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# The Post Dispatch

75th Year Number 29 USPS 439-620 © 2000 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 50¢ Thursday, December 14, 2000

## Mediation may settle lawsuit

by Wes Burnett  
 If the plaintiffs agree, the lawsuit challenging Garza County Hospital District's election scheme may be settled through mediation. District board members voted unanimously Tuesday evening to authorize district lawyers Calloway Huffaker and Fernando Bustos to arrange mediation as soon as possible.  
 The decision came following a detailed explanation by Bustos and Huffaker about how mediation would be conducted. They two lawyers recommended special mediator John Simpson of Lubbock. Bustos also said that David Moody, local counsel for the plaintiffs, agreed to the mediator choice.  
 Plaintiffs in the case are Maria Bertha Fuentes and Francisco Tobias, who are represented by

Thomas Stults of Houston. He and Moody will be contacted by Huffaker and Bustos to determine if mediation can be arranged.  
 The suit in U.S. District Court in Lubbock challenges the at-large election system for its unconstitutionality.  
 Bustos reported that a motion had been filed in the court to correct the parties in the case. The motion requests that former board members be removed from the list of defendants and that board member Carol Tobias be added to the list of defendants.  
 In other action, the board heard a report from Huffaker about plans for securing legislative action to drastically revise the district's enabling legislation. Huffaker said he has the packet

near completion to send to State Representative David Counts. "I've spoken with Mr. Counts," Huffaker said, "and he will do all that he can to assist the district with the legislation." In response to a question by district board president Michael Travis, Huffaker said he has some concerns about whether or not the legislation could be approved, based on expressed opposition in the community.  
 "With such major changes being requested, it will certainly need wide spread community support if it is to be approved," Huffaker explained. "The reason this failed the last time was because of so much opposition in the community."  
 Huffaker suggested the board might want to trim the proposal to just add a provision for holding a dissolution election, which he said appears doesn't have any opposition.

Administrator Gina Norman reported that there are currently 12 Garza County citizens designated as indigent. She also said that \$1,192.34 was disbursed for indigent care last month, leaving a balance of \$146,089 this fiscal year for indigent care.  
 Travis repeated his proposal from last month's meeting that income guidelines be raised so that more people could qualify for indigent care. Norman is to report at the January meeting with information for the board to consider.  
 Norman also reported that Texas Department of Health representatives had completed a review of the Primary Health Care program, making recommendations for completing a quality assurance plan and a community assessment project.  
 Discussion about replacing carpet at the district's building was postponed for further study on asbestos tile which is covered by the old carpet.  
 The board approved the purchase of an audio recording system for future meetings.  
 The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16 at Citizens Bank community room.



Christmas and birthdays come close together for the five little boys born December 14, 1999 to Mike and Jamie Wells. The quint is doing just fine, as this family photo shows. Celebrating their first birthdays are (left to right) Jaden, Briley, Landen, Zachary and Jantzen. (Photo courtesy Sharla Wells)

## Highway closed following H<sub>2</sub>S leak

A section of the Gail highway about eight miles south of Post along the Brazos River Bridge was closed for some time Friday evening due to leaking gas from a blown-out wellhead and two breaks in a pipeline.  
 The Garza County Sheriff's Department received a call from Lee Roberts, an engineering specialist with the Texas Railroad Commission, at about 5:05 p.m., notifying authorities of the gas leak.

According to the sheriff's department, H<sub>2</sub>S and LEL detectors indicated hydrogen sulfate levels were high, leading authorities to barricade the roadway.  
 Winds were light and out of the northeast, according to reports, and authorities worried that a change in the wind could lead to problems. It was determined there was a fire hazard for a half-mile radius in the area of the leak, and sheriff's department officials

called and notified a family residing in the area. The family chose to evacuate their home for the next day to check on their animals.  
 The leak was contained and repaired immediately, and the road was reopened by about 9 p.m.  
 No injuries or loss of animal life was reported as a result of the incident, sheriff's department officials said.

## Post Notes

**Santa Claus at Old Mill Trade Days**  
 The PHS Spanish Club is hosting Santa Claus at Old Mill Trade Days Saturday. He will be in the east side of the Weaving Room from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Photos with Santa will be featured, with all proceeds to benefit the Spanish Club in its efforts to send club members to Spain this summer.

**Science Fair awards Monday**  
 The Post Elementary School Science Fair awards will be presented at a special ceremony in the school auditorium Monday, December 18 at 10 a.m. All family and friends of students are encouraged to attend.

**Grassland Church presents cantata**  
 The Grassland Church of the Nazarene choir will present the Christmas cantata "Welcome to Our World" on Saturday, December 16 at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, December 17 at 6 p.m. at the church.

**Children invited to Christmas party**  
 The Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW are inviting area children to the annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16 at the VFW Hall. The party will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. and will include Christmas socks, fruits, punch, cookies and a visit with Santa Claus.

**Trail blazer bake sale Dec. 16**  
 The Garza County Trailblazers will hold a bake sale Saturday, December 16 at United Supermarkets in Post to assist with funding for the inside of the new building.

**Merry Christmas Greetings**  
 The Post Dispatch annual "Merry Christmas" edition is now being prepared. Area businesses are encouraged to call Judy Bush to reserve an attractive "Merry Christmas" greeting for the special edition. Advertising rates are being discounted 20 percent for the special event. All advertising will also be aired on Post City Radio.

**'Toys for Tots' applications**  
 The Post Lions Club is accepting applications for this year's "Toys for Tots" program. Applications to receive the gifts may be obtained at Cellular Etc., Sheriff's Department or Fashion Cleaners. The deadline for completed applications is Dec. 15. There will be no exceptions to the deadline.

**Donations needed for 'Toys for Tots'**  
 The Post Lions Club needs donations for this year's "Toys for Tots" campaign. Send contributions to Post Lions Club, Box 694, Post, Texas. There are many young children who will not have Christmas gifts without our help. Bring donations to Fashion Cleaners or Sheriff's Department.

**Santa Letters deadline Dec. 15**  
 The annual "Merry Christmas" edition of The Post Dispatch will be published Thursday, December 21, with a deadline for "Santa Letters" on Friday, December 15.

**Christmas Eve service**  
 A Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held at the First United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 24 at 10 p.m. The community is cordially invited.

**GCRT offers \$100 in gas**  
 The Garza County Response Team is selling tickets for a drawing to award \$100 of Phillips 66 gasoline to the winner. The tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 and may be purchased from any GCRT member or call 787-5613. The drawing will be held December 23.

**Ladies VFW Christmas Party**  
 The Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW will host the annual Christmas Party December 16 beginning at 6 p.m. Members are requested to bring "Secret Pal" gifts and a gift to exchange. Members should also bring chips, dips, sandwiches, cookies, candy or punch. The party will be at the VFW Hall on the Clairmont Hwy. The party will follow the Children's Party.

**Santa Letters Next Week!**



Associate warden James Frawner gets his head shaved by Stewart Naron, hobby craft coordinator (formerly a barber), during a "shaving" ceremony at the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility last week. It was all part of the celebration for exceeding the facility's United Way campaign goals.

## Post ISD employees pick up tab on insurance increases

Employees of the Post Independent School District will be asked to absorb the increasing cost of hospitalization insurance following a decision made last week by the school district's board of trustees.  
 Superintendent Dr. Bobby Bain said the board discussed the matter at length, but determined that the \$23 per employee increase could not be covered by the school district.  
 Currently, the Post ISD pays 100 percent of the \$185 premium for hospitalization insurance for its employees. The premium will climb to \$208, and employees will be asked to pick up the difference.

Bain also said he had been in contact with the Tulia school superintendent regarding the recent district court ruling on random drug testing and noted that the Tulia school district is appealing that decision.  
 Drug testing of local students in grades 7-12 involved in University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities has been required since the policy earned the approval of the Post Independent School District board of trustees at the beginning of the 1997-98 school year.  
 The drug testing program has "been a real success," Bain said.

The framing of the building is completed, the plumbing is "topped out" and wiring, heating and air conditioning have been installed. New kitchen equipment also is on the way.  
 "Quite a bit has already been done and pair for," the announcement stated. "That's the way it has to be. Every bill must be paid in full. We can't borrow, and wouldn't if we could."  
 Ault and Mitchell admitted that they've both been "so darned busy getting the building project underway" that they probably neglected the effort to raise funds.  
 The two said they will be contacting individuals and businesses "we've neglected to contact before" to provide everyone with an opportunity to participate in seeing the senior center project completed.  
 "We'd like to remind all prospective donors that the Garza County Trailblazers is a 501 c (3) charitable organization and as such, your donations are fully tax-deductible."  
 The building is being construction at the corner of 10th and Avenue I on property provided by local taxing entities. The land had been confiscated by local governments, including the county, the school district, the city and the hospital district, for back taxes. The property was publicly advertised for sale, but no bidders offered to purchase it.

## Funding shortage delays work on senior citizen center

A lack of funding may delay work on the Garza County Trailblazers new senior citizen center.  
 "Garza County folks have really been good about donating their time and money to help build this new senior center," Jack Ault and James Mitchell, Building Committee co-chairmen said in an announcement released Monday. "Rarely have we been turned down when we've asked for a donation. Churches, fraternal organizations, businesses and many, many individuals have been more than generous in their support.... But we are just about out of money, and we still have quite a way to go."  
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**Post City Radio**

Local News 7 a.m. & Noon Mon-Fri • Live Post Antelope Basketball, Fridays 6:30 p.m.  
 www.postcityradio.com • Classic Cable Channel 12

**Births**

**Ewan Scott Bilberry**

John and Sandra Bilberry of Jacksonville, Arkansas are proud to announce the birth of their son Ewan Scott Bilberry.

Ewan was born November 24, 2000 at 6:33 pm.

He weighed eight pounds, 12 ounces and was 22 inches long.

Ewan was also welcomed home by Matthew, his four year old brother.

Maternal grandparents are Andy and Betty Gibson and Tom Allison, all of Scotland.

Paternal grandmother is Edna Bilberry of Post.



Ewan Scott Bilberry

**Holden Lee Basquez**

Jesse and Misty Basquez and brothers Heath and Hunter Fellhauer would like to announce the arrival of their beautiful new baby boy.

Holden was born at 12:49 pm November 29, 2000, weighing seven pounds, five ounces and 18 and 3/4 inches long.

Maternal grandmother is Bert West. Paternal grandparents are Candy Basquez and the late Toby Basquez, Sr.



Holden Lee Basquez

**Dancee Beth Van De Valde**

Chris and Channa Van De Valde of Slaton are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Dancee Beth Van De Valde.

She was born November 27, 2000 at 12:24 pm in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Dancee weighed six pounds and was 18 and 1/2 inches long. Big sister Darcee Paige welcomed her home.

Maternal grandparents are Sue and James Thrasher of Ralls. Paternal grandparents are Fred and Barbara Van De Valde of Post.

**Kelly Chad Overton II**

Kelsey and Kaitlyn Overton are proud to announce the birth of baby brother, Kelly Chad Overton II.

Kelly was born November 28, 2000 at 12:21 pm in Lubbock. He weighed nine pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

Proud parents are Chad and Isabel Overton.

Maternal grandparents are Pat and Susan Soto of Post.

Paternal grandparents are Boyce and Joyce Overton of Post.

Maternal great grandparents are Lupe Ybarra and Ysabel Soto of Post.

Paternal great grandparents are Thomas Overton of Perryton and the late

**Call Judy's Jabberin  
with your "jabberin"  
495-2816**



Mr and Mrs Kelsey Lee Warren

**Kemp, Warren exchange vows**

Krista Beth Kemp of Dallas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kemp of Post, wed Kelsey Lee Warren, son of Mrs. Bertie Kirby of Hawkins and the late Hugh Warren, in a Nov. 2, 2000, ceremony held at 4 p.m. at the Kealani Resort in Maui, Hawaii.

