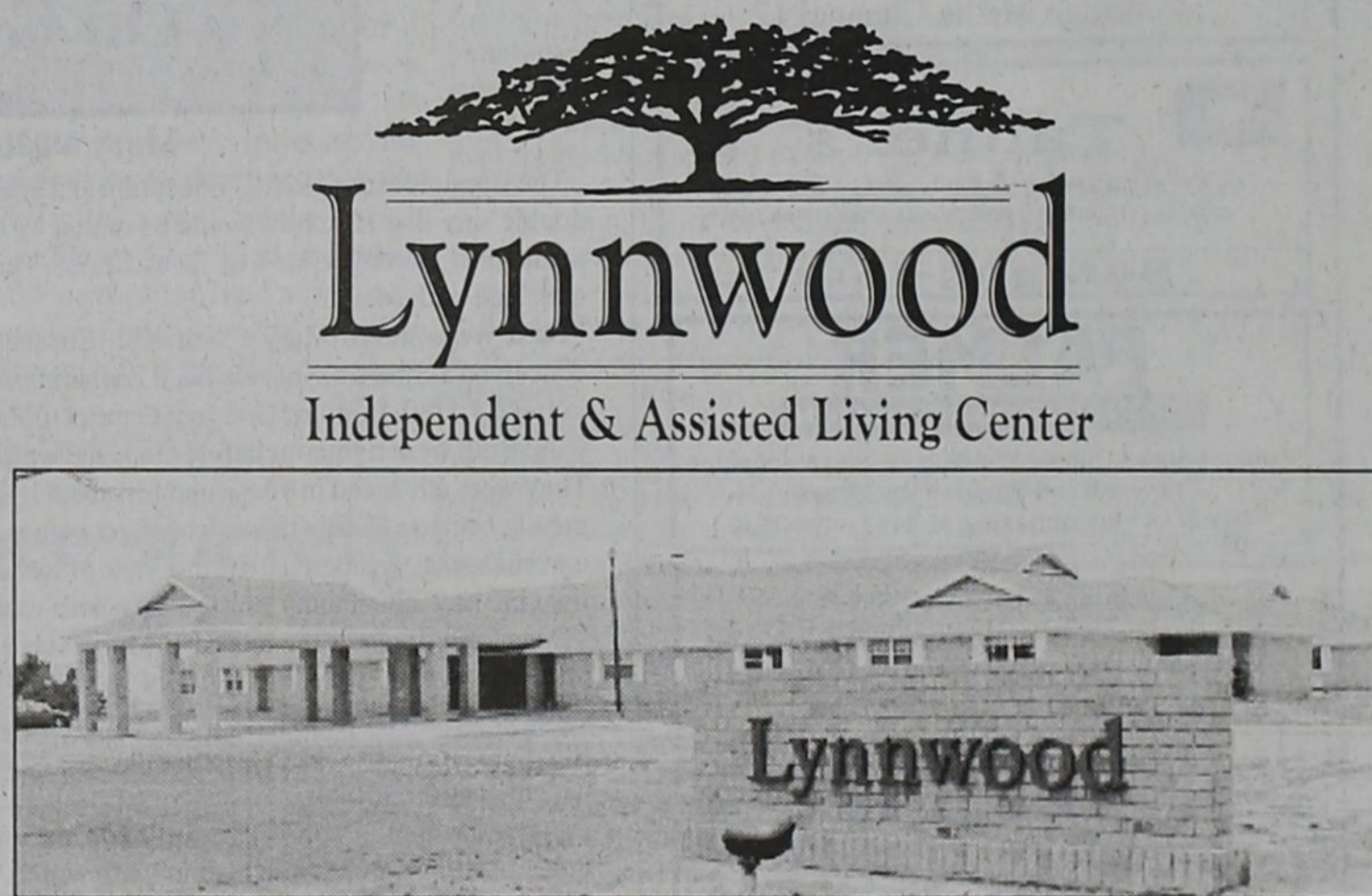
Deadline: Friday, February 6

The Post Dispatch
123 E. Main - Post, Texas



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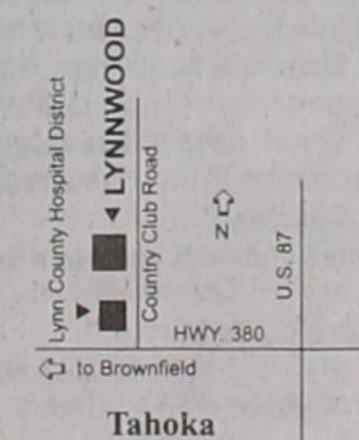
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Obituaries

Durward Bartlett

Services for Durward Bartlett, 92, of Post were held at 2 p.m. Dec. 28, 2003, in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Buddy Payne of Snyder officiating. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery under the direction of the Hudman Funeral Home.

He died Dec. 25 at his home. Born Sept. 25, 1911, in Jones County, he married Mozelle Kuykendall in May 1934 in Post. She died in May 1971.

He married Bill Lawrence in April 1972. She died in February 1994. A member of the First Baptist Church, he established the Caprock Golf Course in 1954 and operated it for 45 years.

Survivors include his children, Linda Kay Wheatley of Quinlan and Barbara Beth Gatlin and her husband, Felton, of Broken Arrow, Okla.; one daughter-in-law, Jan Bartlett of Post; one brother, Henry Bartlett of Hempill; 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Beverly Sanders, in September 1975 and by one son, Jimmy D. Bartlett, in May 1997.

Honorary pallbearers were former members of the Caprock Golf Course.



Dennis Rasberry

Services for Dennis Rasberry, 52, of Southland were held at 2 p.m. Dec. 27, 2003, in the Hudman Funeral Home in Post. Burial followed in the Resthaven Cemetery in Southland.

He died Dec. 24 at his home. Born Feb. 8, 1951, in Brownfield, he married Pamela Swindle May 9, 1974, in Monahans. A subsurface engineer for Exxon/Mobile, he was a Mason and a member of numerous bass fishing clubs.

Survivors include his wife, Pamela, of Southland; one daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Kevin Floyd of Amarillo; one son and his fiancé, Jimmy Rasberry and Sarah Messing of Monahans; one brother, Danny Rasberry of Pecos; and four grandchildren.

