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The Post Dispatch

78th Year Number 19 USPS 439-620 © 2003 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 75¢ Thursday, October 9, 2003

Post, White River agree on water distribution

A longstanding agreement between the City of Post and the White River Municipal Water District was amended last week to allow the municipality to purchase water from the City of Slaton.

The city council and water district board of directors approved the amendment, which was rewritten to accommodate the city's plans to purchase water from Slaton.

"The City shall not obtain water from any outside source other than the District, except that the City may obtain water from the

City of Slaton, Texas, under the Operating Parameters and Requirements set forth in Exhibit 'A'..." the agreement reads.

According to Exhibit 'A,' Post plans to operate its 'Post-Slaton System (PSS)' year 'round while continuing to receive water from the WRMWD. In an effort to minimize stagnation of water within the 'District Delivery System (DDS),' several operating procedures have been established. Those procedures are as follows:

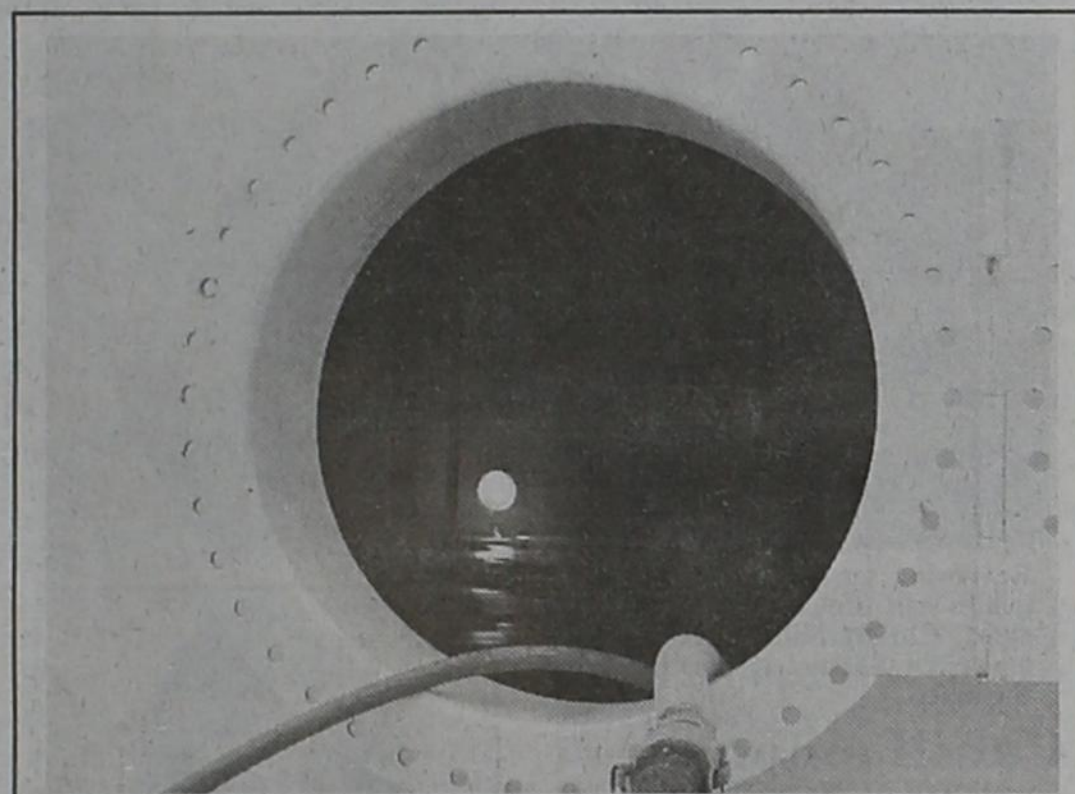
- During non-drought periods, the PSS and DDS will be oper-

ated on three-day cycles. On the first day of each cycle, the city will allow water from the PSS to enter the Post distribution system through the operation of the automatic flow control valve located adjacent to the city's million-gallon elevated water storage tank. The district will not operate its high service pumps to supply water to the Post distribution system. On days two and three of the cycle, the city will close the automatic valve at the elevated storage tank, and the district will operate its high service pumps to supply water to Post.

- During periods of drought in

which the district has implemented a water restriction program, the WRMWD will deliver to Post that amount of water prescribed in the district's Drought Contingency Plan. The city may receive an unrestricted amount of water from the City of Slaton.

The original agreement between the city and the water district, enabling Post to purchase water from the WRMWD, was signed Aug. 25, 1960. That agreement stipulated that the city could not purchase water from an outside source "except to the extent that the District is unable to supply water to the City..."



Cleaning of the one million gallon storage tank near Slaton got underway Monday in preparation for filling the tank with water from the Canadian River Municipal Water District. Water is expected to be flowing through the Post water distribution system within 10 days. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

Dalby Correctional facility completes multi-purpose bldg.

The recently completed 2250-square-foot multi-purpose building at the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility was recently dedicated.

The new structure features a large meeting room for inmate orientation, education and vocational classes, graduation ceremonies and religious services.

The chaplain's office also will be housed in the building.

Ground for the building was broken in April. The structure was completed July 31.

Among those attending the Sept. 19 dedication were Warden L. Joe Rasbeary and MTC Correctional Programs vice president Hartzel Black.

Rasbeary addressed the group, followed by remarks from Black to the inmates who made up the first graduating class of the new Mexican Consulate GED education program. The program at the Dalby facility is a cooperative effort between the Dalby Education Dept. and the Mexican Consulate and is designed to afford inmates the opportunity to complete their education. MTC is looking at expanding the program into its other units.

