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Inside
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 Newspaper
 This Week

The Post Dispatch

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County credit cards create questions

A recent move by county commissioners to better secure county-related credit card use has drawn attention to a situation involving alleged credit card mishandling by a Garza County elected official.

During the March 10 county commissioners meeting, County Judge Giles Dalby recommended the court implement policy changes regarding the accountability of county issued American Express credit card accounts.

Changes were needed, he said, because an elected county official was in arrears with payments owed on the credit card from personal charges.

Dalby did not name the individual allegedly involved, nor were specific details provided. On Tuesday, County Treasurer Ruth Ann Young said the total amount due, which was "getting close to \$500," was paid in full last week.

Young declined to disclose the name of the county official, stating she was unsure as to whether the release of that information would be required by state open record laws.

However, she did indicate that the total amount paid represented multiple credit card charges, some of which dated back to as far as August or September of 2002.

"Naturally, we are disappointed with Mrs Young's refusal to name the elected official," Post Dispatch publisher Wesley W. Burnett said. "Credit card charges by public officials are a matter of public record, as are all expenditures of the public treasury."

Burnett said that The Post Dispatch is submitting a formal request for full disclosure of credit card expenses. "We have an obligation to our readers, the public and taxpayers to keep them informed about how their elected and appointed officials are spending tax funds," Burnett added.

"This matter might be an embarrassment to county officials, but the treasurer is required by law (Texas Open Records Act) to provide those records for public inspection," Burnett concluded.

Majority of "stops" by local officers are caucasian

About 63 percent of the total number of stops made in 2002 by the Garza County Sheriff's Department involved Caucasians, according to a sheriff's report directed to the Garza County commissioners and the Post City Council.

Last year, the sheriff's department recorded a total of 1060 traffic and pedestrian stops. Of that total, 672 involved Caucasians; 289 - or about 27 percent of the total - involved Hispanics; and 94 - or 8.8 percent of the total - involved African-Americans. Three of the total number of stops involved individuals of Asian ethnicity, the report states, and two involved individuals of Native American descent.

The report, required annually by the state, goes on to provide additional information, including the number of searches resulting from stops, consensual searches, searches resulting in found contraband, found contraband resulting in charges being filed, and custodial arrests resulting from the stops.

All of the information pertains to the 2002 calendar year and is broken down into five ethnic groups - Caucasian, Hispanic, African-American, Asian and Native American.

Of the 672 Caucasians stopped by sheriff's department officials last year, 19 - or about 2.8 percent - resulted in searches. Nine of the 19 searches were consensual, and five resulted in found contraband. In the five instances in which contraband was found, three stops resulted in charges being filed, according to the report.

Thirty-seven of the Caucasians stopped - or approximately 5.5 percent - resulted in custodial arrests.

In the 289 stops involving Hispanics, 16 - or 5.5 percent - resulted in searches. Eleven of the 16 searches were consensual, and five resulted in found contraband. In the five stops in which contraband was found, four resulted in charges being filed, according to the report.

Thirty-one of Hispanics stopped - or 10.7 percent - were arrested and taken into custody.

In stops involving African-Americans, five of the 94 stops made resulted in searches, representing about 5.3 percent. Of those searches, four were consensual, one involved the discovery of contraband materials and one resulted in charges being filed, according to the departmental document.

Of the 94 African-American individuals stopped, seven - or about 7.4 percent - were arrested and taken into custody.

Three stops reportedly involved individuals of Asian background, with one resulting in a search. No arrests were recorded. Stops involving those of Native American descent included two, with no resulting searches or arrests.

In wrapping up his report, Sheriff Kenny Ratke states there is "no visible evidence... that racial profiling has occurred by any individual member of the department based on the information available."

Ratke did state that two cases of racial profiling were alleged during the year, and these individuals were "given opportunity to fill out the profiling complaints and offered assistance with completing the complaints, and they declined for reasons unknown."

The sheriff's report was compiled through information located in data sheets for traffic and pedestrian stops and cross-referenced with county jail intake logs.

GHD presses on with hospital vote

During a pair of meetings conducted last week, members of the Garza County Health Care District board of directors voted to call for a May 3 election to allow voters to decide whether or not a new hospital will be constructed and opened in Post.

According to Tanya White, interim administrator for the health care district, the board discussed two options - presenting the proposed construction of a new hospital building on the May 3 ballot or asking voters if they are interested in renovating and reopening the existing hospital. The cost of the two options were "close in amount," White said, and the board opted to give voters the opportunity to open a new hospital facility instead of renovating the current structure.

It was also determined that voters will be asked to consider a \$10.5 million tax-based revenue bond issue to fund the proposed hospital.

Plans call for the design and construction of a 45,000-square-foot, 10-bed hospital complete with a 24-hour ER and a rural health clinic. The bond issue would be used to fund construction, with the debt obligation to be paid back over a 15-year term. To meet this financial obligation, district officials have indicated that a tax rate increase of about 30 cents per \$100 valuation would be necessary.

In other business, the board called for the election of board members to coincide with the balloting on the proposed hospital. Board members representing Precincts 3 and 4 - Danny Guthrie and Zoe Kirkpatrick - will see their terms expiring in coming weeks.

The board also conducted an executive session on March 13 to allow for continued contract negotiations with Physicians Network Services. No action was taken in open session following the closed-door meeting, White said.

Post ISD trustees accept resignations

The resignation of Post Independent School District athletic director Richard Gorman was accepted and a confidential con-

tract settlement agreement negotiated March 11. Superintendent Marlin Marcum said efforts to recruit another AD for the Post school district would begin immediately.

