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Inside:



The Post Dispatch

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Sales tax increase to reduce city property taxes

by Sheri Lewis

City Manager Fred Stephens delivered a detailed report to city council members last week, providing insight into the proposal to increase the local sales tax rate to directly offset a decrease in property taxes.

"In the city's quest to lower property taxes, you have decided to recommend raising the city's share of sales tax and lower property taxes by a corresponding amount," Stephens said in a Feb. 11 memo to the mayor and council. "...Your proposal is to raise the local sales tax rate from 1 percent to 2 percent. The extra 1 percent will be used to help make payments on the new (Slaton) water project and partially reduce the city's dependency on property taxes for payments on the new water project."

The existing sales tax rate in Post is 7.25 percent, or 7.25 cents per dollar spent. That rate reflects the state tax rate of 6.25 percent and a local rate of 1 percent. The 1 percent, figured at a 10-year average, generates an annual sales tax revenue of about \$208,000, Stephens wrote.

Because the maximum sales tax rate in the state is 8.25 percent, a 1 percent margin remains available. A 1 percent hike in the local sales tax, figured at the 10-year average, would generate an additional \$208,000 per year for the city's coffers; however, the maximum additional rate allowed by state law to specifically offset property tax is .50 percent.

"If Post adopts the .50 percent to specifically offset property taxes, another .50 percent would remain available," Stephens wrote. "There are possibly other ways to reduce the property tax rate, in addition to adopting the .50 percent."

One of those options includes the addition of a new sales tax to generate money for the creation of a 4B economic development corporation. Through such a corporation, which would be guided by the council, infrastructure improvement payments may be made.

At last week's meeting, the council voted in favor of pursuing the creation of the Caprock Economic Development Corporation. Articles of incorporation were signed, and the documentation has been forwarded to state officials for approval.

According to a copy of the Articles of Incorporation, the non-profit corporation is being organized "to fund, create and manage the cost of any project for the acquisition, transport and furnishing of water to the general public..."

The corporation has no members and is a non-stock corporation. Its initial board of directors will be Mayor Archie Gill and the three members of the Post City Council - W.G. "Bill" Pool Jr., Juanita Pantoja and Dick Odom. Citizens Barbara Hardin, Crystal Mason and Allane Ammons have been named as the other board members.

With the council's proposal to create a new economic development vehicle, local voters will have a pair of separate sales tax issues to consider in addition to the regular municipal election. Those issues will include:

- Adopt or reject an additional 1/2 of 1 percent sales tax as a direct offset to property taxes.
- Adopt or reject another 1/2 of 1 percent for a 4B Economic Development Corporation, the funds from which will be used to make payments on the city water project.

"If both issues are adopted by the voters, this will effectively raise sales taxes by 1 percent for a total of 2 percent to the city," Stephens said in his memo.

Marcum gets nod from Post ISD

Marlin Marcum, a Central Texas native whose most recent position was as superintendent for the Comfort Independent School District, was formally employed by Post ISD trustees last week.

Marcum was granted a three-year contract with the local school district.

Dr. Bobby Bain, who is set to retire from the superintendent's post in coming weeks, said Marcum is expected to be on duty in Post beginning March 3. The outgoing superintendent will work closely

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"... Sales tax revenue and property tax revenue vary from year to year... but, for comparative purposes, if we had an additional \$200,000 from additional sales tax revenue at the present, we could lower .25 off the .7708 percent of the property tax rate, leaving a rate of .5225 percent."

Stephens noted that if one or both of the sales tax issues fail in the May balloting, "the need for additional property tax revenue will adjust correspondingly."

If approved by voters, the new sales tax rates would be effective Oct. 1.

Worth repeating ...

When the people find that they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic.
 — Benjamin Franklin

Post Notes

Free basic computer training

The Post-Garza Community Network will be providing free computer training to residents of Garza County. A beginner computer basics, four-day course, will be offered February 26 and 27 and March 5 and 6. Introduction to Microsoft Word will be offered as a four-day course February 24 and 25 and March 3 and 4. Both courses are from 5 til 7 p.m. Interested persons should contact Shellee at 495-3343 to enroll. Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

4-H Archery meeting Saturday

The 4-H Archery meeting has been set for Saturday, February 22 at the Garza County Show Barn from 9 to 11 a.m. 4-H members should bring a parent to the meeting.

Evangelist at Bethel Assembly of God

International Evangelist Jay Hurt will lead special services at the Bethel Assembly of God February 24-28. The five nights of "power, anointing and healing" begin at 7 p.m. Hurt is a songwriter and has been a host on the nationally acclaimed Christian Network TBN. The church is located at 407 May Street, call 495-0375.

Relay for Life Captains' meeting

A Relay for Life team captains' meeting will be held February 25 at 5 p.m. at Wells Fargo bankroom. Those interested in starting a team, as well as those already signed up, need to attend the meeting. For more information call Jana at 495-2804 or 495-2037 or Amy at 495-3600 or 495-4316.

Energy assistance funds available

The South Plains Community Action Association, Inc. has received funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to operate the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) for January through December 2003. The program is designed to assist "low-income households" with priority given to people aged 60 or older, handicapped individuals and families with young children under the age of six. Call SPCAA at 495-2329 for more information.

Girls' fast pitch softball registration

All girls, ages nine to 18, interested in playing fast pitch softball in the Lubbock league should contact Jaquita Blevins at 495-2517 for registration forms. All registrations must be submitted by Friday, February 21, along with a copy of birth certificate and registration fees.

Section 8 housing assistance

South Plains Regional Housing Authority will accept applications for Section 8 housing rental assistance on Friday, February 28 from 9 to 4 p.m. Interested persons should call (806) 894-4560 to schedule an appointment and obtain information for the application process.

PC&TB banquet March 1

The annual Post Commerce & Tourism Bureau banquet will be held Saturday, March 1 in the Post Community Center, beginning at 7 p.m. Citizen and Business of the Year awards will be presented, along with Conservationist of the Year. Humorist Jim Bob Solsby of Big Lake will be featured speaker. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased at the Bureau's office or from any director.

Methodist Church helping VA patients

The First United Methodist Church is taking donations, which will be given to the Post VFW, to deliver to the V.A. Hospital in Big Spring. Items needed are men's toiletry items, along with puzzles, tablets and envelopes. For more information call Pixie at the church office, or call 495-2942. All items will be delivered to Big Spring on February 27.

Hallelujah Chorus in Post March 2

The famed Lubbock Christian University's Hallelujah Chorus will present a concert at the Post Church of Christ at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 2. The concert is free and open to the public.

Cancer survivors needed

If you or someone you know is a cancer survivor, please contact Nancy at 495-3315 to participate in the "Survivor Walk" in the 2003 Relay for Life.

"Desperate Ambrose" at Garza Theatre

"Desperate Ambrose" will open at the Garza Theatre February 14 and continue Feb. 15, 21, 22, 28 and March 1, 7, 8 and 9. The play, written by Donald Payton, is directed by Beth McBryer. Tickets may be obtained by calling the box office, 495-4005.

Relay for Life teams sought

It's time again to get teams together for the Third Annual Garza County Relay for Life. This year's Relay for Life will be held June 13-14. The Relay for Life is a fun way to join others in the fight against cancer and to raise funds for activities of the American Cancer Society. For more information about forming a team or participating as a survivor, call Amy Pennell at 495-3600 or 495-4316 or Jana Bullard at 495-2804 or 495-2037.

Retirement Reception for Dr Bain

A retirement reception will be held Sunday, February 23 at 2:30 p.m. for Post ISD superintendent Dr Bobby Bain at the Hotel Garza.