Thirty-one inmates graduated from the Vocational Building Class and were recognized for their part in completing work on the building.

Sixteen inmates graduated from the Mexican Consulate Education Program in alphabetization, primary and secondary classes.

Post Notes

United Way volleyball tourney

The Garza County United Way has set its 2nd Annual Volleyball Tournament for Saturday, October 18. Fees are \$10 per person, maximum of seven people per team. For more information call Anna at 495-0733.

Community Network computer training

The Post-Garza Community Network is offering a four session, "Beginning Excel" computer course October 20, 21, 27 and 28. The course is provided free of charge to Post and Garza County residents. Classes will be held at the high school media center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information or to register, call Shellee Odom at 495-3343. The class size is limited.

Lubbock Renegades seek football players

The Lubbock Renegades, a newly formed semi-pro football team, is holding tryouts Sunday, October 19 at 1 p.m. at the Maxey Park, 30th and Quaker Avenue in Lubbock. Aspiring football players will receive a T-Shirt with the \$10 tryout sign-up fee. For more information contact Pete Payen at (806) 675-6000 or (806) 675-6008 or at (806) 675-8091 after 6 p.m.

Post Booster Club offers Twill shirts

Orders are now being accepted by the Post Antelope Booster Club for Twill long sleeve shirts. Women's and men's sizes small, medium, large and extra large are priced at \$27.50. Larger sizes are \$2, \$3 and \$4 additional. Place orders with Terri Cash at 495-1331 or 495-3355 or Larry Mills at 495-3719.

Booster Club seeks help with painting

Post ISD is purchasing a new equipment trailer with the Antelope Booster Club providing lettering for the trailer. The club is seeking sponsorships for the work. Businesses and individuals may have their names placed on the trailer gate for a donation of \$100. The trailer should arrive in four or five weeks and will be on display at that time. Anyone interested in sponsoring should contact Jeff Lott at 495-2989.

United Way Autumn Jubilee

A Garza County United Way Autumn Jubilee will be held Saturday, October 25 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Post Community Center. There will be door prizes every hour starting at 9 p.m., you must be present to win. The jubilee is a family event with \$10 a person admission, \$15 per couple or \$20 per family. All proceeds benefit and assist member organizations of the local United Way.

Lord's Acre celebration Oct. 19

The community is invited to enjoy fellowship, dining and musical blessings at the annual Lord's Acre celebration Sunday, October 19 at 6 p.m. in the Post Community Center. The event is sponsored by the First United Methodist Church and the Family Harvest Church. A silent auction will be held, call Tonya Kirkpatrick at 629-4054, Carolyn Black, 495-2184 or the church office, 495-2942 to donate items for the auction and to RSVP for the event. Please RSVP by October 15.

Public library extends hours

The Post Public Library has extended its hours to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

United Way raffle tickets for rifle

Raffle tickets are now on sale at \$1 each to win a Ruger Model 77R Mark II rifle from Mason Farm & Ranch Supply. The rifle includes American walnut stock, hand checkered three position safety, fixed ejector, receiver with integral dovetail bases and Ruger rings. Winner picks the caliber. The drawing will be held at the United Way chili cook-off at 7 p.m., November 8 at the Algerita Park. Participants need not be present to win. To buy a raffle ticket, call Jeff McAuley at 495-0733 or Mo Herridge at 806-756-4487.

A brighter Christmas for Main Street

The Post Commerce & Tourism Bureau is encouraging Main Street property owners and merchants to assist with the new Christmas lighting plans. The plan calls for using clear light bulbs for decorating buildings. Local outlets have clear light bulbs in stock and Mad Dads Inc. will offer its services for hanging the lights on buildings. Call Rodney Tidwell at 495-1244 or 620-0960. The Post Lighted Christmas Parade is set for Saturday, December 6. To enter a float, call the PCTB office at 495-3461. Cash prizes will be awarded to the best floats.

