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The Post Dispatch

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Is the prison a county jail?

Recent complaints to state and federal officials concerning procedures surrounding the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility operations contract award have led to questions concerning the county's request for proposals (RFP) advertisement.

Research indicates the public notice, published on the Feb. 26, 2004, legal notices of The Post Dispatch, may be in conflict with Local Government Code, Section 351.102, which states the "commissioners court may not award a contract under this section unless the commissioners court requests proposals by public notice and not less than 30 days from such notice receives a proposal that meets or exceeds the requirements specified in the request for proposals."

Deadline for receipt of the proposals was March 18, just 21 days after publication of the RFP. In an April 15 letter to County Judge Giles W. Dalby, The Post Dispatch publisher Wesley W. Burnett asked the judge to specify which law authorizes and regulates the process of awarding the operations contract of the correctional facility. In a response dated the same date, Dalby cited Local Government Code Sections 351.101, 351.102 and 351.103. Local Gov-

ernment Code 351 is subtitled 'County Public Safety, Chapter 351, County Jails and Law Enforcement.'

The sections cited by Dalby are listed under Subchapter F, 'County Contract with Private Entity for Jail Facilities.' Earlier this week, Burnett faxed a letter to Dalby that asked, "The code sections you cited for authority are directly related to county jails. Since no county inmates are incarcerated at the facility, is the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility lawfully considered a county jail?"

Judge Dalby called Burnett Tuesday afternoon and explained that he would not be able to provide an answer to that question in time for this week's edition. "We're going to have to turn this over to the lawyers," Dalby said, "and we'll probably have to end up getting an opinion from the Attorney General."

Effective March 15, no Garza County Jail inmates have been housed in the Dalby unit. Prior to that date, any county inmates who could not be housed in the local jail because of space limitations were placed in the Dalby unit. These overflow inmates are now transported to and detained in the Lynn County Jail in Tahoka.

Concerns also have been raised

about the wording and validity of the county's published public notice for RFPs. Several codes and sections seemingly unrelated to the operation of an adult correctional facility were cited, including sections dealing with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, detention homes and parental schools, the Family Code/Juvenile Justice Code and the purchase and contracting authority of municipalities.

The Post Dispatch requested an explanation from Judge Dalby about why those unrelated codes were included in the public notice.

The list of questions awaiting answers included a request to Dalby to verify that the county is in compliance with all portions of Section 351.101, specifically that part which specifies that no county official, elected or appointed, have any "financial interest" with the prison operator chosen for the contract.



Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs recognized Robert C. and Ada Mae Tucker of John Ira Wilbourn Homestead at the Family Land Heritage ceremony in Austin recently. The John Ira Wilbourn Homestead in Garza County was honored for its acceptance into the Family Land Heritage Program. The homestead has been in continuous agricultural production since 1902 by members of the same family.

