



7 p.m. Saturday, June 28
Garza Theatre - Call 495-4005

The Post Dispatch

78th Year Number 4 USPS 439-620 © 2003 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 50¢ Thursday, June 26, 2003

Post Notes

Father/Daughter softball tourney

The First Annual "Whose Your Daddy" father/daughter softball tournament has been scheduled for a later date. There is a \$100 entry fee per team. Each team will consist of five daughters and five fathers. For more information contact Ysabel Overton at 806-543-3603 or Christina Jones at 629-4092. All proceeds benefit the Girls' Little League softball team.

First Baptist Church 'Street Carnival'

The First Baptist Church has set July 2 from 6-8 p.m. for its Vacation Bible School "Street Carnival." The event will register children (kindergarten through fifth grade) for the Vacation Bible School.

Calvary Baptist Church benefit sale

A garage sale to benefit the Calvary Baptist Church will be held Saturday, June 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 305 W. 3rd. The garage sale and bake sale to help with replacing the sanctuary roof. Call 495-3342 or 495-2342 for more information.

July 4th booth operators sought

Booth rental spaces at this year's July 4th Celebration at the park are being accepted, call 495-3069. Booths are needed for food and games. The July 4th Celebration will also include live music, decorated bike parade and fireworks. A drawing for a television set and quilt will be held, as well as an auction of items to benefit MAD DADS.

MAD DADS youth center summer hours

The MAD DADS youth center summer hours are Monday, noon to 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Friday and Saturday nights the youth center will open 7:30 p.m. to midnight. Additional hours will be announced following summer baseball.

Reception honors Postmaster

A "Meet and Greet" reception will be held Thursday, July 3 at the U.S. Post Office from noon to 4 p.m. The event is in honor of Postmaster Roy Willis on his retirement, and an opportunity to meet Margaret Toler, officer-in-charge (acting postmaster). Cookies and punch will be served.

Public Library offers "Story Hour"

The Post Public Library's "Story Hour" begins July 8 at 10 a.m. for children ages three through five and at 10:45 a.m. for sixth through eighth grade. The event will be held each Tuesday through the end of July.

Post Public Library "Blue Bonnet" books

The "Blue Bonnet" books and tests are available at the Post Public Library. Third grade students must pass seven out of 10 questions and the fourth and fifth graders must pass eight out of 10 questions. There will be one test opportunity only. Parents should encourage children to take their time reading the book before taking the test.

County oral history project

The Garza County Oral History Project is seeking volunteers to assist in preserving local history. All necessary supplies and equipment, along with training, are available. Volunteers will be asked to help only a few hours each month. Call 495-4148 for more information and to volunteer.

Family Night at the swimming pool

Dollar Family Night at the Post Public Swimming Pool has been changed to Friday nights. Hours are 6 to 8 p.m. Call 495-1066 for more information.

County rejects proposal to purchase JDC bonds

Someone else might buy them, but the Garza County commissioners have turned down an opportunity to purchase bonds which provided the financial backing for construction of the Garza County Juvenile Detention Center. Commissioners made the decision Monday morning following an executive session at the regular court meeting.

County Judge Giles W. Dalby said the court opted against pursuing the purchase of the bonds. "We've got so many irons in the fire," he said. "We don't need to take on that kind of debt."

Approximately \$4.75 million remains unpaid on the bonds, which are held by a source the county judge declined to name. The monthly payment is about \$40,000, but the last payment made on the debt was made in May by the Garza County Public Facility Corp., an organization the county judge said has no assets.

The local corporation is ultimately responsible for the debt, but no payment has been made for the month of June.

The payment received each month from the firm now managing and operating the juvenile detention center, Denver, Colo. based

Cornerstone, does not cover the amount of the monthly bond payment, Dalby said.

Regardless of the financial problems surrounding the juvenile facility, Garza County taxpayers will not be affected. "The county is protected," Dalby said Monday afternoon. "This won't have any impact on the county."

A representative of the GMS Group of Houston, the firm that handled the original bond placement, made the proposal to the court, the judge said.

The future of the 96-bed juvenile detention center has appeared shaky for months after Dalby received formal notice in late February that the center's original operator, MTC Corp., planned to bow out of its involvement with the facility because of financial concerns.

MTC relinquished its role in the center at the close of April. Cornerstone stepped in and continued operations beginning May 1.

The juvenile detention center opened in 1997 with 48 beds. The facility was expanded to 96 beds in 1999.

There is some uncertainty as to how the bond payment problem will affect the juvenile detention center. One reliable source said that another potential buyer of the bonds had shown some interest, although any buyer will more than likely insist on a hefty discount, considering the state-wide crunch on such facilities.

Apparently there is no real estate securing the bonds. The deed of trust shows Garza County as the property owner. The county entered into a lease with the Garza County Public Facility Corp (GCPFC). That corporation, organized in December 1996, sold bonds for the construction and then leased the property to MTC.

The GCPFC lists 300 W. Main (courthouse) as its location, but it is not an official organization under county control.

In other matters at Monday's meeting, the court heard a report for Texas Association of Counties (TAC) representative Chris Faught; approved minor revisions of the investment policy as recommended by treasurer Ruth Ann Young and authorized advertising for bids to sell a number of used vehicles.

A fireworks ban was approved, prohibiting the use of "sky rockets" or "fireworks with fins" within the unincorporated areas of Garza County.

Commissioners also agreed to support the South Plains Economic Development District and approved Watson-Sysco on its bid for Garza County school lunch/breakfast program at the juvenile detention center.



Willis counts the days toward retirement

Retiring Postmaster Roy Willis (left) works on transition with Margaret Toler, officer-in-charge at the Post Office here. A reception is set for July 3 to honor Willis and introduce Toler to the community. Willis has served as postmaster here for the past seven years.

Country Music lovers get set for Saturday's Colgate Country Showdown

Country music lovers are in for a real treat at This year's Colgate Country Showdown, featuring 10 talented acts competing for the chance at a \$100,000 prize and a recording contract.

KPOS Radio in Post will, for the third year consecutive year, host The Colgate Country Showdown. The show begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 28 at the Garza Theatre, and features the popular local band, The Guthries as backup for the contestants.

Reserved seat tickets are on sale at the Garza Theatre at \$5 each. Call the box office at 495-4005 for tickets. "Better hurry, last year was a sell-out," KPOS Radio managing director Wes Burnett emphasizes, "we have a limited number of seats."

The winner here will advance to regional competition in Abilene. The Colgate Country

Showdown is the nation's most prestigious professional country music talent show, which begins with local showdowns, where future country music stars seek to hone their skills and compete for \$100,000 in prize money and recording contract.

Steve Richie, Lubbock's KRBL Radio's popular personality, will serve as Master of Ceremony.

This year's talent for the show includes the popular "Country Boys," who perform all over West Texas. Members of the Country Boys are O.L. (Ferg) Ferguson, Billy Cork and Tinker Carlen.

Other contestants are Lubbock singers Debbie Nelson, Keith Sanders, Karla King, Tammy Gibson; Megan Cheek of Abilene, Katelyn Hobson of El Paso, Ashley Rene Hatley of Post, Raelin Ogle of Abilene and Venus Holmes of Littlefield.

The show will feature each of the acts performing two musical selections in two sets. Each act will perform one song, followed by a 15 minute intermission, then a second set will include each act's second selection.

A team of five impartial judges will determine the winner, using a weighted formula provided by the event national coordinators.



Ashley Rene Hatley



The Country Boys - Tinker Carlen (left to right) Billy Cork and O.L. "Ferg" Ferguson

Health Care District board discusses personnel benefits in secret meeting

Board of directors members of the Garza County Health Care District (also known as the Garza County Hospital District) went behind closed doors at the regular meeting Thursday, June 19 to discuss district personnel duties and benefits.

