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The Post Dispatch

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Voters choose between lower or higher taxes

by Sheri Lewis

As Garza County taxpayers prepare to go to the polls Saturday to vote in the second tax rollback election in less than a decade, proponents of both sides of the issue continue to defend their positions.

County officials point to unfunded mandates as one of the primary culprits behind the county's increased tax rate. In response to the situation, the Commissioners Court passed a resolution in December asking that the state stop handing down unfunded mandates to Texas counties.

"Unfunded mandates continue to grow," County Judge Giles Dalby said. "We're at the bottom of the totem pole. Obviously we've got to do it. (State officials) don't care if we have to raise taxes... We fight it every year. If they're gonna send a mandate to us, send the money to fund it."

But Fred Howell, one of the more vocal supporters of the rollback issue, doesn't see unfunded mandates as a catalyst behind the county's recent tax hike.

"I think it's just so much hot air," Howell said.

For weeks, Howell has been studying the budgets of counties similar to Garza County, and he said he has yet to see a line item dubbed 'unfunded mandates.'

"I've looked at enough of their budgets to know," he said. "I haven't seen anything that they've been required to fund... in all of these other counties that I've looked at, I've never seen anything in there called 'unfunded mandates.'"

In addition to unfunded mandates, sometimes the state funds the start-up of programs, only to bail out of the funding process down the road, Dalby said. The county faced two examples of this scenario while planning the current fiscal year budget.

The state cut funding for the alcohol and drug treatment program and the community service worker program. The alcohol and drug treatment program in Garza County handled more than 200 clients last year, providing mandatory DWI programs, weekly counseling services and placements for individuals court-ordered to receive treatment.

"(The program's clients) need that program in order to keep going," Dalby said. "If we can help keep these people productive and sober and all, they make good citizens and pay taxes."

The county elected to provide money to keep the program operational, the judge said. If the program had been allowed to die, those served by it might end up in jail at a cost to the county of \$30-\$40 per day or as indigents served by Garza County Health Care District tax dollars.

The county also opted to keep the community service worker program operational. The program serves probationers required to do community service. Much of the community service achieved by these probationers benefits the county.

These programs exist because county officials elected to provide funding, Howell pointed out.

"It might be unfunded by the state now or the federal government, but it's not a mandate," he said.

If Saturday's tax rollback proposition passes, the county plans to cut funding to several of the programs it currently supports. Programs targeted for budget cuts include the museum, \$18,000; the library, \$11,291; the community center, \$30,738; the city park, \$16,999; the extension office, \$15,454; the summer rec program, \$7,000; Trailblazers, \$2,500; and MAD DADS, \$5,000.

The programs scheduled for budget cuts in the event of the rollback's passage are not the problem, Howell said, urging the Commissioners Court to "cut elsewhere." The county budget is bloated and continues to grow unchecked, he said.

"The problem is that the budget has grown out of control," he said. "Half budget and half county welfare programs."

In his budget comparisons of Garza County and other Texas counties, Howell said he found that Baylor County, west of Wichita Falls, has a population close to that of Garza County.

Its county seat is similar in size to Post, and Baylor County, too, features a lake. After studying its budget and talking with Baylor County officials, Howell said he heard no mention of unfunded mandates but did note that Garza County has some programs that the other county doesn't have.

"But that's not the problem," Howell said. "The problem is when you look at the basic budget for Baylor County and the basic budget for Garza County, Garza County has twice the budget.... If someone wants to throw out a

smokescreen, they can say that unfunded mandates are the problem. But that's not it."

Howell charges that the problem lies in excesses found in the Garza County budget. For example, the Baylor County judge's office has no secretary - the judge shares a secretary with other courthouse offices - while the Garza County judge's office sports two secretaries.

"When you start going down each of the departments in Garza County and compare them to other counties, you can see the problem," Howell said. "They need to look at their budget compared to other counties. We have people getting full-time pay for half-time jobs. When someone looks and says if the rollback passes and \$300,000 is eliminated, that still leaves \$1.4 million over and above the Baylor County budget. Obviously these programs (the county plans to cut) are not the problem."

Dalby said supporters of the rollback effort, including Howell, have a "black-and-white view" that fails to recognize the broad range of differences in Texas counties.

"Counties are like human beings - there's no two of us alike," Dalby said. "Yes, we follow the same laws, but we're all different in the way we follow them. When people want certain things, that's what we try to do.... You can look at these other counties.... They don't have programs compared to what we have. We're all so different."

(Continued on Page 6)



PHS band members selected for All-Region band honors are (back row) Jonathan McGregor, 4th chair trombone; Andrew Fumagalli, 2nd chair alto sax; Alfred Segovia, 4th chair French horn and All-State; D.J. Baiza, 6th chair alto sax; (front) Joey Guerra, 2nd chair French horn and Bailey Odom, 3rd chair bass clarinet. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

City refuses to pay for WRMWD water treatment

by Wes Burnett

A battle is brewing between the City of Post and White River Municipal Water District (WRMWD) over responsibility for water treatment. The issue was aired at Tuesday night's Post City Council meeting, as council members voted unanimously to notify the water district that the city will not shoulder any of the expense or responsibility for water treatment.

Mayor Archie Gill introduced the subject by reading a letter from city manager Fred Stephens which outlined the conflict. "Last month, during a report from White River Board member David Stelzer, we were informed that White River intended to assign responsibility of ammonia injection to the cities (individual city members of WRMWD), including Post."

Stephens informed the council that the city has not received any formal, written notice of WRMWD action on the matter. He said that WRMWD manager Tommy O'Brien informed city employees attending ammonia training that the district intended to require the City of Post to assume responsibility for the plant built in Post ("near the Sanchez place").

Stephens raised several questions to the council, including:

1. Post has expressly stated (11/12/02) that it did not want to assume WRMWD responsibility for water treatment.

2. The original contract between WRMWD and the City of Post puts water quality responsibility to WRMWD.

"I can see no reason for Post to assume White River's responsibility for anything," Stephens wrote. "They have raised their water rates drastically to help pay for improvement to their treatment plant, then they tell us that are unable to treat Post's water properly because 'it would be too hot' for their customers near the plant."

The City of Post has already installed and is operating a chlorination plant here to insure adequate treatment of the water coming from White River. "We're already out a considerable amount of expense bringing the water into compliance," Stephens added.

Council member Harold Craig introduced a motion directing the city manager and city attorney to draft a letter to the WRMWD board of directors, explaining the city's position. "We will not pay for expenses related to water treatment for which they are responsible," Craig emphasized. The motion was approved without objection.

The existing contract with WRMWD expires in July 2005. Council members have declared at several public meetings that a new contract will have to be executed, and a new rate structure implemented that provides for the city to pay only for water that is delivered to Post.

The original contract specified that Post would pay for 500 million gallons of water per year, regardless of how much was actually used. That's about twice as much water as is being consumed here.

Local code enforcers collect \$31,131.88

by Tim Burnett

Garza County and the State of Texas traffic code enforcers collected \$31,131.88 during the month of December, for highway travel fines issued here, according to reports of the two Justices of the Peace courts. The fund raising program, operated by county and state agents, took advantage of holiday travelers who violated State Transportation Codes.

JP Court 1 reported \$13,816.75, which included 163 traffic misdemeanor cases. JP Court 2 reported \$16,315.13, which included 200 traffic misdemeanor cases.

State and county code enforcement officers are "just doing their jobs" by enforcing the traffic code, but what was sold to the public in the 1920s for "safe" roads, is now a huge money making machine for corporate governments.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) gradually shifted the scope of the Code so that all travelers appear required to register their automobiles with the State of Texas. A study into the underlying scope of the Texas Transportation Code should reveal exactly who is required to register their automobiles with the State.

After a precise study of the code, some may conclude that the code is in error. In fact, the code fits perfectly with the underlying right of the people to travel freely on the roads and highways of Texas. The legislature no doubt understood this right. This is why they entitled the code "Transportation."

The exact jurisdictional limits (scope) of the Texas Transportation Code can be ascertained by allowing it to narrowly interpret itself according to its strict construction. The scope of the Transportation Code is "Transportation."

Since "Transportation" is not defined in the Code, then it must be defined according to the United States Transportation Code and Black's Law Dictionary. These sources reveal that the term "Transportation" means transportation by a carrier for hire.

Use of the roads and highways for purposes of "transportation for hire by carriers" is what falls under the scope of the Code. The Code protects the traveling public by regulating the vehicles using the roads for the purpose of "Transportation."

So why do we see State and County Officers enforcing the Code upon the traveling public? The answer rests upon the registration of vehicles with the State of Texas.

All motor vehicles using the roads for purposes of "transportation," are required to be registered with the State. At the same time, any automobile that is registered with the State also falls within the scope of the Code. The registration sticker and the license plate are the identifiers by which the Officers can determine whether or not a vehicle falls within their jurisdictional limits.

Question for thought: Does the State and County have the lawful authority to enforce the Transportation Code upon travelers who are not involved with "transportation," and who voluntarily choose not to register their automobiles with the State? The simple question concerns authority to enforce the Transportation Code upon those who do not fall within the scope of the code.

Three voting places for Saturday Rollback Election

Early voting in the Feb. 7 county tax rollback election was brisk, according to reports from the Garza County clerk's office.

As of Tuesday at 4:45 p.m., the final day of early voting, a total of 317 ballots had been cast in the election. Early voting began January 21.

The actual election date is Saturday. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the following polling locations:

• Precincts 1, 1B, 3, 5, 5B, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 9B - Post Community Center • Precinct 2 - Southland School • Precinct 4 - Justiceburg Baptist Church

The tax rollback election was called several weeks ago after county officials received a petition in November calling for the action. The proposition essentially asks voters to decide whether the county should maintain its current 50 cents per \$100 valuation tax rate or roll the tax rate back to \$42.323 cents per \$100 valuation.

The working on the ballot is as follows: "Reducing the tax rate in Garza County, Texas, for the current year from \$0.50/\$100 to \$0.42323/\$100." Voters are asked to vote either "for the proposition" or "against the proposition."

"Never Too Late" opens Friday at the Garza Theatre

Performances of the Garza Theatre's latest production, "Never Too Late," begin this weekend.

This weekend's offerings are set for Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon. Additional performances are scheduled for Feb. 13, 14, 20 and 21.

Directed by Jay Young, the play's cast includes Zoe Kirkpatrick, David Johnson, Chris Davis, Marcie Hartman-Johnson, Kelsey Wimmer and Roy Willis.

For show times and ticket information, call the box office at 495-4005.

GCHD meeting set Wednesday

A pair of representatives from the Texas Association of Community Health Centers will be on hand for the February 11 meeting of the Garza County Health Care District.

Speakers will provide information on the FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Care) program district, for which district officials are applying to participate. The public is invited to attend the session, which is set for 6:30 p.m. at CitizensBank Community Room.

Post Notes

Little Dribbler meeting Thursday

A meeting of the Post Little Dribbler registration will be held at the Elementary School gym on Thursday, January 29 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and February 2 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The program is open to all first through sixth grade students.