US Hwy 84 project slowed by permit delays

The U.S. 84 project, scheduled to begin this month, is on hold because of permit delays, according to sources at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

The decision to delay the project was made in the interest of the traveling public, TxDOT officials said. TxDOT and Granite Construction Co. have agreed to delay the start of the project to give the contractor time to put material resources in place before actually tearing up the roadway.

"The reason for the delay is to minimize the impact to the traveling public," said Lubbock Area Engineer Rob Comey. "Granite and TxDOT both want to make sure that we have all our resources available before we start closing down lanes and causing traffic delays."

Granite is waiting on required permits needed before the company can open and operate a concrete plant that will supply material for the project.

"We are looking at a number of possibilities to get the project moving, including changing the phasing of the work," Comey said, "but the best alternative is to just not start until we are sure that resources are in place, and we are completely ready."

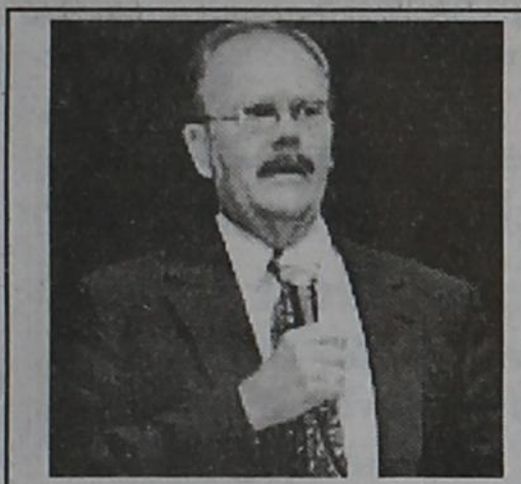
The needed permits should be available next month, he said.

"Just as soon as Granite is ready, we'll break ground," Comey said. The \$8.2 million project includes the rehabilitation of 1.6 miles of existing highway through Post, from the BNSF Railroad south of the community to a four-lane divided highway north of town.

The project is scheduled for completion at the end of 2004.

Annual PC&TB banquet features humorist

The annual Post Commerce & Tourism Bureau banquet is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, beginning at 7 p.m. in the community center.



Jim Bob Solsbery

Theme for this year's event is Post - Deep in the Heart of Texas. The theme will focus on the state and the vital role Post plays in Texas.

Awards for Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year and Conservationist of the Year will be given, and outgoing directors and incoming directors for both the Commerce & Tourism Bureau and the Women's Division will be recognized.

Speaker for the banquet will be Jim Bob Solsbery, a Department of Agriculture employee and noted comedian from Big Lake. As a child, Solsbery had a severe stuttering problem, but dreamed of being a humorist and speaker who could make people laugh and feel good about themselves. Today, he said he feels fortunate to be living out that dream.

Banquet tickets are available from any bureau director or at the office at a cost of \$15 per person.

Post ISD extends principals' contracts

The contracts of all Post Independent School District principals were approved by district trustees last week, while the contracts for instructional staff members and coaches will be considered at the school board's March 11 meeting.

The contract agreements were made following an executive session that included a discussion of personnel.

In other business, board members approved the designation of a "hazardous bus route." Superintendent Dr. Bobby Bain said the in-town route will include district residences east of Hwy. 84 or north of 380, enabling buses to pick up students who otherwise would be forced to cross these high-traffic roadways in order to attend school. With the board's designation, the Texas Education Agency will pick up a portion of the cost to run the added bus route.

Trustees also approved the purchase of computer hardware for use in the district's business office. The Post ISD is moving toward the use of a Windows-based

(Continued on Page 2)



'Desperate Ambrose' continues at Garza Theatre

The Garza Theatre's current production of "Desperate Ambrose," a romantic western comedy, continues on weekends through March 9. Cast members are (back row, left to right) Charles Grair, Roy Willis, Mickie Klafka, Kim Klafka, Brenda Olive, David Johnson, director Beth McBryer, (front row) Joe Bass, Marissa Olive, Pat Price, Chris Davis and Kathy Kidder. Call the box office at 495-4005 for tickets.

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Lucille Bush celebrates 80th

Lucille Bush was honored on her 80th birthday Saturday, Feb. 8. Guests called between 2-4 p.m. at the Graham Community Center.

Amanda Quisenberry, Trevah Yarbrow and Salli Bush, granddaughters of the honoree, served birthday cake and punch.

About 130 guests were registered by Raegan Belongia, great-granddaughter, and Reece Belongia, great-grandson. Guests traveled from Lubbock, Rising Star, Big Spring, Brownwood, Bowie, Odessa and Post to attend the event.



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Lucille Bush

Martin Nichols' 90th birthday

Friends and family are invited to visit or send cards to Martin Nichols as he celebrates his 90th birthday Friday. He and his wife Dale are residents at Golden Plains Care Center.



Cleo Sappington (left) was named Valentine Queen and Mose McCook was tabbed as Valentine King at the recent Golden Plains party.



Mary Jo McGuire was named "Most Huggable" at the recent Golden Plains Care Center Valentine party.

Marcum ...

(Continued from Page 1)

with the incoming one, and will "turn over everything to him as soon as (Marcum) feels comfortable," Bain said.

Marcum comes to Post after spending eight years as superintendent of the Comfort school district. Prior to that, he served as the Canadian ISD superintendent for four years.

During his teaching career, Marcum also has served as a teacher, assistant principal, middle school principal and high school principal. He has taught courses in Texas, U.S. and world history, psychology, sociology, advanced social problems, economics, free enterprise,

Golden Plains Care Center News

by Christy Rutherford

Well, love was in the air here last week.

On Monday we celebrated Valentine's Day with a party cake, cookies and the works.

On Tuesday we celebrated Dale and Martin Nichols' birthday with cake.

On Thursday we crowned our king and queen. Our king was Mose McCook, and our queen was Cleo Sappington. We also recognized Mary Jo McGuire as Most Huggable and Cleo Sappington as Most Loveable.

That night we honored our couples with candlelight dinner in their room, and Donny Cunningham serenaded them on guitar playing "The Garden and Wild Horses."

Stay tuned next week to find out what else we're doing.

health, world geography, comparative Eastern religions, Texas and American government and Middle Eastern studies.

He and his wife Sterline have three children - Benjamin, 21; Stephen, 18; and Emily, 14.

Marcum has served as a Sunday school teacher and on various committees at the First Baptist Church in Comfort and has been active on boards of several organizations, including the Panhandle Regions Tech-Prep Consortium, the Northeast Panhandle Teachers Credit Union and the Hill Country Insurance Cooperative. Also, he was a board member and president of the Canadian Rotary Club, a member of the Hemphill Chamber of Commerce and an advisory council member for Frank Phillips College.

Marcum grew up in Cisco and graduated from Cisco High School in 1965. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University in Stephenville in 1969 and completed his master's degree in education at Sam Houston State University in 1979. In 1990, he received his superintendent certification from SHSU.

Post ISD ...

(Continued from Page 1)

RS3C software package used by Region 17, Bain said. In order to accommodate the new software, updated hardware is necessary. The new computer hardware will replace computers that have been in use by district personnel for five or more years.

The board tabled consideration of the construction of restrooms at the baseball field.

Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush

Hey everyone, I received a fax from Thressa Harp last week with a most moving poem about our enlisted guys. With things looking the way that they are, I wanted to print this. Thressa and Jackie sent it in honor of their sons-in-law, Staff Sgt. Dustin L. Massey, stationed at Dyess AFB Tx. and Sgt. Gregory D. Smith, on mission Afghanistan. I think everyone who has someone in the service will take this to heart.

GOT YOUR BACK

I am a small and precious child, my dad's been sent to fight. The only place I'll see his face, is in my dreams at night. He will be gone for too many days for my young mind to keep track. I may be sad, but I am proud. My daddy's got your back.

