



## January bridal shower honors Emily Smith

Emily Smith, bride-elect of Christian Robert (C.R.) Stahl, was feted with a bridal shower Sunday, Jan. 4, from 2-3 p.m. at the Hotel Garza.

Guests were served a variety of cookies and punch from a table decorated with red roses and navy accents.

Special guests included the bride's mother, Kelly Smith; her sister, Matti Smith; her grandmothers, Sherry Bryant and Wanda Smith; the groom's mother, Karen Stahl; his sister, Kelly Hinds; and his aunt, Janice Howell.

Hostesses for the event included Frances Craig, Thressa Harp, Cindy Johnson, Shirley McMeans, Karen Nichols, Alexa Collier, Janey Middleton, Delores Redman, Chita Hataway, Tonya Kirkpatrick, Suzanne Hudman, Tonya Dunn, Earline Bagby, Dena Kirkpatrick, Clarajane Dyess, Pam Humble, Staci Marts, Kim Lott, Joy Poole, Helen Gerner, Barbara Farmer and Lisa Kirkpatrick.

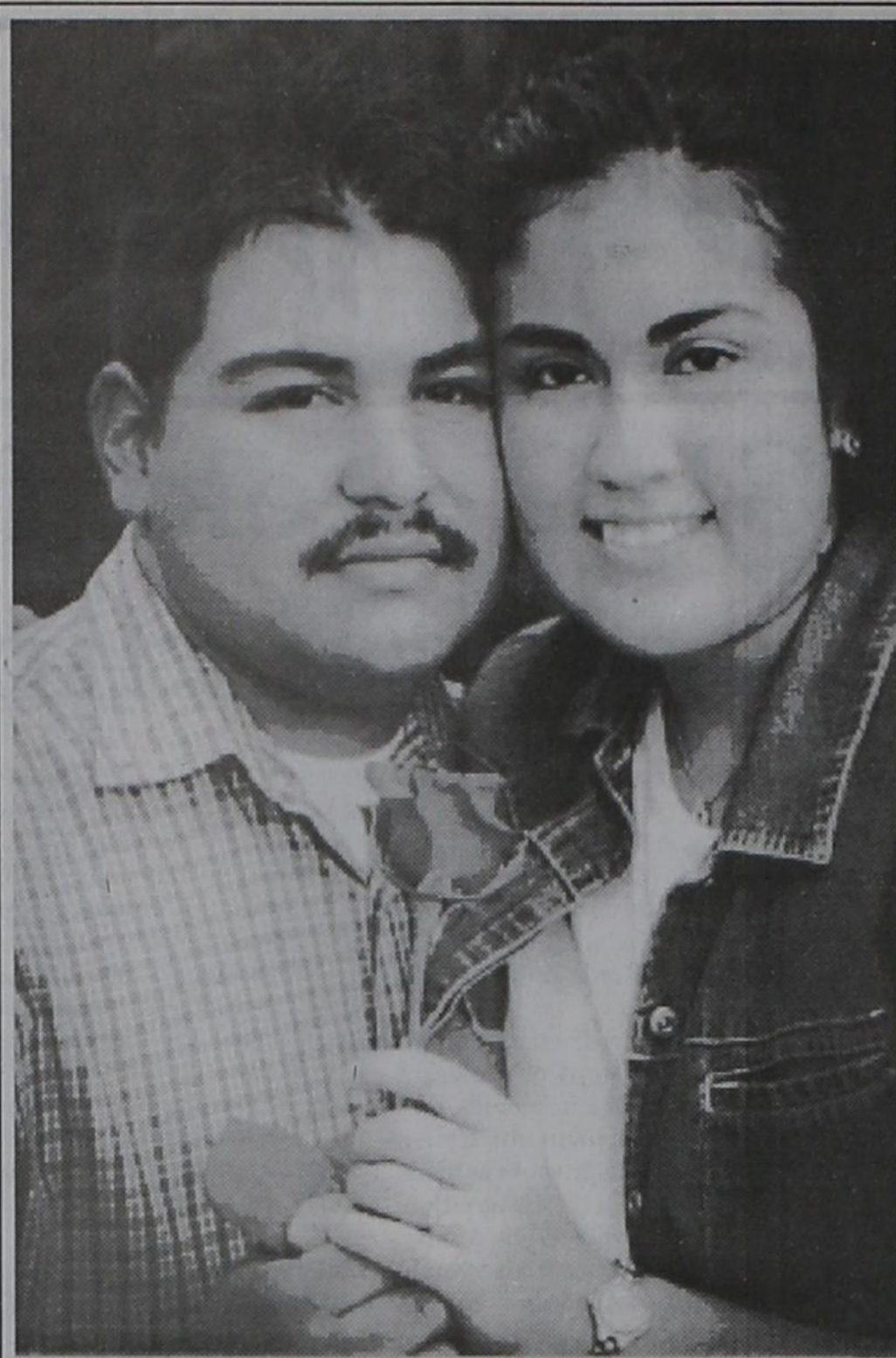
The hostesses presented the couple with a comforter, shams and bed liners.

