

The Post Dispatch

78th Year Number 43 USPS 439-620 © 2004 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 75¢ Thursday, March 25, 2004



Mark McAllister (left) displays his second place medal for last weekend's Regional Powerlifting meet at Kermit. Coach John Wright congratulates McAllister for his outstanding performance. McAllister will advance to State Competition.

Murder charges filed

by Sheri Lewis
A 57-year-old Post man remained in the Garza County Jail Tuesday evening facing first-degree murder charges in connection with the shooting death of a woman believed to be

his wife.
Bill Henry Reed is being held on a \$750,000 bond after authorities, responding to a report of an accidental shooting, found the body of 58-year-old Margie Smith Reed in the living room of Bill Reed's home. Reed was arrested and charged with murder because "physical evidence at the scene appeared to contradict unsolicited statements (Reed) was making," Sheriff Kenny Ratke said.

Reed dialed 9-1-1 to summon authorities at about 1:56 a.m. Sunday. According to the sheriff's department call sheet, the caller reported a gun had gone off and his wife had been shot in the shoulder. The dispatcher also noted that the caller had been "difficult to understand."

A sheriff's deputy arrived at the house, located in the 300 block of East 5th Street, almost immediately. Ratke said he arrived minutes later to find an officer talking to Reed in the front yard. Inside the house, Margie Smith Reed was dead. Another deputy working the scene advised the sheriff there were indications the shooting might have been a homicide.

Ratke said he spent about 15 minutes in a preliminary walk-through of the house before ordering Reed be detained as a suspect. The scene showed no signs of a struggle.

Reed told investigators the shooting involved the accidental discharge of a firearm while Margie Smith Reed was standing at the front door. He said he had placed the gun - a .30-.30 lever rifle - in his lap and it accidentally went off.

Although Reed has said repeatedly the shooting was accidental, Ratke said the suspect declined to provide authorities with a formal statement.

A bullet recovered at the scene and a bullet hole at the site "totally contradict" Reed's claims, the sheriff said. "It seems extremely unlikely that his story could coincide with the physical evidence found in that home."

Reports indicate Margie Smith Reed was shot at one location in the living room, but her body was found lying face-up on a nearby sofa. Ratke said a wound on the woman's upper left chest appeared to be a possible exit wound.

She was pronounced dead at the scene.
The sheriff has received preliminary results from Monday's autopsy, but he declined to comment on its

findings until the full report is made available sometime in the next few days. He did state that the findings left him confident that he'd "made the right decision in making that arrest."

Reports indicate Reed had consumed some alcohol prior to the incident, and authorities seized what they believe to be crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia from the living room and kitchen of the home. Officials are still awaiting the results of toxicology reports.

Ratke said Reed has been under surveillance for several years in connection with suspected drug activity.

In September 2002, Reed was linked to an incident involving shots being fired in the front yard of his home, the sheriff said. No criminal charges were ever filed.

Reed lived in the 5th Street home and was employed as a handyman at the Dalby Ranch. Margie Smith Reed was a full-time employee of the Dalbys who lived at the ranch. Ratke said she occasionally visited Reed at his home.

Authorities are unclear whether the

dead woman and the suspect remained husband and wife. They were married at one time, the sheriff said, but they had lived separately for several years.

Ratke said he expects a second evidentiary search warrant to be served this week to enable investigators "to secure additional evidence" in the case. He declined to comment on what type of evidence authorities would be searching for.

An earlier search warrant secured the clothing and footwear of the suspect.

Authorities also are working to determine where Reed may have obtained the rifle that fired the fatal shot.

"We do not believe it was his gun," the sheriff said.

Sheriff's department officials and at least one Texas Ranger worked the scene for more than five hours Sunday morning.

Services for Margie Smith Reed will be held at 2 p.m. today at the Pleasant Home Baptist Church, with burial in the Terrace Cemetery under the direction of the Hudman Funeral Home.

GHD approves PNS contract renewal

by Sheri Lewis
PNS will continue operating the local clinic following action taken last week by Garza County Hospital District (also known as Health Care District) directors.

During their Thursday night meeting, district officials voted in favor of renewing the PNS contract for another year, according to administrator Tanya Boucher.

PNS has operated the local clinic for almost a year after Covenant pulled out of its agreement with the GCHD last spring.

In other business, district officials tabled action on taking bids for grant writing for the FQHC/FQHC-LA applications. Also tabled was a routine review of the district's legal representation.

The board also received the monthly report on the Garza County Health Clinic. A total of 488 visits and 721 procedures were recorded during February, compared to 516 and 870 respectively in January. The month's

expenses were \$34,510, compared to \$37,121 in January. Charges were \$35,690 (\$41,930 in January), accounts receivable was \$37,689 (\$39,898) and patient collections were \$18,762 (\$24,262). Deficit for the month was \$15,748, compared to \$12,858 in the previous month.

A report on the district's indigent care program also was delivered. According to the report, a total of 16 indigent clients were served during February, compared to 13 in January. Total expenses for the month were \$1,586.

The following election judges, alternate election judges and clerks were appointed for the May 15 election: Billie Windham, Louise Greene, Linda Green, early voting; Kay Hays and Cindy Johnson, Precinct 1; Luara (Chita) Hataway and Crystal Mason, Precinct 2; Cherry Eckols, Faye Maddox and Melba Cimental, Precinct 3; and John C. Boren and Peggy R. Smith, Precinct 4. Shirley Taylor and Brandy Fannon were appointed representative and alternate representative for the election.

The board's next regular meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. April 15 in the Citizens Bank Community Room.

Code enforcers collect \$27, 213.99 during February

by Tim Burnett
Garza County and the State of Texas traffic code enforcers collected \$27, 213.99 during the month of February, 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 \$12, 406.75, which included 31 traffic misdemeanor cases. JP Court 2 reported \$14, 807.24, which included 127 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 power-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

(Continued on Page 2)

County gets three to operate Dalby unit

By Wes Burnett

Presentation of proposals to operate the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility highlighted Monday's regular meeting of the Garza County Commissioners' Court. Representatives of Correctional Services Corporation (CCS) and Global Expertise and Outsourcing (GEO) presented their proposals. Current contractor Management and Training (MTC) Corporation

also submitted a proposal, but did not have a representative at the meeting.

All three proposals included at least 10 beds for housing county prisoners, with CCS offering up to 35 beds at no cost to the county. CCS also proposed an annual payment of \$750,000 to the county.

GEO officials offered the county an

annual payment of \$1 million, based on 1038 inmates.

MTC sweetened its offer with a payment of \$1,000,217 annually and relief of \$400,000 on the original bond owed by the county.

The court agreed to study the proposals and hold a workshop at 10 a.m. Saturday to consider each proposal in more detail. A final decision is expected at the Monday, March 29 special called session at 8 a.m. The current contract with MTC expires July 31, 2004.

In other matters, the court approved a revised set of Rules of Procedure and Decorum for its meetings; approved a policy change requiring that all elected and appointed officials secure required peace officer certification through their personal funds; and took into consideration a proposal by Sheriff Kenny Ratke to accept a contract with Dickens County Correctional Facility to overflow county prisoners.

Ratke explained that the Spur facility would provide all transportation needed, including taking county prisoners to Spur and back when needed. The facility offer a rate of \$38 per day. The county recently entered into a contract with Lynn County to house overflow prisoners. That contract does not include transportation services.

No challengers in Post ISD election

Incumbents Brad Mason and Guin Miller were the only candidates to file for election to the Post Independent School District board of trustees in the May 15 election.

Two positions are slated to be filled during the election, according to district officials



Taba'na Yuan'e Shows "Very Good Year"

Ken Le Blanc of Waco pointed the ceremonial feather to the northeast declaring "a very good year" at Monday morning's Taba'na Yuan'e annual event at the City Park. The Post Commerce and Tourism Bureau hosts Taba'na Yuan'e every March 22. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

Post Notes

Tornandonos a la Cosecha

La Iglesia De Dios De La Profecia en Post les invita a la campana misionera, "Tornandonos a la Cosecha" Viernes Marzo 26 a las 7 p.m. Musica por Pepe Franco de Midland, mensaje por Felicia Payano de Post; Sabado a las 7 p.m. Marzo 27 con mensaje por Vicente Villolon, pastor de la Asamblea De Dios en Post y Domingo Marzo 28 a las 10 a.m., mensaje por Jose Payano de Post.

