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The Post Dispatch

Holiday Deadline Schedule

Deadline	Issue Date
5 p.m. Fri., Dec. 17	Christmas Greetings
5 p.m. Mon., Dec. 20	Dec. 23
Office Closed Dec. 24 thru Jan. 2	

The Post Dispatch

79th Year Number 29 USPS 439-620 © 2004 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 75¢ Thursday, December 16, 2004

SWCD reports successful year

The County Commissioners received the annual report on the Garza Soil & Water Conservation District and NRCS Report during Monday's regular meeting.

According to the report on 2004 EQIP contracts, 20 applications were approved for funding, including 5,520 acres brush control (\$98,212) and 100 acres drip irrigation (\$41,747) for a total of \$139,959.

Total EQIP in Garza County included 58 contracts approved for funding totaling \$514,793 in cost-share dollars - 10,000 acres brush control, 736 acres drip irrigation.

For 2005 EQIP, the local work group chose to prioritize funding as follows:

- Ogallala Funds - drip irrigation, high priority, and irrigation pipelines, medium priority.
- Base Funds - terraces and waterways, high priority; chemigation valves, high priority; flow meters, high priority; and brush control, medium priority.

With regard to water quality management plans funded through the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board, the Garza SWCD funded another \$20,000 for drip irrigation in 2004.

According to the report, the Garza SWCD, in cooperation with the Extension Service, offered a brush control workshop that included demonstrations on chemicals to use, amounts and timing for various types of brush. Joe Marts demonstrated brush excavator.

The Garza SWCD also purchased several plant identification books that were provided to the Post and Southland school district ag departments.

The Garza SWCD purchased drip torches, a portable weather kit and some firefighting equipment to assist ranchers with prescribed burns for brush control/grass improvement.

Riley Kitchens, the RC&D coordinator stationed in Sweetwater, assisted the Post Volunteer Fire Department's Darrel Reece in writing a grant application for equipment and dry hydrants through the Texas Forest Service. Cost-share money was approved for several sets of firefighting gear.

The NRCS also has its GPS system tied into aerial photography to assist farmers and ranchers in measuring or designing fencing, pipeline systems, terraces, etc.

In other matters, the court approved an indigent application for assistance with rent and utilities in the amount of \$193.

The court also approved a routine maintenance contract for the Post-Garza County airport and although the item was not posted as an executive session, entered into a secret meeting to discuss the purchase of property at 227 W. Main.

PHS trustees propose 2005-2006 calendar

Classes for the 2005-2006 school year in the Post Independent School District could begin Aug. 15, according to a proposed calendar being eyed by district trustees.

According to the proposed schedule, new staff-in-service will begin Aug. 8, followed by staff development on Aug. 9-11. A staff preparation day would be observed Aug. 12 prior to the beginning of classes.

Students would see one holiday in September in observance of Labor Day and three days off in November for a Thanksgiving break. The Christmas holiday break would begin Dec. 19, with classes resuming Jan. 3, 2006. Teachers would observe a preparation day on Jan. 2, 2006, under the proposal.

Students would have a holiday in honor of Martin Luther King day, but that date would serve as a teacher-in-service date.

Spring break would run March 13-17, and April 14 would serve as the students' Easter holiday.

High school graduation for the Class of 2006 would be May 26.

Alfred Segovia advances in state solo competition

Alfred Segovia, a senior horn player with the Post High School Pride of Post Band, has advanced to the second round of the Class 2-A Association of Small School Bands All-State competition.

Segovia's next round of competition is set for Jan. 8 at Lubbock Cooper High School.



'I Need a Little Christmas Vacation' at Post Elementary School

Post Elementary 4th and 5th Grade students entertained parents and the community with the musical 'I Need a Little Christmas Vacation' in the Elementary auditorium last Thursday, December 9th. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

Post Elementary School 'Holiday Revue'

The Post Elementary musical, "I Need a Little Christmas Vacation: An All-School Holiday Revue," was staged Dec. 9 under the direction of Karen Nichols, assisted by Carla Perez.

The setting: "Just a few hours until Christmas vacation and what to our wandering eyes should appear? An untimely blizzard that threatens to keep the students of the school snowbound for the duration of the holiday season. 'I Need a Little Christmas Vacation' is the story of how this happened and how the students coped on a vacation eve they'll never forget. From holiday shopping online to cooking the holiday meal in the chemistry lab, from creating a south-of-the-border experience to modifying the school play to fit this wintry occasion, things get wacky as the students learn how fortunate they are to spend this epical time of year surrounded by friends."

Cast members included, as the janitors, Steven Howard as Ralph and Skylar Jones as Betty; Madison Cash as girl on cell phone; "I Need a Christmas Vacation" school children - Alejandra Flores, Jacie Kimmons, Cody Blacklock, Cassie Perez, T.J. Basquez, Marcelo Martinez, Jose Rodriguez, Jonah Garza and Isaac Stern; and "A Winter's Tale" student director, DeAnna Hudson, and thespian actors Cade Mason as Mark Anthony, Brandon Carrell as Romeo, Veronica Zuniga as Juliet, Tavish Soto as King Lear, Chelci Hair, and Aspen Wischkaemper.

Also, in "Christmas Fiesta," matador, Fermin Rivera, Daniel Gonzales as the bull, solo by Deamor Garcia, and Cruz Alaniz, Monica Mendoza, Rebecca Horton, Melissa Whitehead, Ernesto Esparza, Serafin Lopez, Jacob Perez, Patrick McDougle, Destinee Wilson, Aaron Perez, Cody Pickett, John Eustace, Edgar Garcia, Adriana Gonzales and Denise Rodriguez.

Playing parts in "Surfin' the Web" were Janice Curtis, Miley McKee, Julie Boren, Joshua Curtis, Danny Martinez, Taylor Soto, Abe Klassen, Julian Gomez and Ashley Collazo as children on the computers; in "Santa Claus - Be There For Me," as children writing letters to Santa, K'Lenn Hair, Patricia Lopez, Fernanda Contreras, Travis Morris, Seth Babb, Shelby Odom, Dalton Holly, Vanessa Esparza, Caden Dean and Frank Klassen, and Michael Huffman as Santa.

In "Holiday House Party," ballet dancers were Macie Clark, Torie Whisenant, Morgan Permenter, Macie Merritt; football players were Francisco Gonzales, Tylo Kirkpatrick, Aaron Macy, Brandon Soto, McLayne Hall, Paul Martinez and Vance Blair; Mariah Morales as the cafeteria worker; and Armando Martinez, Jordan Duran and Isaac Andrade as the scientists.

Skylar Jones has a solo in "Christmas With My Friends," followed by a reprise of "I Need a Christmas Vacation."

The following teachers, parents and businesses contributed to the success of the school musical: Mr. Self, Mrs. Marts, Mrs. Wright (video), Mrs. Cimental, Mrs. Pequenon, Kay Postell (programs), Terri Cash (pictures), Rosa Gonzales, Linda Coers, Bianca Carrell, Paul Perez, Staci Hadderton, Linda Chapa, Maria Gomez, Mrs. Morris (sound), Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Gribble, Mrs. Reece, Mr. Tatum, United Supermarkets and B&T Feed Stores.

Post Notes

Fund established to benefit Baker

An account has been established at Citizens Bank for Martha Baker, Kindergarten teacher here in Post. Martha has battled cancer for several years and is now preparing for a bone marrow transplant at M.D. Anderson in Houston. Insurance will pay for medical expenses, but Martha will have to be in Houston for approximately three months after the transplant and will have to make monthly trips to Houston for a least a year after she returns home. Anyone interested in contributing to this account can do so at Citizens Bank.

Post Office extended hours

The Post Office will have extended holiday hours on Saturday, December 11 and Saturday, December 18 from 9 a.m. until noon.

Reception honoring Wyvonne Kennedy

The public is invited to attend a Retirement Reception honoring Wyvonne Kennedy for thirty-one years of dedicated service to the City of Post on Saturday, December 18 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Hotel Garza.

Toys for Tots under way

The Post Lions Club Toys for Tots campaign is in full swing, with unwrapped toys being collected at Cellular One. Both new and used toys in good condition are being accepted. Donations to the program also may be made at Cellular One or mailed to the Post Lions Club, c/o Toys for Tots at P. O. Box 644, Post, TX 79356. Checks should be made out to Toys for Tots. Contributions will be accepted until Christmas Eve.