Although board president Ray Bagby cited the Texas Open Meetings Act as authority for the secret meeting, the subject of the closed session is not included in items authorized by the law for "executive sessions."

The law authorizes government bodies to deliberate individual personnel matters, such as complaints filed against an employee or review of individually named employees. The law also requires government organizations planning closed sessions to notify the affected employee (or employees) in advance, who then may call for the meeting to be held in public.

Provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act are designed specifically to provide public access to the actions of elected and appointed government officials. The agenda item did not disclose the names of any individual personnel being considered for the secret session.

During the "open" portion of the meeting, board members heard a detailed report from Physician Network Services (PNS) chief executive officer Paul Acreman. He provided information concerning the first full month of the Garza County Health Clinic, now owned and operated by the district, and managed by PNS.

Acreman pointed out that total collections of approximately \$4,000 are a reflection of April's accounts receivable. The first full month of PNS management began May 1. Acreman reported that there were a total of 551 patients receiving care at the clinic in May, and he believed that was a good sign for the future.

The total of all expenditures in May was approximately \$44,000, which included a few "one-time" expenses.

Details of the financial report were not available to The Post Dispatch.

"I asked district administrator Tonya Boucher for a copy of the report," Post Dispatch publisher Wesley W. Burnett explained, "but was told that she could not provide a copy, explaining that the report contained some private information."

"We believe that since the PNS report was presented at a public meeting, and since PNS operates through a public taxing authority, the report is part of the public record," Burnett added. "We will take appropriate action to meet our obligation to inform our readers," the publisher emphasized.

In other matters, the board took under advisement "Confidentiality Agreements" related to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

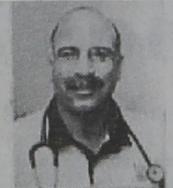
Boucher reported that a total of 12 Garza County citizens are being served as indigent, and that expenses for indigent care is under budget for the fiscal year.

Board members attending the meeting were Bagby, Zoe Kirkpatrick, Edna Owen and Mike Travis. The next regularly scheduled meeting is 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 17 at CitizensBank Community Room.

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Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush

Hey everyone, Is it hot or what?????

TO DORTHY

I want to send my sympathies to Dorthy Mason on the death of her son-in-law, J a y Cleavenger of Andrews. Just want Dorthy to

know she is in my prayers and I love her.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 Vacation Bible school is in full swing this week at the Methodist Church. I understand that there are four different churches involved. What a wonderful idea. **'IN THIS LIFE I'M A WOMAN**

In this life I'm a woman. In my next life, I'd like to come back as a bear. When you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could deal with that. Before you hibernate, you are supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that.

When you are a girl bear, you birth your children, (who are the size of a walnut), while you are sleeping, and you wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that. If

you're a mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cub. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them, too.

I could deal with that. If you're a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling. He EXPECTS that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat. Yup.... Gonna be a bear!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALBERTA

I understand that I missed a really jumpin birthday party on June 14th. Alberta Martin celebrated her 85th birthday with a party hosted by her daughters.

It was held at the Community center. Brisket, beans and all the trimmings were served and they even had a dance afterward.

From what I was told, Alberta can cut a rug. Special guests were Alberta's sisters, Delores Baldwin of Dimmitt and Ruth Martin of Post.

Also attending, Alberta's grandchildren and great grandchildren and many friends and neighbors. Hosts were Carolyn and Kenneth Williams, Cheryl and Richard Vardiman and Vicki Bilbo. Sounds like I missed a good one.

MOSQUITOS

Since the mosquitos have been so awful as late, thought I would pass on some hints to help. I received this via email. Softener Sheets... Best thing ever used in Louisiana... just wipe and go.

One vitamin B-1 tablet daily, April through October. Mosquitos love banana oil, don't eat them in the summer.

Plant marigolds around the yard, mosquitos can't stand the smell And last but not least, if none of these work, buy a frog.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to one of my favorite folks, Eva Gonzales. June 26 I believe.

FATHERS DAY SURPRISE

Bill Bevers received a nice Fathers Day surprise. He and Barbie's son, Shane, drove in from Evergreen, Alabama to surprise them. He was here also to help Barbie and Bill celebrate their wedding anniversary, number 33 I am told. Shane will be here all week before returning home. It had been two years since his mom and dad had seen him. What a nice gift!!!

TILL NEXT WEEK

Guess that is all for this week. Have a great weekend and I'll see ya next issue. May God bless each of you. Judy



Shania Eulalia Quintana suffers from a bone marrow disease, which requires surgery July 16 at Sottish Rite Hospital in Dallas. She is the daughter of Laura and Lupe Quintana Jr. of Post. The baby was diagnosed with neurofibromatosis in her right leg. Family and friends are organizing a fund raising event to assist with costs and medical expenses. The fund raiser will be on July 5 at a location to be announced next week. Contact Veronica Chapa at 495-5035 to offer assistance.



Celebrating Five Generations

A recent gathering at Golden Plains Care Center introduced young Easton Reed to great grandparents Dale and Martin Nichols (front). Joining in the event also were (back row, left to right) Martin Matsler, Naomi Matsler and Meagan Matsler. Dale and Martin Nichols are residents at Golden Plains. The child is a fifth generation on both sides of the family.

Births

Rebecca "Becca" Striblin is proud to announce the birth of a brother, Ronald Nelson Hudson, born March 25, 2003, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

The infant weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 21 1/4 inches long.

Parents are Ron and Melissa Hudson of Post.

Maternal grandmother is Betty Striblin of Post. Paternal grandparents are Jerry and Wynetta McCay of Lubbock and the late Robert Hudson. Paternal great-

grandfather is Winford Mullins of Lubbock. Aunts, uncles and cousins include Arthur, Kim and Kourtney Striblin of Lovelady; James and Gregory Striblin of Post; David, Sheila, Britni and Shonda McCay, Daniel and Jane McCay and Brent, Karen Ann, Micah and Noah McCay, all of Lubbock; Darrel, Sylvia and Samantha Hudson of Levelland; and Mike, Jennifer, Joshua and Michaela Hudson of Flatonia.



Ronald Hudson

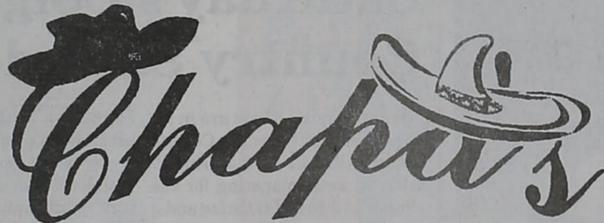


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SPC Announces second summer session registration

Registration for South Plains College's second summer term is July 7. Sign-up at SPC Levelland will be 1-5 p.m. in the Administration Building on the Levelland campus.

Enrollment at the SPC Reese Center campus in Lubbock will be 1-6 p.m. in Reese Building 1. SPC offers classes in Lubbock at the Reese Center and Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center.

Registration permits are required at both locations. Classes begin July 8, and final exams will be given Aug. 7.

Late registration is July 8-9. Courses will be offered in Accounting, Automotive Technology, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Information Systems, English, Government, History,

Law Enforcement, Mathematics, Physical Education, Psychology, Reading, Sociology, Spanish and Speech Communication.

Internet courses will be offered in Computer Information Systems, Electrical and Power Transmission Technology, English, Government and History.

SPC's summer 2003 class schedules can be accessed online at www.southplainscollege.edu.

To obtain a registration permit or additional information, contact SPC Levelland at 894-9611, ext. 2570 or 2375 or the SPC Reese Center at 885-3048, ext. 2902 or 4660.