Holy Cross offers garage sale Feb. 7

The Holy Cross Catholic Church is renting tables for a garage sale to be held Saturday, February 7 from 8 a.m. to noon. Plates of carne quisada, rice, beans and salad are available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parish Hall. Contact Paula at 495-3054 or Juanita at 495-3059 to rent table or for more information.

Bethel Assembly of God garage sale

The Bethel Assembly of God, 905 W. 6th, will host a garage sale Saturday, February 7 from 8:30 until completed. The event will assist with funding the church's men's ministry.

Post Middle School site based meeting

The Post Middle School campus site based meeting will be held Monday, February 9 at 4 p.m. The Site Based Team will meet in the school library. Agenda items include campus priority goals and eligibility requirements for cheerleading. Anyone interested in providing input on these issues is encouraged to attend.

Auditions for "Arsenic & Old Lace"

Auditions for roles in the Garza Theatre's upcoming "Arsenic and Old Lace" are being held Saturday, February 7 beginning at 2 p.m. at the Monterey Church of Christ, 58th and Memphis, in Lubbock. The play is directed by Mitchell Britton. This will be the only audition session.

Church set building "fun raiser"

The Church of God of Prophecy, 602 W. 12th Street, is offering a taco plate Friday, February 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plates are \$5 each, including three tacos, rice, beans and salad. To place an order, call 495-3644.

VFW meetings February 9

The VFW Ladies Auxiliary meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 9 and the VFW men meet at 7 p.m.

Post VFD Chili Supper Feb. 5

The annual Post Volunteer Fire Department Chili Supper will be held Saturday, February 7 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the fire station, 202 South Avenue H. Cost for the chili supper is by donation. The department uses the funds to purchase equipment and supplies as needed.

Senior 4-H Club meets Feb. 12

Members of the Senior 4-H Club will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, February 12 at the Extension office.

Church of Nazarene Revival Feb. 11-15

The Church of the Nazarene will hold revival services February 11-15 at the church, 202 W. 10th. rev. Pat Burkhalter will lead the revival services which begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday. For more information call 495-3044.

'Never Too Late' opens at Garza Theatre

The Garza Theatre production of "Never Too Late" opens Friday and continues February 7, 8, 13, 14, 20 and 21. The play is directed by Jay Young and features among its cast Zoe Kirkpatrick, Marcie Hartman-Johnson, Kelsey Wimmer, David Johnson, Chris Davis and Roy Willis. Call the box office at 495-4005 for reservations.

VFW plans visit to VA Hospital

Members of VFW Post 6797 and VFW Ladies Auxiliary are making plans for the annual visit to the Big Spring VA Hospital on February 26. The post is seeking donations of items for veterans at the hospital. To assist, call Jo Ann Stelzer at 495-3393, Ruth Walls 495-4185 or Janet Ratliff at 495-2026. Needed items include soap, shaving cream, tooth brushes, tooth paste, games, puzzles, writing materials, magazines (no books please), baked goods such as cookies, cakes and pies.

Post Commerce & Tourism banquet

Plans are being finalized for the annual Post Commerce & Tourism Banquet to be held at 7 p.m., February 28 at the Post Community Center. Call 495-3461 for more information on tickets.

Fastpitch softball seeks players

Registration deadline is March 1, 2004 for the 2004 Girls Fastpitch League in Lubbock's softball season. Age divisions are Machine pits 6-8 year olds, 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under and high school ages 15-18 (age as of January 1, 2004). Games are played at Mackenzie State Park. The season begins April 16 with opening ceremonies and a pre-season tournament. Call Jaquita Blevins at 495-2517 to register. Coaches are needed for Post teams.

EMS classes available in Tahoka

The Lynn County EMS is offering EMT Class beginning in April. Classes will be held in Tahoka two nights a week. Anyone interested in becoming an EMT to help our service in Post is encouraged to attend this EMT class. Call 269-0075 for more information.

'Grandma Brag Pages' deadline Friday

The Post Dispatch annual "Grandma Brag Pages" will be published February 12, with a deadline of Friday, February 6. The special edition features photos of grandchildren and are priced at \$10 (for one to two in a photo), \$20 and \$40 (for larger groups of children). Call The Post Dispatch at 495-2816 for more details.

PHS students excel at UIL meet

Fifty-five Post High School academic competitors competed at the Texas Tech UIL Academic Tournament Jan. 24. Sporting new academic T-shirts, the students competed against students from other 2A schools while the speech team competed with students from schools of all sizes, including Frenship, Amarillo High and Lubbock Monterey. Post's overall point total for the meet was 287. Individual top scorers were junior Kayla Dunn, 37 points; sophomore Jonathan McGregor, 27 points; and freshman Kylie Easterling, 25 points. Individual winners in the journalism contests were Easterling, first place, headlines; Steffi Norman, third place, editorials; Dunn, fifth place, editorials; Dunn, second place, features; Elana Alaniz, third place, features; Dunn, fourth place, newswriting; and Alaniz, sixth place, newswriting. Winning in ready writing were McGregor, first place, and Vincent Robles, fourth.

"I have been reading some ready writing papers for over two decades, and these two young men are some of the best I have ever seen. And... they are just sophomores," said UIL Coordinator Sterline Marcum. "I have no doubt that before they graduate, they will be competing and placing at the state meet - maybe even this year."

In Current Issues & Events, Colter Creech places third, Jordan Tatum placed fourth and Kenny Garay earned sixth place. Their combined efforts earned Post the first place team ranking.

In social studies, a new UIL academic competition, Alfred Segovia placed third, while Christina Zellmer finished in sixth place.

The spelling students won third place team through the combined scores of Segovia, Easterling, Shannon Rasbeary and Norman. Segovia placed sixth in the contest.

Placing in the science contest were Zellmer, fifth, and Ashley Wilson, sixth place. With additional scores from Robles and Cole Easterling, Post finished as the third place team.

A freshman, Wilson Cash, made his debut in the number sense contest by placing fourth. Scores from K'Neil Dalby and Adrian Nava combined with Cash's to earn a third place team finish.

Placing in computer science were Joey Guerra, third, and Anthony Merrell, fourth.

Post had the first place team in the mathematics contest. Individual places were McGregor, second; Wilson, third; Keith Meredith, fourth; and Robles,

sixth.

In calculator applications, the Easterling siblings battled it out. Kylie Easterling placed third while her brother Cole placed sixth. With the help of Garay's score, Post finished as second place team.

Post swept the computer applications contest, with Dunn taking first, Donae Dalby, second, and Logan Gregory, third.

In speaking events, freshmen Bailey Odom and Claire Kirkpatrick broke into the semi-final rounds, while in extemporaneous speaking, Tatum landed in the semi-finals in persuasive.

Sophomore Jerin Tyler advanced through three preliminary rounds to the quarterfinals, where he lost on a 2-1 decision to a Quanah student who placed fifth at the state meet last year. Emily Marcum made her way to the finals round to defeat her opponent in a 3-1 decision. She was named LD champion of the meet. In the two-day competition, she spoke for 12 judges and won all 12 ballots.

Sponsors who attended the meet included Eva White, Amy Easterling, Melvena Moore, Kim Mills, Jack Rex, Tonya Dunn, Sterline Marcum, Leonard Ledford and PHS Principal Johnny McGregor.

"It takes time to build a program," Sterline Marcum said. "Such a strong showing from underclassmen is a good indication that Post will do well both this year and in the future."

Post's next competition is a speech meet at Abilene Wylie High School on Feb. 7.

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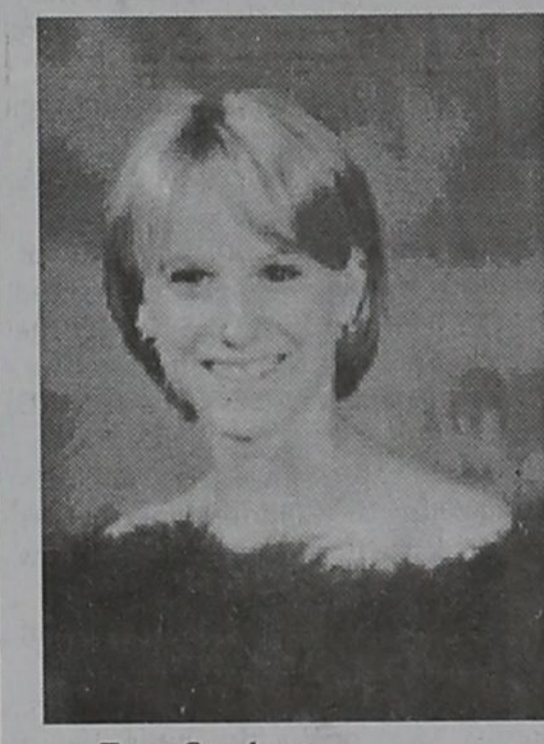

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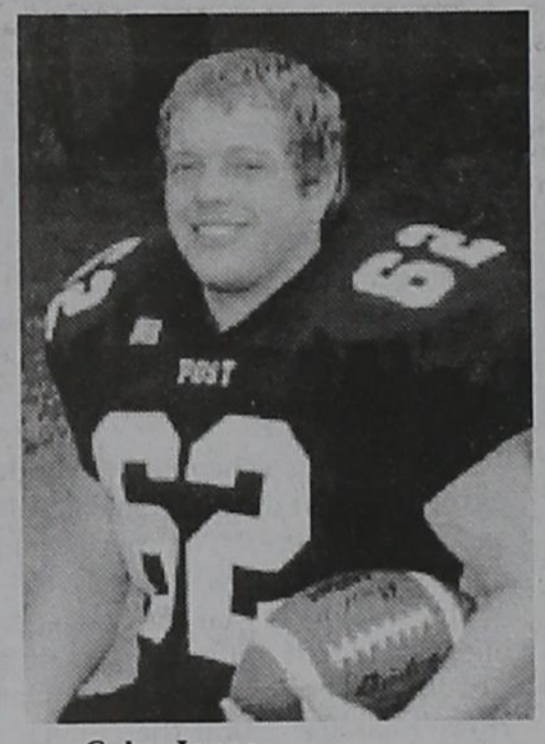
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PHS students earning academic excellence in recent U.I.L. competition are (back row, left to right) Tony Apolinar, Alfred Segovia, Donae Dalby, Logan Gregory, Christin Collier, Kayla Dunn, Adrian Nava, (second row from back) Brant Guthrie, Kyle Kirkpatrick, Jordan Tatum, Cole Easterling, Jonathan McGregor, Colter Creech, Jerrad Grisham, (third row from back), Claire Kirkpatrick, Becca Striblin, Laurel Tatum, Kyle Esterling, Jared Smith, Keith Meredith, Emily Marcum, Ashjley Wilson, Kenny Garay, (fourth row from back) Amanda Morris, Coby Jones, Anthony Merrell, Heath Fellhauer, Vincent Robles, Josh Lee, Jerin Tyler, Wilson Cash, Miles Gray, (fifth row from back) Josie Wisenhunt, James Soto, Brandon Hernandez, Elena Alaniz, Joey Guerra, Shannon Rasbeary, Aunee Bhakta, (front) K'Neil Dalby, Steffi Norman, Gentry Creech, Breann Heckaman, Bailey Odom, Chelsey Reed and Christina Aguilar. Not available for photo were Cecilia Contreras and Christina Zellmer. (Photo by Tim Burnett)



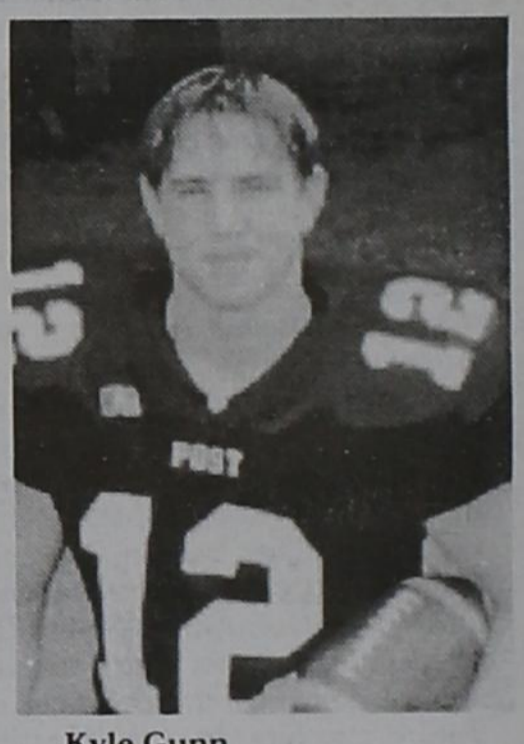
Tana Starkey



Coby Jones



Britney Courtney



Kyle Gunn

Post Rotary Club Recognizes PHS students

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You decide: is it moral to steal from others?