Algerita Spring Art Show March 26

The Algerita Spring Art Show will be held March 26 with Western Texas College art professor Ben Sum serving as judge. Entries for the show will be accepted Wednesday, March 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursday, March 26 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. A special category, "Black and White With a Touch of Red" has been added. For more information call Linda Puckett at 495-2207 or 3623 or Glenda Morrow at 629-4393.

EMT classes available in Tahoka

Lynn County EMS is offering an EMT Class beginning April 6. Classes will be held in Tahoka two nights a week on Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost of the class is approximately \$500. Those interested in becoming an EMT to help the service in Post are encouraged to attend the EMT class. Call 269-0075 for more information.

One Act Play Performance

Post High School's entry in the UIL One-Act Play competition will be staged for the public Thursday, March 25, beginning at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. The play, "The Hypochondriac," features more than a dozen PHS students on stage, as well as a number of additional cast and crew members. Donations will be accepted for admission to the event. The PHS ensemble will perform their contest entry at the One-Act Play district contest at 11:45 a.m. March 27 in the Post Elementary School auditorium, the public is invited.

The Church of God of Prophecy Revival

The Church of God of Prophecy in Post invites you to a Missionary Revival beginning 7 p.m. Friday, March 26 thru Sunday, March 28.

Gordita Plates March 25

The Church of God of Prophecy will sale gordita plate dinners, Thursday, March 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The plate includes 3 gorditas, beans, rice, and salad - \$5.00.

Bake Sale

The Garza County Trailblazers will be having a bake sale at United Supermarket on Saturday, March 27 from 9-?

Church of God of Prophecy

The Church of God of Prophecy and Pepe Franco invites you and your family to a Missionary Campaign on March 26-28, at 7 p.m. at 602 W. 14th Street.

Poka Lambro Annual Meeting

Poke Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is set to host their 53rd Annual Membership Meeting Thursday, March 25. The meeting will be held at the Poka Lambro business office located 11.5 miles north of Tahoka on US Hwy 87.

Member registration will begin at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at noon. One important item of business on the agenda will be the election of two directors of the Cooperative.

Other meeting highlights will include the reports of officers and directors, the presentation of Poka Lambro Scholarships, and any other business that may come before the membership. All Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative members are encouraged to attend. Members may pick up door prize cards when registering at the meeting. For more information contact Amy Preston at 1-800-422-2387.

Garza County 4-H Shotgun Sports

Garza County youth 9-18 years of age (one parent must attend) can register for Garza Co. 4-H Shotgun Sports on Tuesday, March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Garza County Extension office meeting room. No experience required. For more information contact: Mark Kirkpatrick - (806) 495-2235 or Ray Mason - (806) 495-2776.

Sonic Boom damage claims

Those businesses or individuals interested in submitting claims of damage from last week's sonic booms should call the U.S. Air Force at 325-696-2862.

Little League Concession Stand Bids

The Post Little League is accepting bids for those interested in operating the concession stand this season. Deadline for submitting bids is April 1. Contact Sonja Fields at 495-3533.

Turkey Shoot Fund Raiser

A turkey shoot sponsored by the 2-P Gun Club of Post will be held Saturday, April 3 from 10 a.m. till dark. Cash prizes awarded to winners. \$4.00 per shoot - 50% back to shooters. \$20.00 Annie Oakley - 2 p.m. (limited to factory shells). \$25.00 Annie Oakley - 3 p.m. (no limits). Proceeds go to the Garza County 4-H Shotgun Sports.

"Eggs 'N Art" at the OS Museum

The OS Museum has announced the opening of its "Eggs 'N Art" exhibit. Viewing hours for the exhibit are Monday thru Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. The Museum is located at 201 E. Main. For more information call 495-3570.

Rotary Club Broom Sale March 30

The annual Rotary Club Broom Sale is Tuesday, March 30. It will be at the usual spot on 120 W. Main starting at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush

Hey everyone, Hello for another week. Is everyone in the Spring mode? Jane and I had several ladies in the store last week talking about doing their Spring cleaning. I can't say that I've even thought about that, but I'm sure glad to see the

warm weather. **CONGRATULATIONS** I want to send a special congrats to Mark McCallister. When he placed second in the power lifting Regional contest in Roosevelt it allowed him to travel to the University of Houston



the 27th of this month to compete for a state title. I just want Mark to know that we are all crossing our fingers and that we wish him lots of luck.

A VERY VERY SPECIAL BELATED BIRTHDAY WISH

A very special belated birthday wish to Walter James Jones III (Trey) from Nancy Cella LaGrace Palmer Miller Lynch (Bunny). He celebrated his birthday on March 5. (Note: I was "forced" into this by the nursing home

ANOTHER BELATED BIRTHDAY

Chuck and Janet Ratlif would like to wish their granddaughter Ashley Grey a belated happy birthday. Ashley turned six years of age on the 18th of March. Happy Birthday Ashley!!!! Also, Janet and Chuck celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary this month. I forgot to ask Janet what the date was. Chuck is also recovering from hand surgery. He is suppose to be down for about two weeks, but it sounds like Janet may have to sit on him to keep him down.

GET WELL WISHES

To Mr. Colby Pennell, I hope you are soon feeling much better and that your broken arm heals really fast! Colby broke his arm this past week.

SHE WAS SO BLONDE THAT SHE....

Took her new scarf back to the store because it was too tight. Couldn't learn to water ski because she couldn't find a lake with a slope. Can't work in a pharmacy because the bottles won't fit in a typewriter. Got excited because she finished a jigsaw puzzle in 6 months and the box said 2-4 years. Can't make Kool-Aid because 8 cups of water won't fit in the little packages. After losing in a breaststroke competition, complained because the other swimmers were using their arms!

TILL NEXT WEEK

Guess that is all for this week. Please call in your news. May God bless each of you, see you next week.

Judy

PHS hosts district UIL competition

About 300 area high school students are expected to participate in the UIL district literary competition to be held next week at Post High School.

The event, set for March 30 and April 1, will draw students from Shallowater, Idalou, Roosevelt, Tahoka and New Deal, according to PHS officials. Post students also will participate.

Numerous contests, including those involving writing, prose, poetry, math, science, spelling, computers, speaking, debate and literary criticism, are planned.

The top three students from each event will be eligible to advance to the regional UIL literary competition in Abilene.



Neighbor to Neighbor

by Julie Neitsch,

Garza County Extension Agent-Family & Consumer Science

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Spring is Here and also Dreaded Allergies

Yes, that is right, we are now into spring, during which many of us start having those dreaded allergies. Allergies come in many forms. Symptoms may include itchy, watery eyes; sneezing; runny or stuffy nose; temporary loss of smell; headache; and fatigue. Dark circles under eyes or postnasal drip may accompany hay fever. A child with allergies may sneeze, wake with a sore throat, breathe through the mouth, and frequently rub his or her nose. Allergy symptoms are often like cold symptoms but usually last longer.

The most common causes of allergies are particles in the air, such as pollen, house dust mites, mold or mildew, and animal dander. Allergies seem to run in families. Hay fever is the most common allergy. Parents with hay fever often have children with allergies. Hay fever usually develops in childhood, but can occur at any age.

You can often discover the cause of an allergy by noting when symptoms occur. Symptoms that occur at the

same time each year, especially during spring, early summer, or early fall, are often due to tree, grass, or weed pollen. Allergies that persist all year long may be due to dust mites in household dust, mold spores, or animal dander. Animal allergy is often easy to detect; symptoms clear up when you stay away from the animal.

Home Treatment for Allergies: If you can discover the source of your allergies, avoiding that substance is the best treatment. Keep records of your symptoms and the plants, animals, foods, or chemicals that seem to trigger them.

If your symptoms are seasonal and seem to be related to pollen:

Keep your house and car windows closed. Keep bedroom window closed

at night.

