

Justiceburg school fire investigation continues

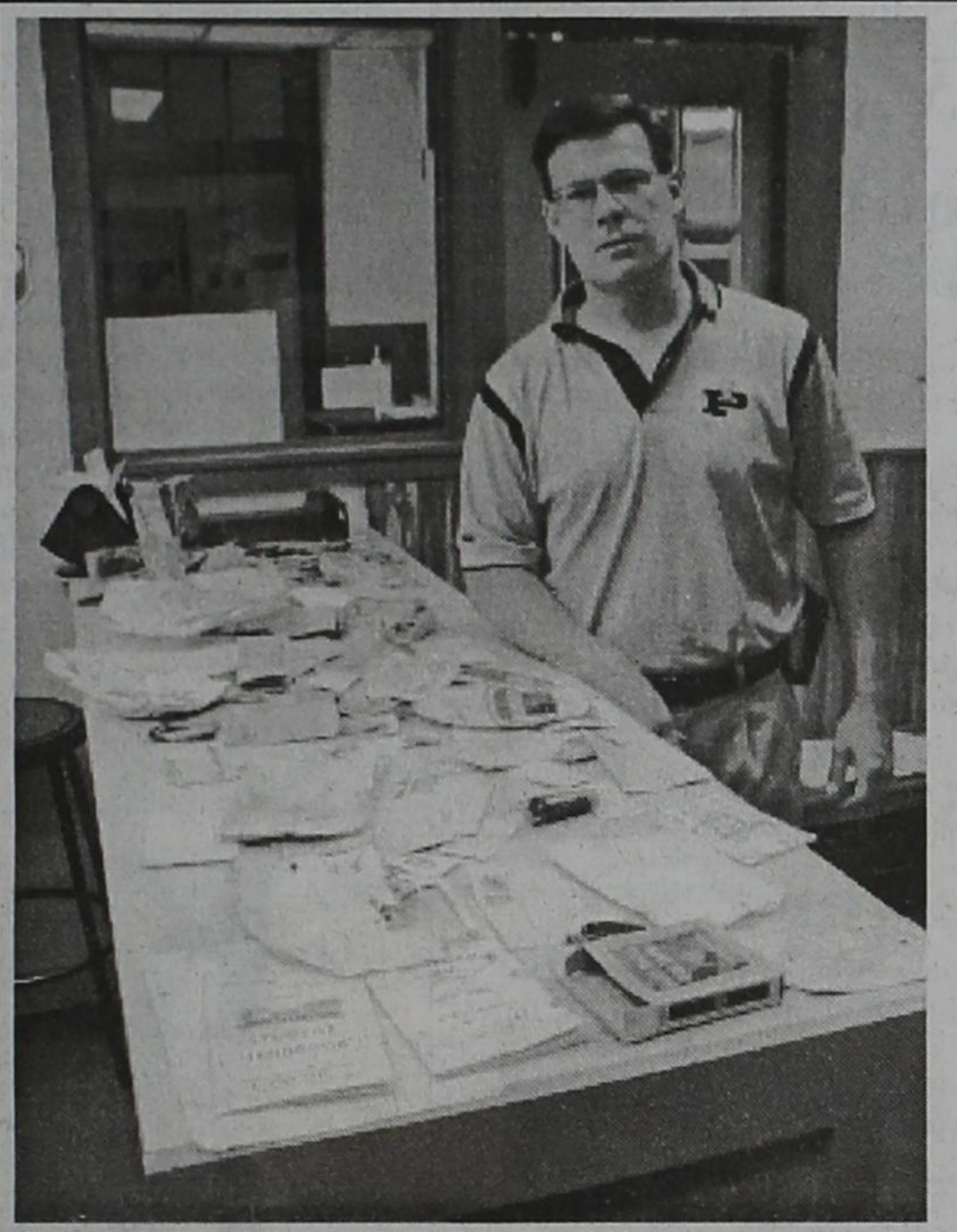
The investigation into the early morning July 13 fire that destroyed the historic Justiceburg school structure continues.

The abandoned property, owned by the Post Independent School District, was engulfed in flames when local firefighters responded to a 9-1-1 call from a passing motorist. Firefighters worked more than three hours to extinguish the fire.

The state fire marshal's office was called in to assist local law enforcement officials in investigating the cause of the blaze.

At the July 8 meeting of the Post ISD board of trustees, district officials discussed the possible sale of the Justiceburg school property; however, Supt. Marlin Marcum said this week trustees will be forced to rethink their plans following the destruction of the building.

Marcum said the Post ISD owns the site on which the Justiceburg school structure stands, as well as about 300 acres in the immediate area.



Post Middle School principal Bryan Brownloe displays a treasure trove of local history recently discovered when school lockers were taken out at the school. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

Locker removal uncovers local student histories

During a recent renovation of Post Middle School, maintenance and custodial staff received quite a surprise - an inadvertent time capsule.

As part of a facelift for the building which was built in 1928, the Middle School will be installing new lockers.

Although the company hired to install the lockers included removal in its quote, new maintenance director Mark Odom decided to have school maintenance and custodial staff remove them in order to save money.

What was saved included much more than money. As the lockers were removed, old pictures, letters, postcards, textbook cards, and many other items were uncovered. Many of the items are dated from the 1930's and 40's.

The first item found was a picture with the name "Joe Young - 8th grade '51-'52."

The oldest item found was desk calendar dated Thursday, June 26, 1930. Interestingly, June 26 fell on a Thursday this year also and since the item was found on Thursday, July 10 the crew missed finding the calendar exactly 73 years later by only two weeks.

The items will be displayed in a trophy case in the Middle School during the fall semester. Arrangements are being made to include them in the Garza County Museum archives after that time.

In this issue of the Dispatch you will find a listing of all the names that could be ascertained from the items.

If you find your name or someone you know, please come by the Middle School and see what the item is.

All identifiable items that are personal property will certainly be returned; however, the school is asking that citizens consider donating the items so that they might be displayed.

Names identified:

Jackie Hays, Veronica Soto, Barbara Ayala, Miles Gray, Skylar Jones, Gary Bilbo, Denise Berry, Kristi Hodges, Bobby Brumley and Mary Martinez.

Also, Aldean Brooks, Ellis Carmichael, Irving Ellison, Jerry Hill, T.H. Buchanan, Carrol Jean Long, Iris Howell, Gaylor Hutto, Brad Mason, Harry Wook, Doug Hall, Benny Hair, M.K. Bingham, Maxine Greenfield, Liola Hodges, Jimmy Hutton, Lina Binge, Viola King and Jimmy Doss.

Also, Glenna Wages, Difie Shephard, Dick Cravy, Kim Hester, Jim Hays, G.M. Hodges, Joe Young, Alarah Pierce, Johnny McKinzie, Maxine Collazo, Brenda Mason, Joe Hays, Johnny McGuire, John Birdude, Lester Josey, Johnny Kemp and Lowell Bryan.

The Post Dispatch

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Post ISD introduces vocational programs

Local students interested in pursuing a career in cosmetology can earn a Texas cosmetology license and a high school diploma thanks to action taken by Post Independent School District trustees earlier this month.

At their July 8 meeting, board members approved a memorandum of understanding with the Slaton Independent School District that will pave the way for a new vocational program at Post High School. The new career prep path will begin in the fall, allowing local students to study cosmetology in three-hour blocks alongside traditional reading, writing and arithmetic classes.

The program, available at a pro-rated cost to the Post ISD, will serve students in Post, Slaton and Lubbock-Roosevelt schools beginning in the fall. The Slaton ISD will provide facilities and instructors.

Upon successful completion of the program and graduation from high school, participants will be licensed for cosmetology work in the state of Texas, Post ISD Supt. Marlin Marcum said.

The district also is working to add a four-year auto mechanics-training program to its curriculum. The program, available through the assistance of Region 17, will allow high school students to complete two years of auto mechanics training while in high school, followed up by two years of post-high school study in a community college setting. Upon completion of this program, a student will be a licensed mechanic.

The auto mechanics program, which will serve Post, Slaton and about a dozen other West Texas communities, will begin late in the fall semester or in the spring semester, Marcum said.

In other business, trustees:

- Began discussing the format of a proposed long-range facilities master plan proposed for the Post ISD. Marcum said district officials hope to devise a plan for the use of existing facilities during the next 10-plus years. The development of such a plan will involve a community-based committee, and district officials hope to have the plan in place mid-way through the 2003-2004 school year.
- Hired an elementary school teacher.
- Tabled action on consideration of a softball program. Marcum said trustees hope to take up the item at a future meeting after additional information is collected.
- Reviewed and found satisfactory the Garza County Central Tax Appraisal District budget.
- Reviewed bids and purchased a replacement vehicle for the district's driver's education program.
- Adopted a policy against allowing Post ISD buses to be used for non-school functions.