Gorman's resignation was one of several accepted by trustees during their regular monthly meeting. Resignations from Dane Vickers, Kathy Vickers, Stephen Henry and several auxiliary, cafeteria and staff members were accepted, as was the formal resignation of outgoing superintendent Dr. Bobby Bain.

Bain's final day with the school district was Feb. 28. He announced his plans for retirement earlier this year.

In other business, the board discussed and reviewed some early budget development efforts. Under the existing tax rate, the district would realize a "spending parameter" of about \$8.6 million, Marcum said, with

Post Notes

Two-Cylinder Club antique show

The Texas Plains Two-Cylinder Club will host its 11th annual antique tractor show March 22 and 23 at the Ollie Liner Center in Plainview. Admission is free with donations being accepted.

Little League registration March 24-28

Registration for the Post Little League and Minor League will be held March 24-28 at the "Little Dribbler" basketball games and at the tryouts on April 5 and 7. Registration is T-ball, \$20; Softball, \$25; Minor League, \$30; Little League, \$35 and Jr/Sr League, \$45. A fundraiser will not be held this year due to the increase in registration fees.

Taba'na Yuan'e ceremony March 22

The annual Taba'na Yuan'e ceremony will be held Saturday, March 22 at the city park beginning at 6:15 a.m. Following ancient Indian customs, the event measures wind direction precisely at sunrise to "predict" the success of the coming year.

Fish Fry Friday

The Holy Cross Catholic Church is offering a "fish fry" with trimmings, dessert and tea for \$6 plate on Friday at the Parish Hall.

"Our Town" auditions Sat & Sun

Auditions for the Garza Theatre production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" will be held at the Garza Theater, 226 E. Main, on Saturday, March 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. and at the C.A.T.'s Theatre, 2405 34th Street in Lubbock on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. The show will be directed by Jay Young, for performances May 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 16 and 17.

Little League sign-ups March 24-25

Post Little League sign-ups will be held March 24-25 from 3:15 to 5 p.m. at the Elementary School gym. Also at any Little Dribbler games in the old high school gym. Tryouts will be held April 5 at 3 p.m. and April 7 at 6 p.m.

"Thousand Hills Band" March 26

The contemporary worship music band, "The Thousand Hills Band," will perform at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 26 at the Calvary Baptist Church, 6th and Avenue H. The special service is "children and youth night." Refreshments will follow.

Letters to military service members

The Garza County Judge's office is interested in sending letters of appreciation to military service members from Garza County or who have close relatives who live in Garza County on behalf of the community. Please contact Angela Massey at 495-4405 with names and addresses of service members so that we can show our support for the job that they do.

Calvary Baptist offers free BBQ

The Calvary Baptist Church, 6th and Avenue H, is offering a free BBQ meal Sunday, March 30 in a "Come to church and feed our whole family" campaign. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. with the BBQ lunch to follow. Children and youth night at the church is Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. with food fellowship to follow.

Revival at Calvary Baptist Church

The Calvary Baptist Church will host a revival Monday, March 24 through Sunday, March 30 at 7 p.m. each evening. Services will be led by Evangelist Jimmy Holleman Jr, a 1990 PHS graduate and youth director at St Joe Baptist Church in DeLeon, Texas.

Relay for Life teams sought

It's time again to get teams together for the Third Annual Garza County Relay for Life. This year's Relay for Life will be held June 13-14. The Relay for Life is a fun way to join others in the fight against cancer and to raise funds for activities of the American Cancer Society. For more information about forming a team or participating as a survivor, call Amy Pennell at 495-3600 or 495-4316 or Jana Bullard at 495-2804 or 495-2037.

Half Day of Beauty tickets help 4-H

Those interested in winning a "Half Day of Beauty" will find tickets for the drawing (\$2 each or six for \$5) at the Extension Office. The winner will receive a half day of beauty from Avalon Day Spa, a value of \$145. Proceeds from the ticket sale benefit the District 4-H Clothing project. The drawing will be held April 8, the winner does not need to be present to win.

Little League concession stand vendor

Anyone interested in operating the concession stand during summer baseball season this year should contact Rachel Dunn at 495-3540 no later than April 4.

'Day at the ball park' April 5

"A day at the ballpark" is set for April 5 as Post summer baseball gets started. There will be a hamburger cookout beginning at noon. The cookout includes hamburger, chips and drink for \$5 per plate. Games will be played and sponsors recognized. A small garage sale will be held, and anyone who missed out on registration and welcome to sign up at the event.

'12 Angry Men' at the Garza Theatre

The Garza Theatre presents "12 Angry Men," with performances March 28, 29 and April 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12. The play, written by Reginald Rose and adapted by Sherman Sergel, is directed by Jeff Conner. Cast members are Ricky Reyna, Chris Gilmore, James Cutrea, Mitchell Britton, Stan Tucker, Dangle Tabor, Steve Berry, Bill Woodard, Tim McIntire, Cordell Green, Darryl Lippe, Rudy R. Reyes and Patrick Jones. Call the box office at 495-4005 for reservations.

"Signs and Symbols of Spring"

The OS Museum is presenting "Signs and Symbols of Spring" with a special exhibit. There is no charge at the museum, which is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. The OS Museum is located at 201 East Main Street upstairs. An elevator is available.

