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# The Post Dispatch

77th Year Number 2 USPS 439-620 © 2002 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 50¢ Thursday, June 13, 2002

## County faces tough times with lower valuations, higher costs

by Wes Burnett

The first hints of financial woes were voiced at Monday morning's regular Garza County Commissioners' Court meeting when Judge Giles W. Dalby informed the court that preliminary estimates show a \$38 million decrease in property valuations. Most of that is a result of lower mineral values. In addition to anticipated lower revenues for the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the county is also facing higher costs for law enforcement at Lake Alan Henry. Dalby said that he is trying to arrange a meeting with City of Lubbock officials to discuss problems with heavy traffic at the lake.

visitors were using both lanes of the road leading to the parking lot, making it impossible for others to leave. The cost of maintaining order at the lake is compounded by the trash left along side of the road leading to the lake. "We have to spend a lot of effort on Mondays cleaning up," Dalby added. The court has set July for more detailed work on the budget. Commissioners approved a \$10,000 budget item for constructing a storage building on the west side of the old jail. Commissioner Lee Norman presented estimates for labor and materials for the project.

The court also approved a contract with Leon Miller to serve as emergency management coordinator. Norman explained that Miller will be working on various grants to assist in funding. Commissioners approved the appointment of Julia Neitsch to serve as county agent for family and consumer services. Neitsch is a native of Seminole and a graduate of Texas Tech University (see related story).

A fireworks restriction order was approved by the court, which was prompted by continuing dry conditions. The resolution is similar to the one approved last year.

### More Room Needed

No action was taken on a discussion about leasing the old Southwestern Public Service building on West Main Street. Commissioner Mike Sanchez suggested the county should consider purchasing the property, instead of renting. Norman said

he would contact the owner. The acquisition is the result of overcrowded conditions at the probation office, with probation officers sharing office space with the victim assistance program. "They both need some private space for meetings from time to time," Dalby said, "and it's just too crowded." County attorney Leslie Acker suggested that the old SPS building would more suitable for the county agent, and the victim's assistance program could be

housed in the current county agent building. Commissioners agreed to place "war on terrorism" matters in the emergency management program. Judge Dalby told commissioners that lately he had been bombarded with requests for plans by Washington officials. Dalby also informed the court that 14 courthouse windows were broken as a result of the hail storm last week. The broken windows were all on the third floor.

## Last week's hail storm strips trees, crashes windows, roofs

Late May and early June have brought with them some rainfall, but the thunderstorms that rolled through Garza County Tuesday, June 4, deposited more than just moisture in local rain gauges. Hail, and lots of it, was reported throughout much of the county. Reports indicate that on the southern side of the community near the Boy Scout camp, marble-sized hail fell. Closer to the football stadium, however, the streets were completely covered in rounded pieces of ice.

"There were some extra-large hailstones, but most of the hail was marble-sized," said City Manager Fred Stephens. Extra-large, he said, was about the size of his fist. Baseball-sized hail was reported, but seemed to fall only sporadically across portions of the city. Reports of broken windows at residential and retail locations were numerous. A handful of downtown businesses, including Hudman's and the Hotel Garza, sustained window damage. County Judge Giles W. Dalby said the courthouse lost 14 windows to the storm, and two air conditioners at the county museum were destroyed. One county-owned pickup sustained substantial hail damage.

At least one Post Independent School District bus had a window knocked out, according to a report from the administrative offices. City hall had a window knocked out, but Stephens said the overall damage reported throughout the area failed to measure up to the hailstorm which ravaged Post and Garza County just a few years back. Vehicle damage was a common

result of last week's storm. The wind-driven hail broke numerous windshields, and Jerry Taylor of Germania Insurance said he has received several calls about hail-dented vehicles, cracked vehicle windows and broken taillights. Some homeowners also are reporting roof damage, he said. Damage seems to have been much more extensive northeast

of Post in the Grassburr community area. The home of Ruby and Charles Williams on CR 651 sustained roof damage and suffered roof damage. Ruby Williams said most of the hail they saw was golfball-sized, "but there was a lot of it. The ground was covered." Williams said many of their

neighbors' homes sustained similar damage. Fortunately, no EMS calls were received during or as a result of the hailstorm, said an official with the Garza County Sheriff's Department. "There were lots of tree limbs everywhere, but nothing major," she said.

## Highway collections top \$122,912 in 2002

by Wes Burnett

The highway traffic fund in Garza County has added \$122,912.11 to state and county funding in the first five months of 2002. The fund raising program, operated by county and state agents, takes advantage of travel victims who violate state commercial transportation codes. Ticketed travellers normally pay the fines without a whimper. Reports from the two Justice of the Peace courts here show a total of \$33,589.48 collected in April, with an additional \$27,771.50 in May, bringing the 2002 total to \$122,912.11. JP Court 1 reported \$19,136.85 in April and \$14,410.75 in May. JP Court 2 showed \$14,452.63 in April and \$13,360.75 in May. State and county code enforcement officers are "just doing their jobs" by enforcing the traffic code, although that code is limited to regulating commercial transportation.

(Continued on Page 6)

## County clamps down on private fireworks displays

Independence Day celebrations in Garza County may be a bit quieter and a little less colorful this year following action taken by the county commissioners court Monday. The court unanimously approved an order "restricting the use" and sale of fireworks in unincorporated areas of the county. The action was taken based on ongoing drought conditions facing Garza County.

County is greatly enhanced by the extremely dry conditions now existing... (the court) adopts this order prohibiting the sale or use of restricted fireworks..." The order prescribes the following:

- No one may sell, detonate, ignite or use "certain restricted fireworks" in any portion of the unincorporated area of Garza County.
  - "Restricted fireworks" are described as those items classified as "skyrockets with sticks" and "missiles with fins."
- Fireworks not affected by this order include "common" fireworks that are small in size and classified as "Class C explosives" and large firework devices "designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration or detonation and classified as Class B explosives by the U.S. Department of Transportation."
- County Judge Giles Dalby described the "large firework devices" as those a fire department might use to create a fireworks display over the lake area.
- Dalby said questions concerning the use or sale of fireworks in unincorporated areas of the county should be directed to the county attorney, Les Acker.

Editor's Note: The community fireworks display at the park July 4th will be a controlled and authorized display. The public is urged to join in the celebration at the park.



The Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility Relay for Life team took first place at last Friday's event. Members of the team are (left to right) Lt. Jeffrey Smith, Charles Ulm, Associate Warden Larry Bond, Joanne Bond, Deanna Branham, Associate Warden James Frawner, Ruby Williams, Chris Branham, Bert Crisp, (kneeling) Stephanie Gearhart, Renee Gearhart and T.J. Scroggins. Team members not available for photo are Warden Joe Rasberry, Michele Rasberry, Joshua Whiteley, Billie Jean Zapata, John Gearhart, Joann Rathbun, Susan Ortiz and Daniel Mitten. The Dalby campsite theme was "The Patriots" and centered around a large replica of the White House, drawn by Stephanie Gearhart. Members of the team dressed to portray the Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam and rescue personnel from September 11.

## Post Notes

### Fish fry Friday at Holy Cross

The Holy Cross Catholic Church is offering fish fry plates with trimmings at \$5 each from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 14.

### Public swimming pool hours

The Post public swimming pool is now open Tuesday through Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Family nights are Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. For information about party reservations, water aerobics and swimming lessons, call 495-1066 or 780-2333.

### July 4th volunteers needed

Volunteer workers are needed for the big July 4th celebration, sponsored by MAD DADS, Inc. Organizations or individuals interested in setting up booths or bands willing to provide music, please call Diana Poe at 495-3069.

### Open House June 24 at My Special Place

My Special Place Christian Preschool and Daycare will be holding an open house Monday, June 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to tour the facility and enjoy the refreshments.

### Class of '62 reunion June 29

The PHS Class of 1962 will hold its reunion Saturday, June 29 beginning at 10 a.m. at CitizensBank community room. Classmates from as far away as Washington and Connecticut will be here to reminisce. If you remember who we are, please drop by for a visit. We all want you to see us!

### Country Showdown August 24th

Contestants interested in performing at the August 24 Colgate Country Showdown should visit KPOS Radio website www.postcityradio.net for application information. The show is hosted by KPOS Radio (Post City Radio), to be held at the Garza Theatre with The Classics band returning by popular demand. Tickets for the event are \$5 each for reserved seats and may be ordered by calling the Garza Theatre at 495-4005. "Last year was a sellout," KPOS Radio manager Wesley Burnett emphasizes, "it would be a good idea to order your tickets early. The theater only seats 200."

### Class of '92 seeks classmate contact

Plans for Post High School Class of 1992 reunion are being made for the weekend of September 20, 2002. Organizers are seeking addresses and phone numbers of classmates. Class of 1992 classmates should call Sandy Allen at 512-797-8757 or Tamra Gerner at 817-426-5257 or e-mail: phs92rules@hotmail.com.

### Talent sought for Country Showdown

Applications for contestants to KPOS Radio sponsored Colgate Country Showdown are available at The Post Dispatch office, 123 E. Main Street. Contestants may also order an application form by e-mail to pcr1@arn.net or visit the web site: www.postcityradio.net. The August 24 show begins at 7 p.m. at the Garza Theatre. Last year's event was a sell-out. Tickets are on sale now at the Garza Theatre, reserved seating only, \$5 per ticket. Call the box office at 495-4005.

### Trailblazers set fundraiser

Zip Auto Glass is providing hamburgers and hot dogs at The Garza County Trailblazers starting at 5 p.m. Thursday, June 13th at the center, 205 E. 10th St. In conjunction with the event, the senior citizens are holding a bake sale and "Silver Threads" have volunteered to provide music.

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Justin Corzine, newly appointed Soil Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and his wife Amber are new to Post. Corzine has been assigned to the Tahoka Field Office and Amber plans to teach in Post. (Photo by Kerri Dean)

## Lake, river swimmers advised of health risks

The report of three deaths last summer from a rare form of meningitis has prompted the Brazos River Authority to alert those who plan to swim in Texas lakes and rivers to avoid stagnant water.

The infection, primary amebic meningoencephalitis or PAM, is caused by a common microorganism or ameba found in almost all untreated (non-chlorinated) surface water and in soil.

The ameba that causes the infection thrives in fresh water when temperatures are high, usually above 80 degrees. According to officials with the Texas Department of Health, the combination of lower water levels, high water temperature and stagnant or slow-moving water produces higher concentrations of the ameba in the water.

Last summer, PAM infections in Texas involved children who had been swimming in lakes. The PAM infection occurs when water containing the organisms is forced into the nasal passages - usually from diving, jumping into water or water skiing. The ameba then make their way into the brain and spinal cord.

The infection is not spread person to person.

## Michael Voss earns medicine degree at TTU

James Michael Voss, son of Jim and Serena Voss, was one of 116 School of Medicine students receiving a degree May 18 from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Voss received a School of Medicine/M.D. during commencement ceremonies conducted in Tech's United Spirit Arena.

## Julie Neitsch appointed as county agent-family and consumer sciences

Julie Neitsch has been named the County Extension Agent-Family and Consumer Sciences for Garza County according to Dr. Colleen Chadwick, District Extension Director, and the Garza County Commissioners Court effective July 1, 2002.

A native of Seminole, Texas, Ms. Neitsch graduated from Texas Tech University with a B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences Education in 2001. She worked the past year as a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Poteet High School in the Mesquite, Texas ISD.

Her student activities included membership in Texas Classroom Teacher's Association, Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority Alumni Chapter, Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers Association of Texas, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Family and Consumer Sciences Honorary, Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority, Beta Tau Chapter, and Dean's List/President's List.

Greg Jones, Garza County Extension Agent-Agriculture stated, "we are pleased to have Julie as part of the Extension team in Garza County and look forward to providing high quality educational programs to clientele."

## Vocational Nurse class at Western Texas

Applications are now being accepted for the Sept. 1 Vocational Nursing class at Western Texas College in Snyder.

With a strong job market for nursing, the Western Texas College Vocational Nursing Program offers training for employment opportunities in emergency medicine, intensive care, operating room, OB, pediatrics, home health, respiratory therapy and long term care.

The Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approve the program, which enjoys a high licensure passage rate.

Students complete a 12-month course of study with new classes beginning on March 1 and Sept. 1. Enrollment is limited, allowing students to receive more individualized instruction.

Classes meet four days per week, and all clinical experiences are obtained in Snyder.

Testing for the program is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on June 18 and July 2, 16, 23 and 30.

The WTC Vocational Nursing Program provides a highly successful avenue for licensure through the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners, as well as extended educational and career opportunities. Financial assistance is available and can be pursued by calling the WTC Financial Aid Office at 915-573-8511, ext. 309.