The bride was given away by her father.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, the bride is employed with Energy Transfer Co. in Dallas.

The bridegroom is CEO and owner of Energy Transfer Co. The couple plans to reside in Dallas.

**Christmas shower honors Odom**

A Christmas ornament shower in honor of Devin Odom, bride-elect of Richard Halford, was held Sunday, Dec. 10, in the home of Voda Beth Gradine.

Hostesses were Voda Beth, Vondi and Arimy Gradine.

The bride-elect received an assortment of ornaments, and the hostesses presented her with a musical nativity scene.

Assorted candies and cookies were served, as was hot cider and punch. Special guests included the bride-elect's mother, Jane Odom, and La Rissa Halford, sister of the groom-to-be.



**Happy  
40th!**

Love,  
**Your Wife & Kids**

**Judy's Jabberin'**

By Judy B. Bush

Folks, I think winter has arrived. The older I get, the more cold natured I get, and this is just too cold!

If it could bring a white Christmas, o.k., but I don't think that will happen. How many white Christmas days have we had in Post? Anyone know?



**To Katharine**

I really did not know where Katharine Trammell was until today. I knew I missed her, but just hadn't heard where she was.

She is in Levelland, near her son and daughter in law, Joe and Margie Trammell. She has completed her cancer treatments and in continuing rehabilitation from the two broken bones in her leg that she suffered in her fall in September.

I know Katharine loves this town and that she is probably lonesome for everyone. So send her a card. Her address is Lynnwood Manor, 803 Alamo Road, Room 205 B, Levelland, Tx. 79336.

Katharine, hope you are home soon. I love and miss you.

**Email "Let's pick on men instead of blondes" jokes**

1. What do you call a handcuffed man? Trustworthy.
2. How do men define a 50/50 relationship? We clean, they dirty; we cook, they eat; we iron, they wrinkle.
3. What's the best way to force a man to do sit-ups? Put the remote control between his toes!
4. What's the smartest thing a man can say? "My wife says....." (sorry guys, I just had to do that!!)

**Santa Letters**

Don't forget, get your Santa Letters in here by Friday, December 15th.

**Birthdays**

Friday, December 15: Kevin Morris. Saturday, December 16: Jessie Raben, Shorty Hester, Sr., Fabian Barboza, Jennifer Smith and Shelia Merritt; Anniversary, Julio and Debbie Hernandez. Sunday, December 17: Doris Giddens, LaDonna McConnell, Garrett Chapman, Bernie Jones, Terry Salad and Christian Moore; Anniversary, Frank and Carol Tobias. Monday, December 18: My almost sis, Melinda Cowley, Ricky Pequeno, Jessie Soto, James Soto and Bertha Fuentes. Tuesday, December 19: Aron Smith, Donna Dye Stelzer, Tori Harper and Matt Holly. Wednesday, December 20, Bob Cannon, Tianna Reyna, Hope Salad, Emily Smith, Pete Walls and D'Anne Bishop; Anniversary, Ramon and Juanita Rivera. Thursday, December 21: Mike Johnson, Billy Criswell, Colleen Parker, Eric Reyna, Dylan Bratcher and Veronica Rae Soto.

**Quints Celebrate Big Number One**

The Wells quints will celebrate their first birthday December 14. What a milestone. For those of you who enjoy watching channel 11 news and the Power of Prayer on that newscast, the quints will be featured Sunday night 17th at 10:00 pm. Be sure to watch and congratulations to all of the Wells family, grandparents included!!

**Email**

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, "Stop, Acts 2:38" (turn from your sin...). The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All she did was read scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an AX and two 38's!!"

**Till Next Week**

Guess that is all. Finish your shopping this weekend. Stay warm, but don't forget Old Mill Trade Days. See ya next week. May God bless each of you.

The Post Dispatch 495-2816

Christmas Holiday Buys!  
**OLD MILL** Upcoming Events  
Feb. 2, 3, 4, 2001  
**TRADE DAYS**  
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780-8477 - Tamara Mason

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## Neighbor to Neighbor

by Sara Wagner, CEA-FCS

### Baking Christmas Cookies With Children

Depending on how you look at it, cooking with your children (or grandchildren) can either be a treat or an undertaking. When planning your "quality time," be sure to allow plenty of time and add a dash of happiness and patience. You will not only be making memories and possibly starting traditions, but the fruits of your labor can be used as gifts, treats, and even ornaments!



Before you begin you must get the ingredients. Read the recipe and go on a "scavenger hunt" to find out what you already have and what you will need to get at the store. While at the store, let your little one pick out some special sprinkles, icing, and candies to decorate the cookies.

Next, set up a workplace that is easy to reach and has lots of room to work. It is important to bring this activity down to their level by using a small table and chairs so they can work easily. Once you have rounded up all the ingredients, set them out on the table so they will be easily accessible.

One of the most important things to do before cooking is to wash hands. You can use this time to talk about germs and how we don't want to share them with others. If they have a small apron, they will need to put it on. Remember, this is going to get messy!

Then, read the recipe through again, and put in the ingredients as you read. Let the child measure the ingredients and put them in the bowl. Not only do they have fun doing this, but this is also a beginning math skill. Allow time for the child to play if the dough has to chill.

While the cookies are baking, talk about one of the most important aspects of cooking...cleaning up. Have them put the ingredients back where they belong, put the dishes in the sink, and even wash them (if you can stand it). Once the cookies are done, let them decorate to their hearts content.

This can keep them busy for quite some time and help them personalize their experience, plus if you are giving the cookies to family members, it will make them extra special. However, be sure to keep plenty of wet rags around, kids are notorious for licking those fingers!

Most importantly, let your child do the cooking. It will mean so much more to them if they get to do everything without you butting in every few minutes to say, "No, not like that," or "here let me do it."

As mentioned earlier, this is going to be an undertaking; messy, frustrating, and memorable. Just enjoy the time you have with your children, it won't be long until they are making cookies with their children.



Troy and Joyce Nelson will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on December 17 with a reception at the Graham Community Center from 2 to 4 p.m. Hosted by their children, "your presence is our gift." Troy and Joyce were married December 26, 1950.

## County joins trails plan

by Wes Burnett

Garza County is joining 23 other area counties in supporting a proposed Plains Trails Region to be named the "South Plains Trail" and the "Northern Plains Trail." The action came at the regular commissioners' court meeting Monday morning.

The court also approved the purchase of two new patrol cars for the sheriff's department. The bids for the Ford autos were \$39,485.78 to included special equipment for the two canine patrol units recently approved by the court.

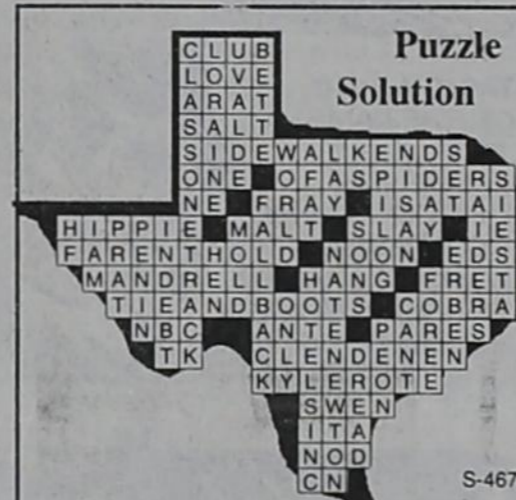
Installing a new electronically operated door at the main entrance to the courthouse was also approved. The action was taken in response to requirements for handicap access to the building.

Judge Giles W. Dalby reported to the court that there will be legislative action requested at the next Texas legislature to provide a method for beginning construction of the Post lake. The lake, which will be on the Brazos River just east of Post, has been permitted to White River Municipal Water District for almost 30 years.

"We believe that White River should be given a set deadline for developing the lake," Judge Dalby said, "or relinquish the permit to another water authority for development. We need the water, and there is no need to delay this any further."

## Post native earns Wayland diploma

Margaret A. Flanigan participated in commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 9, at Wayland Baptist University. Flanigan, the daughter of Bill and Nancy Gordon of Post, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and Mass Communications.



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## Affordable children's health insurance

Elizabeth Stanford from the West Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will be at the Post Elementary School Auditorium Tuesday, December 19, 2000, at 6 p.m. to discuss eligibility for insurance for children under the age of 19.

Children's health insurance is now within your reach. Rates are based on income and ability to pay. Even if you have never been able to afford health insurance before, now you can. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Mrs. Stanford will be available after the program to help fill out applications. Refreshments will be provided. For more information please call 495-4442 or 495-2479.

A sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows keener with constant use.

—Washington Irving

The role of the writer is not to say what we can say, but what we are unable to say.

—Anais Nin

**Texas Agricultural Extension Service**  
The Texas A&M University System

**Extension Extras**

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

**GCJLA Entries**  
Entries for the 2001 Garza County Jr. Livestock Show are due January 9 by 5:00 p.m. in the Extension Office.

**Wagner to Marry**  
Best wishes to Sara Wagner, CEA-FCS, who is to marry December 16. Congratulations!

## 'Yes Virginia' gets rave reviews

by Louella Bilberry

"Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" continues at the Garza Theater this weekend.

This is the most innovative use of the stage we've had yet! Mitchell Britton has done a masterful job with small areas and a spotlight!

Parents, this is not a play that young children will enjoy. The very presentation that is so impressive



The inspiration for Santa Claus, St. Nicklaus, was born in Turkey in the 4th century. He was known for his generosity and love for children.

will be confusing to children. The story is one of despair, drunkenness, fighting, but also of love, kindness, hope and faith.

We see Virginia's mother sharing what little they have with the ill neighbor upstairs. We see Virginia's father waiting for trash to be carried out. He hopes he can find a newspaper with help-wanted ads.

Mr. Britton's final scene is remarkable, dramatic! Bill Woodard as the editor and our narrator is great! Jeff Conner as Frank P. Church who answered Virginia's question has a strong role as the grief-stricken drunkard. Both men have been on our stage many times. Russell Eaton did a great job with the spotlight, as the scenes switched from "here to there." Virginia's mother was played by our own Christy Morris. Check this one out.

## Graham Livestock Commission, Inc.

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We buy cows, calves and yearlings to put on our orders every day at our Abilene pick-up station.

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Hours:  
Monday thru Saturday  
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# Obituaries

## Glenda Atkinson

Services for Glenda Atkinson, 56, of Post were Thursday, December 7, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. in the Trinity Baptist Church in Post. The Rev. Billie S. Smith officiated.

Burial was at 4:30 p.m. at the Dickens Cemetery at Dickens, Texas. Arrangements were under the personal care of Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

Mrs. Atkinson died Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at Covenant Medical Center-Lakeside in Lubbock. She was born on September 24, 1944 to Ed and Dutch (Richards) Webb at Spur. She attended school at Spur and married Don Atkinson on October 17, 1963 in Dickens. They made their first home in Dickens and later moved to Spur, where she worked for the Dixie Dog. In 1990 they moved to Post and she worked for Rosie's Restaurant and later for Soda Pops. She was a member of the Trinity Baptist Church and was a homemaker and proud 'Nana' to her grand children and great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother: Melvin Webb.

She is survived by her husband, two sons: Chris Atkinson of Lubbock and Bo Atkinson of Roanoke. Three daughters: Doni Crews of Odessa, Debbie McBride of Corpus Christi, and Brenda Foster of Andrews. Three brothers: Joe Richards of Hobbs, NM, Charley Webb of Lubbock and Melton Webb of Los Lunas, NM.; 15 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Pallbearers were: Will Morrow, Ronnie Metsgar, Vern Ramsey, Henry Deleon, Tommy Cole and Roger Williams.