Florencia Rivera

Services for Florencia Rivera were held Dec. 23, 2003, in the Ralls Cemetery.

She died at 2 p.m. Dec. 21 in the Golden Plains Center in Post. She married Jim Rivera in Old Glory, Texas, on June 24, 1946.

Survivors include five sons, Jim, David, Fermin, Paul and George, all of Post; four daughters, Elvira Morales of Edinburg, Elena Nevarez of Frederick, Okla., Alice Salinas of Post and Delia Sepeda of New Home; eight brothers; three sisters; 28 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband on Sept. 25, 1961, and by one son, Angel Rivera, on July 14, 1980.

Pallbearers were Rudy Albert, Gilbert Rivera, Ramon Rivera, Baldemar Morales and Ben Nevarez.



Jerrel W. Stone

Memorial services for Jerrel W. Stone, 69, will be held Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004, in Victorville, Calif., following donation for scientific research and cremation.

He died Dec. 12, 2003, in Bullhead City, Ariz.

A native of Post and Garza County, he was a retired CPA.

Survivors include his wife, Sandy; four sisters; five daughters; one son; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Mary Stone.

The family has suggested memorials be made to the ALS Association, 27001 Agoura Rd., Suite 150, Calabasas Hills, Calif., 91301-5104 or the American Heart Association, Western States Division, 1003 E. Cooley Dr. Suite 102, Colton, Calif., 92324-3290.

Lonetta Gaye Kittrell

Graveside services for Lonetta Gaye Kittrell were held Dec. 29, 2003, in the Lorenzo Cemetery.

She died Dec. 25.

Born March 31, 1915, in Desdemona to Frank and Norma Brisco, she married Wilson Kittrell April 16, 1939. She was a member of the Caprock China Painters Club in Lubbock and the Lorenzo Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday school. The couple farmed near Lorenzo for many years prior to moving to Bastrop.

Survivors include her daughter, Jeffie Ann Rainwater and her husband,

Ray, of Bastrop; her granddaughter, Robin Lee Oppel and her husband, Steve, of Bastrop; two great-granddaughters, Morgan Oppel and Jordyn Oppel, also of Bastrop; three sisters, Norma Childs and her husband, Melvin, Joyce Greenhill and her husband, Bill, of Lubbock and Nelda Shiflett of Hatch, N.M.; two sisters-in-law, Lucile McBride and Mary Lee Wristen of Post; an uncle, Sam Brian of San Antonio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Margie Wright

Services for Margie Wright, 79, of Levelland were held at 2 p.m. Dec. 26, 2003, in the George C. Price Funeral Home with the Rev. Jerry Howe officiating. Burial followed in the City of Levelland Cemetery.

She died at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 22 at Covenant Hospital in Levelland.

Born March 16, 1924, in Caddo County, Okla., she moved to Levelland in 1940 from Seminole. She married Eldon Wright on Feb. 2, 1943, in Seminole. She worked as a rural mail carrier from 1954 until 1983 and worked part-time for Guarantee Abstract from 1954 until 1975. She worked with the Air Base in Hobbs, N.M., in 1942 and with Triple A Agriculture in Seminole in 1943. She was a member of Second Baptist Church in Levelland and Trinity Baptist Church before it merged with Morningside Baptist Church to become Second Baptist.

Survivors include her husband, Eldon Wright of Levelland; a son and daughter-in-law, Eldon Lynn "Tree" and Carla Wright of Albuquerque, N.M.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Don Payne of Lubbock and Jolene and Doug Bolden of Levelland; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Charley and Roetta Lambert and Raymond and Connie Lambert, all of Seminole, Dene Wright of Pagosa Springs, Colo., and Gene Wright of Waco; one sister, Marie Sharbutt of Austin; her grandchildren, Donny and Traci Payne, Tray and Heidi Payne and Cami Payne, all of Lubbock, Tyge Payne of Arlington, Elizabeth Bolden of Levelland and Nicole Wright and Rebecca Wright, both of Albuquerque; and her great-grandchildren, Regan and Rainey Payne and Mabry and Gracie Payne.

She was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Elaina Bolden.

Pallbearers were Don Payne, Doug Bolden, Donny Payne, Tyge Payne, Tray Payne and Raymond Lambert.

The family has suggested memorials be made to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering through Second Baptist Church, Levelland, or any Southern Baptist church.

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Post Devotional Page

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Mary Visits Elizabeth... Luke 1:39-56

The story of Jesus Christ's conception and birth is filled with great examples of meekness and humility. God made double sure that His child would be reared by only the best of His people. Mary's humble response in Luke 1:38 resulted in the conception of Jesus Christ. Then Joseph meekly responded to God's word in that he sealed his marriage with Mary.

Next we come to Mary's visit with Elisabeth. About six months prior to Mary's conception, Elisabeth had conceived a child from her husband Zacharias. A great deal of attention is given this fantastic story that can be found in Luke 1:5-80. In short, God sent Gabriel to Zacharias, who was to conceive a child in the womb of Elisabeth his wife. Both were righteous before God, and walked in all the commandments and ordinances of God without blame. They were advanced in years, and Elisabeth had never conceived a child. The records show that they were blessed greatly because Elisabeth was no longer considered barren in the eyes of all the people. During the Gospels period a woman was considered to be in a state of low degree if she never conceived children by her husband. We can only imagine how abundantly blessed Elisabeth was upon the arrival of her cousin Mary.

Luke 1:39-56 gives the record of Mary's visit with Elisabeth, "And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste into a city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost." Earlier in verse 35 we see that Gabriel told Mary about her cousin Elisabeth. Soon after her conception, she left in haste to see Elisabeth. Upon her salutation, Elisabeth's baby leaped in her womb, and she was filled with holy spirit. This fulfilled God's word relayed to Zacharias in verse 15, "...and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." John was filled with holy spirit when his mother was filled with holy spirit. Moreover, according to verse 80, he came out of his mothers womb with holy spirit still in him.