Julie Neitsch



Amy Pennell steps off briskly during last Friday evening's Relay for Life Survivor Walk. The community wide event was staged to raise funds for cancer research. (Photo by Rebecca Sturgeon)



Pvt Jonathan J. Smith is congratulated by his wife Lindsey during a recent awards ceremony at Fort Sill, Okla. He was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for exceptional meritorious achievement while assigned to Battery E, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery. He was also selected as the honor graduate, chosen from among 215 soldiers in his battalion. Pvt Smith has been reassigned to Fort Benning, Ga. to attend Airborne Ranger training. Attending the ceremony were Lindsey and Hayley Smith, Delber and Tonya Rudd, Jon and Sandy Smith, Jona, Ty and Allisha Jones, Jason Smith and Jermaine Perez.

## NARFE conducts memorial service

NARFE members met June 5 at Mickey's Steak House in Lubbock.

President Don Crossland called the meeting to order, and Chaplain Hazael Riggen gave the invocation. The chapter president led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

One new member, Marian Burris, was welcomed.

A memorial service was conducted for the chapter's deceased members.

As part of the service, the chaplain read "Standing Firm - In Love," a portion of which reads, "It is impossible in the nature of things to live an isolated life.... We cannot isolate ourselves from the past.... We are part of all we have met.... We cannot isolate ourselves from the present.... From every man's deeds come consequences which affect others more or less closely.... We cannot isolate ourselves from the future...."

"It is our responsibility that we leave something of ourselves in the world by leaving something of ourselves in others," the reading continued. A patriotic reading, floral tributes and a memorial message followed.

Sunshine Chairperson Gerry Reilly reported that three "missing you" and nine "get well" cards were sent out during the month of May.

A discussion was held on the upcoming NARFE national convention to be held in October in South Carolina.

The chapter's newly elected District 11 representative, Don Crossland, was introduced.

It was noted that Cong. Larry Combest is a co-sponsor of bills repealing the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

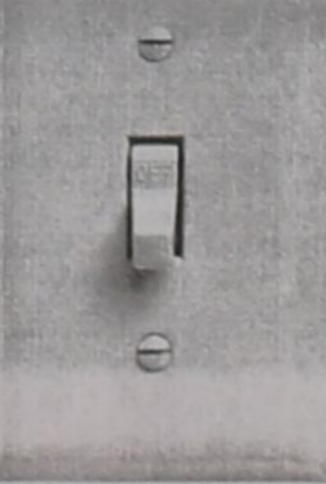
The group's next meeting will be July 8 at Mickey's Steak House, 83rd and Indiana Avenue, in Lubbock.

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## Fathers

Teach a child to choose the right path, and when he is older he will remain upon it. — Living Bible Proverbs 22:6



Fathers come in all shapes and sizes. They have different occupations, beliefs, and ages. One thing loving and caring fathers have in common, is the responsibility involved in being called "Father."

It seems that once we begin raising a family, we are thrust into the role of a parent with little or no training. Usually we are able to adapt by reading, asking questions, and using common sense. When raising children, there are three stages of fatherhood.

The two-year-old child says "Daddy," the ten-year-old says "Dad," and the teenager says "Father." The loving father knows that while all stages are important, the "Daddy" stage is when you must instill the moral fibers and character which will be carried through life.

Although there have been countless books written on parenting, the best handbook for parents is still the Bible.

Remember Father's Day - Sunday, June 16



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**Diamondbacks**  
The Post Diamondbacks... another two wins in action, defeating Diamondbacks 11-6, 18-10 thrashing of O... Post easily han... Diamondbacks in a played at Post's Nich... Post jumped ahead... first inning as the vis... off batter Pat Reiter... Cash singled, Miles... with a RBI single, pla... Cash being forced out... Jonathan McGre... single but was tagge... Andrew Espinoza's... popped out to short... inning. Post blew open the lead in the fifth in seven runs for a 10-... Coach Joe Mason... three pitchers to... experience, with Es... off. He went four in... run allowed on four... and seven strikeouts.

**Texas**  
dove h... The Texas Parks Department's Public Program is seeking provide more acrea... fall. The program is adn... wildlife division an... department to enter... lease agreements w... Eric Alaniz enlists in... Erik Alaniz, son of Alaniz of Post, enl... Air Force's Dela... Program May 18. Alaniz graduated... High School and... enlistment in the r... on Oct. 2, according... Air Force recruiter... Upon completin... six-week basic mil... Lackland Air For... Antonio, he is sch... technical training... maintenance caree... In conjunction wi... skill, Alaniz will be... credits toward an... through the Comm... the Air Force while... and other Air F... training schools, th... Mer... Garza Count... June 17- Fried... potatoes, cream gr... onion salad, bisc... June 18- Soft corn... mex vegies, salad, c... cobbler... June 19- Pork... potatoes, carrot &... strawberry shortc... June 20- Sloppy... tots, carrot & ras... dip, lemon puddin... June 21- Catfish... greens, sliced tom... spice cake... Birth This... June 13-Steph... Adam Nobles... June 14-Kately... Paul Pequeno... June 15-Haro... Blains... June 16-Doree... June 17-Ryan... Ervin, Will Reec... June 18-Ida Ju... Luna



Megan Crisp sang patriot songs during last Friday's Relay for Life Survivor Walk. The community wide event was staged to raise funds for cancer research. (Photo by Rebecca Sturgeon)



Chris Branham (left) and Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility associate warden Larry Bond (right) served up delights for participants in last Friday's Relay for Life Survivor Walk. The community wide event was staged to raise funds for cancer research. (Photo by Rebecca Sturgeon)



Lisa Copeland (left) and Karen Nichols (right) braved the stiff wind during last Friday's Relay for Life Survivor Walk. The community wide event was staged to raise funds for cancer research. (Photo by Rebecca Sturgeon)

The Post Dispatch - 495-2816

## Diamondbacks win 2 more

The Post Diamondbacks logged another two wins in Junior League action, defeating the Cooper Diamondbacks 11-6, followed by an 18-10 thrashing of O'Donnell.

Post easily handled Cooper's Diamondbacks in a make up game played at Post's Nichols Park.

Post jumped ahead in the top of the first inning as the visiting team. Lead off batter Pat Reiter singled, Wilson Cash singled, Miles Grey followed with a RBI single, plating Reiter with Cash being forced out at third base.

Jonathan McGregor had a RBI single but was tagged out at home on Andrew Espinoza's single. Aaron Fox popped out to shortstop to end the inning.

Post blew open the game and a 3-1 lead in the fifth inning by scoring seven runs for a 10-1 lead.

Coach Joe Mason went through three pitchers to develop some experience, with Espinoza leading off. He went four innings with one run allowed on four hits, three walks and seven strikeouts. Reiter followed

with two innings, two runs scored on one hit, five walks and four strikeouts. Colt Mason closed the seventh with three runs scored on three hits, no walks and one strikeout.