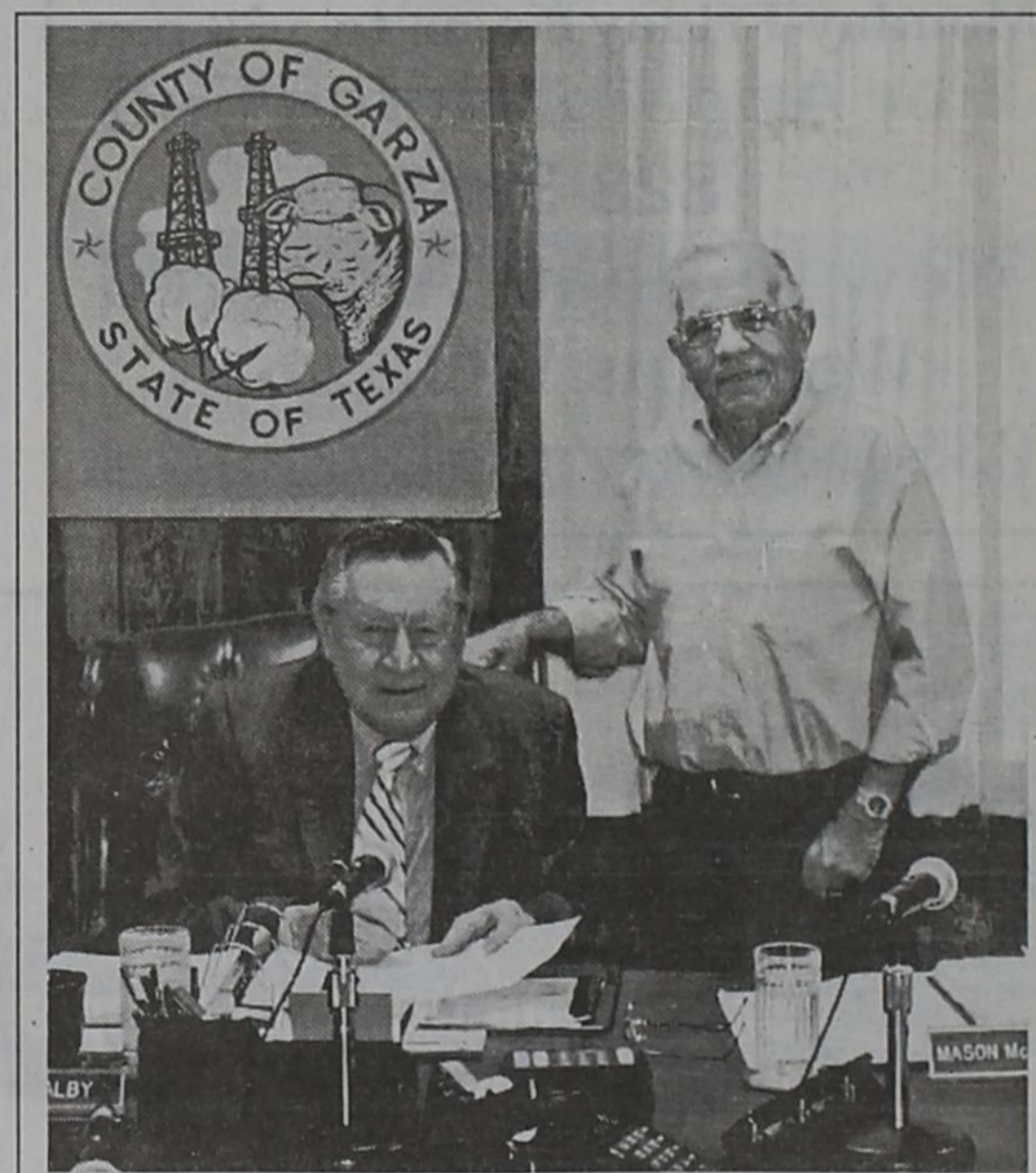
Soil & Water Stewardship Week April 25 thru May 2

While most of us seldom come in daily contact with soil, we all depend on soil for our daily survival, according to organizers of the 2004 Soil and Water Stewardship Week observance, set for April 25 - May 2, 2004. "In generation after generation, it is important to bring attention back to the central theme - the living soil sustains all the earth, said B.L. "Shug" Thomas, Chairman of the Garza Soil & Water Conservation District. "Without the soil, nothing lives. Our conservation district works to protect healthy soils that in turn support a healthy environment, and healthy environments support healthy life," he added.

Modern farmers and ranchers who practice soil conservation are doing their part to keep the living soil alive. Lessons from the past, such as the

catastrophic "Dust Bowl" of the 1930s, have shown what can happen when the topsoil is not protected from wind and water erosion. Today, private land managers employ a host of conservation practices, such as minimum tillage, to protect the topsoil that feeds the nation.

Judge Giles W. Dalby, County Judge of Garza County, signed the Soil Stewardship Proclamation proclaiming April 25, - May 2, 2004 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week in Garza County. The proclamation was signed in full appreciation of the value of our soil, water, and wildlife resources, and desiring to honor those who protect those resources.



Garza County Judge Giles W. Dalby signs a proclamation declaring Soil Stewardship Week with Garza County Soil & Water Conservation District board member B.L. Shug Thomas (right).

Post Notes

Taco Plates

The Church of God of Prophecy will be selling taco plates with all the trimmings on Friday, April 23 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 495-3644 to place your order.

Gospel Singing

Templo Baustists Church at 315 W. Main Street will feature the Christian singing group, "The Gospel Highlights" on April 24, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Women's Emmaus Reunion

Women's Emmaus Reunion meeting to be held each Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church. For more information call Glenna Reiter at 495-2774.

Caprock Music Party

A "Caprock Music Party" is set for 7 p.m. May 1 at the Garza County Trailblazers building, 10th and Aveune I. Sponsored by the Caprock Cultural Association, the event will feature local favorites. Admission will be free of charge and open to the public. Donations are welcome to help offset expenses.