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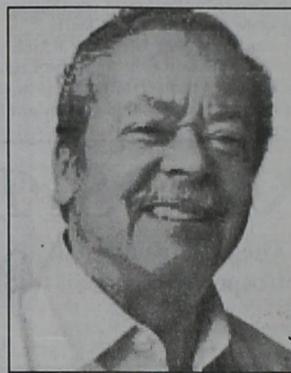
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Obituaries

Jay Clevenger

Services for Jay Clevenger, 52, of Andrews were held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2003, at the Calvary Baptist Church in Andrews with the Rev. Mike Henson, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Snyder, and the Rev. Bill Melton, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating. Burial followed in the Andrews West Cemetery under the direction of the McNett Funeral Home.

He died Sunday, June 22, in Andrews.
Born Feb. 23, 1951, in Artesia, N.M., he graduated from Andrews High School in 1970. A lifetime resident of Andrews, he had worked for Clyde's Refrigeration since 1972 and had owned the firm since 2001. A member of the Calvary Baptist Church, he had been involved in the Andrews Boy Scouts and Promise Keepers.

Survivors include one son, Johnny Clevenger of Andrews; one daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Mike Leatherwood of Oklahoma City, Okla.; his mother, Jada Clevenger of Andrews; one brother, Charles Clevenger of Andrews; one sister, Janice Matthews of Andrews; and two grandchildren, Autumn and Avery Leatherwood of Oklahoma City.

He was preceded in death by his father, Clyde Clevenger, on Nov. 14, 1999.
The family has requested memorials be sent to Calvary Baptist Church, 901 NE 4th Place, Andrews, TX 79714.

Johnny Perez

Services for Johnny Perez, 69, of Amarillo, formerly of Post, were held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 25, 2003, at Templo Bethel with the Rev. Mace Saenz officiating, assisted by the Rev. Roger Johnson. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery under the direction of the Hudman Funeral Home. Rosary was said at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, in the Holy Cross Catholic Church.

He died Monday, June 23, at HSA Hospice in Amarillo.
Born Dec. 16, 1933, in Thorndale, he married Olga Tijerina Nov. 10, 1971, in Post. A resident of Amarillo for the past 17 years, he had moved to Amarillo from Post. He had worked for the Postex Cotton Mill and was a member of the Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include his wife, Olga Perez of Amarillo; one daughter, Joann Perez of Post; four sons, Camilo Cerda, Augustine Cerda and Hussein Mansour, all of Amarillo, and Johnny Cerda of Odessa; one sister, Blanche Lara of San Antonio; one brother, Pete Perez of Lubbock; 18 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.



Wilburn L. Wheeler

Wilburn L. Wheeler, 68, of Pueblo, Colo., died May 6, 2003.
Born in Post in 1935, he graduated from Post High School in 1953. After graduation he moved to Colorado where he retired after 38 years of service with the Colorado State Patrol. He was the grandson of Lauris and Elma Wheeler.
Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Anna Marie; two sons; one daughter; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.
He was preceded in death by a son in 1995.



Post ISD band students attending the South Plains College band camp in Levelland 1st week were (back row, left to right) Ashley Stencil, Michaela Taylor, Preston Ortiz, Millie Dissinger, (middle row) director Aaron Rathbun, Zachary Nava, Susan Littrell, Rebecca Striblin, Chase Odom, (front) John Bockko, Courtney Basquez, John Rodriguez, Tianna Reyna and Michael Porter. Not available for photo were director Bernie Tackitt and Shiloh Short.

Post ISD trustees look at \$8.1 million budget

Trustees for the Post Independent School District are eyeing a budget of \$8.1 million, a figure cut by more than half a million dollars because of anticipated declines in local mineral values and state revenues.

According to a report on the trustees' June meeting from Superintendent Marlin Marcum, the board trimmed more than \$500,000 from an proposed \$8.6 million budget drawn up in March. The cuts were made in response to decreases in mineral values that are expected to produce \$4,000 less per penny of tax value in the 2003-2004 school year.

Coupled with the anticipated drop in state funding, revenues are expected to drop between \$750,000 and \$800,000 in the upcoming fiscal year, Marcum said.

The recommended budget cuts, boosted by a proposed two-cent increase in the tax rate, are expected to produce a balanced budget, according to the superintendent.

The tax rate is expected to jump from \$1.39 per \$100 valuation to \$1.41.

Under the proposed tax rate, the owner of a home valued at \$50,000 would pay \$10 more in taxes in the coming school year than paid in the current fiscal year.

"At the \$1.41 rate, (the) Post ISD will earn \$334,599 less than it did last year from the taxes, and in the last legislative session, changes were made to state funding formulas that will result in revenue losses as well," Marcum wrote. "It will be some time before we know the exact impact of those changes. In the meantime, the fiscal year begins on July 1, and we must have our budget ready by then."

Tax rates in the Post ISD reflect the ongoing fluctuations of mineral values in the district. As mineral values increase, tax rates typically decrease. When values dropped, tax rates increased to meet the financial needs of the district, Marcum said. To safeguard the district against such fluctuations, a "healthy" fund balance has been maintained. The Post ISD anticipates a \$6 million-plus fund balance at the close of the current fiscal year.

"Trustees have determined to not dig into fund balance in the coming year, but to balance the budget," Marcum said in a written report. "They also expect to maintain and improve student performance in curricular and extracurricular areas."

The school board conducted a public hearing on the proposed budget Wednesday evening, June 25.

The district plans to implement the new budget July 1, and the new tax rate should be adopted no later than Sept. 1.

"That will give us time to assess the impact of the legislative session on the budget and adjust the rate accordingly," Marcum said. "Trustees and administrative leadership have (the) Post ISD in good financial shape to handle tax-base fluctuations and the anticipated state changes as well."

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI
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FALSE PROPHETS!

MORE THAN ONCE THE BIBLE WARNS, "BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS!" (MATT 7:15). AGAIN WE NOTE IN THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH THAT THE LORD SAID, "...THE PROPHETS PROPHESY LIES IN MY NAME." (CHAP 14:14) THESE ADMONITIONS, AND MANY MORE LIKE THEM, WERE GIVEN IN EARNEST INSTRUCTION TO THE PEOPLE! YET THEY OFTEN DID NOT HEED THE ADVICE OF THE WISE MEN. THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR A RAGGED BEGGAR TO WANDER INTO A VILLAGE OR TOWN, PROCLAIMING THAT HE HAD JUST COME OUT OF A FAST IN THE WILDERNESS AND WAS SPEAKING WITH THE LORD'S VOICE! HAVING CONVINCED A FEW OF THE MORE SIMPLE-MINDED ONES THAT HE WAS INDEED A MESSENGER FROM THE LORD, IT WAS NO BIG DEAL FOR THE BEGGAR TO START FREE-LOADING LIVING OFF THE BEST THAT THE POOR VILLAGERS COULD SCROUNGE OUT OF THEIR MEAGRE LARDERS!

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First Baptist Church, Wilson 628-6333
Justiceburg Baptist Church Justiceburg
Pleasant Home Baptist Church E. 14th & N. Ave F
Pleasant Valley Baptist Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174
Templo Bautista 315 W. Main
Trinity Baptist Church 915 N. Ave O, 495-3038
Wilson First Baptist (806) 628-6333

Catholic
Holy Cross Catholic Church Ave. K and Main St., 495-2791

Church of Christ
Church of God of Prophecy 602 W. 14th, 495-3644
Lighthouse Christian Center Church of God 314 N. Ave I, 495-2237
Power House Church of God and Christ Pine Ave.
Disciples of Christ 812 W. 13th, 495-3716
Methodist
First United Methodist Church 216 W. 10th, 495-2942
Graham Chapel United Methodist Church 495-3492
Nazarene
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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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Anchors Away

by Bill O'Reilly

The death of journalist David Brinkley brought the usual cries of how terrible the state of TV news is these days. Newsweek magazine always a predictable source of establishment angst, praised Brinkley as one of a kind and far superior to the "blowhard" TV news types these days. I felt quite a breeze as that insult whizzed by.



