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Post Notes

Bethel Assembly of God special program

The Bethel Assembly of God Church is offering a special live music presentation, "Announcing a New Season," at the Post Elementary School auditorium Friday and Saturday, January 30 and 31 at 7 p.m. The public is cordially invited.

8th grade parents meet today

Parents of Post Middle School eighth grade students are urged to attend a banquet planning meeting Thursday, January 29 at Wells Fargo Bank Community Room at 5 p.m.

Hunters' safety course Feb. 2-4

A hunters' education course will be held at MAD DADS on February 2, 3 and 4 from 7 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. For more information call Abraham at 495-3439 or Mason's Farm and Ranch at 495-2776.

Day care accepting enrollments

Myu Special Place is accepting enrollments for children aged birth to 12 years. For more information call 495-3446.

Church bake sale and fish fry

The Pleasant Home Baptist Church is holding a bake sale and fish fry Saturday, January 31 to help with the church's building fund. All donations are appreciated. The sale begins at 10 a.m. at the church, northeast of the Ralls Hwy at 508 N. Avenue G.

'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 to two in a photo), \$20 and \$40 (for larger groups of children). Call The Post Dispatch at 495-2816 for more details.

Little Dribbler meeting Thursday

A meeting of the Post Little Dribbler registration will be held at the Elementary School gym on Thursday, January 29 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and February 2 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The program is open to all first through sixth grade students.

Holy Cross offers garage sale Feb. 7

The Holy Cross Catholic Church is renting tables for a garage sale to be held Saturday, February 7 from 8 a.m. to noon. Plates of carne quisada, rice, beans and salad are available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parish Hall. Contact Paula at 495-3054 or Juanita at 495-3059 to rent table or for more information.

Post VFD Chili Supper Feb. 5

The annual Post Volunteer Fire Department Chili Supper will be held Saturday, February 7 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the fire station, 202 South Avenue H. Cost for the chili supper is by donation. The department uses the funds to purchase equipment and supplies as needed.

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.

The Post Dispatch

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GHD pushing for federal control of local healthcare

by Sheri Lewis

Efforts to link the Garza County Health Care District (also known as the Garza County Hospital District) with the FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Care) program continued during last week's board of directors meeting.

Board members accepted and adopted the FQHC feasibility report and named a nine-member advisory board that will oversee the program in the event the health care district is granted a program participant.

Individuals named to the board include Bunny Lynch, JoAnn Travis, Janie Davis, Pat Cruse, Lee Norman, Joe Smith, Ronnie Dunn, Giles Dalby Jr. and Arthur Kelly.

The board also passed a resolution stating its intentions to meet all qualifications of the FQHC or FQHC-LA (Look-Alike) program, as well as comply with the Board of Primary Health Care Public Information Notice prior to filing the FQHC or FQHC-LA application.

District officials began working on the FQHC project several months ago.

If the health care district qualifies for the next two steps of the grant process, federal grant monies earmarked for development and transitional operating funds would be made available. The FQHC

designation also would improve direct-cost reimbursements to the health care district, administrator Tanya Boucher said.

A draft of the district's feasibility report was submitted Dec. 31. A decision on the FQHC application should be determined in February.

The health care district already has earned some funds through the federally funded state initiative. Late last year the district received \$5,000 to help fund the next step in the application process.

According to previous reports, the district could realize as much as \$75,000 in the next round of funding. Funds would be used to help the district "maintain a basic health care network" and "improve what the clinic can provide."

If the district clears the hurdles to receive funding in this round of applications, additional grant funds will be available, Boucher said.

Additional information on the FQHC effort will be provided at the district's next board of directors meeting, set for Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Citizens Bank.

In other business, district officials:

- Shifted the district's employee health insurance from First Care to Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Without the changeover, the district faced a cost hike of about 29 percent, Boucher

said. The new policy will be less costly, but employees will be asked to take on a deductible. In addition to saving the district money, the new BC/BS policy also will allow district employees a broader choice of service providers, including physicians associated with Lubbock's University Medical Center. The district's clinic operator, PNS, is associated with UMC.

- Moved \$4,000 from an equipment replacement fund to help provide a "pad" for employee health insurance costs.

- Received the clinic report for December. A total of 656 visits were recorded for the month, 12 more than in the previous month. Total procedures numbered 1085, down 60 from November. Charges for December were just under \$47,000, compared to more than \$44,000 in November. Cash collection/payments received totaled more than \$26,000 for the month, a figure similar to that of the previous month. Accounts receivable for December were just under \$43,000 (more than \$44,000 in November); expenses were less than \$39,000 (under \$36,000 in November) and expenses exceeded revenues by \$13,000.

- Voted to update the district's indigent health care program policy.

No major changes were made, Boucher said. The policy was amended for clarification purposes.

- Received the district's indigent report for December. As in the previous month, 13 individuals were served. Expenses for the month totaled \$30,492, an amount Boucher described as "atypical." In the first four months of the fiscal year, the health care district has paid out \$49,377, or about 50 percent of its indigent care budget.

- Shifted \$7,000 previously earmarked for the purchase of carpet to cover the cost of replacement parts for the district's X-ray equipment.

Health Care District meeting set Feb. 11

A pair of representatives from the Texas Association of Community Health Centers will be on hand for the February 7 meeting of the Garza County Health Care District.

Speakers will provide information on the FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Care) program district, for which district officials are applying to participate. The public is invited to attend the session, which is set for 6:30 p.m. at Citizens Bank Community Room.

County stages info show on rollback election

by Sheri Lewis

A crowd of about 100 local residents - most of them county employees and their families - attended a county-sponsored meeting Jan. 20 to hear information on the upcoming tax rollback election.

County Judge Giles Dalby opened the session, explaining that it was time county officials "defended" themselves against recent editorials and letters to the editor printed in The Post Dispatch.

Dalby said that over the past 10 years, the county has been forced to absorb the cost of operating numerous programs mandated by the state. These unfunded mandates, as well as inflation, forced county officials to increase the tax rate to its present 50 cents per \$100 valuation.

That increase, he noted, is only slightly more than 15 cents per \$100 valuation higher than the tax rate utilized in Garza County a decade ago. Since that time, the county has seen three tax rate hikes, three cuts and four years in which the tax rate remained unchanged.

Dalby said he and the Commissioners Court took exception to the charges leveled in recent publications in The Dispatch.

"We think we've done a good job over the years," the judge said. "We don't like taxes any more than you all do, but unfortunately it's one of those things."

Dalby then directed his comments to Fred Howell, one of the proponents of the tax rollback.

Concerning Howell's earlier suggestion that the Lake Alan Henry constable's budget of \$162,666 was excessive, the judge said it was "not a bad deal" in light of the fact that the county receives approximately \$120,000 in LAH-related revenues and financial input from the City of Lubbock.

Regarding Howell's suggestion that the county consider cutting its employees' health insurance benefits by 25 percent while implementing a 5 percent salary cut to save tax dollars, Dalby said such a practice would be unfair to county employees.

"They're taxpayers just like everybody else," the judge said. "That gives them a double whammy, and we don't think that's fair.... That's something, sir, we're not gonna do."

County Commissioner Lee Norman provided a PowerPoint presentation on county audits from the past 12 years, an overview of revenues and the financials behind the city/county partnerships. During his presentation, Norman pointed out that health insurance costs for the county have skyrocketed, climbing from \$120,000 in 1992 to more than \$360,000 in 2003.

"This is the killer for us," he said.

In the event the tax rollback proposition passes on Feb. 7, the county will be required to make \$308,000 in repayments to Garza County taxpayers, Dalby said. That action will trigger in-house cuts, including the probable layoff of several county employees and changes in the financing of programs supported jointly by the city and the county.

"Nearly every program we have with the city will be abandoned by us because we won't have the money to do it," he said.

Additionally, the reduction in the tax rate will tap the county's financial reserves.

"That will leave us no reserve, no nothing," Dalby said. If anything major were to happen, we've got a real deep problem."

The judge then challenged Howell, who was seated on the front row of the audience, to find \$1 million in the county budget.

"I want you to find it and tell us where it is," Dalby said.

Following extensive research into the 2003 budgets of counties similar to Garza County, including Mills, Hartley and Knox counties, Howell said each of the other counties has larger populations than Garza County - with "significantly smaller" budgets. He suggested Garza County officials talk with county representatives from each of the three counties to "see what they're doing."

"I guess you can always build a better mousetrap if you've got the time and all, and I don't say you couldn't learn something from these other counties, but this doesn't help us at the present time," Dalby said. He added that if the tax rollback proposition doesn't pass, he would be glad to look into working with the counties mentioned.

"When you look at theirs (the other counties') versus ours, there's something wrong," Howell said. "We need to take a long, hard look at it and say, 'Hey, what are we doing different from them?'"

Norman then provided an overview of LAH development values, which are projected to be about \$13 million.

County officials then opened the session to questions from the floor as a list of proposed budget cuts was projected for the audience's review.

One audience member asked about the number of county jobs that might be cut if the rollback proposition passes, and Dalby responded by saying that the exact number has not yet been determined by the Commissioners Court. As many as eight employees' jobs could be affected, he said. The "ripple effect" of these layoffs also was discussed.

Justice of the Peace Dee Justice, a longtime county employee, talked about insufficient county salaries, waning benefits and the number of programs supported by the county.

Linda Puckett, an employee of the Garza County Historical Museum and someone whose job has been identified as a probable cut in the event the rollback proposition passes, stood to deliver a message directly to Howell. "I'm really sorry you're on the wrong side of this, 'cause you'd be an asset to this town," she said. "You're hacking away at what we've been working for."

Puckett, waving what appeared to be a copy of the rollback petition, said she resents the names on the document and indicated that she believes many of the petitioners were "deceived."

She then turned her attention to Post Dispatch publisher Wes Burnett. She said Burnett "edited out the heart" of her letter to the editor concerning the tax rollback proposition (see editor's note at end of this story).

"I don't think the people of Garza County are dumb enough to vote this mess in," an emotional Puckett said. "I have a lot of faith in these people.... I'm gonna go out and I'm gonna twist every arm in here.... Do not vote for this tax rollback."

Mike Travis, a member of the Garza County Health Care District board, told members of the audience the county is experiencing growing pains.

"We need to step up to the plate and suck it up and put up with this growing curve," he said.

Travis, too, scolded the community newspaper for its handling of letters to the editor. Printing some letters in full and editing others does not provide "a complete picture," he said, adding that The Dispatch is "one of the biggest cancers that's ever come to this county."

Following comments from several others opposed to the rollback, Howell said, "I'm here to try to help Garza County, and I don't think the answer is to tax and spend.... I don't know what the answer is, but I know there's something different out there somewhere and someone should go look at it because a 30 percent tax increase is not the answer."

Howell said that according to information provided by Dalby's office, the average of the budgets of the three previously named counties was \$1.8 million, or 48.7 percent of Garza County's budget.

Justice responded, saying a budget-to-budget comparison "doesn't mean a damn thing."

Howell and his wife rose to leave the session, with Howell stopping briefly to talk with the judge at the podium.

Editor's Note: All letters to the editor are subject to editing for issues related to libel. Portions of the letter to which is referred contained character assassination and potentially libelous statements which were edited in accordance with The Post Dispatch policy.



Award winners at last Saturday's Garza Theatre Willy Awards proudly displaying their "Willys" are (back row, left to right) Zoe Kirkpatrick, Stan Tucker, Chris Davis, Michael Vorauer, Laura Bryan, Bill Woodard, (front row) Allye Foster, Elizabeth Elston,

Tanner Britton, Michael Porter, Taylor Garland and Juanetta Bocko. Not available for the presentation were Asa Rutherford and Jessica Culwell. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)



Wendy Nelson (right) takes time out of her busy schedule to donate blood at a recent campaign here. The blood drive was administered by United Blood Services at Golden Plains Care Center. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

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Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush



Hey everyone, Now that was cold Monday!! I don't remember weather that cold in a long time, of course 100 mile an hour winds

did not help! One thing about West Texas, the weather is never boring. In one day we had sand, snow, sleet, wind and sunshine. Mother Nature must have been worn out.

GET WELL PRESTON

I wanted to send get well wishes to Preston Poole. Preston has been under the weather with problems and then had a few more added this week. I hear good reports though and that makes me happy for him. To a really great person, many, many good wishes for a quick recovery.

ALSO GET WELL TO...

Dorace Wilson who had hip replacement surgery this week. I have been told she is coming along great but I want her to know she is in my prayers. Hope she is out and about real soon.

MY SYMPATHIES

I heard really sad news this morning. Willie Dye passed away this morning in Lubbock. Willie was such a special person. She and Mom were "across the street" neighbors for a few years and Mom enjoyed her so much. She had quite a "unique" outlook on life and kept Mom laughing. To James and

Linda, you are in my prayers.