Free Computer Training

Post-Garza Community Network is wanting to offer free computer training for residents of Post and Garza County. Anyone interested should call Shellee Odom at 495-3343 or email sdomod@post.k12.tx.us and let us know what programs or areas of training you are interested in. After determining an interest, we will schedule and announce classes, dates and times.

All Sports Banquet

The All Sports Banquet sponsored by the Post Booster Club will be held Monday, May 10, 2004 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center. Tickets will be \$10.00 if purchased in advance and \$12.00 at the door. Tickets will be available in the near future.

Worship and Fellowship

Caprock Springs Fellowship invites you to join us in worship Sunday Evening at 6 p.m. at the Post Community Center. Come as you are for worship and fellowship.

Account for Romana Gonzales

A special account has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank to help with funeral and burial expenses for Romana Gonzales. For more information contact Carol Short at 495-2804.

Colgate Country Showdown talent

Contestant applications are now available for the 4th Annual KPOS Radio sponsored Colgate Country Showdown. The deadline for contestant application submission is May 31, 2004. Application information is available on the KPOS Radio web site @ www.kposradio.com. The Colgate Country Showdown will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, July 3 at the historic Garza Theatre in Post. The Guthries will return by popular demand to support the eight selected contestants, with Cathy Whitten returning at Mistress of Ceremonies. Reserved seat tickets for the event are \$6 per person, available by calling the Garza Theatre box office at 495-4005.

American Cancer Society Relay For Life

Post-Garza County will again be hosting an American Cancer Society Relay For Life event. This will be a 24 hour event beginning at 9 a.m., June 4 and ending at 9 a.m., June 5. There are several ways to participate. If you are interested in having a team, please contact Rudy Cuevas at 495-1732 or 495-3217.

Benefit Set For June 5

A benefit for Twana McCrary, in "loving memory of Jimmy Moore," has been set for June 5 at Rosa's Cantina. There will be an auction for a barbecue pit and a .243 Winchester will be raffled off. Tickets are \$5.00 each, and the drawing will be at 7 p.m. Events include a barbecue meal, cake walk, auction and dance. Plates will be available for take out. For more information call JoAnne Stelzer at 495-3019. After noon, call 495-3393, or call Ruth Walls at 495-4185.

Garza Co. Jr. Livestock Association Meets April 27

The Garza County Jr Livestock Association will meet Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m., at the Extension office. Annual report to be given, judges, superintendents, and officers to be elected. If you are interested in joining the association to support our youth stock show, please plan to attend.

Local code enforcers collect \$38,191.75 in March

by Tim Burnett

Garza County and the State of Texas traffic code enforcers collected \$38,191.75 during the month of March, for highway travel fines issued here, according to reports of the two Justices of the Peace courts. The fund raising program, operated by county and state agents, took advantage of holiday travelers who violated State Transportation Codes.

JP Court 1 reported \$15,324.25, which included 173 traffic misdemeanor cases. JP Court 2 reported \$22,867.50, which included 195 traffic misdemeanor cases.

State and county code enforcement officers are "just doing their jobs" by enforcing the traffic code, but what was sold to the public in the 1920s for "safe" roads, is now a huge money making power-machine for corporate governments.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) gradually shifted the scope of the Code so that all travelers appear required to register their automobiles with the State of Texas. A study into the underlying scope of the Texas Transportation Code has revealed exactly who is required to register their automobiles with the State.

The exact jurisdictional limit (scope) of the Texas Transportation Code was discovered by allowing it to narrowly interpret itself according to its strict construction. The scope of the Transportation Code is "Transportation."

The term "Transportation" was not defined in the Texas Code. According to the United States Transportation Code and Black's Law Dictionary, the term "Transportation" was defined as transportation by a carrier for hire.

Use of the roads and highways for the purpose of "transportation for hire by carriers" was what fell under the scope of the Code. Even to this day, the Code protects the traveling public by regulating vehicles using the roads for the purpose of "Transportation."

It was further discovered that State and County agents enforce the Code upon all travelers who use vehicles that are registered with the State. The registration stickers and license plates were found to be the identifiers by which enforcers could determine whether or not vehicles fall under their jurisdictional limits.