New seating policy set for Antelope Stadium

A change in the policy regarding reserved seat sales at Antelope Stadium could put more football fans closer to the 50-yard line this season.

Beginning next month, reserved seats to Lope football games will be sold until approximately one week prior to the first home game. After that time, reserved seat sales will stop and the remaining seats in what has traditionally been recognized as the reserved seat area will be sold as open seats.

Post Independent School District Supt. Marlin Marcum said the change, reported on at the July 8 school board meeting, has been implemented in an effort to put more fans in the prime stadium seats.

In past years, some reserved seating has gone unpurchased, leaving "gaps" in what Marcum called "the best seats in the house."

Reserved seat sales will begin Aug. 1 and will run until the Wednesday before the Antelopes' first home game of the 2003 season.

Post Notes

Bethel Assembly of God Special Services

The Bethel Assembly of God will offer Special Services Sunday, July 27 through Wednesday, July 29. Sunday service begins at 11 a.m. with weekday services at 7 p.m. Evangelist Gino Landin will lead the services.

Missionary "fun-raiser"

The Women's chapter of the Church of God of Prophecy, 602 W. 14th St., is offering enchilada plates Friday, July 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$5 per plate. Dinner includes three enchiladas, rice, beans and salad. Call Lydia or Norma at 495-3644.

Church sets garage sale Thursday

The Women's Chapter of the Church of God of Prophecy, 602 W. 14th St., is hosting a garage sale Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church.

PHS Yearbooks have arrived

Post High School has announced that 2003 Yearbooks have arrived and may be picked up Wednesday and Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the high school office.

Graham All-School reunion

The Graham All-School Reunion will be held July 26 beginning at 11 a.m. at Chapa's Family Restaurant, just north of Post on US Hwy 84. Ordering will be from the menu on a "dutch" basis. Please RSVP to Lucille Bush at 495-3410 or Jason and Bonnie Justice at 806-794-9282.

Harley Sadler Show at Garza Theatre

The Garza Theatre presents its 2003 Tribute to The Harley Sadler Show, "Rose of the Rio Grande," with seven performances beginning August 1. The play continues August 2, 3, 8, 9, 15 and 16. The comedy features "Sputters," (The Stuttering Cowboy), directed by Mickie Klafka. Cast members include Chris Davis, Peter Contreras II, Charles Grair, Christina Burk, Shilo Fonseca, Pat Price, Debbie Burk and Roy Willis.

"Charley's Aunt" auditions August 2-3

The Garza Theatre will hold auditions for its upcoming production of "Charley's Aunt" on August 2 and 3. The August 2 auditions will be held in Post at the Garza Theatre with the August 3 auditions at Monterey Church of Christ, 58th and Memphis in Lubbock. Both auditions are from 2 to 4 p.m. Call the box office at 495-4005 or Jay Young at 495-1100 for more information.

Girl Scouts host patriotic event Aug. 4-5

The Girl Scouts will host a "Get Patriotic with the Girl Scouts" at the Post City Park August 4 and 5 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. There will be crafts and games. Contact Belinda at 745-2855. Girls aged five years and older are invited.

Cheerleaders sell Krispy Kreme donuts

Post High School cheerleaders are taking orders for Krispy Kreme donuts. Contact any high school cheerleader to place your order. Orders will be available for pickup Saturday, August 9.

County Team Roping August 2

The Garza County Team Roping will be held at 6 p.m., August 2 with a \$100 per man entry fee. A special Garza County Ex's Invitational Roping will follow the team roping event, call 495-4771 or 781-9869.

Church seeks help with roof fund

The Calvary Baptist Church is seeking help for its sanctuary building fund to replace the roof. Those interested in assisting should send donations to the Calvary Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 624, Post, Texas 79356. For more information call 495-3342 or 495-2342.

Post Public Library "Blue Bonnet" books

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

Calvary Baptist Church VBS set

Calvary Baptist Church, 6th and Avenue H, announces its Vacation Bible School will be held Monday through Thursday, August 4-7 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Post City Park Pavilion. Bible crafts, study and refreshments will be included. For more information, call 495-2342 or 495-3342.

Post Stampede Rodeo August 7-9

The 63rd Annual Post Stampede Rodeo will be held August 7, 8 & 9 at the rodeo grounds with nightly shows beginning with grand entry at 7:45 p.m. Friday and Saturday dances on the slab feature Guy Will Zant and Blackgold. The rodeo parade will be held August 9 at 3 p.m.

Middle School orientation August 12

The Post Middle School will hold its annual orientation Tuesday, August 12 at 6:15 p.m. in the elementary school auditorium. Students will receive class schedules at that time.

Middle School dress code

Post Middle School students are reminded to take notice of the dress code in purchasing school clothing. Shirts must completely cover students' midsection and shorts should be at mid-thigh length. Pants may be oversized, but must fit at the waist. For many students, that will require a belt to be worn.

Computer class offered by network

Post-Garza County Network will offer an introduction to Microsoft Excel computer class August 12, 14, 19 and 21 to residents of Post and Garza County. Classes are free and will be from 6 to 8 p.m. each night. Call Shellee at 495-3343 to enroll.

Post Middle School seeks parents

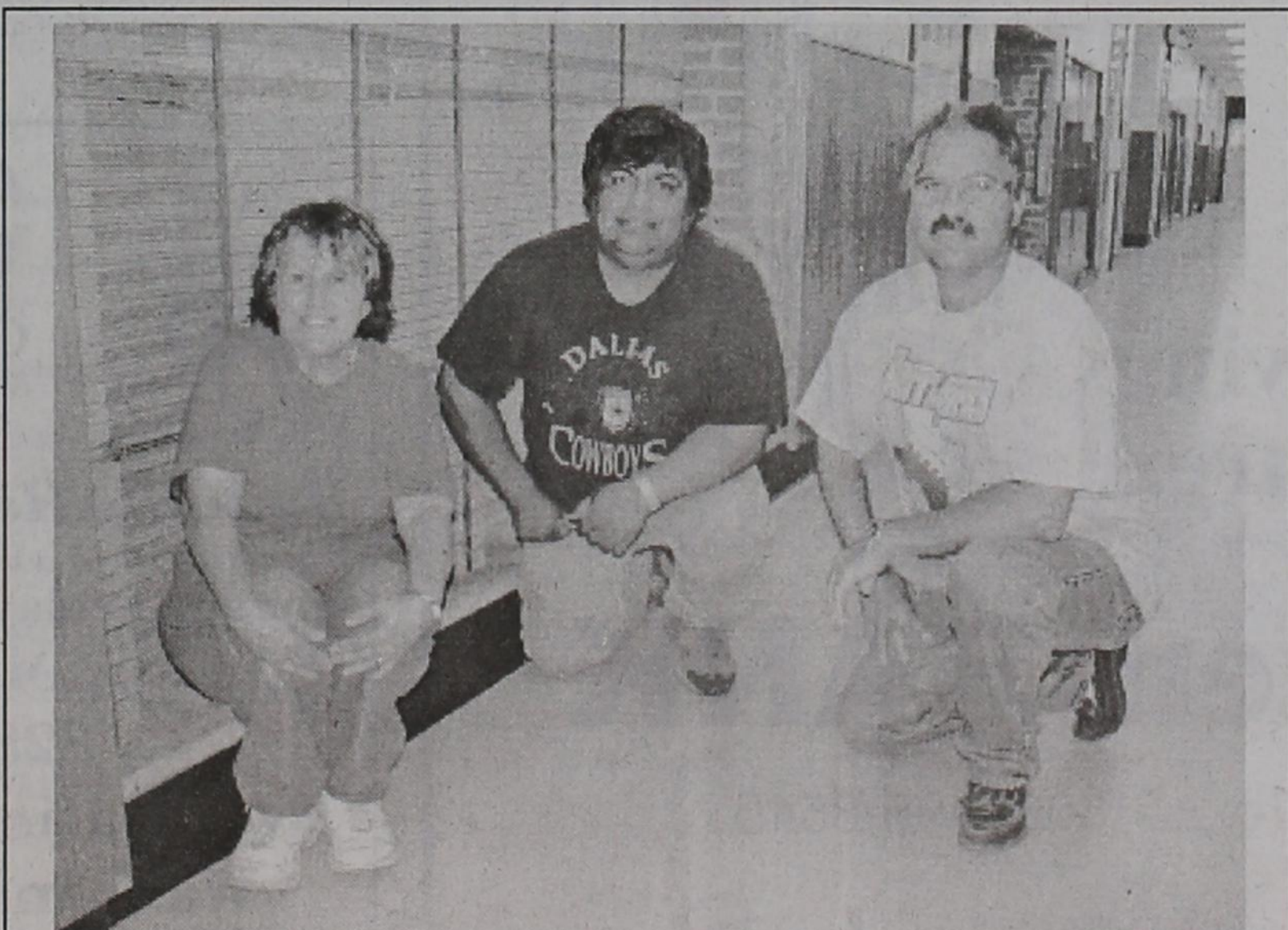
Post Middle School has set parental involvement as one of its priorities for the coming school year and is seeking two volunteers to act as parent liaisons. Ideally, at least one of the parents would be fluent in Spanish. Liaisons would plan activities that would be of interest for parents and act as link to parents in order to facilitate better communication between school and home. Call the school at 495-2874 to volunteer.