Relay For Life committee meeting

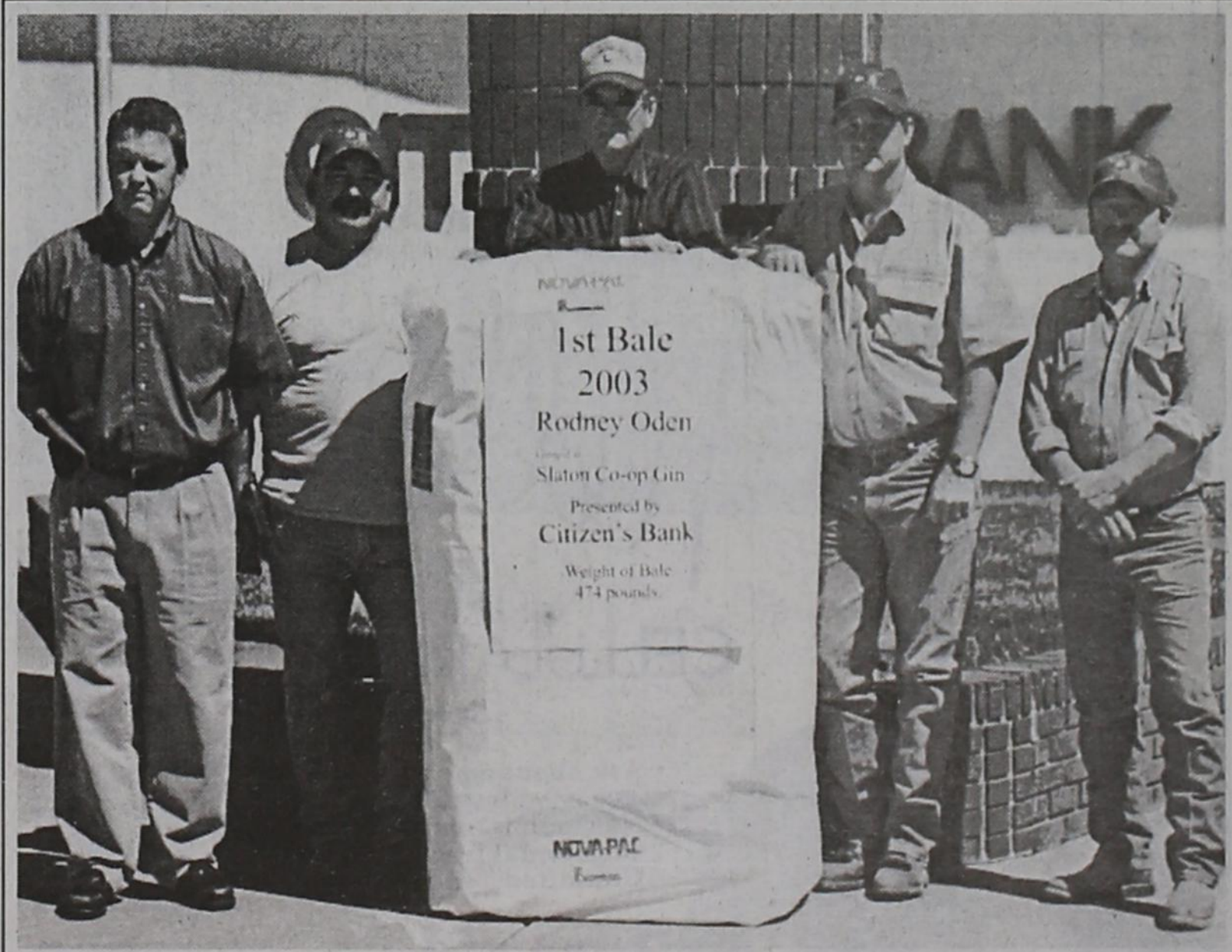
The Relay For Life Committee meeting will be held at 5 p.m., October 14 at the Wells Fargo Community Room. Anyone interested in serving on this year's planning committee for the 2004 Relay For Life is urged to attend.



Garza County Sheriff's deputies kept the traffic moving during last Sunday's traffic jam on U.S. Hwy 84. Southbound travelers were stacked up past the city limits as Texas Tech and Texas A&M fans returned home following the big clash between the Aggies and Red Raiders Saturday evening in Lubbock.



Pride of Post Marching Band members performing at Perryton are (left to right) Kassie Parrish, Tana Starkey, Eric Reyna, REbecca Striblin and Lawrence Adams. Band members will compete Saturday in Plainview at a practice UIL marching contest in preparation for the October 18 Regional Marching Contest. (Photo by Tim Burnett)



Rodney Oden of Post recorded the first bale of cotton ginned in Slaton from his Garza County farm west of Post. CitizensBANK made the first bale award. The cotton was ginned at the Slaton Coop Gin. Marking the event were (left to right) CitizensBANK's John Robinson, Frank Cavazos, Slaton Coop Gin's Bobby Britton, Oden and Seferino Hinojosa. The first bale came off of three acres, weighed 474 pounds and yielded 790 pounds of seed. (Photo courtesy The Slatonite)

PHS Pep Rally Post High School home game pep rallies will be held Fridays at 9:05 a.m. at the old high school gymnasium.

Post Antelopes v. New Deal Lions - LIVE Play-by-Play Action 7:15 p.m. Friday on KPOS Radio - Cable Network Advertising (Classic Cable Channel 12)

Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush

Hey everyone,



Well, Fall is really in the air. The weather has been wonderful and sure made Trade Days nice. My week end guest really enjoyed Trade Days Saturday and could not stop giving Post compliments. Made me proud to live here!!

GUEST'S IN OUR HOME

Ricky and I enjoyed a week end visit from some "old" friends from

Sherman. Pat and Charlie Lowry spent Friday night and Saturday with us. Their son Matthew is the youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Snyder, so we have enjoyed getting to see them. Pat is a realtor in Sherman and loves to visit small towns and their shops. She was bowled over with Post. She thought it was the most unique down town she had seen in a long time and really loved Old Mill. Being with someone like Pat sure makes you look at your home town in a different light. I've always been proud of Post, but just

listening to her made me look at "home" a little different.

REPORT ON BIL

Just wanted to let everyone know that Bil Hedrick is improving daily. She still has a ways to go, but thank the Lord, she is on the road at least. You are in my prayers Bil and many others too.

TO VICKI AND RODNEY

I am so happy to report that Vicki and Rodney were so lucky last week after their accident. The last that I have been able to find out is that Vicki is still in SICU (on Monday_ but that she will recover after some rehab. She is scheduled for surgery again today. (Tuesday) Rodney was released from the New Mexico hospital but is black and blue and bruised up. Vicki is in UMC and needs everyone's prayers as does Rodney.

ANOTHER BLONDE JOKE

(Thanks to my friend Sue Williams) Three blondes died and found themselves standing before St. Peter. He told them that before they could enter the Kingdom, they had to tell him what Easter was.

The first blonde said, "Easter is a holiday where they have a big feast and we give thanks and eat a turkey." St. Peter said, "Noooooo," and he banished her to h-e-l-l.

The second blonde said, "Easter is when we celebrate Jesus' birth and exchange gifts." St. Peter said, "Noooooo," and he banished her to h-e-l-l. The third blonde said she knew what Easter is, and St. Peter said, "So tell me."

She said, "Easter is a Christian holiday that coincides with the Jewish festival of Passover. Jesus was having Passover feast with His disciples when he was betrayed by Judas, and the Romans arrested him.