Limit the time you spend outside when pollen counts are high. Dogs and other pets may bring large amounts of pollen into your house.

If your symptoms are year round and seem to be related to dust: Keep the bedroom as dust free as possible, because most of your time is spent there.

Avoid carpeting, upholstered furniture, and heavy draperies that collect dust. Vacuuming does not pick up dust mites.

Cover your mattress and box springs with dust proof cases and wipe them clean each week. Avoid wool or down blankets and feather pillows. Wash all bedding weekly in hot water.

Consider using an air conditioner or air purifier with a special HEPA filter. Rent one before buying to see if it works.

If you are allergic to a pet: Keep the animal outside or out of the main living areas of the home.

Keep your family healthy during this season by following general practices listed above.

Healthwise Handbook, A Self-care Manual for You and Your Family: "Chest and Respiratory Problems-Allergies"

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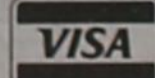
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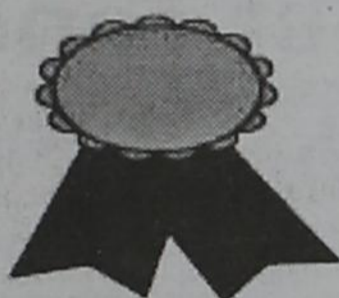
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Post Art Guild, Inc. Presents The 2004 Spring Art Show
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Algerita Art Center, 131 E. Main

For more information contact Glenda Morrow a 629-4393

JUROR - Ben Sum, Western Texas College

Professor of Art

• Patron's Selection - 1-7 p.m., Friday, March 26

• Entries: Wed., Mar. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• Special Category - All Media:

"Black & White with a touch of red"

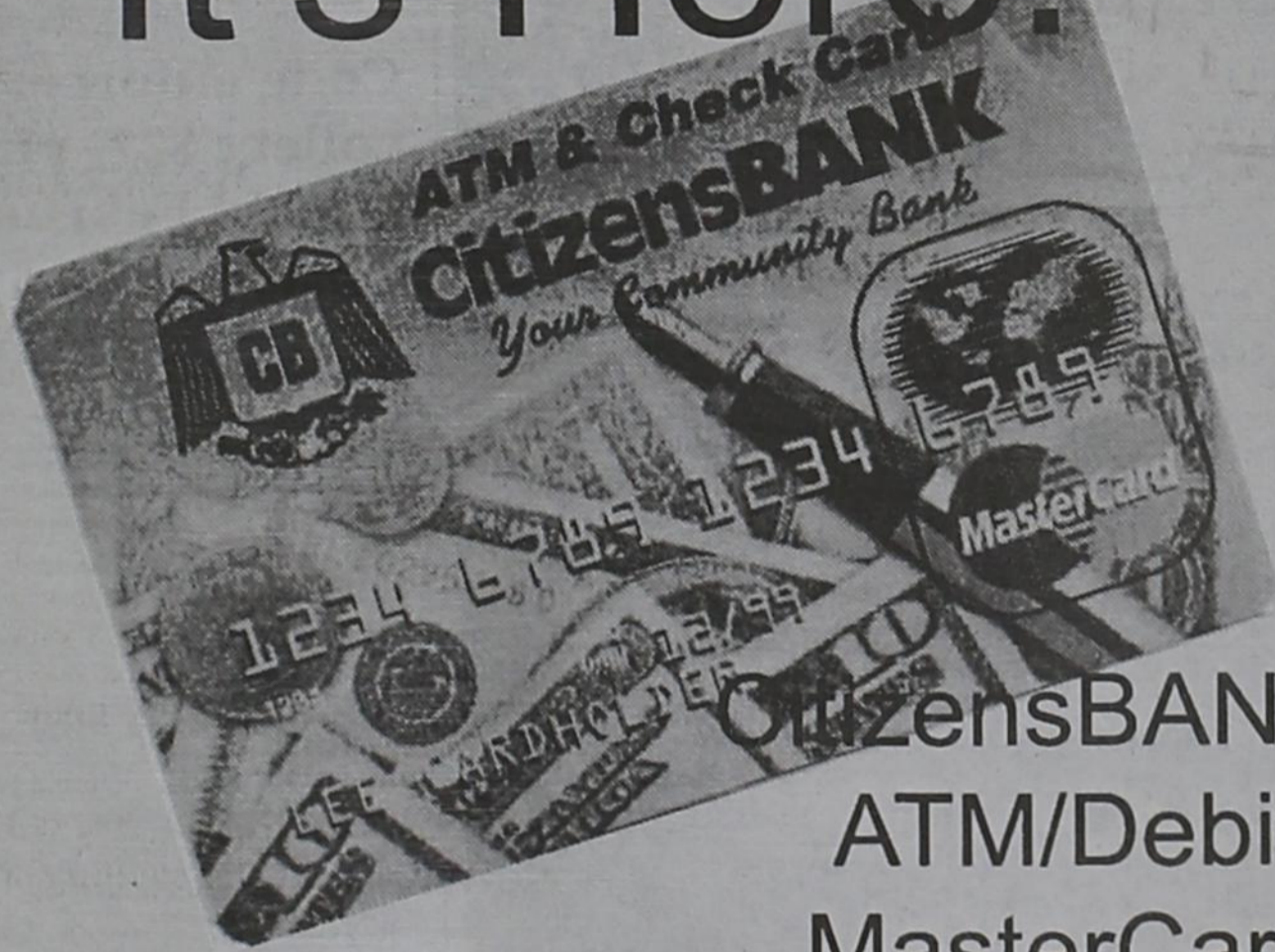
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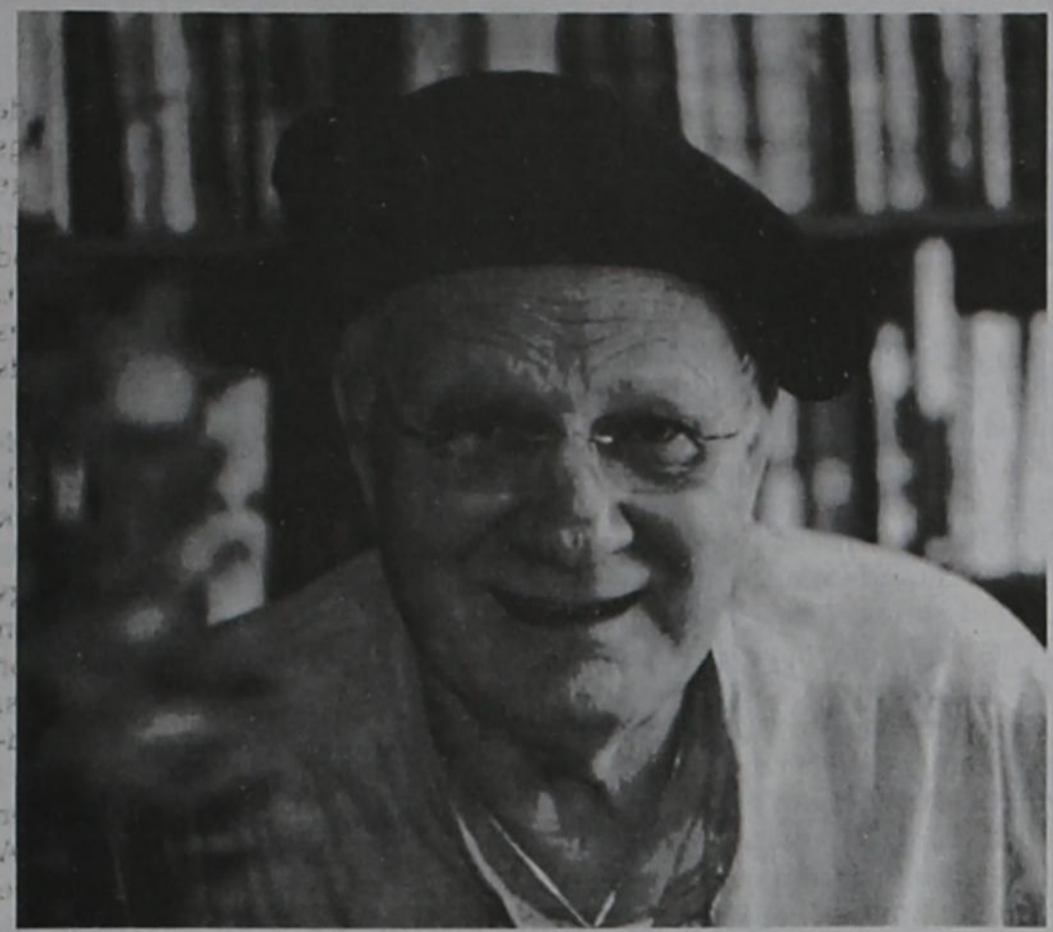
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Dr. James Bell

James Bell offers traditional Ukrainian Egg Art

Dr. James Bell of Post will be demonstrating traditional Pysanky Ukrainian egg art at Ruby Lane Books, 127 E. Main Street, in Post April 2-4. He will be in the store 2 to 5 pm April 2; 10 am to 5 pm April 3 and 1 to 4 pm on Sunday, April 4.