Close City-Garlynn Reunion

The annual Close City-Garlynn Reunion will be held Saturday, August 16 at the Post Community Center. The event will feature a catered meal at \$10 per person. Call Onita Gunn at 495-2009 or write to her at Rt 3 Box 201, Post, Texas 79356 or Charles Morris at Rt 3, Post, Texas 79356 or call 495-3413.

2003 Antelope Season Ticket Sales

Reserved seats for the Post Antelope football season will be sold as a "season pass only" for the 2003 season. The price for reserved seats will be \$4 per person per game, which means a season pass will be \$20 for the five home games. Reserved seats will be sold for a limited time only, from August 1 through August 22. No reserved seats will be sold after August 22. Contact Shellee Odom at the Post ISD business office, 501 S. Avenue K. Seats not purchased by August 22 will be available as open seating for each game.



Post Middle School staff members (left to right) Antonia Ammons, Lupe Aguilar and Hector Chapa were surprised when they found old photos and other memories from the 1930s, 40s, 50s and 60s when old lockers at the school were recently removed. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush



little prayer and maybe we will get some relief from the heat with a nice shower. Would be nice for all of the farmers and ranchers too.

NANCY CHILDERS
I wanted to let Nancy know that she is in my prayers. She is at home recovering from heart surgery. I think the process is slow, so I just wanted her to know that many folks are pulling for her and keeping her in their prayers.

RENE
Also, an update on Rene Mason. It is my understanding that she got an encouraging report from the doctor last Friday, but still has some considerable healing to

do. Hang in there girl, we are all praying for you.

DABRATS
I want to once again congratulate the girls soft ball team, "DABRATS". They did not win in Midland but I hear they played really well. I know they had a good time and the good thing is, they will all get to play again next year!

HOW TO WASH CLOTHES
The following was sent to me by Barbara Gossett. Years ago, a Tennessee grandmother gave the new bride the following recipe for washing clothes. It appears below just as it was written, and despite the spelling, has a bit of philosophy. This is an exact copy as written and found in an old scrap book (with spelling errors and all).

1. Bilt fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water.
2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is pert.
3. Shave one hole cake of lie soap in bilin water.
4. Sort things, make 3 piles: 1 pile white, 1 pile colored, 1 pile work britches and rags,
5. To make starch, stir flour in cool water to smooth, then thin down with bilin water.
6. Take white things, rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, and then bile. Rub colored don't bile, just rinch and starch.
7. Take things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then rinch and starch.
8. Hang old rags on fence.
9. Spread tea towles on grass.
10. Pore rinch water in flower bed
11. Scrub porch with hot soapy water.
12. Turn tubs upside down.
13. Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with combs.
14. Brew cup of tea, drink it and rock a spell and count your blessings. Cut this out and put over your washer and dryer and next time when you think things are bleak, read it again and give thanks for your blessings!!

TILL NEXT WEEK
Guess that's all for this week. Hope all of you stay cool. Maybe if we all wash our cars this week-end it will rain. May God bless each of you, and I'll see ya next week. Judy

Worth repeating ...
When the people find that they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic.
— Benjamin Franklin



David and Nellie Tyler of Post celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 12, 2003 at a dinner hosted by their children at the Hotel Garza Bed & Breakfast. Entertainment was provided by family members. David and Nellie Melton were married July 3, 1953 in Meridian, Miss., moving to Post shortly thereafter. Their children are Ronald Tyler of Spring, Texas; Jerry Tyler of Post, Debbie Jones of Wilson and Mark Tyler of Midland. David and Nellie have eight grandchildren.

Thurman Francis set for "surprise" birthday party

A "surprise" birthday party to celebrate Thurman Francis' 90th birthday will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, July 25, at the Hotel Garza. The event will run until 8:30 p.m.

Celebration coordinators ask that no gifts be brought to the event. Instead, each participant is encouraged to bring a card or note bearing a special thought or memory for the honoree.

Airman Sweet completes USAF Training

Air Force Airman Phillip A. Sweet has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airman who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Mr and Mrs Travis Sweet of Sunset Drive, Post, Texas.

Ronnie and Voda Beth Gradine celebrate 25th anniversary

Ronnie and Voda Beth Gradine were honored with a surprise pasrty Saturday, July 12, in celebration of the couple's 25th wedding anniversary.

The couple's daughters, Arimy and Vondi, and prospective son-in-law, Dean Beasley, hosted the event at the 50-Yard Line restaurant in Lubbock.

Guests included Karen and Jerry Key of Lubbock, Theresa Patterson of Winters and Ronnie and Diane Graves, Randy and Jana McCallister, Donny and Donna Stelzer, Vickey and Danny Cooper, Larry, Kim and Megan Mills, Jane Odom, Devin Halford and Alexa Collier, all of Post.

Arimy Gradine honored at bridal shower

Arimy Gradine, bride-elect of Dean Beasley, was honored with a bridal shower Sunday, July 13, from 2-3:30 p.m. in the home of Tonya Kirkpatrick.

Guests were served assorted cookies, muffins, fresh fruit, nuts, mints and punch from a table decorated in the bride's colors of deep red, gold and white.

Special guests included the bride's mother and sister, Voda Beth and Vondi Gradine, and the groom's sisters, Darla Farrington and Marla Numez.

The couple's hostess gift was a barbecue grill. Hostesses for the event included Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Jane Odom, Janet Justice, Vickey Cooper, Pixie Grisham, Eddie Jo Miller, Mary Edwards, Diane Graves, LaGayluah McReynolds, Earline Bagby, Pam Humble, Marg Tannehill, Carolyn Black, Shelia Gregory, Jan Bartlett and Alexa Collier.

Bridal shower fetes April Drummond

April Drummond, bride-elect of Kelly Line, was feted with a bridal shower June 21 from 4-5 p.m. at the Citizens Bank Community Room.

Guests were served cookies and punch from a table decorated in the bride's colors of periwinkle, silver and white. As guests arrived, they signed a quilt square for the bride, as well as notes for a wish book for the couple.

Special guests included the bride's mother, Theresa Oliver; her grandmother, Anne Rogers; her sister, Maci Oliver; the maid of honor, Ruth Ledbetter; the groom's mother, Debbie Line; and grandmothers Gwen Line and Louise Bairrington.

The couple received a red Kitchen Aid stand mixer as a hostess gift.

Hostesses for the event included Marie Odom, Joyce Siewert, Cindy Johnson, Amy Pennell, J'Lynn Hodges, Karen Pennell, Christina Jones, Lauren Webb, Tammy Self and Alexa Collier.

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To Joyce, Marie, Cindy, Karen, Amy, Lauren, Leslie, Alexia, J'Lynn, Tammy, Jill and Christina: Thank you for the beautiful bridal shower. It meant so much to us. To all those who attended, Thank You for sharing in our joyous occassion.

With Thanks,
Kelly Line & April Drummond

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Living on the Edge of the Caprock

by Greg Jones, CEA-AG

Programs conducted by the Texas Cooperative Extension serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

Golf Tournament to Support 4-H Activities

The South Plains 4-H program will host a one-day golf tournament at the Plainview Country Club. The tournament is open to anyone wishing to play golf. The format for the tournament will be a four-person scramble. The field is limited to 96 golfers (24 teams).

The entry fee is \$50 per person (\$200 per team). Individuals are welcome. Entries are due August 4. Your entry fee covers the green fee, cart rental, mulligans, lunch, beverages, and all the fun you can have. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m. There will be a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start.

Trophies will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th teams. The tournament will include individual prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt, and door prizes.