Anyway, Brinkley was unique and skilled and an innovator, there's no doubt about it. He was one of the few TV anchor people who never pandered to the powerful, and his skepticism separated him from the fawning majority of television types who above all, want access to the famous and infamous. For Brinkley, accurate analysis and information was the goal, and if that offended somebody, so be it. He also had style and wit, something severely lacking on Broadcast Row these days.

But the new era of instant information rendered David Brinkley and many other broadcast veterans almost powerless. No longer is the American public a captive audience, and no longer will the folks settle for an expressionless recitation of the news. With the advent of the Internet and round-the-clock cable news, the audience quickly knows the basic facts of a story. But often along with those facts comes instant spin and contradiction. Informational fog develops, leaving busy Americans in need of context. They want to know how the journalists they trust (SET ITAL) feel (END ITAL) about things that are important to their lives. The news consumer is almost desperate for someone to define the truth of the matter.

Thus, the good old days when the Brinkleys, the Cronkites and even Tom, Dan and Peter could simply introduce stories in measured tones are coming to an end. The audience for dispassionate TV news is shrinking, the demand for passionate reporting and analysis is on the rise.

That trend, of course, is like a cross in front of a vampire for the TV news traditionalists. (SET ITAL) They hate that. (END ITAL) Even though newspapers have editorialized from the very beginning of this republic, and print columnists are legion, analysis during a TV news broadcast is still very daunting for many network news types.

The question is, why? I had to ask Peter Jennings five times on my program if it frustrated him to keep his opinions to himself all the time. He finally admitted it did (or maybe he just wanted to shut me up). But it makes sense. Jennings as well as Dan Rather and Tom Brokaw know a lot more than they're telling you. They understand the issues and know who the charlatans are. These three men should be commentators, not news readers. They have insights far beyond most Americans. For the good of the country they should share them.

Two things hold them back. First, it is risky to do news analysis. You are bound to tick off some powerful people. Whatever opinion you throw out, somebody's not going to like it. These guys are not used to taking heat. When you have gazillions of dollars in the bank, who needs that?

Secondly, the network suits would get nervous. Newspaper columnists are expected to offend people. TV types are not. They are basically diplomats, and some are even a calming influence. Can you imagine Peter Jennings pointing his finger demanding that President Bush come clean about weapons of mass destruction? Can you picture Tom Brokaw pounding his desk and chiding Hillary for writing a book full of propaganda? It is hard to imagine, but wouldn't you like to see it?

Just about anybody can be taught to read the news. Topo Gigio, the little Italian mouse could do it. Why are brilliant men like Jennings, Rather and Brokaw wasting their time chucking headlines at us? The country needs clarity and honest insights. David Brinkley is gone, but the others still have some time.

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. COPYRIGHT 2003 BillO'Reilly.com.

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Protecting the environment

by Walter E. Williams



Disagreement with the world's environmentalist wackos doesn't mean that one is for dirty air and water, against conservation and for species extinction. Dr. Richard Stroup, Montana State University professor of economics and senior associate of the Center for Free Market Environmentalism, explains commonsense approaches to environmental issues in his new book, "Eco-nomics: What Everyone Should Know About Economics and the Environment."

Stroup starts out with the first lesson of economics: There's scarcity. That means more of one thing means less of another. California's San Bernardino County was just about ready to build a new hospital. That was until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department discovered that the endangered flower-loving Delhi Sands fly was found on the site. The county had to spend \$4.5 million to move the hospital 250 feet; it also had to divert funds from its medical mission to pay for mandated Delhi Sands fly studies.

Question: Was it worth it? On the benefit side, we have the survival of some Delhi Sand flies, but what about the cost side? How much pain and suffering and perhaps loss of human life was there because millions of dollars were diverted from the hospital's medical mission?

Stroup's analysis warns us that we must always attend to a regulation's unanticipated side-effects. In other words, beneficiaries of a regulation tend always to be easily detected, but the victims are invisible.

David Lucas owned shoreline property that the South Carolina government told him he couldn't develop, even though his next-door neighbors developed their property. South Carolina's regulation made his shoreline property virtually worthless. Lucas sued, and the U.S. Supreme Court forced the South Carolina government to pay him \$1 million. Once the state was forced to pay Lucas \$1 million, it changed its mind about the worth of keeping the shoreline undeveloped. In fact, it sold it to a developer.

South Carolina's actions demonstrate that incentives matter. Costs born by others will have less of an effect on our choices than when we bear them directly. Environmentalists love it when the government can force private citizens to bear the burden of their agenda, as opposed to requiring that government pay landowners for property losses due to one regulation or another. It's cheaper, and that means government officials will more readily cave in to environmentalists' demands.

In other words, regulations that stop a landowner from using his land because of the red-cockaded woodpecker, or prevent a farmer from tilling his land because of an endangered mouse, or prevent a homeowner from building a firebreak to protect his home produce costs that are privately borne. If government had to compensate people for regulations that reduce the value of their property, more intelligent decisions would be made. Besides, if a particular measure will benefit the public, why should its cost be borne privately?

Environmentalists go berserk whenever there's talk of drilling for the tens of billions of dollars worth of oil in Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge. Why? It doesn't cost them anything.

Here's what I predict. If we gave environmentalists Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge, you can bet your last dollar that there'd be oil drilling. Why? It would now cost them something to keep the oil in the ground. The Audubon Society owns the Rainey Preserve in Louisiana, a wildlife refuge. There's oil and natural gas on its property, and it has allowed drilling for over half a century. Not allowing drilling, in the name of saving the environment, would have cost it millions of dollars in revenue.

Stroup's "Eco-nomics," available at stores and the Washington-based Cato Institute, is less than 100 pages long but contains powerful lessons for sensible approaches to the world's environmental issues.

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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Ten Planks of "Freedom" Manifesto

by Jacob G. Hornberger

Now, tell me if I have this right: It doesn't really matter whether President Bush and his associates lied about Saddam Hussein's "weapons of mass destruction" or exaggerated the danger — even though the reason that most Americans supported the war was the threat of imminent attack from such weapons — because the war on Iraq has brought "freedom" to the Iraqi people.

Three months after the invasion, which killed or maimed thousands of innocent people, including more than 100 American GIs, here's the "freedom" that Iraqis are now celebrating:

1. The Iraqi people are now living under direct military rule, with foreign military commanders ruling by decree.
2. Democratic elections are prohibited, and political rulers are being selected by military commanders.
3. Iraqi citizens are being required to turn in their weapons to the military authorities.
4. There is a mandatory 11 p.m. curfew, enforced by soldiers.
5. There are warrantless searches of homes and warrantless seizures of criminal suspects; these are conducted not by the police but by army troops.
6. Occupation troops are killing demonstrators and suspected criminals without a trial or due process of law.
7. The military authorities are continuing Saddam Hussein's system of government-run schools for the nation's children, albeit with new forms of official indoctrination.
8. The military authorities are continuing Saddam Hussein's system of monetary central planning, even to the extent of inflating the currency by printing quantities of Iraqi money with Saddam's photo on it.
9. There is military censorship and regulation of the media and a ban on anti-military speech and activity.
10. The military commanders are continuing Saddam Hussein's and his Ba'ath Party's socialist policies of public ownership of the means of production, central planning of economic activity, and welfare.

(Did I also mention that widespread looting continues across the country, which, according to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, is also a part of Iraq's new "freedom," albeit an "untidy" part?)

Wow! So all this is "freedom"? Please, remind me again — what exactly is tyranny? And would someone mind telling me how "freedom" in Iraq is different, in principle, from political conditions, say, in Burma?

Of course, it's not surprising that Washington officials would consider omnipotent power over people's lives and fortunes, albeit in a more benign form than other military dictatorships, to constitute "freedom."