Relay for Life Luminaria form

The "Relay For Life" Luminaria order form is available for those interested in making a donation to help the American Cancer Society. Forms may be obtained by contacting Lisa Copeland at P.O. Box 105, Post, Texas 79356.

Antelope picked for All-Star team

Post Antelope football senior Bryan Looney has been invited to participate in the Texas All-Star Football team competing at this summer's "NO KA OI" Pigskin Classic in Hawaii. Looney is seeking financial assistance for travel and expenses of more than \$2,000. Call 495-0454 to help.

Relay For Life Captain's meeting Mar. 25

Post-Garza County Relay For Life will hold a captain's meeting Tuesday, March 25 at 5 p.m. in the Wells Fargo Bank Room. The meeting is for those who have already signed up as well as those others interested in participating. For more information call Jana at 495-2804 or 495-2037.



Construction on the pipeline between Post and Slaton is progressing on schedule. Engineers for the project expect the pipeline work to be completed by the end of July 2003. (Photo by Timothy W. Burnett)

(Continued on Page 2)

Our military on duty

by Sandy Smith

As I type these words the winds of war are blowing very hard and it seems we are only hours away from war. Let us not forget that no one wants war, not even our military, but we must support our military and Commander and Chief.

The yellow ribbons that you see through out town were placed in support of our military troops by the Ladies Auxillary, Post VFW. You can pick up your yellow ribbon at Nothin Butt Smokes 300 N Broadway here in Post. Remember: "hate war ... but love the American Warriors" is our motto here in Post, Texas.

March 26th at 10 A.M. there will be a meeting in the Courtroom for those who want to help with upcoming support programs here in Post. You can call Angela Massey 495-4405 or Sandy Smith 495-9900 for more information. We also want to thank Judge Giles Dalby for supporting our military and our programs of support.

Allowing us to use the courtroom for our meetings. Donations are now being accepted to help with care packages, postage that is very costly and upcoming programs. Please call Angela Massey with your donation at the above number.

BM2 Lance K. Goen, son of Jerry and Linda Goen of Post, graduated from Post High School May 1996. He joined the US Navy September 1996. Lance was home on leave Jan. 18 thru Feb. 12 and returned to US Marine Corps. Air Station in Iwakuni Japan awaiting new orders. He would love to receive letters from home his address for now is: BM@ Goen Lance K. PSC 561 Box 1383 FPO AP 96310-0024.

Erma Bustoz' son Josh Bustoz called home and is in good spirits but also misses being home with his family, Josh's wife Vanessa and his newborn son Jayden. Josh is in Korea and has not seen his newborn son Jayden.



Lance Goen

Here are some updates on our other local military families:

LaDonna and Ronnie Halford and family got word from **E-3 Ricky Halford** via e-mail. He is on the Nimitz and headed for the Persian Gulf. Ricky's wife Keri is the grand daughter of Mary Nell Holly. (And Richard I agree with your Mom, that was Ricky on Fox news waving at his family from the Nimitz, I saw him too.) Ricky has been at sea for over three weeks now.

Tino and Linda Alaniz are proud parents of **Airman Eric E. Alaniz**. Eric was home this past week recruiting at Post High School. Eric chose to graduate from Southland High School a year early in order to join the Air Force. Eric will report back to Minot, N.D.

Cecil and Stella Martinez and family still have not heard from their son **U.S. Marine Lance Corp. Steven Martinez**. Steve was last heard from in Spain on his way to Kuwait on a ship.

PFC Jonathan Smith called he is somewhere training Iraqi Rebels. We heard this reported on the Fox news. Lindsey and the children are here in Post until Jonathan returns home and they will all return to Ft. Bragg, NC.

May we continue to pray for our local military and all military that they will all remain safe and in God's care in all that they do. If you don't know one of them it does not matter pray for them all. If you have a family member overseas serving his or her country, The Post Dispatch will provide a one year subscription free, send the name and address to P.O. Box 490, Post, Texas 79356.

Let us support and honor your family member and family for all they are sacrificing for our country and our hometown, call Sandy Smith at 495-9900.

Please let us continue praying and let us not forget the sacrifices that are made. I also have military names that you can adopt. By adopt I mean that we promise to pray for this military person and his or her family every day.

Covert earns LCU honors

Carol Covert, a senior secondary education major from Post, was selected by Lubbock Christian University faculty members to appear in the 2001-2002 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Forty-two LCU students were selected for the honor.

Students were nominated to Who's Who based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success.

Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush

Hello for one more week...

Has the wind blown enough for ya? Sure makes you appreciate those 80 degree days with no wind. The amount of boats coming back through town Sunday evening was mind boggling. I'm glad the lake is so big, the boats had to have outnumbered the fish!!

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS The Cockrum's enjoyed a visit from their kids this past week end including a great grandson that they are really proud of. Those visiting were son Dan and his wife Lynda from Carlsbad, New Mexico, grand son Michael and wife Veronica of Grand Canyon, Arizona and most importantly, great grandson Daniel. I bet there was some serious spoiling going on in the Cockrum house.

GET WELL Even though he is not "yuk" sick, I wanted to tell my good friend Ronnie Metzgar good luck with his back treatment. Knowing all too well what its like to be down in your back, I hope the injection he received Tuesday did the trick.

Also, to Lisa Dean, you are in my thoughts and prayers and I hope you are up and around and feeling great in no time.