His Ukrainian eggs will also be part of the Spring Art Show at the Algeria Art Center March 25 - 27. Dr. Bell's original egg art can be purchased at Ruby Lane Books.

All of the proceeds from the sale of these delicate, intricately decorated eggs will go for scholarships for Grace Camp at Buttman Camp near Merkle, TX in July of this year. This camp, in its third year of operation, is for children of incarcerated parents.

Over 100 young children are in need of assistance to attend. Your purchase of a Ukrainian egg will be a donation toward helping these children participate in a very positive, Christian experience and have a fun week at camp.

Ukrainian egg art is similar to batik - patterns are drawn on the egg with wax, which protects the covered area from dye that is applied individually. By repeating this process with different colors of dye, a multi-colored pattern is created.

Finally, the wax is removed to reveal the colors that were covered up at each stage. The symbols and colors used are rich in meaning; many pre-date the arrival of Christianity in the Ukraine in the tenth century.

Over the centuries Christian interpretations have been incorporated to produce egg art with rich ancient roots.

Kimberly Robertson, Joel Terry united in December wedding

Kimberly Rae Robertson of Fort Worth and Joel Wayne Terry of Post, formerly of Longview, were wed at 3 p.m. Dec. 6, 2003, in Snyder. Jamie Pewitt officiated the double-ring ceremony.

The wedding ceremony and reception were conducted at the Wagon Wheel Guest Ranch featuring décor and costumes indicative of the 1800s "wild, wild west." The ceremony will be nationally broadcast Monday, April 5, at 1:30 p.m. on the television show "A Wedding Story" featured on The Learning Channel (TLC).

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Little of McKinney. The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jerrell Terry of Longview.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride wore a two-tone custom gown fashioned from Italian fabrics and French lace. The gown featured her grandmother's Austrian crystals, hand-beaded sequins, pearls and a train that measured 9 feet in width and 12 feet in length. The bride wore a waterfall veil to complete her ensemble.

Nicole Roberts of Weatherford served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Kimberly Gibbs, also of Weatherford, Mrs. Starr McAdams of Hallsville and Mrs. Connie Parks of Lindale. Flower girl was McKayla Terry, the groom's niece. The bride's attendants carried antique tussy mussy accented with flowers individually-selected and created by College Flowers of Lubbock.

Best man was Aaron Fite. Grooms-men were Stephen McAdams, Lance Parks and Jason Hampton. The groom's nephew, McKinnley Terry, served as ring bearer. Ushers were Roger Satterwhite and Tony Rambo.

Charlie and Jill of Life in the Word Ministries provided wedding music. Recorded selections from Kenny Chesney and George Strait also were used.

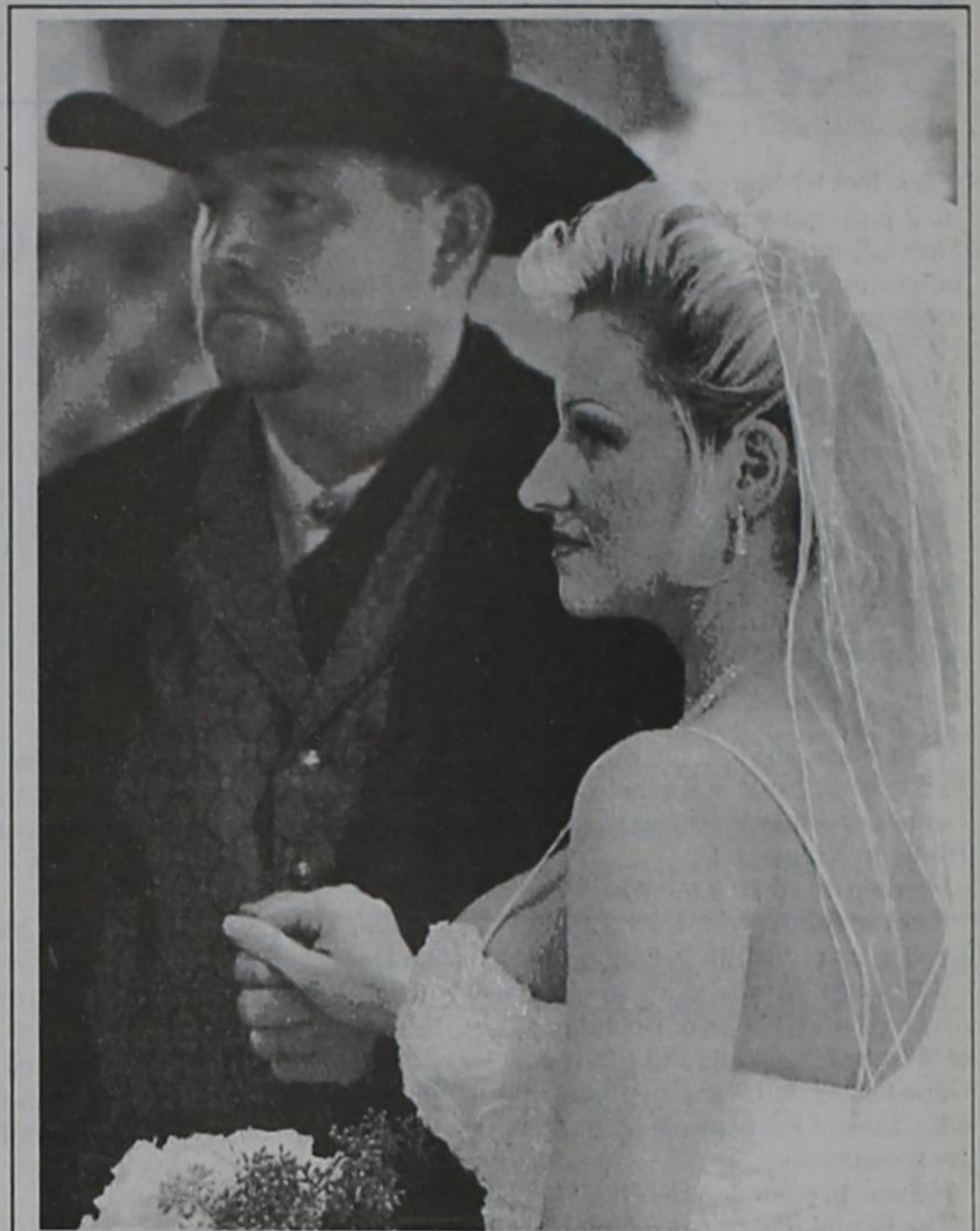
Following the wedding, a reception was held in the ranch barn. The barn was decorated to continue the wild west theme observed throughout the weekend's events.

A rehearsal dinner was held at Chapa's new reception room. About 200 guests attended the event, which was hosted by the groom's parents.

The bride, a 1986 graduate of Central High School, received a BA from Drake University. She is employed as a substitute teacher at Post High School.