On-going research continues on the simple question of whether the State and County have the authority to enforce the Transportation Code upon those who do not fall within its scope, and have not voluntarily registered their automobiles with the State.

Live, Play-by-Play Baseball Action Friday on KPOS Radio with Steve Mason Cebridge Connections Channel 12 & www.kposradio.com



Garza County Hospital District board of directors (left to right) Zoe Kirkpatrick, Ray Bagby and Edna Owen welcome newly appointed board member Kenda Bartlett (right) during last Thursday's regular meeting. Mrs Bartlett was appointed to serve the unexpired Precinct 3 seat held by her husband Terry, who resigned last month following his temporary assignment with prison management and training in Iraq.

Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush



Hey everyone, Hope you all had a nice weekend. Rick and I had a great Sunday. Our kids came and we celebrated a postponed Easter and my birthday. Now the kids couldn't hunt eggs outside last weekend because of the wet and cold, but yesterday they never paid attention to the 40 mile an hour winds. They had a great time.

STRANGE BUT TRUE
Now I've had some strange stories told to me since doing "Jabberin'" but this one takes the cake!! I received a call from David Tyler Sunday morning and what a story. David and Nellie had their kids and grandkids visiting Saturday and they were all outside.

Seems the granddaughter, Katy, was playing with her ball when around the corner of the house appears a gorilla. Yes, you are reading

right, a gorilla. The gorilla attempted to play ball with Katy, but when she burst into tears it ran for its life. Now I've done a little investigating, and it seems we had some out of town visitors who owned this gorilla outfit and they decided to have some fun with it.

David said he was a little startled to look up and see this gorilla but they ended up having a good laugh. See, it just goes to show, you never know what you might see in Post.

GET WELL MESSAGE
I wanted to send out a special get well to Ray Crispin. Ray is in Covenant Hospital with some problems and we just wanted to let him know he is in our prayers.

TRIP TO LAS VEGAS
Tommy and Rosemary Cole have been in Las Vegas this week. They drove out to visit their son Bill and his family. Bill has just been stationed in Las Vegas after spending two years or so in Alaska. Talk about

a weather change! I hope he and his family will like being so much closer to home. I know Tommy and Rosemary are glad.

PLAYING CHURCH
After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddle through her kitchen window.

The older of the two, five year old little Jimmy, grabbed his brother Billy by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole.

As Billy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, his mother ran to the yard in a panic. "Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?" she yelled as she shook little Jimmy in anger. "We were just playing church mom," little Jimmy said. "I was baptizing him in the name of the Father, the Son and in the hole-he-goes."

KIDS AND SURGERIES
Two little kids are in a hospital, lying on stretchers next to each other, outside the operating room. The first kid leans over and asks, "What are you in here for?" The second kid says, "I'm in here to get my tonsils out and I'm a little nervous." The first kid says, "You've got nothing to worry about. I had that done when I was four. They put you to sleep, and when you wake up they give you lots of ice cream. It's a breeze." The second kid then asks, "What are you in for?" The first kid says, "A circumcision."

The second kid replies, "Whoa, Good luck buddy, I had that done when I was born. Couldn't walk for a year."

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME
For any of you out there who have kids playing ball or even those of you who have no children at all, what great entertainment you will find at the ballpark. You have the youngest t-ball players all the way up to the high school players with schedules to fit everyone.

With the exception of the t-ball and girls softball field, the fields look good. I don't know what is going on with the t-ball field. But anyway, if you want to have some fun, go out and enjoy some of the games. You will be glad you did.

TILL NEXT WEEK
Guess that is all for this week. May God bless each of you and keep you safe. See you next time.

Judy



Meagan Mills

Meagan Mills earns National Honor Society membership

Meagan Mills, a junior nursing major at Texas Tech University, recently was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society.

Only juniors who rank in the top 7.5 percent of their class receive an invitation for induction.

Mills was among 15 nursing students inducted April 15 at the McInturff Center at University Medical Center.

Mills, a 2002 Post High School graduate, plans to begin nursing school in July.

She is the daughter of Larry and Kim Mills.



Russ Balka & Macee Mills

Macee Mills, Russ Balka set July 10 wedding date

Dr. and Mrs. Larry D. Mills have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Macee Marie, to Russel Wade Balka, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Balka of Colorado Springs, Colo.

A July 10, 2004, wedding in the United States Air Force Academy cadet chapel is planned.