Hitting for Post were Reiter, two singles, one RBI; Cash, two singles, one double, two RBIs; Grey, three singles, one on-base by hit batter, two RBIs; Jonathan McGregor, two singles, one double, two RBIs; Espinoza, four singles; Aaron Fox, one fielder's choice hit, one bases-loaded double, two RBIs; Mason, three singles, two RBIs; Zach Witcher, one single; Justin Carera, one walk; Josh Lee, one single; and Clint Chapman, one walk.

In the game against O'Donnell, Post explored for a season-high 18 runs.

After giving up an opening top of the first inning run to O'Donnell, Post quickly plated four runs in the first. Post scored four runs in each of the second and fourth innings, followed by six in the fifth.

O'Donnell played the final 3 1/3 innings with eight players after an O'Donnell player failed to slide at home, giving Cash, Post's catcher, a vicious hit. Cash hung on to the ball for the out and umpire Johnny Valdez quickly booted the player amid protests from O'Donnell players, coaches and parents.

Pitching the complete game was Espinoza, going the full seven innings with 10 runs scored on nine hits off 125 pitches. There were three walks, one hit batter and a season-high 15 strikeouts.

Hitting for Post were Reiter, one walk, one on-base by hit batter; Cash, one single; Grey, two singles, two walks, one RBI; McGregor, two doubles, one single, two walks, four RBIs; Espinoza, one single, one sacrifice fly, two walks and three RBIs; Fox, three singles, five RBIs; Mason, one double, three RBIs; Carera, one walk; Lee, one walk; and Chapman, one single and a walk.

## Public Notice

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of Covenant Medical Group on July 15 through July 19, 2002 to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards.

Anyone believing that they have pertinent and valid information about quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representative at the time of the survey. Requests for public information interview must be made in writing to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins, and must indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such request should be addressed to:

**Ambulatory Care Service Team**  
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations  
One Renaissance Boulevard  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

The interviewee will be notified of the date, time and place of the meeting.

**Covenant Medical Group**  
www.covmedgroup.org

## Texas P&W seeks more dove hunting acreage

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Public Dove Hunting Program is seeking landowners to provide more acreage to hunt this fall.

The program is administered by the wildlife division and allows the department to enter into short-term lease agreements with landowners

## Eric Alaniz enlists in USAF

Erik Alaniz, son of Tino and Linda Alaniz of Post, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program May 18.

Alaniz graduated from Southland High School and is scheduled for enlistment in the regular Air Force on Oct. 2, according to SSgt. Stanton, Air Force recruiter.

Upon completing the Air Force's six-week basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, he is scheduled to receive technical training in the aerospace maintenance career field.

In conjunction with the vocational skill, Alaniz will be earning college credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and other Air Force technical training schools, the recruiter said.

throughout the state for the dove season in September and October, according to Duane Lucia, wildlife biologist in Lubbock.

"In the last couple of years, we have been looking at leasing properties for other species, such as pheasant, ducks and geese, and quail," he said.

"The leased areas will not be available to all licensed hunters, but only to the hunters who possess an annual public hunting permit sold by the department."

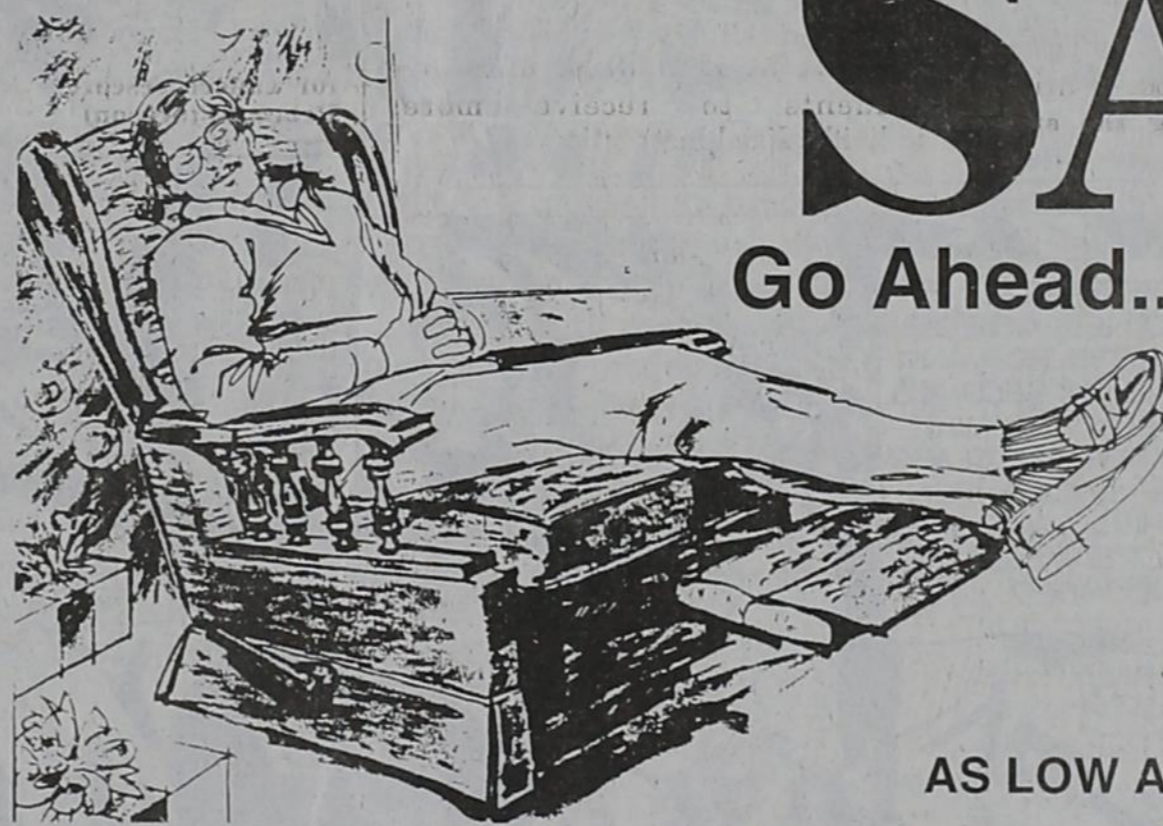
This practice often results in fewer hunters on the fields than landowners sometimes imagine, Lucia said, and ultimately can produce some high-quality hunting for the individuals that possess the annual permit.

Lucia said ideal tracts of land would range in size from 100 to 300 acres. Size is not important, however, if there are key attractions that help bring birds in.