The bridegroom, a 1987 graduate of Longview High, earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University in 1995 and a master's of science and technology with an emphasis in continuing education from the University of Texas at Tyler in 1997. He is employed by MTC at the Dalby unit in Post where he serves as programs manager. He also is a tech sergeant with the United States Air Force Active Reserve Security Forces. Following his tour in Iraq, he resumed his civilian job as program manager at the Dalby unit.

The newlyweds, who make their home in Post, plan a wedding trip to Matira Point in Bora Bora and Ireland.



Kimberly Rae Robertson and Joel Wayne Terry

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Knight wins silver at regional

The United States Air Force Academy came away with their 25th consecutive National Collegiate Boxing Association Regional Championship Saturday, March 20th, in Berkeley, California.

Clell Knight, a 1999 Post High School graduate brought home the silver medal in the 156 pound weight class. Clell will advance to the NCBA National Championships which are to be held on April 1-3 at the El Dorado Hotel in Reno, Nevada.



During a recent rehearsal of "The Hypochondriac," the Post High School One-Act players demonstrated great skill and agility as the dancers gracefully stepped and spun around the bed-ridden hypochondriac (played by Jordan Tatum). The cast are shown (back, left to right), Jared Smith, Colter Creech and Travis Mathews (dancers on the floor) Xane Mason, Laurel Tatum, Alex Chapa and Gentry Creech (dancer on the bed), Claire Kirkpatrick. The public performance of "The Hypochondriac" will be held Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m. in the Post Elementary Auditorium. The play will also be presented Saturday during district competition in Post at 11:45 a.m. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett).

PHS One-Act Play performance Thursday and Saturday in Post

Post High School's entry in the district UIL one-act play competition will be performed for the public at 7 p.m. today, March 25, in the auditorium. Donations will be accepted for admission.

About two dozen PHS students are involved in the production of "The Hypochondriac." The play showcases the talents of Jordan Tatum, Emily Marcum, Gentry Creech, Christina Zellmer, Colter Creech, Jace Pollard, Jared Smith, Quinton Odom, Alex Chapa, Jonathan McGregor, Claire Kirkpatrick, Laurel Tatum, Xane Mason, Travis Mathews and Jose Ladinos.

Crew members include Vince Robles, Shannon Rasbeary, Brant Guthrie and Kyle Kirkpatrick. Alternates include Bailey Odom, Ricky Reyna, Callie Smith and Ashley Wilson. The play's directors are Sterline Marcum, Nikki Pollard, Eva White and Leonard Ledford.

The district UIL contest will be hosted by Post on Saturday. The PHS ensemble will perform on its home stage at noon.

REWARD!

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

Member Texas Press Association 2004

Who's looking out for the babies?

by Bill O'Reilly

This Melissa Ann Rowland case in Utah is a fascinating window on gender politics in America. Here we have a depraved woman who has badly injured two babies and possibly murdered another one, yet the National Organization for Women (NOW) is portraying her as



the victim.

The 28-year-old Rowland is a horror. A few years ago, she punched her 2-year-old daughter in the face for taking a candy bar in a store. Pennsylvania social services placed the child in foster care.

Then, last Jan. 2, a doctor at a Salt Lake City hospital told Rowland she had to have an emergency C-section if she wanted to save the life of one of the twins she was carrying. Rowland refused, reportedly telling hospital personnel she didn't want

"scars."

Eleven days later, Rowland consented to the C-section, and one of the babies was born dead. An autopsy showed that the baby would have lived had the C-section been performed when the doctor ordered it. The other twin was born with alcohol and cocaine in her bloodstream.

Rowland's estranged husband, the father of the babies, told a television station that the scar excuse was a ruse, that Rowland simply didn't want doctors to know she was using cocaine during her pregnancy.

Prosecutors in Utah have now charged Rowland with first-degree murder, citing "depraved indifference to human life." Currently, she is in prison being held on \$300,000 bail.

Enter NOW, perhaps the most radicalized women's group in the history of this country. A few days ago, it issued a press release stating that Rowland's incarceration "is absolutely inhumane treatment." NOW President Kim Gandy opined: "Our legal system recognizes every person's bodily integrity and the right to make your own medical decisions."

You might expect NOW to take an extreme position like this because it has quite a track record. Remember NOW's Texas branch raised money for the defense of Andrea Yates, who was subsequently convicted of killing her five children. NOW claimed she was the victim of "post-partum depression."

But here's the interesting thing about Ms. Gandy's argument in the Rowland case; she claims every person has "bodily integrity." OK, fine. So doesn't that description fit a viable baby in the womb? A child who can be birthed and live on its own? Apparently not, in Ms. Gandy's view.

The truth is that NOW and other misguided groups do not believe any unborn child has rights. According to those people, a woman can do whatever she wants during her pregnancy, and even afterward, as NOW's Yates defense proves, and not be held accountable.

It is beyond me how any human being can devalue life in this manner. There is no question that Melissa Ann Rowland damaged her twins in the extreme. Yet NOW opposes the prosecution.

Fortunately, most Americans reject this kind of barbarity and want protections for babies. Last November, Congress overwhelmingly passed a ban on partial birth abortion, and it is the law of the land. That hasn't stopped the constitutional challenges, but it does give comfort to those who believe America has lost all moral courage. Melissa Ann Rowland is a danger to defenseless children. NOW really doesn't care much about that. To them, Rowland is the person whose rights are being violated. Because unborn babies really aren't people at all.

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.

Our current state of affairs

It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man, who knows what the law is today, can guess what it will be tomorrow. Law is defined to be a rule of action; but how can that be a rule, which is little known, and less fixed?

-James Madison, Federalist Paper, #62.



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Opinions

MIXED MESSAGES... SENT TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE SOUTH!



Saddam Hussein's weapons

by Walter E. Williams



Listening to the political and media rhetoric about the war in Iraq, you'd think that only President Bush thought Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. Here are just a few past statements made by Bush's critics.

President Clinton (1998): "One way or the other, we are determined to deny Iraq the capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction and the missiles to deliver them. That is our bottom line."

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (February 1998): "Iraq is a long way from here, but what happens there matters a great deal here. For the risks that the leaders of a rogue state will use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons against us or our allies is the greatest security threat we face."

In 2002, Al Gore said, "We know that he has stored secret supplies of biological and chemical weapons throughout his country."

Also in 2002, Sen. Ted Kennedy said, "We have known for many years that Saddam Hussein is seeking and developing weapons of mass destruction."

Sen. John Kerry, Democratic presidential front-runner, said in 2002, "I will be voting to give the president of the United States the authority to use force — if necessary — to disarm Saddam Hussein because I believe that a deadly arsenal of weapons of mass destruction in his hands is a real and grave threat to our security."

In January 2003, Kerry added, "Without question, we need to disarm Saddam Hussein. He is a brutal, murderous dictator, leading an oppressive regime. ... He presents a particularly grievous threat because he is so consistently prone to miscalculation. ... And now he is miscalculating America's response to his continued deceit and his consistent grasp for weapons of mass destruction. So the threat of Saddam Hussein with weapons of mass destruction is real."

The fact of the matter is that former President Clinton, as well as many members of Congress, believed, just as President Bush did, that Saddam Hussein possessed or was developing biological, chemi-

cal and nuclear weapons. The widespread attacks on President Bush are little more than political demagoguery and grandstanding and depend on public forgetfulness and ignorance to succeed.

Military intelligence will probably always be an inexact science. Let's go back to President Roosevelt's administration. By mid-1940, the "evidence" became so promising about Germany's nuclear-weapons program that British and American scientists judged it imprudent to continue to publish new results. Further research in the United States and Britain was done in secret to prevent German scientists from using the findings to develop an atomic bomb of their own for use in the war then underway.

The frightening possibility that Germany might succeed in providing Hitler with a nuclear weapon was one of the driving forces for the U.S. Manhattan Project. It was also the reason for some of the strategic targeting during World War II, including heavy water facilities in Nazi-occupied Norway.

When World War II ended, it was discovered that Germany wasn't nearly as close to developing an atomic bomb as intelligence experts had thought. Fortunately, back during that time, we didn't have today's hustling politicians and gullible public around to criticize either our war strategy or the atomic bombing of Japan. Back then, Americans were thankful we got the bomb first and used it to end the war.