Theatre presents "A Christmas Story"

Garza Theatre proudly presents "A Christmas Story" directed by Laura Bryan. Seven performances only beginning December 3-5, 10-11, & 17-18. Call for reservations at 495-4005. Box office hours are Monday-Friday from 12:30-5:00 p.m.

Bands to present Christmas concert

All bands, 5th grade through the "Pride of Post" will perform Christmas music in the Elementary auditorium on Thursday, December 16. The 5th and 6th grade bands start at 6:30 p.m., with middle school and high school beginning at 7 p.m. Come join us!

Church to present video

The Bethel Assembly of God Church is sponsoring "Christmas Human Video" on Saturday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Post Elementary auditorium, 211 W. 8th street. Goodie bags will be given out.

Elementary to dismiss early on Friday

The Post Elementary School will dismiss at 1 p.m. on Friday, December 17 for the Christmas holidays. Classes will resume on the regular schedule on Tuesday, January 4, 2005.

New subscriptions through Dec. 23

The Post Dispatch will donate \$10 to Toys for Tots for each \$30 new subscription.

Exchange student program seeks reps

ASSE International Student Exchange Program is looking for individuals interested in becoming area representatives. As an ASSE area representative, individuals provide opportunities for high school exchange students who want to experience the American way of life for either a school year or a semester and local youths interested in studying abroad. Area representatives receive training, are reimbursed for expenses and enjoy friendships with people from all over the world. For more information, call 409-745-2433 or 1-800-473-0696.

Aguilar fund set at Wells Fargo

A fund has been established at Wells Fargo Bank in the name of Christina Aguilar, the 15-year old daughter of Lupe and Cindy Aguilar who received a new liver November 9 at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. After struggling many years with a failing liver, Christina now has a chance at a long and healthy life; however, the family must remain in Houston for approximately two months. Although most of Christina's medical expenses are covered, the family needs assistance with lodging, meals, fuel, utilities and other needs since Lupe Aguilar is unable to work at this time. All donations will be appreciated.

Christmas Cantata at Grassland Church of the Nazarene

The Grassland Church of the Nazarene will present its Christmas Cantata "Celebrate the Gift!" Sunday, December 19 at 6 p.m. Soloist will be: Steve Mason, Brenda McCleskey, Rick Taylor, Jennifer Crank and Pastor Dave Parker. Narration will be by Steve Mason. Refreshments will follow the service.

"A Christmas Story" stages final performances this weekend

Final performances of the Garza Theatre's "A Christmas Story" will be offered at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Directed by Laura Bryan, the play is based on the movie by the same name and "In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash." Cast members include Stan Tucker, Michael Porter, Laura Bryan, Lori Holt, Ryan Opton, Bill Woodward, Nolan Bryan, Grayson Young, Taylor Garland, Tanner Britton and Bethany Ratliff.

Tickets, available at the Garza Theatre box office, cost \$9 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12.



Community Christmas Sing at First United Methodist Church

The Post Ministerial Alliance produced the annual Community Christmas Sing last Wednesday, December 8th in the First United Methodist Church. The event concluded with the traditional singing of 'Silent Night.' (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

Merry Christmas

and

Thank you to all of our customers. We will close Dec. 18 and restructure the restaurant with a drive-up window. Look for the Grand Opening with many changes and new hours.

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Grassland Church of the Nazarene announces holiday services

December 19th - Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:45 AM Christmas: A Time for Joy Luke 2: 8-14
Children's Musical Directed by Brenda and Melissa McCleskey, 6:00 PM
"Celebrate the Gift" A Christmas Cantata
December 24th Christmas Eve Candle light Service, 6:00 PM
December 26th 5th Sunday of Advent 10:45 AM Christ-mas: A Time for Healing Matthew 1: 18-25 If you need a physical, emotions or spiritual touch, then this is the time for you.
December 31st Snak-N-Yak (Games, etc) and a Watch Night Service 8:00- Midnight
January 2nd "John Wesley Covenant Service" 10:45 This is a special service designed to aid in making and keeping your New Years Resolution with the end goal of 2005 being a better and more enjoyable year than 2004.
Sunday AM Worship 10:45
Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 9:45
Wednesday Night Adult, Teen and Children Programs 7:PM
Located 2 miles South of 380, half way between Post and Tahoka
Transportation Available

City manager accepts TCMA presidency

Post City Manager Fred Stephens was recently tapped to serve as president of Region 2 of the Texas City Managers Association. Stephens was elected at the association's July meeting and will serve in the post through June 2005. The organization, also known as the West Texas City Managers Association, is comprised of city managers from communities in 40 West Texas counties. It is dedicated to dealing with up-to-date issues faced by West Texas residents and their local governing bodies.

Flanigan ears WBU degree

A Post resident was among students receiving diplomas from Wayland Baptist University in Lubbock during commencement exercises held Dec. 11. John N. Flanigan, son of Billy and Nancy Gordon of Post, received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in agribusiness, management and marketing. A total of 65 students received diplomas during the ceremony.



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.

Curriculum Enrichment

Extension Agents Julie Dirks and Greg Jones teamed up with Jana Middleton of Texas Farm Bureau and Seth Redman from United Supermarket in Post to bring educational information to Post ISD 4th. and 5th. Grades on cotton and beef cattle production and their by-products. The Extension staff would like to thank Post ISD Elementary Principal Marvin Self, Vice-Principal Stacy Marts and the 4th. And 5th. Grade teachers for their cooperation. We would like to also thank Texas Farm Bureau and United Supermarket for their assistance with the program.

4-H Christmas Party

All 4-H members make plans to attend the county-wide Christmas Party December 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Extension office. A food drive/scavenger hunt will be held to gather non-perishable food items for needy families. 4-Hers need to bring a personal grooming item (i.e. toothpaste, lotion, deodorant, soap) to be given to Ronald McDonald House.

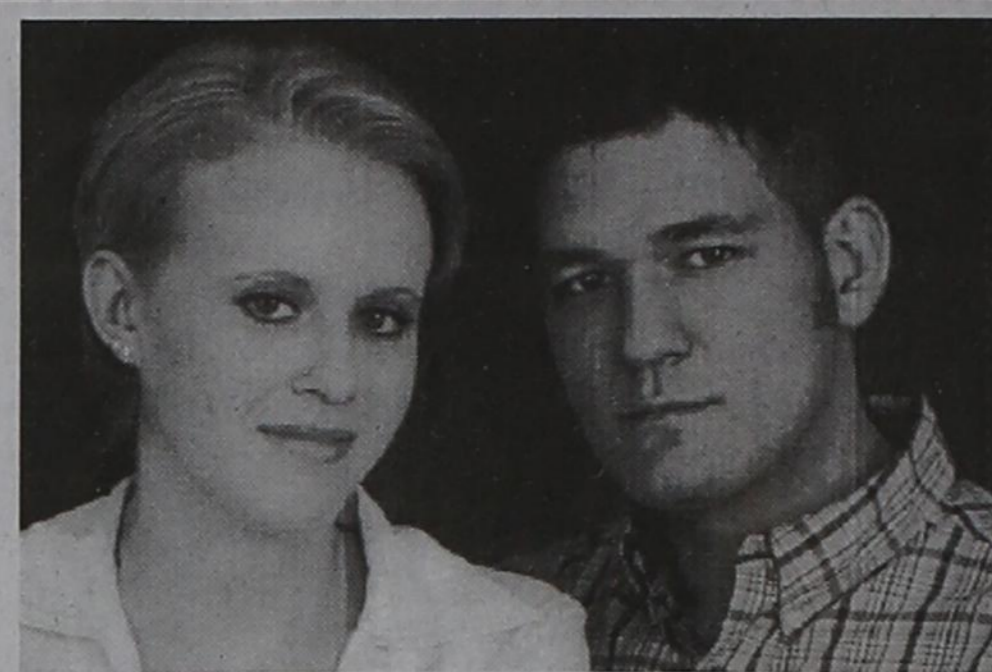
Sheriff reports four arrests here

Four arrests were made during the past week, according to reports from the Garza County Sheriff's Department.

Those arrested included a 30-year-old for possession of a controlled substance; a 24-year-old, parole violation; a 40-year-old, assault; and a 20-year-old, possession of marijuana/under two ounces.