Memorial are suggested to the Joe Arrington Cancer Center - Lubbock.

## Joe Jackson

Services for Joe Jackson, 82, of Post were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2000, in the Calvary Baptist Church with the Rev. Jerry Graham officiating. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery under the direction of the Hudman Funeral Home.

He died Saturday, Dec. 9, at University Medical Center in Lubbock. Born Jan. 1, 1918, in Ardmore, Okla., he was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army in the Sicilian, Normandy, Northern France, Ardenns, Rhineland and Central Europe. He received European, African and Middle Eastern Medals, a Good Conduct Medal and a Distinguished Unit Badge, Belgium Forager. He owned and operated a service station and grocery store in O'Donnell until 1967 and then owned and leased a truck to Wales Trucking in Dallas. He retired in 1982 and moved to Post. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include one son, Randy, of Lubbock; one daughter, Teresa Chapa of Tahoka; three brothers, Jim and Bo, both of Post, and Maurice of O'Donnell; three sisters, Modene Pevitt of Post, Catherine Welch of Lamesa and Rose Hair of Crane; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

(Continued on Page 4)

226 E. Main Post, Texas 79356 Telephone (806)495-4005

**Garza Theatre**

Our Year 2000 Season

proudly presents

*Yes Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus*

BY ANDREW J. FENADY  
DIRECTED BY MITCHELL BRITTON

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Continued from Page 3)

### L.G. Thuett Jr.

Services for L.G. Thuett Jr., 83, of Post were held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8, 2000, in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Paul Kenley officiating, assisted by the Rev. Syl Moore. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery under the direction of the Hudman Funeral Home.



He died Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Born Aug. 3, 1917, in Chillicothe, he married Consuelo Baker Dec. 31, 1938, in Post. She died April 4, 1996. He was a farmer and a member of the First Baptist Church, where he taught Sunday school. He was a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank (Wells Fargo), Lynegar, Graham Co-op Gin and the Soil Conservation Service. He also was a member of the Masonic Lodge for more than 60 years.

Survivors include two sons, Jerry Thuett and Ronald Thuett, both of Post; three grandchildren, Amy Thuett of Post, Kerry Thuett of Lubbock and Trevor Thuett of Fort Worth; and two great-grandsons, Dalton Thuett and Caelan Thuett.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Billie Louise Thuett, in February 1942.

Pallbearers included Ted Williams, Lee Norman, Doug Flanigan, Charles Hardin, Mack Terry and Tommy Young. Honorary pallbearers were members of the Men's Sunday School Class and the board of directors for Wells Fargo Bank.

The family has suggested memorials be made to the donor's favorite charity.

Joe Jackson

Services for Joe Jackson, 82, of Post were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2000, in the Calvary Baptist Church with the Rev. Jerry Graham officiating. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery under the direction of the Hudman Funeral Home.

He died Saturday, Dec. 9, at University Medical Center in Lubbock.

Born Jan. 1, 1918, in Ardmore, Okla., he was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army in the Sicilian, Normandy, Northern France, Ardenns, Rhineland and Central Europe. He received European, African and Middle Eastern Medals, a Good Conduct Medal and a Distinguished Unit Badge, Belgium Forager. He owned and operated a service station and grocery store in O'Donnell until 1967 and then owned and leased a truck to Wales Trucking in Dallas. He retired in 1982 and moved to Post. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include one son, Randy, of Lubbock; one daughter, Teresa Chapa of Tahoka; three brothers, Jim and Bo, both of Post, and Maurice of O'Donnell; three sisters, Modene Pewitt of Post, Catherine Welch of Lamesa and Rose Hair of Crane; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

### Tom L. Power

Tom L. Power, 81, of Post, died on Saturday December 9, 2000 at the Covenant Medical Center. He was born on June 27, 1919 to Jim and Dezzie (Babb) Power, here in Post. He was the grandson of the late James L. and Amanda Power and John H. and Lillie Babb.



He finished Post High School in 1937 and was graduated from Texas A&M University in 1941, where he was Troop Commander in the Cavalry, Editor of the Agriculturalist and Distinguished student.

Power was an officer and went directly into the US Horse Cavalry during World War II until 1946 when he was separated for the service as a Major. Tom was in the First Cavalry Division, dismounted, during combat time in Australia, New Guinea, Admiralty Islands, Philippines and Japan.

After returning from the South Pacific he remained in the Regular Army for a while and taught Military Science at New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, New Mexico for a year.

He became the Authorized Ford Dealer in Post for nearly 20 years and then moved to Casper, Wyoming to become the Volkswagen Dealer. Returned to Post in 1973 and bought back the general insurance agency he had as a Ford Dealer, while in Post.

Tom was active in civic - community affairs in Post, as was his parents who helped start Post City. He was past president of Post Rotary. He was a Mason and had been a Shriner. He was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, December 1, 2000 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Post with the Rev. Jerry Koch, pastor, officiating. Burial with Military and Masonic rites will be at the Terrace Cemetery under the personal care of Justice-Mason Funeral Home.

He was preceded in death by his brother: J.N. Power, Jr.

He is survived by three daughters: Cleo Terry Sharplin of Dixon, N.M.; Sky Power of Wellfleet, MA. and Roxi Hamilton of Santa Cruz, Ca.; grandson, Wesley and wife Lisa Jennings and two great grandchildren: Lindsay and Taylor Jennings.

Members of the Post Masonic Lodge will serve as Pallbearers.

Memorials are suggested to the First Presbyterian Church of Post or to the Garza County Trail Blazers Senior Citizens Center, Post.

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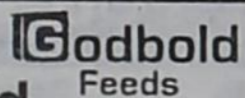
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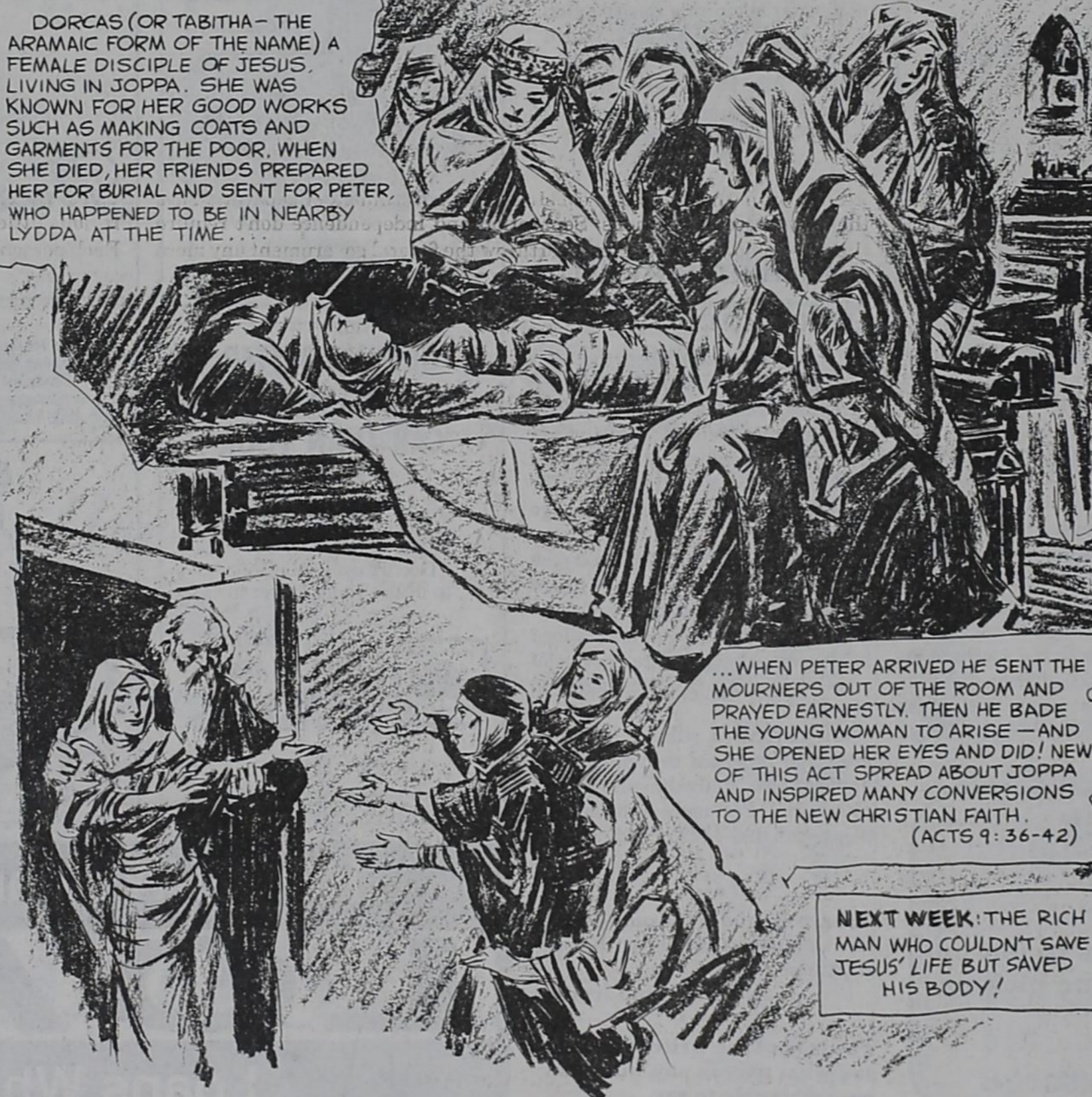
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## Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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... WHEN PETER ARRIVED HE SENT THE MOURNERS OUT OF THE ROOM AND PRAYED EARNESTLY. THEN HE BADE THE YOUNG WOMAN TO ARISE—AND SHE OPENED HER EYES AND DID! NEWS OF THIS ACT SPREAD ABOUT JOPPA AND INSPIRED MANY CONVERSIONS TO THE NEW CHRISTIAN FAITH. (ACTS 9:36-42)

NEXT WEEK: THE RICH MAN WHO COULDN'T SAVE JESUS' LIFE BUT SAVED HIS BODY!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAP-BOOK

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First Baptist Church 402 W. Main, 495-3554  
First Baptist Church, Wilson 628-6333  
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Pleasant Home Baptist Church E. 14th & N. Ave F  
Pleasant Valley Baptist Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174  
Templo Bautista 315 W. Main, 495-2416  
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 Christ 108 N. Ave. M, 495-2326  
Graham Chapel Church of Christ 5 miles W. Hwy 380, 2 miles south

### Church of God

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

First Christian Church 812 W. 13th, 495-3716

### Methodist

First United Methodist Church 216 W. 10th, 495-2942  
Graham Chapel United Methodist Church 495-3492

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Grassland Nazarene Church 327-5656

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# Opinions



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## The Wills of the Persons

by Sheldon Richman

Besides "every vote counts," the most frequently uttered nonsense of the 2000 postelection season is "the will of the people must be respected." Most memorable is the Florida Supreme Court's remark: "The will of the people, not a hypertechnical reliance upon statutory provisions, should be our guiding principle."

If the will of the people is to be our guiding principle, heaven help us, for it will be a lame guide indeed. There is no such thing. How can there be? Strictly speaking, there is no "people." There are only persons, each with his own will. We may call a group of persons who regularly interact with each other "the people," or "society," but these are convenient abstractions that do not exist in themselves. "The people" do not actually make a choice or express a will. If we let abstractions mask the particular persons with particular wills, we risk trampling individuals in the name of honoring the collective. We'll miss the trees for the forest.

The principle that an election expresses the will of the people is thus highly dubious. "But Al Gore won the popular vote," some will say. It makes no sense to use the popular vote as a standard when state electors determine the winner at the Electoral College. Neither candidate pursued a strategy to win the popular vote. If the popular vote did determine the winner, presumably the candidates would have run different campaigns. The national totals are just not meaningful. (Had Bush pumped up his Texas vote margin enough to beat Gore nationally, would that have made Bush the choice of the American people?)