The bride-elect, a 1998 graduate of Post High School and a 2002 graduate of Texas Tech University, is employed in Colorado Springs with Merck as a pharmaceutical sales representative.

The prospective bridegroom, a 1991 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, is employed as a financial planner for First Command in Colorado Springs.

ELECT Fred HOWELL

Garza County Healthcare District
At-Large Board of Directors

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May 15 at Post Community Center

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Neighbor to Neighbor
by Julie Neitsch,
Garza County Extension Agent-Family & Consumer Science

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

Caregiving: Putting Together a Care Team

As caregiving is such a monumental task, no one person can be expected to handle the situation alone. Truly, it takes a team of individuals, both professional and non-professional, to provide the support needed to care for another person. Putting together this "care team" is not as easy as it may sound. The following information will help you decide whom you need on your care team.

Health professionals should be key members of your care team. This means involving more than just a physician; health professionals include nurses, pharmacists, dentists, therapists and nutritionists, among others. With your care recipient's permission, you should feel free to discuss health concerns with these professionals. Health professionals may want to have insight into the life and health of your care recipient, so you should be prepared to answer questions. Also, remember to ask questions. The health of your care recipient will be best served if discussions with health professionals are "active" conversations * both parties discussing issues.

Here are some tips to help you before, during and after your appointment with a health professional:

- Make a list of concerns. This will help you remember to address all issues.
- Update the health professional on any changes since the last visit. Make notes between visits so that you are sure to remember everything and take them with you to your visit.
- Be honest and stick to the point. Your health professional is only as good as the information he or she is provided.
- Share your point of view and ask questions. Remember that health professionals do not know everything.
- Take notes and/or ask for a written copy of recommendations.

A part of your healthcare team should also be someone who represents social services, such as home care, home delivered meals and financial support, among others. These professionals may help identify resources to aid in implementing the recommendations of your health professionals.

A social services professional may also be able to help you locate other members of the community who should be included on your care team.

An excellent place to start looking for help in the social services arena is your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA). In Texas, you may find the nearest AAA by calling 800.252.9240 or <http://www.tdoa.state.tx.us/Services/AAALocatorMap.htm> on the internet.

Some AAAs in Texas have caregiver specialists who may best assist you with your questions * be sure to ask when you call if your AAA employs such a person.

While it is important to include professionals in your caregiving, you should not overlook the value of using other family members to help you. Service professionals certainly have a deep interest in your care recipient but it often pales in comparison to the interest that a family member may have.

You and your family should discuss the strengths, weaknesses and individual ability of each other concerning the care of your loved one. A plan should then be devised to best approach the caregiving situation, taking into consideration what contributions may be made by the group in addition to those that may be made individually.

If the group of caregivers plans an approach to the caregiving situation in advance where tasks and responsibilities are pre-assigned, there is less likelihood that strife will emerge later. If other family members are unable or reluctant to be a part of your care team, you may choose to request financial support in lieu of hands-on help.

Always remember that there is a job for everyone * you do not need to do it all. You should be ever searching for someone or some group who may help you provide the best care possible for your care recipient in addition to helping provide for your self-care. Your role as a caregiver will also include being a coordinator of services and team leader for your care team.

For more information on putting together your care team or general caregiving issues, please contact your County Extension Agent.

Source: Andrew B. Crocker * Gerontology Health Specialist

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Colgate Country Showdown

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AMERICA'S LARGEST TALENT SEARCH



Dr. James Bell (left) visits with Bob Collier during a recent interview aired on Cebridge Connections Channel 12 with Post City Television producing the recording at Ruby Lane Books. The interview is part of a project to preserve Garza County history. A copy of the DVD recording will be available at the Garza County Historical Museum. Additional interviews with Collier are planned, as the first setting couldn't cover his more than 50 years of business and community involvement here. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)



Crusade for Christ in Post

Last weekend, April 16 and 17, 2004, 61 young ladies from Texas Tech met in Post for the Campus Crusade for Christ Women's Retreat, 2004. The group was divided up evenly for overnight accommodations at the Hotel Garza B&B and the newly opened Post City Lodge. All the meetings and meals were held at Hotel Garza. Each attendant received welcoming and parting gifts and a special t-shirt commemorating the retreat. The t-shirt read: Girls just wanna have fun - We got deep, we got real, we went to Post! Retreat coordinators seemed pleased with their experience in Post and plan on returning for future events.