But what's disquieting about all this is that so many Americans, after having been frightened into supporting the president's invasion of Iraq on the basis of his deceptive claims about Saddam Hussein's "weapons of mass destruction," are now blindly believing his claim that the Iraqi people are free.

Even more disquieting, however, is the possibility that, under the right circumstances (such as a big terrorist attack in the United States arising out of the war on Iraq), our "freedom"-loving fellow citizens might eagerly embrace efforts by the president and Pentagon to "free" us.

Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation.

Just say "no" to secret meetings

by Wes Burnett

In all the years I've been attending and covering government meetings, I am still amazed at how most government organizations so casually disregard the notion of "open" government, as they frequently conduct business behind closed doors.

What's most frustrating, is the apparent disdain local government officials have for the statutory law which regulates what is, and what is not authorized to be discussed in these secret gatherings.

The most egregious violator of the principle of open government in this county is the board of directors of the Garza County Health Care District (also known as Garza County Hospital District). Whenever I see the agenda and note the reason for going behind closed doors, I simply shake my head in disbelief.

"Discuss duties and benefits" of personnel? It is a well established rule of law in Texas that closed meetings to discuss personnel must be related directly to a named person... with matters directly affecting an individual, and more than that, the named individual must be notified in advance and have the opportunity to face his or her accusers, in public if so desired. Then, the Garza County Commissioners' Court met Monday to discuss the purchase of bonds... I suppose they had the idea that was somehow related to purchasing real property?

These secret meetings may protect the elected officials temporarily from the wrath of voters, but such practices generally result in suspicion and loss of faith in those who stoop to hiding behind closed doors to conduct public business. They act as if they are members of a private club.

The Post City Council is a shining light in this mass of darkness... the only secret meetings at city hall that I can recall are those held to interview candidates for city manager. Yet, even that exercise should be open to all.

There's just no excuse for those who manage public funds and public policy to meet in secret. Only in "police states" and nations under the thumb of dictators do we expect that kind of behavior.



POST SUMMER BASEBALL - A's, (back row, left to right) coaches Sonny Storie, Donnie Windham, Lupe Perez, (middle row) Clint Windham, Trent Babb, MJ Wynne, Chase Greathouse, Jordan Curtis, (front row) Wil Storie, Solomon Abraham, Kevin Martin, Dale Diaz.



POST SUMMER BASEBALL - Dodgers, (back row, left to right) coaches Lanny Copeland, Dick Odom, Phil Tyler, (middle row) Kyle Copeland, Caitlin Cravy, Kyle S. Copeland, Austin Tyler, Cesar Ceja, Bradley Benham, (front row) Brandon Martin, Chase Odom, Quentin Benham, Garrett McCarty and Reece Belongia.



POST SUMMER BASEBALL - Yankees, (back row, left to right) coaches Chris Wishkaemper, Paul Perez, Gilbert Perez, (middle row) Shawn Perez, Ulysis Garcia, Travis Rasbeary, Zach Torres, Jesse Vera, Arron Perez, (front row) Jcke Wishkaemper, Dale Diaz, Edgar Garcia, Jamie Gomez, Johnathan Perez and Kaylem Perez.



POST SUMMER BASEBALL - 9-10 year old All Stars - (back row, left to right) coaches John David Fields and Lupe Perez, (middle row) Austin Fields, Aaron Macy, Bradley Benham, Caitlin Cravy, Quentin Benham, Kyle Copeland, Arron Perez, (front row) Jordan Curtis, Chase Greathouse, Jake Wishkaemper, Johnathan Perez and Dale Diaz.



POST SUMMER BASEBALL - 11-12 year old All Stars - (back row, left to right) coaches Donnie Windham, Kurt Chapman and Steve Peña, (middle row) Flynn Chapman, Giles Dalby, Clint Windham, Jesse Vera, (front row) Kevin Martin, Garrett Peña, Jarrett Blevins, Cesar Ceja, Reece Belongia, Jamie Gomez and Allen Duran.



Bryan Brownlow (right) hams it up during the Relay For Life "Prettiest Woman" contest.



Nancy McDonald (left) and Kay Postell share a moment during the recent Relay For Life event.



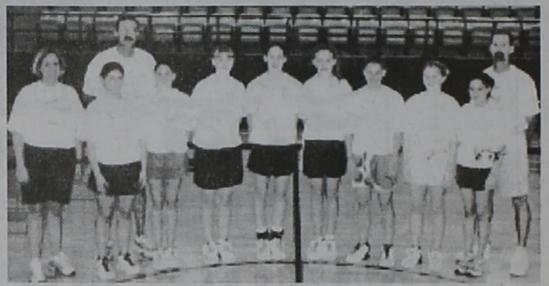
POST SUMMER BASEBALL - Sportsmanship Awards, (back, left to right) Travis Rasbeary, Caitlin Cravy, (front) Solomon Abraham, Jordan Curtis and Aaron Macy.



Relay For Life volunteers having a bit of fun with the "Prettiest Woman" contest.



Relay For Life cancer survivors celebrate another successful campaign.



LADY LOPES HOOP CAMP 7th, 8th & 9th grades - coaches Courtney and White, (front) coach Grace, Keisha Odom, Rachel Gray, Kylee Easterling, Samantha Hoover, Brenna Postell, Sarah Kirkpatrick, Steffi Norman and Valerie Moreno. Not available for photo was AshLeigh Harris.



LADY LOPES HOOP CAMP 4th through 6th grades - (back) coaches White, Grace and Courtney, (middle row) Misty Ayala, Amber Wilson, T.J. Jacques, Sydney Jones, Madison Cash, Skylar Jones, Alisha Jones, (front) Rachael Payne, Alex Miller, Branda Stevens, Hannah Kirkpatrick, Kelsey Overton, Kari Dunn and Reagan Belongia.

Atmos Energy expects higher energy costs in coming months

Natural gas customers across the nation will see higher gas costs this winter than those in the winter of 2002-2003.

Natural gas wellhead prices are almost double what they were last summer. Although natural gas is primarily a winter fuel, the higher costs experienced now in with futures prices hovering around \$6 per 1,000 cubic feet (Mcf) as compared to approximately \$3 per Mcf a year ago will affect what consumers will pay this winter.

Natural gas utilities like Atmos Energy Corp. do not profit from these higher wellhead prices because they typically are passed through to consumers. As gas demand tapers off in the summer and prices drop, the natural gas industry usually is able to replenish storage supplies with less expensive gas; however, this is not the case this summer. Supplies are much tighter, resulting in higher gas costs.

Atmos Energy, in an effort to offer more stable gas pricing, actively seeks out storage and hedging opportunities whenever and wherever it is prudent and possible. Savings realized and passed along to

its Texas customers from utilizing hedging and storage opportunities were approximately \$7 million in 2002-2003.

Ceja named to UTPB dean's list

Rodrigo Ceja of Post was among students named to the Dean's List for the spring 2003 semester at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa.

Students who have a semester grade point average of 3.50 to 3.99 are listed on the Dean's Honor List.