Listening to today's politicians and what goes for informed media commentary, George Bush should have waited for unambiguous proof that a megalomaniac tyrant like Saddam Hussein had nuclear-chemical-biological weapons. I'm wondering if that unambiguous proof sufficient for America's political hustlers and gullible public would have been a mushroom cloud over one of our cities or millions of Americans suffering and dying from chemical or biological toxins.

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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What's in a name?

by Wes Burnett

Once upon a time (not so long ago), a frog, a rabbit and a squirrel met on a regular basis in their daily routines. As happens in life, there were disagreements between them from time to time. Frog, ever mindful of his smaller physical position in life, grew increasingly envious of rabbit, and to some extent squirrel, but frog really wanted to be more like rabbit.

Eventually frog decided that he would just cast aside his old self, and he would become a rabbit. He convinced himself that he could hop and run just like rabbit ... he even went so far as to try eating the same foods as rabbit. He was consumed by the notion that he could escape the confines of his existence as a frog ... and although it may seem strange to us, as it did to rabbit and squirrel, frog actually believed that he was transformed through his own power into a beautifully handsome rabbit.

It was also painfully evident to rabbit and squirrel, and others who observed frog's obvious delusion, that frog had slipped a cog ... or as the British say so eloquently, "gone round the bend."

Frog was irritated at his friends for refusing to accept his demand that they quit calling him a frog. In fact, he got so agitated that he called his good friend Congressman Bear for some help. Since he had been a big contributor and supporter of Bear in previous political campaigns, frog knew that Bear would push for a law to require everyone to accept frog as a rabbit.

Sure 'nough, Congressman Bear, seeing no harm in the silliness, and not wanting to offend frog, got his other congress critters to approve a new law which, among other things, set down the requirements that from that day henceforth, frog would no longer be known as frog, but would carry the name of rabbit.

The legislative act drew very little notice, but frog carried it around with him, waving the piece of paper in front of all those who continued to call him frog. "It's the law," he would scream at them, "it's the law!"

Obviously, frog was still a frog. He could not alter the indisputable fact of nature... he was created a frog, and although he believed, and congress agreed, that he was a rabbit... that belief and the law made no difference. He would be, until his death, a frog.

Like frog, the Garza County Hospital District board of directors has in the past several years undergone a similar attempt to abandon its originating form. Having made the decision to close the hospital, the very reason for its creation, the board sought desperately to find a

new mission, to create a new self. So, like frog, they looked around for a solution, securing political favor from State Representative David Counts.

Bending to their delusion, Counts managed to get a law passed in Austin declaring that the Garza County Hospital District be for now and ever more known as the Garza County Health Care District.

But alas, many people refused to accept the transformation ... especially those who could see the trickery involved in the name change. The district name and scope of its functions can not be changed merely by the stroke of a pen in Austin. The Garza County Hospital District was created and established by a vote of the people in Garza County. It was created by the authority of Article 9, Section 9 of the State of Texas Constitution. It continues to be bound by the limitations imposed on it by the constitution. No act of the legislature can change what the people created by vote.

The district will continue to be in fact the Garza County Hospital District until it is dissolved by a vote of the registered voters of Garza County. Board members and others may say it is a health care district, but that does not in fact make it so. Article 9, Section 9 of the State of Texas Constitution provides absolutely no authority for the creation of a health care district. It only authorizes the creation of a hospital district.

And that creation has the solitary requirement to provide health care for the indigent of Garza County. That has been the primary mission of the district from its inception, and continues today as its primary function. Would that the hospital district's board of directors accept this reality, we could write a happy ending to this story.

However, the board has abandoned its primary mission and continues to pretend that the district, like the frog, has magically transformed itself into something else. It just ain't so. Living in a fairy tale has its limitations.

Editor's Note: The Frog, The Rabbit and The Squirrel are imaginary characters created for the enjoyment of the writer's grandchildren, who from time to time find the stories amusing and entertaining.

☆ Support our Troops...
 Bring 'em home! ☆

Yesteryears

Compiled by Donna Jones from the files of The Post Dispatch

10 Years Ago March 23, 1994

The Garza Unit of the American Cancer Society will hold a wild game tasting dinner at the Hotel Garza this Thursday. A number of local couples will provide dishes of wild meats, each prepared especially for the evening.

Southwesterly winds early Tuesday morning during the annual Taba'na Yuan'e ceremony may have felt better than the sharp northwesterly winds that graced the ceremony last year, but according to the ancient Indian legend, they also predict a poor year for 1994.

Southern Nazarene University student Brad McDonald placed third in Business principles at the 1994 State Leadership conference of the Oklahoma State Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda.

Heat Waves Tanning Salon was welcomed to the Post business community during ribbon cutting ceremonies. Heat Waves is located in Manna Square. Owners are Jane Johnson and Dodie Norman.

Bobby J. Brown was promoted to Master Sergeant during ceremonies at Fort Hood, Texas. Brown is the son of A. J. and Judy McAlister of Post and Howard Brown of Chino Hills, CA. He has been in the U. S. Army for 18 years.

20 Years Ago March 21, 1984

The Kwahadi Dancers of Amarillo will assist "Chief" Frank Runkles tomorrow morning in the annual Taba'na Yuan'e ceremony.

At a luncheon in her honor, Betty Dennis, American Airliner flight attendant received a "Customer Comes First" watch. Betty also received a pin for 15 years service with American.

Jeremy Josey had a Star Wars birthday to celebrate his fifth year on this planet.

Former Post resident, Neff Walker was among two Texans who had to be evacuated from Beirut in February. Neff is an assistant professor of psychology at the American University of Beirut.

For just a few hours Tuesday night, March 13, the Community Center was transformed into a Disney Fantasyland with Emcee Mary Poppins (Marita Jackson) welcoming the Scouts, their fathers and guests to the annual Girl Scout Father-Daughter Banquet.

30 Years Ago March 21, 1974

Michael Haas, Post seventh grade

student, repeated Tuesday as Garza County Spelling Bee winner. Camille Wheeler, fifth grade student from Southland was runner-up and is alternate county champion, and David Morrow, Post eighth grader, won third place.

Dick R. Kennedy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Kennedy and a 1967 graduate of Post High School, is one of five veterinary students at Texas A&M University to be awarded internships with other veterinary schools in the United States.

Forty-two teams from 13 schools will compete here Friday in the third annual Postex Junior Relays, making it one of the biggest junior track and field meets in the area.

Antelope Tracks: Here are some of the current Sophomore nicknames: Bruce Sanderson - H. B., Joe Clary - Eddie Munster, Jenny Miller - Mouth, Duke Bell - Mud Cate, Glenna Reiter - Blondie, Kim Mitchell - Kimmie, Jay Strawn - Strogino, Mary Abraham - Foo-Foo, Mike Hair - Tread Head, Richard Fuentes - Ears, Charlie Clanton - Pruitt.

Judy Norman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Norman was in action over the weekend with the Texas Tech Women's basketball team in the District intercollegiate Women's Basketball Tournament in Lubbock. Miss Norman, is a physical education major and plays forward for the Tech team.

40 Years Ago March 26, 1964

The Dispatch's Easter Coloring Contest had two new division winners this year - although top prizes in the 8 through 12 division stayed in the Walls family. Irene Walls, age 11, won first prize in the older division this year. Last year Martha Jo Walls, now age 13 was the winner. In fact the Walls family placed one-two in the division this year with Dale Walls, age 9, runner-up to his sister, Irene.

The land judging team of the Post Future Farmers of America chapter has qualified for the state contest in Stephenville. Members of the Post team competing are Charlie Brown, Gary Ray, Fred Lieby and Danny O'Neil.

Jim Bartlett, captain of the Post Antelope golf team, won medalist honors last Friday at the Muelshoe Invitational High School golf tournament, in which the Post team finished fifth. Mrs. Sid Cross and daughters at-

tended the ABC Parade and rodeo in Lubbock. Lee Merri is a member of the Junior Afill's Rodeo Riders and rode in the parade and grand entry. The riding group won third place.