Theft - the taking of property against the will of the owner ...

Taxation - the taking of property, with the use of force if necessary, against the will of the owner.



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Sadie Diane Soto
from: Mom & Dad
Ma & Pa
Gordy & Fabian

Why are we in the middle of a tax roll back election, when profits from the revenue generated at the prison would be more than double our annual county budget?

Garza County is already liable according to the contract between the county and the BoP! So don't you think it's time we shared in the profits? So, let's elect someone who will stand up for the county and get the job done!
remember to vote

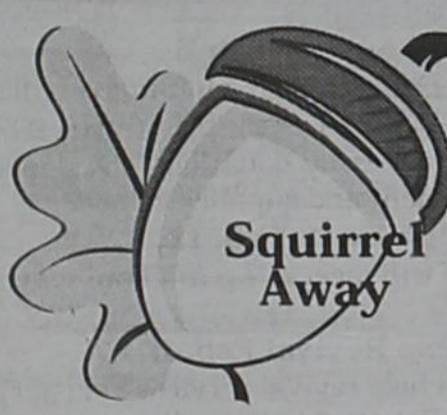
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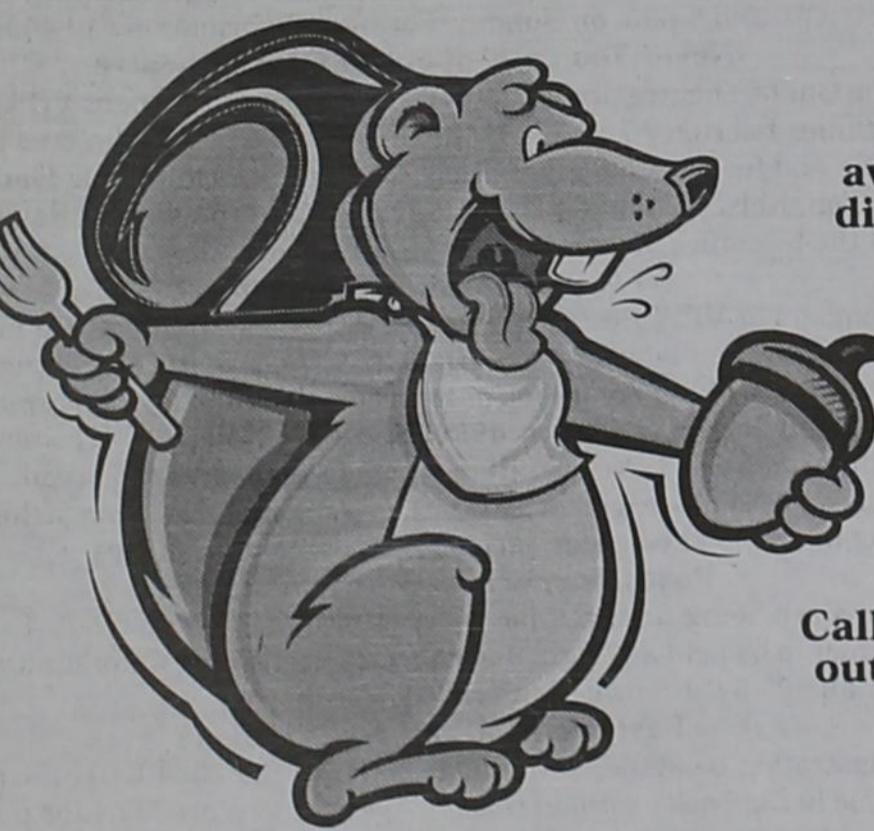
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Post Middle honors are (Meagan Howland, Saffron (2nd...

Com social

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Trailblazers seniors come th said, and about cent of those in quested donat individuals ha through the pr on nutrition ed Moore also ha on the "extra co food" provide meals.

"We'll just hav where we can, ready started to MAD DADS" has been makin the continued s Recently, Tiv pay cut, demot full-time paid d to a full-time MADs two stal their hours cut money.

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MAD DADS, ating in Post s struggled since through pri fundraisers. U contributions f and school distri its best financie finished the ye the previous wrapped up i \$8,000 short.

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Post Middle School band members selected for All-Region band honors are (left to right) Joseph Segovia (11th chair trombone), Meagan Howard-Griffis (1st Alternate French Horn) and Jeremy Saffron (2nd chair tenor saxophon). (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

Commissioners choose social programs for cuts

The passage of the tax rollback proposition on Saturday could trigger cuts not only in offices operated by Garza County, but also in several programs funded in part by the county.

County officials have indicated that in the event the rollback proposition passes, they will be forced to trim more than \$300,000 from the fiscal year budget. To cut back spending across the board, commissioners have planned a funding reductions in several areas, including the Trailblazers Senior Citizens Center, the MAD DADS youth center and the Garza County Historical Museum.

The Trailblazers program has been scheduled for a loss of \$2,500 in the event the rollback passes. Their proposed cutback may not seem like much, but Trailblazers director Kyran Moore said her program is already "down to bare necessities."

"We needed even more money than (what we received)," Moore said, explaining that her program also lost \$2,500 in federal funding this year. "It's really gonna hurt us... We have no cushion at all. No excess. We used all of our backup for the new building... and United Way didn't meet its goal, so we may see a cut there as well."

Since moving into its new facility almost two years ago, Trailblazers also has been faced with higher insurance costs.

The program, which typically serves about 900 meals and delivers another 400 each month, managed to remain financially solvent after its federal funding loss by bumping its "volunteer donation" per meal from \$2 to \$3 about three months ago.

"But there's a lot of seniors that will not come in unless they can pay," Moore said.

Trailblazers routinely sees 65-70 seniors come through its doors, she said, and about 80 percent to 85 percent of those individuals pay the requested donation. Another 20 local individuals have meals delivered through the program, which focuses on nutrition education and outreach.

Moore also has been cutting back on the "extra condiments" and "extra food" provided with the seniors' meals.

"We'll just have to go in there and cut where we can," she said. "We've already started to cut our grocery bill."

MAD DADS' Rodney Tidwell, too, has been making cuts to help ensure the continued success of his program.

Recently, Tidwell took a voluntary pay cut, demoting himself from the full-time paid director of MAD DADS to a full-time volunteer. Also, MAD DADS' two staff members have seen their hours cut in an effort to save money.

"I'm preparing for the worst and hoping for the best," said Tidwell, whose program stands to lose \$5,000 in the wake of the passage of the tax rollback.

MAD DADS, which has been operating in Post for seven years, has struggled since its inception. Funded through private assistance, fundraisers, United Way and equal contributions from the city, county and school district, the program saw its best financial year in 2003 when it finished the year \$360 in the red. In the previous year, the program wrapped up its operations some \$8,000 short.

Possible United Way cutbacks and the loss of Garza County's funding could have a "substantial impact" on the program, Tidwell said. The program already has made cutbacks and is in sore need of new equipment.

Operating on a "very tight" budget of \$46,000-50,000 this year, MAD DADS typically accommodates 40-60 youths in its facility on Friday and Saturday evenings, although Tidwell said those numbers can range from 20-110. MAD DADS' after-school program routinely serves six to eight teens.

Meanwhile, the Garza County Historical Museum regularly counts somewhere between 7,000 and 8,000 visitors to its facility each year. But the visitor count, as well as the qual-

ity of the museum operations, will suffer if county officials insist on slashing the budget, museum director Linda Puckett said.

The museum's budget has been earmarked to take an \$18,000 hit - all in administrative salaries - with the passage of the tax rollback proposition.

"It's gonna be our demise," Puckett said last week. "Without a director here, this place can't operate with volunteers."

The county will continue providing for the museum's utilities, building repairs and grounds maintenance, she said, but the museum's other sources of funding - the Caprock Cultural Association and private donations - won't be able to absorb an \$18,000 loss. The museum has received private donations totaling \$3,600 this year, a figure the director said is down from previous years.

"Donations are down," she said. "(People are) thinking it's gonna close."

The museum, which opened as a hospital in 1913, is on the National Register of Historic Places and is listed as a Texas Historical Landmark. Opened as a museum in 1970, the building features 26 exhibit rooms. Every year the museum creates at least one new exhibit, Puckett said, and more and more Garza County residents are trusting the museum with their family heirlooms.

Admission to the museum is free of charge, although a donation box is located near the facility's front door. Although Puckett said the CCA board has not explored the topic fully, the museum could close as a result of the partial loss of county funding.

"I'm real worried," she said. "We've come so far. We've done so much for so many years, and we're on the brink of great things... I see the possibility of a shutdown. And it's scary. It's real scary for me."

BCHS student earns \$1,000 scholarship

Kyle D. Pinkerton, a senior at Borden County High School in Gail, was recently presented with a \$1,000 scholarship by the Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary. Pinkerton was named 14th place winner in the VFW's annual Voice of Democracy scholarship program.

He was sponsored in the contest by VFW Post 6797, Post, and its auxiliary and VFW District 7.

As one of the top 16 winners in this year's competition, Pinkerton was a guest of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary for a weekend in Austin. Weekend highlights included a tour of the state capitol and the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, as well as visits to the LBJ Library and other sites around the city.

The 2003-2004 Voice of Democracy program in Texas reported 3,900 student participants in this year's contest. Scholarships awarded in the state amounted to \$194,180.