"We need to deal with landowners and not lessees, unless they have the hunting rights leased also," Lucia said.

Interested landowners may contact Lucia at 761-4971.

## Father's Day



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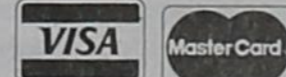
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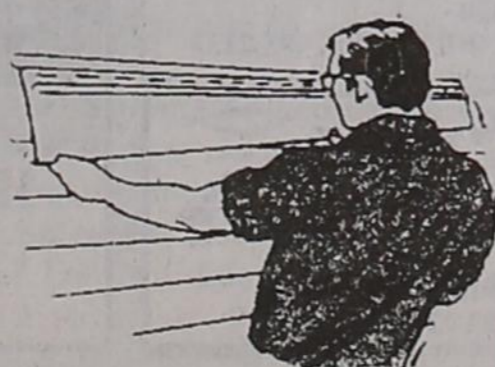
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## Menus

### Garza County Trailblazers

June 17- Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, cream gravy, prok-n-beans, onion salad, biscuit, pineapple cake  
June 18- Soft corn tacos, pinto beans, mex vegies, salad, chips & salsa, apple cobbler

June 19- Pork chops, augrautin potatoes, carrot & zucc., wheat roll, strawberry shortcake

June 20- Sloppy joe on a bun, tater tots, carrot & rasin salad, chips-n-dip, lemon pudding

June 21- Catfish, potatoe salad, greens, sliced tomatoes, cornbread, spice cake

## Birthdays This Week

June 13- Stephanie Looney, Adam Nobles

June 14- Katelyn Elmore, David Paul Pequeno

June 15- Harold Kane, Gary Blevins

June 16- Doreen Weeks

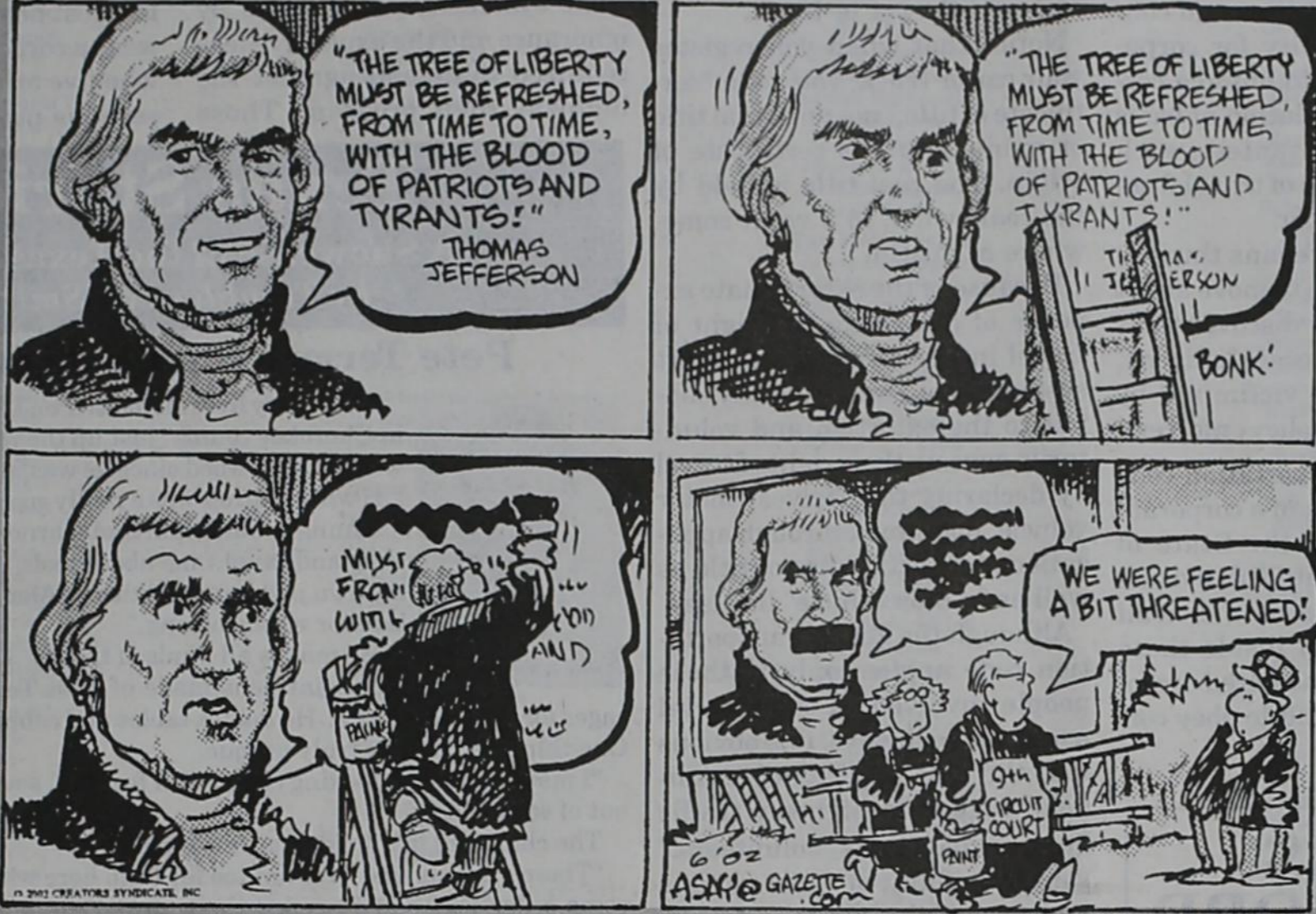
June 17- Ryan Fuller, Debbie Ervin, Will Reed

June 18- Ida Jones, Stephanie Luna



# Opinions

NEWS ITEM: 9th CIRCUIT COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF DOCTORS WHO FELT THREATENED BY AMERICAN COALITION OF LIFE ACTIVISTS' WEB SITE!



## Threats to the rule of law in America

by Walter E. Williams

Institutions — established law, custom and practices — matter and should not be ignored. How is it that Western Europe and the United States managed to amass unprecedented wealth while countries of the former Soviet Union, China, Africa, South America and the Middle East haven't?



The answer has little to do with the people of those countries. After all, people who migrate to Western Europe or the United States often wind up doing quite well. The reason why the West has been able to amass great wealth is that rule of law is embedded in Western values. Where there's rule of law, human initiative flourishes.

Rule of law refers to freedom of contract and enforcement of contracts, protection of private property, stability of laws, a requirement that all persons, private individuals and government officials are subject to the same laws, and most importantly, limitation of the authority of government.