50 Years Ago March 25, 1954

Formal opening of the new Caprock Golf Course, three and one-half miles northwest of Post will be held Friday, owners S. A. Kuykendall and D. H. Bartlett have announced. Green fees have been set at \$1 daily, \$5 monthly and \$50 yearly.

Letter winners in basketball were named this week by Vernon Ray, Post High School basketball coach. The lettermen include four seniors - Bobby Crowder, James Dye, Larry Waldrip, and J. C. Shedd. Others lettering were Moody Graham, Billy Meeks, Novis Pennell, Gene Young, Ted Tatum, Homer Cato, Darrel Ray Norman, Jimmy Redman and Don Gates.

Members of Post's Cub Scout Pack 16 won ribbons in the Comanche Trail District Cub Scout Flying Contest. Representing Post in the contest were Leslie Acker, Tommy Bouchier, Roger Camp, Ricky Hughes, Pat Smiley, Lee Williams and Curtis Hudman.

The Rev. Cecil Stowe arrived in Post

last week as new pastor of the Church of the Nazarene.

60 Years Ago March 23, 1944

The Garza Co. Red Cross Chapter reports \$5,672.65 collected and funds still coming in. This is our county's answer to the request of the American Red Cross for a minimum contribution of \$4,300.00 for the year 1944. Credit for the success of this drive is due to Dean A. Robinson, County Chairman.

Mayor Walter W. Hyde has designated the week beginning April 3rd as City-Wide Clean-Up Week. The city is asking you to begin now collecting up trash so it will be ready for the city wagons which will start out Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stevens complimented their daughter, LaRue, with a party on her 10th birthday at Two Draw Lake.

Dewitt Caylor has completed the main part of the terraces on Sam Sander's farm and is now making the fills. Mr. Caylor said recently, for publication: "A terrace is just as high as its lowest fill."

Mitchell Bowen has leased the service station department of Charley Bowen's Garage & Filling Station. He will have for sale a complete line of gasoline, oils, auto parts and accessories.

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The Texas A&M University System

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Garza County Texas Community Futures Forum

Garza County Texas Cooperative Extension staff will host and facilitate the Texas Community Futures Forum set for Thursday, March 25, 2004 beginning at 6:30 at the First United Methodist Church in Post. This process will help to coordinate the partnering of county government, state agencies, organizations, businesses, and other groups to organize action teams to address needs of the community. For more information about participating in the TCFE please contact Julie Neitsch or Greg Jones at the Garza County Extension Office at (806) 495-4400 or visit this website: <http://futuresforum.tamu.edu>.

4-H Sponsoring Dog Obedience School

Garza County 4-H Horse and Hound Project Group is sponsoring a Dog Obedience School beginning March 30, at 7:00 p.m. at the GCJLA show barn. If you do not have a dog, you may use one provided by 4-H. Cost of the five week school will be \$5.95 for dog treats plus \$30 if you want to purchase your own training kit, or you can borrow a kit from the project group. It will be required that you have proof of your dog having an updated rabies shot. Please call 495-4400 to sign up for the course by March 23.

4-H Shotgun Sports Sign-up

Sign-up for participation in the Shotgun Sports will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 30, at the Extension Office. This is a mandatory meeting for parents but 4-H'ers not required to attend due to conflicts with Archery and Dog Obedience School.

Jr. Photography Entries Due.....

.....Tuesday, March 30, in the county Extension office.

EPC-FCS Committee.....

..... will meet at 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 5 at the Extension office.

County 4-H Council.....

..... will meet at 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 5, at the Extension office.

4-H Booster Club.....

..... will meet at 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 5, at the Extension office.

4-H & Youth Development Committee.....

..... will meet Tuesday, April 6, at Noon at the Post High School Foods Lab.

Congratulations to.....

.....the following youth participating in the Houston Livestock Show last week. Youth placing included: Allison Blevins, 2nd. Place Lt. Hwy. AOB; Gary Farquhar, 4th. Place Lt. Wt. Chianina; Steven Hair, 6th. Place Lt. Wt. Charolais; Skylar Jones, 6th. Place Middle Wt. Polled Hereford; Coby Jones, 11th. Place Middle Wt. Chianina; Chad Miller, 17th. Place Lt. Wt. Shorthorn; and D'Nae Johnson, 13th. Place Lt. Hwy. Medium Wool Lamb. Congratulations also to Allison, Gary, Steven and D'Nae for making the premium sale. Alex Miller, Jarrett Blevins, Kaylee Farquhar, Shelby Farquhar and Kevin Strube also participated but did not place.

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Post High School One-Act Play actors (left to right) Jared Smith, Colter Creech and Travis Mathews leap into action during a recent rehearsal of "The Hypochondriac." The cast will compete Saturday, March 27 at 11:45 a.m. in the Post Elementary Auditorium. (Staff Photo by Tim Burnett)

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The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 TXism for "coffee"
- 5 TXism: "camps out in the corner"
- 6 TX Nolan's rookie is worth big bucks today
- 7 Amarillo AM
- 8 TXism: "he's horse flesh"
- 17 Jon Jovi performed at TX Willie's "Farm Aid II"
- 18 firm determination
- 21 Taylor of TX epic "Giant" (init.)
- 22 TXism: "sleeping dog lie"
- 23 TXism: "so dainty she drinks with up"
- 24 " is it?"
- 29 TX Audie was decorated soldier of WW II
- 30 "three" south of the border
- 31 in '28 Hoover carried TX rather than this Smith
- 32 longtime Six Flags ride: "Cave"
- 34 a clairvoyant
- 35 party beverage abbr.
- 36 sweetened?
- 37 TXism: "hog (helpless)"
- 38 TXism: "kids should be and not heard"
- 39 TXism: "up like a boarding-house pie"
- 40 Nocona Boots slogan: "rodeo!"
- 41 looks after
- 42 TXism: "thick dog's back"
- 44 songbird
- 45 pig's "casa"
- 46 Tex Rittler sang title song for "High under the Elm?"
- 48 doubters
- 50 least difficult
- 51 TXism: "turn over all the cow patties in Texas"
- 52 "to is human"
- 53 road curve

DOWN

- 1 notorious bare-handed wolf hunter from Sherman area
- 2 TXism: "would gag (disgusting)"
- 3 Wilbarger Co. seat
- 4 TX retailer "Sears Roebuck"
- 9 code at TX schools
- 10 James Dean's character in TX film "Giant": "Rink"
- 11 5th & 7th flag over Texas
- 12 TXism: "it'll in a pinch"
- 13 stared angrily
- 14 this Joseph invented the ice cream soda in Denison
- 15 elevator man
- 16 \$5 bill, slangily approved
- 19 women's stockings
- 22 TX Kristofferson's "Why Me"
- 24 noted painter of TX history: "McArdle"
- 25 this Otto directed TX Tierney in "Laura" (init.)
- 26 actor Studi in '04 "The Alamo"
- 27 Capt. A. drilled Spindletop
- 28 TX Patrick Swayze birth month
- 29 TXism: "Sunday go to clothes"
- 30 Prestonwood pegs 33 once a San Antonio AM station
- 34 TXism: "spell"
- 35 comedian Jack Davy Crockett
- 38 watermelon spitters
- 40 TXism: "never gift horse in the mouth"
- 41 land or leaflet
- 43 TX Willie film: "Honeysuckle"
- 44 small broom
- 47 male cattle
- 49 Aransas Pass sights

McCallister earns state berth in powerlifting

The Post lifters finished in the top 15 teams in the region Saturday while one of the team members earned a berth to the state meet.

Mark McCallister will travel to the state meet Saturday thanks to his 1260 total (500 squat, 305 bench and 455 dead lift). The event will be conducted at the University of Houston and is set to begin at 9 a.m. in the Hoffheinz Pavilion.

McCallister qualified in the top 14 of the state in the 198 weight class.

"Mark distinguishes himself as one of the only people in the history of

Post High School to make it to state in powerlifting," Coach Wright said.

Finishing in the top 15 teams in the region at the Roosevelt meet is also quite a feat for the local squad. The region, which extends from the Panhandle to El Paso and down to the Del Rio area, includes approximately 90 teams.