TEN COMMANDMENTS MONUMENT

(from e-mail reader) Despite how you may have personally felt about the issue, there was a good logical reason for removing the Ten Commandments monument from the Alabama Supreme Court building. You cannot post things like "Thou Shalt Not Steal," "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery," and "Thou Shall Not Lie" in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians. It creates a hostile environment.

POINTS TO PONDER

(FROM GENE POSEY) Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever. My spouse says I never listen to him. At least I think that's what he said. Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference. When I was young we used to say "skinny dipping", now I just "chunky dunk". I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose clothing. If I had any lose clothing I would not have signed up. Why is it our children cannot read a Bible in school, but they can in prison? And my favorite... Just remember, if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off!

TILL NEXT WEEK

Guess that is all for this week. May God bless each of you and keep smiling. See you next week.

Janie Norman, Philip Stach exchange wedding vows Jan. 3

Janie Lee Norman and Philip Vincent Stach exchanged wedding vows at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, in a ceremony held in the First Baptist Church in Post. Dr. Steve McMeans officiated the double-ring ceremony.

Parents of the bride are Lee and Marsha Norman of Post. Grandparents are Mrs. Jean Tipton and the late Marshall Tipton and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Norman of Post.

Parents of the groom are Steve and Barbara Stach of Leander. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Simon of Pampa and Mrs. Joan Stach of Midwest City, Okla., and the late Billy Stach.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore her paternal grandmother's vintage 1949 wedding gown. The stunning ivory duchesse satin gown was restyled to feature a strapless bodice with a Basqued waist.

A lightly gathered full skirt cascaded to the floor from the waistline and swept into a cathedral-length train. Delicate satin-covered buttons lined the back of the bodice. She carried a bouquet of white roses, hydrangeas and calla lilies tied with French ribbon.

In keeping with tradition, the bride wore something old - her grandmother's wedding gown - and something new, satin sling-back shoes in ivory.

For something borrowed, the bride wore a cathedral-length tulle veil that belonged to her friend, Sarah Waggoner of Austin. For something blue, she wore a garter designed and hand stitched by her great aunt, Mrs. Earlene Saage of Dallas.

Laura May, the bride's sister, served as matron of honor. Bridal attendants were Alissa Mitchell and Sarah Henline, both of Dallas, and Carrie Schmetekopf of Denver, Colo.

The bride's attendants wore floor-length A-line skirts of snapdragon Dupioni silk. The tops of the same fabric featured a strapless bodice with lace-up back. Each attendant carried a bouquet of red and white hydrangeas, roses and Gerber daisies.

Jonathan Stach and Benjamin Stach of Austin, the groom's brothers, served as best men. Groomsmen were Adrian Frady and Jason Foxworth, both of Austin.

Ushers were David Norman of Lubbock and Stephen Norman of Post, brothers of the bride, and Matthew May of Austin, the bride's brother-in-law.

Guests were greeted by Brenda Abell of Lubbock and Laurie Peña of Austin. The entry to the church featured a fresh cut arrangement in a tall square vase consisting of French tulips, lilies, roses and reed grass, all in shades of white.

The aisle was lined with draping wide double-faced French ribbon and bows. Guests entered from the side aisles. The church was decorated with four wrought iron candelabras, two

on top of round tables draped with ivory floor-length cloths.

The candelabras were fitted with Smilax trailing down and on top of the tables, as well as lilies, French tulips and fragrant open roses, all in shades of white. Votive candles were scattered on the tables among the greenery. The two remaining candelabra were filled with mixed greenery, lush and trailing to the floor.

Nancy Gordon and Mary Ann Wright, aunts of the bride, provided instrumental accompaniment as a prelude to the wedding ceremony. Colleen-Kaye Lantor of Allen rang the chiming of the hour to signify the beginning of the ceremony. Music was provided by Mary Margaret Norman and Nancy Gordon, who played an instrumental duet, "How Great Thou Art." Juanetta Bock of Post sang "Ave Maria" and "The Lord's Prayer."

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Post Community Center. The round guest tables were covered in white linens. Silver trumpet vases held arrangements of shades of red, including roses, Gerber daisies, tiger lilies, coffee bean foliage and seeded eucalyptus. Tabletops also were covered in fresh red rose petals and assorted sizes of ivory column candles.

Three round cake tables set together to form a clover pattern were covered in white floor-length linens and overlays of Battenberg lace. A white, three-tiered wedding cake made by Jimella Simpson and featuring a topper made of red roses surrounded by red rose petals was served.

Flanking the bride's cake were the groom's cakes, one of German chocolate and one of Italian crème, with red rose petals scattered on and around each. White columns in the center of the table featured a large garden urn top filled with Smilax, reed grass, curly willow and assorted red flowers, including lilies, roses, tulips, Gerber daisies and coffee bean foliage.

Food tables featured the same floral arrangements and were covered in a large iron arbor designed and created by David Norman, brother of the bride. The tables also featured fresh arrangements of red tulips, roses and lilies in large glass vases filled with red apples floating in water.

Punch was served from an antique punch bowl that belonged to the bride's maternal great-grandmother and used in the wedding receptions of her maternal grandparents and parents. Apple cider and coffee also were served.

Both the ceremony and reception featured design and floral arrangements by Benny Jackson. Musical accompaniment at the reception was provided by harpist Gail Barber of Lubbock.

The bride, a graduate of Baylor University, is pursuing a master's degree at the University of Texas. She is a technology teacher at Kealing Junior High School in the Austin Independent School District.

The groom is a graduate of Texas



Mrs. Philip Stach

State University and recently completed an internship with Pharos Corp., a right-of-way consulting firm.

Following a wedding trip to Santa Fe, N.M., the couple will make their home in Austin.

A rehearsal dinner honoring the couple was held Jan. 2 at Cagle Steaks in Lubbock. The event was hosted by the groom's parents, Steve and Barbara Stach. Guests included the bride's parents and grandparents and the groom's grandparents.

On Jan. 1, a lingerie shower was held at 7 p.m. in the home of Cindy Mitchell in Lubbock. The event was hosted by Alissa Mitchell, Carrie Schmetekopf and Laura May. Guests were served shrimp cocktail, crackers

and dip, cheesecake petit fours and black-eyed pea relish in celebration of the new year.

A bridal brunch was held at 10 a.m. Jan. 3 at the Hotel Garza. The event was hosted by the bride's aunts, Nancy Gordon of Post, Jodine McFadden of San Angelo, Kim Norman of Midland and Mary Ann Wright of Snyder and her grandmother, Mary Margaret Norman of Post. Guests included the groom's mother and grandmother and the bride's mother, sister and grandmother. Following a brunch of egg and potato pilaf, bacon, blueberry muffins and fruit streusel, the bride was presented with a honeymoon basket by the hostesses.

Local students earn honors at Texas Tech

Nine Post residents were among the 5,000 Texas Tech University students who made either the President's List or the Dean's List for the fall 2003 semester, according to information provided by the university.

Honorees included Clay Lindsey Ashley, a senior agriculture and applied economics major, Dean's List; Mary Margaret Darden, a senior English major, Dean's List; and Meagan Michelle Mills, a sophomore arts and sciences undeclared major, President's List.

Also, Adam Gray Nobles, a freshman COBA major, Dean's List; Brett Welden Wiggins, a junior exercise and sports sciences major, Dean's List; Shanna Sue Wiggins, a

freshman arts and sciences undeclared major, Dean's List; and Luke Aaron Williams, a senior English major, Dean's List.

To be on the President's List, a student must have taken 12 quality hours during the semester and maintained a 4.0 grade point average. Students named to the Dean's List must have taken 12 quality hours during the semester and maintained a 3.5 to a 3.9 grade point average.

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2004 Garza Theatre Willy Awards recognize talent, volunteers

Chris Davis received the Will McCrary Award at the annual Willy Awards event conducted Saturday at the Garza Theatre.

Best Actor was Stan Tucker, stage manager in the show "Our Town." The award for Best Actress went to Jessica Culwell as Emily Webb in the same production.

Recognized as Best Supporting Actor was Bill Woodward for his performance as Renfield in "Dracula." Laura Bryan's portrayal of Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez in "Charley's Aunt" earned her the Best Supporting Actress nod.

Named Best Cameo Actor was Michael Vorauer, who played Brassett in "Charley's Aunt." Zoe Kirkpatrick picked up the Best Cameo Actress award for her Charlie Halloran character in "Miracle on 34th Street."

In the youth (15 and under)

category, Best Actor went to Tanner Britton, who played Peter in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Taylor Garland received Best Actress for her performance as Susan Walker in "Miracle on 34th Street."

Best Supporting Actor in the youth category was Michael Porter, the elf in "Miracle on 34th Street." Best Supporting Actress was Allye Foster, the dwarf in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

Rounding out awards in the youth category was the presentation for Best Cameo Actor. That award went to Asa Rutherford for his portrayal of the leopard in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Elizabeth Elson took home the Best Cameo Actress award for her work as Rebecca Gibbs in "Our Town."

Other awards presented during the evening included:

- Best Show - "Charley's Aunt," directed by Jay Young
- Best Program Cover - Jim and Juanetta Bock, "Our Town"
- Best Set Design - Jay Young, "Charley's Aunt"
- Best Costume - Juanetta Bock, "Our Town"
- Serendipity Employee of the Year - Alex Chapa
- Outstanding Production Crew Member - Joshua Blevins

The awards event, hosted by Mitchell Britton, Christy Morris and Jay Young, featured piano accompaniment by Scott Millsap. Entertainment during the evening included Emily Hataway singing "Cabaret," Wayne Dubose, Lori Holt and Chris Davis.

Prior to the awards ceremony, a Mardi Gras-themed gala was conducted at the Post Community Center. A silent auction was conducted as part of the event.

Gala decorations were coordinated by Juanetta Bock, assisted by Alex Chapa, Alejandra Ceja and Stephanie Gearhart. The event was catered by Bock, Jay Young and Naomi Matsler, assisted by Pixie Grisham, Chapa, Ceja, Kayla Dunn, Gearhart and Christina Zellmer.

The awards portion of the evening closed with a sing-along to "Auld Lang Syne."



Garza Theatre's Naomi Matsler assists with Willy Award presentations last Saturday night at the theatre. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

McDaniel files for Precinct 1 commissioner

Gary McDaniel has filed as a Precinct 1 county commissioner candidate in the Republican Party primary.

"I married Joy Basinger Nov. 17, 1990, and have two children who attend Southland School," he said. "I am currently a school board member, and for the past 25 years I have been involved in agriculture."

"I believe that county government should be administered responsibly with conservative principles guiding each and every decision. I also believe that with this principle guiding me I can assist Garza County with a positive approach. I firmly believe that the citizens and commissioners working together can be done without a large tax increase that affects every citizen in this county."

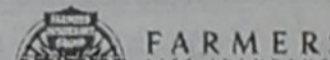
"Taxes and budget affect all. Responsibility and conservative principles are the best approach," McDaniel said.

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I swore that I would never write another letter to the Editor, but I'm going to try one more time to express my personal views by placing this ad.

I'm very proud to be a citizen of Post, a thriving, but small rural community. I'd call it the hub of a wheel, which is Garza County. People, this town didn't just happen because a family was traveling through in a covered wagon and found a watering hole at South Lake.

This was a planned community created by an American icon, C.W. Post. I don't have to remind you that he came to the area and invested a great amount of his own money to create this little utopia out of raw pastureland. He accomplished a lot in seven short years experimenting with crops, irrigation, drilling for oil and water, and all the while fighting the elements. His greatest investment was in the people that he set in place to make this happen.

Folks, we're still doing that. We have a lot to be proud of, but we cannot run our town and county without taxes. Just like our churches, they can't stay afloat without donations. Every time I review that list of possible cuts, I don't see a deficit; I see a report card of achievements. Many of these programs were started with grant dollars, seed money.

And where did that come from? Taxes! Nothing in life is free. If you find a dime on the sidewalk it's free for you to pick up, but it cost the person that dropped it. Now I'm not suggesting that we run around town hunting down that person that dropped a dime so it can be returned, but I am asking you to have a positive progressive attitude and to remember that Garza County extends way beyond the city limits of Post.

Maybe that little catfight that we experienced at the town meeting will eventually bring us to a common ground. Kudos to the gentleman who said we were experiencing growing pains. He's so right. You know we are not an idle retirement village. All the people that I know who are retired go out and get busy trying to improve the quality of life in our community.

I attended a workshop in Austin years ago on recruiting board members. They told us that if your banker is on your board, don't elect him as the treasurer, he would probably rather be building sets for the theatre or in some other capacity. So my suggestion to the retired accountant that I am accused of "bashing him and his wife", might better serve "his and her" community by putting down his pencil and picking up a hammer and nails and help us build.

