

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
February 7, 8 & 9
Inside: Old Mill Trade Days Special

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The Post Dispatch

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CHS postpones clinic closure until April 30

Recent board meetings illegal

by Wes Burnett

Covenant Health Systems has offered to postpone the closing of its clinic here until April 30, according to an announcement made at Monday night's Garza County Health Care District (GCHCD) meeting.

GCHCD directors approved the extension and agreed to advertise for bids on proposals to manage or provide health care services under the direction of the district. The board announced another meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 6, which lists an executive session.

Both the February 3 and February 6 meetings are in violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act due to improper public notice. State law requires a 72 hour posting of public notices for government meetings.

The notice for the February 3 meeting was posted on Friday, January 31 and the February 6 meeting notice was posted Tuesday, February 4. Neither posting meets the state law, thereby nullifying any action taken by the board.

The planned February 6 meeting notice also does not meet

state requirements, failing to specify the purpose or disclose the topic for the secret session. At last Thursday's (01/30/03) night's meeting, the board of directors moved a step closer to operating a rural health clinic.

Following a detailed presentation by Paul Ackerman, representing Physicians Network Systems (PNS), board president Mike Travis strongly argued for government control of health care, supported by board members Zoe Kirkpatrick, Ray Bagby and Edna Owen.

Board member Danny Guthrie pointed out potential problems with the plan, but was unable to change the outcome. Guthrie supported the proposal presented by PNS. Ackerman proposed that PNS manage a health care clinic for a fee of \$2,500 per month. In that plan, the board would pay for all costs of operating the clinic, with PNS providing staff and managing the operation.

The board did not consider an earlier proposal by Oasis Medical Services (OMS), which would not cost the district any tax funds at all. Al Bendeck, representing OMS, told the board at its special called meeting Monday (1/27/03) that OMS would need only a three year lease for the building, and did

not seek or want any tax funds.

In rejecting the two privately operated clinic proposals, Travis insisted that the board should retain local control. He denied that any board member would be involved in the management of the proposed clinic. "Dr Bergfeld has agreed to stay on for about three months," Travis said, "which gives us time to recruit a full time doctor."

No discussions about potential costs were held. "We've got a \$25,000 a month war chest," Travis boasted, saying that the funds that had been paid to CHS (\$25,000 per month) would be used to pay for operating the rural health clinic. It could take up to six months for insurance companies and medicare system to recognize the new clinic's approval numbers.

Travis also informed the board that former Covenant Health System executive Steve Holmes would be visiting with the board to assist in the transition. No specific terms were mentioned as to fees that Holmes would be paid for his services. Holmes had been with CHS during the transition of the old hospital district's contract with CHS to operate a clinic here after the closing of the Garza Memorial Hospital.

Travis said that Holmes is now in Colorado.

No action was taken on a proposal by Carla Bailey, a former resident of Post, to manage the rural health clinic, citing a wide variety of experiences in that field. She most recently has assisted Dawson County with its rural health clinic.

Earlier in the Thursday meeting, CHS executive Jim Wurts emphasized that CHS would do all that it could to assist in a smooth transition.

County gets good audit report

by Wes Burnett

A \$94,000 grant application for offsetting costs of juvenile detention from area counties was approved by the Garza County Commissioners' Court at the January 27 regular meeting.

The court also approved a resolution for a \$5,900 grant supporting the Victims Assistance Program.

Precinct One Commissioner Lee Norman's request for purchasing a grid roller was approved.

The court authorized county clerk Jerry Hays to use preservation funds to purchase approximately \$6,000 of updated computer software and hardware.

Commissioners also approved a budget amendment request by Judge Giles W. Dalby, adding an assistant to his office. Dalby said the assistant would also be available to assist commissioners.

Auditor Steve Sawyers presented a detailed look at the county's financial situation, and declared the county in good shape, with approximately three months of operating reserves.

The audit showed total revenues for 2002 fiscal year at \$3,144,108 with total expenditures of \$3,265,717.



Great Chili Supper

This year's Post Volunteer Fire Department's annual chili supper was as popular as ever, with firemen dishing out chili (hot or mild?) by the buckets last Saturday at the fire department building.

Travellers cough up \$55,000 for November and December fines

by Wes Burnett

Garza County and the State of Texas collected \$24,565.07 in November and \$31,045.80 in December for traffic fines issued here, according to reports of the two Justices of the Peace courts. The fund raising program, operated by county and state agents, takes advantage of travel victims who violate state commercial transportation codes.