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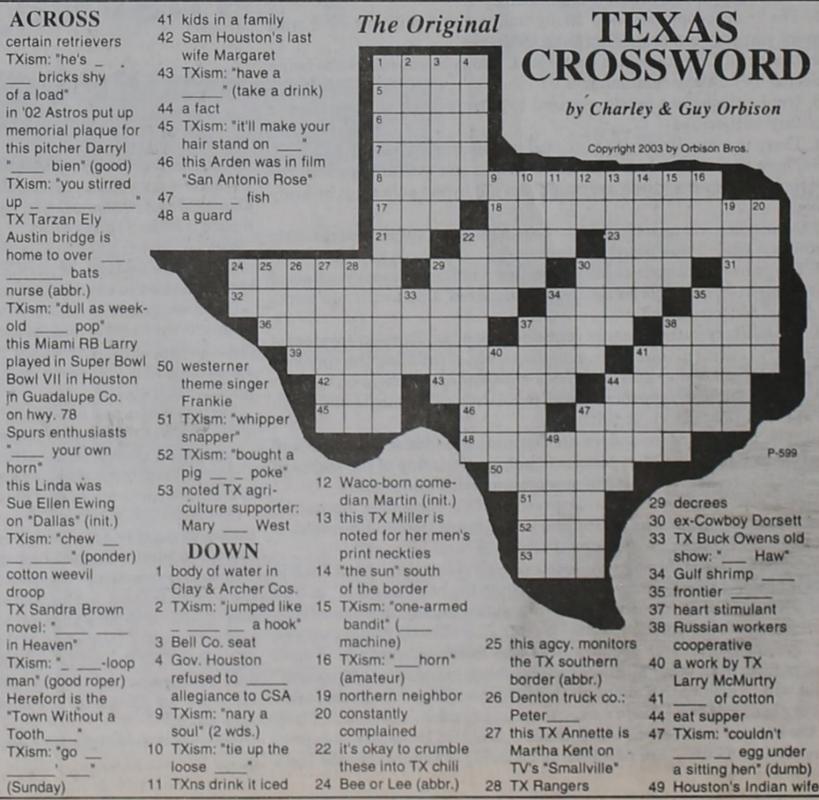
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ACROSS

1 certain retrievers

5 TXism: "he's ___ bricks shy of a load"

6 in '02 Astros put up memorial plaque for this pitcher Darryl

7 "___ bien" (good)

8 TXism: "you stirred up ___"

17 TX Tarzan Ely

18 Austin bridge is home to over ___ bats

21 nurse (abbr.)

22 TXism: "dull as week-old ___ pop"

23 this Miami RB Larry played in Super Bowl VII in Houston in Guadalupe Co. on hwy. 78

24 TX Spurs enthusiasts "___ your own horn"

31 this Linda was Sue Ellen Ewing on "Dallas" (init.)

32 TXism: "chew ___" (ponder)

34 cotton weevil droop

35 TX Sandra Brown novel: "___ in Heaven"

37 TXism: "___-loop man" (good roper)

38 Hereford is the "Town Without a Tooth"

39 TXism: "go ___" (Sunday)

41 kids in a family

42 Sam Houston's last wife Margaret

43 TXism: "have a ___" (take a drink)

44 a fact

45 TXism: "it'll make your hair stand on ___"

46 this Arden was in film "San Antonio Rose"

47 ___ fish

48 a guard

DOWN

1 body of water in Clay & Archer Cos.

2 TXism: "jumped like ___ a hook"

3 Bell Co. seat

4 Gov. Houston refused to ___ allegiance to CSA

9 TXism: "nary a soul" (2 wds.)

10 TXism: "tie up the loose ___"

11 TXns drink it iced

12 Waco-born comedian Martin (init.)

13 this TX Miller is noted for her men's print neckties

14 "the sun" south of the border

15 TXism: "one-armed bandit" (___ machine)

16 TXism: "___ horn" (amateur)

19 northern neighbor

20 constantly complained

22 it's okay to crumble these into TX chill

24 Bee or Lee (abbr.)

25 this agcy. monitors the TX southern border (abbr.)

26 Denton truck co.: Peter ___

27 this TX Annette is Martha Kent on TV's "Smallville"

28 TX Rangers

29 decrees

30 ex-Cowboy Dorsett

33 TX Buck Owens old show: "___ Haw"

34 Gulf shrimp ___

35 frontier ___

37 heart stimulant

38 Russian workers cooperative

40 a work by TX Larry McMurtry

41 ___ of cotton

44 eat supper

47 TXism: "couldn't ___ egg under a sitting hen" (dumb)

49 Houston's Indian wife

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Taryn Soto

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Zachary Davis
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Card of Thanks

We would like to take a few moments to say Thank-you to all of you who prayed, called, sent flowers and food while our daughter, sister, wife, and mother Cindy Aguilar was in the hospital. It was a very scary ordeal for us, but the good Lord

decided not to take her from us just yet. Once again we are glad to live in such a caring community. From the bottom of our hearts, God bless you all and thank you very much again.
Lupe and Christina Aguilar
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King size bed set w/frame, Kenmore refrigerator-24 cu.ft. Both in very good condition. Call 629-4496.

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Yard sale: Sat., June 28, 8-? 2 miles west on hwy. 84, right side of road.

Fri.- 9:00-3:00pm, Sat.- 10:00-12:00pm, 304 Osage. Lots of clothing, household items, entertainment center, full size bed-complete. No early callers.

Sat., 8-?. 116 W. 4th. Clothes, toys, piano, & lots of misc.

Sat., 8a.m.-?, 508 & 516 W. 5th. Lots of kids stuff, women's clothes, & misc. items.

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1991 International 47 passenger bus. Fair condition. Contact Darrell Jones @ Post ISD, 778-7359.

1993 Lincoln Town Car. \$2950.00. Call 495-3065.

Lost and Found

\$500 Reward!
Lost: Black male Chow Chow, 10 months old, black collar w/orange rabies tag. Cut down doesn't have full coat. Very friendly. Lost June 10th on Hwy. 84 at picnic area between Post & Justiceburg. Please call Heartland Kennel (West Texas Chow Rescue) at 806-234-2230 or 904-278-9982 or 904-612-3616.

Legal Notices

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ROELLA GAY RANKIN BRITTON, Cause 1791, Garza County, Texas

Notice to all persons is hereby given that the original letters of Testamentary upon the estate of ROELLA GAY RANKIN BRITTON, deceased, were issued to the undersigned on the 9th day of June, 2003, in the proceeding indicated below my signature hereto, which is still pending, and that we now hold such letter. All persons having claims against said estate, which is being administered, the county below named, are hereby required to present the same to us, at the address below given, before suit upon same are barred by the general statutes of limitation, before such estate is closed, and within the time required by law.

Gaylon Britton, 2240 Wy. Drive, Green River, Wy. 82935, c/o Preston L. Poole, Jr., Attorney, Box 296, Post, Texas 79356.

DATED: June 26, 2003
Gaylon Britton

Sheriff reports four arrests

Four arrests were recorded in the Garza County Jail log during the past week, according to sheriff's department reports.

A 24-year-old was picked up on a Terry County warrant, while a 20-year-old also was picked up on a warrant. A 37-year-old was arrested for aggravated assault, while a 47-year-old was picked up on a commitment/DWI.

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Venus Holmes is one of 10 talented acts to perform Saturday night in the Colgate Country Showdown at the Garza Theatre. The show starts at 7 p.m., with \$5 reserve tickets available at the Garza Theatre box office, call 495-4005.

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Yesteryears

10 Years Ago
June 16, 1993

Guidelines established by the new school finance bill recently passed in Austin have included Post ISD in the group of wealthy districts across the state. Post ISD remains in this group, it will have to share some of its wealth with poorer school districts. Under a formula set forth in Senate Bill 7, Post's taxable wealth per WADA is \$287,800.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Blacklock of Justiceburg announce the engagement of their daughter, Tina Michelle to Jamie Glenn Pewitt. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Pewitt of Post.

Kylor Dunn, grandson of Joe and Ruthell Stanley and great-grandson of Elsie Mae Jackson of Post, has recently earned a berth in the National Tae Kwon Do tournament held in Dayton, Ohio.

Paige Tanner, the daughter of former Post resident Norman Tanner, is one of two Menard High School students winning a trip to Washington D.C. this summer. Tanner won the trip by writing a winning essay sponsored by Southwest Texas Electric Coop. of Eldorado.

Post Middle School student Kathy Gerner has won recognition from the United States Achievement Academy for her achievement in mathematics. Kathy is the daughter of Jerry and Helen Gerner.