The one behind this negative campaign may be a burr under our saddle blanket, but not the Big Bad Wolfe and I'm not Little Red Riding Hood. I'm not running to grandma's house; I'll be standing in his path. We're right at the edge of some really wonderful things that are going to happen in this county, so we just have to hang on.

It's gonna be a great ride. I'm asking you to vote against the tax rollback.

Linda Puckett,

paid for by Linda Puckett



Emily Hataway opened up the Willy Award ceremonies with the traditional "Cabaret" welcome. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

Four Garza Countians earn TTU degrees

Four area residents were among degree recipients at Texas Tech University's fall commencement ceremonies held Dec. 20 in the United Spirit Arena in Lubbock.

Receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural and applied economics was Clay Lindsey Ashley. Luke Aaron Williams earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Both are residents of Post.

Michael Scot Pate of Justiceburg was awarded a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering, while another Justiceburg resident, Rosandra Mendez Villalobos, received a Master of Education in bilingual education.

GSWCD hosts EQIP group meeting Monday

The Garza Soil & Water Conservation District would like to invite all interested people to attend the EQIP Program Development Group Meeting at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 2, 2004 at the Post Community Center.

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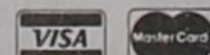
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Letters to the Editor

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Back to the old days?

Well, hello, folks. Since I have lived in Garza County longer than most (like all my long, long life), I thought it would be OK to refer back to the old days and let you youngsters in on what it was like back then. Not that you care. I recall that neither the county or the city had a library, museum, hospital, street lights, sewer system or paved streets. Also, I can remember when there was only one law enforcer in the entire county, that being the sheriff. There was also a night watchman with his flashlight and a dog that liked to trail along. What Post and Garza County did have was lawlessness and a reputation that if anyone in Texas wanted to kill someone they should do it in Garza County because they would sure get off. They might send old Paregaric up for stealing chickens, but murder was all right. Anyway, folks, that is the way it was back then, and maybe we can bring those old days back if we try hard enough. Geraldine Butler

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Rollback information meeting, Hmmm!

Being a li'l bit uneducated and ignorant, especially in political-type matters, I decided to ease myself on down to the meeting the other night simply to hear and see both sides of the situation.

In the first half of the meeting, I thought that it went fairly well. I was hoping for a debate between both sides that would prove some points from both sides. My one li'l ol' vote don't count for much, but I decided I wanted to hear both sides before making a final decision on where to put my X.

I don't suppose it takes a genius to know it takes money to operate a government and that it takes a lot of money to operate a big government. Looks to me like our county wants to be like "big brother" up in Washington. If we want something, just raise the taxes and order it!

I thought the meeting was very informative until it came time for questions and comment time from the public.

For a long time I thought I was the only uneducated and ignorant person in the community. Now I know that there are several of us!

I don't remember the exact words, but the part about people that signed the petition, that was expressed harshly from the lady at the museum. Sure helped me decide which way to vote. Just because I signed the petition does not mean that I was necessarily for the rollback. It simply meant that I think it should be brought before the taxpayers for a vote and let the voters decide which ever way it needs to go.

Personally I will support the commissioners whether it passes or not. But if it rolled back, the museum should be the first cut or closed. This afternoon will be soon enough.

Taking a look at The Post Dispatch being called "malignant," I ain't never heard of a newspaper having cancer. I guess some folks just don't like having their toes stepped on or read the truth.

In my opinion, I think the next petition that needs to be circulated is one calling for a vote to eliminate the Garza County Hospital District. I will sign that one too. Even carry one with me for other people to sign. I hope someone will get that on the drawing board soon!

By this time at the meeting, I wasn't paying any attention to what was being said or who said it, but I heard someone tell Mr. (Fred) Howell if he didn't like the way things were going he should run for a position in the Commissioners Court! Gosh, what a wonderful ideal I sure hope Mr. Howell will consider that question and suggestion. Just sounds like the proper thing to do.

Now, to the Commissioners Court, I thought you explained yourself very well... professional-like. But I am convinced that too much tax money is being spent in the wrong places. I'd like to see a slow-down in spending until America, state, county and city economies get better. Then bring a few things back slowly.

As far as the rollback meeting goes, first half - good. Second half - I guess maybe ya dress may have flew up in your face.

Everyone, go vote, yes or no. That's one of the few freedoms we have left. Take advantage of it.

Someone in the ol' Constitution it mentions something about freedom of speech and expression. So I don't see why everyone has got to get their bowels in an uproar.

As I see it & my opinion only,
O.L. (Ferg) Ferguson

Where's all the money going?

After attending the informational meeting on 1-20-04, I came away with more questions than answers. If anyone got the answers, please call me and enlighten me.

My questions are:

- What was the budget for 2003 by department, and what were the actual expenses?
- What are the unfunded mandates, and how did they affect the list of proposed cutbacks?
- Why can't all law enforcement in Garza County come from the sheriff's office?

• Why can't the Commissioners Court consider other ways to stop the spiraling cost of employee insurance?

• Why does the judge's office have two full-time secretaries when it had one for years?

• Why does the judge find it necessary to bash The Dispatch and Mr. (Fred) Howell in defense of court actions?

• Can the court use the same medium I do to get their questions out to the entire county?

• Does the income level with the rollback stay the same or exceed '03 levels? I have more than these, but answers to these would be a start.
Carol Peppers

County needs Roberts Rules

After viewing the tape of the "informational meeting" held by our County Commissioners and Judge Dalby on the 20th, I feel I need to ask them to get out and dust off their copy of Roberts Rules of Order (if they have one).

This meeting was by no means conducted in a proper way according to the accepted methods used by governmental bodies nationwide!

Unfortunately, instead of an "informational meeting," what we got was a bashing session with a spattering of information thrown in to make it look acceptable. It didn't work. How unprofessional and disgraceful!

What kind of legacy do you intend to leave for those who might look to you for an example?

Charles J. Propst

Not happy here? Move over there

I have lived in this community for many years, and I have been to many towns and cities that are similar in size to Post. I can truly tell you that we have it a lot better than most of these places, and I do not believe we just happened upon our good fortune. Our small town thrives because of the hard work and sacrifice of its citizens.

Almost every week I read a letter in the local "newspaper" questioning the job some of these citizens are doing and praising other communities for their low budgets. While I will admit that I haven't been to all of these other counties, I would be willing to bet their towns are not as nice as Post.

If you people who are so unhappy with our fine community think these other counties are doing such a great job, why don't you move there? Post has survived all these years without you, and I'm sure we will survive for many more.

Iris Truelock

Respecting others

We live in America, and one of the rights that we reap from that fact is freedom of speech, thought and political discussion. In this country, we are at a time and place where this freedom is utilized to its fullest extent. Some people in the community believe in a larger, more involved government. Others believe in a very limited government with more personal responsibility.

The problem lies in how we choose to discuss and debate this issue. All of us (and I am including myself in this) need to remember that we are debating the idea of what government should be. We are not debating whether each individual has any character because of the beliefs they hold.

Politics can be a very passionate issue. Special care must be used in keeping views and individuals separate.

For instance, no one in this debate wishes to see anyone get laid off or hurt. Now that may be a consequence of the vote, but it is not the reason for the vote.

We may differ on the issues, but we can all agree on one thing. All of us want what is best for the county and its citizens. We just have to make the decision about the road to take to get there.

Believe it or not, we are all going to live together after this issue is settled. Therefore, let us treat each other with the respect we all deserve.

Diann Windham

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Post Devotional Page

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

The Wise Men and Jesus Christ's Star

When God in heaven heralded the birth of His son Jesus Christ, He made sure there would be no confusion about it. Six different times He confirmed that Mary's child was His son. They are listed as follows: 1. Joseph's encounter with the angel; 2. Elizabeth's prophesy right after Mary's salutation; 3. The angel's instructions to the Shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth; 4. The prophesy of Simeon during Jesus' circumcision; 5. Anna's prophesy, and at last; 6. The Magi's arrival to the home of Joseph and Mary. The above six events included direct encounters with Mary and Joseph that plainly revealed the child to be God's son.

In The Companion Bible, E.W. Bullinger noted the spiritual significance of numbers used in the Bible. He explained that the number six denoted the "human number." He noted that man was formed, made, and created on the sixth day. Bullinger also explained the numbers two and three. The number two denoted "difference." In context it symbolized the principle that if two different people agree in testimony, then it is conclusive. The number three denoted completeness as three lines complete a geometric plane. Based on this information it can be concluded that God completely established for Mary that she was carrying His son.

Finally, when we add Mary's initial encounter with the angel Gabriel, the count comes to seven. Bullinger explained that the number seven denoted spiritual perfection. He noted it was "the number or hall-mark of the Holy Spirit's work."

We continue with the records of Jesus Christ's birth in Matthew 2:1-11, "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he that is born King of the Jews?' For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship him." During the time of Jesus' birth, an unnumbered group of men identified a star that signified the birth of the King of the Jews. Who were these men? What star did they see? What was so special about this star? In short, the "wise men" were an elite cast of people who committed their lives to tracking stars. Biblical scholars have suggested they were descendants of the magicians who were instructed by Daniel (see Daniel 2:2, 47-48). If Daniel instructed them, then they were surely instructed according to the truth of God's word. They would have also been instructed on God's word written in the stars.

Genesis 1:14 reads, "And God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.'" God put the stars in the heavens for signs of things to come, for season of appointed times, and for days and years. Psalms chapter 19 beautifully opens up the subject of God's word in the stars.

The "wise men" of Matthew 2:1 no doubt had a solid grasp of the signs and seasons laid out in the heavens. Their knowledge would have been passed down from generation to generation as they continued to track the heavens for the signs of things to come, and the seasons of appointed times. During the time of Jesus' birth, they began to notice very significant signs in the heavens. The astronomical events would have been so significant that they went to Jerusalem to inquire about the birth of the "King of the Jews." They were even prepared to pay homage to the King. There was no doubt in their minds that a "King of the Jews" was born. It was only a matter of finding him. The next series of articles on the "wise men" and Jesus' star will utilize the excellent research and books by authors Ernest L. Martin, Victor Paul Wierwille, and E.W. Bullinger, all of whom reverently synthesized astronomy with God's word written in the stars.

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Let's hear it for persistence

by Bill O'Reilly



No matter what happens to John Kerry in the presidential campaign you have to give the guy enormous credit. His tenacious work ethic in Iowa symbolized what makes an American successful: never giving up and working your butt off.

Two weeks ago, Senator Kerry's campaign was dead and ready to be buried; people were throwing dirt on it. Donations were drying up, and Kerry had to refinance his own home to pay his campaign bills. Granted that home is a palatial affair on Boston's Beacon Hill, and his wife is one of the wealthiest women in the world, but still, Kerry had hit rock bottom, politically speaking.

However, like Rocky Balboa, John Kerry kept coming back again and again. He continued punching, and finally, his chief opponent, Howard Dean, went down under the weight of media scrutiny and a prickly temperament. Kerry was left standing tall.

All Americans should learn from this. Nobody, and I mean nobody, thought John Kerry would win Iowa. But he did by sheer determination.

So, what now? Well, here is where the music behind Kerry's victory dance stops. Outside of New England, the senator has some major problems. He is typed as a Massachusetts liberal, and his appearance with Ted Kennedy in Iowa will do nothing to dispel that. While John Edwards is a stranger to the folks in New Hampshire, Kerry is simply strange to many folks south of the Mason-Dixon line and throughout much of the Midwest. Big spending secularists like Kennedy are not real popular with the folks in flyover country. Kerry must define himself to these people without Teddy giving him a big hug. It won't be easy.

President Bush and his man in the shadows, Karl Rove, were not real happy with the Iowa results. They badly want Howard Dean as an opponent, feeling he could set himself on fire (symbolically speaking) at any moment. If he wins the nomination, John Kerry will be a far cagier opponent.

In his State of the Union Address, the president fired the first volley at Kerry. Mr. Bush will stand behind traditional marriage between a man and a woman, while Kerry represents a state that is trying to redefine the institution to include homosexuals. Kerry will fall back on supporting "civil unions" and not gay marriage, but suspicion will remain, especially if droves of gays start honeymooning on Cape Cod next summer.

Senator Kerry must be very careful about how he goes after Mr. Bush. His "regime change" rant hurt him because the president is perceived in many quarters as protecting Americans against the Al Qaeda Huns. Kerry could diminish the president's military service, but that would be a major mistake, and Kerry, I believe, will not do it. Most Americans do not want that kind of slash and burn campaigning, and the senator is smart enough to know it.

So Kerry must debate policy with an incumbent who has an improving economy and the bully pulpit in his pocket. Very, very tough.

Still, if Kerry is the nominee, the guy will be everywhere. He'll make Richard Simmons look comatose. John Kerry will race around the country and come to your house if he knows the address. He will pound on your door, pry open your window and cook breakfast for you if that what it takes.