BROTHER'S BIRTHDAY My family had a really nice get together Sunday at mom's, (Fannie Ballentine) to celebrate my brother, Jack Ballentine of Midland, birthday. Jack's wife June, Jane and Mack Terr and Rick and I had a wonderful meal of my moms fried chicken. Now all of us (brother and two sisters) told mom that fried chicken was just too much trouble, but she would not change her mind. We all were certainly glad that she didn't!!! It was great mom.

DON'T FORGET!!!! OF INTEREST TO THE LADIES I wanted to let all of you ladies know that the Baptist Church will be holding a seminar for women sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention April 11 and 12. The seminar will be headed up by Shirley Moses who will speak to everyone with five additional speakers with five different subject matter all of which will be educational and enjoyable.

You will decide which session you want to attend. Friday will be the first evening and will begin at 6:30, with deserts being served at break Saturday the session will run 8:30 am until 3:00 p.m. with a Continental breakfast being served and Jason's Deli providing box lunches. The charge for the seminar is \$20 if you register before March 31.

If you wait until Friday of the seminar there will be an additional charge of \$5.00. If you are interested in attending, you may call Linda Self at 495-3554 for more information or pick up your registration form at the church office.

BURNETT GUESTS Visiting with Pat and Wes Burnett recently were their daughter, Kimberly Dolberry and her daughter Lindsey Noel of Mesa, Arizona. While here Pat and Kim enjoyed an outing to Old Mill Trade Days. Also visiting from Dallas with Pat and Wes was their son Tim. Wes' sister Beverly and her husband Dr. Ron Bolton of Wichita Kansas arrived last Friday for a weekend visit. Whitney Dolberry arrived in Post Sunday to join her sister Lindsey at their grandparents home during spring break.

HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY I hear from his daughter Jerri that Jackie Blacklock had a wonderful surprise 70th birthday party. His fellow employees from the City hosted the surprise party with many, many folks in attendance. I just wanted to join in late and wish Jackie a very very happy birthday with many more to come.

SPECIAL PRAYER I would ask everyone to please keep our troop in their hearts and prayers. The next few weeks will be trying times for everyone but especially the men and women who will fight for the freedom that we all enjoy. Whether you agree with our President or not whether you are pro or con the fact still remains that we must support the people that fight for us. God bless America.

TILL NEXT WEEK Until the next time, hope all of you have a wonderful weekend. May God bless each of you. Judy

Sgt Darrell Smith earns Army award

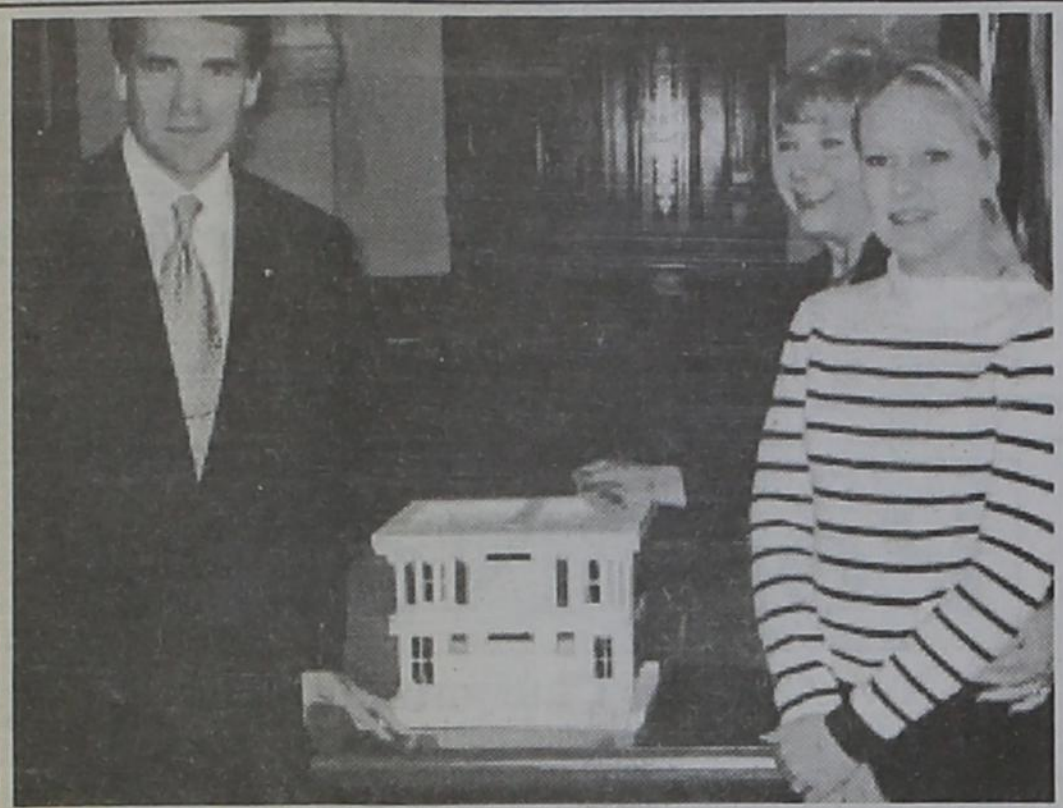
Army Reserve Sgt. Darrell S. Smith has been decorated with the Army Commendation Medal.

The medal is awarded to individuals who, while serving in the Army, have distinguished themselves by acts of heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

Smith earned the medal while serving as a circuit management supervisor assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3 311th Theater Signal Command at Fort George G. Meade in Laurel, Maryland.

Smith remains in his assignment to the 311th Theater Signal Command where he now serves as a network management supervisor. He has 13 years of military service.