I am a caring mother. My son has gone to war. My mind is filled with worries that I have never known before. Everyday I try to keep my thoughts from turning black. I may be scared, but I am proud. My son has got your back.

I am a strong and loving wife, with a husband soon to go. There are times I'm terrified in a way most will never know. I bite my lip, and force a smile as I watch my husband pack. My heart my break, but I am proud. My husband's got your back.

I am a Soldier, serving proudly, standing tall. I fight for freedom, yours and mine by answering this call. I do my job while knowing, the thanks it sometimes lacks, say a prayer that I'll come home. It's me who's got your back.

That's enough said folks.

RYAN

I have had tons of calls about Ryan. He got a good report from the Dr. last week, and is making good progress, but he still faces about 2 1/2 weeks or three on his tummy. So pleaseeeeeee, keep him in your thoughts and prayers. He is such a good kid, and I know he will appreciate it!!

NANNIE'S BIRTHDAY

I just wanted to take this time to thank everyone who came out to celebrate Lucille's birthday with us. There was a most wonderful crowd, and Rick and I and Jerry and Judy are thankful to each of you for making it such a wonderful day for Lucille. I know she will never forget that day and all of the wonderful visits, calls, and cards that she received at the party and at home. God bless each of you for making her birthday such a blessed event.

CARD PARTY

We received a fax from Mollie Perkins last week. All of you remember Mollie. She is the daughter of Beatrice Dodson. Mollie was letting us know that Bea will celebrate her 89th birthday on March 8th at MacKenzie House assisted living in Lubbock. You can call Mollie at 747-3776 for details or just send a card to say hello and happy birthday to: Bea Dodson, Mac Kenzie House, 8609 Boston, Lubbock 79423. Bea and Mollie visited my store not long ago and it seemed like old times to have Mrs. Dodson in this building. I hope you have a wonderful birthday!!!!

TOO CUTE NOT TO INCLUDE

WHY MEN ARE NOT SECRETARIES..... Husband's note on the fridge to his wife: Honey, Someone from the Gyna Colleges called. They said the Pabst beer is normal. I didn't know you liked beer.

TILL NEXT WEEK

Guess that will do it for this week. PLEASE call in your news. God bless each of you and see ya next week. Pray for peace. Judy



Jay Hurt, Evangelist

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Big changes in store with TAKS

The 2002-2003 school year marks a big change for all students, parents, community members, teachers and school administrators with the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test, a much more difficult test, replacing the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test.

The most significant change other than a more difficult test is the effect this test will have on today's third grade students.

A third grade student must pass the TAKS reading test this spring in order to be promoted. Because of the difficulty of this test, the Texas Education Agency projects that approximately 44,000 third grade students will fail the initial TAKS reading test. Students who fail the first test, which will be administered March 4, will be given remediation and another opportunity to pass the test a second time.

The second test will be given April 30. If a student fails the second test, he or she will be required to attend the summer school program where further remediation will be given.

The final test will be given at the end of the summer school program. Students and teachers have worked diligently over the past few months to prepare for the initial testing. Parents and community members are asked to encourage all students and teachers as test time approaches.

Superior las normas en la comprobación del estudiante

El 2002-2003 año de la escuela marca un cambio grande para todos los estudiantes, padres, miembro de la comunidad, maestros y administradores escolares. La Valoración de Texas de Conocimiento y Habilidades (TAKS) la prueba, una prueba muy más difícil, reemplaza la Valoración de Texas de habilidades Académicas (TAAS) la prueba.

El cambio más significante de otra manera que una prueba más difícil es el efecto que esta prueba llevará puesto nuestra corriente estudiantes de calidad.

Un tercer estudiante de calidad debe pasar la lectura (TAKS) la prueba esta primavera para ser promovido. Debido a la dificultad de esta prueba, los Texas Educación Agencia proyectos que a aproximadamente 44,000 terceros estudiantes de calidad les faltará el TAKS inicial que lee la prueba.

Se darán estudiantes que faltan la primera prueba que se administrará el de marzo de 2003 el remediation y otra oportunidad de pasar un segundo tiempo a la prueba.

La segunda prueba se tardará el 30 de abril de 2003. Si un estudiante falla que los segundos él o ella de la prueba se exigirán asistir al verano el programa escolar y se darán el remediation más allá.

La prueba final se dará al final del término de escuela de verano.

Los estudiantes y maestros han trabajado diligentemente durante los últimos meses para preparar para esta primera comprobación el 4 de marzo. Se piden a los padres y a miembros de la comunidad que animen a todos los estudiantes y maestros como los acercamientos de tiempo de prueba.

Judge Carter Schildknecht completes judicial training

More than 550 Texas judges, including the Hon. Carter T. Schildknecht, judge of the 106th Judicial District Court in Lamesa, attended regional judicial training programs held recently.

The Texas Center for the Judiciary, an Austin-based non-profit judicial education group, developed the education program for the regional conferences held in San Antonio Jan. 26-28 and El Paso Feb. 10-12. All Texas appellate, district and county court-at-law judges were invited to attend the conference that included their administrative judicial region.

Both conferences offered a day and a half of educational programs. General sessions featured "When is Evidence Considered Manipulated?", "Judicial Ethics," "Disqualification and Recusal Proceedings" and "Updates: Criminal, Civil & Family Law." Specialty track topics included "Children in the Courtroom," "Mortgage Foreclosures" and "Evidentiary Issues in Mold Cases."

"We put together a curriculum that allows judges to select the courses that best meet their needs," said Mari Kay Bickett, executive director of the Texas Center for the Judiciary. "The conference design allows judges to focus on one or two topics with intensive study and guidance from faculty specializing on that topic."

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Post Devotional Page

Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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GLEANING--THE POOR MAN'S HARVEST!

GATHERING THE GRAIN THAT THE REAPERS HAVE OVERLOOKED OR THE GRAPES THAT THE PICKERS HAVE FAILED TO REMOVE AFTER THE VINTAGE SEASON (JUDGES 8:2, ISA. 17:6) WAS THE POOR MAN'S HARVEST BY LAW. ALSO BENEFITTING WERE THE FATHERLESS, THE WIDOW, AND THE STRANGER IN THE LAND! THE OWNERS OF ALL FARMLAND WERE INSTRUCTED BY THE LAW NOT TO GLEAN THEIR HARVEST FIELDS OR VINEYARDS NOR RETURN FOR A FORGOTTEN SHEATH NOR GATHER ANY FALLEN FRUIT (LEV. 19:9-10, DEUT. 24:19). IN THIS MANNER THE ISRAELITES TOOK CARE OF ALL THEIR LESS FORTUNATE BRETHREN. A FINE EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE STORY OF RUTH IN THE BIBLICAL BOOK OF RUTH.



162 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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Church Directory

Assembly of God		Church of God	
Bethel Assembly of God (Bi-Lingual) Baptist	407 May St.	Church of God of Prophecy	602 W. 14th, 495-3644
Calvary Baptist Church	210 E. 6th, 495-2342	Lighthouse Christian Center Church of God	314 N. Ave I, 495-2237
First Baptist Church	402 W. Main, 495-3554	Power House Church of God and Christ	Pine Ave.
First Baptist Church, Wilson	628-6333	Disciples of Christ	
Justiceburg Baptist Church	Justiceburg	First Christian Church	812 W. 13th, 495-3716
Pleasant Home Baptist Church	E. 14th & N. Ave F	Methodist	
Pleasant Valley Baptist	Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174	First United Methodist Church	216 W. 10th, 495-2942
Templo Bautista	315 W. Main	Graham Chapel United Methodist Church	495-3492
Trinity Baptist Church	915 N. Ave O, 495-3038	Nazarene	
Wilson First Baptist	(806) 628-6333	Church of the Nazarene	202 W. 10th, 495-3044
Catholic		Grassland Nazarene Church	327-5656
Holy Cross Catholic Church	Ave. K and Main St., 495-2791	Non-Denominational	
Church of Christ		Family Harvest Church	111 N. Avenue I, 495-1400
Church of Christ	108 N. Ave. M, 495-2326	Faith Chapel	1105 Green St., Wilson (806) 628-6612
Graham Chapel Church of Christ	5 miles W. Hwy 380, 2	Presbyterian	

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Letters to the Editor

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

Here to stay...