The Romans hung Him on the cross and eventually He died. Then they buried Him in a tomb behind a very large boulder.... St. Peter said, "verrrry good."

Then the blonde continued, "Now every year the Jews roll away the boulder and Jesus comes out. If he sees his shadow, we have six more weeks of basketball." St. Peter fainted!

CONGRATS

I just wanted to say congratulations to Rusty and Melanie Morris on their new arrival. Also to Jack and Jean for their new grandbaby. The new little one is Jacob but I understand they are going to call him "Jake". Congrats everyone.

TILL NEXT WEEK

Hope all of you have a great weekend. May the good Lord bless and keep you. See ya next week. GO LOPES!!!!!!

Community responds to Health and Fitness Fair Event

Texas Cooperative Extension sponsored a Health and Fitness Fair on October 1, 2003 which was held at the Post Community Center. The Fair was a free event and the public was welcome and encouraged to attend, view, and visit with exhibitors and take advantage of the free services offered at the Health and Fitness Fair.

Organizations participating in the event included Garza County Texas Cooperative Extension Service, United Blood Services of Lubbock, South Plains Community Action, Calvert Home Health Clinic, Hospice of Lubbock, the Community Recovery Center, the Garza County Health Clinic, the American Parkinson's Disease Association, Covenant Home Health Care, Women's Protective Services, First Care Medicaid and FC CHIP, the STAR Program, and the Region 1 Prevention Center. These organizations support and participation were greatly appreciated.

Approximately 70 residents took advantage of Flu and pneumonia shots that were offered during the clinic by Calvert Home Health Clinic. Other services provided were blood pressure and blood sugar checks by Calvert Home Health Clinic, cholesterol and blood pressure checks by Garza County Health Clinic, blood sugar, cholesterol, and blood pressure checks by Covenant Home Health Care. A blood drive was held and sponsored by United Blood Services of Lubbock with approximately 10 residents participating in that event.

The Extension staff would like to thank the businesses and organizations who took time to participate in this quality event and provided information and services to the public. We would also like to thank the 149 residents who participated in the informative and educational 2003 Health and Fitness Fair.



Discussing community services at last week's health and fitness fair are (left to right) Arturo Lopez, Crossvette Gonzales and Billie Windham (Photo by Tim Burnett)



Reviewing services at last week's health and fitness fair are (left to right) Christy Soto, Soyla Reyna and Glen Larson. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

Cahill among graduates at TTU

Keely Murphy Cahill of Post was one of approximately 1,100 students awarded degrees at the Aug. 9 commencement exercises held at Texas Tech University's United Spirit Arena. Cahill received a master of education degree in counselor education.

Luke Williams earns TTU honors

Luke Aaron Williams of Post was one of almost 400 honor students recognized for the summer 2003 semester at Texas Tech University. Williams, a senior English major, was included on the Dean's List. To be on the list, a student must have completed a minimum of 12 hours during the semester and maintained a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9.



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Births

Jakeb Laine Morris

Russ Morris is proud to announce the birth of his brother, Jakeb Laine, born at 2:14 p.m. Oct. 1.

The infant weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces at birth and was 21 inches in length.

Parents are Rusty and Melanie Morris. Grandparents are George Reece and the late Barbara Reece, and Jack and Jean Morris. The infant's great-grandparents are Jimmy and Ila Mae Holleman and Dillard Morris and the late Wanda Morris.

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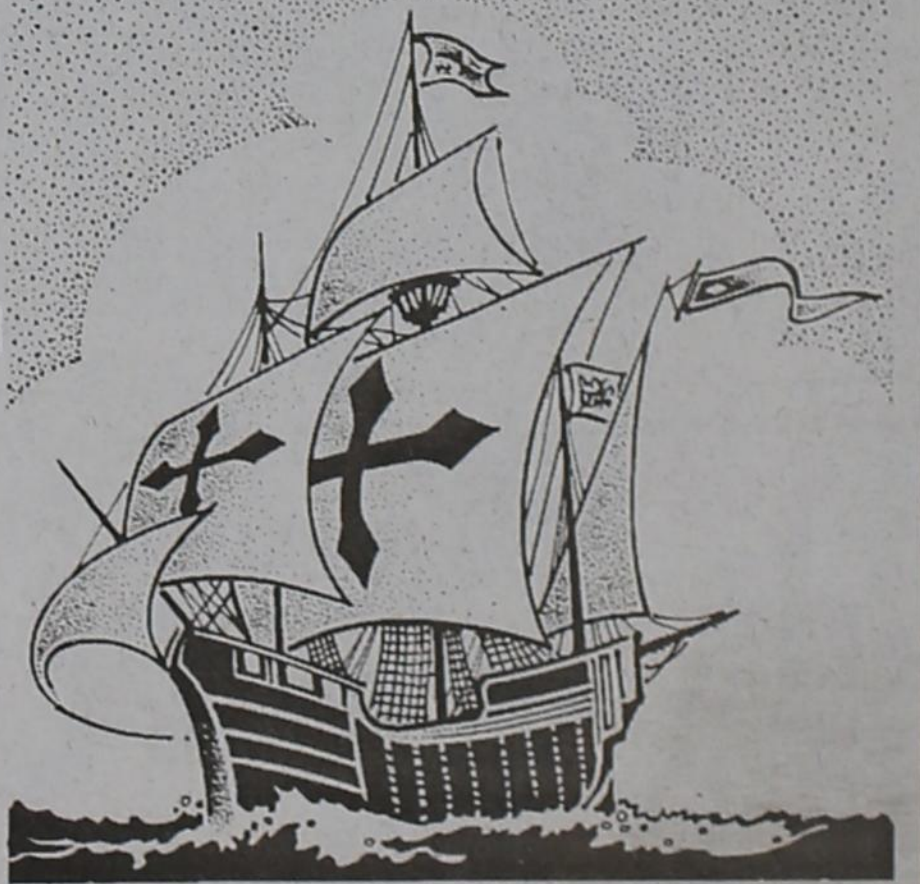
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Julie Hudman, Zipper earn barrel race honors

by Johnny Davenport

Julia (Julie) Hudman of Post is very proud of her horse, Zipper. Zipper is a 26-year-old great-grandson of Depth Charge (TB).