The golf tournament supports two important South Plains 4-H activities. The Bob Benson Memorial 4-H Scholarship Bob Benson was a longtime county agent in the South Plains 4-H, District 2, (Hale County). Bob lost his battle with cancer in August 1999, and a memorial educational scholarship was developed in Bob's name for South Plains 4-H members. Fifty percent of the proceeds will be used to fund the scholarship.

Fifty percent of the proceeds will be used for The 4-H EXCELL Scholarship, a travel fund for South Plains 4-H members who have qualified for National 4-H activities. EXCELL stands for EXperience, Citizenship, and Examples for Lifetime Leadership.

You may sign up by coming by the County Extension Office at 215 West Main in Post, or call the Plainview Country Club at (806) 296-6148.

Garden Checklist for July - August

* Caladiums require plenty of water at this time of year if they are to remain lush and active until fall. Fertilize with 21-0-0 at the rate of 1/3 to 1/2 pounds per 100 square feet of bed area and water thoroughly.

* Don't allow plants with green fruit or berries to suffer from lack of moisture. Hollies will frequently drop their fruit under drought conditions.

* Prune dead or diseased wood from trees and shrubs. Hold off on major pruning from now until mid-winter. Severe pruning now will only stimulate tender new growth prior to frost.

* In August, sow seeds of snapdragons, dianthus, pansies, calendulas, and other winter flowers in flats for planting outside in mid- to late fall.

* It's time to divide spring flowering plants such as irises, Shasta daisies, ox-eye daisies, gaillardias, cannas, daylilies, violets, liriopes, and ajugas.

* Plant bluebonnet seeds in August. This winter annual must germinate in late summer or early fall, develop a good root system, and be ready to grow in spring when the weather warms. Plant the seeds in well prepared soil, 1/2 inch deep, and water thoroughly.

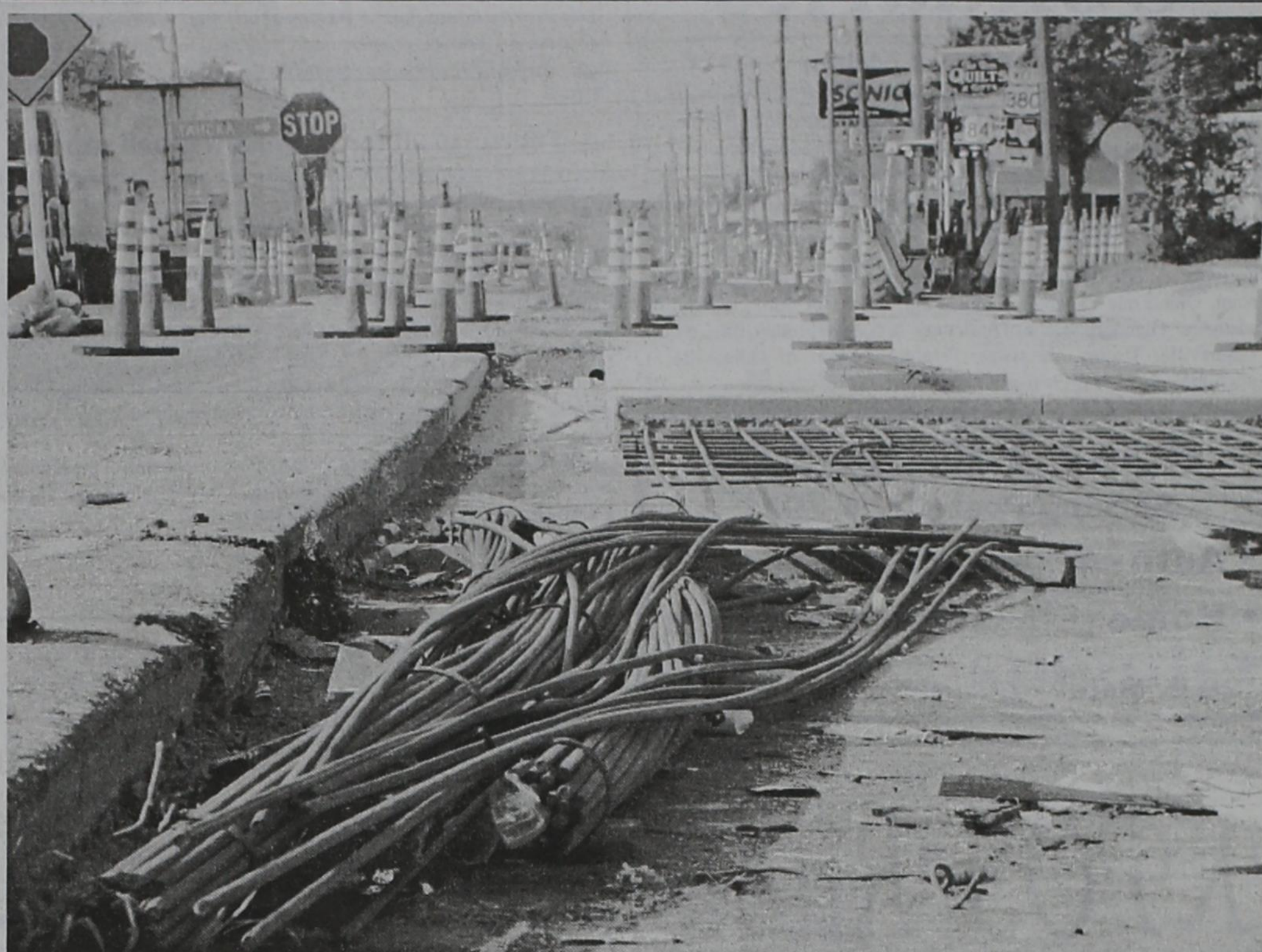
* Make your selections and place your orders for spring flowering bulbs to arrive in time for planting in October and November.

* Mid-summer pruning of rose bushes can be beneficial. Prune out dead canes and any weak, brushy-type growth. Cut back tall, vigorous bushes to about 30 inches. After pruning, apply a complete fertilizer, and water thoroughly. If a preventive disease-control program has been maintained, your rose bushes should be ready to provide an excellent crop of flowers this fall.

* Establish a new compost pile for the fall leaf accumulation.

* Picking flowers frequently encourages most annuals and perennials to flower even more abundantly.

* It is not too late to set out another planting of many warm-season annuals such as marigolds, zinnias, and periwinkles. They will require extra attention for the first few weeks but should provide color during late September, October, and November.



U.S. Hwy84 Construction ...

Recent clear weather has provided Granite Construction Co. crews good conditions for the major construction work on U.S. Hwy 84 through Post. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

Local Video News Daily

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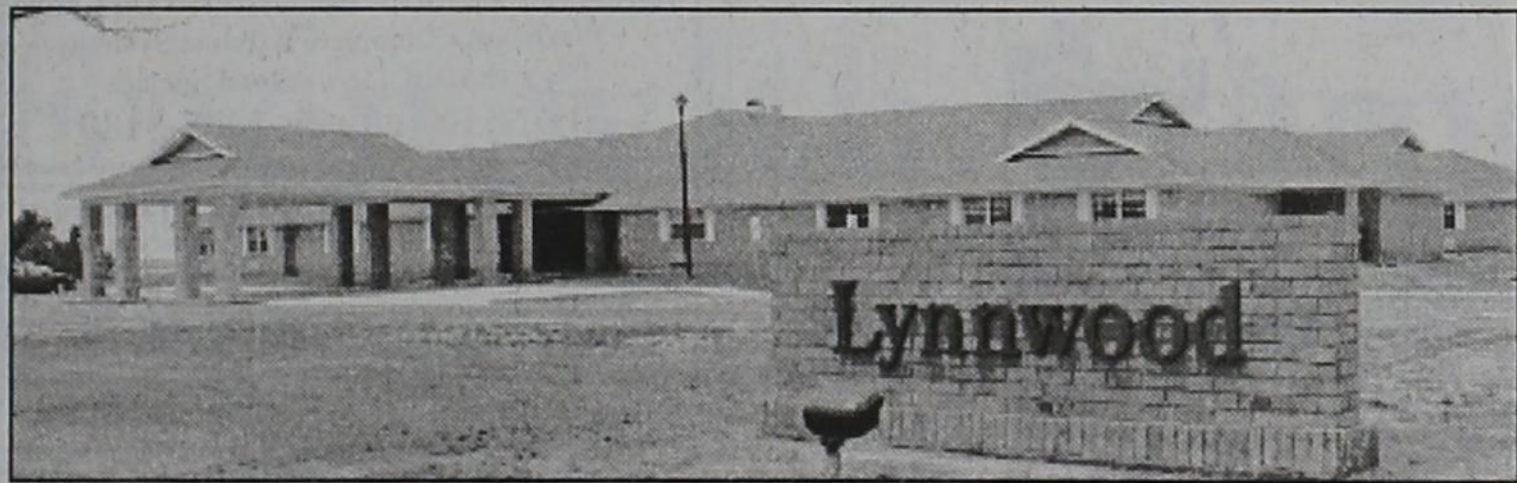
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Obituaries

Johnnie Louise Melton

Graveside services for Johnnie Louise Melton, 76, of Post were held at 2 p.m. July 20, 2003, in the Terrace Cemetery with the Rev. John Bill Hedrick officiating. Hudman Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

She died July 17 at University Medical Center in Lubbock. Born Nov. 3, 1926, in Cook County, Texas, she married Don Melton Dec. 14, 1946, in Fort Worth. He died in April 1982. She was a Baptist and a homemaker.