After researching the idea suggested to me by one of our local journalists, that if I am "unhappy here in Post, maybe I should leave", I have decided that a geographical change ain't gonna be the answer.

Back in the mid to late 60's I decided to leave Oklahoma and move to New Orleans in an attempt to get away from my ol pals and alcohol. Boy did

that ever turn into a major chaos.

To start with, I am not unhappy with Post, if I was unhappy with the damn place, I wouldn't need no suggestions, I'd pack my own crap and pie-yie on my own will.

I am not happy with the way the politicians are running the town, but as far as being unhappy with Post, no way, I am absolutely gung-ho with our little spot on the map.

Besides, just any lil ol hick town we come across, ain't gonna have no multi-million dollar back up water system connected to a critically low lake that is just about to become salty to use.

And just think, we got us a new steel wheel packer, and a flatbed trailer to haul junk to a Lubbock recycle firm. I guess if one of them iceoxes fall off on the way to Lubbock and a car hits it, then what? Lawsuit city on the way.

Actually, what I may decide is to "Surrender". I was thumbing through my Webster's guide manual and run across the word. It seems appropriate for my situation.

In my Webster's, Surrender means: to yield to the power, control, or possession of another upon compulsion or demand... to give up completely or agree to forgo especially in favor of

another... to join the other side... to give oneself up into the power of another.

I guess I'd have trouble yielding to all them definitions except maybe for one... "to join the other side", I may just try to do that, comes May 3rd.

But then I just don't know if I would ever make it. I can't be a yes man, and I damn sure don't believe in a multi-million dollar water line headed to nowhere.

I am for a sales tax increase, let some of our visitors help pay for our runaway liberal spending. I haven't seen or heard anything on the big ol' property tax cut. I wonder how much that will be? A 100th or a 10th of a

percent? We can bet our sweet butt that it won't be anything drastic or significant Huh?

In my view, a hospital, emergency room, and a Doc or two is a very much necessity here. I have been in Post going on 8 years. I wonder how many lives could have been saved in that period if we would have had some useable facilities worth a damn.

I don't think we need to plan on heart transplants or a major cancer cure facility, but I do believe a nice little hospital would be a nice asset to community.

I guess I'd vote for a reasonable tax increase for a hospital, and I will vote for a sales tax increase. I guess the city

liberal spenders did not put the property tax increase up for vote because they knew most voters not only have voted "no", but "Hell No"...

I just wonder how much the city will be able to recover money wise, when they figger out that the big water line is gonna be useless, and they decide to scrap the damn thing. It will be like the present hospital tax, paying a tax on something we don't have, so for the big property tax, we'll soon be paying for something that don't work.

Our only hope... 77 more days til May 3rd... election time rolls around one more time.

Surrender... maybe... give up... no. As I See It & My Opinion Only, O.L. (Ferg) Ferguson

Congratulations J.V. Lady Lopes "Gold"



Post Lady Lope Junior Varsity "Gold" Team - (left to right) A'Lana Zubia, Roxazne Orona, Kayla Morris, Erin Wartes, coach White, Kadie Vernon, Ashley Powell, Dionn Heckaman and Sunnie Barbosa. (Photo by Pam Gorman).

Robert, Julie, Timothy & Amber Wilson

Mark, Carol & Jeremy Short



Family Restaurant
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Congratulations J.V. 'Lopes



Junior Varsity Boys - (back row, left to right) Coach Jason Powell, Theo Paiz, Jordan Tatum, Adrian Zubia, Cole Easterling, (middle row) Sterling Smith, Tony Garay, Casey Williams, Kyle Gunn, (front row) CoCo Valdez, Randon Blacklock, Kenneth Garay and Quinton Odom. (Photo by Pam Gorman)

Deanna & Brandi Gunn

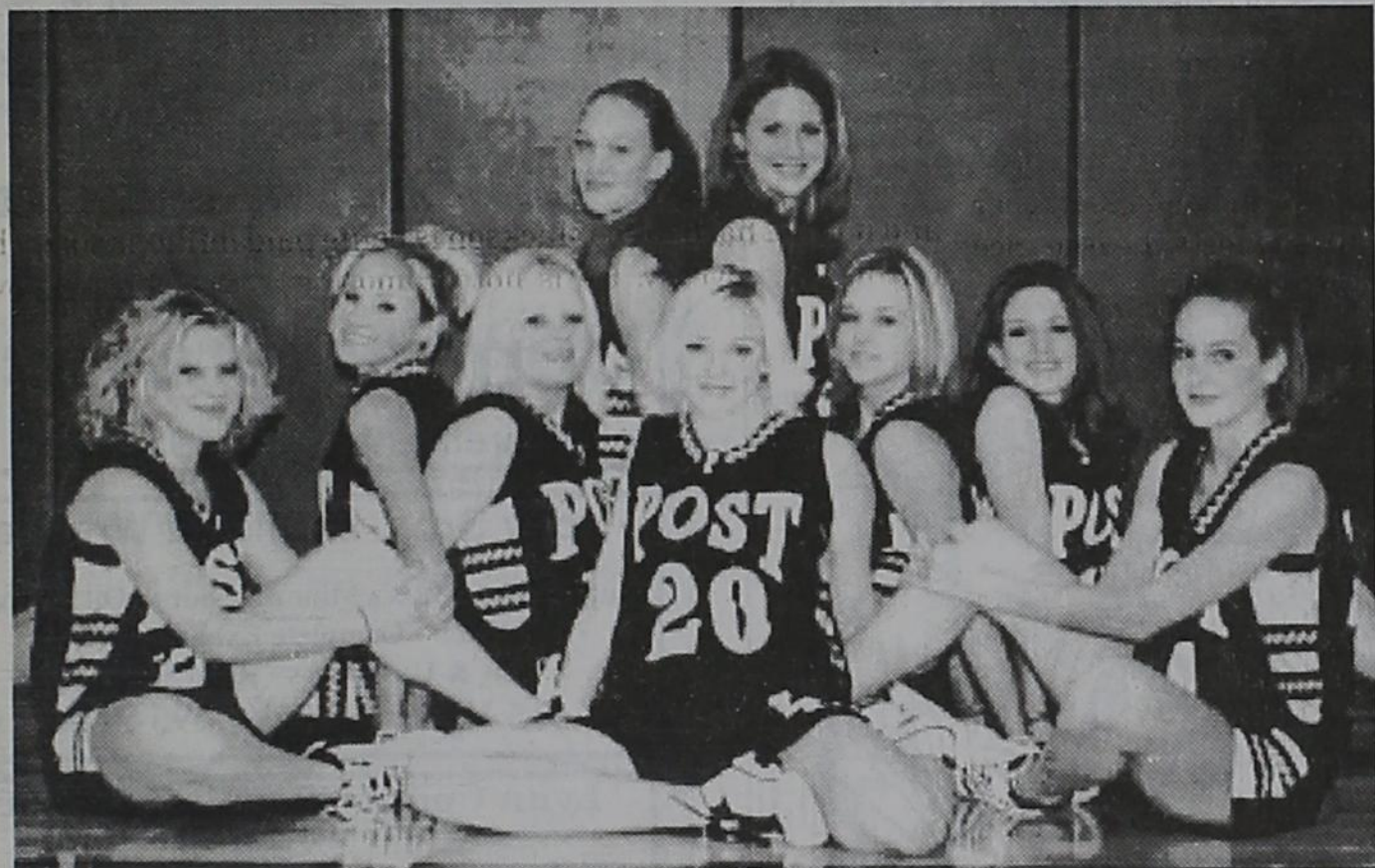


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Tim & Leslie Tatum

Congratulations J.V. Lady Lopes "Black"



Post Lady Lope Junior Varsity "Black" Team - (back row, left to right) Laurel Tatum, Courtney Copeland, (front row) Traci Nelson, Jeneé Lott, Lyndee Strawn, Lesley Rutherford, Courtney Short, Kayla Dunn and Ashley Wilson. (Photo by Pam Gorman).