White River Lake Weekly Report

Dec. 13, 2004
Gauge reading: 2353.2 Feet below spillway: 19'3" Rise - 0 Rainfall (past week): .31" Rain to-date: 43.28" Rainfall since Dec. 1 - .40"
Source: Mickey Rogers, WRMWD general manager



Sarah Hawthorne, Joshua Fumagalli announce engagement

Mark and Cindy Hawthorne of Tahoka have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Hawthorne, to Joshua Cole Fumagalli, son of Danny and Jenifer Fumagalli of Post.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Marlin and Diana Hawthorne and Dorothy Craig, all of Tahoka. A graduate of Tahoka High School and South Plains College, she will attend Texas Tech University in the spring where she plans to major in dentistry.

The prospective bridegroom, grandson of J.C. and Patsy Fumagalli of Langley, British Columbia, and Woodrow Bishop of Post, is a graduate of Post High School. He is employed by South Plains Community Action as a network administrator.

A March 5, 2005, wedding in the Tahoka First Baptist Church is planned.



Post Volunteer Fireman Tommy Basquez (left) was presented the Rookie of the Year award by Garza County Judge Giles W. Dalby at the recent annual Post Volunteer Fire Department banquet.



Post Volunteer Fireman Jason Powell (left) was presented the Fireman of the Year award by Garza County Judge Giles W. Dalby at the recent annual Post Volunteer Fire Department banquet. New firemen Jeff Blaylock, Jay Waylon Strawn and Bryan Looney were also introduced at the event.

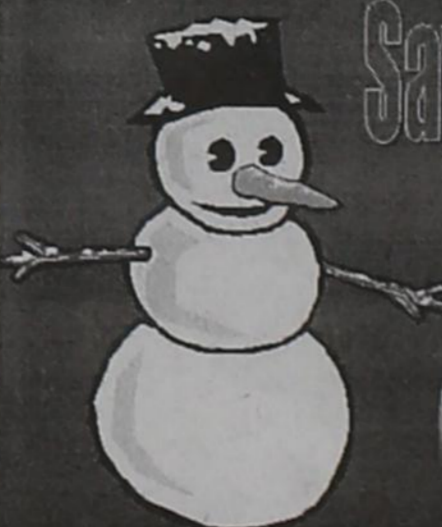
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The Post Dispatch

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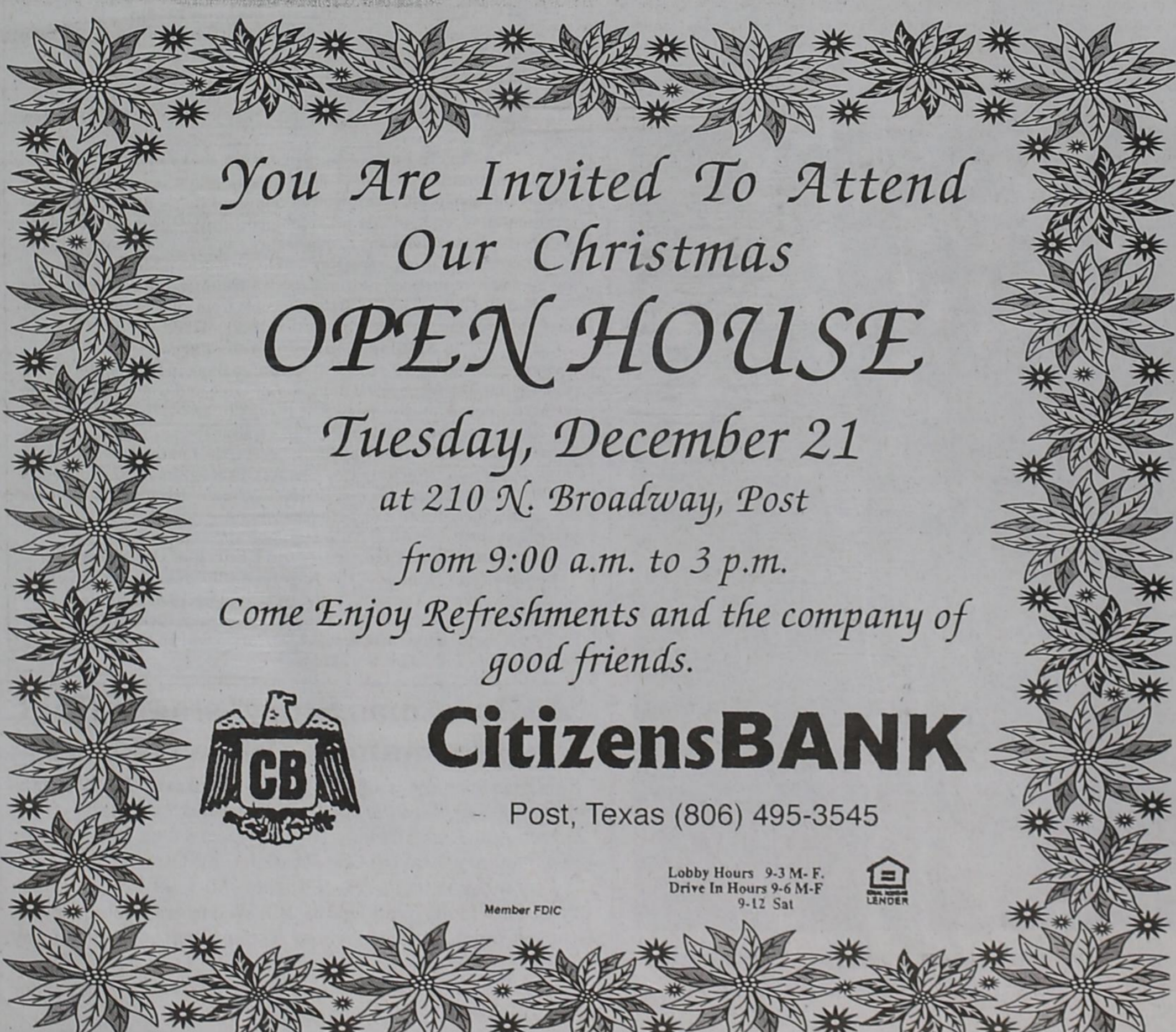