Survivors include two sons, Randy Melton of Post and Don Melton of Duncan, Okla.; one daughter, Donie Johnson of Hot Springs, Ark.; one stepdaughter, Glendora Sexton of Anderson, Texas; one brother, Bill Eddowes of Gainesville, Texas; one sister, Virginia Booker of Gainesville; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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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.

Thanks to all for fastpitch softball support

I would like to congratulate all the girls who played fast pitch softball for the 10-and-under Knockouts.

These girls competed in a highly competitive division and placed fourth out of 10 teams. Our overall record was 11-7.

The girls playing for the Knockouts are Miley McKee, Chelsi Hair, Miranda Hair, Amber Wilson, Syrira Perez, Kyla Perez, Teraka Cowley, Nicole Alvidrez, Ashley Henry, Kari Dunn, K.K. Horton and Krystal Ammons.

Three of the Knockouts were selected for All-Stars and competed in the All-Star Tournament held in Midland. Congratulations Teraka, Syrira and Miranda.

I would also like to thank all of the parents and sponsors of the Knockouts. Without you, none of this excitement would be possible. And a big thank-you to Lance Dunn for helping coach the team.

I look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Joey Cowley



Family Restaurant

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Special Programming Notes:

• Local News Events

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The art of grave digging

Seems like every time we pass by the Terrace Cemetery, another grave is being dug. Our friends, neighbors and relatives seem to be passing on at a faster rate. Maybe it's because I'm getting older and notice stuff like that.

When I see another grave being dug, it gives me some sort of unusual feeling. Maybe it's like the blues.

I'm sure my good friend, Bo Jackson, won't mind me telling this, but a backhoe is surely the only way to go. I'm sure Bo and any other person that reads this remembers the day before the backhoe was invented.

Grave digging, to me, gives some sort of strange feeling. Someone is returning to dust, and I suppose the soul will go somewhere.

I remember back in Oklahoma in the 1959-1967 years I belonged to a community grave-digging group. It was pick and shovel time. When a grave was dug, it was sort of like an event. We would dig a while, then talk about the person that was gonna be buried. I guess we would have a total discussion about it before we finally got the grave dug.

We dug graves one time for a family of four that died in a house fire. That still haunts me. We dug a grave that caved in while the funeral was going on, and we had to hurry and get it fixed before the body arrived. We dug an oversized one once for a big man. In those days, the vault was not required. We dug one oversized so a rock mason could wall it up with mortar and rocks.

Once we got too close to another grave and punched a hole in a casket with a pick. I can remember that we were all disappointed that that happened. We had a man from Beaver, Okla., come fix it.

Then one time we hit a rock in a grave and couldn't get it to the proper depth. It was left like that. I have always wondered if that poor guy could know if he's not six feet deep.

In late 1967 we dug a grave for one of my friends who lost his life in Vietnam. After that, I didn't want to dig any more graves.

Grave digging takes a sentimental toll on most people, and I'd bet my good friend, Bo Jackson, and his crews feel this unusual feeling every time they dig a grave. I notice that Bo and his crews take special precautions not to damage other graves or markers.

I don't suppose anyone ever noticed the work of a gravedigger. To me, grave digging is something special done by special people.

If I ever decide to start a new career, I don't want to be a gravedigger. Bo and his crews should be commended for their good work.

As I see it and my opinion only,

O.L. (Ferg) Ferguson

Soldier says thanks

I would like to take this time to say thank you to each and everyone from Post, Texas. All the prayers, letters, packages and support you had for me and my fellow Marines were greatly appreciated.

I would like to also include a special thank you to Sandy Smith and all who contributed to Operation of Post Support. It was a time of need that the community pulled together for those of us who are serving our country.

I would also continue to thank all those who supported my family during this difficult time. My family was thankful to all.

I tried to come around and tell everyone thank you, but due to my short leave I was unable to; however, I will leave with great spirits about this

(More Letters on Page 6)

Post Devotional Page

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI
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VIRTUOUS WOMAN
THROUGHOUT THE AGES A VIRTUOUS WOMAN HAD BEEN REVERED AND ESTEEMED BY ALL NATIONS AND THE BIBLICAL PEOPLE TENDED TO PUT HER IN A POSITION OF HIGH HONOR ALL ONE HAS TO DO IS TURN TO THE BOOK OF PROVERBS TO FIND THE POETIC DISSERTATION ON THE QUALITIES OF A VIRTUOUS WOMAN. "OPEN THY MOUTH, JUDGE RIGHTEOUSLY..." SAYS THE BOOK OF PROVERBS "WHO CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS WOMAN? FOR HER PRICE IS FAR ABOVE RUBIES." ACCORDING TO THE SAME CHAPTER OF PROVERBS "THE HEART OF HER HUSBAND DOETH SAFELY TRUST IN HER..." AND ACCORDING TO THIS VENERABLE BOOK "SHE WILL DO HIM GOOD AND NOT EVIL ALL THE DAYS OF HER LIFE." THE BIBLE'S PORTRAYAL OF ITS VIRTUOUS WOMAN GOES ON, "SHE STRETCHETH OUT HER HAND TO THE POOR, YEA, SHE REACHETH FORTH HER HANDS TO THE NEEDY, SHE OPENETH HER MOUTH WITH WISDOM, AND IN HER TONGUE IS THE LAW OF KINDNESS." THIS IS BUT A SMALL SEGMENT OF CHAPTER THIRTY ONE OF THE BOOK OF PROVERBS BUT ONE CAN SEE THAT THE BIBLICAL OPINION IS A STRONG ONE IN PRAISE OF A MORALLY CORRECT AND UPRIGHT WOMAN, AND TO GIVE THE BOOK OF PROVERBS THE LAST SAY "GIVE HER THE FRUIT OF HER HANDS, AND LET HER OWN WORKS PRAISE HER IN THE GATES!"

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Baptist		Lighthouse Christian Center Church of God	314 N. Ave I, 495-2237
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First Baptist Church, Wilson	628-6333	First Christian Church	812 W. 13th, 495-3716
Justiceburg Baptist Church	Justiceburg	Methodist	
Pleasant Home Baptist Church	E. 14th & N. Ave F	First United Methodist Church	216 W. 10th, 495-2942
Pleasant Valley Baptist	Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174	Graham Chapel United Methodist Church	495-3492
Templo Bautista	315 W. Main	Nazarene	
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Hey, big spender

by Bill O'Reilly

Outside of watching golf on TV, discussing the budget deficit is the most boring thing in sight. Eyes glaze over, heads drop and throats are cleared whenever the subject of government spending is broached. There is simply no way to engage Americans about the deficit except, maybe, by injecting sex into the discussion, which is exactly what I'm going to do!



The Bush administration is facing \$450 billion of red ink because it spends money the old-fashioned way: like Imelda Marcos. Mr. Bush wants you to like him. So he's allotting funds for just about everything, including sex. That's right, George W. Bush has a keen interest in sexual research that will cost the taxpayers at least \$1.5 million. The National Institutes of Health will soon begin studying four very vital sexual questions:

- Why do some Americans take sexual risks?
 - Do older American men experience a decline in sex?
 - What are the habits of Asian prostitutes in San Francisco?
 - And what about homosexuality among Native Americans?
- Now, as a guy who pays a ton of taxes, I really don't see the need for any of the above studies unless you are programming a cable television station. And because I love my country, I will volunteer to complete this study right now. The following research is rock solid.
- Americans take sexual risks because they are a) dumb; b) bored; c) self destructive; or d) all of the above
 - Old guys still like sex, but naps intrude on performance.
 - Asian prostitutes in San Francisco charge money and wear sweaters over their hot pants.
 - Leave Tonto and the Lone Ranger alone!

OK, there's your study, please put the \$1.5 million back in the Treasury.