4-H students compete in photography contest

The Garza County 4-H Photography Project ended recently with a county-wide contest.

Project participants included Breann Heckaman, Dionn Heckaman, Avnee Bhakta, Ashley Young, Crystal Price, Allison Blevins, Kadie Vernon, Colt Vernon, Tony Apolinar and Shyan Todd.

Members learned about photographic impact, freshness of approach, storytelling, technical skills, quality of sharpness, graininess and

contract. Tim Burnett presented a program on photography and journalism to project members. Some members also participated in a field trip to take pictures and use their skills.

Contest winners were as follows:
• Black-and-white category, People Class - Breann Heckaman, first place and advancing to state.

• Black-and-white category, Nature/Scenic Class - Breann Heckaman, first place and advancing to state, second place and third place.

• Color category, Career Class - Breann Heckaman, first place and advancing to state, second place and third place.

• Color category, People Class - Bhakta, first place and advancing to state, second place; Dionn Heckaman, third place.

• Color category, Nature/Scenic Class - Dionn Heckaman, first place and advancing to state; Bhakta, first place; Young, second; Dionn Heckaman, second; Bhakta, third; Young, third; Blevins, third; Breann Heckaman, third (two).

• Color category, Animal Class - Breann Heckaman, first place and advancing to state, second place.

Blevins, third place.
• Color category, Career Class - Breann Heckaman, first place and advancing to state, second place and third place.
• Color Category, Humor Class - Breann Heckaman, first place and advancing to state.
Linda Puckett judged the contest.

Early voting starts April 28 for GHD candidates

Early voting in the May 15 Garza County Health Care District election will begin Wednesday, April 28. Ballots may be cast at city hall. Voting May 15 will be at the Post Community Center.

Three positions are slated to be filled in the health care district election. Incumbents Edna Owens and Ray Bagby, representing Precincts 1 and 2 respectively, are running unopposed.

Two candidates - incumbent Michael Travis and challenger Fred Howell - declared candidacy for the at-large seat on the district's board of directors, but Travis filed paperwork April 2 to withdraw from the race. District officials said Travis' withdrawal came too late for the district to avoid the election, however, and name will appear on the ballot.

According to Section 145.094 of the Texas Election Code, a candidate's name can be omitted from the ballot only if the candidate withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline.

Travis has not commented on his reasons for withdrawing from the election.

Melissa Williams honored at bridal shower

Melissa Williams, bride-elect of Chris Key, was honored with a bridal shower on Sunday, April 18, from 2-3 p.m. at the Church of Christ in Post.

Hostesses presented the couple with a quilted comforter and matching pillow.

Guests included Billie Williams, mother of the bride-elect; Carla Key, mother of the prospective bridegroom; Louise Barrington, maternal grandmother of the bride-elect; Cedaelia Williams, paternal grandmother of the bride-elect; and Chelisa and Hayley Krauser, sister and niece of the bride-elect.

Caprock Music Party set for May 1 at Trailblazers

A "Caprock Music Party" is set for 7 p.m. May 1 at the Garza County Trailblazers building located at the corner of 10th Street and Avenue I. Sponsored by the Caprock Cultural Association, the event will feature local favorites such as The Silver Threads, Songsters, Cathy Whitten and Howard Hopkins, Sonny Grant and the Double Nickel Band and the Cowboy Review.

The Toastie Post event is billed as the first in a "series of musical enjoyment." Upcoming music parties will be held June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4 and Oct. 2 - all Saturdays.

Each of the "parties" will showcase four bands. Admission to all events will be free of charge and open to the public. "A hat will be passed for donations to offset expenses," according to the CCA press release.

Former CCA board member, artist and musician Buster Jones approached the CCA with the idea of the music parties to help highlight area musicians while providing them with a venue in which to perform. A committee was formed, including Jones, Noah White, Morris Tyler, JoAnn Mock and the CCA board.