After filled with holy spirit Elisabeth opened her mouth and began to prophesy in a loud voice. It should be noted that prophesying is always directly related to being filled with holy spirit. It is impossible to prophesy without holy spirit. Verses 42-55 include the record of her dynamically edifying prophesy. In the KJV Companion Bible, E.W. Bullinger provided the following note for verse 46, "From a common practice of transcribers in replacing a pronoun by the corresponding proper noun, or name, some have thought that this hymn is a continuation of Elisabeth's words. And the structure favours this idea. But there is no MS. Evidence for it." The structure does reveal that she began with edification and exhortation toward Mary. Elisabeth would have then continued by glorifying God because He "regarded the low estate of His handmaiden" (verse 48). Elisabeth was greatly blessed because she was no longer considered barren.

Finally in verse 55 we read, "And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house." No doubt Mary returned to her house built up and prepared to raise up God's child to serve Him meekly.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation" (2Peter 1:20). On God's Word is designed to teach God's rightly divided word as it interprets itself.

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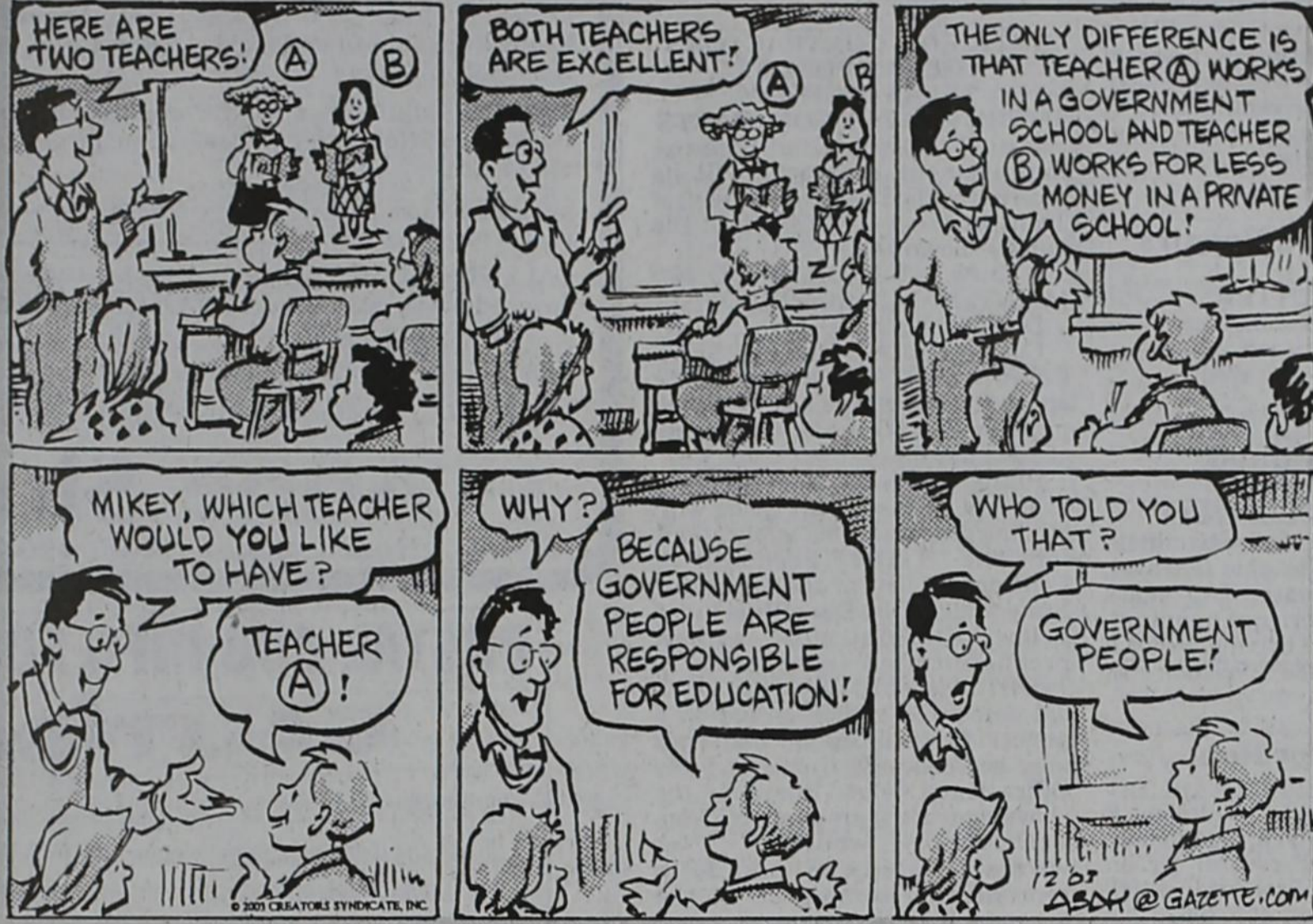
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Opinions

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Some things I wonder about

by Walter E. Williams



Early in our marriage, 40-some years ago, Mrs. Williams would return from shopping complaining about the unreasonable prices. Having aired her complaints, she'd then ask me to unload her car laden with purchases. After the unloading, I'd ask her: "I thought you said the prices were unreasonable. Why did you buy them? Are you unreasonable? Only an unreasonable person would pay unreasonable prices." The discussion always headed downhill after such an observation. But let's look at prices.

I don't know about you, but I always try to get the lowest prices for what I buy and the highest prices for what I sell, and that includes my labor services. Is such a practice immoral? Nobody is forced to sell me anything at my preferred price, nor are they forced to buy from me at my preferred price. If we indeed transact, the only thing a third party could conclude is that we both saw ourselves as being better off than our next best alternative, or why would we have voluntarily transacted?

You say, "OK, Williams, you're right. But where are you going? How many times have we heard the accusation that a corporation moved overseas to take advantage of lower-priced labor or hired cheaper-perhaps Indians with HB-1 visas to replace higher-priced American high-tech workers? You'd think that a desire for lower prices is somehow immoral. Why should a preference for low prices be OK for you and me, and not so for CEOs?"