And it gets worse, much worse. The Bush administration wants to spend an astounding \$300 million to convince welfare moms to get married. The thinking here is that traditional homes will not need welfare. Swell, but can't we get this message across for less than \$300 mil?

Can't we get J. Lo or someone to make a public service announcement gratis? Something like, "Hey, get married, girlfriend! Protect yourself from exploiters who will impregnate you and leave. You know what I'm sayin'?"

The truth is that the federal government spends money irresponsibly, and things are totally out of control. Last year, the feds actually paid some American women to watch porn flicks so a shrink at Northwestern University could measure their sexual arousal. The psychology professor recently issued a report that says women get turned on by all kinds of sexual depictions. That's good to know if you're Hugh Hefner, but what good does it do me and W?

Maybe someday the American people will rebel against the con that is being played on them by our federal government. I mean, come on, can't you just picture Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison sitting around saying, "You know, we should be studying those gay Indians. We need a federal agency doing that. Let's get that going right now."

And if any federal official had actually suggested studying the arousal patterns of women way back then, he would have been doing his research hanging upside down from a tree.

We have, indeed, come a long way from the Founders who envisioned a limited government that protected and served the people. Now, we serve the feds, funding useless, nonsensical programs designed to allow politicians to bring home the pork.

You may be bored by the federal deficit, and I don't blame you. But you should know that the president and Congress are heavily counting on that boredom. The less attention you pay to the deficit, the more they can run it up. Rampant government spending may not be sexy, but then again, it is getting some of us aroused.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the new book "The No Spin Zone," in addition to last year's best-selling book "The O'Reilly Factor: The Good, the Bad, and the Completely Ridiculous." To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com.
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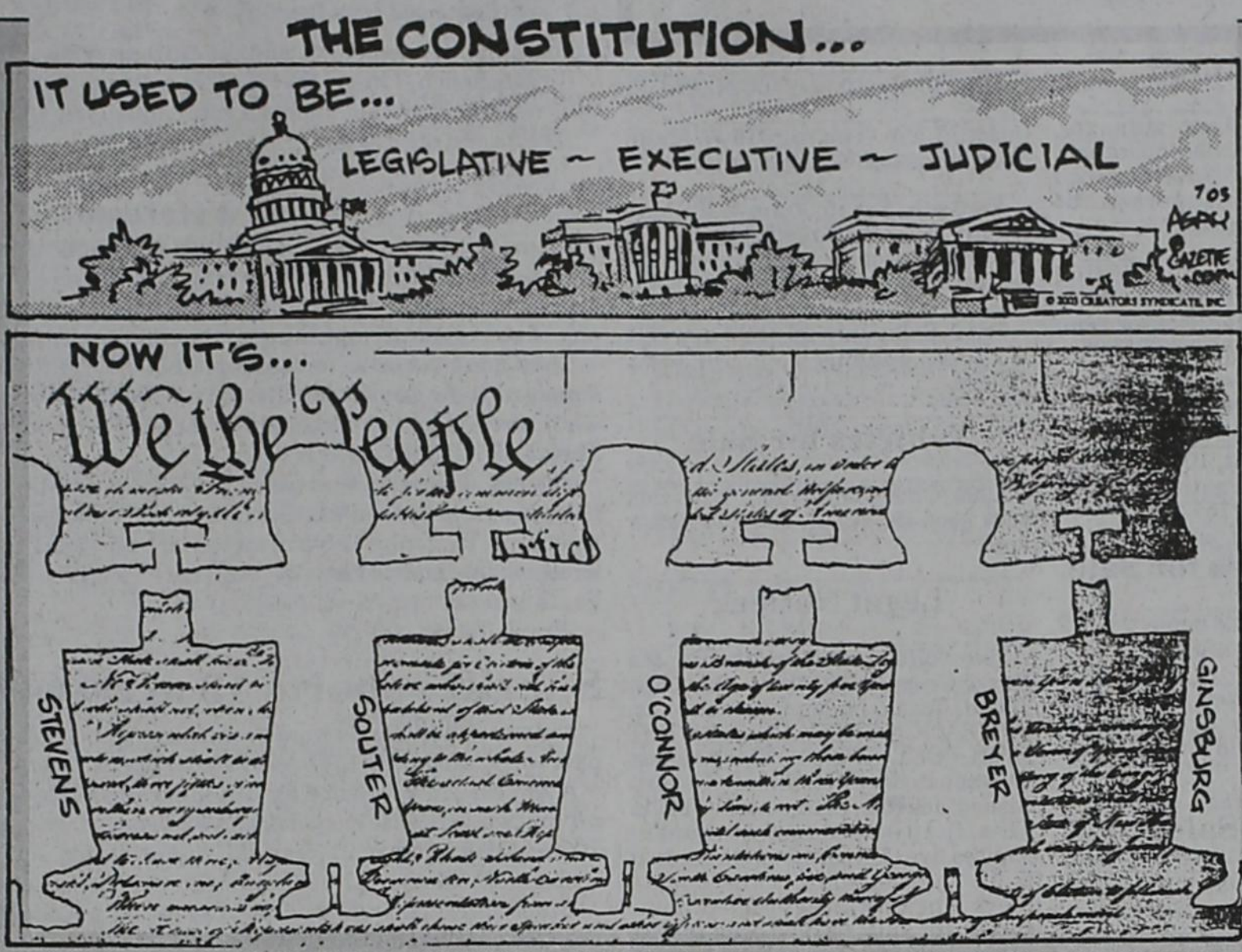
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And thereafter, we made it!

by Walter E. Williams



Whenever someone says that this or that government program is absolutely necessary, I always wonder, "What did people do and how did they survive before the program?"

If someone says food stamps are absolutely necessary for poor people's survival, I wonder how America's millions of poor immigrants made it. Unless I missed something, mass starvation is not a part of our history. Was there a stealth food stamp program during the 1700s and 1800s?

Then there's the question: How did we manage to build the world's greatest cities without the help of the 1965-created U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development? Did cities become worse off or better off afterward? Or, how did we manage to produce energy to fuel the world's richest economy before the 1977 creation of the Department of Energy?

Recently, I received an email titled, "We Made It." It had to do with the federal safety edicts of agencies like the U.S. Product Safety Commission, established in 1972, and the U.S. Department of Transportation, established in 1966. Congress created these and other agencies to "protect the public against unreasonable risks of injuries and deaths." That's how toys, cribs, child car seats and childproof medicine bottles came to be regulated. Considering we were a nation for nearly 200 years before Congress started protecting us against "unreasonable risks of injuries and deaths," a natural question is how we managed to survive and grow from a population of 4 million to the 280 million of us today.

According to my email's author, if we listen to Washington, those of us still around who were children during the '40s, '50s and '60s probably should be dead. Nonetheless, there are 58 million of us born in 1945 or earlier who are still kicking. Our parents allowed us to sleep in cribs beautified with lead-based paint.

They drove us around in cars that had neither seatbelts nor airbags. They permitted us to ride our bicycles without helmets, just

as adults rode motorcycles without helmets. And, horror of horrors, there were no childproof medicine bottles that, by the way, are sometimes so difficult to open that some people summon their children to open them.

The fact that these safety edicts saved some lives and prevented some injuries doesn't provide justification for them anymore than mandating that, because some Americans have headaches, aspirin be put in the water supply.

In a free society, government has the responsibility of protecting us from others, but not from ourselves. Before government got into the business of protecting us from ourselves, we did have a greater measure of protection from others.

Yesteryear's children rode their bikes or walked to a friend's house, knocked on the door and let themselves in. Many families didn't lock doors until the last family member was home for the evening, and they did that in poor neighborhoods like the one I grew up in.

Yesteryear, when we went off to school, parents might have worried about our crossing streets safely. Today's parents have a different set of worries, such as whether their child will be shot, stabbed, robbed, raped or given drugs in school.

During the pre-1960 years, neighborhoods — including poor neighborhoods — were safe enough for women to walk the streets after dark. In fact, in places like Harlem, N.Y., hot, humid nights saw children and adults sleeping on fire escapes and rooftops. Doing the same today might lead to arrest for attempted suicide.

Speaking of crime, if children did have a scrape with the law, our parents sided with the police.

Don't you wonder how so many Americans made it without today's oppressive, caring, nanny government?

To find out more about Walter Williams, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Even with weapons, Hussein was no threat

by Sheldon Richman

The glaring absence of unconventional Iraqi arms should not blind us to the fact that even if Saddam Hussein had amassed chemical, biological, and - yes - even nuclear weapons, he would not have posed a threat to the American people. As offensive tools, those weapons would have been useless.