The son of Leslie and Peggy Smith of Justiceburg, the sergeant is a 1982 graduate of Granbury High School.



Texas Governor Rick Perry (left) accepts a Dan Cockrum created replica of the Governor's Mansion from Wanda Chandler (middle) and her daughter Marie Rohm at a recent ceremony in Austin. Cockrum built the replica birdhouse at the suggestion of his daughter, Wanda, who had made arrangements with the Governor's office for the presentation. Cockrum, 91 year old former owner of Cockrum Printing and long time Post Dispatch employee, spent the better part of two months constructing the replica. One of his "Alamo" birdhouses belongs to former U.S. Senator Phil Gramm.

Post ISD resignations

(Continued from Page 1)

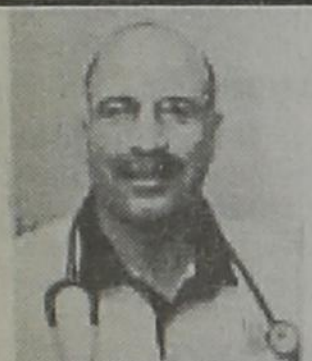


a penny on the tax rate generating about \$34,000 at a 100 percent collection rate. The board also eyed a list of items suggested as possible cuts, but the superintendent said no decisions would be made until district officials learn what the state legislature has planned for funding public schools.

Trustees reviewed financial information and routine reports that Marcum said are being consolidated and changed to provide a more comprehensive overview of the school district.

The annual technology plan was approved, and board members cast ballots for the Region 17 Education Service Center board of directors. Textbook committee recommendations were approved, and the annual trustee election was called for the first Saturday in May.

Marcum asked the board to allow him to do a RFP (request for proposals) to bid out auditing services. He said he hopes the move will result in some financial savings to the school district.

Following an executive session in which personnel were discussed, the board returned to open session to hire remaining contractual employees. Marcum said there were no non-renewals.

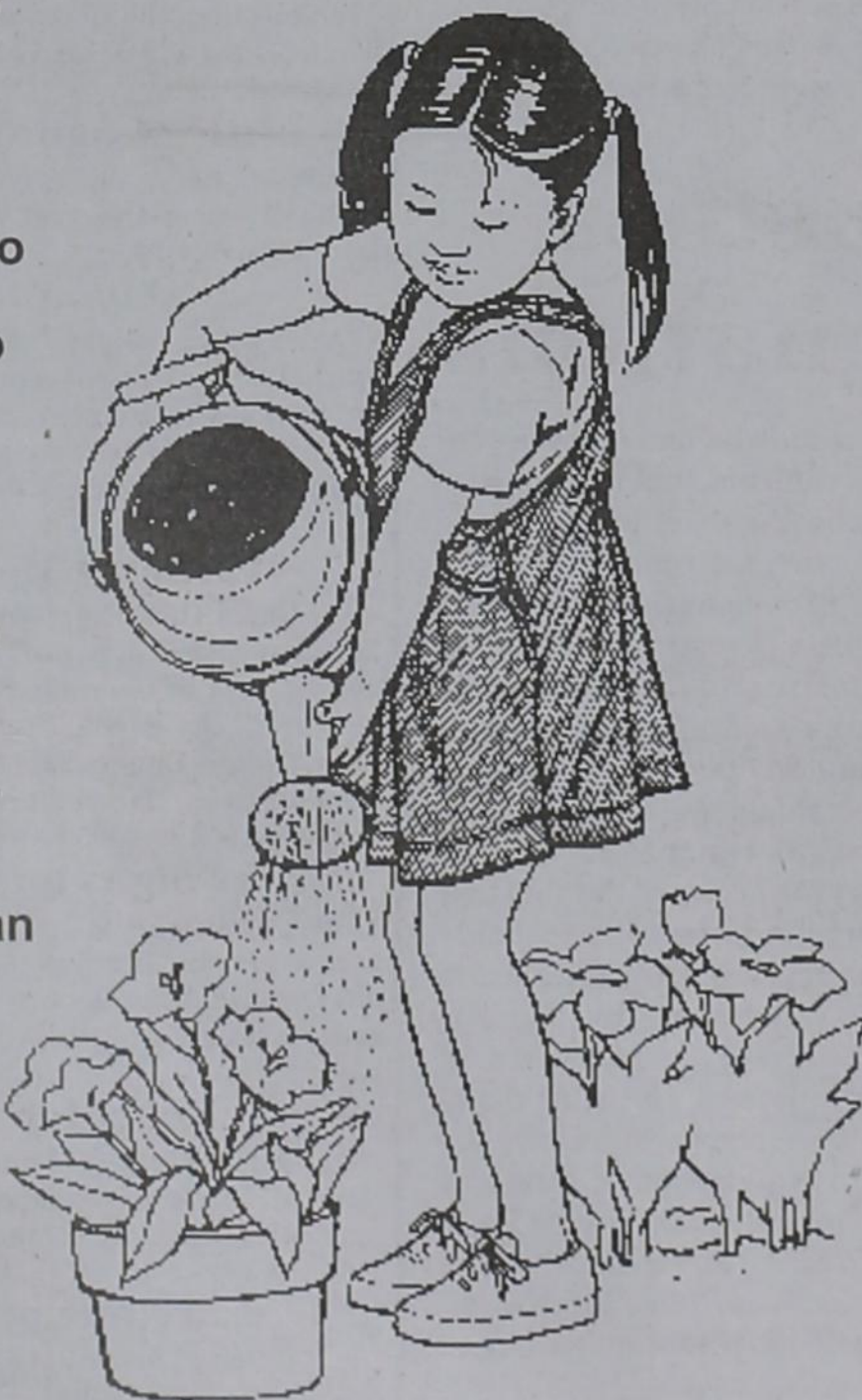




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Local economic impact of JDC emphasized

While local officials continue to search for a way to keep the Garza County Regional Juvenile Center operational, the recent announcement that the MTC Corporation will pull out of the facility after April 30 could have a far-reaching economic impact on the community.