For more than a half-century, various elements of the rule of law have been under ruthless attack in America. Private property means the person deemed as the owner makes decisions on its uses, and that applies to the most valuable property we own — ourselves.

Sanctions are taken against persons who use their property in ways that violate the property rights of others. However, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bans an owner from using part of his property because some animal has chosen it for a habitat, that's a private property rights violation, resulting in losses to the owner.

Government attacks on private property have become routine in today's America. John Adams warned, "The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence."

Freedom of contract has come to be viewed with contempt.

Suppose you offer to pay me for \$3 an hour and I agree; suppose I live in Virginia and want to purchase liquor in Washington, D.C.; suppose in rent-controlled New York and San Francisco a landlord and tenant mutually agree to pay a higher rent; suppose I'm a California navel orange grower who wants to sell his entire crop; and suppose you want to provide taxi services in New York but don't have \$170,000 for a license.

There are literally thousands of restrictions like these on freedom of contract. You might say, "Williams, there are good reasons for restricting the freedoms of others." You're right, and every tyrant who has ever existed has had what he considered a good reason. Another part of rule of law is simply the stability of laws.

For most of our nation's history, people could make plans. For the most part, they could expect today's laws to be tomorrow's laws; hence, they could plan for the future. Today, that's not true. A businessman making investment decisions doesn't know what Congress is going to do a year or two down the line making today's investment decisions worthless.

As such, it produces the quick-buck mentality — get in and get out. Another increasingly prevalent violation of the rule of law is seen in companies using government to overturn lost competitive advantages in the market.

The Microsoft case is an example where its competitors, not customers, employed the heavy hand of government to accomplish what they couldn't accomplish in the market. It's increasingly paying companies to invest more resources, currying favor with government officials rather than investing those resources in real productivity.

We're such a rich nation that the immediate effects of attacks on rule of law aren't readily apparent. But enough pinpricks, even into an elephant, will eventually kill.

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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## State terrorism and Bush's war

by James Bovard

On October 18, (2001) President George W. Bush declared, "So long as anybody's terrorizing established governments, there needs to be a war." Bush thereby signaled his acceptance of the legitimacy of almost every government in the world.

Bush's war on terrorism is a moral crusade. This is clear from his constant references to "the evil ones" and his perennial promise to "rid the world of evil." Bush also declared that wiping out terrorist networks "is our calling. This is the calling of the United States of America, the most free nation in the world."

The more righteous Bush's rhetoric, the more cloudy the thinking behind U.S. policy becomes. While almost all Americans support tracking down and punishing the al-Qaeda terrorist network, few nondemented Americans favor a U.S. crusade to violently suppress almost all resistance to any government in the world.

Yet this is what Bush's comment about "established governments" would entail. The Declaration of Independence proclaims that governments derive "their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed (and) that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive ... it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it."

Bush's comment on going to war against anybody "terrorizing established governments" would put him firmly on the side of the worst bootlickers among the Tories in the years before the American Revolution. Bush's standard would focus all the attention on the abuses of people who tarred and feathered tax collectors rather than on the injustice of the taxes the British king sought to impose on the colonists.

With his affection for military tribunals, Bush would shrug off as irrelevant the British habit of dragging Americans off to England, where they were almost automatically convicted by kangaroo courts. The highest crime would be the resistance to the king — and not the wrongful conduct of the king's henchmen and lackeys.

Congress and the Bush administration define terrorism as actions intended "to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion." Terrorism is what private citizens do to governments, while "public service" is what governments inflict upon private citizens.

At times, the Bush administration seems almost more concerned with the victimization of governments than with the killing of people. But the worst part of the 9/11 attacks was the number of people who were killed — not the attempt by the al-Qaeda terrorist network to influence the foreign policy of the U.S. government.

President Bush proclaimed that there is a "moral and ideological divide": on the one side, the United States and other anti-terrorism governments — and on the other side, the dregs of humanity. However, the U.S. government's righteousness ignores recent history.

At the time of Bush's indignation, the United States was still effectively allied with the Kosovo Liberation Army, an entity the U.S. State Department denounced for "terrorist actions" in 1998 but relabeled "freedom fighters" to sanctify the 1999 U.S. bombing

campaign against Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

At the same time that Bush went ballistic over "terrorists" mailing anthrax to government offices, the U.S. government was conducting a chemical-warfare campaign in Colombia, fumigating much of the countryside with deadly herbicides to suppress coca production — sickening children and ruining many law-abiding farmers in the process.

The issue of "state terrorism" is a nonstarter for the United States — except insofar as a state government allegedly aids a private terrorist organization to launch attacks in foreign lands. Apparently, as long as a government slaughters only its own subjects, it is entitled to honorary membership in the U.S. war on terrorism.

How else could Syria join the anti-terrorism crusade? A myopic focus on private terrorists risks giving a green light to far more dangerous government abuses. A core fallacy at the heart of the war on terrorism — as opposed to attacking and destroying al-Qaeda — is that terrorism is worse than anything else imaginable.

Unfortunately, governments around the world have committed far worse abuses than al-Qaeda or any other terrorist cabal. In a December 11 speech at the Citadel Military Academy, Bush proclaimed, "They love only one thing — they love power. And when they have it, they use it without mercy."

While Bush was denouncing terrorists at that particular moment, his description fits at least as well many of the "established governments" in the world. Since September 11, when terrorists killed 3,000 people in the United States, governments around the globe have slaughtered far more innocent civilians. Whether it is Russians killing Chechen civilians, or Zimbabwean government thugs murdering white farmers, or other African governments slaughtering people simply to keep up their reputation, governments continue doing what governments do best.

Because governments' slaughtering subjects is the common experience of humanity — along the same line as the sun's rising in the east — nongenocidal killings by governments rarely receive much news coverage. Mass murder was the most memorable achievement of many governments in the 20th century.

The Black Book of Communism, a 1997 French scholarly compendium, detailed how 85 million to 100 million people came to die at the hands of communist regimes in the Soviet Union, China, Cambodia, and elsewhere.

Professor R. J. Rummel, in his book *Death by Government*, declared, "Almost 170 million men, women, and children have been shot, beaten, tortured, knifed, burned, starved, frozen, crushed, or worked to death; buried alive, drowned, hung, bombed, or killed in any other of the myriad ways governments have inflicted death on unarmed, helpless citizens and foreigners" during the 20th century.

How many people were killed by terrorists in the 20th century?

(Continued on Page 10)

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

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## President opposes right of self defense

by Wes Burnett

In speech after speech, Americans hear high and mighty platitudes from their president, emphasizing the importance of defending American freedom and liberty.