Another thing I wonder about are those life insurance company advertisements where they offer reduced rates for nonsmokers. Here are the facts. According to an article in *Social Science & Medicine* in 1991 titled, "Life expectancies of cigarette smokers and non-smokers in the United States," the life expectancy difference between never-smokers and current smokers is about seven years at ages 25-29, and three years at age 75 and older. Thus, it makes

actuarial sense for life insurance companies to charge smokers higher premiums.

According to a study titled, "The Longevity of Homosexuals," in the *Omega Journal of Death and Dying* in 1994, the median age of death from AIDS is 37 and death from other causes 42. In another study, "Does Homosexual Activity Shorten Life?" in *Psychological Reports* in 1998, the average life expectancy of homosexuals is 20 to 30 years less than heterosexuals.

Here's my question: How come life insurance companies don't advertise lower life insurance premiums for heterosexuals? After all, life insurance companies do ask applicants about other forms of behavior that have an impact on life expectancy, such as: Are you a pilot? Do you abuse alcohol and drugs? And do you have DUI arrests? Why not also: Are you a homosexual? I think I know the answer. Life insurance companies would be charged with lifestyle discrimination. But isn't it also lifestyle discrimination to charge higher premiums to smokers, airplane pilots, drug and alcohol abusers, and drunk drivers? None of these lifestyles has the devastating impact on life expectancy that homosexuality does. The only answer I can come up with is that some forms of discrimination are politically acceptable, while others aren't.

I also wonder about judges. Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City purchased a brand new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On his first trip, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee. The R.V. left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising him in the owner's manual that he couldn't actually do this. The jury awarded him \$1,750,000 plus a new motor home. Winnebago changed its manuals. I wonder why. Anyone so stupid as to leave the driver's seat is probably also too stupid to read a manual.

To find out more about Walter Williams, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.
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Insanity defense has no place in a free society

by Sheldon Richman

John W. Hinckley Jr., who in 1982 was acquitted by reason of insanity in his attempt to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, has been granted court permission to have unsupervised visits with his parents. Hinckley has been held in St. Elizabeth's Mental Hospital in Washington, D.C., for more than 20 years. He'd been previously granted only supervised visits.

The court's decision has angered many people, including the former first lady, Nancy Reagan, and James Brady, who was severely wounded in Hinckley's attack. (Two others were also injured.) Former Reagan aides, such as Patrick Buchanan, have expressed outrage.

Ad hoc outrage, however, is worth little. Unless the crux of the case - the insanity plea and verdict - is addressed, decisions such as this will continue to be made.

Hinckley was found not guilty of shooting the president and the others because he was said to be insane; that is, at the time of the shooting he is supposed to have had a mental illness that prevented him from appreciating the nature of his act. If one accepts such a disposition as a matter of principle, then one has no principled grounds to object when the government's psychiatrists say his illness is in remission and he is no longer a danger to others. After all, Hinckley was committed to a mental hospital ostensibly for treatment, not punishment. His confinement was contingent on his being ill and, as a result, dangerous. If the experts said he was no longer ill, there would be no further grounds under the law for holding him.

Given the premise - insanity - the conclusion follows. If freeing Hinckley for unsupervised visits is outrageous it is because acquittal by reason of insanity is outrageous. The judge could not have permitted the visits had Hinckley been found guilty of attempted murder and sentenced to life in prison.

What is it about Hinckley's act that indicated insanity? He says he tried to kill the president of the United States to attract the attention of a movie actress, Jodie Foster. Is there any reason to think that Hinckley, who was 25 at the time, did not really know what he was doing? To ask the question is to answer it. Who can seriously doubt that he understood that firing a bullet into Reagan's body could kill him? Who can seriously doubt that he knew this was wrong? That he did it for a screwy reason does not diminish his responsibility.

Could he have chosen otherwise? To answer no, one would have to believe that Hinckley had no choice but to purchase a gun, book a flight, board an airplane to Washington, ascertain the whereabouts of President Reagan on March 30, 1981, wait for him to exit the Washington Hilton, and pull the trigger several times. Are we to believe that an illness made him do all this?

Thomas Szasz, the foremost psychiatrist-critic of psychiatry, has been a relentless critic of the insanity defense and verdict for 50 years. He writes, "Regardless of whether a person is deemed sane or insane, a person has reasons, not causes, for his actions. If we reject the actor's reasons as absurd, crazy, or meaningless, then we consider and call him mentally ill. That, however, hardly constitutes proof that his alleged

condition caused him to commit the forbidden act."

The unsubstantiated claim that the insane suffer from a brain disease cannot salvage the insanity defense. "A brain disease may, indeed be a cause," Szasz writes. "But a cause of what? Typically, of a functional deficit, such as weakness, blindness, paralysis. No brain disease causes complex, coordinated behaviors, such as the crimes committed by John W. Hinckley, Jr."

The insanity defense is not about compassion. It's about escaping responsibility for bad acts. It is the mark of a free society that people are to be left alone so long as they do not injure others, and they are to be accountable for their actions when they do. Thus the insanity defense strikes at the very heart of our most cherished principles.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., author of *Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State*, and editor of *The Freeman* magazine.

Rollback election: What's it all about?

by Wes Burnett

Smaller, limited government or larger ever expanding government: that is the central issue presented to Garza County property owners in the February 7 rollback election.

All the recent debate about how much to cut the county budget and which items to cut is subservient to the bigger question: how to control the seemingly endless increases in government spending and taxation to support those expenses.

The debate is a healthy one, and critically important for the security of property rights. As long as government is allowed to force property owners to pay taxes, this debate will continue, and at times it will be acrimonious. History has demonstrated the truth of the old adage that government always exceeds its original intent and purpose. And, an ever-expanding government is sure to eventually destroy the productive citizens it must tax in order to feed its insatiable appetite.

We have seen that at all levels of government ... local, regional, state and national. Sadly, most property owners have come to realize that they have little or no influence with state or national taxation schemes. It is also clear that controlling government starts at home.

Until we exercise control and restraint of taxation in Garza County, we can never expect state or national officials to reign in big-spending.

That is the driving force behind this rollback election. It is an attempt by Garza County property owners to limit the growth and intrusion of government in their private and business lives.