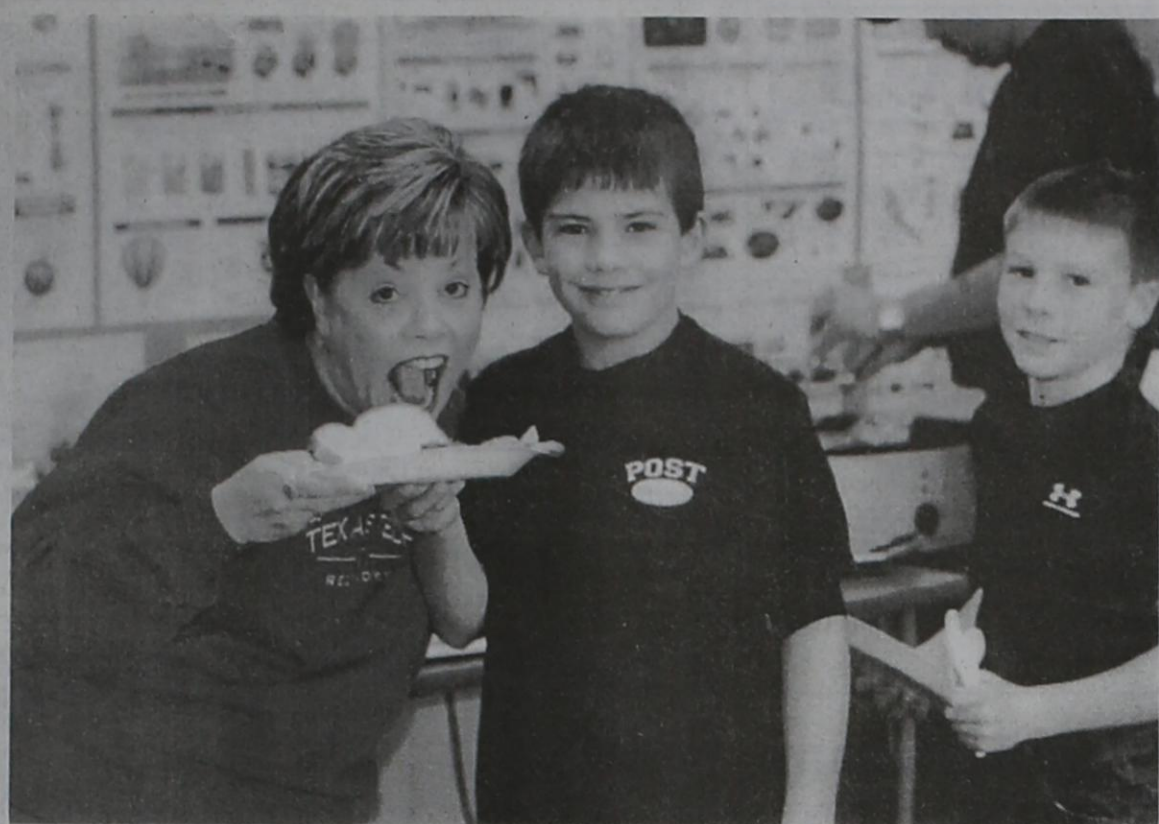
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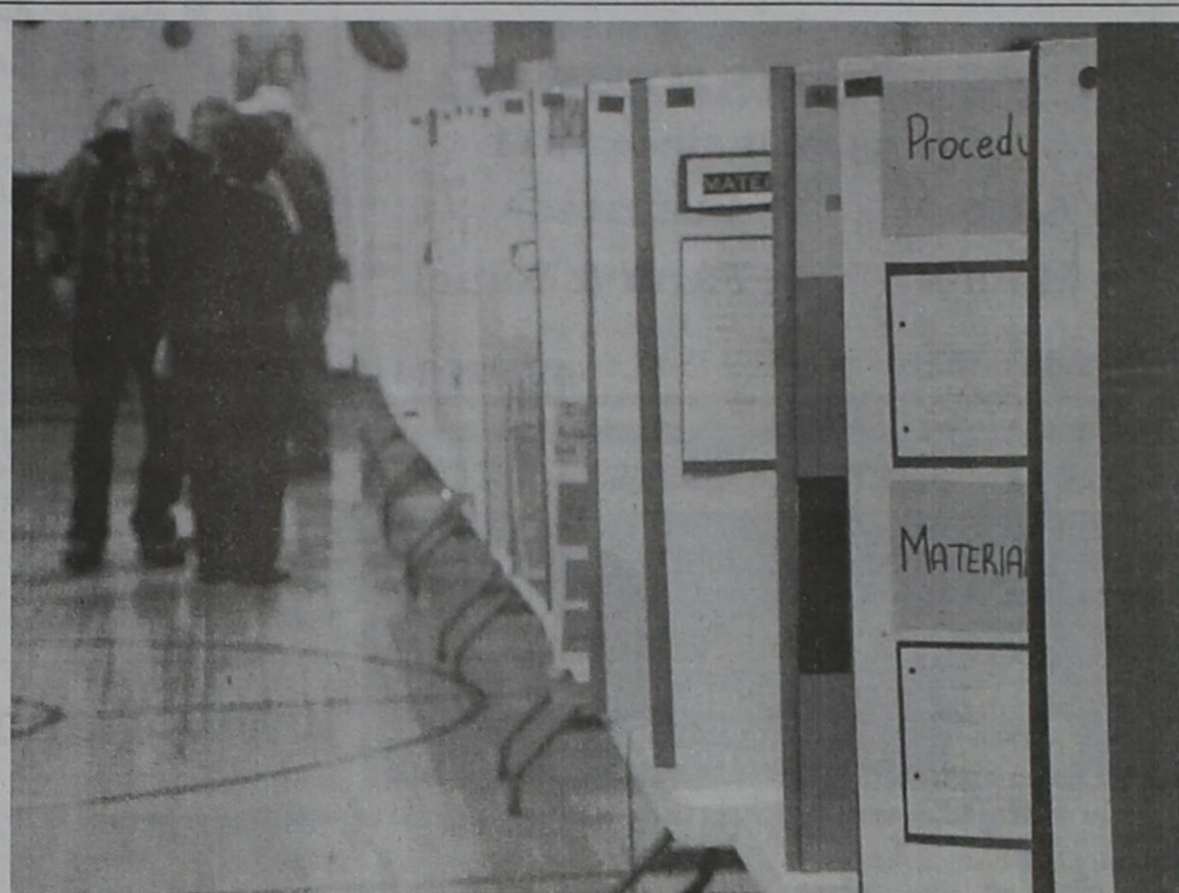
Lobby Hours 9-3 M-F
Drive In Hours 9-6 M-F
9-12 Sat





Post Elementary students enjoy recent Thanksgiving feast

Melanie Morris demonstrates how to enjoy a good Thanksgiving feast along with students Aaron Macy (center) and Tylo Kirkpatrick (right). Also enjoying the festivities in the background is Jason Porter. (Photo by Kelly Macy)



Post Elementary students display science projects

Post Elementary students displayed their science projects last Thursday, December 9th in the elementary auditorium. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)



Santa at Post VFW

Satna made his visit to the Post VFW last Saturday and handed out goodies for children attending the event. Among those participating were (back row, left to right) Janet Ratliff, Terri Reese, Alva Shepherd, (middle row) Ashlee Gray, Santa (Bobby Smith), Autumn Locke, Taylor Gray and (front) Shelby Tunaitis. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

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SHURFINE BROWN OR POWDER SUGAR 2 LB. / REG. \$1.59	99¢
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LIBBY PUMPKIN 15 OZ. CAN	89¢
OCEAN SPRAY CRANBERRY JELLIED SAUCE 16 OZ. CAN	\$1.29
SHURFINE CHICKEN BROTH 14.5 OZ. CAN	69¢

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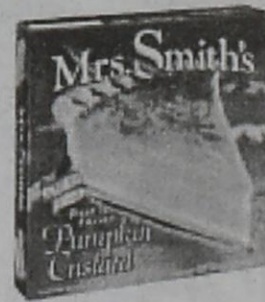


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COMBO NO. 8	2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.19
COMBO NO. 9	CHIMICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.19
COMBO NO. 10	2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.19

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Obituaries

Robert T. (Bob) Dickson

Services for Robert T. (Bob) Dickson, 79, were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004, in the First United Methodist Church of Post with the Rev. Lloyd Stice officiating. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery.

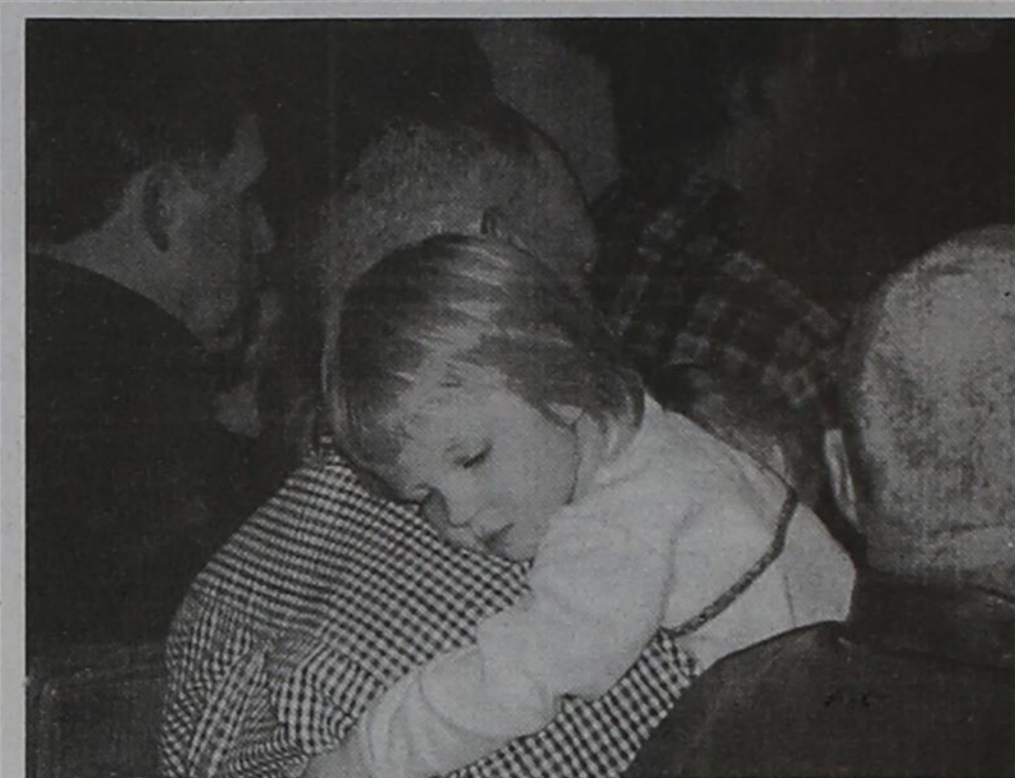
He died Sunday, Dec. 12. Born July 11, 1925, in Loving to William and Mary Dickson, he married Joy Petty on March 16, 1947. He was a World War II veteran, having served with the 313th Infantry in Europe from the D-Day campaign through France and Germany until the end of the war. A member of the Lubbock Scottish Rite Bodies for more than 50 years, he was a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife; two children, Bobby Dickson of Albuquerque, N.M., and Debra Redman of Post; five grandchildren, Jarett Dickson of Stephenville, Heather Dickson of Karnack and Christopher Redman, Jeffrey Redman and Seth Redman, all of Post; one great-grandchild, Bryce Redman; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Jarett Dickson, Seth Redman, Jeff Redman, Chris Redman, Bobby Blair and Russell Benham.