The Electoral College aside, of the 100 million people who voted, almost as many cast ballots for Bush as did for Gore. Moreover, 3.8 million people voted for other candidates. Whoever wins, we know that a majority of the people voted for someone else! And another 100 million did not vote for anyone! In effect, more voted for "none of the above" than voted for either Bush or Gore. What do those numbers tell us about the will of the people? Precious little.

Each person who voted for a given candidate might have had a different reason for doing so. Is there no difference between a voter who likes Gore and one who simply dislikes Bush more than he dislikes Gore? So even among Gore voters we cannot identify a unitary will. All we know is that 50,133,912 people marked a ballot or pulled a lever (or dimpled a chad) for Gore. It is dangerous to elevate that to an expression of a sacred collective will. It just means a few more people voted for Gore than for Bush. Likewise, Bush wasn't awarded Florida's decisive 25 electoral votes because such is the will of the people. He got them because according to the official count he had more votes than Gore. Votes are how we keep score.

This may seem like quibbling, but it isn't. We make important decisions in this country by nose count. This implies that by some magic a plurality of voters possesses a wisdom and moral authority not possessed by the rest of the voters and nonvoters. That strains credulity.

Elections are best looked at as a nonviolent way to fill government offices. There's nothing mystical or holy about them. As we have seen these last weeks, it is a mundane and sometimes corrupt activity. Elections are better than violence and heredity for filling offices, but in all the peans to the "democratic process" one big thing gets lost: what are these officeholders empowered to do? Any virtue the electoral process has comes from the totality of the political system. To take two admittedly extreme examples, if Jews were permitted to vote on the commandant of the German concentration camps, no one would praise the Nazis for their dedication to the "democratic process." If slaves could have elected their taskmasters, the slave system would have been no better than it was.

By the same token, if the officeholders who stand for election define their own powers and legally violate our rights by taxing and regulating us, then the electoral system is tainted. Coercion is not rehabilitated by the fact that we periodically choose who rules us. To believe so elevates process over substance and sullies America's heritage.

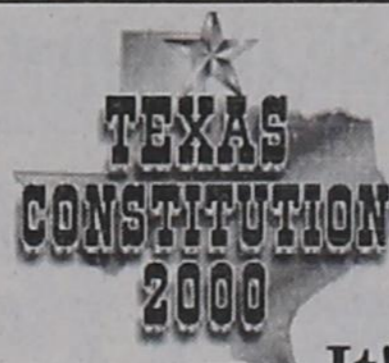
Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation ([www.fff.org](http://www.fff.org)) in Fairfax, Va., and editor of Ideas on Liberty magazine.

### A final thought on judicial activism...

"You seem...to consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all Constitutional questions: a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one, which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy. Our judges are as honest as other men, and not more so. They have, with others, the same passions for party, for power, and the privilege of their corps.

...And their power (is) the more dangerous, as they are in office for life and not responsible, as the other functionaries are, to the elective control.

The Constitution has erected no such single tribunal, knowing that to whatever hands confided, with the corruptions of time and party, its members would become despots."  
 —Thomas Jefferson



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## And thereafter, a nation polarized

by Walter E. Williams

We've had close presidential elections before, but this one is emblematic of dangerous, unbridgeable and growing gaps among the American people. Some of this can be seen by examining a map showing U.S. counties won by George Bush and those won by Al Gore.

In general, the densely populated counties along the East and West coasts, Midwestern counties mostly along the Mississippi River and a smattering of counties in the southwest were won by Gore.

But if the election were to be decided by who won the greatest number of the nation's 3,142 counties, Bush would have bested Gore by at least 2,500 counties. While who won how many counties is irrelevant to the presidential selection process, it says something about the degree of national polarization.

What are the characteristics of counties won by Bush versus those won by Gore? The values, politics and religion of the counties in the southern, western and rural sections of the country, won by Bush are not like those in the mostly coastal, highly populated counties won by Gore.

The Bush counties are: more conservative and respectful of traditional values, pro-life, and more religious, and they have less social pathology such as high crime, illegitimacy and deviancy. Counties won by Gore tend to be just the opposite.

By no means do Americans who voted for Bush enthusiastically and unequivocally support the values expressed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution, but they are not nearly as parasitic, interventionist and contemptuous of the principles of liberty as Gore supporters.

The constitutional provisions created by the Framers to protect us against the interventionist and parasitic classes have long been under siege and are severely weakened. The Bill of Rights, election of senators by state legislators and other protections against mob rule have been weakened or eliminated.

Limitations on the power of the central government, through the enumerated powers and separation of power doctrines, have also been



severely compromised. Constitutional protections against parasitic plunder, through its prohibition against direct taxation (no income tax), have been abolished.

Thomas Jefferson gave voice to our most important protection in his First Inaugural Address in 1801, saying, "If there be any among us who wish to dissolve the Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed, as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it."

The right of secession was taken for granted in the founding of our country, and it wasn't only a Southern idea. Timothy Pickering of Massachusetts was George Washington's chief of staff, his secretary of war and secretary of state, and later a Massachusetts congressman and senator.

In 1803, Pickering wrote, "The principles of our Revolution (of 1776) point to the remedy — a separation — for the people of the East cannot reconcile their habits, views and interests with those of the South and West." Irreconcilability faces us today.

There's one group of Americans who does not wish to bother anyone but wishes to be left alone. Another group of Americans wants to plunder and control the lives of others. This latter group of Americans shows no sign of letting up, much less retreating.

A return to rule of law and constitutional government or separation are the only peaceful solutions. Separation and independence don't require that liberty-loving Americans overthrow the federal government any more than it required George Washington to overthrow England or his successor secessionist, Jefferson Davis, to overthrow Washington, D.C.

So here's my question: Should we Americans continue to forcibly impose our wills and values on one another, or should we part company and be friends?

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](http://www.creators.com).

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## And now, armed guards at DMV

by Vin Suprynowicz

Constitutional authority for licensing cars and drivers is pretty tenuous, largely based on early legal sleight-of-hand designed to purposely confuse the excitable professional of "driving" — hauling passengers or freight for profit on the public roads — with simple civilian travel.

The image is colorful — the Slim Pickens "toll booth" scene from the Mel Brooks film "Blazing Saddles" comes to mind — but there's no record that George Washington had to stop by each state capitol along his route, signing up for the 18th century equivalent a "photo ID" and a little metal plate to hang over his horse's rump, as he moved from Massachusetts through Connecticut, rushing to the defense of New York in 1776 and Philadelphia in 1777.

In fact, drivers' licenses are thinly disguised police ID cards. (Does one forget how to drive when moving across town, or into another state? Then why isn't the license you got in another state the year you graduated from high school still as "good" as the high school diploma you earned that same year?)

Yet we obligingly buy into the euphemism that the "customers" of the Department of Motor Vehicles want quick and efficient "service" when we go wait in line to renew these sundry government forms — as though anyone would be buying this bill of goods, absent the armed and uniformed men who stand ready to handcuff us and impound our valuable vehicles if we're caught without our "papers, please."

Now, some of the peons are apparently growing restless. Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn said Monday that state workers fear for their lives because "patrons" at DMV offices are going ballistic when they're told — after waiting in line for an average of more than an hour — not only that they're being refused the routine paperwork they've come to pay for, but that their vehicles are instead going to be impounded for overdue traffic or parking tickets.

DMV Director Richard Kirkland added that some victims have told his employees that they will be killed or that they should be looking over their shoulder when they leave work.

"Some have been grabbed around the throat," he added. Oh, the humanity!

The governor Monday asked members of the Legislature's Interim Finance Committee to provide funding for armed guards in the Las Vegas and Reno DMV offices, to keep these unruly peasants in line.

Though it's tempting to suggest they be given MP-40 submachine guns and fancy black uniforms with silver skulls on the collars, the better to help everyone appreciate the true nature of the transaction being effected, in fact some better solutions are available:

First, the American system of governance is based on carefully delineated lines of jurisdiction between the various levels of government — one of many safeguards against a vertically integrated, Napoleonic tyranny.

A state motor vehicle office has no more business withholding a state document from an otherwise qualified citizen based on non-payment of local or municipal parking tickets, than the U.S. State Department should be refusing us passports because our chicken coops are alleged to be in violation of some local zoning code.

Yes, local judges have ruled that the state should impound the vehicles of drivers who ignore local parking tickets. The correct response from Gov.

Guinn should be: "The judges have made their ruling; now let them try to enforce it. My guys aren't going to do it, because it's unconstitutional."

(The "balance of powers" is supposed to allow any of the three branches to block an unconstitutional order from another — otherwise we'd only need one branch of government: the courts.)

In the meantime, though, statistics provided by the governor and his staff in the course of seeking funds for 64 new part-time workers in an effort to decrease waiting times at the DMV offices — now averaging 79 minutes per victim at the Sahara office in Las Vegas — should raise some eyebrows in their own right.

In part because of a perverse incentive in state employee contracts which encourage workers to "use or lose" their "sick time," on any given day 30 percent of employees are absent from their posts in the Henderson, Carey Avenue and West Flamingo Road DMV offices, the governor's staff revealed.

While on East Sahara, the average rate of absenteeism is a whopping 49 percent.

Couple this with the astonishingly inefficient hunt-and-peck methods of data entry which citizens are witnessing when they finally do reach the front of the lines, and it's small wonder tempers are near the breaking point.

"The way that the sick time pay is structured is one of the things that we're looking at very closely," the governor's spokesmen, Jack Finn, told me Tuesday.

And will the governor be looking at getting his DMV workers out of the job of impounding autos to enforce municipal parking tickets?

"That's something we're looking at. It's something we're very seriously studying," Finn says.

The long-term solution, of course, is to abandon the whole system — allow Nevada's citizens to travel the highways as they please without any government "licenses," "registrations" or "permits."

But until the governor finds the political courage to take that obvious step toward restoring one of our most basic freedoms, one further thing does come to mind:

Employers in the private sector seem to have no problem hiring employees who can type 60 words per minute, and who actually show up for work a lot more often than 51 percent of the time, for as little as 10 bucks an hour.

The governor might want to "seriously study" firing the entire current DMV staff, and replacing them with Kelly Girls.

Vin Suprynowicz is assistant editorial page editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, and editor of Financial Privacy Report (952-895-8757.) His book, "Send in the Waco Killers: Essays on the Freedom Movement, 1993-1998," is available at 1-800-244-2224.

Vin Suprynowicz, [vin@lvj.com](mailto:vin@lvj.com)  
 "When great changes occur in history, when great principles are involved, as a rule the majority are wrong. The minority are right." — Eugene V. Debs (1855-1926)

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed — and thus clamorous to be led to safety — by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." — H.L. Mencken

# Lady Lopes take third at Longhorn Classic

The Post varsity Lady Lopes continue their winning ways, taking third place at last weekend's Longhorn Classic at Lockney.

The tournament opened up with a 60-50 win over Petersburg Thursday, then followed with a disappointing 57-31 loss to Guthrie.

The ladies regained their composure Saturday to edge Lockney 43-42.

"We just played terrible in the Guthrie game," coach Ron Taylor said, "in fact, I guess it was the worst overall game we've played since I've been in Post. The good news is that these young ladies came back from that embarrassment and played a great game against a really good team on Saturday."

In the Petersburg game Manuela Hernandez and Kelly Moore led with 12 points each. Tandi Humble followed with 10, Meagan Mills got eight, Vondi Gradine and Kenda Looney hit for six each, Yvonne Lopez got eight and Emily Smith collected two points.