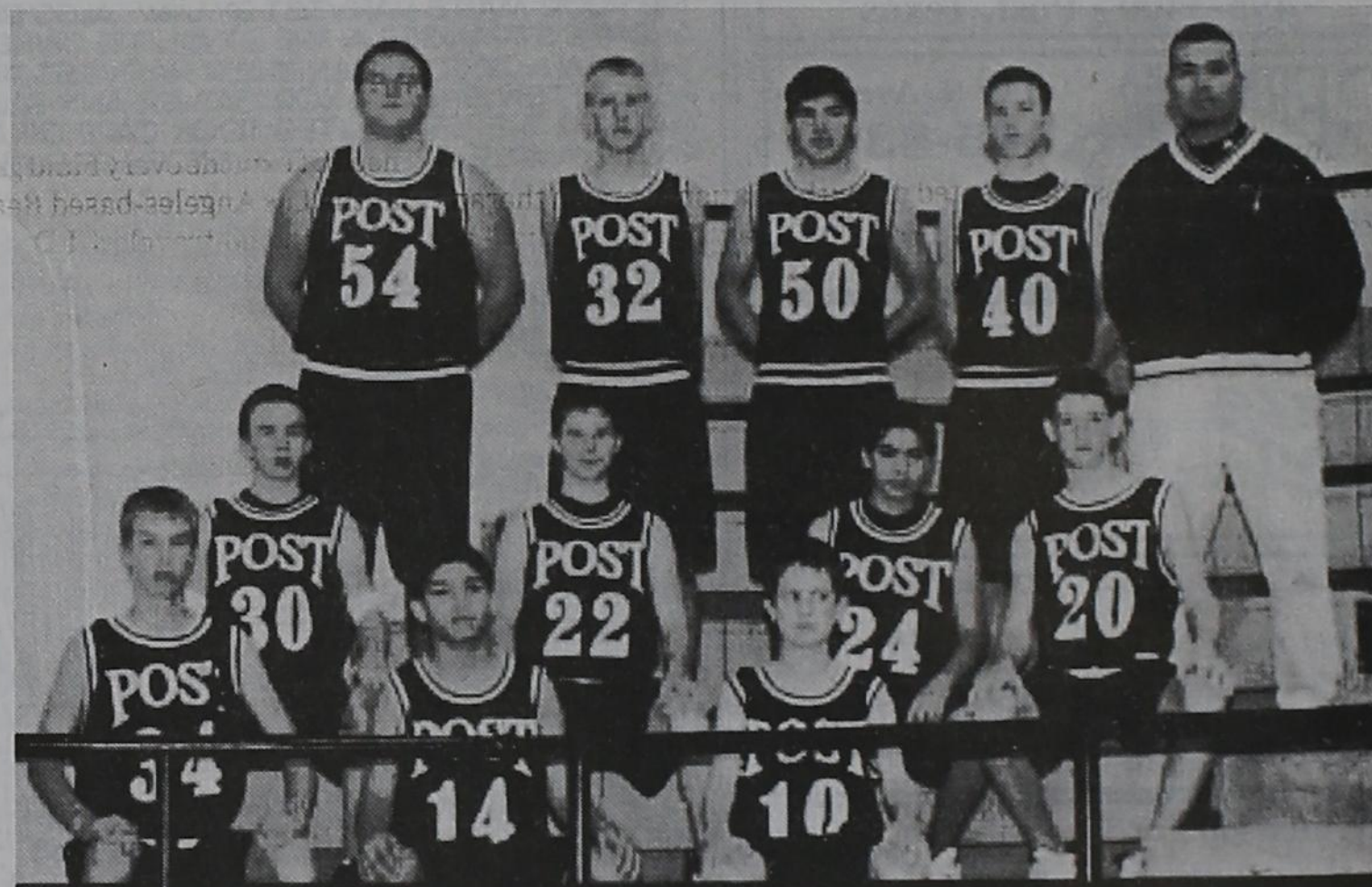
Lanny, Lisa & Kyle Copeland

Jeff & Gena Lott

Robert, Julie, Timothy & Amber Wilson

Mark, Carol & Jeremy Short

Congratulations J.V. "B" 'Lopes



Junior Varsity Boys - (back row, left to right) Chris Curb, Keith Meredith, Eric Reyna, Stace Norman, coach Xavier Rangel, J.J. Harris, Josh Lee, Zach Lopez, Shawn Merritt, (front row) Braden Bratcher, Robert Apolar and Ryan Ulm. (Photo by Pam Gorman)

Syd & Lil Conner

B.O.F. Services

Joe & Kyran Moore



Congratulations Varsity Lady Lopes



Post Varsity Lady Lopes - (back row, left to right) Christin Collier, Kenda Josey, Shannon Rasbeary, (middle row) Patricia Hester, Nikki Norman, Tayler Starkey, (front row) Brittney Courtney, Logan Gregory, Meagan Hoover, Kaycee Gorman, Donae Dalby and Jessica Mason. (Photo by Pam Gorman)

Jimmy, Nancy & Justin Norman

Terry & Ofelia Hoover

Giles & Mendy Dalby

Kyle & Diane Josey

Congratulations Varsity Antelopes



Post Antelope Varsity - (back row, left to right) Brice Easterling, Jarrett Vickers, coach Dane Vickers, Jerrison Moore, Jerrad Grisham, (front row) Jett Lott, Mitchell Mills, Sterling Smith and Kenny Ratke. (Photo by Pam Gorman)