This guy wants to be the president of the United States — hide the children.

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 Website www.billoreilly.com. COPYRIGHT 2004 BillO'Reilly.com.

You decide: is it moral to steal from others?

Theft - the taking of property against the will of the owner ...

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Opinions



Black education...

by Walter E. Williams



What needs to be done to improve black education? Whether it's civil rights organizations, politicians or the education establishment, you'll get answers that cover the gamut from more money for teachers and smaller class sizes to school desegregation and racial preferences in higher education. Despite these claims, there's no evidence whatsoever that these are absolutely necessary requirements for black academic excellence. Let's look at

Side students, scored equally or higher. In 1947 and 1951, Harlem third-graders in paragraph and word meaning and arithmetic reasoning and computation scored about the same — in some cases slightly higher and in others slightly lower — than their Lower East Side counterparts.

Today, there are a few predominantly black public schools with fine achievement records, such as New York's Frederick Douglass Academy and private schools such as Marva Collins Preparatory School in Cincinnati, Marcus Garvey School in Los Angeles and Ivy Leaf School in Philadelphia.

If you simply walked around a failing school and then walked around one of these achieving schools, what would be some of the most notable characteristics? First, you wouldn't see students entering through metal detectors. You wouldn't see loitering in the hallways. You wouldn't hear foul language being spoken among the students and to the teachers and staff.

Upon further investigation, you'd learn that parents are supportive of the teachers and involved in their children's schooling — making sure they do homework, get to school on time and behave once there. The teachers are competent and demanding. None of these ingredients are budget-busters, but if they're not present, no matter how high the budget, education won't occur.

The cruelest hoax of it all is the fraud perpetrated on black students and their parents. This was forcefully brought home to me over the holidays in a conversation with an in-law who boasted about how his son, a senior, was on his school's honor roll at one of Philadelphia's inner-city high schools.

While it was not thrilling, honesty compelled me to inform him that the average black high school graduate has an academic achievement level on par with that of an average white seventh-grader. His son's A's and B's would probably translate into C's, D's and F's at most other high schools.

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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"Shoot the messenger..."

by Sheri Lewis

In keeping with the adage, "Shoot the messenger," the Post Dispatch was fired upon last week.

The scene: the Jan. 20 meeting on the county tax rollback election. A gathering designed to inform voters about the rollback effort and its consequences deteriorated into a vitriolic attack punctuated by name-calling and ugly accusations.

Actually, journalists are accustomed to such treatment. Just ask Dispatch publisher Wes Burnett, who is about as thick-skinned as journalists come. But what was really surprising in viewing the 1 1/2-hour tape of the meeting was some people's obvious disregard for the First Amendment and its constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech.

That bastion of our nation, for anyone who might need a quick refresher, reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Isn't it great? Our nation's forefathers so valued the concept of the open idea exchange that they embraced such actions in the opening words of the Constitution of the United States. Not only are you and I granted the freedom to speak our minds, but the press, too, is afforded the same privilege.

Of course, freedom carries a price. While reporting for a mid-sized daily a decade ago, I interviewed some Ku Klux Klansmen who were planning a rally in our Central Texas community. But giving the whitehoods a voice in print generated mountains of criticism.

Despite some dissension from our readers, we published stories that included the KKK perspective. The Klan's words were distasteful and hateful - I disagreed with them 110 percent - but its members were allowed to share their beliefs in our newspaper. Why? Because like the author and philosopher Voltaire, I may disagree with the message, but I will go to great lengths to defend the messenger's right to speak.

You may have read of recent protests in Lubbock by a church group carrying signs that read, "God Hates America," "God Blew Up the Shuttle" and "Thank God for Sept. 11." Many Lubbock residents were horrified that individuals spewing such hatred would be permitted to demonstrate publicly. But the protests took place without interference under the protection of the First Amendment.

No matter the message, Americans have the right to speak their minds. As do members of the Nation of Islam, Focus on the Family and the National Rifle Association. Liberals and conservatives. Baptists, atheists, Catholics, Buddhists and members of cults hoping to ride to eternity on the tail of a comet. Those who listen to Rush Limbaugh, and those who don't. Your Neo-Nazi next-door neighbor and that waitress at your favorite restaurant who's convinced Michael Jackson is being railroaded. Your friends. Your enemies. You. And I.

Of course, there are limits. Those who set out to defame or injure another's reputation, for example, can be nailed for libel (the written word) or slander (the spoken word). Thus the reason that newspapers, including The Post Dispatch, often are forced to edit letters to the editor, even if the subject of the statement is not specifically named. In the event something libelous is published, not only can the author of the libelous matter be subject to legal action, but so, too, can the publication.

Even with its limitations, the First Amendment affords Americans a grand and glorious privilege. So it was anguishing to watch the assaults that erupted during last week's meeting. Several addressed the gathering; a handful abused the privilege.

Yes, everyone had the right to voice his or her opinion, but it was disturbing

that some chose to abandon the civility routinely practiced in such settings. These individuals spoke their minds without respect or decorum. Their actions tarnished the intended message and delivered an even louder one: Our opinion is the only acceptable position, and anyone who dares to challenge what we believe will be publicly belittled and ridiculed, regardless of his or her intentions.

Instead of criticizing opinions that differ from our own, perhaps we should step back, listen and respect the differences. Be thankful we live in a land where a plethora of opinions can be aired and explored. Be grateful for the media that, despite their many warts, disseminate ideas to the masses, allowing us to ponder information and discern what we believe to be right and wrong - not just what someone else dictates.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

The major broadcast networks, online news sources, the big city dailies and, yes, even The Post Dispatch, provide us with ideas and information, both good and bad. Some concepts are to be embraced and absorbed; some should be summarily dismissed. It is up to the reader/viewer/consumer to determine what to keep and what to expunge. But aren't we blessed to reside in a country where we have the opportunity to make these determinations for ourselves?

Do we really want federal health care?

It seems a great many health care providers are looking at a program called a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Garza County is not unique in this. One thing should stand out in bold letters - **BEWARE**.

For those people interested enough to dig under the surface of this program, the dollars become **ALL FEDERAL DOLLARS**. If one doubts this, think what the word is when you put "the" and "IRS" together. It all becomes "theirs."

It is certainly irresponsible and probably illegal for any government unit (a hospital district) to place funds into any venture (a FQHC) where there is no oversight of the use of those funds.

FQHCs have a board of directors, not elected like the governing board of the district, but requiring representation from all the groups served by the FQHC. This board is responsible for the operation of the FQHC, according to guidelines issued by the Fed (Public Health Service).

There must be a sliding scale of fees determined by the patient's level of poverty, and such scale must be absolutely followed.

This becomes particularly perplexing when we consider that one of the requirements for Medicare contracts with providers is that Medicare patients must receive the lowest price available for other patients.

This means that virtually all Medicare patients would have to be charged the same price as available on the clinic "scale," irregardless of their normal contract pricing.

The Public Health Service does not have enough money to fully fund all of the FQHCs requested; therefore, in their wisdom, they established a program called "FQHC Look-alikes." These clinics must be funded by a private, not-for-profit corporation while still must meet **ALL** of the requirements for funding that a real FQHC must meet.

These programs were designed for areas in which there is NO health care. The government giveth very little and taketh away much. The real question

in our opinion is: Should local taxpayers want money they pay in local taxes to supplement another federal program over which they exert very little or no control?

Perhaps you feel differently in that you personally have some control over the money you pay in federal income tax.

Personally, we think it goes into a "black hole," never to be seen or heard from again. Worse, if this boondoggle program is implemented, Garza County taxpayers will continue pumping their earnings into government sponsored socialized healthcare, which has proven to be a financial disaster, both nationally and locally.

And once this federal program starts, it will never end... no recall elections, no badgering local elected officials ... nothing stops the federal steamroller, and it's certain to cost more and more every year.

Like the magic flower said in the famous movie "Little Shop of Horrors," the federal government will scream on a regular basis: "Feed me Elmo!"

Who do you think will be forced to feed the giant people eater?

The issue will be aired at the February 11 meeting of what can best be called the Garza County Socialized Medical System (also known as the Garza County Hospital District). Directors of the local socialized medical system intend to turn over control of locally produced taxes to a federal agency. This scheme is about as dangerous to taxpayers as was the GHD board's failed plan to build a \$10 million hospital.

Here's the problem: there is no election to determine whether or not we are to be doomed for generations to suffer the indignities associated with national socialized healthcare. Perhaps a petition to force an election to dissolve the hospital district will settle this issue.

Garza County Jr Livestock Show Sale Results

Garza County Jr. Livestock Show Sale #, Seller Name, Division Placing, Placing, Specie, Amount and Buyer

- Kaylee Farquhar, Grand Champion Steer, \$1,225, ALTMAN GROUP, DBR FARMS INCORPORATED, POSEY GIN, INC.;
- Israel Beggs, Grand Champion Swine, \$1,000, 3-R OIL COMPANY;
- D Nae Johnson, Grand Champion Sheep, \$800, E&E SERVICE & SUPPLY INC., UNITED SUPERMARKET;
- Pat Reiter, Grand Champion Goat, \$1,000, 3-R OIL COMPANY;
- Coby Jones, Reserve Grand Champion Steer, \$850, XPRT OIL TOOLS;
- Cheyenne Bouldin, Reserve Grand Champion Swine, \$550, K.W. & PATTY KIRKPATRICK, MASON BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION;
- Kadie Vernon, Reserve Grand Champion Sheep, \$550, IRA PUMP & SUPPLY COMPANY INC., JENKINS ELECTRIC SERVICE INC., and MASON BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION CO.;
- Cheyenne Bouldin, Reserve Grand Champion Goat, \$550, SOUTH PLAINS ELECTRIC-DICKENS;
- Skylar Jones, Breed Champion Steer, \$550, JACKPOT-Fred Stevens, Mike & Wanda Mitchell, Onetta Gunn, Post Volunteer Fire Department;
- Michael Porter, Breed Champion Swine, \$450, JACKPOT-R. G. Havens JR., Troy & Joyce Nelson, Valton & Peggy Wheeler, West Texas Redmix;
- Sterling Smith, Breed Champion Sheep, \$425, E&E SERVICE & SUPPLY, INC.;
- Brooke Morris, Breed Champion Swine, \$475, BOUNDS BODY SHOP, SHAMROCK CHEVROLET, SOUTH PLAINS VETERINARY CLINIC, WILSON STATE BANK;
- Kaylee Farquhar, Breed Champion Sheep, \$525, DRIVELINE EXPRESS;
- Ashley Young, Breed Champion Swine, \$525, FASKIN OIL & RANCH LTD., ROYCE & MARIANNE HART;
- Kaylee Farquhar, Breed Champion Sheep, \$500, DRIVELINE EXPRESS;
- Coby Jones, Res Breed Champion Steer, \$500, STELZER DRILLING;
- Zach Witcher, Res Breed Champion Swine, \$800, BOB & BETTY REITER, STRAWN TRANSPORT;
- Will Todd, Res Breed Champion Sheep, \$450, CITIZENSBANK OF POST, PATTERSON-UTI COMPANY LP, LLP;
- Skylar Jones, Res Breed Champion Steer, \$500, GILES & LOUISE MC CRARY;

- Wes Mason, Res Breed Champion Swine, \$600, LUBBOCK COTTON GROWERS, SAM ASHCRAFT CROP INSURANCE AGENCY;
- Shelby Farquhar, Res Breed Champion Sheep, \$425, JACKPOT-Gary McDaniel, Bobby Heckaman Family, Keith Osborn Family, Plains Cotton Growers;
- Israel Beggs, Res Breed Champion Swine, \$800, BOB & BETTY REITER, STRAWN TRANSPORT;
- Reece Belongia, Res Breed Champion Sheep, \$475, JERRY & JUDY BUSH;
- Zach Witcher, Res Breed Champion Swine, \$450, JACKPOT-Blevins Pumping Service, Brent & Michelle Mason, Lewis & Jane Mason, Post Volunteer Fire Department;
- Shelby Farquhar, 1st. Sheep, \$500, ALTMAN GROUP;
- Chad Atchison, 1st. Goat, \$400, POST STAMPEDE RODEO ASSOCIATION;
- Gary Farquhar, 1st. Steer, \$600, ALTMAN GROUP, DBR FARMS INCORPORATED;
- Julie Boren, 1st. Swine, \$525, HUB & MARTHA FLOYD;
- Mitch Holly, 1st. Sheep, \$425, WSI;
- Travis Arguello, 1st. Goat, \$425, JACKPOT-Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, CPAs, Valton & Peggy Wheeler, West Texas Redi-Mix, Wilson Co-op Gin;
- Allison Blevins, 1st. Steer, \$450, SOUTH PLAINS ELECTRIC-DICKENS;
- Devin Blanton, 1st. Swine, \$400, JACKPOT-Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, CPAs, Twin's Fashions, Wilson Co-op Gin, Sandefur & Swindle, CPAs;
- John Bocko, 1st. Goat, \$475, 1ST AG CREDIT;
- Allison Blevins, 1st. Swine, \$475, POST STAMPEDE RODEO ASSOCIATION;
- Shelby Farquhar, 2nd. Steer, \$525, ALTMAN GROUP, DBR FARMS INCORPORATED;
- Lawrence Adams, 2nd. Swine, \$450, AG TEXAS-TAHOKA;
- Will Todd, 2nd. Sheep, \$425, POST STAMPEDE RODEO ASSOCIATION;
- Bianca Abraham, 2ND. Goat, \$400, UNION CO-OP GIN;
- Alex Miller, 2ND. Steer, \$475, JACKPOT-Lubbock Grader Blade, Inc., Valton & Peggy Wheeler, Wells Pharmacy, West Texas Redi-Mix;
- Devin Blanton, 2nd. Swine, \$450, DBR FARMS INCORPORATED;
- Gary Farquhar, 2nd. Sheep, \$400, JACKPOT- Garza County 4-H,