In the Guthrie loss, Smith led with eight points, followed by Looney (7), Davida Gregory (6), Hernandez (4) and two each by Mills and Gradine.

In the win over Lockney, Gregory led with 15 points, followed by Hernandez

with 11, eight by Looney, four by Lopez, three for Moore and two by Gradine.

Earlier last week the Lady Lopes pulled out a 50-49 thriller at Hamlin. Hernandez took top scoring with 12 points, followed by Gregory and Smith

## All District football honors

Post Antelope varsity football players named to the first team District 4AA All District team are Tyrone Jefferson, running back; John Eilenberger, linebacker and Michael Huff, secondary.

Second team awards went to Huff, quarterback; Eilenberger, lineman; Clinton Curtis, defensive end; Jeremy Baker, linebacker and Jefferson, secondary.

Honorary mention went to Jarrett Vickers, tight end; Baker, running back; Mitchell Mills, linebacker; Jonathan Curtis, secondary; C.J. Sims, defensive end and Jeremy Bland, defensive lineman.

"We're very proud of these young men," coach Richard Gorman emphasized.

with 10, Mills (7), Looney (6) and Gradine (3).

The Lady Lopes host Kress Friday with a 6:30 p.m. tip off, then take a break until December 28-30 at the Crosbyton Tournament.



## J.V. girls drop one to Hamlin

The Post varsity Lady Lopes were upended by Hamlin December 5 in a 46-26 loss.

LaRinda Ledbetter led the team with 10 points, followed by Regina Collazo (8) and two each by K'Leigh Babb, Angela Hester, Terri Curtis and Taylor Starkey.



Earning All District Second Team honors are Post Antelope varsity players (left to right) John Eilenberger, offensive line; Clinton Curtis, defensive end; Michael Huff, quarterback; Tyrone Jefferson, secondary and Jeremy Baker, linebacker.



Earning All District Honorable Mention honors are Post Antelope varsity players (left to right) Jarrett Vickers, tight end; Jonathan Curtis, secondary; Jeremy Baker, running back; Jeremy Bland, defensive line; C.J. Sims, defensive end and Mitchell Mills, linebacker.



Earning All District Honorable Mention honors are Post Antelope varsity players (left to right) Jarrett Vickers, tight end; Jonathan Curtis, secondary; Jeremy Baker, running back; C.J. Sims, defensive end, Jeremy Bland, defensive line and Mitchell Mills, linebacker.

# Antelopes win two more

The Post Antelope varsity basketball team won two of its last four games last week.

On December 5 the team edged Meadow 42-41. "That was a big win for us," coach Dane Vickers said. "Meadow is one of those really good teams, they were in the regional playoffs last year." The Lopes were behind most of the game and with one tenth of a second left on the clock, Raul Ortiz hit a free throw to win the game.

Michael Huff led with 11 points, followed by Ortiz (7), Tyrone Jefferson (6), Clinton Curtis (5), Justin Norman (5), Jarrett Vickers (4), Jaimie Collazo

(3) and Mitchell Mills (2).

At the Lockney Longhorn Classic, the team lost to Petersburg, beat Hart and slipped to Panhandle. At the tournament coach Vickers moved three junior varsity players to the varsity, praising the efforts of Brandon Bell, Brody Robertson and John Eilenberger. Bell and Robertson have since been placed on the permanent varsity roster.

The team played well throughout the tournament, according to Vickers, with Panhandle being the most physically demanding game of the season. "These games will pay off for us when get into district play," the coach emphasized. Tyrone Jefferson is still out with an

injury, and Mitchell Mills will have to wear a hand cast for another month.

Scoring in the Petersburg game came from Huff (15), Ortiz (5), and two each by Norman, Eilenberger, Robertson and Vickers.

In the 44-36 win over Hart last Friday, Ortiz led with 17, followed by Huff (9), Collazo (9), Norman (2) and Curtis (2).

In the Panhandle game Vickers led with nine, followed by Huff (8), Ortiz (6), Norman (4), Curtis (3) and two each by Collazo and Bell.

The Lopes host Kress Friday, then take a break until the Crosbyton Tournament December 28-30.

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2656B



PHS students with their coach competing in the U.I.L. writer events at the recent Sul Ross competition were (back row, left to right) coach Sandra Alexander, A.J. Dickman, Kyle Dunn, Steve Norman, (front row) Jamie Dawson, Jessica Garza, Dianna Williams and Laci Williams.



PHS students competing in the U.I.L. events at the recent Sul Ross competition were (back row, left to right) Jamie Dawson, Kerry Holly, Tye Mason, Chase Miller, Brice Easterling, Adam Nobles, A.J. Dickman, Zach Engledow, (middle row) Charles Huffman, Teresa Salas, Kelsey Wimmer, Elaine Gonzales, Chris Cruse, Laura Tobias, (front row) Elizabeth Hernandez, Coby Jones, Nicole Gray, Josh Payne and Naomi Gonzales.



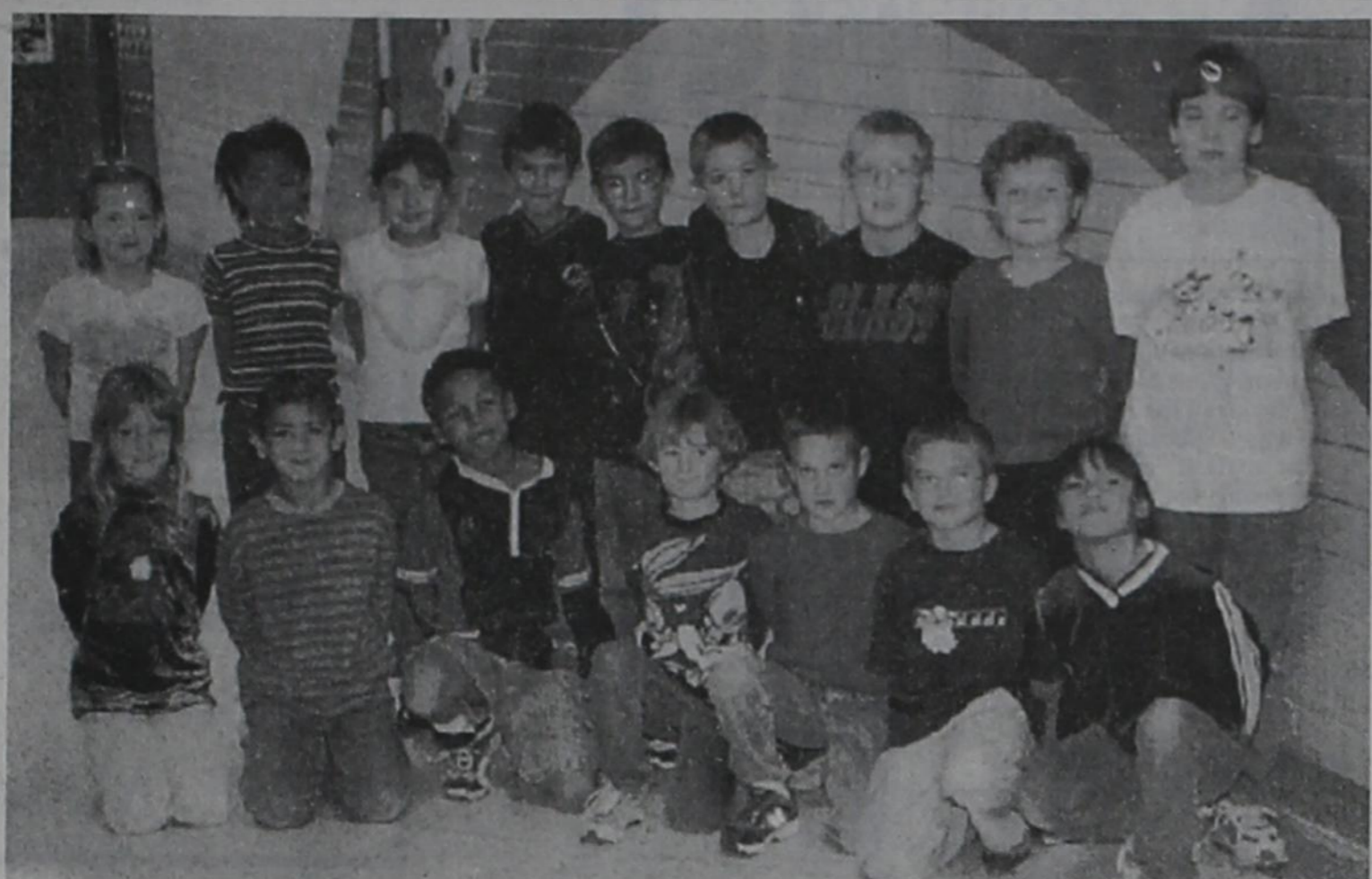
PHS students with their coaches competing in the U.I.L. speaking events at the recent Sul Ross competition were (back row, left to right) Christy Morris, Breann Heckaman, Diane Zubia, Taylor Starkey, Russell Eaton, Charles Huffman, A.J. Dickman, Shanda Kelso, Candace Boling, (front row) Heather Bullard, Chase Miller, Jessica Mason, Nicole Gray, Amanda Workman and Kenda Josey.

## Second graders win food drive campaign to help needy

Post Elementary School students staged a food drive to help needy families last week, with second grade students collecting 343 cans of food to lead the way.

A total of 1,650 cans of food were collected by students, pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. First graders collected 284 cans, followed by fourth graders with 282.

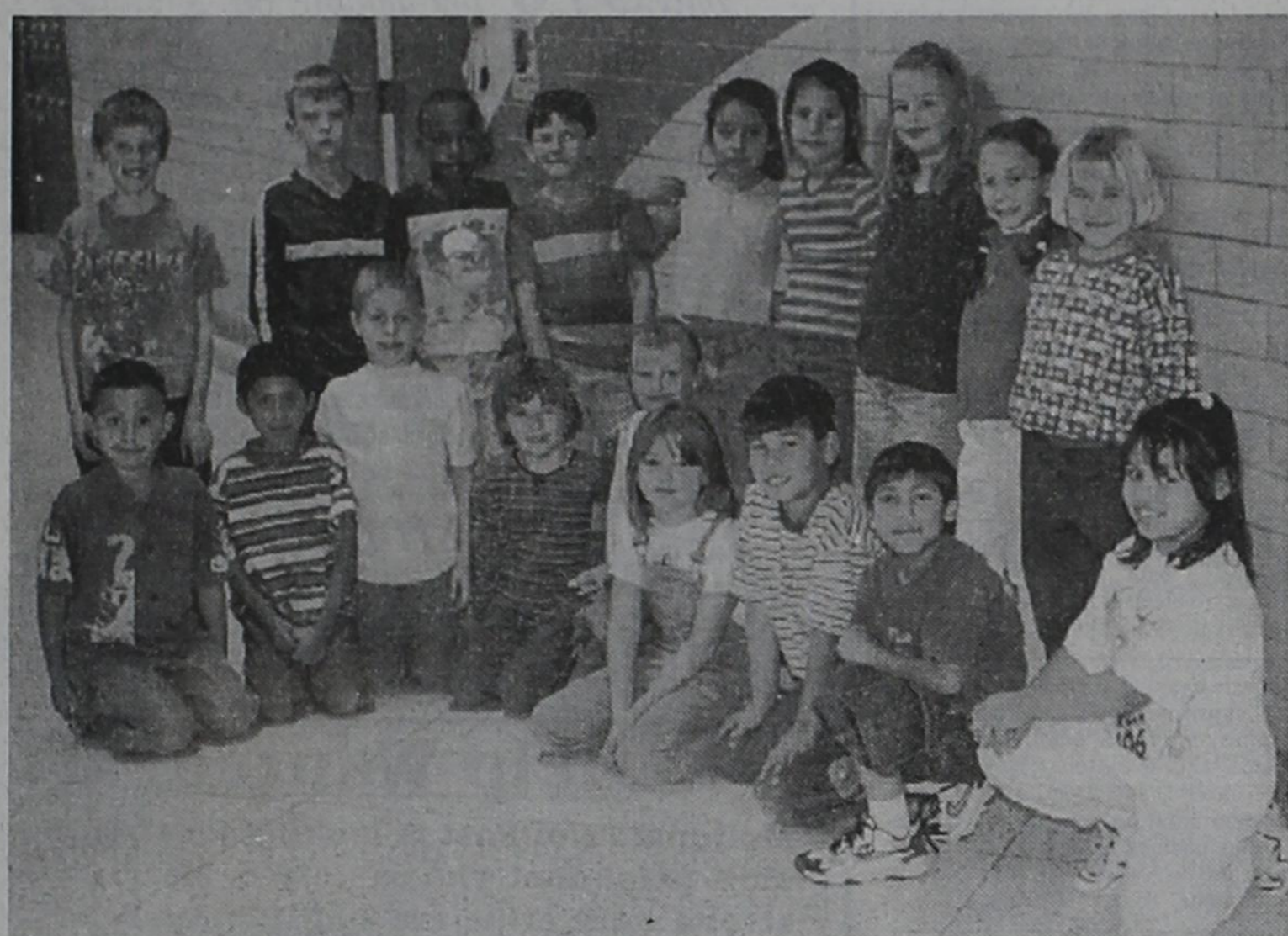
Third graders collected 276 cans with fifth grade students bringing in 237. Kindergarten students collected 165 cans and pre-kindergarten brought in 63 cans.