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Adrian Gonzales and Naomi Gonzales

## Naomi Gonzales, Adrian Gonzales announce engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Gonzalez have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Naomi Annette, to Adrian Gonzales, son of Ruth Castaneda of Post.

An April 17, 2004, wedding will be conducted in Post. Grandparents of the bride-elect are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rivera and Mr. and Mrs. Santiago Gonzalez.

## Taylor Gray elected to VFW Auxiliary youth office

Taylor Gray was elected president of the Junior Girls unit of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary 6794, Brownfield.

on Saturday, Jan. 10.

The group represents the fourth girls unit in the state.

Girls between the ages of five and 16 may join under the sponsorship of anyone eligible to join the VFW.

Members of the girls units follow the lead of the ladies auxiliary - learning about patriotism and its meaning to Americans, visiting nursing homes and helping with auxiliary projects.

Taylor and her sister, Ashlee, joined the Brownfield unit as charter members and both were elected to offices. Ashlee will serve as the unit's guard.

The girls are the daughters of Tiffaany and Sidney Graves of Post and the great-granddaughters of Chuck and Janet Ratliff of Post, district commander and president of the VFW.



Taylor Gray

## Tech honors Zoe Kirkpatrick

Garza County's Zoe Merriman Kirkpatrick was one of a handful of women recognized during pre-game ceremonies at Saturday's Lady Raider game in Texas Tech University's United Spirit Arena in Lubbock.

Kirkpatrick and four others were honored as the university's first women's athletic team to represent Tech in out-of-town competitions. The team, which traveled to contests in Dallas, El Paso, Galveston, College Station and Oklahoma in 1953-54, is marking its 50th anniversary.

Team members paid their way to competitions throughout the Southwest, relying on fundraisers and odd jobs to finance their travels. The group challenged college students and non-student amateurs in matches approved by the Amateur Fencers League of America.

"There was no collegiate league for women at that time," said the team's coach, Jack Carnell of Irving, in a press release issued by the university. "We competed against all comers in the region and did quite well."

Kirkpatrick and her teammates

- Jimmie Bennett Wilson of San Angelo, Iva Crowley Raw of Wichita, Kansas, Wanda Linam Perry of Midland and Virginia Still Azar of Albuquerque, N.M. - received certificates of award from Tech's athletics director, Gerald Myers, on the floor of the

arena before a crowd of more than 15,000 spectators. Carnell also was recognized.

The team disbanded after a year when Carnell was invited to New York to try out for the 1956 U.S. Olympic fencing squad.



Al Bendeck, PA-C



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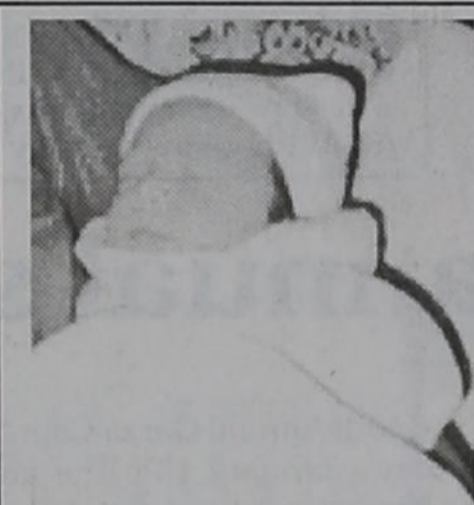


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## Births



Maigen Raye Collazo

### Maigen Raye Collazo

Mikey and Jenny Collazo are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Maigen Raye Collazo, on Dec. 9, 2003, at Integris Southwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Okla.

The infant weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces at birth.

Maternal grandparents are Connie Jones of Wolforth and Jimmy Jones of Post. Paternal grandparents are Linda Collazo Coers of Post and the late Johnny Collazo Sr.

## Local students get LCU honors

Five area students have been named to honors lists at Lubbock Christian University in Lubbock.

Carol Covert of Post and Candace Wheeler of Southland were named to the President's List for the 2003 fall semester. In order to be considered for this list, a student must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours and achieve a 4.0 grade point average or better for the entire semester.

Ricky Alvarez, Susan Davis and Laura Tobias, all of Post, were named to the university's Dean's List for the fall semester. To make the Dean's List, a student must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or better.