- Valton & Peggy Wheeler, West Texas Redi-Mix, Yellowhouse Machinery Company;
- Bradley Benham, 2nd. Goat, \$400, CHRIS & GLENNA REITER;
- Allison Blevins, 2nd. Steer, \$475, XPRT OIL TOOLS;
- Henry Apollinar, 2nd. Swine, \$450, PALMER OIL PROPERTIES;
- Haylee McDaniel, 2nd. Sheep, \$425, UNION CO-OP GIN;
- Breann Heckaman, 2nd. Goat, \$400, E&E SERVICE & SUPPLY INC., M.K.C. OPERATING COMPANY, WSI;
- Chad Miller, 2nd. Steer, \$450, CENTRAL BAIL BOND, SOUTH PLAINS STEEL;
- Brittney Bouldin, 2nd. Swine, \$450, DEB & GINA PALMER;
- Macy Blair, 2nd. Sheep, \$450, JACKPOT- Economy Mills, Now Cow, Post Volunteer Fire Department, Sandefur & Swindle CPAs;
- Alex Miller, 2nd. Goat, \$400, B&S SALVAGE;
- Chad Miller, 2nd. Steer, \$450, BOLTON OIL COMPANY, GENERAL STEEL WAREHOUSE, INC., METAL MART, SCOTT'S CRANE SERVICE INC.;
- Trent Laurence, 2nd. Swine, \$600, SLATON COOPERATIVE GIN CO.;
- Ryan Belongia, 2nd. Sheep, \$550, CLOSE CITY CO-OP GIN & LEE & MARSHA NORMAN;
- Ben Mason, 2nd. Goat, \$600, FRONTIER HYBRIDS, MONSANTO;
- Steven Hair, 2nd. Steer, \$450, POST STAMPEDE RODEO ASSOCIATION;
- Breann Heckaman, 2ND. Swine, \$550, FARMERS CO-OP COM-PRESS, GARZA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION;
- Gary Farquhar, 2nd. Sheep, \$500, DRIVELINE EXPRESS;
- Wes Mason, 2nd. Swine, \$450, AG TEXAS-TAHOKA;
- Travis Bergin, 2nd. Swine, \$375 + \$25, DEB & GINA PALMER, JERRY TYLER, JACKPOT-John Cassidy, Jr.;
- J. D. Young, 2nd. Swine, \$425, ALTMAN GROUP;
- Miranda Hair, 2nd. Swine, \$425, XPRT OIL TOOLS;
- Kelsey Overton, 2nd. Swine, \$500, JANA MIDDLETON;
- Allisha Jones, 2nd. Swine, \$450, FASKIN OIL & RANCH, LTD, HART HEATING & AIR;
- Ashley Jones, 3rd. Steer, \$475, THE FRAME SHOP, JAY'S BEE-HIVE, ALDERMAN CAVE FEEDS, MATT HAMEL AG PRODUCTS;
- Skylar Jones, 3rd. Swine, \$425, POST STAMPEDE RODEO ASSOCIATION;
- Sterling Smith, 3RD. Sheep, \$425, 1ST AG CREDIT;
- Moses Abraham, 3rd. Goat, \$375 + \$25, JACKPOT- H. C. & Lunell Gribble, MC Geehee Farms, Moore or Less Game Ranch, Wells Pharmacy;
- Jarrett Blevins, 3rd. Steer, \$450, POST STAMPEDE RODEO ASSOCIATION; 69. Sydnee Jones, 3rd. Swine, \$400, B&S SALVAGE, PALMER CONSTRUCTION;
- Raegan Belongia, 3rd. Sheep, \$475, JERRY & JUDY BUSH, LEE & MARSHA NORMAN;
- Henry Apollinar, 3rd. Goat, \$400, JULIE & JUSTIN BOREN;
- Traci Nelson, 3rd. Steer, \$375 + \$25, JACKPOT-B & T Feeds, Blevins Pumping Service, John Hedrick Horse-shoing, Lane & Christina Jones;
- Trent Laurence, 3rd. Swine, \$525, UNION CO-OP GIN;
- Clint McDaniel, 3rd. Sheep, \$475, UNION CO-OP GIN;
- Kenzie Mason, 3rd. Goat, \$600, SLATON COOPERATIVE GIN CO., Judge Carter T. Schildknecht, Bruce & Debbie Ledbetter;
- Breanna Postell, 3rd. Steer, \$500, JORDAN WIRE ROPE OF ODESSA, B.J.B., Cheryl Blair, John Cassidy, Jr.;
- Brooke Morris, 3rd. Swine, \$750, CHARLES & SHARON MORRIS, CHUCK & KRISTI MORRIS, HARMON TANK, JOANN STELZER, TIM & KATHERINE MORRIS, WYLIE LP GAS;
- Dalton Holly, 3rd. Sheep, \$400, HOLLY'S DRIVE IN, UNCHAINED LIFE MINISTRIES;
- Dionn Heckaman, 3rd. Goat, \$400, B&J WELDING, DELTA & PINELAND SEED, LONE STAR BEARING;
- J. D. Young, 3rd. Steer, \$600, STIR-RUP RANCH;
- Allisha Jones, 3rd. Swine, HIGHLAND OFFICE EQUIPMENT, MAX THOMAS, SCOTT TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, VICTOR & PEGGY ASHLEY;
- Kadie Vernon, 3rd. Sheep, \$400, POST STAMPEDE RODEO ASSOCIATION; Hudman Furniture, Wendell Johnson Family;
- Michael Porter, 3rd. Swine, \$500, HIGGINBOTHAM BARTLETT, JIM & AMANDA PORTER;
- Mitch Holly, 3rd. Sheep, \$450, WELLS FARGO BANK;
- Steven Hair, 3rd. Swine, \$425, BAYER CROP SCIENCE, BECKNELL WHOLESAL, CHARLES & RITA MASON, GRIFFIN OIL COMPANY, JIM BURNS OLDSMOBILE, PONTIAC & MASON'S FARM & RANCH;
- Kevin Strube, 3rd. Swine,

- AG TEXAS-TAHOKA, RUSTY MORRIS FAMILY
- Kevin Strube, 4th. Swine, \$375 + \$25, JACKPOT-Caprock Cellular, Charles & Rita Mason, Daniel Livestock, Mike & Wanda Mitchell;
- Heath Palmer, 4th. Swine, \$525, XPRT OIL TOOLS;
- Ashley Young, 5th. Steer, \$450, ALTMAN GROUP;
- Lauren Arguello, 5th. Swine, \$425, MONK & LAVENA PALMER, RANDY & LANA CONNER;
- Zane Marts, 5th. Sheep, \$450, HOLLY'S DRIVE IN, UNCHAINED LIFE MINISTRIES;
- Jarrett Blevins, 5th. Swine, \$375 + \$25, CARQUEST AUTO, KENDRICK OIL, SWEETWATER STEEL, JACKPOT-Xcel Energy;
- Haylee McDaniel, 5th. Sheep, \$400, HOLLY'S DRIVE IN, UNCHAINED LIFE MINISTRIES;
- Tony Apollinar, 5th. Swine, \$400, FAMILY CLEANERS, ODEN FARMS, REEF CHEMICAL COMPANY, RODNEY ODEN;
- Chelci Hair, 5th. Swine, \$625, CHRIS & GLENNA REITER, JACKIE & CINDEE REITER;
- Sydnee Jones, 5th. Swine, \$450, ASCORENTAL, GEORGES RESTAURANT;
- Clint McDaniel, 6th. S

The Garza County Jr. Livestock Show Consolation Pot is made up of donations contributed to go to youth who do not make the sale. Contributors to this pot included: A-1 Testers, Inc., Geb's Distributing Company, Inc., Slip Service Company, B. C. Sales Company, Rebbco Services, Rocker A Well Service, Ltd., Carter Tool Company, Inc., Coppinger Supply, Monk and LaVena Palmer, B&T Feeds, Hi-Pro Feeds, and Pemco of New Mexico, Inc.

There are eleven youth that will be receiving \$150 each from these donations. They include Justin Boren, Amanda Flores, Maricela Guerrero, Rhen Kitten, Danielle McCarty, Garrett McCarty, Jaymee Melius, Tanner Odom, Brian Osborn, Courtney Rackler and Colton Schoonover.

These additional premiums bring the total 2004 Sale up to \$58,100. The G.C.J.L.A. Board of Directors want to express our appreciation to all buyers and donors who have made this year's sale a huge success!

heep, \$400, GUIN & CHARLA MILLER.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL...

Premium Buyers, Jackpot Donors, Consolation Pot Donors, Exhibitors & volunteers for making our 40th. Annual Garza County Junior Livestock Show & Sale a huge success!

- DONORS OF AWARDS:** Plaques, Banners & Ribbons: Hurst Farm Supply & Lyntegar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Sr. Showmanship Buckles-Beef, Swine & Sheep -** Lynn-Garza County Farm Bureau
- Jr. Showmanship Buckles-Beef, Swine & Sheep -** CitizensBank of Post
- Senior & Junior Showmanship Buckles:** Goats - South Plains Electric-Dickens
- Rate of Gain Buckle & \$200 Prize Money:** Hi-Pro Feeds & B&T Feed & Supply
- Overall Sportsmanship Buckle:** Caprock Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- Grand Champion Buckles:** Steer - Big Country Electric Co-op, Inc. Swine - Stanley Truck & Tire Sheep - Caprock Cellular Goats - Brad Mason/Milton Williams Families
- Traveling Finewood Trophy:** Stelzer Cattle Co.
- Pee-Wee Show Awards:** 4-H Booster Club
- SUPERINTENDENTS/ASSISTANTS/WEIGH-IN:** Swine-Ronnie Dunn/Benny Arguello, Rusty Morris, Moses Abraham, Charles Atchison, J.C. Stelzer, T. J. Gaydos, Delton Osborn, Bobby Heckaman Sheep & Goats-Junior Stelzer/Benny Arguello, Moses Abraham, J.C. Stelzer, Guin Miller Steers-Milton Williams/Randy Conner, Royce Hart, Danny Robertson, Charles Atchison
- BOOKKEEPER & ASSISTANTS:** Diane Graves, Diane Stelzer, Billie Williams, Nancy Morris, Jaquita Blevins, Kelli Smith & Leisa Farquhar
- SALE SHEET PREPARATION:** Billie & Milton Williams, Ronnie Dunn, Royce Hart, Greg Jones, Brent Mason, Junior Stelzer, Bobby Heckaman, Rusty Morris, David Farquhar, Jaquita Blevins & Diane Graves
- AWARD PRESENTERS:** Lisa Soto, Cheyenne Bouldin, Kadie Vernon
- ANNOUNCER:** Syd Conner
- AUCTIONEER:** Ronnie Thornton
- PHOTOGRAPHER:** Randy Conner
- VIDEO:** Post High School Mass Media Class
- CUSTODIAN:** Alma Loreda & family
- SECURITY:** Paul Chrane
- SPECIAL DONORS:** B&A L.P. Gas Inc.-servicing heaters & Propane; Fashion Cleaners-cleaning & storing picture backdrop; Royce Hart-firewood; Chris Stelzer-cooker; Jerry's BBQ-concession stand supplies; Main Street Mercantile & The Frame Shop-Senior Gifts, Photography Supplies & developing-Randy Conner and Wes Burnett, Ice-Post FFA.
- JACKPOT AUCTION DONATIONS & BUYERS:** Auctioneer-Larry McDougal; Sue Maxey- cake/Lavena Palmer; Karleen McDougal & Southland class-4 pies/John Boren, Jr. Stelzer, Mike Johnson, Deb Palmer; Syd Conner-3 bags Jerky/Royce Hart, Larry McDougal, Guin Miller; B&A LP Gas-2 Burners & Heater/John Boren, Judy Bush, Deb Palmer; Jerry's BBQ-Certificate/Randy Conner; Silversmiths-2 necklaces & Key Ring/Diane Graves, Fred Myers, Syd Conner, Lil Conner-Jelly & Banana Nut Bread/Junior Stelzer; Sherry Young-2 cobblers/Rusty Morris, J.C. Stelzer; Larry McDougals-Chuckwagon Cookbook/Syd Conner; Milton Williams-Registered Border Collie puppy/Gary Blevins.
- YOUTH & ADVISORS:** Perry Smith & Lance Dunn, Post FFA; David Farquhar, Southland FFA; Greg Jones, CEA-AG, 4-H & FFA parents & exhibitors who were always helpful & courteous!
- CONCESSION STAND COMMITTEE:** Coordinator: Julie Neitsch, CEA-FCS, Kim Reiter-4-H, Cindee Reiter-Post FFA; & Traci Blanton-Southland FFA; 4-H & FFA members and parents for working & providing snacks for concession stand.
- CONSOLATION POT DONORS:** Rocker A Well Service-Earl Chapman; Carter Tool Company, A-1 Testers, Inc., Slip Service Company, Pemco of New Mexico, Inc., B.C. Sales Company, Monk & Lavena Palmer, W.S.I., Rebbco Services, Randy Conner, Coppinger Supply Company, B&T Feed & Supply, Hi-Pro Feeds, Geb's Distributing
- JACKPOT DONORS & BUYERS:** Thanks for all donations and premium purchases which brought our sale up to \$58,100. See names listed in Sale Results article.
- A special thanks to those 4-H FFA families who cleaned the show barn. Many thanks to the countless others who helped in their own way. We apologize to those whose names may have been inadvertently left off but we SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**
- GARZA CO. JR. LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION**
Junior Stelzer, President,
Milton Williams, Vice-President
Royce Hart, Recording Secretary
Giles Dalby, Jr., Past-President
Diane Graves, Secretary