Too bad his verbal actions are overshadowed by his political actions which have the opposite affect.

For instance, last month one of his political appointees announced that commercial airline pilots will not be allowed to carry guns in the cockpit. This decision flies in the face of common sense, the rights of Americans to defend themselves and the president's own words.

Transportation undersecretary John Magaw, who incidentally was the former chief of the infamous Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), said that pilots need to focus on flying the plane.

What Magaw didn't say, and is obvious to anyone who bothers to think this logic to its inescapable conclusion, is that pilots with their throats slashed aren't much help in the cockpit.

Even more insulting to Americans is the fact that last year the president signed legislation that allows pilots to carry firearms for the defense of the cockpit. His about face on self defense is confusing at the very least.

President Bush also declared last week that nothing could have been done to prevent the September 11 hijackings and eventual suicide (homicide?) crashes in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

It is astonishing that no national news media, or the president himself, have bothered to consider the obvious: had one airline crew member, pilot or flight attendant on those planes been armed and trained in the use of firearms, there would never have been a "national emergency."

The U.S. government has systematically disarmed the traveling public, whether it be on busses, trains, airplanes, cars or trucks... leaving the entire transportation system open to terrorists, knowing full well that their targets were (and are) defenseless.

It is shameful how so many Americans have meekly submitted to the idea that self defense is somehow dangerous. The real danger facing Americans is the elimination of the ability to defend ourselves. It wasn't that many years ago that traveling Americans were well armed. It's only been in the past 50 or 60 years that Americans have been subjected to such depravity of their inherent right of self defense.

The current hysteria (war on terrorism) is just another in a long line of government created crisis, for which government always proposes solutions. Government creates a problem, then declares itself the savior for solving the problem. If it weren't so down right dangerous, it'd be humorous.

First, government disarms its citizenry. Then when citizens are killed and murdered by being unable to defend themselves, self-righteous government agents and their loud mouth supporters jump in with a solution ... more and bigger government, less and less freedom and liberty.

Woe are we, the few who believe in individual liberty and the right of self defense. We are apparently doomed to suffer the consequences of living in a "majority rule" democracy, where common sense and individual rights take a back seat to "big daddy government."

We do great dishonor by submitting like sheep to this rejection of our great American principles. We also dishonor those who fought and died so that we could enjoy liberty and freedom and the right of self defense.

Please, someone who knows President Bush personally, how about whispering to him a bit of common sense. "Yes, Mr President, the hijackings could be avoided ... simply acknowledge that Americans have an inherent right of self defense."

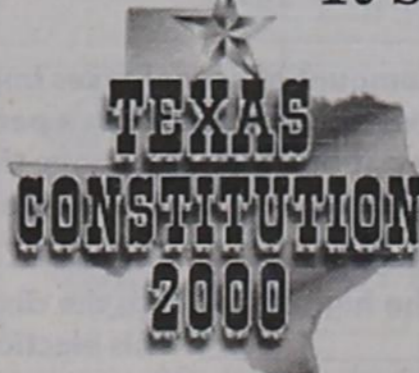
"Let' roll," the famous words of a young unarmed passenger on one of the ill-fated hijacked airplanes, would have a great deal different meaning had that same young American been armed. Or, if any member of the flight crew had been armed, Americans would be celebrating a victory over terrorism, instead of whining about who knew what and when.

A well armed citizenry is the best defense against terrorists, whether they be from foreign lands or from our own government.

God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it."

Daniel Webster

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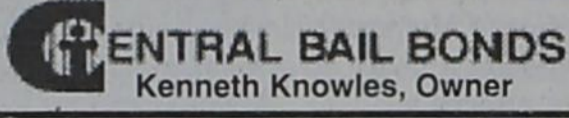




### Sheriff reports eight arrests


Eight individuals were booked into the Garza County Jail during the past week, according to sheriff's department records. On July 2, a 20-year old male was jailed on a pair of City of Lubbock warrants. On July 4, a 33-year-old male was picked up for possession of marijuana, under two ounces, and a 34-year-old male was jailed for revocation of probation. A 23-year-old male was jailed for reckless driving and evading arrest with a motor vehicle on July 5. Also, there was a warrant for the man's arrest. A 32-year-old male was arrested for possession of a controlled substance on July 6. Three arrests were made July 8, including that of a 34-year-old picked up on warrants; a 37-year old male for failure to restrain a child in a vehicle and no valid driver's license; and a 37-year-old individual for driving while intoxicated/second offense.

**WHO YOU GONNA CALL?**



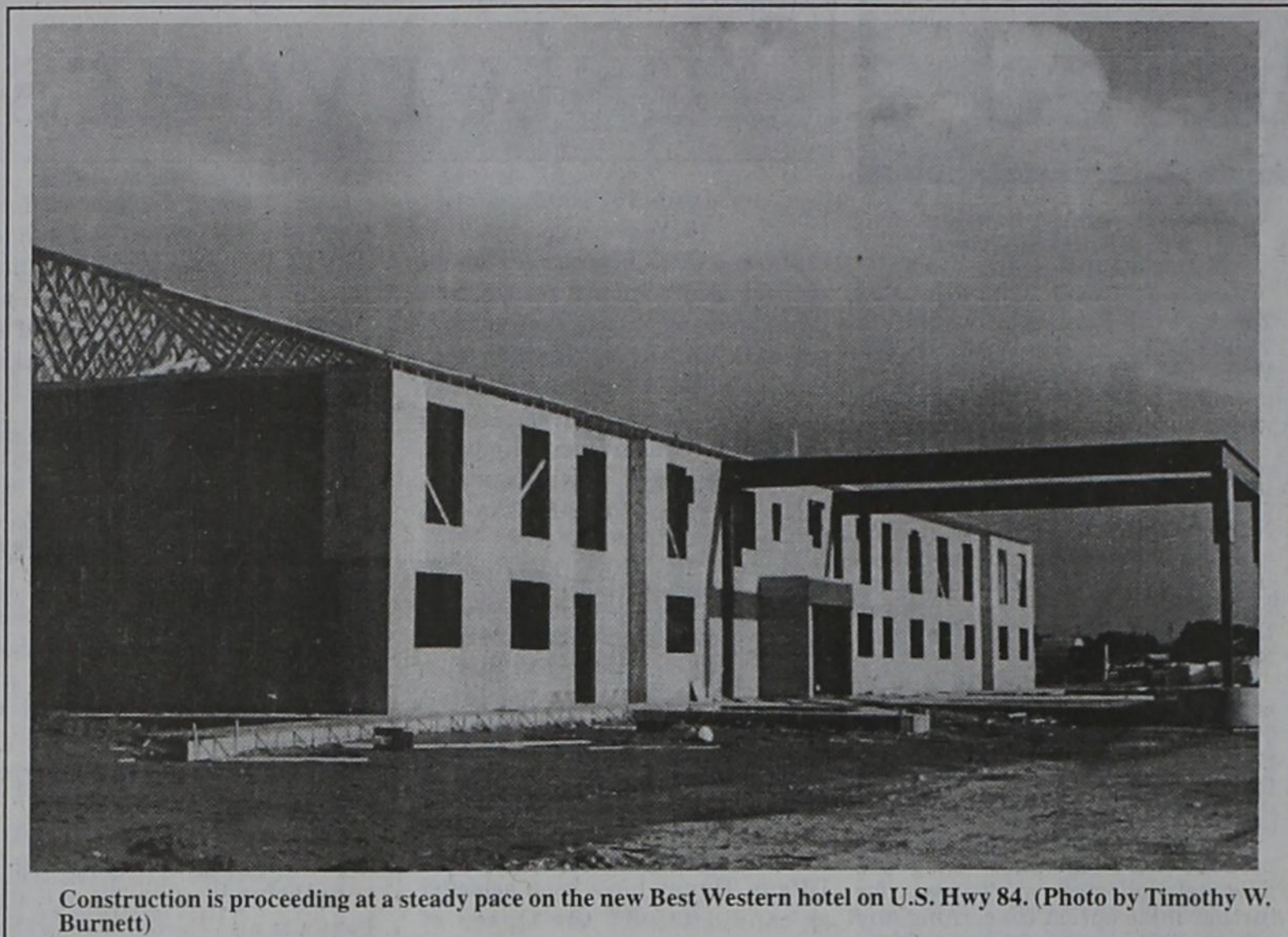
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Construction is proceeding at a steady pace on the new Best Western hotel on U.S. Hwy 84. (Photo by Timothy W. Burnett)