Post Elementary School second grade students in Mrs Haney's class helping with the food drive were (back row, left to right) Alissa Morrow, Kristian Lee, Crystal Hernandez, Jonathan Perez, Ernest Saldivar, Quentin Benham, Brandon Martin, Abby Holly, Nikki Pewitt, (front row) Tierni Crenshaw, Tanner Hadderton, Jacey Jackson, Macy Blair, Kyle Copeland, Chess Postell and Syrina Perez. Not available for photo were Tanisha Paiz and Sierra Hodge.



Post Elementary School second grade students helping with the food drive were (back row, left to right) Billy Renfro, Jill Thompson, Evette Rodriguez, Syndee Jones, Arturo Lopez, Morgan Williams, Alexis Dunn, Alisha Jones, Raquel Lopez, Caitlin Cravy, Terry Wright, (front row) Pamela Spann, Jenice Payne, Tiffanie Pearson, Gina Mendoza, Katelynn Short, Vanessa Hampton and Ben Mason. Not available for photo was Jake Wischkaemper.



Post Elementary School second grade students in Mrs McDonald's class helping with the food drive were (back row, left to right) Brian Osborn, Justin Tanner, Chase Greathouse, Dylan Huffman, Marissa Hernandez, Franchesca Verela, Amber Wilson, Jessica Jones, Miranda Hair, (front row) Shawn Perez, Oscar Perez, Kyle S. Copeland, Kensley Hair, Cheyenne Poe, Kelsey Overton, Christian Vasquez, Henry Apolinar and Mary Valdez.



Post Elementary School second grade students in Mrs Henderson's class helping with the food drive were (back row, left to right) Jose Orozco, Salena Johnson, Gregory Striblin, Kaylem Perez, Sergio Acosta, Leah Perez, Martin Vera, (front row, left to right) Ciera Miller, Skylor Taylor, Kyla Perez, Phyneshia Rutherford, Mario Ceja, Tanner Clark, Skylar Brown and Allie Hair.

The Post Dispatch 495-2816

# Post Lady 'Lopes & Antelopes

VS  
Kress  
December 15

Junior Varsity  
Girls  
Dec. 14-16  
at Sands Tourney

Junior Varsity  
Boys  
Dec. 14-16  
at Sands Tourney

Post City Radio

Fridays - Lady Lopes & Antelopes  
LIVE  
Classic Cable Channel 12

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Boys  
Jan. 4,  
host  
Idalou

Middle  
School  
Girls  
Jan. 4  
at  
Idalou

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## Card of Thanks

We would like to thank each and every one of you for the love and concern shown to the family of Roy Gilmore.  
Your prayers, food, cards, visits, flowers, phone calls, hugs and words of encouragement meant so much to us.  
Special thanks to Bro. Paul Jones and Bro. Jerry Graham for the wonderful service which helped us so much.  
To Keith Bullard for being there in my time of need. To the ones who served as pall-bearers, to the ladies of Calvary Baptist Church who prepared and served a

wonderful meal and to Jan and Betty for playing the piano and organ, thank you.  
Thank you Curtis, Bill and Richard for a job well done and for the love and concern you showed us.  
We will miss our husband, daddy and granddaddy very much, but we know God holds him in his hands.  
Sis Gilmore  
Charlotte and Chuck Baker  
Sue, Clyde, Cara and Cathi Cash  
Jordan Saldivar  
Dusti, Delton, Briar, Blaine and Bandy Osborn

present identification so that a pass can be issued in your name).

**Post Group of Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Meets every Thursday night at the First Presbyterian Church, 901 West 10th at 8 p.m. Closed meetings are held except on the last Thursday of the month, which is an open meeting. Door opens at 7 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. cake and coffee following the meeting. Anyone who wishes to talk or ask about an alcohol problem, call 495-2452, 495-4185 or 629-4185.

## Services and Repairs

Call Becky at 495-4779 for your Avon needs.

R & B Mobile Car Wash in Post on Wednesday (weather permitting). Call 789-1608 or 495-3639 and I'll come to your home or office!

## Apartments for Rent

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## Mobile Homes for Sale

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Reduced, must move, 16X80, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, c/a/c/h, 10 miles West of Post. Like new \$16,000. For appointment call 786-1316.

## Homes for Sale

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For sale by owner: Brick home on 1 1/2 lots, storm windows and doors, three bedrooms, two baths, one living area w/ fireplace, walk-in closets, CH/A, two car garage, gazebo, fenced yard; 12 x 24 metal storage building on concrete slab, insulated and paneled w/floored attic, located at 705 N. Ave. O. Call 495-3021 for appointment.

## Acreage for Sale

Farm for sale, 240 acres. One mile South of Close City. Call 210-648-7689.

## Miscellaneous for Sale

1984 125 Husky Dirt bike. Call 495-4567, after 6 pm call 495-3482.

## Vehicles for Sale

1990 Ford Ranger pickup. 495-3128.  
1989 Chevy Astro, runs good. Call 495-4555 after 6 pm.

## Legal Notices

**Accepting Bids**  
Garza County will be accepting bids for a 2001 pickup beginning December 8, 2000 and ending December 22, 2000. Specifications are as follows:  
2001 2WD Crew Cab Diesel, 8.0 Box, 167.02 WB  
9200 lbs. GVWR  
4-speed Automatic w/OD, HD  
Power Door Locks  
and all other standard equipment  
Bids should be mailed to Commissioner Lee Norman,  
300 W. Main, Post, Texas 79356  
Phone 806-495-4405  
Fax 806-495-2231

**Notice To Contractors of Proposed Texas Highway Improvement Contracts**  
Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.  
CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)  
District: Lubbock  
Contract 0905-00-024 for MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION in Lubbock County, etc. will be opened on January 04, 2001 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.  
Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies in Austin, Texas at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 2310  
State Office  
Construction Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540  
District office(s)  
Lubbock District  
District Engineer  
135 Slaton  
Lubbock, Texas 79404  
Phone: 806-745-4411  
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin.

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**ACROSS**

1 TX Lisa Whelchel was on "The New Mickey Mouse Club" \_\_\_\_\_

5 Dallas' \_\_\_\_\_ Field

6 TXism: "fast as \_\_\_\_\_ up a rafter"

7 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ some away" (save)

8 TX George Strait tune: "Where the \_\_\_\_\_ way to skin a cat"

18 TXism: "couldn't beat his way out \_\_\_\_\_ web"

21 dir. to Dallas from San Antonio

22 scuffle or brawl

23 TX Quannah Parker's medicine man

24 nudist hangout on Lake Travis: "\_\_\_\_\_ Hollow"

29 bear grain

30 TXism: "snuff out his candle"

31 "that is" abbr.

32 this "Sissy" ran a close race for governor in '72

34 classic western: "High \_\_\_\_\_"

35 TX Perot's old co.

36 TX singer Barbara \_\_\_\_\_

37 TXism: "got the \_\_\_\_\_ of it"

38 worry

39 TX party during Clinton's inauguration: "Black \_\_\_\_\_ Ball"

41 the gun Ruby used on Oswald: .38 Colt \_\_\_\_\_

42 TX Ely's "Tarzan" network

43 poker pot starter

44 skins an apple

45 TX golf pro Kite (init.)

46 this great UH kicker Mike signed with Denver

48 SMU great who played end for NY Giants

49 historic TX ranch: R. Swenson Cattle Co.

50 TXism: "call \_\_\_\_\_ day"

**DOWN**

1 Lone Star Park facility (3 wds.)

2 in Mitchell Co. on 1-20

3 home town of Dale Evans

4 this TX Graham invented liquid paper

9 Bandera, TX: "Cowboy Capitol of the \_\_\_\_\_"

10 TXism: "tight as a cinch on \_\_\_\_\_ horse"

11 TX-based co: Frito-

12 this Sweeney was a Cowboy QB (init.)

13 concluding section of a novel

14 this Jewish month is April in TX

15 USS Texas fired its guns on Omaha Beach at this invasion

16 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ in cement"

19 TX Tech "Red \_\_\_\_\_"

20 nap so. of border

22 TXism: "fire and \_\_\_\_\_" (retreat)

24 this Ford starred with TX Jones in "The Fugitive" (init.)

25 TX Lyle Lovett's "Here \_\_\_\_\_"

26 theatrical \_\_\_\_\_ fall

27 TX Vikki's "With \_\_\_\_\_ Hand"

28 owe dinero (2 wds.)

29 TXism: "poured out of the same \_\_\_\_\_"

30 TX Hyer film: "The \_\_\_\_\_ of Katie Elder"

33 TXism: "mad as a wet \_\_\_\_\_"

34 former popular of Cowboy lineman

35 Luby's CEO at time of Killeen tragedy

37 Caroline Hunt inn co: Rosewood

38 Ken of "TX Chainsaw Massacre II"

40 TX Roy Orbison's "\_\_\_\_\_ the Lonely"

41 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ cut the mustard"

44 Santa Anna disguise at San Jacinto

47 Texas was \_\_\_\_\_ naught battleship

### Lunch Menus

**Trailblazers**

**Monday, December 18**  
Hamburger steak, brown gravy, potatoes, okra, hot roll, apricots and oatmeal cookie.

**Tuesday, December 19**  
Green chili chicken, pinto beans, tossed salad, cornbread and fruit salad.

**Wednesday, December 20**  
Chicken fry, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, wheat roll and jelly.

**Thursday, December 21**  
Brisket, potato salad, turnip greens, cornbread, and peach cobbler.

**Friday, December 22**  
Hot turkey on toast, potatoes, spinach, sliced tomatoes and banana pudding.

**Post ISD**

**Monday, December 18**  
Breakfast: Waffles, butter and syrup, sausage, fruit and choice of milk.  
Lunch: Steak/finger/gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, pudding, and choice of milk.

**Tuesday, December 19**  
Breakfast: Churros, sausage link, fruit and choice of milk.  
Lunch: Tacos, lettuce and tomato, pinto beans, corn bread, apples and choice of milk.

**Wednesday, December 20**  
Breakfast: Cereal, toast, fruit, orange juice and white milk.  
Lunch: Burrito, salad, pears, Snicker bar and choice of milk.