**Call your family and community news to Judy Bush at 495-0227 for Judy's Jabberin'**

## Jessica Mason on ASU dean's list

Jessica Lyn Mason, an undeclared major from Post, was named to the Dean's List for the 2003 fall semester at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled full-time and maintain a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

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Tayler Starkey (left), Donae Dalby (center) and Jeneé Lott (10) hustle for another two points for the Post Lady Lope varsity during action here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Sarah Kirkpatrick (32) and Tayler Starkey (23) defend for the Post Lady Lopes in action here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



CoCo Valdez (right) lays the basketball into the bucket for the Post Antelopes as Cole Easterling (left) joins in the action here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Tayler Starkey (23) puts another two points on the score board. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Jerrad Grisham (right) fights for the jump ball for the Post Antelopes in action here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

### Lady Lopes JV whip Smyer 52-14

The Lady Lopes JV started the New Year off with a win over Smyer. The Lady Lopes started the game with full court pressure to jump out front 20 to 2, then coasted to a 52 to 14 victory.

The Lady Lopes were led by Laurel Tatum with 23 points. Other Lady Lopes scoring in the game were Kylie Easterling 8, Rachel Gray 7, Asheley Powell 6, Larissa Halford 4, Asheley Wilson 2, and Katie Vernon 2.

Next the Lady Lopes JV hosted Borden County. Again the full court press built a 20 to 0 first quarter led. The Lady Lopes cruised on to a 54 to 5 win.

The Lady Lopes were led by Ashley Wilson with 15 points. Other Lady Lopes scoring were Laurel Tatum 11, Rachel Gray 9, Larissa Halford 8, Kylie Easterling 7, Courtney Copeland 2, and Ashley Powell 2.

The Lady Lopes are now 12 - 2 on the season.

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## GARZA COUNTY CITIZENS

Judge Dalby worked very hard to get the County a facility in Post that created jobs for over 300 people. It has benefited the County in many ways, but it's time to keep the profits in Post. Many qualified people are employed at the prison that are capable of running it. Approximately \$120,000,000 dollars sent to Utah in four years, and according to Judge Dalby and the Commissioners, Garza County gets four hundred thousand a year. The State trains the personnel (TCLEOS), the County Sheriff holds the commission of the Officers, the County owns the facility and the County holds the contract with BOP to house the inmates. What are we paying MTC for? Let's elect someone who will work to get the job done.

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### Next Week's Basketball Schedule

Jan. 16 @ Idalou  
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Jan. 20 @ Post vs. Tahoka  
JVG, JVB, VG, VB  
Jan. 23 @ Roosevelt  
JVG, JVB, VG, VB

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Feb. 12, 2004



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# The Post Dispatch

123 E. Main - Post, Texas



# Opinions

## ILLEGALS...



## An urban legend

by Walter E. Williams



Literally hundreds of readers informed me that in last week's column, "Some Things I Wonder About," my reference to a Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City — who set his 32-foot Winnebago on cruise control, left the driver's seat to brew a cup of coffee, crashed, then sued Winnebago for not having a warning against the dangers of doing so and received a jury award of \$1,750,000 plus a new motor home — was an urban legend and as such totally false.

My having fallen for this "urban legend" points to more due diligence to fact-checking. Without making any excuses whatsoever for my lapse in due diligence, let's look at it.

Thirty, 40 or 50 years ago, no one in their right mind would have believed the Merv Grazinski urban legend possible, but not so today. Personal responsibility has taken a back seat in our increasingly immoral and litigious society. Consider some actual lawsuits researched at ([www.overlawyered.com](http://www.overlawyered.com)).

The wife of a hockey fan who crashed his car after drinking too much at a Minnesota Wild game has sued the team, saying her husband who was paralyzed in the Feb. 8, 2002, auto crash shouldn't have been served so much alcohol.

According to the July 10, 2002, Akron Beacon Journal, "Two carpet installers who admit they read the label of an adhesive they used, admit they understood the adhesive was flammable and should not be used inside, used it inside anyway, caused an explosion, were burned badly, sued and won \$8 million dollars."

According to the April 18, 2003, Indianapolis Star: "A convicted robber is suing the convenience store clerk who shot him as he fled after a holdup. Willie Brown, 44, claimed the clerk acted 'maliciously and sadistically' in firing five shots as Brown ran out of Zipps Deli with money from the store's cash register." Brown, who has earlier convictions for robbery and burglary, pleaded guilty to robbery and was sentenced to four years in prison.