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Post Elementary School students participating in the successful Christmas food drive for the needy are (back row, left to right), Amanda Duran, Cruz Alaniz, Samantha Ortiz, Marisela Munoz, Vanessa Rodriguez, Victoria Rodriguez, Britany Bruton, Rebekah Horton, Zach Hinkle and Anthony Bishop, (middle row), Edgar Ortiz, Steven Seale, Matthew Nava, Bradley Benham, Katelyn Elmore, Meagan Tidwell, Crystal Ayala, Raegan Belongia, Kari Dunn and Teraka Cowley, (front row), Serafin Lopez, Armando Chapa, Parker Loftus, Jacob Perez, Javier Gonzales, Daniel Gonzales, Ernesto Esparza, Jordan Curtis, Corbin McDonald and Anthony Soto.



Post Elementary School students participating in the successful Christmas food drive for the needy are (back row, left to right), Ben Mason, Mary Francis-Valdez, Shamaudo Taylor, Paulina Hernandez, DeAmor Garcia, Nicole Luera and Nicole Ramirez, (middle row), Jessica Rodriguez, Skylar Jones, LaTosha Seale, Arron Perez, Davin Bolton, Luke Cravy and Dakota McDonald, (front row), Dale Dias, Michael Guerra, Tanner Clark, Garrett White, Fermin Rivera and Cody Pickett.



Post Elementary School students participating in the successful Christmas food drive for the needy are (back row, left to right), Adriana Gonzalez, Kimberly Rivera, Janelle Delgadillo and Madison Cash, (middle row), Monica Mendoza, Destinee Wilson, Alex Griffin, Shirley Araiza, Aubree Lester, Nicole Alvidrez and Cambry Mason, (front row), Grant James, Michael Seale, Cody Pewitt, Jordan Aguilar and Wil Storie.

I would like to take the time to thank ASCO Rental and George's Restaurant for purchasing my 5th Place Cross, and I would also like to thank Palmer Construction and B&S Salvage for purchasing my 3rd Place Duroc. All of you helped make the stockshow a great success!

Sydnee L. Jones

Public Meeting on Rural Public Transportation

Notice of opportunity to make comments at a public meeting is hereby given by South Plains Community Action Association, Inc. 411 Austin Street, Levelland, Texas 79336 on the state formula funding for Rural Public Transportation (section 5311) within Bailey, Cochran, Garza, Hockley, Lynn, Lamb, Mitchell, Terry, Yoakum and Scurry counties and the rural areas of Lubbock County.

The first public meeting on formula funding for rural and small urban, and comments on public transportation service and needs in local areas, begin on February 10, 2004 via interactive video conferencing at the Lubbock TxDOT District Office at 135 Slaton Road in Lubbock, Texas from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Watch the DVD recorded Post Antelopes and Post Lady Lopes on Cebridge Connection Channel 12 Saturday & Sunday @ 1, 5 & 10 p.m.

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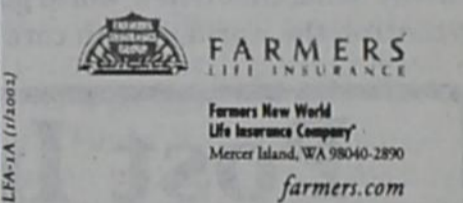
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Obituaries

Willie M. Dye

Graveside services for Willie M. Dye, 95, of Post, were held Thursday, January 29, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at the Terrace Cemetery. Charles McCook and Ted Tatum officiated. Arrangements were under the personal care of Justice-Mason Funeral Home. Mrs. Dye departed this life on Tuesday January 27, 2004 at University Medical Center, Lubbock. She was born on March 28, 1908 to James Alfred and Eppie(Horton) Meeks in Taylor County.



She attended school at Blair and married Edd T. Dye on August 25, 1928 in Merkel. They made their first home in Jones County and in 1936 came to Garza County to farm. In 1947 they moved into Post. Mr. Dye preceded her in death January 13, 1962. She worked for the Garza Memorial Hospital in the dietary department 11 years and retired. After retirement she became a Green Thumb employee and worked in the MHMR department, Garza County Clerks Office, the Senior Citizens Center, Garza County Museum and The Post Housing Authority until 1995. She was a member of the First Baptist Church. Mrs. Dye was also preceded in death by a Daughter, LaVerne Turney, March 18, 1988.

She is survived by one Son: James and wife Linda Dye of Post; one Daughter: Delores Lobban Brooks of Lubbock and a Sister, Melba Miller of Lubbock. Six grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren.

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.

GCHD... going federal?

In the event that the Garza County Hospital District takes on the federal government, a mile-high mistake will be made. As we can all see, the feds has screwed up everything they have ever become involved in, including everything from farming, airlines, railroad, trucking industry and health care is next.

In my belief that a new world government that will control, or at least try to control, the world, health care will be one of their main targets.

Hospital districts, city government, county government and state government should be kept in local control as long as possible.

The founder of the Cable News Network (CNN) once said the worldwide population should be cut by 50 percent. In other words, he means that some of the weaker human race should be allowed to die off. Should the federal government begin to slowly take over health care, I wonder if once they are in full control, could this be possible? Would the government actually allow the population decline?

I am like everyone else. I pay my taxes so I don't lose my property or go to jail, but I have no use for the federal government. I strongly admire our military people, and I love our neighbors all across America, but the federal government is a joke and a total rip off.

Anyone with any gumption at all should know that anything such as the Garza County Hospital District, that is locally owned, controlled and operated by supposedly the taxpayers, should be kept that way. In my opinion, the federal government should stay in Washington and stay out of Garza County.

In my view, the ambulance staff here is capable enough to keep someone alive until the victim can be transported to a real hospital.

The Garza County Hospital District should not even be in existence if a hospital is not being operated in Garza County. In my opinion, the GCHD should be eliminated altogether. That tax money could go to finance a local weekly puppet show and do the county about as good.

If the federal government happens to get their hands on the local hospital district tax money, don't expect a Mayo Clinic to move here to Post anytime soon. The feds will take the money and run with it.

In my opinion, a petition should be circulated, calling for an election to shut down the Garza County Hospital District altogether. It is not needed if a hospital is not in place. The little bandage shops could be privately owned and operated.

Bringing in the federal government... that will by far be the biggest mistake the GCHD will ever make. Let's do away with the GCHD altogether. No offense to the elected board, just stating a fact. The GCHD is nothing more than a unnecessary waste of tax money.

As I see it and my opinion only,
O.L. (Ferg) Ferguson

Vote yes to lower taxes!

As a taxpayer, I recently picked up a brochure about the tax rollback. In my opinion, this affects a whole sum of about 15 people who should have been affected 10 years ago. If they hadn't overspent, they probably would not have had to worry about the situation.

As a senior citizen, I don't believe these 15 people will be worried about how I am going to live when I retire. I don't think the rest of the taxpayers should pick up these 15 people's retirement and insurance.

It probably won't stop here. After this is passed, they will just keep spending and invent more programs that really don't benefit the people that pay for them. When Covenant, General Motors and the Ford Motor Co. get into a financial situation, they simply cut back on their employees.

They don't pass it on to their consumers. As for the insurance, these larger companies have their employees pay a portion of the insurance coverage. It appears to me that we should do a little bit of shopping around for cheaper insurance or larger deductible.

When you hire on to a job, if you aren't satisfied with it, you should have moved on to some other job while you were younger. I'm sorry for the ones that have to go, but some of them just might NEED to go.

I've heard a few things about what went on at the (Jan. 20) meeting and at a couple of local restaurants and it seems almost a threat to vote for it. But I am going to vote for it and would like to encourage everyone else to too!

Fifteen dollars isn't much to some folks, but when you live on a fixed income, it is. For those 15 people who are all about keeping their jobs, they should consider paying for the elderly's and handicapped's basic needs so they don't lose their homes.

I don't mean to offend anyone, but I think it is time for the big government to quit overspending. Maybe we should all learn something from Fred Howell.

I don't think cutting the part-time help for the County Commissioners will hurt. I have yet to find one of them on a piece of county equipment. It seems the sheriff and judge have to work - why not the commissioners? If they didn't want to work, they shouldn't have run for election.

James Dawson

We're paying too much

In my letter to the editor on October 4, 2003 I identified six other counties that were similar in population to Garza County. I went back and reviewed this list and Baylor County appears to have other characteristics similar to Garza County. They have a town, Seymour, that is similar in size to Post and they have a large lake, Lake Kemp, located in their county and they are in West Texas. I regret to say they do not have a county budget that is similar to Garza County.

The total budget for Baylor County is one million seven hundred eighteen thousand dollars less than Garza County. The ad valorem taxes in Baylor County are nine hundred and seventy eight thousand dollars less than Garza County. I talked to the Baylor County Treasurer and he advised me that they had no constable expense and that the sheriff provided law enforcement for Lake Kemp.

Obviously the Garza County Budget has been allowed to grow out of control. When you consider that if the rollback passes and the increase in the tax rate is limited to 11.67% Garza County will still have a budget that is over one million four hundred and one thousand dollars larger than the budget for Baylor County. It is apparent that the items on the county cut list are not the problem.

If the rollback passes Garza County officials should identify the items included in one million four hundred thousand dollars extra being paid for by Garza County taxpayers. They should then survey the taxpayers to determine if they agree with these expenditures or would prefer that their tax dollars be spent on other items.

Fred Howell

Critical of the critics

It is always those who have contributed nothing who sit back and criticize the ones who do the work.

Charles Propst, why don't you get a life?
Ann Mauer, Waco

Supports fast-pitch softball

The Post Independent School Board meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. At this meeting, the school board will be discussing the addition of fast-pitch softball to the high school's extracurricular programs.

If you would like to support fast-pitch softball, please try to attend this meeting. We will not need to have anyone stand up and speak because that has already been done. We just need to let them know that there is still a real interest in them adding this program. I would like to see enough parents and students show up to circle the entire city block.

It is time for our high school to add this program so that our girls can have another opportunity to play a sport. Please come and support fast-pitch softball at the next school board meeting.

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Post Devotional Page

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

The "Wise Men"...Who Were They?

In continuing with this series on the birth of Jesus Christ, we will now take a closer look at the "wise men from the east," as recorded in Matthew 2:1. Little is said about these men. We know that they were from the "east." These men had a more perfect understanding of the stars and constellations in the context of true spiritual meanings. This can be seen in verse 2 where it is written, "...for we have seen his star in the east..." Based on this scripture alone, we can ascertain that they knew exactly what star identified the "King of the Jews." It is also seen in God's word that these "wise men" were the only people to identify "his star." There is no record that anybody else caught on to the birth of God's son by observing the stars. Who were these men? Where did they come from? How did they learn about God's word written in the stars? These are reasonable questions that have been seriously addressed by a number of Biblical and astronomical scholars.

This sub-series on the "wise men" and "his star," borrows from the book, Jesus Christ Our Promised Seed, by Victor Paul Wierwille. In his book, Wierwille showed how the Bible and astronomy fit perfectly with regards to "his star." We should also note that Wierwille cited (along with other sources), Ernest L. Martin's book, The Birth of Christ Recalculated.

The phrase "wise men" in Matthew 2:1 was a weak translation of the earlier known Greek word "magoi." This religious caste, call Magi, can be traced back to Media and Persia before the rise of the Zoroastrian sects. They were thought to be worshippers of nature. Later, the Magians split into two sects, those who continued in the religion of Zoroaster, and those who went back to nature worship. Wierwille explained that a great number of the nature worship Magians later arrived into the Roman Empire. And it was from them that we get the terms "magic" and "magician." He also noted that their influence on religion still remains today.