How could that be? Simply put, with the United States and Israel armed with the most sophisticated weapons imaginable - including nuclear bombs - it is unthinkable that the former Iraqi president would have embarked on the suicidal mission of attacking either nation. From recent history (Libya, Iran) he already knew that to sponsor even a conventional terrorist attack on Americans or Israelis would bring deadly retaliation. This explains why he never supplied Palestinians with any of the unconventional weapons he possessed in the past.

It should be kept in mind that until recently chemical and biological weapons have not been regarded as weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). This is a category deliberately broadened for rhetorical purposes - to spook the American people into supporting an offensive war against a government that did not attack them or, indeed, even show signs of wanting to.

Why are chemical and biological weapons not classified as WMDs? Because it is difficult - although not impossible - to use them to kill large numbers of people. Weather and other conditions have to be just right. A shift in wind can send a poisonous cloud back over one's own forces. Killing masses of people is far easier with conventional bombs such as those used by the U.S. government in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Serbia. The power to define is the power to control. Some of the most lethal weapons on earth are held by the U.S. government but are not classified as weapons of mass destruction. Yet if even one vile of old anthrax is found buried deep in the ground in Iraq, it will be proclaimed as proof that Hussein had an arsenal capable of killing multitudes. This would be propaganda, not rational analysis.

Nuclear weapons, on the other hand, are and have been properly classified as capable of mass destruction. But what good would they have done Hussein? Not much. He is anything but suicidal. Yet using nuclear weapons against the United States or Israel would have meant almost certain death for him and his regime.

Their uselessness as offensive weapons does not mean that Hussein

would have had no interest in acquiring them. There are other uses besides offense: specifically, deterrence and prestige. There are two obvious reasons for someone like Hussein to want a couple of nuclear weapons on hand. As for the first, the example of North Korea come to mind. No one believes that the United States will treat Kim Jong Il as it treated Saddam Hussein. The reason is that Kim may already have a nuclear deterrent, and the U.S. authorities don't want to endanger the people of South Korea.

Deterrence works, and Hussein knew it. In the past he got pushed around. In 1981 Israel, using U.S.-supplied weapons and satellite photography, bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor (which some authorities outside of Iraq claimed was only a power plant), and the United States drove him out of Kuwait 10 years later. Hussein could do nothing but stand by and watch. The irony of Israel's action was that Iraq had signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and was subject to annual inspections, while Israel, which has had nuclear bombs for decades, has never signed the treaty, does not officially acknowledge the existence of those weapons, and does not permit inspections. Israel's attack on the installation was a clear declaration that it intended to enforce its nuclear monopoly in the Middle East.

How was Hussein to establish himself as the leader of the Arab world if such things could repeatedly happen? He needed the bomb to deter a repetition and to establish himself as a leader with clout against the West.

The bottom line is that even if Iraq had tried to acquire uranium from Niger and centrifuge-suitable aluminum tubes, its nuclear program would have given Saddam Hussein no means of threatening the American people.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) in Fairfax, Va., author of *Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State*, and editor of *Ideas on Liberty* magazine.

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Card of Thanks

We would like to thank everyone for the donations made to help Shania with her medical expenses. Also for all of the phone calls and prayers that were made and said in her honor. We could not have done it without your help. A special thanks to Zulema Asebedo, Bridgett Ayala, and Rosemary Calderon for all your help with the dinner. God bless each one of you.

Veronica Chapa
The Quintana Family

We would like to thank everyone for the food, flowers and services performed in our time of loss. Raymond Lewis Bennett was dear to our hearts and to see he was read to

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others helped us alot! Thanks so much to Mike Holly for the service it touched our hearts and made us feel more at peace. Thanks to Theona Josey and family, Don & Ruth Walls, Alva Shepard, the A.E. Redmans, all our friends and neighbors, Jerry & Wanda Osborn, and all the people that helped with lunch at the Community Center, form the Dalby Correctional Facility, Herman & Diane Guthrie, Sammy & Robbie Palmer, the people in Lubbock who brought food to the Scotts home. Joe & Don Stroud, Sonny & Rene Mason and family, Curtis Hudman, Tommy & Jerri Reed, Weldon & Marita Reed, and anyone else I may not have mentioned. God bless you all.

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Yard sale: Sat., 9:00 am-?, 308 May (Henry St.). Boys clothes 8-10, 4-5 yrs, shoes, womens clothes, wooden crafts, baby accessories, misc.

Patio Sale: July 26, 9:00 am, 801 W. 15th, 4-family sale. No early callers.

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Post ISD is accepting bids for a 72 passenger bus until 1 p.m. Friday, July 25th, 2003. Bids will be opened by the Superintendent in the Administration Office at 501 South Ave K, Post, TX at that time. For specifications, contact Darrell Jones at 778-7359.

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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.

(Continued from Page 4)

community, my hometown and the citizens of Post, Texas. God bless you all. In conclusion, I know that if we're called to redeploy to another mission, it is now realized that we have your support at 100 percent.

Thank you once again.
LCPL Steve Martinez USMC

Who's a statesman?

I must say I was very disappointed as I watched the video of our county commissioner's court meeting of July 14th when I heard Judge Dalby assert "I don't believe I've ever set myself out to be a statesman, but I don't guess any of you all have" (speaking to the commissioners).

They don't seem to understand that STATESMEN is what they are supposed to be as elected officials! (Webster defines a statesman as "one who exercises political leadership wisely and without narrow partisanship") They JUST DON'T GET IT!!!

It's not surprising that we've got problems. Maybe the whole bunch of them need to go to an ethics class...or maybe they need to attend "shopaholics" meetings. That might help them to learn how NOT to spend our tax dollars irresponsibly and/or illegally! And may I suggest that they start trying to be statesmen!

Frank Tobias

Sheriff reports 19 arrests last week

Nineteen individuals were booked into the Garza County Jail during the past week, according to sheriff's department records.

A 28-year-old was jailed for driving while intoxicated/second offense and driving while license suspended. A 32-year-old was picked up for revocation of probation, and a 21-year-old was arrested for driving while license suspended. Another 21-year-old was arrested on a Garza County warrant.

Other arrests included an 18-year-old on a Nolan County warrant; a 20-year-old on a Lynn County warrant; a 22-year-old, assault/family violence; a 47-year-old, assault/family violence; and a 32-year-old, assault/family violence. An 18-year-old also was arrested for possession of marijuana, under two ounces.

A 29-year-old was jailed for assault, while a 42-year-old was picked up on driving while intoxicated/first offense. A 32-year-old was arrested on a Department of Public Safety warrant.

Two individuals, ages 20 and 21, were jailed for public intoxication.

A 38-year-old was picked up for parole violation, while two individuals, ages 27 and 31, were arrested on Garza County warrants. Also, a 22-year-old was picked up on a Travis County warrant.

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Fastpitch Softball All-Stars (back row, left to right) Coach Lisa White, manager Chris Belongia, Lisa Hamilton, Ashley Young, Kayla Morris, Lacey White, Kayla Osuna, Coaches Jawuita Blevins and Johnny Redford, (front row) Lorissa Bedford, Steffi Norman, Alana Zubia, Traci Nelson, Allison Blevins and Cheri Sharp. (Photo by Rhonda Norman)

Local girls compete in All-Star fastpitch softball tournament

Ten Post girls participated in the ASA All-Star Fastpitch Softball Tournament July 18-20 in Midland. Sixty-eight teams participated in the tournament.

Lacey White, Steffi Norman, Kayla Morris, Traci Nelson, Allison Blevins, Alana Zubia and Ashley Young played for the South Plains Blue Girls 18-and-under team coached by Chris Belongia, Lisa White and Jaquita Blevins. SP Blue won their first game against the Midland Liberty 6-5, but lost their next two games to Midland True Colors 1-3 and Monahans 2-6. The team defeated the San Angelo Storm 6-3, then lost to Monahans 0-13. They finished the tourney against the Storm, losing a nine-inning game 8-9.

Playing for the South Plains Lubbock Blue Crush 10-and-under team were Teraka Cowley and Serena Perez. The Blue Crush won their first two games against Kermit 2-0 and Midland Express 4-1, but lost their third game to Alpine 2-3 before beating Monahans 5-1.

They were eliminated from the

SPC Peace Officer Academy earns exemplary rating

The South Plains College criminal justice program is only one of two criminal justice programs in the state to receive an exemplary rating from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The program received exemplary ratings in both Institutional Effectiveness Cycle I and Cycle II, which cover a span of about eight years. Hill College was the other recipient.

"Clearly, the (SPC) program operates in a mode of continuous excellence," said Dr. David Couch, director of institutional effectiveness for the board's Community and Technical Colleges Division.