In our republic form of government, we elect individuals to conduct the affairs of government on our behalf, and in accordance with our constitutions (state and national). It is not our responsibility to dictate the precise expenditures, but rather, to hold those elected officials accountable for their actions.

If, in their decision to trim expenditures to fit the limited resources of

Entered at U.S. Post Office, Post, Texas for transmission through the mails as Second Class matter, according to an Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Post, Texas 79356. Postmaster: send address changes to: The Post Dispatch, P.O. Box 490., Post, Texas 79356 (806) 495-2816 - Fax 495-2059 Wesley W. Burnett, Managing Director and Publisher 123 E. Main Street, Post, Texas 79356 e-mail: postpaper@dtnspeed.net Subscription Rates: For addresses in Texas or the U.S. - \$30.00 per year 6 Months: \$16.00 or 3 Months: \$12.00 Deadline: Tuesdays at Noon Advertising Rate: \$6.00 per column inch (SAU) e-mail: postpaper@dtnspeed.net All material Copyright 2004 The Post Dispatch It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individuals, guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstone for our freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

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Bad year rising

by Bill O'Reilly



This sure has been a bad year for ideologues, even though some of them don't even know it yet. Obviously, right-wing guys Rush Limbaugh and Bill Bennett took big hits, and it was very interesting to see how compassionate some liberals were in examining the personal weaknesses of those men.

On the other side, some on the far left let it all hang out, using tactics of defamation, denigration and destruction of a very personal nature. Everyone in the Bush administration was a liar or a whack job. Only enlightened "progressives" could be trusted with the future of the United States.

Somewhat surprisingly, there were short-term gains for these liberal merchants of smear: The media paid them big attention, and some books were sold. However, when you live by character assassination, you will surely die by it. The defamers now have the hate tag wrapped tightly around their necks, and, like a noose designed to kill, it will eventually become a heavy yoke to bear.

While the extremists got the headlines, the polls were consistent: Most Americans are not ideological fanatics. The numbers roll in this way: Twenty percent of us say we are liberal, 35 percent conservative, and all the rest claim to be non-aligned. You can make money catering to ideologues, as Mr. Limbaugh and Bill Moyers have proved, but if you stake out predictable political turf, the center will distrust you.

The past year was also unkind to ideological institutions like The New York Times and the religious right. The Times took a huge hit when its politically correct editor was forced to resign because a minority reporter faked a bunch of stories. The young reporter ran around basically unsupervised, and the resulting scandal damaged the nation's most prestigious newspaper in a most personal way.

The Supreme Court did the damage to the religious right by ruling that sodomy behind closed doors is beyond the scope of state responsibility. The Court struck down the sodomy law in Texas and gave secularists a tremendous victory. Privacy is really the issue here, but don't tell the ideologues that. On the right, many see the ruling as a return to Sodomy and Gomorrah; get those saltshakers ready. On the left, the believers have seized the momentum and turned it into a gay marriage crusade.

Clear-thinking Americans understand that busting down somebody's door to check a sex act is absurd, but legalizing marriage for an alternative lifestyle does not necessarily follow in the logical thought chain. Yes, there are good arguments for allowing homosexuals legal parity with straights, but the vast majority of Americans want to keep the traditional definition of marriage, and their opinion ought to count for something.

But in the minds of the ideologues, the folks don't count. If you disagree with these extremists, then you are a moron and an enemy that must be attacked.

The man who has benefited the most from the ideological wars of 2003 has to be Howard Dean. Here's a guy who has found fame and power simply by intensely disliking President Bush. I mean, come on, this time last year Howard Dean was wandering around the Green Mountains, and even Ben and Jerry wouldn't talk to him. Now, he's the Democratic front-runner.

The irony here is that Dean is not an ideologue, he's only playing one on cable. As we have reported, the National Rifle Association loves this guy, and so did many Vermont business people. There's no doubt the governor is a committed secularist, but if you want a bazoooka in your bedroom, Dean is apparently down with that.

But like the real ideologues, Dean better watch his step. Staking out a place at the far-left beach party will not get you elected to the presidency in America. We are still basically a country that admires and respects tradition. Howard Dean and the progressives may be smirking now, but they are heavily outnumbered by the regular folks who value straight talk but turn away from fanatics who would drastically change society. As both Goldwater and McGovern found out, ideology can get you close, but only that.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the new book "Who's Looking Out For You?" To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com.
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Card of Thanks

Thanks to everyone who was so thoughtful and helpful during our stay at the hospital and later at Golden Plains for therapy. I am home now, but Joyce has to stay a while longer. Also thank you for the food, cards, telephone calls and visits. They kept us going. A special thanks to Dee Justice for being there during Joyce's surgery and everything else he did, also a special thanks to Nancy Griffin, my dear cousin, for staying at the hospital with him when I couldn't.
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A special thanks to all our family, friends and neighbors for your prayers and also all you've done for us since Gene has been in the hospital. We still have a long way to go before he will be home again.
Thanks,
Gene and Mary Lee Claborn

Thank you so much for the gifts you have given from your hearts, also your prayers and your help and your hugs too! Jerry really loved Post and it's people. Our family feels the same.
Sheri, Patrick, Mike, Jeff and Starlet
& all Jerry's family. Thank You.

The family of Florencia Rivera would like to thank Golden Plains Nursing Home, Adam's Funeral Home and those who sent food, flowers, prayers or even a word of comfort to us during this time of loss of our beloved mother.
The Rivera's

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Menus

Post ISD
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January 13-Breakfast-Donut, sausage link, fruit, milk.
Lunch-Soup of the day, cheese sandwiches, fried okra, pears, milk.
January 14-Breakfast-Oatmeal, toast, bacon, fruit, milk
Lunch-Chicken nuggets, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, gravy, banana pudding, milk
January 15-Breakfast-Cowboy bread, sausage link, fruit, milk
Lunch-Burrito, salad, fruit cocktail, snicker bar, milk
January 16-Breakfast-Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch-Sandwich, chips, salad, pickle spears, orange, milk
Garza Trailblazers
January 12-Steak fingers, cream gravy, mixed vegetables, potatoes, hot roll, banana pudding
January 13-Trukey, dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, salad, hot roll, cranberry dessert
January 14-Meatloaf, potatoes o'brien, green beans, salad, wheat roll, carrot cake
January 15-Chicken patty on a bun, tater tots, peas & carrots, sliced tomatoes, fruit salad
January 16-Catfish, baked beans, broccoli, coleslaw, cornbread, chocolate pudding

Sheriff reports 8 arrests

Eight arrests were made during the past week, according to Garza County Sheriff's Department reports.
On Dec. 29, a 21-year-old was picked up on a warrant. On the final day of 2003, a 26-year-old was arrested for driving while intoxicated/second offense.
Four individuals were arrested on New Year's Day, including one for DWI/first offense and one for public intoxication. Two of those arrested were picked up for the INS.
On Jan. 2, one individual was arrested for DWI, possession of marijuana and unlawfully carrying a weapon. Another individual was picked up for DWI/second offense.