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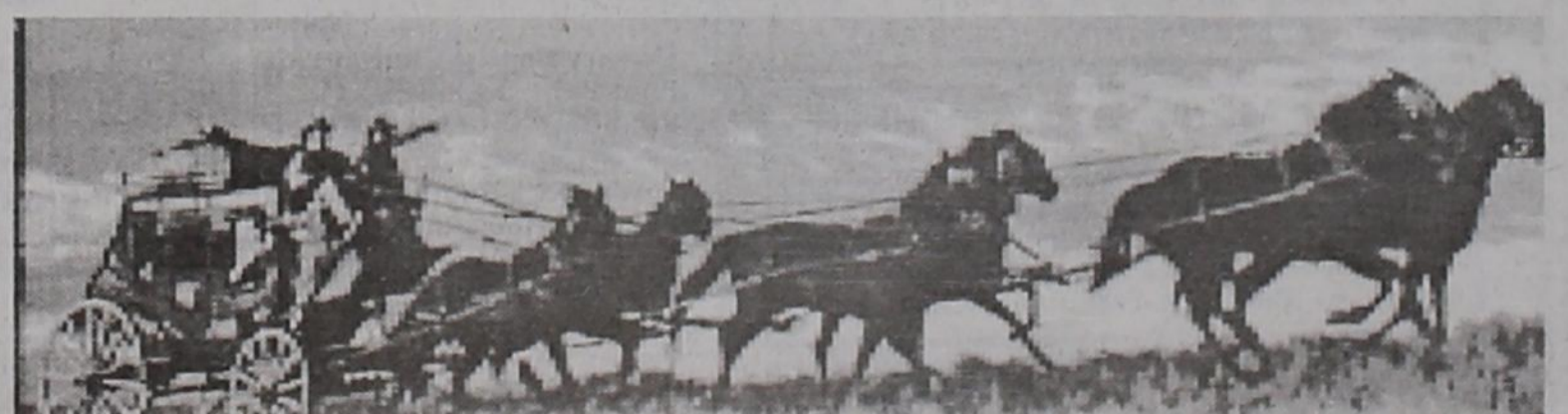
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Blacklock logs 20 strikeouts in 14-4 victory over Tahoka

by Ernest Fox
Once in a lifetime chances: winning the lottery, finding the perfect mate, 21 strikeouts in a high school game. Junior right-hander Randon Blacklock came close to that last Friday, earning 20 strikeouts in a District 4-2A game.

The lone non-strikeout was a putout at home on center fielder Jett Lott's throw to catcher Mitchell Mills on a double to left field.

Although playing in the shadow of a pitcher's near perfection, Tahoka did not go down quietly. The last place team totaled five hits, three walks, one hit batter and three error hits.

The only Bulldog who did not strike out was third baseman Kody Bueerman - a walk, single, hit by pitch and a seventh-inning error hit on a Blacklock throwing error to first base with what would have been the third and final out. First baseman Robert Baker followed with Blacklock's 20th strikeout.

Starting the game, seven of the first nine Tahoka batters struck out, with nine Bulldogs reaching base in the middle innings - third through the fifth innings - with all four Tahoka runs scored. Blacklock regained momentum, closing out with eight of the last nine Bulldog batters striking out.

Blacklock's pitching starts showed 77 pitches for strikes, 42 balls, five hits, three walks, one hit batter.

Blacklock needed 134 pitches to record the complete game victory.

Post broke through in the third inning as Miles Gray and Kyle Gunn drew consecutive walks. Blacklock got an RBI single to break the scoreless duel. Lott Later followed with a two-RBI fielder's choice hit, with Coco Valdez going down on strikes to end the 'Lopes' half of the inning.

The Bulldogs made some noise in the bottom of the third. Leadoff batter Josh Hawthorne strike out, with Tahoka following with a single, walk, an RBI double and an RBI single. Stephens was shot down at home by Lott's throw from leftfield. Baker followed with an inning-ending strikeout to end the Tahoka rally. Post held a 3-2 edge following three innings.

After a scoreless fourth, Post opened the fifth inning on walks by Blacklock and Mills. Jones followed with an RBI out to first, scoring Blacklock, and Lott echoed with an RBI single, scoring Mills. Two batters later, Derek Stephens relieved Patrick Dotson, with Stephens walking David Rivera on four straight pitches to load the Antelope bases, but got Miles Gray on a full-count strikeout to end the Post inning.

In the bottom of the fifth, Dotson reached via an error, Stephens struck out, Brady Autrey reached via another 'Lope error and Bueerman drew a two-strike on-base by hit batter. With the bases loaded, left-handed hitter Baker pulled a Blacklock pitch

to right field for a two-RBI double. Post avoided further damage as the next two Bulldogs struck out on eight pitches, leaving Post to cling to a 5-4 lead.