**Thursday, December 21**  
Christmas Holidays  
Friday, December 22  
Christmas Holidays

**Southland ISD**

**Monday, December 18**  
Breakfast: Cereal, toast, juice and milk.  
Lunch: Pizza, salad, corn, cake and milk.

**Tuesday, December 19**  
Breakfast: Muffins, fruit and milk.  
Lunch: Chili cheese dogs, fritos, beans, fruit rollup and milk.

**Wednesday, December 20**  
Breakfast: Donuts, fruit and milk.  
Lunch: Sack lunch and milk.

**Thursday, December 21**  
Breakfast: Cereal, Graham crackers, juice and milk.  
Lunch: Sack lunch and milk.

**Friday, December 22**  
Christmas Holiday

## Yesteryears

by Pat Burnett

**December 12, 1990**  
10 Years Ago

Garza County 4-H members recently participated in the District 4-H Food Show in Levelland, bringing home red and blue ribbons for their efforts. Earning red ribbons on their entries were Olga Torres, Jason Bevers, Labeth Jones, Amy Schoonover, Shayla Wallace and John Barbosa. Earning blue ribbons were Kelli Collier and Nikki Bevers.

Blustery northeasterly winds, gusting to as high as 40 mph, struck a sense of urgency last Thursday at the Graham Coop Gin as a fire in the lint box and burr hopper kept firemen and area farmers busy throughout the late morning and afternoon.

**December 11, 1980**  
20 Years Ago

Linda Shedd is the new secretary of the Post Chamber of Commerce. Johnny Hodges and his wife came last Sunday evening to visit his aunt, Estelle Samson.

C.F. Sanders and Hiram Sanders visited in Post during the first of the month to be with their brother, Bill Sanders, who has had surgery.

Mr and Mrs Ray McClellan spent the weekend in Lewisville with Mr and Mrs Ray Thane and family. While there they helped Amy celebrate her 11th birthday on December 7th.

Wyvonne Kennedy is putting water information into their new computer. Mini twister bounces across Post. No one was hurt but it did cause several thousand dollars of damage.

Funeral services for Emma Clara Jones, 94, were held December 8 in the Grassland Community.

**December 10, 1970**  
30 Years Ago

Terry Farrington, five year old daughter of Rev and Mrs H.M. Farrington, sat on Santa's lap and whispered her Christmas wishes into his ear. The Tower Theater cuts back to three days a week because of poor attendance.

USAF T/Sgt Ronnie M. Blacklock of Post has arrived for duty at Korat Royal Thai AFB Thailand.

"Beneath the Plant of the Apes" is showing this week at the Tower Theater. Senior guard Robert Bullock, with a 10.4 average, is leading the Post Antelope basketball team in scoring through their first five games.

Bob Norman family attended the Annual Norman family reunion at Ragtown Sunday with 78 persons attending. All the Norman brothers were present except Johnnie, who lives in California.

Sherry Bird is leading scorer for the Post Does in the first six games of the season.

**December 8, 1960**  
40 Years Ago

Jim Bob Shults, who attends Texas Tech, spent the holidays here visiting his father, Guy Shults.

Mr and Mrs Will Wright celebrates 50th wedding anniversary. They were married December 8, 1910 in Fort Worth.

New arrivals are Donna Ruth Zapata born November 30 and Elizabeth Ann Morris born December 3.

"The South shall Rise Again," written and directed by drama student Gloria Peoples, will be presented by the drama class at Post High School.

Sports spotlight this week on Harold Mason. He is co-captain of the Post basketball team.

Garza County's 4-H Gold Star boy and girl of 1960 are J.W. Basinger and Cynthia Altman.

Mr and Mrs Curtis Williams and family and Mrs J.W. Rogers and Joan spent Friday in Lovington, N.M. with Mr and Mrs Oscar Rogers.

Happy Birthday today to Virgie Jenkins, Mrs J.W. Boren, Mike Ray, Benny Owen, Mrs E.C. Herren, Mrs L.J. Richardson, Jr., and Timothy J. Owen.

**December 14, 1950**  
50 Years Ago

New births are Donna Lynn Stewart born Friday, December 8 and Michael Wayne Dunlap also on Friday.

Mr and Mrs J.H. McCampbell observed their 60th wedding anniversary Saturday.

Mr and Mrs Raymond Sampley are newcomers to Post.

Mrs Giles McCrary was honored with a birthday dinner at the Cactus Inn in Lubbock Saturday night. Guests were Mr and Mrs Harvey Herd, Mr and Mrs Tom Power, Dr and Mrs Glenn Kahler, Mr and Mrs Warren Yancey, Mrs Blanche Dalby and Mr and Mrs McCrary.

Hershell Homer of Levelland, nephew of Mr and Mrs Dick Homer, was ordained as a minister Sunday.

Mr and Mrs Claude Miller and daughter, Claudette, of Lubbock, visited relatives here Sunday.

Happy Birthday today goes to Paul Duren, Dink Taylor and Dot Jones.

## The Post Dispatch 495-2816



**Double ring service unites Miss Howell, Rusty Millican**

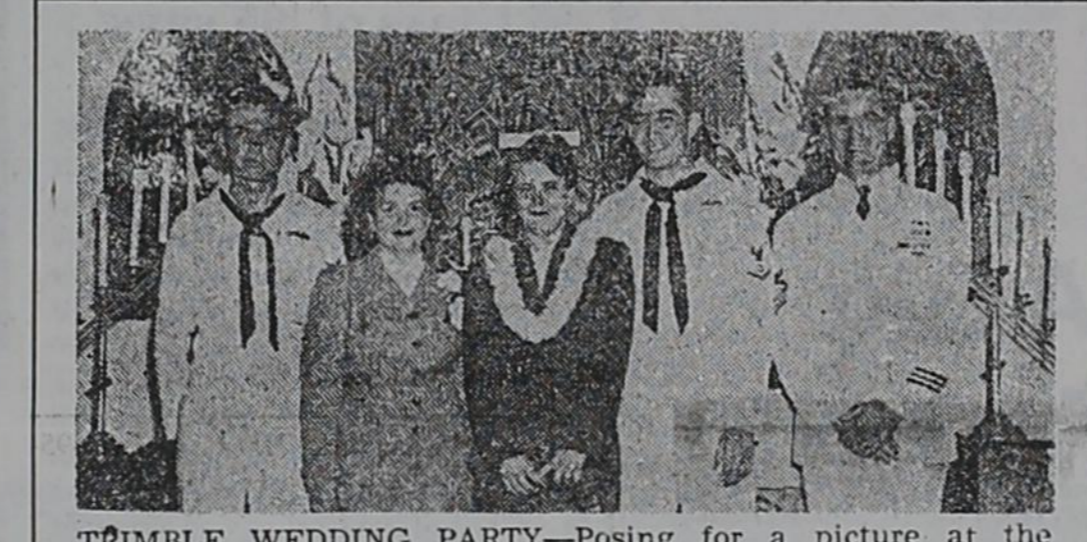
From The Post Dispatch Nov. 24, 1960

**From every point on earth we are equally near to heaven and to the infinite —Henry F. Amiel**

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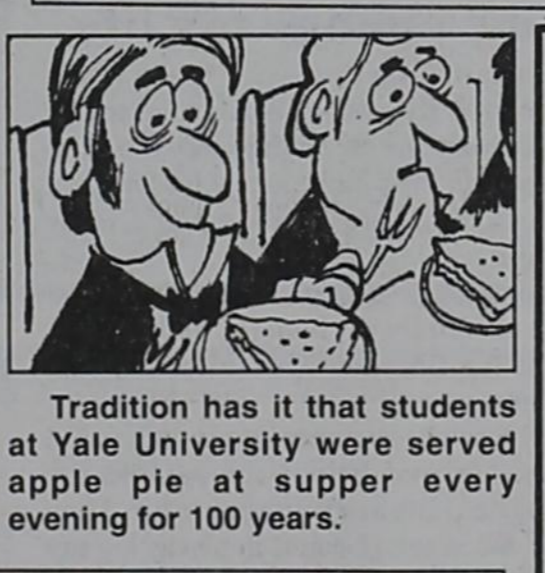
**The supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves.**

—Victor Hugo

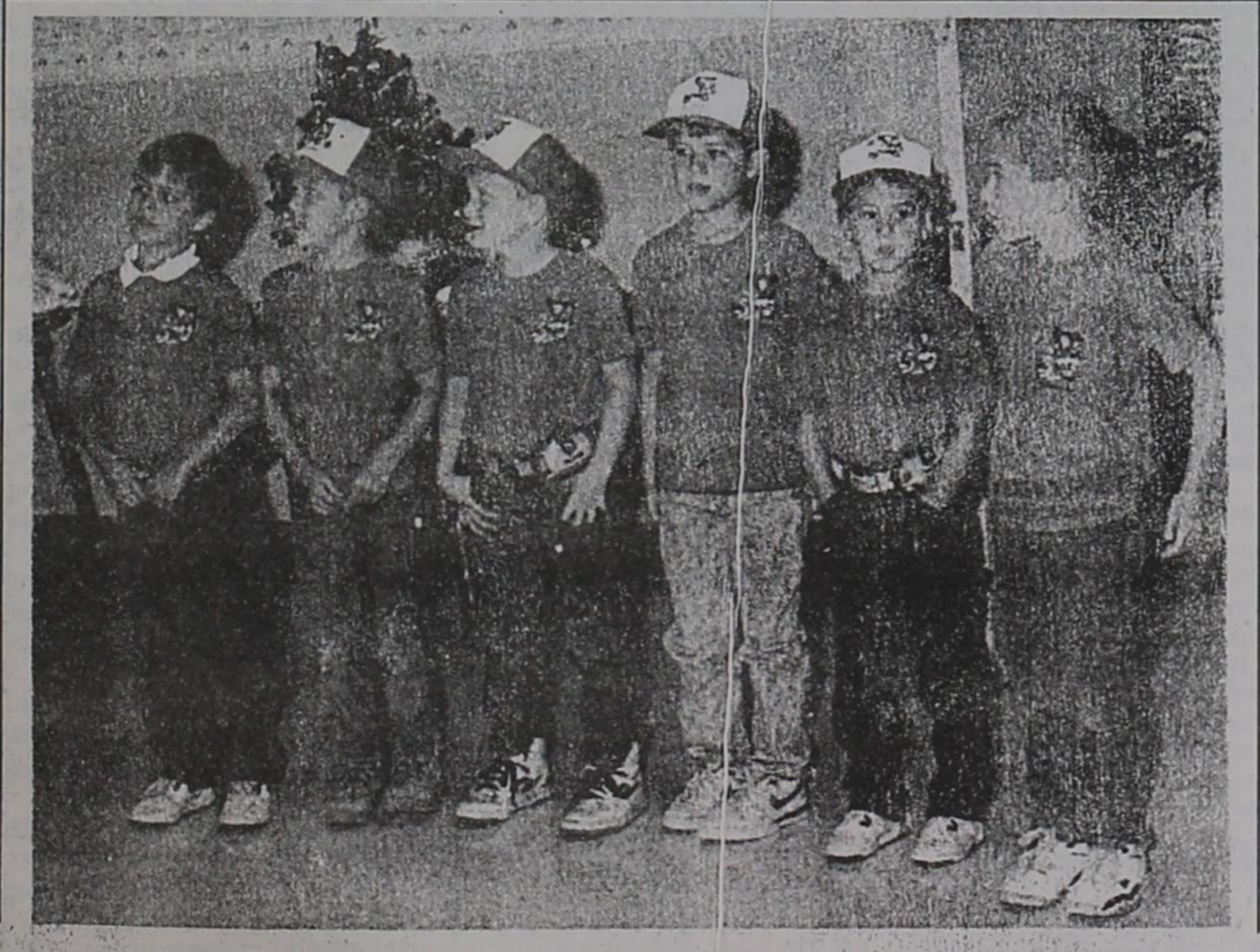


**TRIMBLE WEDDING PARTY**—Posing for a picture at the candle-lit altar of the Submarine Base chanel at Pearl Harbor following the wedding of Delmar Trimble, electrician's mate third class, USN, fourth from left, and the former Miss Peggy Davis, third from left, is the wedding party. Best man is J. M. Adams, quartermaster second class, left, and Mrs. Shirley Condon, matron of honor, second from left, Carl H. Walls, right, another Navy man, gave the bride away. Trimble, the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Trimble of Post, is attached to the Submarine USS Tiru. (U. S. Navy photograph.)