Allen & Pixie Grisham

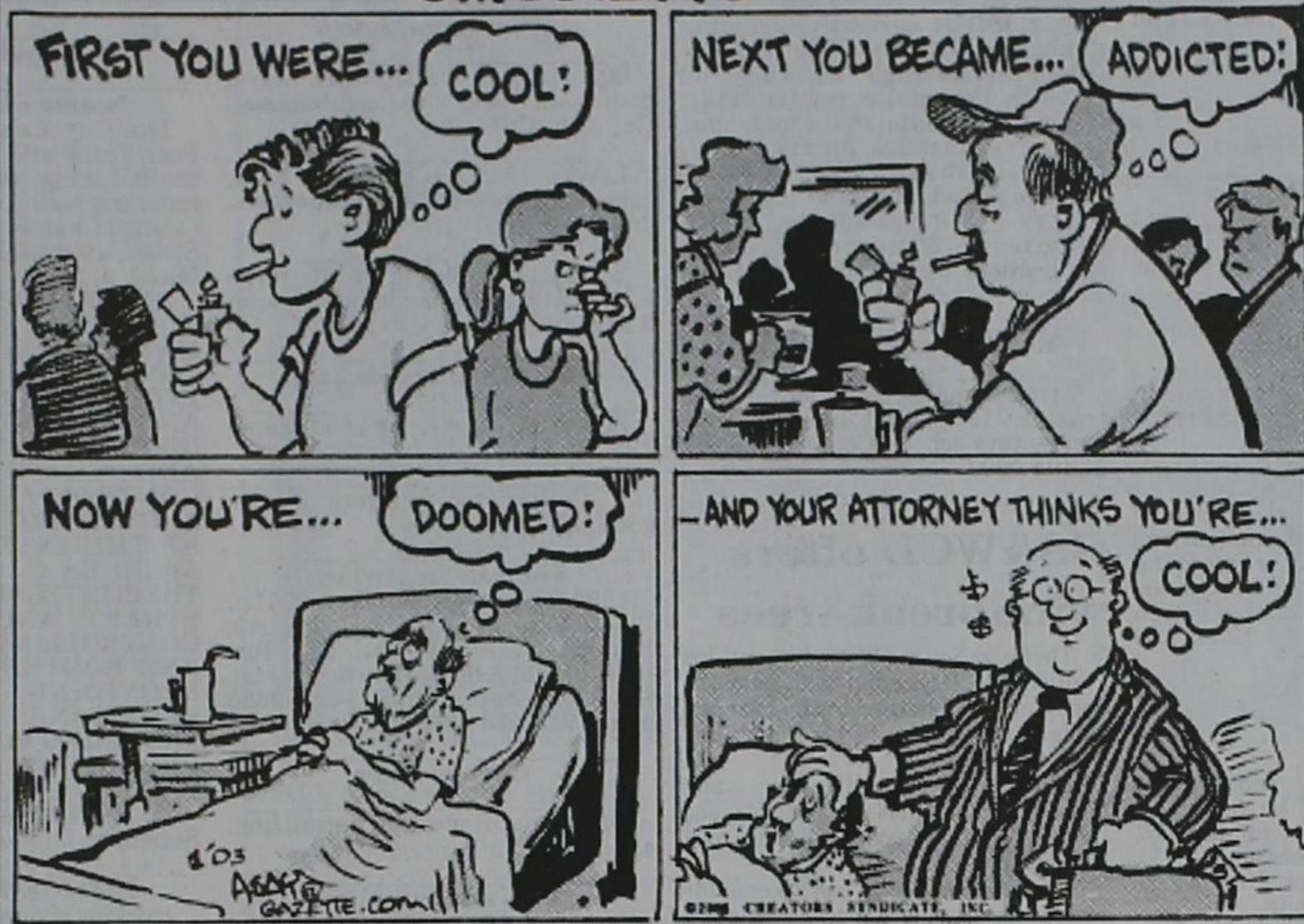
Jeff & Gena Lott

Perry & Kelly Smith

Coach & Kathy Vickers

Opinions

SMOKERS



FAA aviation aversion therapy

by Walter E. Williams

Aversion therapy is sometimes used when there are associated behavior patterns that are pleasant but might be regarded by a third party as undesirable. For example, alcoholics love consuming large amounts of alcohol.

Aversion therapy involves associating alcohol consumption with a very unpleasant stimulus. One method is to require the alcoholic to take a sip of whiskey having first taken a nausea-inducing drug.

Sipping the whiskey is followed immediately by violent vomiting. In future, just the smell of alcohol produces the unpleasant memory of vomiting — and hopefully the patient will stop drinking. Aversion therapy is used in the treatment of compulsive gambling, sexual perversions and various phobias.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has come up with its form of aversion therapy. Flying to one destination or another to deliver lectures on a range of economic topics used to be pleasant, but not any more.

The FAA has successfully treated me with aviation aversion therapy. Occasionally, I must fly somewhere. I don't vomit in anticipation, but I succumb to an almost uncontrollable rage on route to the airport that's intensified by the question, "May I see your ticket and photo I.D.?"

Being asked for a ticket and photo I.D. is reasonable, but it's a precursor of what follows. My carry-on luggage is tossed on the conveyor belt for x-ray. I walk through the metal detector. Suspenders, watches, wallet, cigarettes, tiepin, belt and ring can set off the alarm.

I've learned that, so those items are removed and placed in my brief case, and so are my eyeglasses. Despite de-metalizing myself, it's no guarantee that the alarm won't go off. When it does, a guard escorts me to a chair to wad my legs and crotch.

He orders me to take off my shoes, and they're x-rayed. Finally, there's the order for me to stand, arms outstretched, for more

wandering. Guards sometimes attempt to exchange pleasantries. I just look at them saying not one word, for fear of saying what I felt would lead to arrest.

Instead of pleasantries, they might apologize for the delay, inconvenience and sheer stupidity of a procedure that imposes high costs on millions upon millions of Americans who are no air safety threat whatsoever.

The FAA's aversion therapy has worked well with me. My rule is if the travel distance is 300 miles or less, I drive instead of fly. Flying is safer than driving 300 miles, but considering the two hour pre-flight arrival time, driving might get me to my destination just as quickly as flying, not to mention having been spared the psychological costs of airport hassle.

If there are other Americans like me, FAA's aviation aversion therapy has been costly to the airlines. There must be a better way. After all, if one's looking for a needle in a haystack, he need not examine every straw.

Or, if one is trying to find out which hand grenades are duds, he needn't explode every hand grenade. Robert Poole, a senior researcher at the Los Angeles-based Reason Foundation, suggests the issuance of a "trusted traveler" I.D.

To get one, you'd fill out an application — much like an application for a concealed weapon carry permit. Upon completion of an investigation, you'd be issued a tamper-proof "trusted traveler" I.D. that'd permit you to move through a line where there's less intense passenger screening.

The FAA will receive an apology the very day I hear a news story that an 80-year-old woman, a wheelchair bound amputee and a 6-month old baby, led by an instantly recognizable famous former U.S. congressman such as Newt Gingrich, have hijacked an airliner and flown it to Cuba.

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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Taxing dividends: once is not enough?

by Sheldon Richman

Why is it controversial to propose an end to double taxation? The centerpiece of President Bush's economic package is elimination of the tax on dividends. No one disputes that this is a double tax. A corporation pays taxes on its profits. Then if it distributes the after-tax profits to its shareholders, they pay taxes on that income. Corporate profits are taxed twice merely because they change locations.

The outcry against repeal of this outrage is deafening. Why? Because low-income people won't pay less tax as a result. Never mind that many low-income people already pay no income tax; in fact, they get cash handouts through the dishonestly named earned income tax credit. (How does one get a credit on taxes not paid?)

So, somehow, it's unfair to eliminate a tax if less-productive people don't directly benefit, but it's not unfair to tax something twice. A strange notion of fairness, indeed.

Such a notion can be based only on the view that all wealth belongs to the government, whose job it is to distribute it "equitably." Maybe that's why Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-R.I.), objecting to Bush's plan, said, "I can't see us giving away any more of our revenues." They certainly aren't Senator Chafee's revenues. So what's he talking about?

That's the typical attitude in Washington. To enact a spending measure, you need merely claim that someone is in need. No proof is required; certainly it does not have to be shown that need justifies confiscation. But to enact a tax cut to let productive people keep their own money, politically you shoulder an impossible burden of proof. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle reacted to the tax cut by saying it would help the "wrong people." No doubt he'd be appalled if it were pointed out that his statement reflects a tuggish collectivism unworthy of an earlier America. A tax cut lets people keep their own money. How can they be the wrong people?

If Daschle wants to say that the tax cuts should be deeper and include other taxes, then bravo! But that's not what he wants. He wants tax cuts for people who don't pay taxes and tax hikes for people who do. That's the logic of one who believes that all belongs to the state. Daschle should move to Europe where his ideas are more appropriate.