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Yesteryears

Compiled by Donna Jones from the files of The Post Dispatch

10 Years Ago January 5, 1994

Maxine Earl has had a lifelong association with the Post Independent School District, from a student in first grade to a teacher in the classroom. With a generous gift of \$20,000 to the school district, Mrs. Earl has established the J. R. and Mayme Durerett Scholarship Fund for graduating Post High School seniors.

R. L. and Jimella Simpson have been given the honor of announcing the births of their first grandchildren. Troy and Darla Simpson of Lubbock are the parents of twin boys, born December 22 in Methodist Hospital in Lubbock.

E. W. Williams Jr., chairman and Fred Myers, vice president of Citizens Bank have announced the appointment of Ann Stelzer to Assistant Cashier of Citizens Bank-Post Branch.

The Lady Lopes opened the West Texas Girls Invitational basketball tournament held in Slaton with a close 43-42 win over Abilene Wylie. Cara Cash led the Lady Lopes with 17 points. Amber Cooper and Jamie Hawkins each added 10 in the win.

20 Years Ago January 4, 1984

Dewayne and Patty Morris announce the birth of a son, Keving Dewayne, born December 15 at Garza Memorial Hospital, weighing 5 lbs., 9 ozs.

Kerri Pool Taylor received a Master of Science degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, on December 15.

Congratulations to Jim Wells on the opening of Wells Pharmacy. Jim opened for business Monday after a busy weekend moving and restocking. He has completely remodeled the building and we wish him every success.

Adam Ayala, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Ayala of Post, is participating in the AGATE Program in Amarillo. Adam, is a fourth grade student at Whittier Elementary. The AGATE program is for gifted and talented students who excel consistently.

Briefs: A fund has been established at the First National Bank of Post to help defray medical expenses for Shane Bevers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bevers. Shane has been undergoing medical treatment at M. D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

30 Years Ago January 3, 1974

A stand-by ambulance, already in use, is serving the city and county until delivery is made on an ambulance purchased by the county and to be operated by the city. Neal Clary, fire chief and Pete Maddox, city manager made the stand-by ambulance operable by "fixing up" the interior.

Keith Davis, 32, officially began his new duties as chief of police for the City of Post on New Year's day.

The U. S. Postal Service has announced it will postpone rate increases scheduled for Jan. 5 until March 2. That means the price of mailing a first-class letter will remain eight cents for another two months before going up to a dime.

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his wife, Ruth, are in Iowa Hospital with injuries received Monday when their automobile reportedly collided with a truck near Des Moines, Iowa. The Youngs are suffering from a few broken bones, but should make a full recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter Gene White of Wilson and formerly of the Graham Community, announce the engagement of their daughter, Sherry Lynn, to Stanley Wayne McNeely of New Home.

40 Years Ago January 2, 1964

Pvt. Johnny Kemp was to leave this week for Fort Ord, Calif., after spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Kemp. Johnny came home for the holidays after completing basic training at Fort Polk, La.

Danny Pierce, junior center, is leading the Post Antelope basketball team in scoring, with 136 points, through their first 11 games.

Claud Collier, Post's Chevrolet and Oldsmobile dealer, is the new president of the Retail Merchant Association of Post for the club's 1964 year. The four new club directors elected by the membership are Collier, Jim Jackson, Frank Blanton and Lester Nichols. Holdover directors are Tom Power, Mrs. Ruth Bennett and Ed Sawyers.

Three candidates started the political pot to simmering in Garza County this week with their announcements. Sheriff L. E. Claborn Jr., who is seeking a second term. The other two are Howard Freeman, a candidate for county commissioner in Prec. 1 and J. A. (Jack) Kennedy, seeking election as Prec. 3 county commissioner.

50 Years Ago January 7, 1954

Santa Claus answered most requests for air guns, judging from the window damage inflicted here within the past few days, City Marshal J. W. Teal said Tuesday. Teal said a number of residence and business windows have been broken by some of the more high powered BB guns. The marshal requests parents to warn their children against shooting toward houses or businesses.

W. J. Goss, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis D. Goss of Post, was recently promoted to sergeant while serving with the 4th Infantry Division in Germany.

Miss Mary Jo Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Williams, and L. W. Evans, son of Mrs. Mable Martin, exchanged vows in a double ring ceremony, read on New Year's Day in the First Baptist Church.

Coach Herman F. Raphael's Post Grade School "A" and "B" teams won and lost last Thursday night in games at Southland. The "B" team, with Scotty Pierce and Jerry Windham each scoring 10 points, won by a score of 28-26. Other team players were Earl Mitchell, Forrest Claborn, Doyle Crump, Curtis Didway, Baker Bledsoe and Jerry Ray. The "A" team lost their game. Herbie Hays led the scorers with nine points. Others seeing action were Disney Hart, Jimmy Short, Billy Williams, Marshall Tiucer, Bledsoe, Windham, Mitchell and Didway.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor Policy: We require all letters to be signed. Letters may be edited for brevity, grammar and punctuation. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect those of The Post Dispatch nor its staff.

Not necessarily necessary...

Being a dog lover myself, I love to watch all kinds of dogs go through their daily actions and antics. Watching a dog having a bowel movement is not one of my favorite things to watch a dog do.

The City of Post has some pretty neat looking landscaping on Main Street, Broadway and around over the city. There is some very nice looking landscaping at some of the convenience stores, banks and eating establishments.