From The Post Dispatch, Nov. 16, 1950



Tradition has it that students at Yale University were served apple pie at supper every evening for 100 years.



**Cub Scouts offer seniors Christmas cheer**

POST TIGER CUBS visited the Golden Plains Care Center this week, spreading a little Christmas cheer as they sang a number of Christmas songs during meal time at the center. Joining in the event were Matthew Ramsey (left to right), Justin Greer, Kevin Martin, Gary Eaton, Chris Terrell and Evan Law. Crystal Greer serves as leader for the Tiger Cubs.

From The Post Dispatch, Dec. 12, 1990

## Caprock Cellular & Santa have teamed up to offer you:

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Dairy Queen regional manager Jim Jackson (left) congratulates René Norris on her recent appointment as manager of the Post store. Norris, from Amarillo, has lived in Post for three years.

## Sheriff reports 7 arrests

Seven arrests have been made in Garza County in the past week, according to records from the Garza County Sheriff's Department. Arrests made between Dec. 3-10 included charges for possession of a controlled substance, aggravated assault, revocation of probation, driving while license suspended and warrants.

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## Letters to the Editor

*Letters to the Editor Policy: We require all letters to be signed, however, names may be withheld from publication by request. Letters may be edited for brevity, grammar and punctuation.*

### Remember our Bill of Rights

December 15th will be the 209th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights — the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the U.S. This should be one of the most honored civic days on the American calendar. Unfortunately, most Americans never noticed the occasion — in the same way that many people seem not to notice how the government is increasingly violating their constitutional rights.

If a citizen does not know his rights, then, for all practical purposes in his disputes with government officials, he does not have them. A 1991 poll commissioned by the American Bar Association found that only 33% of Americans surveyed knew what the Bill of Rights was. A Gallup poll found that 70 percent of respondents did not know what the First Amendment was or what it dealt with. Given this level of ignorance, it is surprising that politicians have not usurped even more power.

At the least, people could celebrate the anniversary of the Bill of Rights' ratification by sitting and quietly reading the original Bill of Rights. Since the text itself is less than 500 words, it should not take most high school graduates more than half an hour to read.

Perhaps some docile Americans will be snapped awake to learn that the Founding Fathers gave them a right against being subjected to "unreasonable searches and seizures."

The essence of the Bill of Rights was to place limits on the power of government and to enshrine the rights

of individuals. Recognizing the anniversary of the Bill of Rights could encourage a whole different attitude on the relation of the citizen to the State. Reading the Bill of Rights quickly shows that it recognizes, affirms, and protects fundamental human and civil rights for which persons of all races have struggled for thousands of years. Americans need to return to the principles of the Founding Fathers in order to understand the abuses of contemporary governments — and to learn how to put government back in its place.

Nearly everything that makes an American proud to be one comes from the Bill of Rights. Freedoms to speak, print, read, assemble, pray, petition the government, keep and bear arms. Protection from unreasonable arrests and searches, excessive bail, double jeopardy, coerced confessions, cruel and unusual punishment. Rights to due process, jury trials, counsel, and to present defense witnesses. These are the freedoms and rights that define America.

Charles W. Duncan

### Thanks for kindness

Thanks to each of you who sent food, flowers, cards or came by for a visit in our time of sorrow. Each memorial and prayer is greatly appreciated. A special thanks to each person participating in the funeral service, and the ladies of Trinity Baptist for the meal.

We are especially grateful for the kind and caring staff at Covenant Lakeside and for Bro. Billie & Fran Smith. Once again a very heartfelt "Thank You" to our family, friends & church family in Post, a small town with a very large heart.

The Family of Glenda Atkinson  
**Class of '65 says thanks**

Dear Mr. Burnett, The Class of 1965 would like to thank you and all of your staff for the edition recognizing our class. We also would like to thank Judy Bush and Sherry Owen for all of their efforts on that edition as well as their work on the reunion.

We are especially grateful for the generosity of you and the Post Dispatch in allocating valuable space to us in that issue. The citizens, business people, and the local city government officials also should share in this praise.

The feedback from all of our classmates was overwhelming in the feeling that our reunion was a resounding success. We are very appreciative to you, Sherry, Judy and the Post Dispatch for contributing to that success.

Kindest Regards,  
Larry Osman and The Class of '65

### Thanks for helping me change my life

I am writing this letter to say thank you to all the people in this community who help me to change my life. The people of Post have done a lot for me. I was a complete drunk when I came here.

About 8 years ago my drinking cost me my family, my home (it had burned) and my finances were in pretty bad shape.

The people in this community banded together and helped me rebuild my home, my life and my family's life. They got me where I could get help for my drinking. Alcohol had robbed me of everything I wanted. It took my home, my family, my pride, my friends, my self-respect and self-esteem. It helped me go through 2 businesses and had a good start on the third one. Most importantly it took away my relationship with God. I lived each day in fear and paranoid.

But thanks to God and the people here, the only fear I have now is of being full of fear. The only way I can repay this is by helping others. I live each day one day at a time. I'm far from perfect. I still make mistakes, but I've learned to learn from them. I believe a mistake isn't a mistake if we learn from it.

This is the community that I remember, but it's not the one I have been hearing and reading about.

I sincerely believe all these people still live here and the goodness is still here. It's just been covered up with ugliness.

I believe it is my responsibility today to stand up for what's right, fair and honest.

James Dawson

### SP Electric Coop helps needy

Your friends at South Plains Electric Cooperative have made a gift to Operation Round-Up in honor of your good friendship. The many families and individuals, organizations and communities benefiting from Operation Round-Up are blessed because of this expression of kindness.

The Christmas season is a time to focus on others and their needs, and

what better way than through Operation Round-Up.

On behalf of the Operation Round-Up Trust board of directors, I am thankful for the gift we have received on your behalf. The gift will allow us to continue helping people in crisis. Operation Round-Up is administered by South Plains Electric Trust, an independent board of voluntary community leaders who disperse funds to worthy needs such as food, shelter, clothing, utilities and health care in Childress, Cottle, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Foard, Garza,

Hale, Hardeman, Hockley, Kent, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley and Stonewall counties.

The project receives voluntary contributions from participating members whose monthly utility bills are rounded up to the next dollar each month.

While you are counting your blessings this holiday season, know that the gift given in your name to Operation Round-Up will touch many lives.

David Miller, President, Operation Round-Up

## Trade Days special this weekend

The final Trade Days event of the year will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, giving area shoppers one more chance to do some holiday gift-buying.

"We'll have lots to pick from," said Trade Days' Linda Self. "This will be the last time you can do your Christmas shopping. We'll be full inside and nearly full outside. We're planning on a great show."

Self said several of the vendors will be having pre-holiday sales, with prices cut from 20-40 percent.

"There are going to be some wonderful deals," she said.

In addition to ample opportunities for shopping, this weekend's Trade Days will also feature an assortment of fun activities. Santa will be available for pictures on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the new stage area constructed in the east end of the Weaving Room. This event will serve as a fund raiser for the Post High School Spanish Club.

Also on Saturday, the Rendition Quartet will be strolling throughout the park, singing Christmas carols.

On Sunday, Trade Days visitors can sing along with Santa in a karaoke event scheduled to run from 1-5 p.m. in the east end of the Weaving Room. Gift certificates will be awarded to all participants who sing Christmas carols on stage with Santa. Candy canes also will be given away.

If weather permits, a square dancing performance will be conducted at 2 p.m. on the Rainmaker Stage.

Trade Days will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

There will be no Trade Days event in January, as vendors opted to have an extra pre-holiday event instead. After this weekend, the next Old Mill Trade Days event will be Feb. 2-4.

\*\*\*  
**As soon as you trust yourself, you will know how to live.**  
—Goethe

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## "I can stop anytime I want to"

I kept telling myself that I could stop anytime I wanted to. At first, I could go days without having to use it but I would always end up back in the same rut. I began to think about it at work, but made myself promise not to get started until at least 6 p.m.

I found myself watching the clock, distracted from my duties. I tried controlling my habit. I set rules about not staying up past midnight, only to look over at the clock and see three in the morning staring back at me. It happened night after night.

Every morning I would promise myself that tonight would be different. Every morning I made that vow. Eventually, it became apparent to me that I had a problem. By then I was waking up early to get started before anybody noticed.

I can picture it now, walking quietly up the stairs with a hot cup of coffee, going in to the guest room, shutting the door quietly as not to awaken anyone, and then seeing the soft glow of the computer monitor on standby. I sit down and place my fingers on the keys and before you can say modern three times—I'm in! Online again.

My vitality returns and I am out of control by the time the "Sign On" screen for the Internet appears. If I could just hit "Cancel" at this point I might be spared. But no, my calloused index finger single-clicks the "Sign On" icon and upon hearing the soft dial tone followed by the harsh buzz of the modem connecting, away we go!

First, the weather, complete with moving maps and inaccurate forecasts. Being on the Internet doesn't make predicting the weather any better, just fancier. Next, the sports news. I have had to get interested in ice hockey.

In the cusp between the end of College Football and the New Years Bowl Games (capitalized out of reverence), hockey is about all that is going on. Davis Cup tennis can take up an entire session, regardless that the USA is already out of the running.

It doesn't matter what the subject is, I just want more! Then I read my mail. Yes, Virginia, there is junk mail on the Internet. At least it's not wasting paper. All I have to do is "click" and it is gone, off into the ether of the World Wide Web or WWW. Those three letters are internationally recognized.

They are the gateway to the "web" upon which anything can be found. So, how could this be bad for me? Like most things, the Internet itself is neither bad or good. It is just the Internet. It was me that gave it the power to keep me up all hours of the night, bidding for golf balls on Ebay. So what if I didn't need five dozen of them.

I had auction fever! Yes, that was me looking up the weather in Kazakhstan for a reason I still cannot quite grasp. Perhaps it is because they are the third largest nuclear power in the world, having inherited the old USSR missile bases and stockpiles.

I wanted to see if the weather was really dreary and depressing there. It could be important. That's the catch. It could be important. Everything looks important and official on the Internet. Patients bring me reports that look for all the world like official publications.

Upon closer scrutiny, they are nothing more than the electronic equivalent of those old junk mail letters disguised as IRS refund envelopes. You remember, you open them up and a blank check falls out. All you have to do is decide how much you want to spend.

The sender will do the rest, at 25 percent interest! Be careful out there. So, what happened to me? Did I continue down that path of Internet oblivion, with my eyes looking more like little monitor screens and ending all of my sentences with "enter"?

No, I was one of the lucky ones. My brother, a computer expert (they have been inoculated and are immune to Internet fever), rescued me by reintroducing me to that archaic method of information transferal, reading books. While the rate of information transfer is slow, (and getting slower, I might add) and my own memory not readily upgraded (more like degraded), there is a gentleness about reading a book in a quiet place that is just as addicting.

Now I only use the computer under strict supervision. Except for tonight, hee, hee. I snuck out to get my weekly "fix" on the computer and write to you folks. I feel better already!

Thanks for spending this time with me.

Winston Whitt, MD

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