Julie and her husband, Curtis, bought Zipper as a barrel horse in 1989 for their daughter, Lori. Lori had been competing for several years at the time. As she kept improving, her parents would come up with a better horse for her.

Zipper was about the fifth horse that Lori had, but she was, by now, ready for him. She won several trophies and awards with him, as well as two trophy saddles.

Riding Zipper, Lori was the 1992 and 1993 High Plains Junior Rodeo Association Champion, winning a trophy buckle each time. Lori also showed Zipper in several events, including break away roping. They won a saddle in 1993 when they won the All-Around at the Lea County Barrel Racing Association competition in Lovington, N.M.

In 1994, this same pair won the Martha Josey Clinic Barrel Racing Champion Saddle at Karnack.

In the mid 1990s, the Hudmans got Lori another horse to replace Zipper as he was getting up in years. They did, however, keep Zipper as a backup barrel horse. Lori was still using him a lot in other events.

Julie was now riding Zipper some to keep him in shape. Although Julie had entered local playdays and competitions as a child, she had never competed as an adult. Curtis and Lori were, by now, trying to talk Julie into competing on Zipper.

In 1999 Julie won a saddle with Zipper when they were crowned the National Barrel Horse Association (NBHA) District champions in Lubbock. Julie was competing in the 4-D Division for open riders.

When Lori married and moved away in 2000, Julie kept Zipper for herself.

In March 2003, the NBHA District Championship was again held in Lubbock. Julie and Zipper, by winning the open 4-D District again, won another saddle.

In June 2003, they won the Texas State Finals in 4-D, Seniors, NBHA State Championship, winning another saddle plus a trophy buckle and halter. They have won numerous other prizes as a team, but Julie said that the above mentioned buckle is the only one they have won.

Julie, born and reared on a cotton farm near Sweetwater, is very modest. She gives all the credit for their success to Zipper. I've been shoeing horses for Julie since the mid 1980s. Two times this past summer, as Julie would come by to pay me for shoeing, she asked me to come to her pickup and "See what Zipper won!" Each time she pulled out one of the above mentioned trophy saddles!

Zipper, a super horse, yes! Julie, a super woman, yes!



Julie Hudman with Zipper and a few of the awards they have won.



Winners at last Friday's GCJLA Funraiser are (left to right) Glenna Reiter, Kim Reiter, Clarice Johnson, Roxanne Osborn, Billie Williams, Milton Williams and Janie Middleton. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

GCJLA 'Funraiser' helps with auction, raffle

by Diane Graves

A good time was had by approximately 150 attending the 3rd. Annual Garza County Jr. Livestock Association "Funraiser" Friday night set in a Western theme. Ronnie Dunn served as M.C. and "The Guthries" provided the entertainment for the event that raised approximately \$5,500 for operating cost and improvements of the show barn.

Top winners of the Cash Jackpot drawing were Billie Williams and Roxanne Osborn-\$5,000; Roker A girls (Roxanne Osborn, Clarice Johnson, Kim Reiter and LaVena Palmer)-\$1,000; Two Draw Welding-\$500; Tom Middleton-\$500; Kate Mullins-\$250; and Pat Reiter-\$250.

Matt Newsom of Levelland served as Auctioneer for items donated by Saddle Traders and Tack, Daniell Farm, D-3 Farm, Woodwork Crafts, Ronnie and Diane Graves, Mason's Farm and Ranch Store, Two-Draw Welding, Royce and Marianne Hart, Handy Oilfield Supply, Hart Heating and Air, Benny and Teresa Hair, Bobby Heckaman family, Higginbotham-Bartlett, Silver-smiths, Sue Maxey, Steve Miller family, Keith Osborn family, Mike Bland family, Jennie's Candy, and the Brad Mason family. We thank all who donated and purchased these items. We apologize if we failed to mention your donation.

A Barbeque Brisket dinner was served to all attending. David Farquhar cooked the briskets, Southland FFA provided salads, Post FFA cooked the beans, and Garza County 4-H families provided desserts for the meal.

GCJLA wants to thank all those attending, purchasing or selling tickets, donating or purchasing auction items, providing food, serving and cleaning up. Thanks goes to

Perry Smith and Post Ag classes for setting up and hauling ice. Thanks too to the Greene, Conner and Vernon families for providing decorations and decorating.



The Texas A&M University System
Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

GCJLA Horse Show

The annual Garza County Jr. Livestock Association horse show is scheduled for Sunday, October 12, at 3:00 p.m. at the Post Stampede Rodeo Arena. This show will consist of Halter Classes and Showmanship Classes for Mares and Geldings. Classes will be divided by age of horse. Pee-Wees (for kids 8 and under) may enter also. Entries and fees are due and payable in the Extension office by October 8.

Food & Nutrition Project

4-H'ers meet Tuesday, October 21 at 4:00 p.m. at the High School Foods Lab. Please call 495-4400 to sign up or if your planning to attend.