To me, a very disgusting sight is for people to unload their mutt and walk right out in the middle of the pretty landscapes and let their mutt do its thing.

People cannot stop here for five minutes without getting to observe at least one dog move his bowels. I wonder how much business is lost each year from other folks who choose not to patronize these businesses?

Surely I'm not the only person in Texas that doesn't care to watch a dog poop while I am thinking about going inside to get something to eat.

A few days ago I observed a lady unload her poodles down by the Garza Theater on the island in the middle of Main Street to do their Mother Nature thing. I immediately in my mind changed her name from "lady" to a more obscene name. I see no need to go into details on the name part, but you can read between the lines.

Looks to me like the businesses that are public assessable would have designated "doggie restrooms" with some sort of fence to hide the actions.

Now, seems like the city government is always looking for areas to run other people's business with new rules, ordinances and laws. Looks to me like here is a perfect place on the book of Post rules to put a new city ordinance.

Post should have a law against unloading animals in public areas for Mother Nature's call. A healthy fine should also be in place for the folks that choose to use the pretty grassy island for their dog's convenience.

If the city wants to beautify the town, this is a good place to start. In my opinion, I would rather view a junk car somewhere in the city than a fresh pile of dog poop.

Some hi-fa-lootin person leading their mutt up and down the pretty grassy islands in front of a business is a definite "turnoff" to me for the person and the business as well.

Come on, city council, get something going on this! Besides, look at the money that would come into the city coffers from fines that you would be free to blow.

My opinion and as I see it only, O.L. (Ferg) Ferguson

Why not cut LAH expenses?

In visiting with different folks of late, I have heard a great variety of claims that we will lose many vital programs if the tax rollback election passes. I just don't believe that cuts to any of these programs are necessary!

The claims are just being put out by our commissioners and Judge Dalby to scare voters into letting them have their tax increase. There are many places to cut the county budget that will not affect these vital programs!

For starters in budget cuts, I would suggest that we closely examine

what is being spent at Lake Alan Henry. I understood that the agreement we have with Lubbock was that they would reimburse us for our costs for law enforcement at their lake.

Unfortunately, we are spending much more than they are reimbursing us. Either we need to insist that Lubbock reimburse us at 100 percent of these costs or pull out of the agreement and let them take care of their lake.

For example, I can't even remember White River Lake having more than one or two security officers at the lake. The Crosby County sheriff's office provided any assistance on an as-needed basis. DPS and game warden personnel also assist at White River Lake as needed. There has never been a great amount of money spent on law enforcement there.

Maybe Lake Alan Henry is busier at times than White River Lake, but does it really need all the law enforcement that it now has? There are several game wardens and officers from the Brazos River Authority. DPS regularly patrols the area as well. Lubbock sends several officers down on heavy traffic weekends or holidays.

With all these folks in the lake area, why do we need to have several constable's office employees patrolling the area too? Our sheriff and deputies are fully capable of handling law enforcement there since there are so many officers already there working for the various branches of the state.

I would suggest that we bring the constables back to part time status as they were before the big push to create another sheriff's department at Lake Alan Henry. place. Let our sheriff's office handle the law enforcement.

We wouldn't need the constables and the extra employees assisting the constable for Precinct 1 and this would save approximately \$143,989. Also, the fuel expense for the constable's office serving the lake area could be mostly eliminated.

There would be an increase in fuel for the sheriff's office to handle the lake law environment, but not as much as is currently budgeted for the constables. Much of the driving back and forth, to and from the lake isn't necessary, and this could save approximately \$43,559 (on fuel for vehicles and boats, maintenance on vehicles and boats, plus leasing of vehicles).

Now add these savings to the reimbursement which is \$111,000 we should demand of Lubbock to cover all the expenditures at their lake. This would be another \$74,544 in savings to the county. If Lubbock isn't willing to reimburse us 100 percent, then we should tell them to take care of their lake themselves!

I just don't understand why our commissioners and Judge Dalby can't see fit to cut these expenses at Lake Alan Henry instead of the vital programs they are threatening to cut.

Hey, they might also volunteer to take a pay cut themselves to save the county some tax money! Let's pay part-time employees part-time salaries.

Charles J. Propst

★ Moral people cannot support taxation ★



Natha Jo Arnold (left to right), Bill Hedrick and Shawn Henderson

Shawn Henderson graduates at ULL
Shawn Henderson graduated at University of Louisiana in Lafayette (ULL) December 13. Attending graduation ceremonies were his mother, Natha Jo Arnold and his grandmother, Bill Hedrick. Following graduation, Henderson moved to Brenham, Texas where he is coaching at Blinn Junior College.

★ Taxation is immoral - it is theft ★

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Post Antelope varsity wins Bold Gold Tourney

The Antelopes added some Ws to their win column and some hardware to the trophy case by capturing the championship in the Bold Gold Basketball Tournament held at Antelope Arena Dec. 29-31.

The 'Lopes defeated Wellman, Petersburg and Snyder to capture the tourney championship, and some individual honors also were garnered along the way. Mitchell Mills was named tournament Most Valuable Player, while Coco Valdez and Jerrad Grisham were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Post earned a 46-36 win over Wellman to open tournament play Dec. 29. In that game, Grisham and Cole Easterling led scoring with six baskets apiece, followed by Sterling Smith with three, Mills with two and Valdez and Francisco Duran with one each. Easterling, Valdez and Grisham also added to the scoreboard at the charity stripe. Easterling finished the game with 15 points, while Grisham had 14.

In game two, Post won 47-45 over Petersburg on Dec. 30. Top scorer was Smith with five field goals and two successful three-point shots, followed by Valdez with two field goals and one three-pointer. Grisham had two baskets, while Mills and Duran each had one. Mills, Easterling, Smith, Valdez, Duran and Grisham each got on the scoreboard with free throws. Top scorer for Post was Smith with 17 points, followed by Valdez with nine.