## International terror-drug cop on the beat

by Jacob G. Hornberger

Those who favor the U.S. government's role as international policeman must be ecstatic that the feds are now expanding their jurisdiction in their decades-long war on drugs to include the entire world. How so?

Well, despite the fact that U.S. drug laws apply only in the United States, U.S. military forces are now using their "war on terror" and their invasion and occupation of Iraq to search and seize ships in the Persian Gulf and the North Arabian Sea alleged to be carrying illicit drugs and to remove the crew members to the Pentagon's prison camp in Afghanistan for interrogation and punishment.

What? Have the suspects fired on U.S. military vessels? Have they laid mines in the ocean to blow up U.S. ships? Have they fired torpedoes?

No; all they've been accused of doing is what smugglers always do in response to such political interventions as drug laws - smuggle.

So how does the international cop claim jurisdiction to arrest people for drug violations in waters thousands of miles away from American shores? By claiming that the drug smugglers are probably working for al-Qaeda, thereby making them "illegal combatants" in the federal government's worldwide war on terror.

Neat trick, huh? Talk about mission morph! The cop's role as international destroyer of terrorists and preemptive invader of countries has now morphed into international destroyer of drug dealers!

Do U.S. military officials accord the accused drug smugglers due process of law, as the U.S. Constitution requires drug cops to do here in the United States? Are you kidding? We're dealing with the Pentagon, which, don't forget, set up its prison camp in Cuba with the specific hope that the Constitution wouldn't apply to its operations there and which has also steadfastly refused to set up any system of due process of law for accused criminals as part of its military occupation of Iraq.

Here in the United States, the government is required to accord people who are accused of drug possession due process, including the right to remain silent, the right to an attorney, the right to bail, the right to the presumption of innocence, and the right to a jury trial.

But with the U.S. military serving as the world's international terrorist cop, the Pentagon doesn't have to bother with such silly constitutional concepts. Thus, unlike domestic drug cops here in the United States, U.S. military officials are simply stopping and searching ships on the high seas without warrants, arresting drug suspects without warrants who they "know" are guilty, and removing the suspects to a U.S. military base in Afghanistan, where prisoners under Pentagon control are sometimes tortured and even killed during interrogation, and where they will be punished, possibly even executed, for being terrorist drug dealers.

Never mind that people possessing drugs thousands of miles from

In Galveston, Texas, a jury awarded \$65 million to the parents and estate of a woman who drowned after her car rolled off a boat ramp. She couldn't disengage her seat belt. The jury found Honda of America Manufacturing Co. Inc. and Honda R & D Co. Ltd. 75 percent responsible for the death of Karen Norman, even though her blood-alcohol level measured at nearly twice the Texas legal limit (.17). Fortunately, an appeals court threw out the award, which a trial judge had previously reduced to \$43 million.

Then there's the infamous McDonald's case, where Stella Liebeck purchased hot coffee, placed it between her legs, spilling it and scalding herself, and was awarded \$2.9 million for her troubles. Clearly, she was at fault, but George Mason University Law Professor Richard Bernstein points out that a proximate cause for her injury was the fact she was wearing a cotton sweat suit that absorbed the coffee and held it close to her body. However, if she were wearing a Gore-Tex suit, or some other liquid resistant material, she would have suffered no injuries. Bernstein asks what's the tort principle that holds McDonald's responsible but not the sweat suit manufacturer?

None of these cases, and many others, differs in principle from the Merv Grazinski urban legend. What's common to all of them is the absolutism or the attempt at absolutism on personal responsibility. Are people to be held responsible for their actions? In the case of tobacco use, it's not the smoker who's responsible for his illness, it's tobacco companies. In the case of obesity, it's not the individual, but fast food companies and food manufacturers who are responsible. It's the same with criminal violence — the gun manufacturer is partly to blame.

What does all this say for the future of our nation? To find out more about Walter Williams, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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U.S. shores are unlikely to be violating U.S. drug laws. Never mind that the seizures of their ships have been conducted without probable cause or judicially issued warrants.

Never mind that the people taken into custody are not granted bail, an attorney, or the rudimentary procedures of due process of law. Never mind that their custody and interrogation are not subject to judicial oversight. And never mind even that the seizures will do nothing to alter the decades-long failure of the U.S. government's war on drugs.

Never mind all that. What does it matter? As long as the international cop has been charged with the dual mission of destroying terrorism and terrorists worldwide and preemptively invading countries all over the world to bring "freedom and democracy" to their citizenry, why should we let such silly notions as due process of law get in the way of the cop? Anyway, as Vladimir Lenin observed, you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs.

Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation ([www.fff.org](http://www.fff.org)).