20 Years Ago
June 22, 1983

Maurine's Flower Shop shows a sign on the door as being "open" and it literally is. The flower shop was hit by a pickup in an accident which occurred Sunday afternoon. The shop was knocked off its foundation and demolished in the front area.

Heather Mason wishes to announce the birth of a baby sister, Ashley Marie, born June 6 weighing 7 lbs., 5 ounces. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mason.

Miss Dena Alexander, bride-elect of Cliff Kirkpatrick was recently honored with a bridal shower in the ranch home of Jeri Lott.

Kim Smith, Bunny Miller, and Heidi Ehret are the three queen candidates for the Babe Ruth League. The queen will represent Post at the District Babe Ruth tournament which will be held in Post in July.

Five Garza County 4-Hers attended the District 2 South Plains leadership camp at Western Texas College in Snyder last week. Those attending and their main workshop were: Keitha White, horse; Korren Payton, candlewicking; Traci Bush, photography; Janell Jones, BB guns and Angela Graves, aerobics.

30 Years Ago
June 21, 1973

Ten riders qualified Monday to represent Garza County in the District 2 4-H Horse Show. They are Steve White, Mike Macy, John Bill Hedrick, Sharla Macy, Sue Bevers, Jan Hall, Melvena Stewart, Melanie King, Jimmy Norman, and Mark Bevers.

Joe McCowen has purchased the old Post Motel property next to his McCowen Texaco No. 2 station in the 200 block on South Broadway and will clear the property for an automatic car wash. David Newby, who owns four Robo washes and station himself having just finished his newest at Copperas Cove, will sell and install McCowen's automatic car wash.

Little League Stars awarded at the conclusion of this year's season were Bruce Waldrip of the Cardinals and Evans Heaton of the Yankees, each receiving the Sportsmanship Award, while the Best All-Around Award went

to Brad Davis of the Cardinals. The Batting Championship Award went to Raymie Holly of the Tigers.

Mike Smith, 1973 graduate of Post High School, sent one of his graduation invitation to President and Mrs. Nixon. The President and his wife were too busy, of course, to attend Mike's graduation, but they did respond to his invitation with a personal card of congratulation. Mike is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith of 212 South Ave. F.

Miss Lee Ann Williams and Robert Dan Hodges exchanged wedding vows Saturday, June 16, in the First United Methodist Church in Post.

40 Years Ago
June 20, 1963

Post's five-digit ZIP Code is 79356. "Everyone in Post will use this ZIP Code on all their correspondence to speed mail deliveries," the postmaster, Harold Voss said. Zip Code, the Post Office Department's revolutionary new system of improved mail dispatch and delivery, goes into effect nationally on July 1.

The Same teachers will be back for the 1963-64 term at Garza County's two rural schools. The teachers are Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Franklin at Justiceburg and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Riley at Close City.

Two members of the Four Winds Sailing Club, Commodore David Newby and Pat N. Walker are working on one of the sailboats that are expected to dot the White River Lake once it is opened to recreation. Both Newby and Walker are building sailboats in anticipation of the lake opening. The Four Winds Sailing Club was organized here early this year.

Chris's Copy: Danny Jones and Delton Robinson are doing roustabout work and Charles (Spike) Tubbs is working at the mill. Lenny Howell is still holding down the fort at Herrings and Norma Julians still at Wacker's. Wendell Duncan quit measuring cotton and started working at Cox Lumber Co. Wonder Why? Now that's a darn good set up.

50 Years Ago
June 18, 1953

Friends and neighbors of J. E. Thomas, long-time resident of the Garnolia community, honored him Tuesday night with a surprise party at his home. The party followed announcement by Mr. Thomas that he is retiring as a member of the board of trustees of the Garnolia School District after nearly 20 years of service.

Jimmy Bird of Post won first place in yearling tie-down at the 10th Annual Stephens County Rodeo in Breckenridge Saturday night with a time of 39.9 seconds.

A son, James Robert, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Keith Kemp on June 16, in Garza Memorial Hospital. The Kemps have another son and a daughter.

One of the busiest of the Post Dispatch's bevy of newsboys is 10-year-old George Mindecta, Jr., always one of the first on hand Thursday afternoons for his papers. George, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mendecta, Sr. sells his copies of the Dispatch in the "flats" section. What does he do with the money he makes? George said he gives it to his father for the family expense fund, but that part of it is returned to him for spending money.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Trammell are announcing the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Mary Eula to Allyn D. Kemp, son of Mrs. Slen Shelton.

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.

Who cares about Hillary "Rob 'em" Clinton?

Anyone that gives a hoot about what she thought about "Bubba" makin' whoopee in the White House evidently don't care who they give their hoots to.

Bubba Clinton was probably just doing some of his presidential duties, in other words, he was just following suit, or doing what probably the majority of the other presidents may have done.

I doubt if he was the first president to demoralize the White House. And by no means will he be the last. In my view though I do not believe they should have went to Motel 6 or maybe to the Watergate Hotel. It seems kinda disappointing that such filth is allowed to take place in America's big White House.

I would not give 15 cents for 20 truck loads of her stupid books. I'm not stupid, and most women are not either. It would be my guess that she knew what was going on in their 30 years of marriage.

Everyone knows that women have an extra sense built into their brain. They just seem to know when a bit of hanky-panky is in the picture.

Most likely she didn't approve of it, she knew about it I'd bet.

I'd guess she didn't want to mess up her spot as being first, or maybe second lady. In my opinion, she is only damaging America's image even more by her book going on sale at the book stores. If I had to live with someone as goofy as she is, I might be attempted to go on the prowl myself. Then taking second thought, and doing a bit of self-inventory, that may have something to do with it just being me and three weeny dogs....

The media making a big deal out of her book and her going on national news bragging about her foolish book will definitely get her a no vote from me if she ever runs for the prez spot. She calls her book "Living History." I call her a living idiot.

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

Thanks for all the help

Isn't love that condition in which another person's happiness becomes essential to one's own?

This sentiment was exemplified by so many individuals and businesses during the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life benefit that the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility wishes to formally acknowledge and thank the following, in no particular order: West-T-Go, B&T Greenhouse, Eva Gonzalez, Amber Scarborough, Jose Alvidrez of Sonic, Jackie Cruse, Marionette Tyler, Michelle Wischkaemper, Candace Boling, Michelle Rasbeary, Jaime Pewitt, Ruby Williams, Nick Salazar at Wal-Mart #0861, Mike Blasdel/Kathy Clark of Dynamic Foods, Debra Hendrix of R.C. Taylor Distributing, Paul Wagner of Wagner Supply, Ken Fox of Lakeland Marketing and Irv Rubinson/Tom Brown of Best Choice Foods.

Also, Mayfield Paper Co., Michael "Nando" Gonzalez of River City Produce, Steve Walls/Johnny Castro at Earthgrains, Jeff Storie/Shannon Pettit of Watson Sysco Food Service, Jim Klein of Mrs. Rios Tortillas, Deborah Giles of Affiliated Food Service, Donna and Rodney Wilson of Custom Food Group, Jason Porter at Higginbotham-Bartlett, Bill Cohen

of McDonald's, Sam's Club, Southwest Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and David Capps at United Supermarket of Post.

This list is inclusive rather than exclusive; we know that the success of this year's Relay for Life was due to everyone's combined efforts. Again, we at Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility know that the least act of true goodness expands each of us. We offer our humble thanks and look forward to participating next year.

Staff members Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility

Not happy with county

An open letter to our Garza County Commissioners and Judge Dalby:

For the last few years, I have been extremely disappointed in the way you have conducted our county business. It seems that you have no idea of responsibility to the county taxpayers. You are more concerned with your own personal agendas. There's not a statesman among the whole group! (According to Webster, a statesman is "one who exercises political leadership wisely and without narrow partisanship.")