Grandma Brag Pages

Feb. 12, 2004

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The Post Dispatch

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Post Middle School honor students



6th grade A honor roll students are (back row, left to right) Chandi Bhakta, Latasha Soto, (front) Chasiti Rutherford and Branda Stevens.



7th grade A honor roll students are (back row, left to right) Braden Courtney, Zachary Davis and (front) Mercedes Enriquez.



8th grade A honor roll students are (back row, left to right) Timothy Wilson, Robert Heckaman, Steven Short, Call Windham, Blaize Lester, (middle) Meagan Howard-Griffis, Bertha Gonzales, Suhani Bhakta, Lauren Gonzales, (front) Samantha Hoover, Kelsey Sanderson and Lori Jones.



8th grade AB honor roll students are (back row, left to right) Cass Tatum, James Griffin, Jeremy Short, Willie Berkley, (front) Joseph Segovia, Ericka Cravy and Steven Contreras.



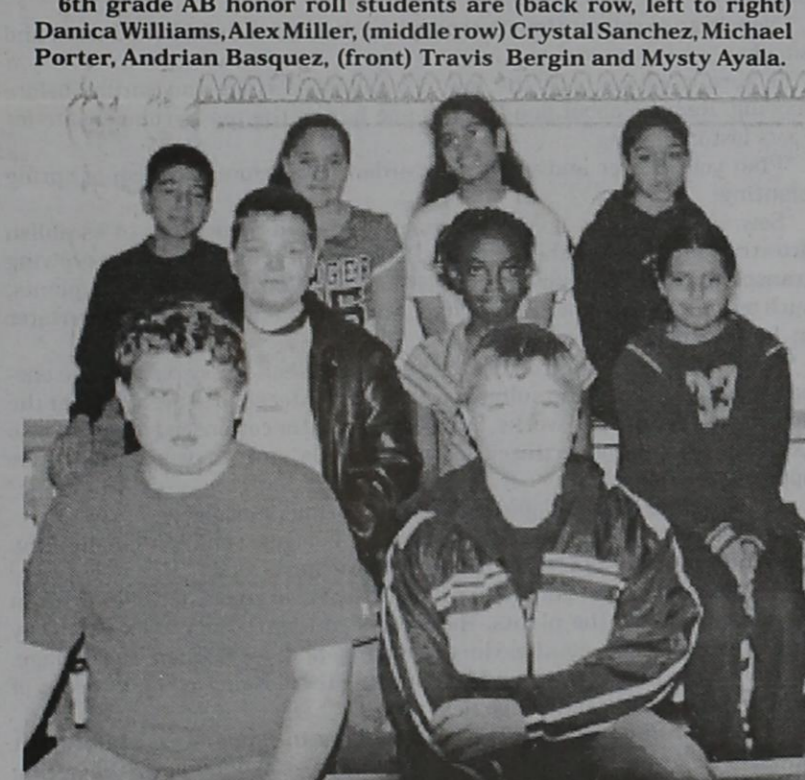
6th grade AB honor roll students are (back row, left to right) Danica Williams, Alex Miller, (middle row) Crystal Sanchez, Michael Porter, Andrian Basquez, (front) Travis Bergin and Mysty Ayala.



7th grade AB honor roll students are (back row, left to right) Adriana Ceja, Stacy Bocko, Haley Lester, Jackie Slaugh, (middle) Ayda Lopez, Alex Hart, Zachary Nava, (front) Chad Miller, Travis Rasbeary and Zackery Rivera.



8th grade perfect attendance students are (back row, left to right) James Griffin, Crystal Price, Brittanie Evans, Bertha Gonzales, (middle) Bradley Reed, Sujani Bhakta, Tyler Odom, Blaize Lester, (front) Cass Tatum, Marlee Plummer, Tamara Raymundo, Samantha Hoover and Lori Jones.



6th grade perfect attendance students are (back row, left to right) Solomon Abraham, Crystal Sanchez, Chandi Bhakta, Mellinda Vega, (middle) Michael Porter, Chelsey Sapp, Cecilia Ortiz, (front) Trey Barner and Caleb Tanner.



7th grade perfect attendance students are (back row, left to right) Andriana Ceja, Stacy Bocko, Jakelin Delgadillo, Haley Lester, Kenzie Mason, (second row from back) Destiny Price, Kendra Whitehead, Brandon Crawford, Zachery Davis, (third row from back) Gabby Gomez, Ayda Lopez, Steven Rasbeary, Zachary Nava, (front) Stephanie Fox, Jarrett Miller and Jonathan Jurado.

Photos courtesy Greg Henry

South Plains Answering Service

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Classified Advertising

Card of Thanks

Thanks to everyone, To all that showed your love and friendship in ways of phone calls, cards, flowers, prayers, and visits was so much appreciated. Through my surgery and now my recovery it has been so much easier to get through knowing that I have great people to help me through it. I would like to send special thanks out to my wonderful family, the Bilberry's, the Huffman's, the Shankles's, the Martin's, the Pettet's and the Graves'. I would also like to say thanks to: Dalby Correctional Facility, Donna Ammons, Angie Canales, Jo Allen Rodriguez, Evie and Louie, Judy Guerrero, the Jones's, Calvary Baptist Church, D-Card and of course Oscar.

Thanks again to all and may God bless you.

Dawn Bilberry
M'Keison Saldivar

A very sincere "thank you" to all who were a part of the short life of Johnny Robison. We appreciate everything that was done for him; the prayers, the flowers, the kind words, the beautiful service and the health care hands that eased his passing.

Josephine Robison
Donna Ethridge

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT REVISED WATERMANAGEMENT PLAN
Garza County underground and fresh water conservation district (U&FWCD) has called for a public hearing on February 11, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in the district office at the Garza County courthouse to adopt the revised water management plan for 2003 - 2013.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Lubbock
Contract: 0905-00-034 for MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION IN LUBBOCK COUNTY, etc will be opened on February 11, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at the State Office.
Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices, listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 12071
State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
Lubbock District
District Engineer
135 Slaton
Lubbock, Texas 79408-0771
Phone: 806-745-4411
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Sheriff reports 15 arrests

Fifteen arrests were recorded in the Garza County Jail log over the past week, according to records provided by the sheriff's department.

A 40-year-old male was arrested on a warrant Jan. 19.
Two arrests were made on Jan. 20, including an 18-year-old female for possession of marijuana, under two ounces, and a 20-year-old male, possession of marijuana, under two ounces, and on a Dallas County warrant.
Four individuals were arrested Jan. 21, including two men picked up for public intoxication. Arrested on Lubbock Police Department warrants were a 20-year-old female and a 56-year-old male.
Three men, ages 20, 24 and 25, were picked up Jan. 22 and held for the Border Patrol.

On Jan. 23, a 19-year-old male was jailed for driving with an invalid license.
A 24-year-old male was picked up on a commitment on Jan. 24.
Arrests made Jan. 25 included that of a 32-year-old male picked up on warrants, an 18-year-old male arrested for driving under the influence and minor in possession of alcohol, and a 47-year-old male for driving while intoxicated/third offense or more and resisting arrest.

Watch the DVD recorded Post Antelopes and Post Lady Lopes on Cebridge Connection Channel 12 Saturday & Sunday @ 1, 5 & 10 p.m.

Living on the Edge of the Caprock

by Greg Jones, CEA-AG

Programs conducted by the Texas Cooperative Extension serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

Garden Checklist for January 2004

- *The life of the flowering pot plant received as a Christmas gift can be prolonged with proper care. Keep the plant out of range of heating ducts and away from heating units. Keep in a cool room at night, preferably at 60 to 65 degrees F.
 - *Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs.
 - *Be sure to prune back the top of established trees and shrubs before moving. Remove about one-third to one-half of the top to compensate for roots lost in digging.
 - *Plan your flower and vegetable garden now before the rush of spring planting.
 - *Sow seeds in flats or containers in protected structures to establish growth before hot weather arrives. Petunias, begonias, and slow-growing transplants should be sown in early January. Warm-temperature plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, and periwinkles should be sown later in January or February.
 - *Put a light application of fertilizer on established pansy plants. Use one-half pound of ammonium sulfate per 100 square feet of bed area. Repeat the application every 4 to 6 weeks. Dried blood meal or cottonseed meal are also excellent sources of fertilizer for pansies. Be sure to water well after applying fertilizers.
 - 1. Prepare beds and garden area for spring planting.
 - 2. Select and order gladiolus corms for February and March planting. Plant at two-week intervals to prolong flowering period.
 - 3. Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworms in pouches; if left on the plants, the worms can start their cycle again by emerging from the pouches in the spring and feeding on the foliage. Removing the pouches by hand and burning them is an excellent means of reducing the potential damage next spring.
 - 4. Rose pruning in South Texas may be done in January. Remember that climbers and other once-blooming roses are best pruned after the spring flowers have faded.
- Programs conducted by the Texas Cooperative Extension serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

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Yesteryears

Compiled by Donna Jones from the files of The Post Dispatch

10 Years Ago January 26, 1994

A supportive crowd of over 60 Post and Garza County citizens listened Monday night as county officials told their side in the property tax rollback effort currently underway. The meeting was the first of two scheduled by the commissioners before the February 12 rollback election. "We'd like to hear what you think we should cut should this rollback be effective," said Garza County Judge Giles Dalby during his opening remarks.

A community barbecue is planned for Friday, at the Post Community Center. The barbecue will be used as an informative time explaining how the public can become involved with and benefit from the Old Mill Trade Days planned for the Postex Mill. Organizers of the 30th Annual Garza County Junior Livestock Show completed last week have deemed the event a rousing success. Champions included Emily Smith who exhibited the Grand Champion steer, Barrett Scrivner who owned the top heifer, Clint Johnson with his top lamb and Corey Cruse won Grand Champion honors with his aged doe in the rabbit competition. The annual Post Chamber of Commerce awards banquet will take a different twist this year as the chamber hosts a casino night along with the regular banquet and award fare.

All You Can Eat at Rosie's Restaurant! - daily lunch specials. Nightly Specials: Monday, Steak & Lobster Tail; Tuesday, Beans & Cornbread; Wednesday, Spagetti & Meat Balls; Thursday, Mexican Food; Friday, Seafood and Saturday, Quail.

20 Years Ago January 25, 1984

For What It's Worth: Scott Walker, a former Post resident, was in town last week. Scott is attending Princeton and attends class with the famous Brook Shields. Scott said she was a friendly person, but she always showed up for school in a chauffeured car. Lewis Earl recently accepted the position as manager of the Post Chamber of Commerce and Donna Stelzer has returned to the office as secretary. Mr. and Mrs. Ted Williams and Mr. Tommy Davidson of Big Spring and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Mason announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their children, Penny and Brad. Vows will be exchanged February 17 in the First Baptist Church of Post.