Under the direction of Nancy Gordon, the students of the First Baptist Church School entertained a packed house with "A Penny in My Pocket" and "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" during the Community Christmas Sing last Wednesday, December 8th in the First United Methodist Church (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)



Doug Flanigan enjoyed the Community Christmas Sing last Wednesday, December 8th, as his daughter Hattie rested peacefully against his shoulder during the singing of "Silent Night." (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

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Post Devotional Page

This Devotional Page is made possible by these businesses who encourage us to attend worship services

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

God Sends Gabriel To Mary... Luke 1:26-34

The three most significant events in the history of mankind were the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. According to God's word, the most important of these are his death and resurrection. These two events brought about the righteousness and new-birth that is available now. It is with this in mind that we dive into the wonderful records of Jesus Christ's early years. Starting with his conception, the next series of articles will lay out the first two years of Jesus Christ's life. Luke 1:26-27, "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary." In his book Jesus Christ Our Promised Seed, author Victor Paul Wierwille pinpointed the dates of many events related to Jesus Christ's early years. He calculated Gabriel's appearance to be on December 4th, 4 B.C. Later we will see how this date chronologically fits the date of Jesus' birth. Luke 1:28-30, "And the angel came in unto her, and said, 'Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou amongst women.' And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be." In Genesis 3:15, God gave His word about the seed of the woman. Throughout the Old Testament there are many records of faithful and humble women of God. Yet only one had the meekness and humility to receive God's seed that would miraculously conceive His child. Not only would she receive His seed, but also she and Joseph would faithfully raise His son according to His will. Jesus Christ's faithful service toward His Father during his last year on earth was a result of his upbringing under his mom and stepfather. God chose the best of

all His people to raise His child. Luke 1:31-33, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." God revealed some very important information through Gabriel. He said that she would conceive in her womb, and that she would give birth to a son. God had no plans to break any of His laws of reproduction. He basically told her that He was going to plant seed in her that would give life to her egg. Since God is not a man, then He had to do it by a miracle. It should be noted that there was nothing miraculous about Jesus Christ's birth. He came out of his mother just like all other people. Mary fully understood the basic principle of conception. This is why she gave the following response in verse 34, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" She had not conceived by any man. Nor had she even been with any man. This was a reasonable question. In the next verse, Gabriel gave the perfect answer, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the son of God." The phrase "The Holy Ghost" refers to God Himself. The terms "come upon thee" and "overshadow thee" are used throughout the Old Testament to describe the man coming upon the woman with the intent to conceive a child in her. The angel spoke plainly with her, and used language that she would understand. Next week we will look at Mary's humble response to God's word. [For the archives of On God's Word visit www.geocities.com/christinyou7love.html.](http://www.geocities.com/christinyou7love.html)

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Entered at U.S. Post Office, Post, Texas for transmission through the mails as Second Class matter, according to an Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Post, Texas 79356.
 Postmaster: send address changes to: The Post Dispatch, P.O. Box 426., Post, Texas 79356
 (806) 495-2816 - Fax 495-2059
 Wesley W. Burnett, Managing Director and Publisher
 123 E. Main Street, Post, Texas 79356
 e-mail: postpaper@dtnspeed.net
Subscription Rates:
 For addresses in Texas or the U.S. - \$30.00 per year
 6 Months: \$16.00 or 3 Months: \$12.00
Deadline:
 Tuesdays at Noon
 e-mail: postpaper@dtnspeed.net
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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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Take your Christmas and stuff it

by Bill O'Reilly
 "Christmas with the Kranks" is not only the name of a holiday movie this year, it is also a national trend. Once again, Christmas is under siege by the growing forces of secularism in America. Put these facts in your stocking:
 □ Federated Department Stores, which includes Macy's, has suggested that managers avoid displaying "Merry Christmas" banners and have ordered employees not to talk about it.
 □ In Denver a church was banned from the "Festival of Lights" parade because it wanted a religious theme to its float.
 □ The Maplewood, N.J., school board has banned all religious music from "holiday" concerts. (Would somebody please tell me exactly what holiday this is?)
 □ And New York City Mayor Bloomberg insists that the lighted tree outside City Hall is not a Christmas tree, it's a holiday tree. (What holiday, Mr. Mayor?)

Surveys show that more than 90 percent of Americans celebrate the federal holiday of Christmas, signed into law by President Grant in 1870. Despite that overwhelming number, the tradition of Christmas in America continues to get hammered.
 The anti-Christmas forces say it's all about diversity, protecting the sensitivities of those Americans who get offended by the mere mention of the birth of Jesus. Somehow I haven't been able to locate any of these people; folks who find a baby in a manger so off-putting it ruins their day.
 So the diversity excuse is a bunch of bull. What's really going on here is a well-organized movement to wipe out any display of organized religion from the public arena.

The secular-progressive movement understands very well that it is organized religion, most specifically Christianity and Judaism, that stands in the way of gay marriage, partial birth abortion, legalized narcotics, euthanasia, and many other secular causes. If religion can be de-emphasized in the USA, a brave new progressive society can be achieved.

It has happened in Canada. Once a traditional religious country, Canada has become like Holland in its embrace of the secular movement. Some facts: In 1980, 79 percent of Canadians said that religion was important to the country. That number has now fallen to 61 percent, according to an Environics Focus Canada poll.
 In 1971, less than one percent of the Canadian population reported having no religion whatsoever; now that number has risen to 16 percent.

The fall of religion in Canada has responded to a change in public policy. Unlike Americans, Canadians have legalized gay marriage and any kind of abortion. Also, the age of consent for sex up north is just 14 years old. Can you imagine American adults being allowed to fool around with children that age? I can't.
 Even drug legalization is close to being a reality as the city of Vancouver is developing a heroin giveaway policy and pot has been largely decriminalized across the country.

The Canadian model is what progressive Americans are shooting for, and so, religion must be dealt with. Since Christmas is the most demonstrative display of organized religion, the strategy of minimizing the birth of Jesus makes perfect sense.

I know this sounds kind of conspiratorial, but it really isn't. Most of those marginalizing Christmas have no idea about the big picture I've just presented. They simply think they're looking out for the minority of Americans who don't celebrate the birth of Christ.
 But committed secularists in the media, in the courts and in the education system, know exactly what's going on. And now so do you. Merry Christmas!
 Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the 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.
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**Taxation is evil, it is sinful.
 It violates God's commandment:
 Thou Shalt Not Steal
 (When you force payment from someone
 against their will, that's theft)**

Higher education in decline

by Walter E. Williams
 College costs have risen dramatically over the last several decades. In many cases, it's difficult to find a college where per-student costs are under \$20,000 each year. Most often, tuition doesn't measure the true cost because taxpayer and donor subsidies pay part of the expenses. While costs are rising, education quality is in precipitous decline, particularly at the undergraduate level. Part of the reason is the political climate on college campuses, where professors use their classrooms for proselytizing and indoctrination and teach classes that have little or no academic content. Let's look at some of it.

In a study to be published in Academic Questions, sociologist Charlotta Stern and economist Daniel Klein found in a random national sample of 1,678 university professors that Democratic professors outnumber Republican professors 3 to 1 in economics, 28 to 1 in sociology, and 30 to 1 in anthropology. As George Will said in his Washington Post column, "Academia, Stuck to the Left" (Nov. 28, 2004): "Many campuses are intellectual versions of one-party nations."

That strong campus leftist bias goes a long way to explain mindless university courses like: "Canine Cultural Studies" (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), "I Like Ike, But I Love Lucy" (Harvard), "History of Electronic Dance Music" (UCLA), "Rock and Roll" (University of Massachusetts) and "Hip-Hop: Beats, Rhyme and Culture" (George Mason University). There are many other examples documented by Accuracy in Academia (accuracyinacademia.org).