Now let's go back to the time of Media and Persia, and look at how the Magians learned about God's word written in the stars. This can be found in the book of Daniel. Here, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, brought the Judeans across to Babylon. The Judeans had great influence in the royal courts where the Magi also served. God emphasized four in particular. They were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They were renamed Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (respectively). Although all four meekly demonstrated God's power and dominion before the King, it was Daniel who boldly spoke for God and interpreted the king's dreams. This meant so much to the king that according to Daniel 2:48, he made him the "chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon." He was referred to in 4:9 as "master of the magicians..." More detail can be gleaned from Daniel 5:11 where it says he was made "master of the magicians, astrologers, chaldeans, and soothsayers."

This is significant because Daniel, being a meek and humble man for God, would have instructed the Magians on God's word written in the stars. This would have been passed down through the generations of the Zoroastrian Magians who split from the nature worshippers. And even after 500 years, their descendants still had this knowledge. According to God's word in Matthew 2:1-2, they knew exactly what the star meant. This is why they journeyed to Jerusalem in order ask, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

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Opinions



Sweatshop exploitation

by Walter E. Williams



Here's a question. Suppose you see people lining up for hours, and people willing to pay a month's salary in bribes, in order to get a \$2 a day factory job. What might you conclude? Would you guess there are higher-paying jobs around, but the people are too lazy to look for them? Here's my guess: No matter how unattractive to us that \$2 a day job is, it might be that person's best-known prospect.

New York Times reporter Nicholas Kristof recently wrote "Inviting All Democrats" in the Jan. 14 New York Times Online, a story documenting the plight of Cambodia's poor. In Phnom Penh, hundreds of Cambodians traipse through trash dumps scavenging for plastic bags, metal cans, bits of food and whatever else they can find to sell. Kristof says: "Nhep Chanda averages 75 cents a day for her efforts. For her, the idea of being exploited in a garment factory — working only six days a week, inside, instead of in the broiling sun, for up to \$2 a day — is a dream."

Many Democrat and Republican politicians, union leaders and academic elite say that paying somebody \$2 a day is exploitation. They've called for actions against American companies who exploit Third World workers through low pay, use of child labor and poor working conditions. But let's examine this with an eye toward asking whether exploitation is the right word to use.

Let's start off with a personal question. Suppose you're earning \$1,500 a month, and I come along and offer you a job paying \$3,000 a month with better working conditions. In no way do I coerce you into accepting my job offer. If you accept my job offer, then the only unambiguous conclusion is that you saw my offer as being superior to your next best alternative. When a person is offered an alternative, superior to his next best alternative, how much sense does it make to characterize it as exploitation?

Bush legacy: less freedom

by Sheldon Richman

If anyone still looks to the Republican party of President George W. Bush for limits on government power, it's long past time to look elsewhere.

They certainly won't be found among the Democrats either. But this is no reason for Pollyannaish rhapsodies about the Republicans, who are more offensive than the other guys because they still pay lip service to limits. That is, they insult our intelligence more than the Democrats.

To his sterling government-bloating record - that includes a larger role for Washington in education, ballooning farm subsidies, steel tariffs (since removed), a bigger Medicare, more domestic spying, weakening of habeas corpus, and a doctrine of preventive war - President Bush has now proposed spending a couple of hundred billion dollars for a manned base on the moon and to explore Mars, and a billion and a half dollars to promote marriage here on earth, or at least in the United States. Given his global focus, why limit marriage counseling to this country?

Considering that the choice in November will be between two men who both want bigger government (it won't matter who the Democrat is), one wonders how a serious candidate would be received if he actually proposed to scale back the monstrosity we currently labor under. Limitations on power - what a concept!

Popular political debate has been reduced to trivialities. The contenders discuss how the United States should manage the world, not whether it should. They argue about how big Medicare should be, not whether the taxpayers should be compelled to provide medical care to retirees. They bicker over how bureaucrats should manage our economic affairs, not whether they should be doing it at all.

We shouldn't be surprised by Bush's record. He gave us early warning. It was his supporters inside the GOP establishment who were intent on removing from the party platform the long unkept promise to abolish the Department of Education. When renegades tried to save that plank, the Bush juggernaut crushed them. The old pledge to get rid of the Department of Energy suffered a similar fate.

Bush from the start was determined not to be identified with Ronald Reagan's anti-government rhetoric (even if he never really meant it). No one would ever accuse Bush of believing "government is the problem not the solution."

Oh sure, he sometimes refers to tax revenues as the people's, not the government's, money when he's pushing a modest tax-rate reduction. But you know his heart's not in it. How do we know? Because his tax cuts are small and because spending is skyrocketing. Tax revenues do not give a full picture of the burden of government. Spending is a far more complete measure. If taxes go down but spending goes up - as it has been doing dramatically - the people still have to pay for it. They will pay for it in indirect, less visible ways, such as inflation and government borrowing. Bush's tax cuts are no bargain.

This president has been presiding over the largest spending increases since Lyndon Johnson. Domestic and military spending are on the rise. He's been in office three years and he hasn't yet figured out where they

If Nhep Chanda, who earns 75 cents a day toiling in nasty trash dumps, is offered a factory job at \$2 a day, has she been made better off or worse off? Any reasonable person would conclude that she's better off. When one person makes another person an offer that makes that person better off, does it make sense to characterize it as exploitation?

While we're at it, we might ask if anti-free trade demonstrations and other public pressures stop companies from having manufacturing facilities in places like Cambodia, paying \$2 a day wages, will people like Nhep Chanda be worse off or better off? In other words, do we help people who have few miserable alternatives by destroying their best one?

Former presidential aspirant Rep. Dick Gephardt pledged that if he became president he'd press the World Trade Organization to establish an international minimum wage. Union leaders and their useful idiots in the anti-globalism movement have also called for minimum wages and better working conditions for workers of multinational firms in Third World countries. Here's my question to you: Do you believe these people really care about the world's poor like Nhep Chanda? If you do, I have a fountain of youth I'd like to sell you.

There might be a few ministers, college students and other uninformed people who sincerely care about the Third World poor. But the thrust of the public relations campaign against the multinationals comes from the U.S. and European union movements and some businesses who see their jobs and profits threatened. They wish to raise the cost of overseas operations in order to forestall company relocation, or as Gephardt said he wants, an international minimum wage high enough so that American workers are not competing with slave, sweat shop and child labor around the world.

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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keep the veto pen. In 36 months he has yet to reject a single bill. Does that sound like a commitment to smaller government?

The Bushes are political creatures and big-government men. George I promised a "kinder, gentler government," which could only have meant that he did not believe the anti-government things his patron Reagan had said. George II continued the Bush tradition with his talk about "compassionate conservatism." This was his subtle way of saying that restrained government was cruel.

There's no deep philosophy here, just power lust. George W. Bush wants a second term, and nothing is going to stop him. Hence, the "vision thing."

So he'll send men to the moon and Mars, and he'll promote marriage at a colossal waste of taxpayer money. Government cannot grow without liberty and self-responsibility shrinking. That will be the Bush legacy.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., author of *Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State*, and editor of *The Freeman* magazine.

Rollback election: what's it all about?

by Wes Burnett

Garza County voters have a clear choice in Saturday's tax rollback election: vote yes to lower taxes and reduce the size of government, or vote no to continue higher taxes and bigger and bigger government.

In a similar election 10 years ago, voters here rejected the notion of trimming back taxes ... but then the tax rate was only one-half of the current tax rate. In less than 10 years, Garza County's tax rate has doubled, and the total expenses have expanded along with the increases in tax collections.

Supporters of higher taxes claim that bigger government is okay, and cite increased taxes as an economic tool for prosperity. Pure, unadulterated hogwash. It is a socialist myth, perpetuated for generations and secured by the immorality of theft ... taking from the productive and giving it to the unproductive.

It is not the proper role of government to create jobs ... although that is often cited by tax increase supporters. In Texas, county government is financed by the constitution to provide justice (courts), peace (law enforcement), maintenance of roads and bridges and care for the indigent.

All the other "extras" that burden taxpayers are just that, "extras" ... and although they are often very important social programs, they are not required nor mandated to be funded by government. It is downright immoral to force people to pay for services or activities against their will.

Because government has been allowed to steal from property owners through the act of taxation (using force if necessary to strip individuals of their rightful property), it is critically important for our economic well being to curtail and restrain the insatiable appetite of government

The Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 5, 2004 Page 5

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

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Enslaving kids

by Bill O'Reilly

Even after the mass murders on September 11, 2001, some people still have troubling accepting the fact that evil is a formidable presence in this world. This column will break down that resistance. There are hundreds of thousands of children the world over who are being sold into sexual slavery, and little is being done about it, even by the United States government.

I first encountered this story in 1991 when I traveled to Thailand and bought an 11-year-old girl for less than \$200. The negotiation was captured on tape and reported on the program I was then anchoring, "Inside Edition." On the streets of Bangkok, thousands of young children are sold into prostitution. The pimps and brothel owners bribe police, and evil parents gave up their offspring for a pittance.

The New York Times Sunday Magazine recently provided an update on this story and, according to its reporter, the sex slavery industry is now firmly embedded in the USA. In many cases, the children are smuggled here through Mexico, where it is easy to bribe authorities. Once the border is reached, the children are shepherded across, and vans take them to cities like Los Angeles and Chicago. Of course, crossing the border is easy, as our federal government will not secure it.

Some of these child sex slaves are Mexicans, but some come from other poor countries. Sex traffickers funnel them into Mexico and introduce them to prostitution using threats of violence and mayhem. You can imagine the fear and pain of a child in this situation. It is unspeakable.

The rise of the Internet has spurred the child sex slave industry. Kiddie porn is big business, and pictures of horribly abused kids can now be accessed by anyone with software. When evil and technology merge, the situation becomes catastrophic.

Enter the American justice system. Shamefully, in some cases, it is doing everything it can to "protect" people who brutalize and enslave children:

Item: The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is representing the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) pro bono in a Massachusetts case.

Item: Federal judge Dennis Chin denied the FBI a warrant in the notorious "Candyman" Internet sting case. The feds busted a child porn Web site and secured the names of Americans who did business with it. They then asked various judges for warrants to search the homes and computers of said individuals. Chin said no because he believed one could do business with child pornographers and not commit a criminal act.

Item: An American named Jorge Pabon Cruz distributed more than 8,000 pictures of children being raped, sexually abused and brutalized during a three-month period in 2001. Pabon Cruz advertised his sick site on other Web sites, one of which was named "childrape." Pabon Cruz trafficked in the vilest images imaginable, including pictures of infants being raped.

In October 2002, this monster was convicted of advertising for the receipt, exchange and distribution of child pornography and sentenced to 10 years in a federal prison. That was a mandatory sentence approved by a vote of Congress.

But the presiding federal judge in New York City, Gerard Lynch, publicly objected to the sentence, saying he would have given Pabon Cruz just five years. Lynch, who was appointed by President Clinton, as was Chin, made a big deal of this. Talk about sympathy for the devil!