Federal and state laws require that college programs be reviewed every four years. "Because of the sheer number of programs in the state, it takes four years to review them all," said Dr. Couch. "We finished two complete cycles, representing eight years, last April. A member of my staff performed a recent trend analysis that revealed SPC's exemplary status. To be exemplary for that length of time is quite an accomplishment."

SPC's criminal justice program submitted documentation on such areas as gender and ethnicity of the students, which met criteria for the review. The rating covers all aspects of SPC's academic law enforcement efforts, including a basic peace officer academy.

"We are totally excited," said Larry Nichols, chairperson of the Professional Services and Energy Department and professor of law enforcement. "We are very pleased that the program received state recognition. It's a pat on the back for the instructors and the support we get from the administration."



tournament with a 1-2 loss to Kermit. Miranda Hair played for the 10-and-under Lubbock Red team. They won their first game against Eldorado, then lost to Odessa National, Odessa American, Jal and San Angelo.

Supporters and sponsors helping to send the teams to the tournament included Strawn Transport, B&ALP Gas Inc., Matt Hamel AG Products, H&M Dirt Contractors, Ira Pump & Supply Co. Inc., Handy Oilfield Supply, Kurt Chapman, Lynn Holcomb, L&N Construction (Melco Services Inc.), Mason Brothers, Jenkins Electric, Johnny and Sandy Smith, Dalby Cattle Co., Judge Giles

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Plum Crazy, Wells Pharmacy, Main Street Mercantile, Central Bail Bond, Hudman Funeral Home, Charles McCook and David Stelzer.



All-Star 10 and under "Blue Crush" are (back row, left to right) Matt Driskell, Brittney Bednarz, Rebecca Neel, Kristen Bain, Coach Scott Parker, Lindsey Parker, Chelsey Driskell, Kenzie Carnell, Coach Jeff Carnell, (front row) Maddie Johnson, Mallory Villegas, Teraka Cowley, Syrina Perez and Hannah Limmer.



Post Senior League team finishing second place in District 2 and winning the first round championship playoff game are (back row, left to right) Coach Rodney Gray, Byron Scruggs, Andrew Espinoza, League President Greg Williams, Javen Abraham, Josh Lee, Manager Cain Abraham, Justin Williams, Coach Wayne McKim, Theo Paiz, (front row) Eric Reyna, Miles Gray, Zach Perez, Randon Blacklock, Zach Lopez and Brice Feagin. Lubbock Dixie took first place, O'Donnell placed third, Lubbock Southwest took fourth and Lubbock Midwest placed fifth.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

SPECIAL ELECTION

SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

PROPOSITION 1 (HJR 68, Section 1)

HJR 68, Section 1 would authorize the Veterans' Land Board to use excess receipts in the Veterans' Land and Veterans' Housing Assistance funds for payment of revenue bonds, and use excess assets in those funds to provide veterans homes.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide veterans homes for the aged or infirm and to make principal, interest, and bond enhancement payments on revenue bonds."

PROPOSITION 2 (HJR 51)

HJR 51 would expand from six months to two years the period in which the former owner of a mineral interest that was sold for unpaid property taxes may buy back the mineral interest.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to establish a two-year period for the redemption of a mineral interest sold for unpaid ad valorem taxes at a tax sale."

PROPOSITION 3 (HJR 55)

HJR 55 would authorize the legislature to exempt from taxation land owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that will be used to expand or construct a place of religious worship that yields no revenue.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation property owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that is owned with the intent of expanding or constructing a religious facility."

PROPOSITION 4 (SJR 30)

SJR 30 would authorize the legislature to allow conservation and reclamation districts to use taxes to develop and finance certain parks and recreational facilities. Also, the amendment would authorize the legislature to allow local elections for the issuance of bonds to improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities in the Tarrant Regional Water District or a conservation and reclamation district located in whole or in part in Bastrop, Bexar, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Tarrant, Travis, Waller or Williamson County.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain conservation and reclamation districts."

PROPOSITION 5 (SJR 25)

SJR 25 would authorize the legislature to exempt from all property taxes certain tangible personal property, which could include a travel trailer not substantially affixed to real estate and not used as a residential dwelling.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers not held or used for the production of income."

PROPOSITION 6 (HJR 23)

HJR 23 would authorize a qualified homeowner to refinance a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage."

PROPOSITION 7 (HJR 44)

HJR 44 would reduce the number of persons who make up the jury in a district court criminal misdemeanor case from twelve to six.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a six-person jury in a district court misdemeanor trial."

PROPOSITION 8 (HJR 62)

HJR 62 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies to state and local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 18 applies only to local political subdivisions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to take office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."

PROPOSITION 9 (HJR 68, Section 2)

HJR 68, Section 2 would redefine the com-

position of the permanent and available school funds by requiring during the next two fiscal years, and authorizing thereafter, annual distributions to the available school fund of a percentage of any increase in the value of the permanent school fund's total investment assets.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the use of income and appreciation of the permanent school fund."

PROPOSITION 10 (HJR 61)

HJR 61 would authorize municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment, supplies, or materials to the Texas Forest Service, which would be authorized to distribute based on need the equipment to rural volunteer fire departments.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments."

PROPOSITION 11 (HJR 85)

HJR 85 would authorize the legislature to regulate the operation of wineries in Texas, regardless of whether a winery is located in an area in which the sale of wine has been authorized by local option election.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "A constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to enact laws authorizing and governing the operation of wineries in this state."

PROPOSITION 12 (HJR 3)

HJR 3 would immediately authorize the Legislature to limit non-economic damages assessed against a provider of medical or health care and, after January 1, 2005, to limit awards in all other types of cases.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment concerning civil lawsuits against doctors and health care providers, and other actions, authorizing the legislature to determine limitations on non-economic damages."

PROPOSITION 13 (HJR 16)

HJR 16 would authorize a county, city, town, and junior college district to freeze property taxes on a residential homestead of a person who is disabled or aged 65 or older.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit counties, cities and towns, and junior college districts to establish an ad valorem tax freeze on residence homesteads of the disabled and of the elderly and their spouses."

PROPOSITION 14 (HJR 28)

HJR 28 would authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to issue

notes or borrow money to fund highway improvement projects. The terms of the notes or loans may not exceed two years. The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for authorization of the issuing of notes or the borrowing of money on a short-term basis by a state transportation agency for transportation-related projects, and the issuance of bonds and other public securities secured by the state highway fund."

PROPOSITION 15 (HJR 54)

HJR 54 would prohibit a local retirement system and the political subdivision that finances the retirement system from reducing or otherwise impairing certain accrued benefits under the local retirement system.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The Constitutional amendment providing that certain benefits under certain local public retirement systems may not be reduced or impaired."

PROPOSITION 16 (SJR 42)

SJR 42 would amend the Texas Constitution to allow home equity lines of credit and allow refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing a home equity line of credit, providing for administrative interpretation of home equity lending law, and otherwise relating to the making, refinancing, repayment, and enforcement of home equity loans."

PROPOSITION 17 (HJR 21)

HJR 21 would prohibit an increase in school property taxes on residence homesteads of disabled persons.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to prohibit an increase in the total amount of school district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of a disabled person."

PROPOSITION 18 (HJR 59)

HJR 59 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies only to local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 8 applies to state and local political subdivisions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."

PROPOSITION 19 (SJR 45)

SJR 45 would repeal the legislature's

authority to create rural fire prevention districts. Effective September 1, 2003, all existing rural fire prevention districts will convert to emergency services districts.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to repeal the authority of the legislature to provide for the creation of rural fire prevention districts."

PROPOSITION 20 (SJR 55)

SJR 55 would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds in a total amount not to exceed \$250 million that will be used to provide loans for economic development projects that benefit defense-related communities in Texas.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes not to exceed \$250 million payable from the general revenues of the state to provide loans to defense-related communities, that will be repaid by the defense-related community, for economic development projects, including projects that enhance the military value of military installations."

PROPOSITION 21 (SJR 19)

SJR 19 would authorize current and retired faculty members of a public institution of higher education to receive compensation for service as a member of the governing body of a water district.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a current or retired faculty member of a public college or university to receive compensation for service on the governing body of a water district."

PROPOSITION 22 (HJR 84)

HJR 84 would authorize the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to serve on behalf of a state, district, or local public officer who is called into active military duty for longer than 30 days.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to fill a vacancy created when a public officer enters active duty in the United States armed forces."

Estos son los informes explicatorios sobre las enmiendas propuestas a la constitución que aparecerán en la boleta el 13 de septiembre de 2003. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis llamando al 1/800/252/8683 o escribiendo al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, TX 78711.