City reminds pet owners about vaccinations

Changes in rabies vaccination requirements for dog and cat owners went into effect this week.

As of Wednesday, the Texas Board of Health requires that the owner or custodian of each dog or cat in Texas must have the animal vaccinated by four months of age. Additionally, all dogs or cats must receive a second vaccination within 12 months or receiving their first vaccination, regardless of age.

If the animal received at least two vaccinations and the last one consisted of the annual rabies vaccine, another treatment is due within 12 months.

If the animal received a triennial rabies vaccine, another is due within 36 months.

Sidelineing the state's requirements is that of the City of Post, which requires annual vaccination for rabies, as well as proof from a veterinarian that a dog or cat has been vaccinated within the current 12-month period.

Wild animals - skunks, badgers, coyotes and or even strays - that wander into the community can easily transmit rabies to the family dog or cat, especially if the pet is not penned, according to information provided by local officials. Failure to follow through with state-mandated rabies vaccinations only heightens the possibility of rabies exposure.

According to information compiled by the facility's superintendent, Richard Dean, MTC employs a total of 57 full-time and three part-time employees at the center.

MTC's total payroll for January 2003 was \$92,436.

In addition to the MTC employees who work at the facility, the Post Independent School District also employs personnel who are assigned to the juvenile center. Eight full-time positions at the center are filled by Post ISD employees.

Estimated January payroll for PISD employees at the center is slightly more than \$22,000.

According to Dean's figures, the combined payroll of MTC and Post ISD employees who work at the center total more than \$114,500 per month. More than two-thirds of that amount remains in Garza County with employees who reside locally.

Late last month, local officials were notified that MTC plans to pull out of its contract as manager/operator of the 96-bed juvenile facility. County Judge Giles Dalby, who is working to bring in another operations and management firm, said MTC cited financial losses as the primary reason behind its decision.



Garza County 4-H members placing in an Archery match at Brownfield last Saturday were (left to right) Patrick Reiter, third; Breann Heckaman, second and Diann Heckaman, third in the 3-D outdoor shoot.

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Post Devotional Page

Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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BERENICE---DAUGHTER OF KING HEROD!

THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF HEROD AGRIPPA SEEMS TO HAVE DONE HER PART IN KEEPING ALIVE THE TRADITION OF VILLAINY FOR WHICH THE HEROD LINE WAS FAMOUS OR "INFAMOUS"! SHE WAS FIRST MARRIED TO MARCUS, SON OF ALEXANDRA THE HEAD MAGISTRATE OF THE JEWS IN ALEXANDRIA. AFTER AN EARLY DEATH OF "POOR" MARCUS SHE THEN HURRIEDLY MARRIED HER FATHER'S OWN BROTHER HEROD CHALCIS, WHO SOON AFTERWARDS, ALSO DIED! THENCE, SHE WENT TO LIVE WITH HER BROTHER AGRIPPA AND THE SCANDAL THAT AROSE FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP EVEN THE HIGH-BORN BERENICE COULD NOT OVERCOME! SHE THEN TRIED TO ALLAY IT BY YET ANOTHER MARRIAGE, TO POLEMO, KING OF CILICIA. BUT SHE SOON BECAME TIRED OF HIM AND DESERTING HIM, RETURNED TO HER BROTHER AGRIPPA. HER CLAIM TO RECOGNITION IN THE BIBLE, CAME WHEN AGRIPPA HEARD ST. PAUL'S DEFENSE (ACTS 25:23-26) WITH BERENICE AT HIS SIDE. SHE WOUND UP HER CAREER, FIRST BECOMING THE MISTRESS OF VESPASIAN, AND THEN HIS SON TITUS--WHO, WHEN HE BECAME ROMAN EMPEROR, DISCARDED HER!



SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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

Church Directory

- | | |
|---|---|
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Baptist
Calvary Baptist Church 210 E. 6th, 495-2342
First Baptist Church 402 W. Main, 495-3554
First Baptist Church, Wilson 628-6333
Justiceburg Baptist Church Justiceburg
Pleasant Home Baptist Church E. 14th & N. Ave F
Pleasant Valley Baptist Hwy 84 & N. 399 (806) 828-4174
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Trinity Baptist Church 915 N. Ave O, 495-3038
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Church of God of Prophecy 602 W. 14th, 495-3644
Lighthouse Christian Center Church of God 314 N. Ave I, 495-2237
Power House Church of God and Christ Pine Ave.
Disciples of Christ
First Christian Church 812 W. 13th, 495-3716
Methodist
First United Methodist Church 216 W. 10th, 495-2942
Graham Chapel United Methodist Church 495-3492
Nazarene
Church of the Nazarene 202 W. 10th, 495-3044
Grassland Nazarene Church 327-5656
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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor Policy: We require all letters to be signed. Letters may be edited for brevity, grammar and punctuation. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect those of The Post Dispatch nor its staff.

Newspaper in error?