For example, when it was decided to sell bonds to build the juvenile detention center or Dalby Correctional Facility, did you allow the taxpayers to vote on the issue of these bonds? Now that they have been built, who but the taxpayers are footing the bills for the upgrades and changes that have had to be made in our sewage system and now our water supply so that it will be able to support the needs of the prison population plus the rest of Post? Oh, yes, we were told that these prisons wouldn't cost the taxpayers anything. You forgot to mention all of the support services that the city and/or county would end up providing!

Then we have the shining example of Lake Alan Henry. Lubbock built this lake and said they would reimburse Garza County for our expenses of law enforcement and emergency services for the lake area. Have they really reimbursed us? For some of it, maybe, but what Lubbock has paid Garza County doesn't cover it all!

Now you are considering putting an emergency services building at Lake Alan Henry with a price tag of around \$760,000! And what about the emergency vehicles and personnel? How much will it cost to operate the emergency services at the lake?

This is Lubbock's lake, let Lubbock build the emergency services building and pay for its operations! Garza County taxpayers do NOT need to fund these services to Lubbock's lake!

And to top it all, you are looking into possibly purchasing the bonds from the current holders for the juvenile detention center! Why were bonds sold to fund the building of this facility in the first place? Because the county didn't have the money to build it. Now you want to buy these bonds at taxpayer expense? Just how much do you think the taxpayers can handle? How HIGH do you plan to raise our taxes?

I feel that all of you need to resign because you have forgotten your responsibility to the taxpayers of Garza County. Move out of the way before you break the backs of the taxpayers so that we can have someone with some idea of duty to the taxpayers to wisely handle our county finances!

Charles J. Propst

Thanks for seven great years!

After seven years of the most enjoyable adventure in my life and postal career, it is now time to write this letter. I never thought that the decision to retire from the U.S. Postal Service would be so difficult. My official retirement day is July 3, 2003.

In November 1995, I was promoted to the position of Postmaster for Post/Justiceburg and the delivery area of Garza County. I was eager to accept this position as I had looked forward to the opportunity to work in Post for many years. I first became interested in Post because my father was born and raised here. Until his death, he had a strong love for the city and people of Post. Very early in my postal career he encouraged me to pursue a career as Postmaster in Post.

I had previously served as Postmaster in O'Donnell and Ralls. I made many friends in both of these communities and gained a great deal of experience, which prepared me for this position. For this, I want to express my love and appreciation to the citizens of these communities.

I also would like to thank the residents of O'Donnell, Ralls, Justiceburg and Post for welcoming my family and including us all in the activities in which we have been involved. As a family-oriented person, being active and involved in each community has brought much growth to our family. The experiences we have shared and the friends we have made will always be a part of our lives.

To mention and thank everyone individually would not be possible. I do, however, want to express my

appreciation to the customers and friends in this community. I must express my appreciation for the friendships that I have developed in Rotary International, the Garza Theatre and the Post Masonic Lodge. These groups welcomed me with open arms and have encouraged me throughout the entire seven years I have served this community.

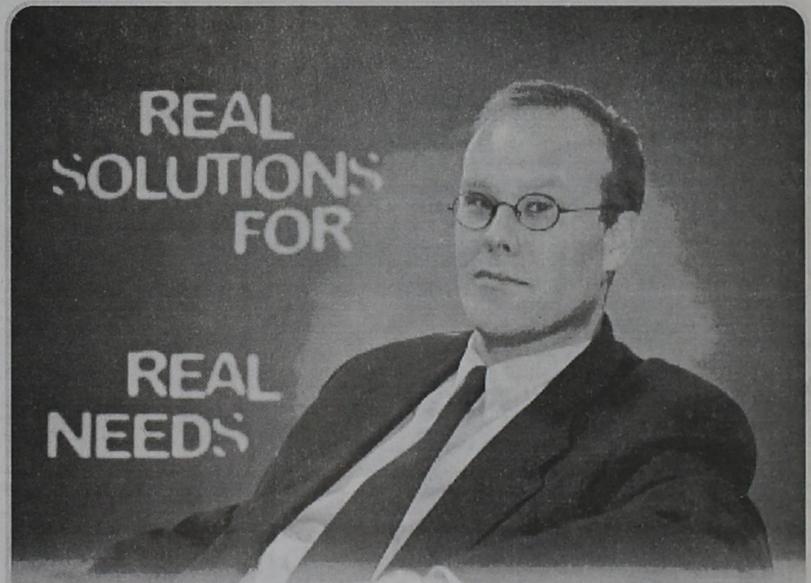
I also want to express a very special thanks to the two Postmasters that preceded me. Both A.J. McAllister and Johnny Kemp were friends of mine long before I dreamed of working in this community. Furthermore, both men have been very helpful to me during my assignment.

I also want to express public appreciation for the employees that I have worked with throughout the past seven years. They have always worked together maintaining the belief that their coworkers are more important than they are. It has always been a concentrated effort by all employees to provide the community with the best possible service. It has been my pleasure to provide these employees with the tools and knowledge they need to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. To all of the postal employees that I have had the opportunity to work with, both past and present, you are the best!

The measure of success of the Postal Service has always been the satisfaction of the customer. I made a commitment when I took the oath of office for the Postmaster position that I would make every effort to provide you with the best possible service. I deeply apologize for those instances that I was not able to perform my duties or performed them in a manner that you found unsatisfactory. Many times I was limited by postal regulations, which prevented my being able to provide you with the service or the product you may have needed. In some instances I did make mistakes in judgment in spite of my best intentions. Those were moments of my growing and learning, and I deeply regret any mistakes in judgment I may have made.

As I leave this community, I leave with hundreds of friends that I would not have otherwise known. To all of you, I give my most sincere appreciation. My family and I have grown because of your friendships, and we will never forget you.

Thanks again. God bless you all.
Roy W. Willis Postmaster Post



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Caprock Cultural Association

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Taylor children excel in competition

Brooklyne and Scooter Taylor, son and daughter of Mia and Shaun Bevers, have been raking in the honors in recent weeks. Brooklyne completes with the All-Star Competitive Cheerleading Team in Severe Cheer Whirlwinds in Garland. The group competed in San Antonio for Cheer Power Nationals South Division and won first place in the Pee-Wee Level. The girls won medals, banners,

leather jackets and a seven-foot trophy.

Scooter is a member of the Junior Co-Ed Cheer Team, the Tornados, which took first place in the Spirit Challenge in San Antonio. He also competed in the Nationals Individual Championship in Galveston where he took

second place in jumps.

The brother and sister are grandchildren of Barbi and Bill Bevers, Glenn Mitchell and Kay Mitchell and great-grandchildren of Thelma Mitchell.



Brooklyne Taylor



Scooter Taylor



Tammy Gibson is one of the 10 talented contestants competing for top spot in this year's Colgate Country Showdown. The fun begins at 7 p.m., Saturday at the Garza Theatre. Call the box office at 495-4005 to reserve seating.

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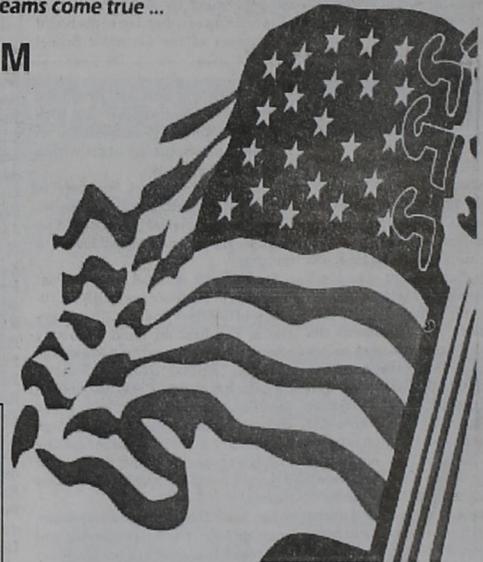
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