Some of the class warriors claim that low-income people do indeed pay taxes — not the income tax, but the payroll tax for Social Security and Medicare. Don't those people, they ask, deserve a tax cut?

Now this is progress. There was a time not long ago when the socialist-minded among us denied that Social Security and Medicare were supported by taxes. Those payments were called "contributions." The "C" in FICA is for "contribution." The defenders of Social Security and Medicare had a reason for this artful use of language: they wanted us to believe that those programs were insurance plans, not the welfare programs they really are.

But of course if you don't remit those "contributions" to the IRS you go to jail. If it waddles like a tax and quacks like a tax, it's a tax.

These days it serves the tax-the-productive crowd's interests to call those contributions taxes. It's the best shot those folks have at parrying the sensible argument that tax cuts should be restricted to taxpayers. I'm all for cutting — make that "repealing" — the payroll tax and the programs they finance.

But that's not what the class warriors have in mind. They would cut low-income people's payroll taxes, but continue to provide Social Security and Medicare benefits at the old level — which means wealthier people would be forced to subsidize them to an even greater extent than today. That would make the welfare nature of those programs even clearer. And that's why few people in power are calling for a cut in the payroll tax.

There has also been the usual handwringing about the "cost" of cutting taxes. So let's say this one more time: cutting taxes doesn't cost people money. Government programs do. Is that really so difficult?

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., and editor of *Ideas on Liberty* magazine.

"Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will be America's heart, her benedictions, and her prayers. But she does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own."

—James Monroe

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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individuals, guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstone for our freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.



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Cash for what?

by Bill O'Reilly



Here's a moral dilemma that just about everyone will understand, with the possible exception of Michael Jackson. The Fox Television Network is paying the troubled singer millions to give his side of the story, after a firestorm of outrage over his videotaped admission that he sleeps with young boys.

Actually, there are not two sides to that situation, even though Jackson is so confused he doesn't know it. If you are an adult, you do not sleep with children who are not part of your family. Get it, moonwalker?

Jackson puts forth that he was conned by British interviewer Martin Bashir, and will provide outtakes backing up his opinion from the damning, original interview that ran on ABC. One of the outtakes shows Bashir telling Jackson, "your relationship with children is spectacular."

Well, that's swell, but who cares what Martin Bashir thinks? What's important here is that Jackson stated on camera: "I have slept in a bed with many children."

Not swell, especially because Jackson, according to The New York Times, paid one of those children an astounding \$25 million to shut up about bedding down with him. Apparently, Jackson learned nothing from that sordid scandal 10 years ago. A reading of the 12-year-old boy's charges released last week would make any responsible person's stomach turn.

So there is a moral dilemma in any business dealing with Jackson, and it is not hard to see. Jackson is being paid millions solely because of this controversy. He is not promoting a record or a movie or a concert tour. The allegations that he is a child molester are enriching him. Obviously, there is something very disturbing about that.

But a case can be made, and perhaps Fox will make it, that Jackson deserves a chance to defend himself with counter-evidence. The original interview was edited in England, and maybe Jackson has some points that were lost in the mix.

However, there is no question that Jackson wants money to tell his tale. A CBS news crew headed by "60 Minutes" correspondent Ed Bradley was all set to interview Jackson a few days ago. But he bagged it because one of his advisors told him he could get big money from a network. If Jackson really felt aggrieved, the "60 Minutes" venue would have provided him with much more credibility than the paid deal will.

Your humble correspondent decided a long time ago that Michael Jackson is a disturbed man who should be kept away from all children, including his own. Anybody who would mutilate his face the way this guy has, is self-loathing in my opinion. Jackson's modus operandi has been to lavish gifts on young kids and their unbelievably irresponsible parents. In return, he gets private "visits" with those children.

This is wrong and dangerous, and the California authorities should be ashamed for not taking a more aggressive approach to monitoring Jackson's behavior with minors. The quote from the Santa Barbara County DA that "sleeping with children is not a crime," is simply outrageous.

If it were up to me, I would not pay Jackson a dime. Any business deal with this guy is creepy and perhaps immoral. We are living in a time and a country where boundaries of decent behavior are collapsing all around us. Michael Jackson is the poster boy for that. He should be shunned.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the new book "The No Spin Zone," in addition to last year's best-selling book "The O'Reilly Factor: The Good, the Bad, and the Completely Ridiculous." To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com.
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"The people of the States are free, subject only to restrictions in the constitution itself or in constitutionally authorized Acts of Congress, to define the moral, political, and legal character of their lives."
Executive Order 13132 "Federalism" section 2(d) August 4, 1999

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Sports



The Post Antelope varsity baseball team opened its season last week hosting a scrimmage with Slaton. The team lost a close game Monday night at Cooper and will travel to Colorado City Friday for a 4:30 non-district game.



Randon Blacklock opened up the 2003 Post Antelope baseball season with solid pitching at the scrimmage with Slaton here last week.

PHS Sports on Classic Cable Channel 12 Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. & 8 p.m.

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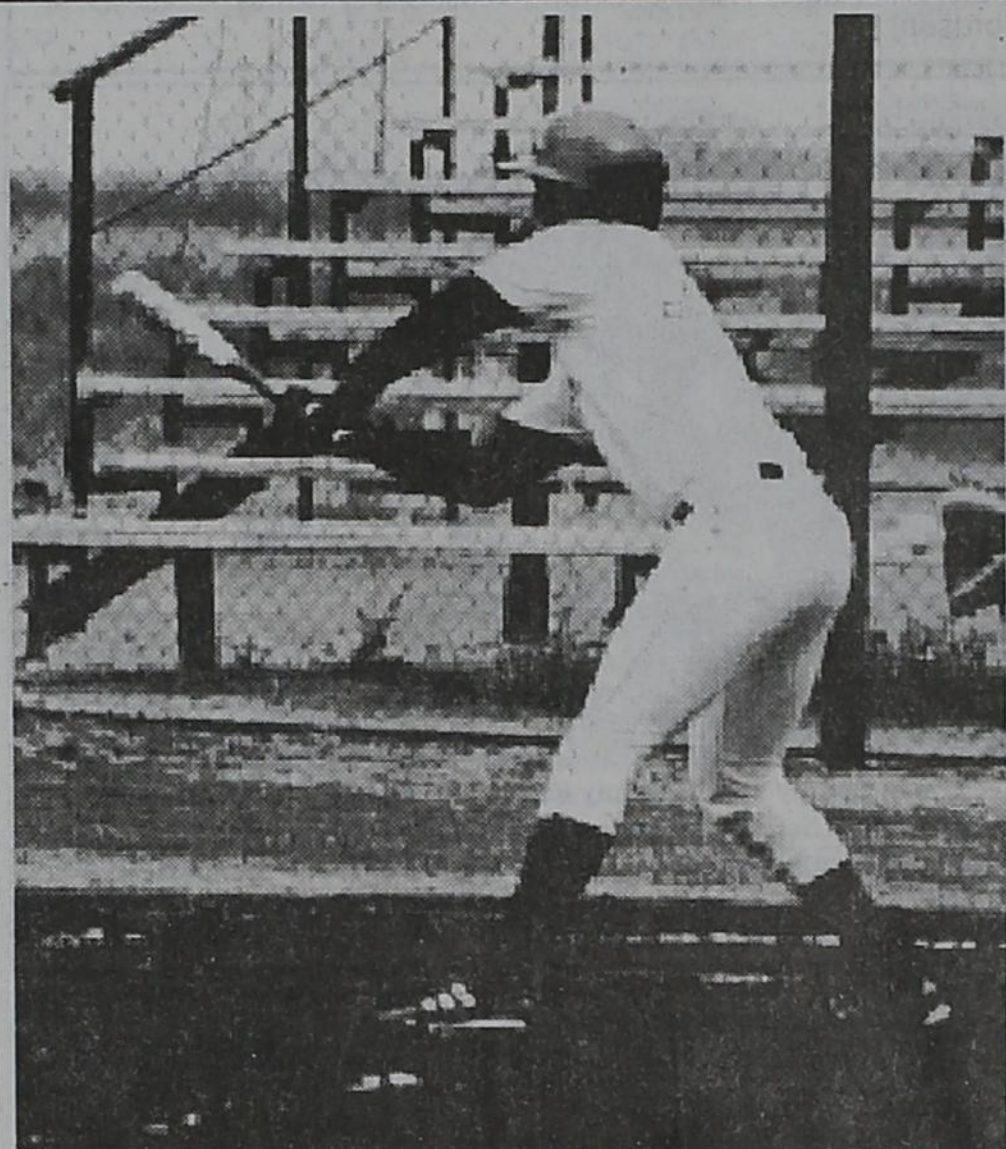
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Luis Zubia takes a swing during last week's scrimmage here against Slaton as the Post Antelopes opened up the 2003 baseball season.