So recapping, Judges Chin and Lynch witnessed the vilest acts adults can do to children short of murder. Yet these judges did not fully cooperate with a system trying to harshly punish the adults involved — adults who are literally destroying the lives of defenseless children.

Add to that the incredible actions of the ACLU, which apparently believes an organization devoted solely to encouraging pedophilia and legalizing sex between children and adults is entitled to a free defense.

So the logical question is: Aren't these judges and this so-called "civil liberties" organization enabling evil? To me the answer is obvious. Evil cannot exist without human involvement and cooperation. And there's plenty of that going around.

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. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com. COPYRIGHT 2004 BillO'Reilly.com.

Theft - the act of stealing; the felonious taking and removing of personal property with the intent to deprive the rightful owner of it. (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

Taxation - a charge usually of money imposed by authority upon persons or property for public purposes; a heavy demand.

When the tax is not paid, it will be collected against the will of the rightful owner, using force if necessary.

Classified Advertising

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A special thanks to our friends, neighbors and families for all their support, prayers, help, visit, calls and food since we have been home. To our wonderful friends who built the ramp our front so we could bring Gene home.
Gene and Mary Lee Claborn

What a blessing to live in a caring community. My family and I appreciate all your expressions of concern, your prayers, cards, calls, and visits during my recent illness. We are fortunate to have Rodney Tidwell and his team taking care of us. May God bless you all.
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The Garza County Treasurer's Office is taking applications for an accounting position. The position requires a working knowledge of computer use for word processing. Prior experience in payroll and accounts payable will be a consideration. Applications may be picked up in the Treasurer's Office on the (south) third floor of the courthouse until the position is filled.

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT REVISED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Garza County underground and fresh water conservation district (U&FWCD) has called for a public hearing on February 11, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in the district office at the Garza County courthouse to adopt the revised water management plan for 2003 - 2013.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted before the Garza County Commissioner's Court, 3rd floor, Garza County Courthouse, Post, Texas on Monday, February 23, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. to consider adoption of the following:

An order expanding and adopting a zoning order and maps dividing those parts of Garza County located within three miles of the high water marks established for Lake Alan Henry into districts in accordance with a comprehensive plan; defining certain terms; regulating the location, size, height, bulk and use of buildings within such respective districts; fixing building lines for each respective district; regulating the density of population, structures, buildings, and structures in each particular district; adopting zoning maps and making them a part of this order; providing a penalty for violations of this order; authorizing publication of the descriptive caption and penalty clause hereof; containing a saving clause; and preserving rights in pending litigation and violations under existing orders.

Rollback election Saturday...

(Continued from Page 1)

One of the major differences between Garza and other Texas counties is the presence of Lake Alan Henry, the judge said. The new lake is growing as one of the area's most popular recreational spots, and development around the lake also is on the rise.

Because of these factors, Garza County needs to maintain a continuous and dependable law enforcement presence in the area - a demand county officials have met by infusing additional funds and personnel into the constable's office that serves the Lake Alan Henry area.

Dalby said Garza County can't afford to pull sheriff's department personnel from Post and other areas of the county to work Lake Alan Henry. "They can't go to Alan Henry and do much 'cause if they start going down there too much, the city would complain," the judge said.

In Borden County, the constable's budget is zero. "We have over \$200,000 in constable service here," Howell said. "Let's take the Lubbock money (provided as reimbursement for services at their property) and give it to the sheriff. Let the sheriff's office provide security and law enforcement, just like in Baylor County."

Sheriff Kenny Ratke said he has been approached by "people in county government" to look at the possibility of handling the law enforcement duties at Lake Alan Henry, but he's fielded no formal request from the Commissioners Court.

"It puts me in the crossfire because I've never been one to micromanage anybody's office," Ratke said, "but if the formal question's put to me, yeah, I'll study the issue."

If he was asked about the feasibility of his office providing law enforcement at the lake, the sheriff said he would first need to conduct a feasibility study. "I would have to approach the city, separate out an entire budget for that, consolidate as much as I could with pre-existing equipment and services," Ratke said. "I'd have to look at additional fuel - what it takes them to actually do the job annually. I'd have to look at the manpower that's actually spent at the lake.... Those are just some of the issues that would have to be looked at, but, of course, I haven't been asked."

"More times than not, I can find savings in almost any budget. I would approach that situation as I do my own budget. Every year, that's what I'm doing."

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.

Garden Checklist for February

1. Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly, the first year.
2. When buying plants, the biggest is not always the best, especially with bare-rooted plants. The medium to small sized (4 to 6 feet) usually become established faster and will become effective in the landscape more quickly than the large sizes.
3. Complete the bare-root planting of woody landscape plants his month. Container and ball-and-burlap plants are in good supply and can be set out most any time. Winter and early spring planting provides an opportunity for good establishment before hot weather comes.
4. Prune roses during February except in the Panhandle and far North Texas, where roses are pruned in March or April. Use good shears that will make clean cuts. Remove dead, dying, and weak canes. Leave four to eight healthy canes and remove approximately one-half of the top growth along the height of the plant.
5. Now is an excellent time to select and plant container-grown roses to fill in bare spots in your rose garden.
6. Wait until after they finish flowering before pruning spring-flowering shrubs such as quince, azalea, forsythia and spiraea.
7. When pruning shrubs, follow these steps: (1) prune out any dead or damaged branches first; (2) thin out by removing about one-third of the canes or stems at ground level, removing the oldest canes only; (3) shape the rest of the plant but do not cut everything back to the same height.
8. Plant dahlia tubers in late February and early March.
9. Plant gladiolus corms; space planting dates at two-week intervals to extend flowering season.
10. Fertilize pansies once again for continued flowering. Don't forget to water when needed.
11. A potted plant, tree, shrub, or cut flowers make excellent Valentine gifts for loved ones and shut-ins.

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Yesteryears

Compiled by Donna Jones from the files of The Post Dispatch

10 Years Ago February 2, 1994

Students participating in the annual Texas Bluebonnet reading program at Post Elementary and Middle Schools took part in a new aspect of the program this year. For the first time, students used a computer to test their knowledge of the books they read.

Phil and Metta Tyler are proud to announce the birth of their son, Austin Heath, born January 19, at St. Mary's Hospital in Lubbock.

For Your Valentine: Register to win \$200 in gift certificates, redeemable at any of the following sponsors: Danish Imports; The Spotted Pony; Kidstuf; Happiness Is; Handy Gifts, and Hudman Furniture.

The back court trio of Falisha and Angela Jefferson and Talina Bird combined for 29 points as the Lady Lope freshmen drubbed Crosbyton 46-21 Thursday night. "All of the girls did a great job," said coach Bill Gordon.

A startup date of April 28 through May 1 will be the first trade days, announced Marvin and Sheree Butler. Their dream will soon become a reality.

Jim and Sharla Wells of Post announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage of their son, Michael Charles to Jamie Lynn Johnston. Both the future bride and groom are students at Texas Tech and will graduate in May.

20 Years Ago February 1, 1984

Candace McConnell, Post High School Drama teacher, was elected to the Texas Education Theater Assn. Board of Directors last weekend at the University of Texas. She is the youngest member of the association to serve as a member of the board. Pee Wee Pierce, librarian of the Post Public Library, was presented a plaque recently by the Girl Scouts for her eagerness to help Girl Scout Troops and service units when they

need help with resources, projects and programs.

For What It's Worth: There have been changes up and down main street recently. Trisha Cockrell who was working for Connell Estate is now working for Rocker A in the Handy Hardware Building and Reba (Hays) Propst has taken Trish's place at Connell, and congratulations to Delbert Rudd, whom I understand will be the new assistant city manager.

Lubbock's popular and humorous former mayor Dirk West will be the featured speaker at this year's Post Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Approximately 110 third grade music students of Mrs. Marita Jackson will present "Cinderella" with music from the original soundtrack. Old Queen Ella, played by Angel Hammonds and King Not So Charming Anymore played by Albert Castro will tell the story with scenes coming from a scrapbook. Suzanne Gordon will take on the role of Cinderella with Prince Charming being played by Pete Torres.

30 Years Ago January 31, 1974

Miss Karen LaVerne Pruitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Pruitt of Post, and Sammy Palmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Pamler, former residents of Electra, repeated double ring wedding vows Friday, January 11 in the Church of the Nazarene. Don't forget BINGO, every Sunday from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. at the VFW Hall.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and Soil Conservation Service held open house Sunday afternoon in their new offices in the First National Bank building between the bank and the post office. New and attractive park benches and plants have brightened up the Algerita Park. E. A. Howard, vocational agriculture teacher, and some of his VA students have brought na-

tive shrubs to the downtown park and set them out with the assistance of Green Thumb crew members. The new park benches have been placed in the park by the Women's Division of the Post Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Chris Reiter, the former Glenna Bevers, was complimented with a miscellaneous wedding shower Jan. 12 in the community room. Misses Lisa Haley, Lori Chapman and Christy Davis served refreshments.

40 Years Ago January 30, 1964

The one-story home of Mr. and Mrs. Elton (Red) Mathis at 610 W. Main St. was destroyed shortly after midnight Friday by fire that started in a guest room. All three local fire trucks were used, one standing to protect the Hudman home, the roof of which caught fire two or three times. The Mathises, who recently became owners of The Flower Shop here, had lived in the house for three years.

School Page: "Mr. and Miss PHS" of 1963-64 senior class favorites and superlatives were elected in class meetings. Senior students Nita Wilson and Danny Odom were elected "Mr. and Miss PHS". In the Senior class, the favorites are Linda McMahon and Wendell Johnson. The senior superlatives are as follows: Most Athletic: Nita Wilson and Danny Odom. Most Dependable: Yvonne Corley and Billy Shumard. Most Intelligent: Linda Pennell and Wayne Masters. Most Versatile: Argan Robinson and Jackey Fluit. Most Fun: Carol Ann Smith and George McLaurin. Best Dressed: Carol Dee Hodges and Pat Cornell.

Garza County's new deputy sheriff, Bob Atkinson, will begin his duties here this weekend.

Ed Sims and his family have moved from Post to a ranch near Uvalde. Ed reported before his recent departure that irrigation is just beginning in that area of Texas.

Eddie and Lillian Boggs of Fort Worth have purchased Ray's Drive-In from Leon Ray and plan their grand opening this weekend. The drive-in at 117 North Broadway will change its name to Eddie's Drive-In.

50 Years Ago February 4, 1954

The Karamu Quartet, nationally famous concert singers and well known for their national broadcasts over CBS nation-wide hook-up, will appear in the Post Grade School auditorium in the Garza Town Hall and Concert Association's third concert of the season.

Doc Dougherty's talking Dolls will be presented Thursday morning, at Post Grade School. "Doc" has become the outstanding ventriloquist in the school assembly field.

Army Pvt. Lewis W. Ammons, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Ammons of Post is serving in Germany with the 1st Infantry Division. The only American division to remain in Europe since World War II, the 1st Infantry is receiving intensive training as part of the NATO defense force.

A son, Martin, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Morales in Garza Memorial Hospital on January 30.

A hen egg with a perfectly formed image of a baby's head and arm on one end was brought to The Post Dispatch office by Mrs. E. J. (Ida) Robinson. The egg is a little longer than the average hen egg. The image, which is about one-half inch in size, is on the tip of the larger end of the egg. Mrs. Robinson left the egg at The Dispatch office for exhibit.