Lifters participating in the meet included Chess Garcia, Israel Beggs, Kris Hernandez and McCallister. McCallister and Hernandez placed in the top five of their weight class, with Hernandez finishing fourth and McCallister finishing second in the 198 weight class. Garcia finished sixth overall in the 220 weight class, while Beggs finished ninth in the 242 weight class.

Outstanding lifts included McCallister's 500-pound squat and 305-pound bench press; Hernandez's 470-pound squat; Garcia's 440-pound squat; and Beggs' 420-pound squat.

"Coach Motheral and I can't say enough about the effort put into powerlifting this year," Coach Wright said. "There is no substitute for hard work in powerlifting. These athletes have done everything they have been asked to do in order to enjoy their success. All of our powerlifters are to be commended."



The Post High School cast and crew of "The Hypochondriac" are (back row left to right), Chirstina Zellmer, Jordan Tatum and Emily Marcum (second row), Colter Creech, Brant Guthrie, Vince Robles, Kyle Kirkpatrick, Jonathan McGregor and Jared Smith (third row), Travis Mathews, Gentry Creech, Jose Ladinis, Alex Chapa, Claire Kirkpatrick, Xane Mason and Laurel Tatum (seated), Shannon Rasbeary, Ricky Reyna and Bailey Odom (seated front), Ashley Wilson. The cast will provide a public performance this Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m. in the Post Elementary School Auditorium. They will compete in UIL competition on this Saturday at 11:45 a.m. in Post at the Elementary Auditorium. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett).

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Last week's Little Dribblers action as Michael Guerrero attempts two points as teammate, Troy Copeland stands ready for a pass. Also in the play were (left to right), Anthony Soto, Aaron Macey, Tavish Soto, McLayne Hall, Taylor Soto and Grant James. (Photo by Jerry Taylor).



The cast of Taba'ne Yuan'e are shown (left to right), Michael Cory, Jack Ramey, Linda Ramey, Linda Puckett, John Cory, Zoe Kirkpatrick, Shirley Le Blanc, Ken Le Blanc, Jennifer Le Blanc and Nichole Cory. Ken Le Blanc pointed the ceremonial feather to the northeast indicating a "very good year." Last Monday's annual ceremony, held at the Post City Park, was hosted by the Post Commerce and Tourism Bureau.

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LEGAL NOTICE

On February 10, 2004, VALOR Telecommunications of Texas, LP (VALOR) filed its Second Amended Application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish surcharges to recover lost revenues and incurred costs associated with Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) routes implemented from February 1, 1996 through December 31, 2002 between VALOR's Texas telephone exchanges and, in many instances, the exchanges of other local telephone companies. The Second Amended Application was filed pursuant to the Commission's Substantive Rule § 26.221 titled "Applications to Establish or Increase Expanded Local Calling Service Surcharges."

ELCS expands the local calling scope of a telephone exchange to include one or more additional telephone exchanges if customers in a petitioning exchange approve by ballot the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. Costs and lost revenues associated with Valor's surcharge application are those not recovered through existing ELCS fees.

In the Second Amended Application, VALOR proposes to implement monthly ELCS surcharges for five years beginning on the date the Commission issues a final order on VALOR's request. The Commission can establish an ELCS surcharge for any duration. ELCS surcharges apply in addition to monthly ELCS fees. VALOR proposes the following monthly ELCS surcharges per residential line: \$.86 in Year 1, \$.85 in Year 2, \$.03 in Year 3, \$.02 in Year 4, \$.01 in Year 5. VALOR proposes the following monthly ELCS surcharges per business line: \$1.72 in Year 1, \$1.70 in Year 2, \$0.6 in Year 3, \$0.4 in Year 4, \$.02 in Year 5.

VALOR is currently billing interim ELCS surcharges approved by the Commission, including an interim ELCS surcharge of \$.65 per month per residential line and an interim ELCS surcharge of \$1.30 per month per business line. If rates below the level of the interim surcharges are ultimately approved by the Commission, VALOR may be required by the Commission to refund all or part of the interim surcharges.

If VALOR's Second Amended Application is approved, the net annual effect on VALOR's Year 1 revenues will be zero since the requested surcharges are designed to replace lost revenues and to reimburse VALOR for increases in costs associated with the provision of ELCS. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs VALOR seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$3,867,372 in Year 1, \$3,791,870 in Year 2, \$133,831 in Year 3, \$89,220 in Year 4, and \$44,610 in Year 5.

If you have questions about the proposed surcharges or would like further information, please call VALOR at 1-877-520-5220. The Commission assigned Docket No. 27363 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas as soon as possible, and no later than April 21, 2004, the intervention deadline. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512)936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

AVISO

El 10 de Febrero de 2004, VALOR Telecommunications de Texas, LP (VALOR) sometió una solicitud a La Comisión Pública de Servicios de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas) para establecer sobrecargos para recuperar las ganancias perdidas y los costos incrementados relacionados del Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales (Expanded Local Calling Service - ELCS) entre los despachos centrales de teléfono de VALOR de Texas y en muchas instancias, despachos de otras compañías locales de teléfono. La Segunda Enmendación de Aplicación se sometió basada en la Regla 26.221 de La Comisión titulada, "Solicitudes para Establecer o Incrementar los Sobrecargos de Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales".

ELCS extiende el alcance de llamadas locales para incluir uno o más despachos de teléfono adicionales, si los clientes de un despacho hacen una petición de cambio que es aprobada por voto para pagar un cargo de ELCS en lugar de sobrecargos de larga distancia. Los costos y ganancias perdidas relacionadas con los sobrecargos de la solicitud de VALOR no son recuperables a través de la cuota del ELCS.

En la Segunda Enmendación de Aplicación, VALOR propone implementar un cargo mensual por cinco años commensando el día que la Comisión emite el orden final, por la solicitud de VALOR. La Comisión puede establecer sobrecargos ELCS for cualquier duración. Sobrecargos ELCS se aplicarán arriba de los cargos mensuales ELCS.

VALOR hace proposito de los siguientes sobrecargos mensuales por cada línea residencial: \$.86 en Año 1; \$.85 en Año 2; \$.03 en Año 3; \$.02 en Año 4; y \$.01 en Año 5. VALOR hace proposito de los siguientes sobrecargos mensuales por cada línea comercial: \$1.72 en Año 1, \$1.70 en Año 2; \$.06 en Año 3; \$.04 en Año 4, y \$.02 en Año 5.

Corrientemente, VALOR esta cobrando sobrecargos ELCS Interines aprobados por la Comisión, incluyendo un interin sobrecargo de \$.65 por mes por cada línea residencial, y un interin sobrecargo de \$1.30 por mes por cada línea comercial. Si tasas bajo de los sobrecargos interines serán ultimamente aprobadas por la Comisión, es posible que VALOR estará disponible a reembolsar todo o parte de los cargos interines.

Si la Segunda Enmendación de Aplicación de VALOR esta aprobada, el efecto neta anual de tasas para VALOR en Año 1 serán cero desde que los sobrecargos solicitados son apuntados a reemplazar tasas y a reembolsar a VALOR por los gastos aumentados y asociados con la provisión de ELCS. El estimado total de tasas perdidas y cargos aumentados que VALOR trata de recuperar sobre este procedimiento es \$3,867,372 en Año 1; \$3,791,870 en Año 2; \$133,831 en Año 3; \$89,220 en Año 4, y \$44,610 en Año 5.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de los sobrecargos propositados, o si necesita más información, por favor llame a VALOR al 1-877-520-5220. La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Proyecto No. 27363 a este procedimiento. Las personas que deseen intervenir o comentar en o sobre estos procedimientos deben notificar La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas tan pronto como sea posible y no más tarde del día 21 de Abril, 2004, fecha límite de la intervención. Para intervenir o para más información, escriba a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas), 1701 N. Congress Avenue, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. También puede solicitar más información llamando a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Personas con impedimentos de hablar o del sentido de oír con teléfonos de textos (TTY) pueden comunicarse con La Comisión al (512) 936-7136.