The Covenant Ringers of the First United Methodist Church will present a program Sunday morning to dedicate the choir chimes in memory of Eula and

Noah Stone. Members of the choir are Debbie Sneed, Janie Davis, Barbara Babb, Mattie Collier, Delores Redman, Nancy McDonald, Janet Peel, Zoe Kirkpatrick, Patty Kirkpatrick, Patsy Bilbo, Sue Chun, Margaret Bull and Ruth Ann Young. Patty Kirkpatrick is director for the group.

30 Years Ago January 24, 1974

City Patrolman Jerry Jolly resigned yesterday from the Post Police Department and will begin work Monday as a patrolman for the Snyder Police Department. Post Public Library trustees decided Monday night to hold an open house for the \$33,000 new library addition Sunday afternoon. Donations to the Post Public Library's Memorial Building Fund over the last three and one-half years have, along with interest accrued, totaled approximately \$30,000.

Kevin Thomas, Ricky Cross and Troy Simpson are first, second and third place winners, respectively in the Garza Soil and Water Conservation District board's annual conservation contest. Five members of the Post High School band were named to the Region XVI All-Region Band in tryouts at Lubbock and will perform in a grand concert with other All-Region bandsmen. Taking the honors are Shirley Allen, Patricia Bilberry, Ralph Howell, Sherell Guichard, and Tiana Shiver.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Sweeten announce the birth of a son, Tommy Mack Sweeten Jr., weighing 7 lbs., 2 oz., January 18 at Mercy Hospital in Slaton.

40 Years Ago January 23, 1964

Advance ticket sales indicated today that a crowd of nearly 300 will attend the annual membership banquet of the Post Chamber of Commerce Friday night at which Lt. Gov. Preston Smith of Lubbock will be the principal speaker.

Wendell Johnson, Post High School senior, showed two grand champion animals and Tony Carlton and Richard Hart one each in the Garza County 4-H and FFA Livestock Show held Saturday at the 4-H building. George H. Hansard, 37-year-old Lamesa attorney has announced his candidacy for a second elective term as District Attorney. The clowning Harlem Stars defeated the Post Independents, 74-66, here Tuesday night. Will Bigott scored 26 points in the Post team's losing effort. Other scorers for Post were Donnie Hays, 16; Jimmy Redman, 12; Elvin Jones, 9; and Jerry Hays, 3. Gayle Frederick also played for the locals.

Don't forget to stop by JimBo Meat Market at 121 E. 8th

Street. Marigold Milk, gallon jug - 79c, fruit drink, gallon jug - 59c, cheese spread, 2 lb. box - 59c, Jackson Bros. Beef, Center Cut Sirloin, lb. - 89c and Beef Club Steaks, lb. - 79c.

50 Years Ago January 28, 1954

The highlight of the 1954 March of Dimes in Garza County will come tonight when mothers of Post "march on polio." The stage for tonight's march was set earlier in the week when Girl Scouts went from house to house asking residents to leave their porch lights on or have a light burning in the window if they wish to contribute tonight when the mothers come around.

Forty-three cottonwood trees were planted at the city park site Tuesday as members of the Post Junior Chamber of Commerce got their park improvement project into full swing.

D. C. (Colonel) Roberts, Sr., was sworn in as new justice of the peace by County Clerk Ray N. Smith. Roberts succeeds the late J. D. King in the office.

Marine Maj. Eugene J. Robinson, son of Mrs. Ida D. Robinson of Post is stationed in Korea with the "Devilcats" fighter bomber squadron of the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

Craft. Marie Jackson was feted at a dinner on her 80th birthday Sunday in the Marvin Hudman home.

Wyvonne Morris, starting guard on the Post High School girls' basketball team, was named to the all-tournament team at the Idalou cage meet. The Post girls came home with the consolation title.

Menus

Post ISD

February 2- Breakfast-Donut, sausage, fruit, milk

Lunch-Chalupa, spanish rice, salad, rosey applesauce, milk.

February 3- Breakfast-Bagle, sausage link, pears, milk.

Lunch-Turkey roast, whipped potatoes, green beans, gravy hot rolls, juice bar, milk.

February 4- Breakfast-Bacon, eggs, toast, fruit, milk.

Lunch-Manwich, onion rongs, salad, peaches, milk

February 5- Breakfast-Cinnamon toast, sausage, fruit, milk

Lunch-Fajitas, refried beans, onions & peppers, salad, fruit cocktail, milk

February 6- Breakfast-Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch-Cheese burger, salad, french fries, cake, milk

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Better Than Us

by Scott McPherson

In response to soaring violent crime, Brazil has passed what some are considering one of the strongest anti-gun laws in Latin America, and Brazil's pro-gun lobby, backed up by the powerful National Rifle Association, was powerless to stop it. Rather than mourn, however, Americans who fight against "gun control" should see this as a blessing in disguise.

Hoping to curb a homicide rate that puts Brazil's violent death rate above every other nation not at war, President da Silva signed the aptly termed "disarmament act" during the Christmas week. The new law limits the carrying of handguns in public to police officers, the military, licensed security guards, and hunters; requires a background check for gun purchases; and raises the minimum age for gun ownership from 21 to 25.

But here's the real kicker: the act requires that a national referendum be held in 2005 to decide on a ban on the sale of handguns altogether. With opinion polls showing that nearly 80 percent of Brazilian adults favor the disarmament act and a handgun ban, the forthcoming referendum will almost certainly pass.

So what is there for gunowners here to be happy about?

It has long been maintained by Second Amendment supporters in the United States that guns are a valuable tool in the hands of the citizenry. Pro-gun activists have been arguing for years that passing laws that make it harder for law-abiding citizens to have access to guns for their own defense only encourages crime.

Of course, the typical response has been that such notions are delusions of vigilante grandeur. It's an article of faith for anti-gun folks that allowing people to own guns - particularly handguns - causes high crime.

Then the award-winning research of Dr. Gary Kleck and the surprising findings of scholars such as John Lott shined much needed light on the subject. Kleck has argued in several criminological studies and two books that there are actually more crimes thwarted in the United States by armed citizens than there are crimes committed. In fact, Kleck suggests that as many as 2.5 million times per year - around 5,000 per day - an armed citizen stops a crime or defends himself with a gun.

In 1998 John Lott, a distinguished professor at the University of Chicago, published his book More Guns, Less Crime, a tireless study on the effects of issuing concealed-carry permits to citizens over a 10-year period. The result? According to Lott, states that pass permissive concealed-carry laws have fewer instances of crime, including rape, assault, and murder, than states that leave their citizens to the good graces of the criminal class. Not a surprising outcome, which helps to explain why many people now refer to gun control more accurately as "victim disarmament."

Casting further doubt on the efficacy of gun control, the United Kingdom in 1997 passed a total ban on the private possession of handguns following a high-profile public shooting in Scotland and all but eliminated every other form of gun ownership. This is the precise "antidote" desired by gun-control supporters elsewhere. Six years later, "peaceful" Britain now has the highest overall crime rate in the Western world, and violent crime is skyrocketing. Gang wars and drive-by shootings are increasing.

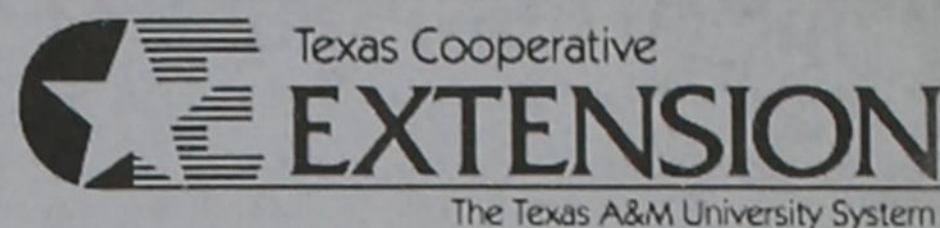
Such is the wisdom of gun control. Nevertheless, Brazil is proceeding down that same baleful road.

Handguns are the best and cheapest means for the average person to defend himself against criminals who don't care about the law. Americans who oppose gun control - who know it for what it is, a failed public policy and an immoral disarmament of decent people - will soon have Brazil to cite as just one more example of the tragic consequences of gun control. Perhaps the spectacle of yet another country banning handguns, and seeing its citizens suffer under an even worse burden of crime and violence, will embolden the American people to oppose further encroachments on the right to own handguns for individual self-defense.

Like half of our own population, much of the rest of the world readily falls victim to the utopian allure of creating a safer society through defenselessness. The people of Brazil, foolishly searching for security through disarmament, will provide us with another experiment from which we can learn and teach about the failure of gun control.

Scott McPherson is policy advisor at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) in Fairfax, Virginia.

The Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 29, 2004 Page 9



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Southern Mesa Ag Conference.....

.....scheduled for January 29, 2004, at the Dawson County Annex Building, 609 North 1st. Street, Lamesa, will provide five CEU's to those attending. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m., program starts at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude around 4:00 p.m. Cost will be \$25 at the door with lunch provided. For more information, come by the Extension office at 215 West Main in Post to pick up a brochure.

Congratulations.....

.....to all 4-H and FFA youth who participated at the Garza County Jr. Livestock Show and good luck to those exhibitors who will be exhibiting at Ft. Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo and Houston.

A Big Thank You.....

.....to all buyers at the Garza County Jr. Livestock Show for their support of our youth with their projects and to all the GCJLA officers, superintendents and volunteers.



Neighbor to Neighbor

by Julie Neitsch,

Garza County Extension Agent-Family & Consumer Science

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Carbon Monoxide, Should You Be Concerned?

You can't see, taste, feel, or even smell carbon monoxide more commonly known as CO. However this deadly gas can make you very sick and can lead to death. Over 5,000 people in the United States die every year after breathing too much CO. The signs of CO poisoning seem like the flu. Many people don't even know they have been breathing in CO. If you survive from CO poisoning can suffer brain damage, lose their sight or hearing, or have heart problems. It is a major threat to your family's health. The good news is that you can prevent a CO poisoning.

Where does CO come from? Fuel burning appliances use gas, oil, or wood to produce heat. If they are not working right, they can make CO. Most gas appliances that have been put in and taken care of properly are safe and make very little CO. Electric appliances do not burn fuel and so they make no CO.

Common sources of CO include: gas and oil furnaces, boilers, water heaters, wood burning fireplaces and stoves, gas appliances like ovens, stoves and dryers. Others include gas and kerosene space heaters, gas and charcoal grills, cars, trucks, campers, tractors, gasoline and liquid propane powered small equipment, including lawn mowers, chainsaws, recreational vehicles, motor boats, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), ski-boats, and generators in campers and houseboats, tobacco smoke, house fires, and blocked chimneys and flues.

Carbon Monoxide Safety Checklist:

- * Turn off an appliance or heater that starts making different noises, smells funny, has a different looking flame, or does not seem to be working right. Call a heating contractor for repairs.
- * Read and follow the instructions that came with your appliance or unvented gas heater.
- * Provide good ventilation for all heating appliances.
- * Keep all wood, paper, cloth, and furniture away from heating appliances.
- * Don't block and appliances air opening.
- * Have all appliances checked every year by a qualified heating contractor.
- * Ask the contractor to check for carbon monoxide and look at the vent (chimney) system.
- * If you insulate and weather-strip your home, call a heating contractor to make sure there is enough ventilation.
- * If you smell gas or if the smoke detector or the carbon monoxide alarm goes off, leave the building right away and call 9-1-1.

Carbon Monoxide Action Step:

- * Never run engines or warm up your vehicle inside your home, garage, or basement even for a short time. Even opening all windows and doors will not give you enough fresh air to prevent CO poisoning.
- * Make sure your chimneys are in good shape, clean, and working right. Have your chimney or wood burning fire place swept every year. Burning wood nearly always makes a lot of CO. It is important that all smoke goes out of the chimney.
- * If you use gas heaters or a vent free gas fireplace, follow instructions carefully and open a window for fresh air. Do not use while sleeping.
- * Put CO alarms near each sleeping area and on each floor of your home.
- * Never use the kitchen stove or oven to heat your home.
- Make your home a safe place for the whole family and take action to ensure safety for yourself and the ones your care about.