## Rollback election: What's it all about?

by Wesley W. Burnett

Discussions about the upcoming county tax rollback election frequently include opinions about what county government ought to do, or ought not to do. Many of these comments point to "vital" or "essential" county services.

Let's look at the facts, and a good place to start is the State of Texas Constitution. What exactly are the constitutionally required functions of county government?

1. Justice - the administration of courts, securing the rights of individuals (as defined by the U.S. and state constitutions) and enforcement of the law (District, County, Justice of the Peace courts, Sheriff and Constables).
2. Administration - Maintenance of roads and bridges (public rights of way).
3. Indigent care - Funding for indigent support and, when there is not a hospital district, funding of health care for the indigent.
4. Education - In the absence of an independent school district, maintain a county-wide education system.

That's it. County government is authorized to perform a number of other functions (too many to list and much more than taxpayers here can afford), but they are not required. Those "extra" functions are authorized by the state legislature and include a host of socialist programs.

So, when voters here consider their options in the February 7 county tax rollback election, a clear decision is set before them: vote "yes" and trim back the "extra" funding that is not required, or vote "no" to usher in more and more and higher and higher taxation.

The Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 15, 2004

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Wesley W. Burnett, Managing Director and Publisher  
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## Yes we can't

by Bill O'Reilly



Here's how President Bush and the Republican establishment see it: African-Americans make up 13 percent of the population, and Hispanic-Americans make up 14 percent. Doing the math, that is a big number to cede to the Democrats every four years. Forget about converting most blacks, the GOP has no clue. But there are millions of conservative Hispanics, and this amnesty's for you.

Mr. Bush's new proposal to allow about 10 million illegal aliens to work and live in the USA is a calculated political move. He is betting that his supporters, many of whom will not like the quasi-amnesty, will vote for him anyway, especially if Howard Dean is his opponent. And by showing compassion to millions of Hispanic illegals, the president hopes to win some hearts and minds, and, most importantly, votes.

The question is, will the new program help America? The answer is no. That's because Mr. Bush has proposed a situation that is all carrot cake and no stick. Once the poor of the world realize that anyone who sneaks into America illegally can get the benefits of living in this country, the floodgates, which are already open, will crack completely.

Remember, the immigration mess we have now started after Ronald Reagan granted amnesty to illegals in 1986. Since that time, tens of millions of undocumented people have found a way into the USA, hoping for exactly what Mr. Bush has now given them. Why wouldn't millions more follow that lead?

I'd actually support the president's program if he would get serious about supervising the borders and prosecuting companies who continue to hire illegals after the amnesty kicks in. The Border Patrol flat out admits it cannot stop the flood of people and narcotics coming from Mexico. So why not have the National Guard assist the Border Patrol? The president could make that happen but will not. He also has no plan to crack down on employers who continue to break the rules. Mr. Bush has a "yes, we can't" attitude when it comes to imposing discipline on the illegal problem.

Finally, it is a pipe dream to think that allowing millions of poorly educated people to assimilate into the USA will not be without unintended consequences. Under the program, millions of illegals will be bringing family members here, and their period of adjustment will not be easy.

Right now, 34 percent of all LEGAL Mexican immigrants are on welfare, and 25 percent of illegals are getting government assistance. That number will not decline as some illegals will make it and some will not.

So get set for massive new human smuggling operations as the world's gangsters see gold at the end of the illegal immigration rainbow. Billions of people the world over would love to come to America. President Bush has not solved the immigration and may have made it much worse. Ten years from today this country will be a much different place. Count on it.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the new book "Who's Looking Out For You?" 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](http://www.creators.com). This column originates on the Web site [www.billoreilly.com](http://www.billoreilly.com).

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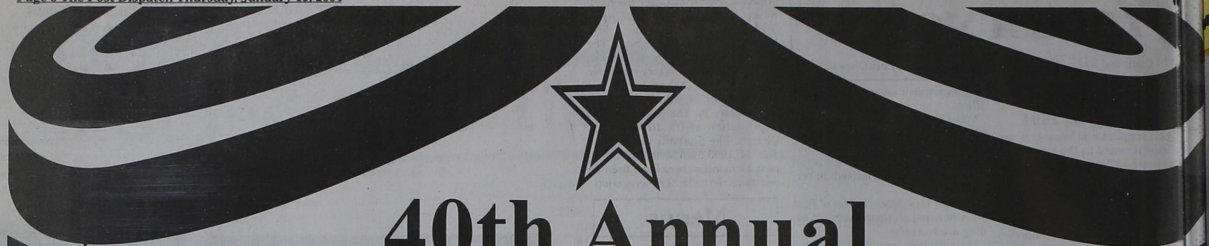
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