PHS Varsity Baseball Schedule

Feb. 21	@ Colorado City	4:30
Feb. 22	Sweetwater DH here	1 p.m.
Feb. 25	Muleshoe here	5 p.m.
Feb. 27-Mar. 1	@ Sweetwater Tourney	
Mar. 4	@ Slaton	4:30 p.m.
Mar. 6-8	@ Snyder Tourney	
Mar. 11	@ Lockney	5:30 p.m.
Mar. 21	* Idalou here	5 p.m.
Mar. 25	@ * Tahoka	6:30 p.m.
Mar. 28	* Roosevelt here	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 1	* New Deal here	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 4	* Shallowater here	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 8	@ * Idalou	5 p.m.
Apr. 11	* Tahoka here	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 15	@ * Roosevelt	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 18	@ * New Deal	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 22	@ * Shallowater	5 p.m.

* District Games

Coaches: Max Kattwinkel, Xavier Rangel, Brian Davenport



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

Senior 4-H Fashion Show

All youth 14 and over interested in

participating in the Senior 4-H Clothing Project and Fashion Show, need to call 495-4400 to sign up by February 21st.

4-H Photography Project

Anyone interested in signing up for this project need to call 495-4400 by Friday, February 28th.

Livestock Judging
If you are interested in signing up for Livestock Judging, call Greg at 495-4400 by Friday, February 28th.

CEU Opportunities

Saturday, February 22
There will be 5.75 CEUs available to producers from 8:00 a.m. til 2:30 p.m. at the Women's Building at the Hockley County Fairgrounds. Registration at the door will be \$18. For more information call (806) 894-2406.

Wednesday, February 26
Three CEUs will be available at a Rangeland and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Field Day to be held at the Tongue River Ranch at Dumont. Registration will be \$15. Program starts at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 3:00 p.m. For more information come by the Extension office.

LEGAL NOTICE

On February 6, 2003, VALOR Telecommunications of Texas, LP (VALOR) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish surcharges to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with seven hundred thirteen (713) Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) routes implemented in and between VALOR's Texas telephone exchanges and in many instances, exchanges of other local telephone companies. The application is filed based on the Commission's Substantive Rule 26.221 titled, "Applications to Establish or Increase Expanded Local Calling Service Surcharges".

ELCS expands a local calling scope to include one or more additional telephone exchanges, if customers in a petitioning exchange approve by ballot, the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues associated with VALOR's surcharge application are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee.

In the application, VALOR proposes to implement on an interim basis a monthly per line surcharge of \$.99 for residential customers and \$1.98 for business customers beginning with the April, 2003 bill cycle. This proposed surcharge will apply in addition to any monthly ELCS fees. If rates at or above the level of the interim surcharges are not ultimately approved by the Commission, VALOR will refund all or part of the interim surcharges, as directed by the Commission. Ultimately, VALOR seeks approval of monthly surcharges of \$3.38 for business lines and \$1.69 for residential lines to replace the interim surcharges. Additionally, the application proposes that customers currently billed ELCS fees lower than \$3.50 per residential line and \$7 per business line, will have those fees raised to \$3.50 per residential line and \$7 per business line.

The net annual effect on the revenues of VALOR will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost revenues and reimburses VALOR for the increased cost of service associated with ELCS. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs VALOR seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$7,601,145 annually.

If you have questions about the proposed surcharges or would like further information, please call VALOR at 1-877-520-5220. The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 27363 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas as soon as possible and no later than April 14, 2003, the intervention deadline. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

AVISO

El 6 de febrero de 2003, VALOR Telecom de Texas, LP (VALOR) sometió una solicitud a La Comisión Pública de Servicios de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas) para establecer sobrecargos para recuperar las ganancias perdidas y los costos incrementados relacionados con setecientos trece (713) rutas implementadas del Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales (Expanded Local Calling Service) entre los despachos centrales de teléfono de VALOR de Texas y en muchas instancias, despachos de otras compañías locales de teléfono. La solicitud se sometió basada en la Regla 26.221 de La Comisión titulada, "Solicitudes para Establecer o Incrementar los Sobrecargos de Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales".

ELCS extiende el alcance de llamadas locales para incluir uno o más despachos de teléfono adicionales, si los clientes de un despacho hacen una petición de cambio que es aprobada por voto para pagar un cargo de ELCS en lugar de sobrecargos de larga distancia. Los costos y ganancias perdidas relacionadas con los sobrecargos de la solicitud de VALOR no son recuperables a través de la cuota del ELCS.

En la solicitud, VALOR propone implementar temporalmente un cargo mensual por línea de \$0.99 por cliente residencial y \$1.98 para clientes comerciales empezando con la facturación del ciclo de Abril, 2003. Este cargo propuesto se aplicará en adición a cualquier cargo mensual ELCS. Si las tarifas al o sobre el nivel de los sobrecargos temporarios no son ultimadamente aprobados por la Comisión, VALOR reembolsará todo o parte de los sobrecargos temporarios, indicados por La Comisión. Ultimadamente, VALOR busca aprobación de sobrecargos mensuales de \$3.38 por líneas comerciales y \$1.69 por líneas residenciales para reemplazar los sobrecargos temporarios. Adicionalmente, la solicitud propone que los clientes que actualmente son facturados con tarifas ELCS más bajas de \$3.50 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial, tendrán un incremento de tarifas a \$3.50 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial.

El efecto anual en las ganancias de VALOR serán cero siendo que los sobrecargos solicitados reemplazan las ganancias perdidas y reembolsa a VALOR por incremento en el costo del servicio relacionado con ELCS. El costo estimado total de las ganancias perdidas y el incremento de costos que VALOR tiene como fin recuperar a través de este procedimiento es \$7,601,145 anualmente.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de los sobrecargos propuestos o si necesita más información, por favor llame a VALOR al 1-877-520-5220.

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Proyecto No. 27363 a este procedimiento. Las personas que deseen intervenir o comentar en o sobre estos procedimientos deben notificar La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas tan pronto como sea posible y no más tarde del día 14 de Abril 2003, fecha límite de la intervención. Para intervenir o para más información, escriba a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas), 1701 N. Congress Avenue, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. También puede solicitar más información llamando a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Personas con impedimentos de hablar o del sentido de oír con teléfonos de textos (TTY) pueden comunicarse con La Comisión al (512) 936-7136.



Janice and Jerrel Brashear of Russellville, Arkansas will lead worship on Sunday, March 2 at the Grassland Church of the Nazarene beginning at 10:30 a.m. The gospel music service will include an offering to support The Brashears ministry.

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