JP Court 1 reported \$11,796.40 in November with JP Court 2 showing \$12,768.67 for the same month. In December JP Court 1 reported \$16,192.50, while JP Court 2 turned in \$14,853.30.

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. What was sold to the public in the 1920s for "safe" roads, is now a huge money-making machine for corporate governments.

But the question about the lawful nature of the transportation code needs a bit of exploring. The following research is offered for the reader's consideration:

by Timothy W. Burnett

The laws of the land were established in the United States of America and in Texas for the foundational purpose of protecting the life, liberty, and property of the people within. One example of this is traveling. Traveling is a very personal element of life, liberty, and property. Some modes of travel include walking, bicycle, tricycle, motorbike, automobile, horse and carriage, etc. In other situations people prefer paying someone to carry them from one point to another. Or they may pay for their goods to be carried.

These entities paid to carry for another are known as carriers. Carriers use the public highways and roads to transport people and goods in various types of motor vehicles. The question of whether a Driver's License is required in Texas applies both to the traveling public and transportation. And can be answered by a precise study of the Texas Transportation Code.

Before addressing this question, it should be noted that the only right way to interpret the law is to allow it to interpret

itself within the letter of the law. Allowing the letter of the law to interpret itself makes it possible for the researcher, juror, and judge to clearly see the correct meaning and scope.

Similar to God's word of grace and salvation, the laws of the land are of no private interpretation. The big difference between God's word and man's word is the author. Unlike God, man is unable to back his word consistently. So the people of this country developed a protective checks and balances system that included justice. They agreed to elect or have appointed certain people who would serve as official interpreters of the laws and related rules.

During the 1950's the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas ruled in various cases that there was no such license known to Texas law as a "driver's license." These official interpreters of the law were in agreement on how the law interpreted itself.

In 1953, the Appeals Court gave the opinion that "an information charging the driving of a motor vehicle upon a public

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Covenant Home Health continues service here

Covenant Home Health Care has no plans to stop providing home care to Post and surrounding communities despite Covenant's recent announcement of plans to close its local clinic.

In a press release issued earlier this week, Post agency director Amy Skelton said, "Keep your eyes and ears open for an exciting new program on the horizon for Covenant Home Health Care."

Home health care traditionally provides nursing, therapies and specialized services for patients in their homes.

The Covenant agency cares for patients of all ages, including from birth, thanks to its pediatric department, OB program, wound care team, Hearts at Home cardiac program and Foot Connection foot care program. Also available is Care Connection, the only locally-monitored emergency response system.

Covenant Home Health Care is Medicare- and Medicaid-certified, as well as a preferred provider for many insurance plans. With an in-house insurance verification department, patients will know up-front of any uncovered costs.

Medicare covers home care 100 percent for homebound patients who have a need for skilled medical services as determined by a physician.

For individuals who need skilled home care, Covenant can call and get a physician's orders to perform a home care evaluation. To contact Covenant Home Health Care in Post, call 495-3533.

Post Notes

Holy Cross Church Gordita plates

The Holy Cross Catholic Church is offering Gorditas with rice, beans, salad and drink for \$5 per adult plate and \$2.50 for children Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the church's fellowship hall.

Retirement Reception for Dr Bain

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

'Desperate Ambrose' at Garza Theatre

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

'Grandma Brag Pages' set for Feb. 13

The annual Post Dispatch "Grandma Brag Pages" will be published Thursday, February 13, with a deadline of Friday, February 7. Photos of grandchildren are \$10 for photos with one or two children, and \$5 for each additional children in a photograph. Wallet sized photos are preferred, color or black and white. Call The Post Dispatch at 495-2816 for more information.