Sixth-inning action saw the Antelopes and Bulldogs continuing to match each other - three 'Lopes struck out on 12 pitches and three Bulldogs struck out on 12 pitches.

Twelve hitters came to the plate in the seventh inning before the Bulldogs got the third out with nine 'Lopes scoring, turning the tight Post lead into a 14-4 blowout win.

Hitting for Post were Blacklock, two singles, one walk, an error hit, scored three times; Mills, one single, two walks, scored twice; Coby Jones, fielder's choice hit, one on-base by hit batter, scored once; Lott, fielder's choice hit, one single, one on-base by hit batter, one double, scored twice; Valdez, one double, scored once; Theo Paiz, two walks, two singles, scored once; Rivera, one walk; Gray, one walk, one double, scored twice; Gunn, two walks, scored twice.

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Antelopes' winning streak snapped by Idalou victory

by Ernest Fox
A Post strength - pitching - turned problematic and deflated any momentum gained by one of the team's biggest victories of the season three days earlier against Shallowater. Seven hits, six walks and three hit batters led to six unearned runs as the Idalou Wildcats (4-2 in district play) handed the Post Antelopes (5-1) their first district loss, 8-5.

The loss broke the Antelopes' seven-game winning streak and slowed the Bold Gold momentum going into the second round of District 4-2A play. Post's Andrew Espinoza walked a career-high five and had three hit batters, but he worked around the wildness. He earned eight strikeouts before running out of gas, opening the fifth inning with two consecutive walks as Post held at 5-2 lead.

Post came into the game average nine runs per game in district play, but the 'Lope offense could not keep up. They stranded eight runners on base, with the third out a strikeout in five of seven innings.

Coco Valdez's sacrifice fly plated Post's first run, scoring Randon Blacklock on base via a walk. Coby Jones and Theo Paiz also scored on

Jett Lott's, dropped fly ball to the Idalou leftfielder. Post closed out the first inning leading 3-0 after Idalou's Gilbert and Foote struck out with two Wildcats on base.

Idalou broke the scoring drought by plating two runs before Andrew Espinoza again struck out the last two Wildcat batters with bases loaded. Post closed out the second inning with Kyle Gunn scoring on Jones' E-5 hit. After two innings, Post held a 4-2 lead.

Neither team managed a third-inning run, but Post increased its lead to 5-2 with a solo homerun to left field by Blacklock.

In the seventh inning, third baseman John Foote started Idalou's rally with a four-pitch walk by reliever Joseph Espinoza, followed by Zach Pisen's single to right field. Idalou's next batter, after laying down a bunt, was plunked by catcher Mitchell Mills' throw to first base. Leadoff hitter Foote scampered home on the play, knotting the score at 5-5. Joseph Espinoza sat down the next two batters on strikeouts, but with two outs, Matt Garcia stroked a strong hit to the outfield that took a high bounce over centerfielder David Rivera. Garcia beat the relay for a three-run, inside-the-park homerun for an 8-5 Idalou lead. Joseph Espinoza closed out the rally on a 2-2 fastball strikeout.

The 'Lopes roared back in the bottom of the seventh on a Javen Abraham infield single and Valdez's full-count walk. Lott followed with a grounder to second base, arriving at first at approximately the same time. However, the umpire called Lott out for out number one. Eric Reyna came up only to strike out on the Idalou pitcher's 160th pitch. With Abraham and Valdez at third and second, respectively, Miles Gray hit to third base. Idalou caught Valdez in a rundown and was called out, sealing Idalou's improbable victory.

Pitching for Idalou was Espe, 64 strikes, 64 balls, five hits, six walks, two hit batters, 11 strikeouts. Total pitch count, 162.

Pitching for Post was Andrew Espinoza, 41 strikes, 43 balls, four hits, five walks, three hit batters and eight strikeouts. One hundred total pitches in four innings plus two batters. Also, Joseph Espinoza, 23 strikes, 16 balls, three hits, one walk and four strikeouts, 48 total pitches in three innings.

Hitting for Post were Blacklock, walk, homerun, scored twice; Mills, walk, one on-base by hit batter; Jones, on-base by hit batter, error hit, one single, scored once; Paiz, one walk, scored once; Abraham, one single; Valdez, one sacrifice fly, one walk; Lott, E-7 hit, one single; Rivera, one walk; Gray, one walk; Gunn, one single, scored once.

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