I noticed in an article a couple of weeks ago that you had been given information regarding operating expenses for the possible new hospital. The amount you were given was not accurate.

I have prepared estimates that have not been part of any official record yet as they are being finalized. I don't know who gave you that operating number, but they are not getting it from an official source...

Additionally, all of the operating expenses will not come from tax dollars. Certain types of health care facility designations - particularly the critical access hospital designation (only available since the Balanced Budget Act of 1997) - allow for

reimbursement that will cover some of the major costs of operating a new hospital if that comes to pass.

Since there have been many rural hospital closings all over the United States in recent years, the problem has received national legislative attention. Certain funding is available to help pay for support staff and equipment for physicians, based on what the Health Care District pays a particular physician. For example, the funding will not cover the physician cost, but it is available to assist in keeping a proper care staff and proper equipment available - sometimes directly matching the amount paid to a physician.

The hospital-type reimbursement would be better than that received at the time the facility closed, which would significantly help to keep taxes at a minimum level.

Also, I welcome any comments and suggestions you have on my posting of notices, as I definitely don't want to mistakenly post something incorrectly. However, an article you published indicated that I had posted two meetings (the 2/3 and 2/6 meetings) without sufficient time. That is incorrect. I did post the 2/3 meeting on 1/31 as you reported. It was posted prior to 5 p.m. (because the clerk's office is closed at that time), and was posted for the requisite 72 hours in a public place for viewing - the meeting was not until 6:30 p.m. on 2/3.

As an extra precaution, I have reminded the clerk's office that all of the district's notices must be available for viewing, and they should always be placed on the doors or windows in order to provide that. I have also revised the posting information to further clarify this.

The same article stated that the notice for the 2/6 meeting was not posted until 2/4. That is incorrect. I posted the notice for that meeting on 2/3. The president of the board may call a meeting at any time. Mike (Travis) did so, and I posted the notice on 2/3, prior to 5 p.m. So the meeting was posted the requisite 72 hours there as well. If the board had been unable to get a quorum to attend (following the public announcement of the meeting on the evening of 2/3), the meeting would have been cancelled. However, I had called each of the board members on the 3rd in order to be sure that there would be a quorum - to avoid confusion resulting from posting and canceling a meeting.

The meetings need not be "announced" prior to posting, but I am

under the impression that you already now that. The announcement on the evening of 2/3 was likely the confusing factor there. I did fax you an agenda for the 2/6 meeting on 2/3 to be sure that you had a head's up on that. Sometimes I do not send you the page showing the posting date (just to save your fax machine unnecessary printing), but if you have any doubts about the timeliness, please let me know.

I do read your paper and I do look for ways to get information out to the public as quickly as possible. I appreciate your noting a possible discrepancy, but the reflection the article made indicated that I was not giving proper notice of public meetings.

I do not appreciate being required to defend the timeliness of my work to the board members when I did perform the posting correctly. I would appreciate your calling my office to avoid any such confusion and errors in reporting in the future - that way the facts will be reported, and I will not have the public and my employees thinking that I am not handling things in the proper manner or intentionally bypassing requirements....

Thank you.
Tanya White
Interim Administrator Garza
County Health Care District

Editor's Note: Our apology for the error regarding proper notification of meetings. Information regarding estimates for operational costs of the 10-15 bed hospital came from two sources. (1) at a GHD briefing by one of the design builders and (2) a trusted hospital administrator in another West Texas community about the size of Post who has extensive experience in the management of small hospitals.

Local News on Cable Network Advertising Cable Channel 12 Weekdays @ 1, 4 & 11 p.m.

Menus

Post ISD

March 24- Breakfast-Biscuit & gravy, sausage, fruit, milk
Lunch-Manwich, salad, pears, cookie, milk

March 25- Breakfast- French toast, sausage link, fruit, milk
Lunch-Fried chicken, gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, jello, milk

March 26- Breakfast-Donut, sausage, fruit, milk
Lunch-Tacos, lettuce & tomatoe, pinto beans, rosey applesauce, corn bread, milk

March 27- Breakfast-Oatmeal, toast, bacon, fruit, milk
Lunch-Pizza, salad, corn, peaches, milk

March 28- Breakfast-Cereal, toast, fruit, orange juice, milk
Lunch-Sandwich, chips, salad, pickle spears, orange, milk

Garza Trailblazers

March 24- Meatloaf, mac & chs, mixed veg., salad, hot roll, choc pudding

March 25- Baked ham, butter beans, fried squash, carrot salad, cornbread, pineapple cake

March 26- BBQ chicken, corn, green beans, coleslaw, biscuit, raisin pie

March 27- Salisbury steak, green peas, cauliflower, wheat roll, fruit, cookies

March 28- Chicken gry, cream gravy, baked potato, brussel sprouts, hot rolls, apricot cobbler

SOUTHLAND ISD

March 24- Breakfast-Breakfast burritos, juice, milk
Lunch-Chicken-n-dumplings, crackers, carrots & celery sticks, choc. chip cookies, milk

March 25- Breakfast-Churros, juice, milk
Lunch-Pizza, corn, tossed salad, pudding w/ topping, milk

March 26- Breakfast-Scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, juice, milk
Lunch-Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, fruit cup, milk

March 27- Breakfast-Cereal, graham crackers, juice, milk
Lunch-Corn dogs, french fries, pork-n-beans, fruit cup, milk

March 28- Breakfast-Biscuit & gravy, sausage, juice, milk
Lunch-Tuna sandwiches, salad, chips, rice cream, milk

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Con

by Walter E. W

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by Jacob G. H

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Opinions

GRANDPA WISDOM



Congress' insidious discrimination

by Walter E. Williams



There's a little known law called the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. It remains on the books today. Before saying what the law is and its effects, let me run by you some of the language used, in the early 1930s, to push the law through Congress.