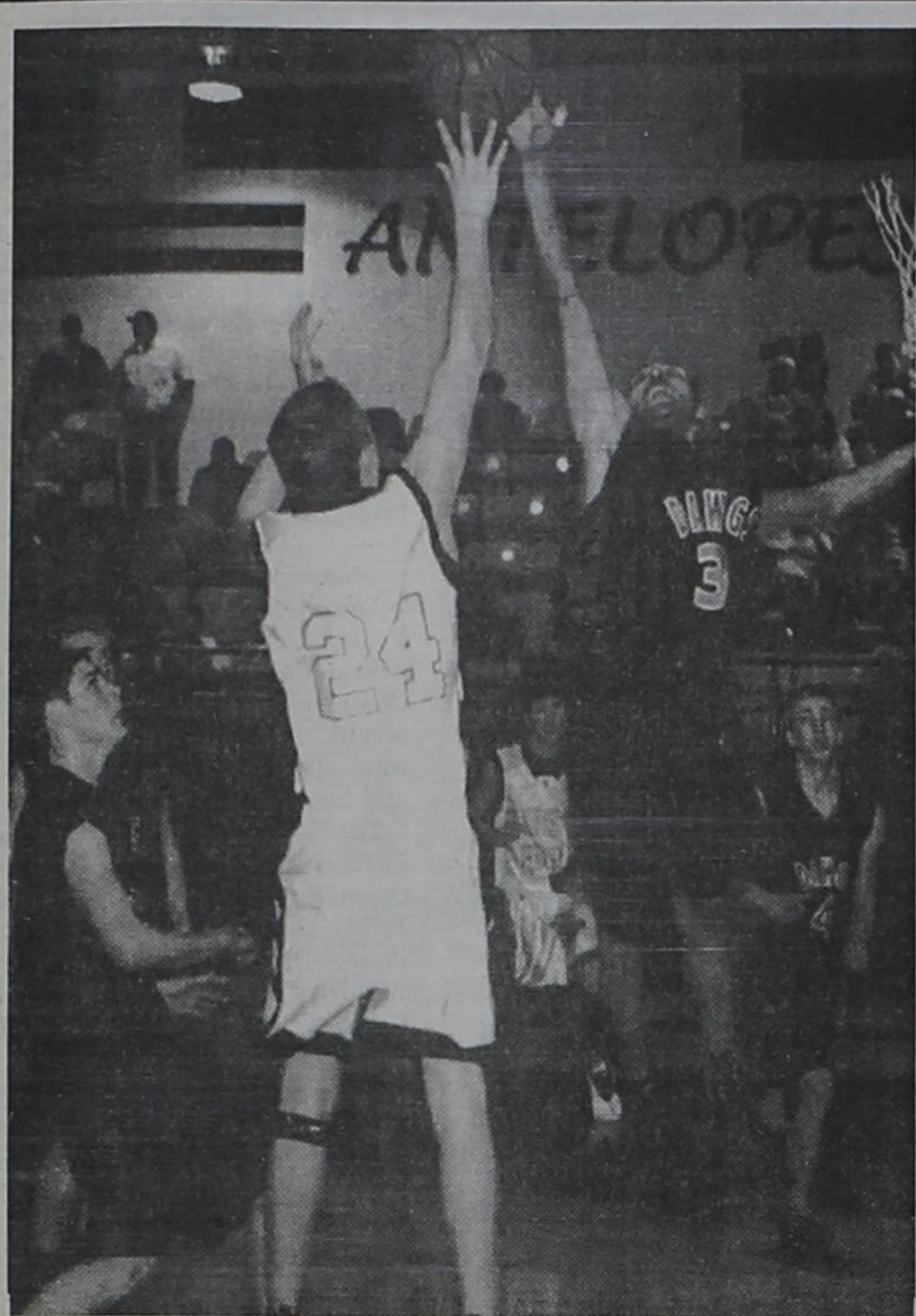
New Sign at Trailblazers

Garza County senior citizens are proud of the new sign on the center's west wall. The senior citizen center is a popular place at lunch time.

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Sports



Jerrad Grisham goes over the top of Tahoka defenders for another two points in the Post Antelope win here last Friday. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

7th grade girls whip Roosevelt

The seventh grade Lady 'Lopes finished their season 7-8 thanks to a 25-7 win over Roosevelt Monday.

"This was one of the best games these girls have played all year long," the coach said. "They picked up the pace in the second quarter and never looked back. Lauren Gonzales did an excellent job attacking the basket and did a great job scoring for us.

"These girls have improved so much from the first of the season, and I'm very proud of them for all their hard work."

Gonzales and Lori Jones shared top-scoring honors with eight points apiece. Marlee Plummer had three points, while Samantha Hoover, Brenna Postell and Madison Mason each added two.

In their Jan. 27 game against Tahoka, the girls won 9-6.