Source: Help Yourself to a Healthy Home: "Carbon Monoxide, Should You Be Concerned" by: Thomas Greiner, Iowa State University Cooperative Extension

Cebridge Media & Post City Television

Cebridge Connections Channel 12

Local Video News: 1, 5 & 10 p.m. Daily

- Thursday, January 29 - Garza County Commissioners' Court
- Friday, January 30 - This Week in Post City
- Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 31 & February 1 - Post Sports
- Monday, February 2 - Garza Theatre Willy Awards
- Tuesday, February 3 - Garza County Commissioners' Court
- Wednesday, February 4 - Post City Council

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- 36 TXism: "he's got the morals _____ alley cat"
- 37 TX Dennis Quaid film _____
- 38 Upshur Co. seat _____

- 39 grocery chain owned by TX Randall's
- 41 TXism: "_____horse town"
- 42 TXism: "pill wrangler"
- 45 '66 munce ago I coodn't evin spel gradjuwat and now _____ one"
- 46 TXism: "two-bit _____"
- 47 TXism: "happy as _____ in slop"
- 48 Yoko _____
- 49 in Wharton Co. on 71
- 52 bit of information _____

DOWN

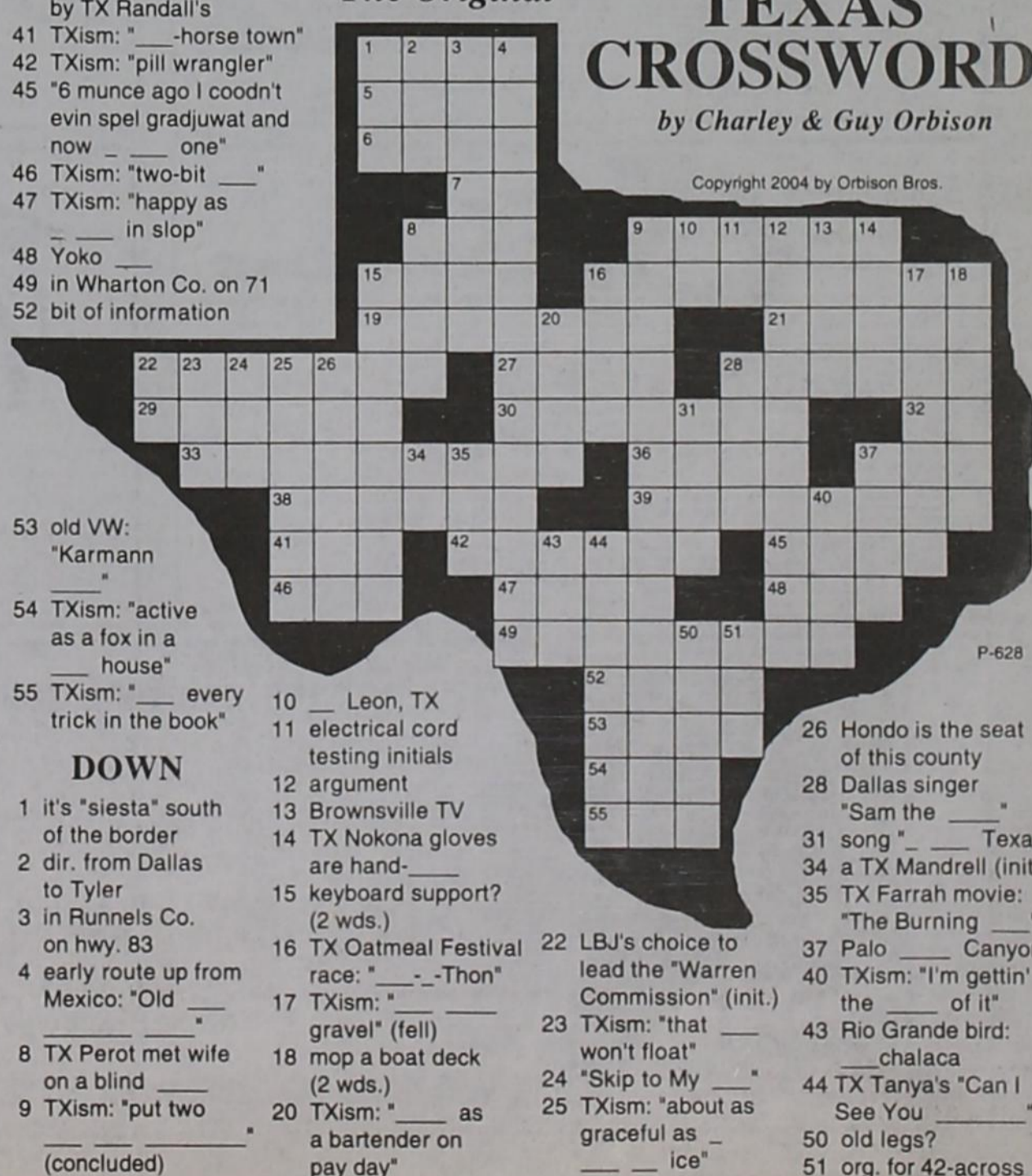
- 1 it's "siesta" south of the border
- 2 dir. from Dallas to Tyler
- 3 in Runnels Co. on hwy. 83
- 4 early route up from Mexico: "Old _____"
- 8 TX Perot met wife on a blind _____
- 9 TXism: "put two _____ (concluded)"

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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- 10 _____ Leon, TX
- 11 electrical cord testing initials
- 12 argument
- 13 Brownsville TV
- 14 TX Nokona gloves are hand-_____
- 15 keyboard support? (2 wds.)
- 16 TX Oatmeal Festival race: "_____Thon"
- 17 TXism: "_____ gravel" (fell)
- 18 mop a boat deck (2 wds.)
- 20 TXism: "_____ as a bartender on pay day"

- 26 Hondo is the seat of this county
- 28 Dallas singer "Sam the _____"
- 31 song "_____ (Texas)"
- 34 a TX Mandrell (init.)
- 35 TX Farrah movie: "The Burning _____"
- 37 Palo _____ Canyon
- 40 TXism: "I'm gettin' the _____ of it"
- 43 Rio Grande bird: _____ chalaca
- 44 TX Tanya's "Can I See You _____ 50 old legs?"
- 51 org. for 42-across

'Lopes whip Tahoka 44-31

The varsity boys added another W to the win column during the past week with a 44-31 win over Tahoka.

The win puts the team at 2-0 in district and 15-7 on the season. Jerrad Grisham led scoring for the group with 22 points, followed by Cole Easterling with eight points and Mitchell Mills, Jett Lott and Sterling Smith with four points each. Francisco Duran scored no points in the game. Mills was 2-for-2 in free throws, while Smith lobbed in the only successful 3-pointer during the game.

Post jumped out to an early lead, holding Tahoka to six in the first quarter while boosting their own score to 12. Post continued its lead at the half, 25-13, and led 32-19 at the close of the third period.

Tahoka outscores J.V. 'Lopes

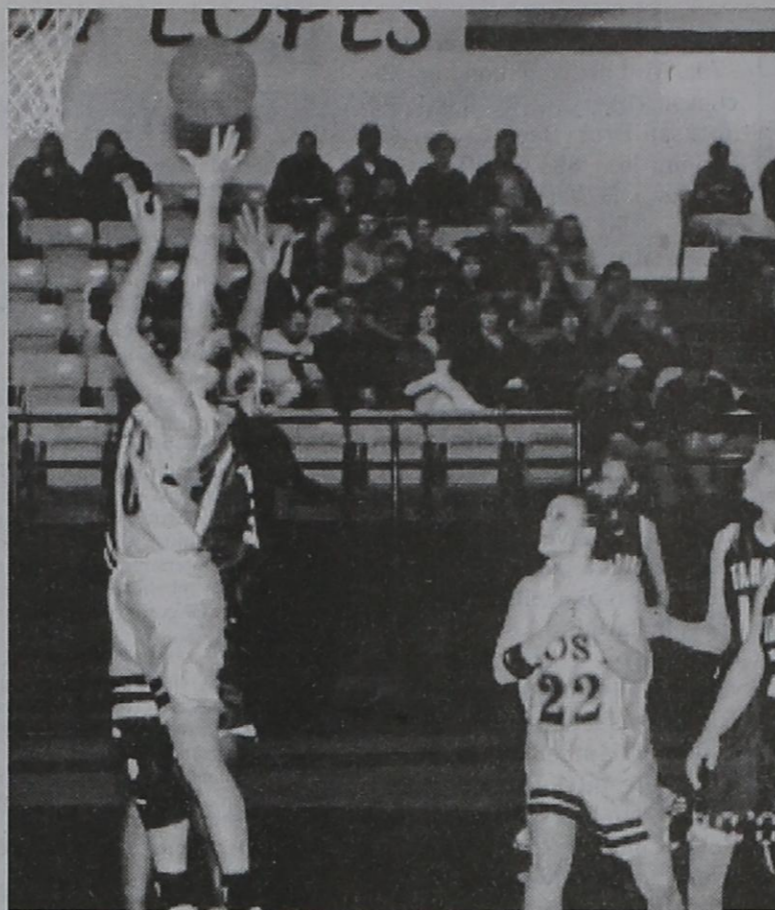
The junior varsity boys' basketball squad dropped a game to Tahoka last week. Final score in the game was 47-33.

Wilson Cash and Thomas Garay led scoring for the 'Lopes with 10 points apiece, followed by Kenny Garay with five points and D.J. Baiza and Zubia, four points each.

Baiza was perfect on the evening with free throw attempts, going 2-for-2. The 'Lopes struggled from the start, falling to 9-5 at the end of the first period and 21-9 at the half.



Cole Easterling reaches over the top for a two-pointer during action here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Brittney Courtney (left) puts another two points on the board for the Post Lady Lopes in action here 1st week. Donae Dalby joins in the action. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



CoCo Valdez shoots another basket for the Post Antelopes in action here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

Lady Lopes edge Idalou 37-33

The varsity Lady 'Lopes earned a win and a loss during the past week, defeating Idalou 37-33 and falling to Tahoka 48-31.

In the Idalou game played Jan. 16, Brittany Courtney led scoring with 21 points. Sarah Kirkpatrick scored six points in the game. Taylor Starkey had five, Meagan Hoover, three, and Jenee Lott added two points.

Courtney connected on five of nine 3-pointers, while Kirkpatrick was 60 percent in field goal shooting, going 3-for-5. Courtney and Starkey were both 100 percent in free throw shooting.

In the Jan. 21 game against Tahoka, Courtney again led scoring with 14 points, followed by Kirkpatrick with 12. Lott and Hoover each added two points, while Starkey put one point on the board.

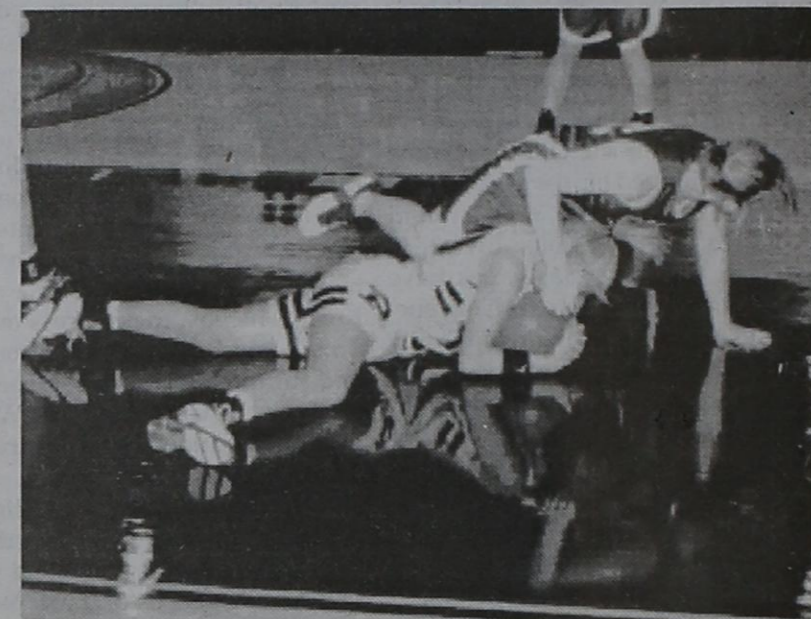
Hoover was 100 percent in field goal shooting, while Kirkpatrick went 6-for-9 for 67 percent. Courtney was 90 percent at the free throw line, sinking 9 out of 10 shots.

Lady Lopes JV Defeats Tahoka JV

The Lady Lopes JV and Tahoka JV kept it very close through three quarters when the Lady Lopes made a 15-7 run in the fourth quarter to win 35-26. Scoring by quarters: 2-5, 10-8, 8-6, 15-7.

The Lady Lopes pread the scoring among 7 players. Scoring were Laurel Tatum 9, Larissa Halford 8, Rachel Gray 7, Jackie Hays 5, Ashley Powell 2, Ashley Wilson 2, and Kylie Easterling 2.

The Lady Lopes JV overall record is 15-3 and District record 3-1.



Jenee Lott battles for the basketball during the game against Tahoka last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

Taxes and Theft = Robbery

Theft - the act of stealing; the felonious taking and removing of personal property with the intent to deprive the rightful owner of it. (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

Taxation - a charge usually of money imposed by authority upon persons or property for public purposes; a heavy demand.

When the tax is not paid, it will be collected against the will of the rightful owner, using force if necessary.

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Congratulations Post Antelopes & Lady Lopes!

Post High School 2003-2004 Basketball Schedules

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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Jimmy & Nancy Norman

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