Deer Appreciation Workshop

A Deer Appreciation Workshop will be held at the Borden County Livestock show grounds in Gail October 22 with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the program concluding at 4:00 p.m. Registration by October 14 will be \$10 or \$20 after that date and at the door. A noon meal and publications are included in the registration. Deer biology, nutrition, aging, genetics, hunting, habitat and a ranch tour will be some of the topics of the day. Two (2) CEU's will be offered for licensed pesticide applicators. For more information or registration forms, call the Extension office at (806) 495-4400.

State/County Lamb & Goat Validation

All lambs and goats for Garza County and major livestock shows must be validated. Validation will be on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, beginning at Southland at 2:00 p.m. and at the GCJLA show barn at 4:00 p.m. If you will be unable to be at the validation, please contact your Vocational Ag Instructor or the Extension office to make other arrangements. State validation tags are \$6 and county tags are \$2.

Steer Rate-of-Gain Weigh-In

Steers to be entered in the Rate-of-Gain competition for the 2004 Garza County show will be weighed from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 28, 2003, at the show barn.

Home for the Holidays
Garza County Home for the Holidays is set for November 10 beginning at 6:30 at the First United Methodist Church in Post. The program is limited to the first 70 participants so call to reserve your space before November 3. Registration fee is \$8. It is preferred, but not required, that you pay in advance. Additional cookbooks can be purchased for \$5 per book.

4-H Bears

Need a stocking stuffer? 2003 4-H Bears are needing a home. Pick yours up today at the Extension office for only \$10 each.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN GAS RATES

Atmos Energy hereby gives notice of its intent to implement new gas rates for Residential, Commercial, Public Authority, Small Industrial and Air Conditioning customers. The proposed changes will take effect no sooner than 35 days. The Cities may suspend the proposed effective date for an additional 90 days. The company may implement a different rate design than proposed provided the increase to revenue does not exceed that specified herein. It is anticipated the new rates will increase the revenues of the company by approximately \$ 7.7 million or 7.32 percent and therefore constitutes a "major change".

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Bovina	Lorenzo	Shallowater
Brownfield	Los Ybanez	Silverton
Buffalo Springs	Meadow	Slaton
Lake	Midland	Smyer
Canyon	Muleshoe	Springlake
Coahoma	Nazareth	Stanton
Crosbyton	New Deal	Sudan
Dimmitt	New Home	Tahoka
Earth	Odessa	Timbercreek Canyon
Edmonson	O'Donnell	Tulia
Floydada	Olton	Turkey
Forsan	Opdyke West	Vega
Friona	Palisades	Wellman
Hale Center	Pampa	Wilson
Happy	Panhandle	Wolforth
Hart	Petersburg	
Hereford	Plainview	
Idalou	Post	
Kress	Quitaque	
Lake Tanglewood	Ralls	

*unincorporated - Southland, Welch, Whitharrall

Copies of the filing are available at the Atmos Energy Office at 5110 80th, Lubbock, TX 79408-1121 or a local Atmos Energy Office nearest you. Affected persons whose gas rates are subject to the original jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission may file in writing comments or a protest concerning the proposed changes with the Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, within 30 days following the proposed effective date.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS POST ISD'S State Financial Accountability Rating, Adequate Yearly Progress Report and Academic Excellence Indicator System Report

Post ISD will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m., October 14, 2003 in the boardroom at the Post ISD Central Administrative Office 501 South Avenue K Post, Texas

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Post ISD's ratings on the state's financial accountability system.

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Opinions

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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.



Member Texas Press Association 2003

Disasters are No Excuse for Price Controls

by Jacob G. Hornberger

During natural disasters such as Hurricane Isabel, state officials are often tempted to protect consumers from "price gougers, speculators, and profiteers," who are selling the things that people need most at what might be considered to be exorbitant prices. The imposition of a mandatory ceiling on prices of essential items enables state officials to portray themselves as friends of the consumers.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Actually, price controls are among the worst attacks that a government can levy not only against producers but also against the consuming public.

By serving as the market's information-transmission system, the price system is actually the lifeblood of a market economy. Tamper with the price system, and you end up destroying the market economy.

Let's suppose that Isabel knocks out electricity for an indefinite amount of time in a certain part of the state. All of a sudden, the price of candles in that area skyrockets. The soaring price serves to send a vitally important message to consumers in the affected area: "Conserve candles. Use them sparingly."

By the same token, the rapidly rising price also sends a message to producers: "People in that area need candles. Get them there fast." The anticipated high profits also send another message to producers: "The faster you accomplish this, the bigger your gains will be."

As people cut back their consumption of candles (because of the soaring price) and as producers rush additional candles into that area (for the same reason), the price of candles begins to drop. That's a message that tells consumers that they can now increase their consumption, while at the same time telling producers that supplies are not as urgently needed as before.

The beauty of the price system is that it works all on its own - that is, without state guidance. In other words, no emergency central planner has to keep track of which items are in short supply and which ones are in abundance. No public-service announcements are needed to advise people what they need to conserve or to exhort producers on what they need to supply. All that people - both consumers and producers - need to do is rely on the price system to figure out how much they should consume or produce.

What happens if state officials impose price controls in a misguided attempt to protect consumers from "exorbitant" prices? They destroy the market's messaging system and actually worsen the effects of the disaster.

For example, let's assume that the pre-disaster price of candles was \$1 per candle. The natural disaster strikes, and candle prices immediately soar to \$20 each. Professing to protect consumers from "price gouging" and "profiteering," state officials set a price ceiling that prohibits candles from being sold for more than the pre-disaster price of \$1 each.