A Zogby survey was commissioned by the National Association of Scholars (NAS) to compare the general cultural knowledge of today's college seniors to that of yesteryear's high school graduates. The questions for the survey were drawn from those asked by the Gallup organization in 1955 covering literature, music, science, geography and history. The results were reported in a NAS publication titled "Today's College Students and Yesteryear's High School Grads." It concludes that "Contemporary college seniors scored on average little or no higher than the high-school graduates of a half-century ago on a battery of 15 questions assessing general cultural knowledge."

A 1990 Gallup survey for the National Endowment of the Humanities, given to a representative sample of 700 college seniors, found that 25 percent did not know that Columbus landed in the Western Hemisphere before the year 1500, 42 percent could not place the Civil War in the correct half-century, and 31 percent thought Reconstruction came after World War II.

In 1993, a Department of Education survey found that, among college graduates, 50 percent of whites and more than 80 percent of blacks couldn't state in writing the argument made in a newspaper column or use a bus schedule to get on the right bus, 56 percent could not calculate the right tip, 57 percent could not figure out how much change they should get back after putting down \$3 to pay for a 60-cent bowl of soup and a \$1.95 sandwich, and over 90 percent could not use a calculator to find the cost of carpeting a room. But not to worry. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni's 1999 survey of seniors at the nation's top 55 liberal arts colleges and universities found that 98 percent could identify rap artist Snoop Doggy Dogg and Beavis and Butt-Head, but only 34 percent knew George Washington was the general at the battle of Yorktown.

Americans as donors and taxpayers have been exceedingly generous to our universities. Given our universities' gross betrayal of trust, Americans should rethink their generosity as well as rethink who serves on boards of trustees that, in dereliction of duty, permit universities to become hotbeds of political activism and academic fraud. There are a few universities where there's still integrity and academic honesty, and they don't cost an arm and a leg. Among them are: Grove City College, Pa., Hillsdale College, Mich., Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio, and others listed at the Web page of Young America's Foundation (www.yaf.org).

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. 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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Same ole, same ole big spending

by Wes Burnett
 Last month at its regular meeting, the Garza County Hospital District Board of Directors agreed (without a vote) to spend tax funds to support an intern in anticipation of the young doctor accepting a contract to work and live in Post.

In addition, board members present at the meeting voiced their strong approval of a proposal by Physician Network Services executive Paul Acreman for building a new clinic here. That is an important ingredient necessary for retaining a new doctor, according to Acreman.

We wonder if they have forgotten the overwhelming vote of no-confidence that was cast not too long ago when a similar proposal was put on a ballot. Voters here slammed the door to building a new hospital, although it was touted by board members and "community leaders" that "everyone in this community" wanted it.

Truth is, as it was in that vote against a new hospital, the great majority of people here have no interest in having their tax funds spent on building a new clinic. In fact, the proposal simply changes the name of "hospital" to "clinic." If the voters have a chance, the outcome will be the same as before.

Likewise, the board pushed legislation to change its name from "hospital" district to "health care district." Names may change, but it doesn't fool most of the voters.

Hospital district board members might be asking, "Why the opposition?" It is really quite simple. If these projects were to be paid through private funds, there would be no opposition. The fact that people are forced to pay against their will is, and will continue to be, the major source of opposition to these socialist projects funded by taxes.

Board members should take heed from Fred Howell, who before he became a board member, insisted that assumptions be carefully studied before making important decisions. That is especially good advice when spending other people's money.

Board members have made a fundamentally flawed assumption regarding the district's purpose. They have assumed that they have the responsibility to provide health care for everyone in the county. That is a blatantly false assumption.

The district is responsible only for providing health care to qualified Garza County indigents. The district was established for that purpose, and that purpose alone. Organized and created under the authority of Article 9, Section 9 of the State of Texas Constitution, the district has no other mandate than to care for the indigent.

There are, on average, 12-18 people in this county declared as indigents year in and year out. With an annual budget of more than \$500,000, that's almost \$28,000 per each and every indigent in the district. Sound a bit expensive? You bet it is.

The district's own records show that on average, less than \$100,000 is spent annually for indigent care. So, where is the rest of the money going?

The excess is used to fund a socialized medical scheme, where local tax payers subsidize health care for the non-indigent among us. It is not only a waste of our tax funds, it borders on malfeasance. Why? Because tax funds may not be used to subsidize the health care of the non-indigent.

The district may allow non-indigents to use the clinic it operates, but those who use those services must pay enough to offset the subsidy. We'll have to rely on the accountants to figure out the difference, but it's a safe bet that if the board held to the limits of its authority, there would be no opposition from tax payers.

If these grand schemes were privately funded, we'd be the first to applaud the hospital district. Let those who think this is a good idea step forward and pay for it. But don't make the false assumption that you can force others to forever pay against their will.

If the board continues on its present course, there will be growing opposition. One answer is to settle the matter at the ballot box. The board has the authority to call an election to dissolve the district. Maybe it's time to put it to a vote.

It may be the only way to stop the immorality of stealing our property to satisfy a purely socialist program.

States should end "drug war"

by Sheldon Richman
 "Medicine by regulation is better than medicine by referendum." U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer said that during last week's arguments over the much-watched medical-marijuana case. Breyer, in other words, prefers that any change in the government's prohibition of marijuana use be accomplished by an appeal to the federal drug-enforcement authorities rather than by a public vote in the states, such as occurred in California.

But he is really saying that medical oppression by an elite is better than medical oppression by the mob. Are those our only choices? Why must we have medical oppression at all? Why not medicine by free individual choice? That this is not even on the table shows how far our society has moved from its individualist foundations.

The case Ashcroft v. Raich has two dimensions, procedural and substantive, and it is important to consider them separately. People who approve of "medical marijuana" — that is, empowering doctors to prescribe pot to certain sick people — tend to favor letting the states partially nullify the federal drug ban. And people who disapprove of medical marijuana tend to favor having the federal government veto such state nullification. But a mix and match is coherent and even sensible. That is, one can oppose the federal government's effort to stop states from enacting medical-marijuana laws while also opposing those laws. I shall explain.

The Founders of the United States understood the threat to liberty from concentrated political power, so they tried to divide power not only among the three branches of the national government, but also between the national and state governments. Back then, people saw their respective states as sovereign and never would have assented to a scheme in which the states became mere administrative subdivisions of the national government. As a result, the Congress was delegated a few defined powers (to use James Madison's term) and the states retained other powers by default. (See the Tenth Amendment.)

Unfortunately, the eminently sensible division of powers, called federalism but mislabeled "states' rights," acquired a bad name, primarily because of the violations of blacks' rights after the War between the States. (Before the war, the slave states

were not consistent advocates of states' rights; they self-righteously objected when northern states passed personal-liberty laws that in effect nullified the federal fugitive-slave act.)

Since the New Deal, federalism has essentially been abolished by the Supreme Court's permissive attitude toward Congress and the Constitution's "commerce clause." Until recently, Congress could get away with passing any law as long as it claimed authority under that clause. That has begun to change. In recent years the Court has found two cases in which Congress's resort to the commerce clause was just too transparent to tolerate.

Now it has to contend with Raich and state medical marijuana. Here's the rub: most people who say they like federalism want no part of anything that looks like a loosening of the marijuana laws. And those who embrace medical marijuana dislike states' rights in most other cases. It's a topsy-turvy world! The indications at last week's Court session were that federalism will take a hit.

Here's what ought to happen: The Court should endorse federalism and stop the Bush administration from interfering with the states on medical marijuana. It should also recognize that the federal government has no constitutional authority to regulate drugs. It is worth recalling that the Constitution had to be amended before the federal government could prohibit alcohol in the 1920s. Why then has it been able to ban drugs without an amendment?

Once the feds are disarmed in the war on drug makers and consumers, the states should repeal their own laws against production, sale, and possession. All prescription laws should also be repealed. Then we will have real individual freedom and self-responsibility. Self-medication is an inalienable right as self-education. Medical marijuana does not advance liberty. It only empowers doctors. The idea that government should decide whether marijuana is medicine or not and whether doctors should be permitted to give it to sick people ought to be offensive to any self-responsible American.