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Too Many Warnings?

It appears that the Bush administration has decided, rather than be accused of withholding warnings, to publish them all, no matter how doubtful.

This is brilliant. In the short run, it will work up sentiment for their war effort. And if something does happen, they can say they told us so. In the long run, however, people will get bored with it, and start ignoring it, like people delete spam and throw away junk mail — no big deal anymore.

It may possibly generate what shrinks might call a consistent low level of stress, but I have a hunch that most people will let the almost-daily terrorist warnings fade into the background noise.

In the field of industrial safety, you can get many training videos showing gruesome accidents that make you cringe. My father, who devoted his life to safety training, considers these videos to be useless. They produce a very short-term improvement in the behavior of the workers. The workers are careful and cautious for about three days after seeing the gruesome video. But then familiarity takes over, and it is back to normal.

Unless you actually analyze the work process for hazards (near-accidents) and institute specific procedural changes in how the job is done, and followup with enforcement if necessary, the workers are just as likely to get hurt as before, because their customary mode of behavior will not be permanently changed by fear.

So too, fear of terrorism is a very short-term motivator. Only institutional changes will prevent terrorism.

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration opted for increased controls (tightened airport security) rather than increased civil rights (citizens' right-to-carry firearms on aircrafts, etc.). Since the administration made the wrong institutional change, we are less safe.

Ironically, though, the Administration's promise to shoot down any plane seized by hijackers has changed the motivation of the passengers. Since we have nothing to lose, and our own government has promised to kill us if the hijackers are successful, we will kill the hijackers with our bare hands and tear them limb from limb and chew their flesh, if necessary, if we are to have any hope of returning home to see our children. You do what you have to.

If only our government had let us carry guns on the plane, so we wouldn't have to do all this with our teeth and fingernails. Probably more of us would have survived.  
Tom Kane, Floresville

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## State Terrorism...

(Continued from Page 5)  
Probably fewer than a hundred thousand — depending on the definition of terrorism. If killing innocent civilians is the touchstone of a definition of terrorism, then the U.S. government might itself get snared.

In an October 24 speech, Bush proclaimed, "Our military is conducting a campaign to bring the terrorists to justice, not to harm the Afghan people. While we are holding the Taliban government accountable, we're also feeding Afghan people." Numerous experts estimate that the U.S. bombing campaign against the Taliban and al-Qaeda has killed more than 3,500 Afghan civilians — more than died in this country in the 9/11 attacks.

What is the moral difference between dying in the crash of a hijacked airliner and dying when U.S. war planes mistakenly flatten a village? And while the United States has provided large amounts of food aid to starving Afghans, the disruption caused by the war against the Taliban and al-Qaeda may result in more fatalities than those prevented by U.S. aid.

U.S. government spokesmen have repeatedly insisted that the United States did not intend to kill innocent people in Afghanistan — implying that such killings somehow become morally irrelevant. But that is scant consolation to surviving relatives and to those left maimed or blinded by wayward U.S. bombs. The fact that the U.S. government is convinced that its intentions are sacrosanct does not give it a license to kill.

Bush has rightly condemned private terrorist attacks on innocent civilians and others. However, when the perpetrators of terror are wearing government uniforms, the Bush administration has too often lost its voice. That most governments have sovereign immunity for most of their crimes does not make their abuses any less heinous to their victims.

Terrorists cannot compete with governments when it comes to persistently wreaking mass carnage. By raising terrorist attacks to the pinnacle of political evil, the war on terrorism implicitly sanctifies whatever

tactic governments use in the name of repressing terrorism. But in the long run, people have far more to fear from governments than from terrorists.

Bush's labeling of attacks on any "established government" as a justification for counterterrorism ignores the fact that many governments are little more than criminal conspiracies against their victims. The United States was created as a result of popular uprisings and attacks on an established government that was far less oppressive than many current regimes in Africa and Asia.

The word "terrorism" must not become an incantation that miraculously razes all existing limits on government power. State terrorism will remain a far greater threat to most of humanity than will private terrorists. And if the war on terrorism empowers tyrants around the globe, the anti-terror carnage will far exceed the 9/11 casualty count.

James Bovard is the author of *Lost Rights* (St. Martin's Press, 1994), *Freedom in Chains* (St. Martin's, 1998), and *Feeling Your Pain: The Explosion & Abuse of Government Power in the Clinton-Gore Years* (St. Martin's, 2000) and serves as policy advisor to *The Future of Freedom Foundation*.

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Merely having an open mind is nothing; the object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.  
—G.K. Chesterton

\*\*\*  
First love is only a little foolishness and a lot of curiosity.  
—George Bernard Shaw

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