The state's intervention throws the market into chaos. The artificially low price obviously sends a distorted message to both consumers and producers. For consumers, the lower price means that there's no special incentive to conserve candles, and for producers it means that there's no special need to supply them.

Thus, given that people are consuming candles faster than they should, and given that producers are not rushing to supply more candles to the affected area, the intervention actually makes the situation (a short supply of candles) much worse than it otherwise would be.

By interfering with the price system's method of sending vital information to consumers, price controls distort the market economy's ability to allocate scarce resources. Moreover, by hurting the very people they purport to help, they add a political disaster onto a natural one.

Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) in Fairfax, Va.

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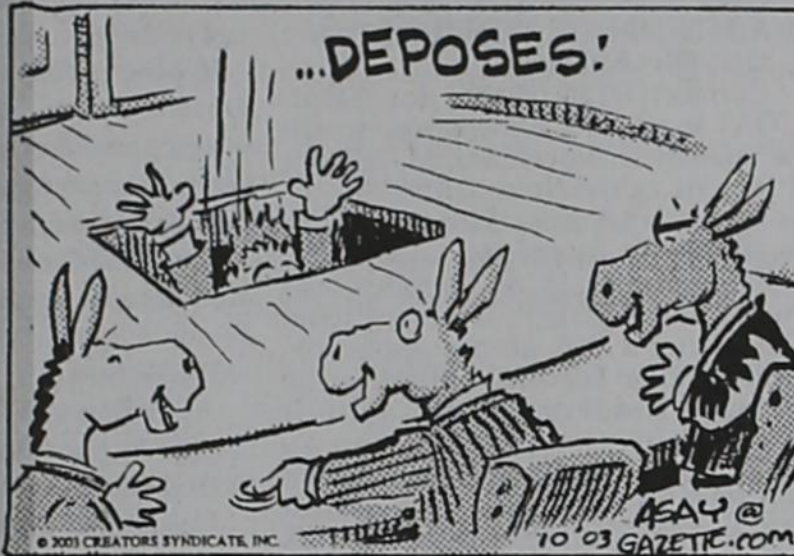
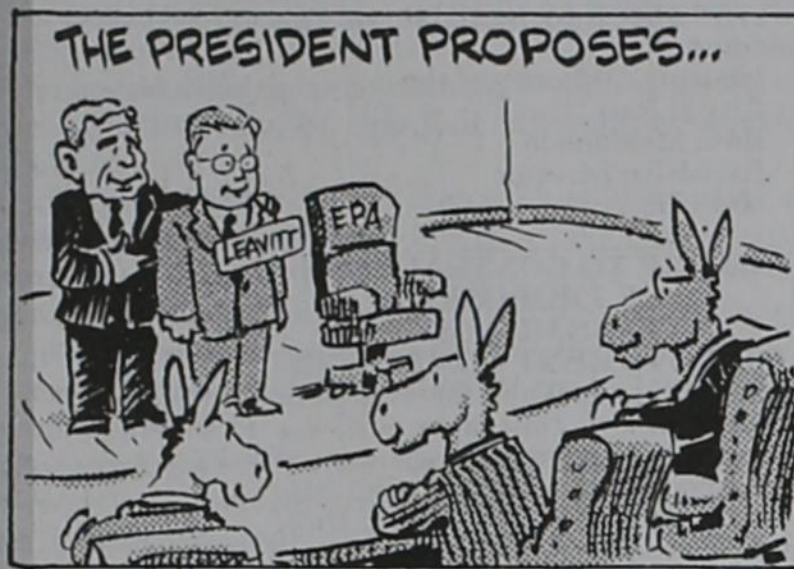
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Let the chips fall

by Scott McPherson

According to the August 11 Washington Times, in a story titled "How visa program robs U.S. technology workers of their jobs," American computer programmers are finding it harder and harder to stay employed because of the "unintended consequences of the nation's non-immigrant visa program - particularly the L-1 classification. The L-1 allows companies to transfer workers from overseas offices to the United States for up to seven years [and] lets companies continue paying workers their home country wage."

The nerve!

To make a long (and very old) story short, American computer programmers - who make an average of \$60 per hour in wages and benefits - are being gradually replaced by foreign computer programmers. By making use of the L-1 program, corporations such as IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Cisco Systems, and Microsoft, are now getting their programmers for about one-sixth of the usual price.

Not surprisingly, hi-tech workers are unhappy - one even said he was "disgusted" by the visa program. Even less surprising, a member of Congress is getting involved. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat, wants to set a limit of 35,000 L-1 workers nationwide. (There is currently no limit.)

The free market brings innovation, productivity, diversity, and ultimately consumer satisfaction. Americans love these benefits and have been the greatest and the longest-running benefactors of capitalism in the history of the world. But they too often forget that economic progress requires efficiency. That means getting the most effort for the least expenditure.

Though Americans as consumers like the result of this system - cheaper and better products, and more choice in their products - as manufacturers and workers they prefer to appeal to what the psychologist Nathaniel Branden called the "Divine Right of Stagnation." In short, they want "their" jobs by right, and will try to cut out of the market anyone who can produce for less - their competition.

Naturally, this requires government intervention in their behalf.

The trouble is, these jobs aren't theirs to be protected or defended by government. When an employer offers a job, he is offering monetary compensation in exchange for a particular service to be performed. This is a simple contractual relationship.

It may come as a surprise to most people, but this arrangement in no way implies a transfer of ownership. The job still belongs to the employer - the labor is the property of the individual worker - and despite any claims to the contrary, the employer should be left to grant, withhold, or alter the terms of this relationship without question. Just as employees are now free to do.