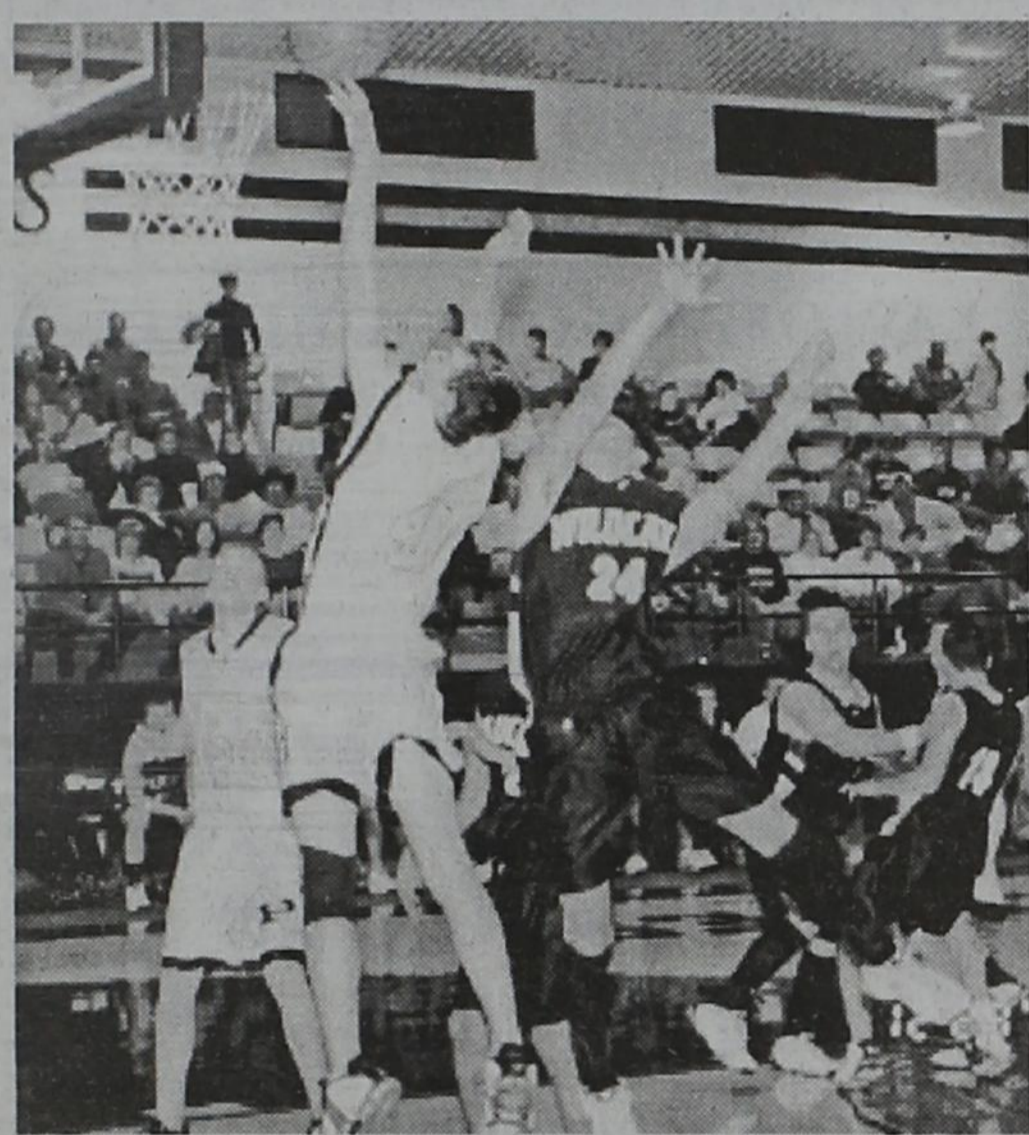
In the championship game, Post topped Snyder by a score of 43-39. Grisham led scoring, with 18 total points, six field goals and 6-of-9 at the free throw line. Mills and Valdez each had seven points in the game, with Mills landing two field goals and three out of four free throws. Valdez also had two field goals and made three of nine free throw attempts. Rounding out scoring for the 'Lopes were Smith with one three-pointer and 2-of-4 free throws and Easterling, Duran and Mitch Holly each with one field goal apiece.



Francisco Duran puts up another two points for the Post Antelopes during the Bold Gold Tournament here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Mitchell Mills (right) takes the ball to the basket for the Post Antelopes in action here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Jarrad Grisham (left) gets set to assist as Cole Easterling lays the ball into the basket for the Post Antelopes in their win here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Meagan Hoover moves the ball past a Wellman defender in the Post Lady Lope win here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Jenee Lott (left) brings the ball in for the Post Lady Lopes as Meagan Hoover and Donae Dalby help out. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

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Sarah Kirkpatrick fights for the basketball during last week's win over Wellman here. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

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Post High School 2004 Basketball Schedules

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|
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| Jan. 9 | New Deal | JVG, VG |
| Jan. 13 | @ Colorado City | JVB, VB |
| Jan. 13 | Shallowater | JVG, VG |
| Jan. 16 | @ Idalou | JVG, JVB, VG, VB |
| Jan. 20 | Tahoka | JVG, JVB, VG, VB |
| Jan. 23 | @ Roosevelt | JVG, JVB, VG, VB |
| Jan. 27 | @ New Deal | JVG, JVB, VG, VB |
| Jan. 30 | @ Shallowater | JVG, JVB, VG, VB |
| Feb. 3 | Idalou | JVG, JVB, VG, VB |
| Feb. 6 | @ Tahoka | JVG, JVB, VG, VB |
| Feb. 10 | Roosevelt | JVG, JVB, VG, VB |
| Feb. 13 | New Deal | JVB, VB |
| Feb. 17 | Shallowater | JVB, VB |

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- WHAT IF: Garza county deposited the millions of dollars that is paid to MTC every year into its own account!

Think about it! The contract to house BOP inmates is with Garza county, not MTC.

Think about it! The facility that houses those inmates belongs to Garza county, not MTC.

So, why pay a middle man to do it for us?

Don't you think its about time, we elected someone who will get the job done and work for us?

So elect
JON SMITH
For
Sheriff

Political Advertising Paid for by Friends to elect Jon Smith
Charles Feagley, Campaign Treasurer

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