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

Yesteryears

Compiled by Donna Jones from the files of The Post Dispatch

10 Years Ago

December 21, 1994

Post Middle School STAR members performed a special puppet for elementary school students in a drug prevention campaign this week. Puppeteers are Kevin Hart, Ryan Wulfen, Clinton Curtis, Dianna Williams, Anaili Simental, Tim Pena, Miranda McClain, Raul Ortiz, Mandy Terry and Joey Cimintal.

Citizens Bank chairman E. W. Williams, Jr. and president Jeff D. Wilton have announced the promotion of Fred Myers and Ann Stelzer at the Post branch of Citizens Bank.

The children of the late Wes and Mollie Morris met last Sunday for dinner at the Chaparral Restaurant. Joining in the family gathering were from Post, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Morris, Juanita Peel from Lubbock, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Morris and from Marion, S. C., Beatrice Dodson.

Navy Seaman Recruit Joey D. Cowley, son of Donnie and Debbie Cowley of Post, recently completed U. S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois.

20 Years Ago

December 19, 1984

For What It's Worth: It seems as if Jay Lott, Mike Tatum and Rex Cash went off to go deer hunting and a successful hunt they had. They didn't bring a deer back as originally planned, but did bag a Wild Boar.

Inez Richie was named Extension Homemakers' Club Woman of the Year. Attending the event were Jewel White, Virginia Custer, Lucille Bush, Hooter Terry, Nona Lusk, Faye Payton, Henrietta Warren, Sue Maxey and Collen England.

Mrs. Bobby Cowdrey was winner of the Christmas arrangement given away at Maurine's Flower Shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Don W. Collier of Arlington, announce the birth of their son, Don Wilson Collier Jr. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Collier of Post.

The Post Art Guild are now selling T-shirts. The quote on the shirt reads "Post, where it all began". You can purchase the item at Glenda's Gallery.

30 Years Ago

December 19, 1974

The singing group from the Post Future Farmers of America chapter walked off with first place in the talent contest at the annual Mesa District FFA banquet. Making up the group are Danny Guthrie, lead guitar and singer; Bruce Sanderson, rhythm guitar; Nan Hair drums and singer; and Wesley Redman, bass guitar.

Mrs. Alberta Martin of Post completed her free "five minute run" through the United Super Market last Saturday after winning the Garza County Jaycees "Five Minutes in a Super Market" contest. She checked out with a \$123.57 tab.

On Christmas Day, the Holy Cross Catholic Church will hold its first services in its new church in the 200 block of West Main street across from the post office.

Kim Mitchell and Lorry Chapman are in charge of "recruiting" teenagers and animals for the 14th annual Teenagers Live Nativity Scene to be presented three times on Christmas Eve in the double carport of the Jim Cornish residence at 307 Osage.

40 Years Ago

December 17, 1964

Post School Trustees elected Earl Chapman to fill the vacancy created last week by the resignation of Board President, E. R. (Buster) Moreland, who stepped down for health reasons.

One of Post's newest Christmas traditions - the fourth annual live

nativity scene - will be presented by local teen-agers in the double carport of the Jim Cornish residence. Mary Ann Stone is scheduled to portray Mary this year with Benny Owen as Joseph. Other teen-agers in the cast include Larry Osman, Pat Sullivan and Buddy Howell, as wisemen, Marcia Newby, Susan Ramsey, Lynn Edwards as angels, Meredith Newby, Teddy Scott and Tony Hutto as shepherds, and Susan Cornish, Peggy Thorne, Linda Stephens and Dee Ann Walker as townspeople.

Mrs. Fernie Reed was complimented with a layette shower last Thursday in the home of Mrs. Jim Boren. Other hostesses were Mmes. Douglas McWhirt, Bud Schlehuber, Riley Miller and Mason Justice.

Donnie Joe Hare, son of Mrs. Rosa Mae Hare of Post, recently departed for a three-year tour of duty with the U. S. Army.

The Postex Mills received the "C" award from the U. S. Army for quality production of sheets for the armed forces.

50 Years Ago

December 16, 1954

The Caprock Golf Course's first membership tournament has been completed with first, second and third place winners. Jimmy Hundley and his father, Jim Hundley, won first and third, respectively, in the first flight, with Walter B. Holland taking second place.

Fourteen thousand square feet of additional warehouse space will be provided by a new building now under construction at Postex Cotton Mills, Inc.

Miss Elfreda Buck and Wayne Carpenter exchanged wedding vows Dec. 8 in the Central Baptist Church at Clovis, N. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Norris are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Barbara, to Ronald Joe Babb, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Babb. The bride-elect will complete her junior year at Texas Tech in January.

The Mexican Baptist Church here has announced plans for a larger and more adequate building, according to the Rev. Raul Solis, pastor. The average attendance at the church runs from 65 to 95 a month, and that is simply not enough room. Members of the church's building committee are Abel Castro, Gabriel Saldivar, Hermilo Martinez and Jesus Morales.

60 Years Ago

December 21, 1944

Advertising Ads: McCrary's Appliance Company, Mason & Company, Post Auto Supply, Bryant-Link Co., Post Produce, West Texas Gas Company, Haws Dry Goods, Warren's Drug Store, Pioneer Cookie Co., Northside Grocery, Ideal Laundry, B. C. Manis, First National Bank, Jennie's Tea Room, Graeber's, Piggly Wiggly, Higginbotham-Bartlett Co., R. B. Dodson, Beauty Nook, Doughty Hardware, Hundley's Red & White, Blondie's Laundry Service, Connell Chevrolet Co., Garza Theatre, Hi-Way Grocery, Earl Rogers Feed Store, T. L. Jones, and O. L. Wilkinson Lumber Company.

Announced United States naval losses since the beginning of the war stood at 228, The Navy reported in disclosing the loss of 10 vessels.

Texas farmers will receive a minimum of 27 cents per dozen for candled eggs in 1945.

All students are now collecting pennies and working for their contestant for Queen of Sports. The following contestants were elected to represent the various grades: First grade - Sara Lou Ray and Esther Ann Bird; Second grade - Dura Ann Hughes; Third grade - Jackie Sue Dale and Barbara Northcutt; Fourth grade - Patsy Bostic; Sixth grade - Mary Neil Bowen; Seventh grade - Betty Mills and Verna Dell Long.

7th Grade Girl Take 4th Place at Post Jr. High Tournament

by Kara Swindell

The 7th grade girl's basketball team played all three days of the December 9-11 Post Jr. High tournament on the championship side of the bracket. Their first game on Thursday was a victory against Roosevelt. The score was close pretty much throughout the game and Roosevelt started pulling ahead in the 4th quarter. The girls really fought hard in the last minute of the 4th quarter and ended up coming out on top. Branda Stevens led all scorers with 8 points followed by Alex Miller with 7 points. Alex Miller did a great job of executing our offense and got some great looks at the basket. Final score: Post 15, Roosevelt 12.

We played Floydada on Friday. We really struggled in this game. We were 1-12 at the free throw line and that really hurt us. We just could not get our offense started and therefore, did not score a lot. Branda Stevens led all scorers with 8 points followed by Alex Miller & Kelly Chapa with 2 points each. Final Score: Post 12, Floydada 33.

In the third place game we played Slaton. It was a very physical game and I really thought we handled it very well. We struggled on our press offense and their press started to hurt us. Toni Wait had a good game for us offensively. We still did not do well at the free throw line and shot 2-12 from the line. Toni Wait led all scorers with 6 points followed by Branda Stevens with 5, Crystal Sanchez with 4, Danica Williams with 2 and Alex Miller with 1 point. Final score: Post 18, Slaton 23.

8th Grade Girls at Post tourney Championship Game

by Kara Swindell

The 8th grade girls were very successful at the Post Jr High tournament last weekend. We started off with a win against Meadow. This was a good win because it was the first win of the season. We really played well and the girls were playing hard. Shyra Perez had a great game offensively and led all scorers with 12 points followed by Gaby Gomez with 5 points and Haley Lester with 2 points. Final Score: Post 19, Meadow 10.

Friday's game against Floydada was the hardest fought game of the season. The girls came to play and played their hardest until the final buzzer. We led as much as 14 and ended up being ahead only 1 point with 9 seconds remaining in the 4th quarter. Sabrina Sanchez hit a key basket in the 4th quarter and then hit game winning free throws with 9 seconds remaining. I've never seen the girls so determined to win and determined to not settle for less. This win was huge and the girls deserved every bit of it. Shyra Perez led all scorers with 15 points followed by Shawnda Wiley with 6, Sabrina Sanchez with 4 and Jackie Slauch, Haley Lester & Gaby Gomez all with 1 point each. Final score: Post 27, Floydada 22.