Gentry Creech puts on quite a show at Post Antelope and Lady Lope varsity basketball games... her acrobatics include some tricky flips. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

Menus

Post ISD

February 9- Breakfast-Pig-n-blanket, fruit, milk

Lunch-Spaghetti/meat sauce, salad, California blend, pineapple slices, garlic bread, milk.

February 10- Breakfast-Cheese omelet, toast, fruit, milk.

Lunch-Pizza, salad, corn, peaches, milk.

February 11- Breakfast-Oatmeal, toast, bacon, fruit, milk

Lunch-Chicken nuggets, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, gravy, pudding, milk

February 12- Breakfast-Cowboy bread, sausage link, fruit, milk

Lunch-Corn bogs, tater tots, mixed vegetables, pears, milk

February 13- Breakfast-Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch-Fish, macaroni & cheese, carrot sticks, peas, hushpuppies, apple, milk

Southland ISD

February 9- Breakfast-Churros (jelly roll), juice, milk

Lunch-Chicken strips, mashed potatoes w/gravy, green beans, fruit salad, rolls, milk

February 10- Breakfast-Breakfast burritos, juice, milk

Lunch-Chicken spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, corn, pineapples w/apples, milk.

February 11- Breakfast-Oatmeal, toast, sausage, juice, milk.

Lunch-Flour tacos, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, rice, pinto beans, fruit cup, milk

February 12- Breakfast-Cereal, graham cracker, juice, milk.

Lunch-Pizza, apple, green beans, brownie, milk.

February 13- Breakfast-Biscuits & gravy, sausage, juice, milk.

Lunch-Fish sticks, macaroni & cheese, cole slaw, bananas, milk.

SpeedNet Acquires Prairie Communication, Inc. (PCI) Wireless Internet Service

SpeedNet Services, Inc., one of the leading high-speed, fixed wireless Internet service providers in the Central United States, announced today that it has acquired the Prairie Communication, Inc. (PCI) wireless Internet service business located in the Humboldt, Hancock and Wright County area of north Central Iowa. The acquisition marks the entry of SpeedNet into the State of Iowa and expands SpeedNet's coverage and subscriber base into 15 additional communities. SpeedNet offers coverage in 207 communities in Nebraska, Kansas, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas and Iowa.

"We are excited about this industry and the opportunity for growth, both organic and through acquisitions. This transaction represents the beginning of a very aggressive growth plan for 2004 and beyond", says SpeedNet's EVP & CFO Greg Sloma.

SpeedNet, which started in Omaha in 1999, focuses on bringing broadband Internet access to under-served non-metropolitan markets. Gene Porter, President of SpeedNet said, "Our goal is to provide quality, affordable Internet service for our customers. Our entire company is committed to a smooth transition for customers from PCI to SpeedNet, resulting in improved service and increased coverage. We hope that our newest customers, both consumer and business, will be pleased with our products, our level of customer service and our dedication to serving progressive rural communities."

SpeedNet's fixed wireless technology uses wireless radio frequencies that allow 2-way communication between an antenna broadcast site located on a tall structure in the community, and a small antenna and wireless radio card at the customer's home or office. This technology, which uses no phone lines, provides Internet access that can be up to 20 times faster than conventional dial-up services. The result is download times that are reduced from minutes to seconds. The service area is generally up to 8 miles around each antenna tower site and service requires line of sight to the tower.

Local SpeedNet services is available by calling 495-0277. SpeedNet is located at 9110 West Dodge Road Omaha, NE 68114. For information on how to subscribe, contact your local SpeedNet retailer or area representative, call 1.800.847.5231, or visit our website at www.dtnspeed.net.

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Grandma Brag Pages Feb. 12, 2004



This size (four singles) \$40.

Bring your favorite photo of your grandchild to The Post Dispatch before Friday, Feb. 6 for our annual Valentine edition!! Please include names of children and grandparents, with phone number of submitter. ONLY \$10 per photo (no more than 2 children per photo in \$10 size). Larger sizes \$20 and \$40.

Use the handy mail slot in the front door when the office is closed or mail to

P.O. Box 490, Post, Texas 79356.
call 495-2816 for details

Deadline: Friday, February 6

The Post Dispatch
123 E. Main - Post, Texas



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(Please, payment in advance at this low rate)

ACROSS

- Roger Staubach is NFL ___ of Famer
- Gen. Robert ___ air market: "El ___"
- Houston on death of Austin: "The father of Texas ___ more"
- Laurel of "Way Out West" with TX Chill Willis
- TXism: "got misery up to ___ armpits"
- TXism: "___ bones" (doctor)
- TX Ginger won one for "Kitty Foyle" TXism: "numerous as ___ dead worm"
- TXism: "___ cane" (celebrated)
- "___ on the Block" group
- TX Larry McMurry TXism: "___ for sore eyes"
- slimy
- they're "upon you" in Texas
- TXism: "has to sneak up on a ___ to fix her hair" (homely)
- chilli consumer
- Houston has big ___ space industry
- TX gunfighter Ben Thompson's trademark (3 wds.)
- in Pecos Co. on 11 last pass of 1-across was ___ incomplete
- TX "Evening Shade" actress Linda
- San Antonio's open-air market: "El ___"
- TX "Family Stone" singer
- bullfight bull
- early TX Methodist missionary Martin
- TXism: "___ pilot" (preacher)
- "gave ___ honest effort"
- unusual goat raised in TX
- Houston's wife Margaret
- TX Perrine was a ___ Vegas showgirl
- TX pest: fire ___

DOWN

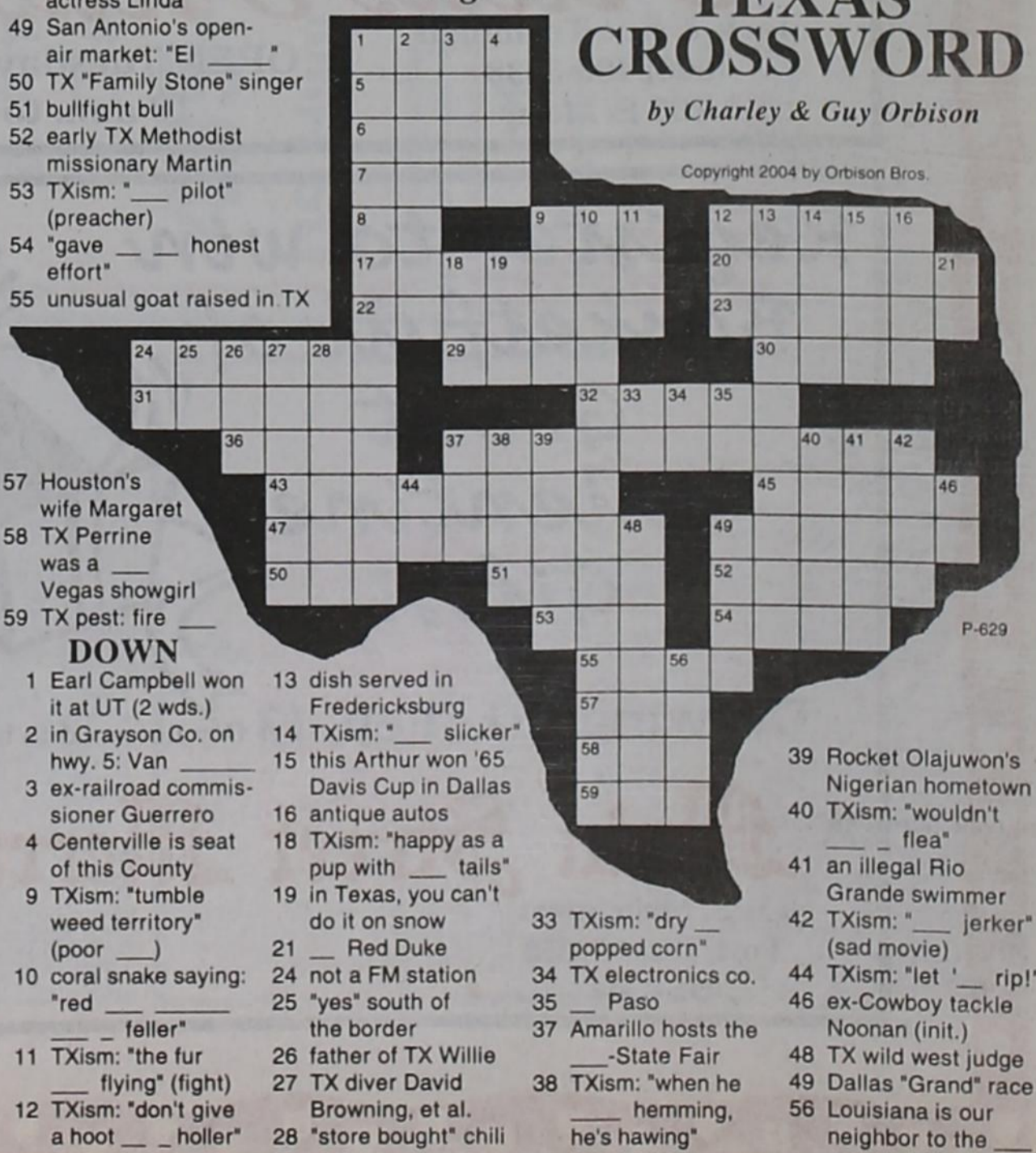
- Earl Campbell won it at UT (2 wds.)
- in Grayson Co. on hwy. 5: Van
- ex-railroad commissioner Guerrero
- Centerville is seat of this County
- TXism: "tumble weed territory" (poor ___)
- coral snake saying: "red ___ feller"
- TXism: "the fur ___ flying" (fight)
- TXism: "don't give a hoot ___ holler"
- dish served in Fredericksburg
- TXism: "___ slicker"
- this Arthur won '65 Davis Cup in Dallas
- antique autos
- TXism: "happy as a pup with ___ tails" in Texas, you can't do it on snow
- Red Duke
- not a FM station
- "yes" south of the border
- father of TX Willie
- TX diver David Browning, et al.
- "store bought" chili
- 39 Rocket Olajuwon's Nigerian hometown
- TXism: "wouldn't ___ flea"
- an illegal Rio Grande swimmer
- TXism: "___ jerker" (sad movie)
- TXism: "let '___ rip!"
- ex-Cowboy tackle Noonan (init.)
- TX wild west judge
- Dallas "Grand" race
- Louisiana is our neighbor to the ___