"This was not the scoring game that we needed to have," the coach said. "We were scoreless in the first and fourth quarters and we needed to put up points. Brenna Postell was high point and did a good job in the post position."

Postell had five points in the game, while Suhani Bhakta and Hoover each posted two points.

'Lopes put on show against Tahoka

by Wes Burnett

The Post Antelope varsity boys' basketball team took a convincing 51-46 win over Tahoka last Friday in district action here. "The team played with intensity and great defense," coach Dane Vickers commented, "I'm very pleased with their effort. If we played everybody like that, we'd be in much better shape."

The 'Lopes must win all three remaining games in order to enter post-season competition. That includes Roosevelt Tuesday (2/5), New Deal Friday and Idalou next Tuesday (2/11).

In the win over Tahoka, Jarrett Vickers led scoring with 14 points, followed by Mitchell Mills and Jerrad Grisham with nine, Sterling Smith with eight, Jett Lott with seven and two points each by Kenny Ratke and Brice Easterling.

The team has a 12-12 season record, with three wins and four losses in district competition.

Lady Lopes struggle in district competition

The Lady 'Lopes' district record stands at 2-7 and season record 15-14 following last week's 42-31 loss to Tahoka.

Post fell behind in the first period and never regained the momentum needed to pull off the win.

"We fell too far behind early in the game," Coach Courtney said. "I thought our team came out the second half and handled their press well. This enabled us more scoring opportunities in the second half."

Top scorer for the squad was Nikki Norman with 13 points, followed by Tayler Starkey with six and Logan Gregory with five points. Meagan Hoover scored three, while Donae Dalby and Patricia Hester each added two points to the scoreboard.

The team fell to Idalou 40-34 on Jan. 28.

"We had a few mental breakdowns during the second half," the coach said. "We really struggled scoring in the third quarter, scoring only two points. Nikki Norman fouled out of the game in the fourth quarter, which really hurt us offensively."

Norman again led scoring with 19 points. Starkey had nine points, Kaycee Gorman, five, and Hoover, one.

On Jan. 24, the girls lost a 55-42 match-up against Shallowater.

"The girls played well against one of the state's top-ranked teams," the coach said. "Kaycee Gorman hit three threes in the fourth quarter to help the cause, while Nikki Norman pulled down nine rebounds for the

night."

Gorman was high scorer with 15 points, followed by Starkey and Hoover with seven apiece and Norman with six. Hester scored four points, while Gregory added three.



Taylor Starkey (right) gets set for a two-pointer during action here last Friday as Donae Dalby (22) gives an assist. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

8th grade girls hammer Roosevelt 44-35

Roosevelt fell prey to the eighth grade Lady 'Lopes Monday night in a 44-35 game which marked the end of the local girls' 12-03 season.

Post jumped out to a 10-7 lead in the first period and never looked back.

Sarah Kirkpatrick led scoring for Post with 14 points, followed by Kylie Easterling with a dozen. Larissa Halford had nine points in the game, while Rachel Gray added three. Steffi Norman, K'Nell Dalby and Jackie Hays each put two points on the scoreboard.

"This was a hard fought game," the coach said. "We led every quarter, but not by much. Sarah Kirkpatrick and Kylie Easterling did an excellent job taking the ball to the basket and drawing fouls. We didn't shoot very well from the free throw line and we were 16-37 for the whole game."

"I'm very proud of all of them for all their hard work and for what they've accomplished," the coach said.

The squad posted a 24-17 victory over Tahoka Jan. 27.

Post held Tahoka scoreless in the first period while posting 10 points of their own.

"This game was a big defensive game for us," the coach said. "I felt we executed our press very well, and we got a lot of steals off of it. Larissa Halford did an excellent job anticipating the passes off the press

and got a lot of steals. Kylie Easterling did a good job taking the ball to the basket and producing points at the free throw line."

Easterling was top scorer for the Lady 'Lopes with seven points. Kirkpatrick posted six, Hays had five, Halford, four, and Claire Kirkpatrick added two points.

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Grandma Brag Pages Feb. 13, 2003



This size (four singles) \$40.

Bring your favorite photo of your grandchild to The Post Dispatch before Friday, Feb. 8 for our annual Valentine edition!! Please include names of children and grandparents, with phone number of submitter.

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Use the handy mail slot in the front door when the office is closed or mail to P.O. Box 490, Post, Texas 79356. call 495-2816 for details



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