Saturday's game was the championship game of the tournament against Tahoka. We had just played them Monday and did not play very well. I felt we really started off strong and everything was working for us. We got down almost 10 points and seemed to never recover from it. The girls fought hard and I really appreciated it. They had an outstanding tournament and receiving 2nd place was a great accomplishment for them. Shawnda Wiley shot the ball extremely well and led all scorers with 14 points followed by Shyra Perez with 2 points. Final score: Post 15, Tahoka 40.

Post Jr. High girls vs. Slaton

by Kara Swindell

The girls' gold teams were combined again for a game December 13 game because Slaton only had one team. We started off slow, but came back from being behind 7-2. It was a close game all the way to very end. We were tied 11-11 with one second to go and Slaton was shooting a free throw. Slaton got the rebound and shot it in to win 13-11. Alexandra Rodriguez led all scorers with 3 points followed by Kristen Leach & Valerie Moreno with 2 points each and Chelsea Sapp and Tianna Reyna with 1 point each. Final score: Post 11, Slaton 13.

7th Grade

The 7th grade game was very physical and I thought we handled their press better than we did on Saturday during our tournament. I feel like we forced the ball too much to players that were not open. We tended to force the ball inside when we got it across half court when we needed to slow down and run an offense. Branda Stevens led all scorers with 6 points followed by Toni Wait with 3, and Alex Miller & Danica Williams with 2 points each. Final Score: Post 13, Slaton 27.

8th Grade

Again, this was another physical game. Slaton runs the floor very well and we weren't able to stop them as much as we needed to. We had the shots at the basket, but it seemed like nothing was going in for us. We didn't run the offense as well as I thought we should and we were a little too timid on our press. Our inside game was lacking as well & that hurts. The girls fought hard and I appreciated all of their effort until the very end. Shyra Perez led all scorers with 4 points followed by Gaby Gomez & Shawnda Wiley with 2 points each and Whitney Williams with 1 point. Final Score: Post 9, Slaton 28.

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by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS

- oil & gas company
- TX liquor store: "Keg"
- TX VP John Garner said his job "worth a bucket of warm spit"
- cheaper new car?
- TXism: "scarce as a wildcatter with"
- TX Debbie film: "The Singing"
- head of the JFK commission
- Astro pitcher Drabek in '93-'96 (init.)
- NFL coin toss
- "Raptor Canyon" in Fort Worth Zoo
- Big Bend is only spot in U.S. for the "warbler"
- 12- battery
- gets old
- radio station type
- TX Clint Black's "Straight Out of"
- unauthorized absence (abbr.)
- real name init. of TX O. Henry
- Dallas-based oil & gas co.
- TXism: "active as a fox in ___ house"
- Lorrie Morgan's "We ___ Walk"
- TXism: "wound tighter ___ day clock"
- "A Time ___"
- TXism: "just two whoops ___ holler away"
- San Antonio insurance co.
- TXism: "turn some ___" (plow)
- TX actress Lynda ___ George
- Hawaiian food
- Santa's suit at work? where jalapeno's are placed (2 wds.)
- TX Stephen Stills group: "Crosby, Stills, ___ Young"
- TXism: "hot as road ___ in July"
- TX grocery: "___ N Pak"
- TX Paula Prentiss film: "Where the Boys ___"
- TXism: "goes together like ___ store"
- Falls Co. on 77
- TXism: "snake oil salesman"
- Lamb Co. on 70
- San Antonio AFB
- fish temptation
- in Smith Co. on 135
- coal miner's daughter (init.)
- TXism: "lit out"
- TX Trini's "___ A Hammer"
- "tomorrow" south of the border
- this Paul was the owner of Terlingua
- TXism: "does ___ dog stink?"
- TXism: "CREF"
- TX Will's: "___ take it away Leon"
- verbose
- "24 TX isdom: "Me for Ma - And I Ain't Got a Dern Thing ___"
- cowboy footwear
- Lincoln's face ___ 5-dollar bill
- Sabine unleashed
- TX Joe Don film: "Citizen ___"
- hardly none
- TXism: "worthless as half ___ cut"

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Lady Lopes Win District Opener

by Jerry White
The Lady Lopes travelled to Denver City to open district play. The Lady Lopes got off to a slow start. A three point goal by Sarah Kirkpatrick and a free throw by Laurel Tatum was all the scoring for the Lady Lopes in the first quarter who trailed Denver City 4 - 6. In the second quarter the Lady Lopes post game game to life with Nikki Norman with the help of good passes

scored twelve points in the quarter. Megan Hoover scored four points in the quarter and the Lady Lopes led at the half 20 - 12. In the third quarter f Norman scored 8 more points from the low post while Laurel Tatum and Courtney Copeland added two points each from high post. Rachel Gray added two more points and Kirkpatrick a free throw as the Lady Lopes increased its lead to 35 - 22. In the fourth quarter Patricia Hester

scored 4 points from the high post while Norman and Tatum added two points each from low post. Kirkpatrick added two more off a fast break from a good pass from Gray. Gray added a free throw and the Lady Lopes win the game 46 - 32.

The Lady Lopes improved their season record to 7-3 and their district 5AA record to 1-0.

The Lady Lopes were led in scoring by Nikki Norman with 22 points. Rebounder leaders were Gray 7 and Norman 6. Assist leader was Kirkpatrick with 7. Leading the team in steals were Tatum, Gray, Hoover, and Hester with 3 each.

Lady Lopes fight for consolation at O'Donnel tourney

by Jerry White
The Lady Lopes open tournament play with a tough team from Garden City. The game was close through out but the Lady Lopes came up short in the end 56 - 60.

In the game the Lady Lopes made four three point goals, two by Sarah Kirkpatrick, and one each by Meagan Hoover and Ashley Wilson. Nikki Norman pulled down 12 rebounds, while Jenee Lott pulled down 7 and Sarah Kirkpatrick 5 rebounds. Rachel Gray and Sarah Kirkpatrick recorded 4 assists each.

Defensively Meagan Hoover had 5 steals while Logan Gregory had 4. Meagan Hoover and Nikki Norman each sunk 2 of 2 free throws and as a team the Lady Lopes made 4 of 8 free throws.

The Lady Lopes could not overcome the 23 of 31 free throws made by Garden City.

Scoring for the Lady Lopes were

Meagan Hoover 13, Nikki Norman 12, Rachel Gray 8, Sarah Kirkpatrick 8, Courtney Copeland 6, Patricia Hester 4, Ashley Wilson 3, and Laurel Tatum 2.

In the second round the Lady Lopes played Abernathy JV. The Lady Lopes started their second team and won the game 49 - 8. Scoring for the Lady Lopes were Nikki Norman 10, Laurel Tatum 8, Ashley Wilson 7, Meagan Hoover 5, Rachel Gray 4, Patricia Hester 4, Sarah Kirkpatrick 4, Logan Gregory 3, and Donae Dalby 2. Making a three point goal was Ashley Wilson. Leading rebounders were Laurel Tatum 7 and Nikki Norman 5. Leading with assists were Ashley Wilson 5 and Patricia Hester 3. Defensively with steals were Ashley Wilson 4, and Nikki Norman, Sarah Kirkpatrick, and Logan Gregory with 3 each.

In the consolation the game the

Lady Lopes faced a scrappy team from Crosbyton. The Lady Lopes were playing without their starting post player in Nikki Norman and a reserve Logan Gregory who were taking college boards. Four other Lady Lopes were sick but toughed it out and played for the team, but just could never really get it going.

The Lady Lopes were once again on the short end of the free throw game making 8 of 15 while their opponent made 19 of 30. Top off with cold shooting and the Lady Lopes lost 21 - 45. Scoring for the Lady Lopes were Ashley Wilson 6, Sarah Kirkpatrick 6, Rachel Gray 4, Meagan Hoover 4, Jenee Lott 2, Laurel Tatum 2, Donae Dalby 2, and Patricia Hester 2. Rebounding went to Jenee Lott with 8. Sarah Kirkpatrick had 3 steals while Lott, Gray, and Wilson had 1 each. Ashley Wilson made a three point goal.

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Jerrad Grisham (24) hustles in a rebound during recent basketball action at Brownfield. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

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Post Middle School 7th Grade Lady Lopes. (Photo by Kara Swindell)



Post Middle School 8th Grade Lady Lopes. (Photo by Kara Swindell)

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