The L-1 visa program serves two important functions in the American economy. On the one hand, it is a "loophole" (note that the economist Ludwig von Mises called loopholes "remaining freedoms") which allows the computer market to perform a vital function - efficiently using resources. Money not spent on a more expensive native programmer can be channeled towards satisfying other needs. This provides a net benefit: an important job still gets done, with resources left over that will then be directed to their most efficient use. The final step in the process is, of course, greater consumer satisfaction.

Secondly, by allowing companies to pay workers a lower wage, L-1 visas also serve a moral purpose. American firms have an absolute right to offer whatever wage they wish, and to whoever is willing to do the job for that sum - even a foreigner.

Rather than put a cap on L-1 visas, we should be opening our entire economy to the kind of competition now taking place in the computer industry under the L-1 program. One day we might even return to the days of genuine free trade in labor.

The first word in "free market" is still "free." The L-1 visa program is not some sinister conspiracy designed to take away Americans' jobs - it represents the remains of an economic system that once recognized the benefits of rigorous competition and the morality of economic liberty.

Scott McPherson is a policy advisor at the Future of Freedom Foundation.

Desperately seeking WMDs

by Sheldon Richman

The Bush administration wants \$600 million to continue looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. It's already spent \$300 million in search of the elusive weapons.

This is beginning to look like an obsession.

With chief weapons searcher David Kay now confirming to Congress that his massive team has found no weapons, this new request is slightly ridiculous. The Bush administration has gone from claiming that the Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, definitely had weapons in known locations, to claiming that he had programs to develop weapons, to claiming that he had plans to develop programs to develop weapons, to claiming that he had ambitions to develop programs. The latest position is that Iraq had dual-use materials and facilities, and scientists capable of making weapons. By that standard, the Bush administration could start bombing lots of countries.

The story has also been leaked that Hussein was bluffing about having weapons. The problem with that is that he let the UN conduct inspections and he even invited the CIA to look around.

Is there any part of the administration's case for war that is not now in disarray? It's been reported lately that the CIA doubted the intelligence of MI6 (Britain's CIA) and MI6 doubted the intelligence of the CIA. When the Americans claimed that the Iraqis had aluminum tubes suitable for making nuclear weapons, British analysts chortled. When the British claimed that the Iraqis tried to buy uranium in Niger, American analysts guffawed.

On top of that, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee has concluded from government documents that the administration based its case against Iraq on dated and fragmentary evidence. Then there is the Defense Intelligence Agency's own assessment that the administration was essentially sold a bill of goods by Iraqi defectors, particularly those connected with Ahmed Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress. Chalabi is a member of the U.S.-appointed governing council and a favorite of the Bush administration. In a leaked letter to a defense department official, it was noted that the intelligence report claimed that most of the information furnished by the defectors was worthless.

But the administration persists, as if ignoring all this damaging evidence will make it go away. There was something surreal about President Bush's standing before the UN General Assembly and

reciting boilerplate about WMDs and Iraqi links to international terrorism, when, just a day or two earlier, officials, including the president himself, had distanced themselves from those claims.

Signs of desperation abound. We were told to wait for David Kay's interim reports. But then National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said we shouldn't expect interim reports. That was after word had leaked out that Kay's classified report to Congress would contain no evidence of WMDs.

The administration's fans continue to repeat the canard that everyone knows that Hussein had WMDs and used them against the Kurds. This is Clintonesque in its manipulation of language. Yes, he had weapons in the late 1980s - thanks to American help. But weapons and facilities were destroyed, first in the 1991 Gulf War and then by UN inspectors from 1991 to 1998. The assertion that in recent years "everyone" agreed Iraq had WMDs is patently false. Broadcast journalist John Pilger has found statements made by Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell before September 11, 2001, pointing out that Hussein had not re-armed. For example, Powell said in Cairo in February 2001, "He [Saddam Hussein] has not developed any significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction. He is unable to project conventional power against his neighbors."

The spin will go on. But one thing can't be spun: the weapons are nowhere to be found.

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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August 29	Varsity	@ Denver City	7:30
Sept. 4	JV	@ Roscoe	6:30
Sept. 5	Varsity	Roscoe	7:30
Sept. 11	7-8th	Friona	5 & 6:30
	9th & JV	@ Friona	6:30
Sept. 12**	Varsity	Homecoming Friona	7:30
Sept. 18	7-8th	@ Merkel	5 & 6:30
	9th & JV	Merkel	5 & 6:30
Sept. 19	Varsity	@ Merkel	7:30
Sept. 25	7-8th	@ Brownfield	5 & 6:30
	9th	Floydada	6
	JV	@ Snyder	7:30
Sept 27 (Sat)	Varsity	@ Perryton	3
Oct. 2	7-8th	Crosbyton	5
	9th	Colorado City	TBA
Oct. 3	Varsity	OPEN	OPEN
Oct. 9	7-8th	New Deal	5 & 6:30
	9th & JV	@ New Deal	5
Oct. 10*	Varsity	New Deal	7:30
Oct. 16	7-8th	Shallowater	5 & 6:30
	9th & JV	@ Shallowater	5 & 6:30
Oct. 17*	Varsity	Shallowater	7:30
Oct. 23	7-8th	@ Idalou	5 & 6:30
	9th & JV	Idalou	5 & 6:30
Oct. 24*	Varsity	@ Idalou	7:30
Oct. 30*	7-8th	Tahoka	5 & 6:30
	9th	at Floydada	TBA
	JV	@ Tahoka	6
Oct. 31*	Varsity	Tahoka	7:30
Nov. 6*	7-8th	@ Roosevelt	5 & 6:30
	9th	OPEN	OPEN
	JV	Roosevelt	6
Nov. 7*	Varsity	@ Roosevelt	7:30

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