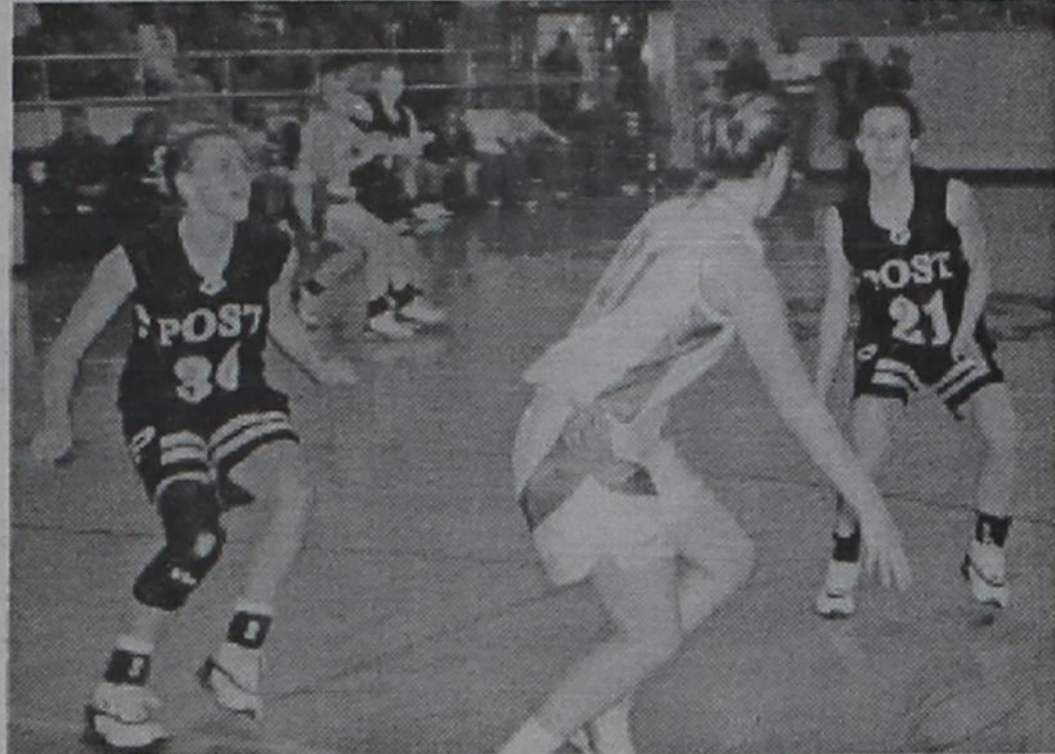
The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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Lady Lopes senior guard Brittney Courtney, teamed up with junior guard Meagan Hoover, in defense against New Deal during last week's game. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

Lady Lopes JV Win Two More

On January 23rd the Lady Lopes closed out the first half of district play with a road trip to Roosevelt. The Lady Lopes jumped out to a 14-6 first quarter lead and cruised to a 52 to 31 victory. Scoring by quarters: 14-9, 9-7, 14-11, 15-7. Scoring for the Lady Lopes JV were Laurel Tatum 12, Larissa Halford 11, Jackie Hays 7, Rachel Gray 6, Kylie Easterling 6, Ashley Powell 4, Ashley Wilson 4, and Katie Vernon 2.

On January 27th the Lady Lopes started the second half of district play with a trip to New Deal. The Lady Lopes JV completed a two game sweep over New Deal.

In the first meeting the Lady Lopes JV defeated New Deal 23-16. In this contest the Lady Lopes posted a 24-19 victory. Scoring by quarters: 12-5, 8-6, 2-2, 2-6.

Scoring for the Lady Lopes were Ashley Wilson 8, Laurel Tatum 6, Courtney Copeland, Rachel Gray, Ashley Powell, Larissa Halford, and Jackie Hays scored 2 points each. The Lady Lopes JV overall season record is 17-3, and district is 5-1.

Lady Lopes overwhelm Roosevelt 63-35

The Lady Lopes won one and lost one in district play last week. The team won 63-35 over Roosevelt.

Courtney led scoring with 25 points, followed by Starkey and Kirkpatrick with 11 and 10 respectively. Lott had eight points and Gregory had four, while Strawn and Hoover each scored two in the game. Nelson scored one point.

Strawn, Gregory and Courtney were 100 percent in free throws on the night, while Kirkpatrick was 1-1 from outside the arc.

The girls dropped a game to New Deal 62-47. "The girls played their hearts out," said Coach Courtney. "We just made a few too many defensive mistakes to win the ballgame."

Courtney led scoring with 20, followed by Kirkpatrick with 13 and Hoover with seven. Starkey had four points, Dalby, two points, and Lott, one point. Dalby was 100 percent in field goal shooting, while Hoover was 1-1 in 3-point shots. Hoover and Kirkpatrick were 100 percent from the free throw line.

PHS powerlifters win at Sweetwater

The Post High School powerlifters earned a pair of team wins at the Sweetwater meet Jan. 17.

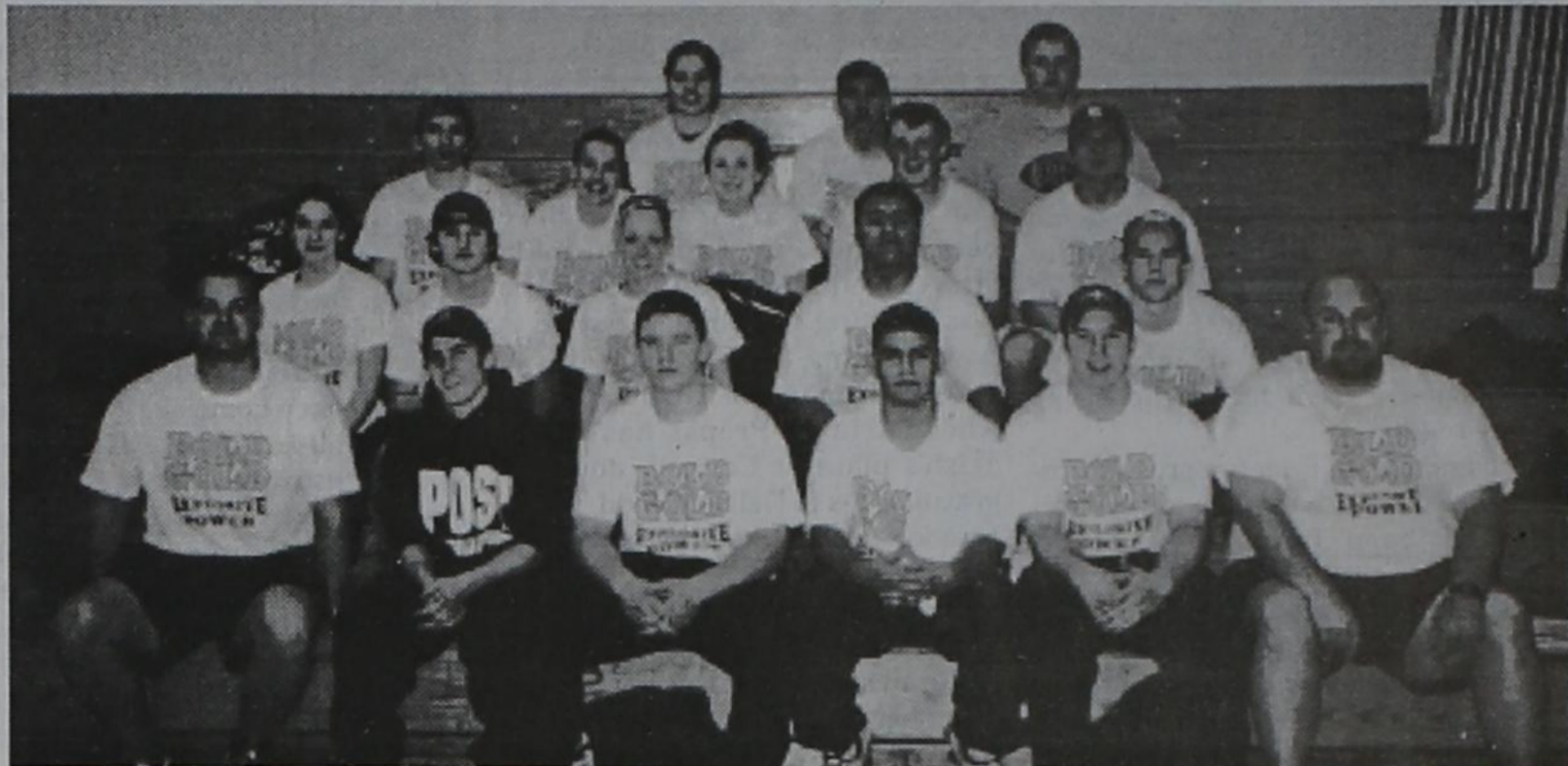
The boys team finished in first place, while the girls team captured a second place win. The Post competitors were pitted against athletes from numerous West Texas schools, including Abilene High, Sweetwater, Snyder, Roscoe, Hamlin, Roby and Eden.

Mark McCallister was declared Best Overall Lifter in the heavy division with a 1200 total on three lifts. Kris Hernandez took second best overall with a 1080 total.

Other individual efforts included Quinton Odom, first place in the 132 weight class; McCallister, first place, 220 weight class; Kyle Gunn, first place, 165 weight class; Israel Beggs, first place, 242 weight class; Chessauf Garcia, second place, 220 weight class; Hernandez, second place, 181 weight class; Travis Matthews, third, 198 weight class; Blake Nichols, fourth, 220 weight class; Martin Garcia, fourth, 148 weight class; and Preston Ortiz, fifth place, 181 weight class.

In the girls division, Christin Collier earned a sixth place finish, Alana Zubia, seventh place, Gentry Creech, eighth, and Christina Zellmer, 11th.

Outstanding lifts logged during the meeting included those by McCallister, a 450-pound squat; Beggs, a 325-pound bench press; Hernandez, a 435-pound dead lift; Collier, a 180-pound dead lift; Zubia, a 230-pound squat; and Creech, a 170-pound squat.



PHS weightlifting team are (back row, left to right), Alana Zubia, D.J. Rivera, Israel Beggs, (third row) Martin Garcia, Gentry Creech, Zane Mason, Travis Mathews and Kris Hernandez, (second row) Christina Zellmer, Randon Blacklock, Christin Collier, Chessauf Garcia and Kyle Gunn, (front row) Coach Motheral, Quinton Odom, Blake Nichols, Preston Ortiz, Mark McCallister and Coach John Wright.

PHS joins 8 team district in realignment

Post High School continues in the Class AA ranks with Monday's UIL announcement setting realignment for extra curricular activities. Abernathy, Denver City and Slaton will join Idalou, Roosevelt, Post, Shallowater and Tahoka in the new District 5.

"We were a bit surprised about Denver City," PHS athletic director Tim James said, "but we had them on the schedule anyway. We're excited about this district and we believe we will be competitive." James pointed out that it will be a tough district in athletics, with all the schools fielding outstanding programs.

New Deal has been moved to Class A.

Coach James filled in the non-district schedule with Seminole, Lockney and Roscoe for a 10 game regular football season.

Next fall's football schedule:

August 27, Seminole here September 3 - Open September 10 at Lockney September 17, Roscoe here September 24 at Denver City October 1, Abernathy here October 8 at

Shallowater October 15 at Idalou October 22, Tahoka here October 29 at Slaton November 5, Roosevelt here KPOS Radio will continue its tradition of live, play-by-play broadcasts on Cebridge Media Channel 12 and

at www.kposradio.com on the internet. Post City Television will provide DVD recorded play on Cebridge Media Channel 12 each Saturday and Sunday during the football season.



Sterling Smith (sophomore guard), pushed down the court during last week's game against New Deal. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

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