Rep. John Cochran of Missouri said he had "received numerous complaints in recent months about Southern contractors employing low-paid colored mechanics getting work and bringing the employees from the South."

Alabama Rep. Clayton Allgood complained: "Reference has been made to a contractor from Alabama who went to New York with bootleg labor. This is a fact. That contractor has cheap colored labor that he transports, and he puts them in cabins, and it is labor of that sort that is in competition with white labor throughout the country."

Rep. William Upshaw complained of the "superabundance or large aggregation of negro labor," which is a real problem "you are confronted with in any community." New York's Sen. Robert Bacon replied, "I just mentioned the fact because that was the fact in this particular case, but the same would be true if you should bring in a lot of Mexican laborers or if you brought in any non-union laborers from any other state."

Other congressmen expressed their support for the Davis-Bacon Act in ways that were more temperate in expressing their racially discriminatory agenda. They railed against "transient labor," "cheap labor" and "cheap imported labor." AFL president William Green made it clear what his union's interests were, "(C)olored labor is being sought to demoralize wage rates."

You might ask, "What is this Davis-Bacon Act?" The Davis-Bacon Act is a federal law that mandates that a prevailing wage be paid on all federally financed or assisted construction projects. The secretary of labor illegally sets the "prevailing wage" at the union wage or higher, regardless of what the average wage is in the affected locality.

The effect of the Davis-Bacon Act is that of discriminating against contractor employment of non-union and lower skilled workers. Thus, it has a racially discriminatory effect, since most blacks are in the non-union sector of the construction industry. Even black contractors wanting to hire a lower skilled black worker can't do so.

Why? If the Davis-Bacon Act requires that any worker handling a hammer and a nail, for example, be paid \$25 an hour, no contractor in his right mind is going to hire a worker with \$10 an hour skills and pay him \$25. Any minimum wage law tends to discriminate against the employment of low-skilled workers; the Davis-Bacon Act is simply a super-minimum wage.

During South Africa's apartheid era, it had laws similar to the Davis-Bacon in its quest to protect white workers from competition with lower-skilled, lower-paid black workers. One naturally asks how such a law can remain on the books today. Davis-Bacon survives because of the powerful interest-group support it receives, namely labor unions who lobby congressmen, both Democrats and Republicans.

What's sad is the support the Davis-Bacon Act receives from black congressmen. Black congressmen have made a deal with the devil because unions represent their strongest supporters in terms of campaign contributions and their legislative agenda.

Of course, today's Davis-Bacon Act supporters don't have the same intentions and don't use the racist language of their predecessors. That shouldn't make any difference to us. Our concern should be the law's effects, not its intentions.

After all, if someone is pushed off a building it's not the intentions of the pusher that determines how he falls, it's the law of gravity. It's the same with economic laws. Intentions behind price-fixing are not necessarily the same as its effects.

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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The Rot at the center of the empire

by Jacob G. Hornberger

Last weekend's announcement that the U.S. government had relied on fake and false evidence in the attempt to secure approval of its upcoming invasion of Iraq was, by and large, met by a collective yawn from the American people, especially the members of Congress. It's just one more example of the depths of moral depravity to which our nation has fallen.

Think about: After months of enumerating a long laundry list of alternating justifications for invading Iraq and killing lots of people and after looking for every conceivable technical violation of UN resolutions to justify an invasion, it now turns out that the federal government has cited and relied on fake and false evidence to persuade both the American people and the UN Security Council that an invasion is necessary — an invasion that will certainly kill tens of thousands of Iraqis, including both ordinary soldiers and civilians, and possibly large numbers of American GIs.

Of course, federal officials are playing the innocent. One U.S. official says, "We fell for it." Yeah, sure! The most advanced intelligence service in the history of the world fell for what UN inspectors were able to ascertain were faked and forged documents.

Of course, given the administration's almost desperate attempt to find a "smoking gun" that will convince people to support the killing of tens of thousands more innocent Iraqi people in order to effect a "regime change" in Iraq, one possibility is that U.S. officials simply didn't look too hard or too closely at the fake evidence before citing it as another excuse to invade Iraq. For its part, the FBI is now considering "the possibility that a foreign government is using a deception campaign to foster support for military action."

Oh? Foreign governments do that sort of thing? Only foreign governments?

Another possibility, of course, is that agents of the U.S. government knowingly, intentionally, and deliberately manufactured the fake and false evidence. Uncompromising defenders of the federal government would say, "The federal government, unlike foreign regimes, should be presumed innocent of any wrongdoing until proven guilty. Anyone can make a mistake."

I'm sure that that's what happened here. Surely the U.S. government would never knowingly, intentionally, and deliberately manufacture fake and fraudulent evidence on which an important issue such as war might turn, especially a war that was being planned by the neo-cons as far back as 1998.

Oh? The federal government doesn't engage in such misconduct? Puhleeze, give me a break! At the risk of employing a French term (which I assume Congress has still not made illegal), "Au contraire!"

After all, didn't the feds knowingly, intentionally, and deliberately obstruct justice in an official federal court proceeding in which they were desperately attempting to convict Randy Weaver, an innocent man? Didn't they perjure themselves and hide and destroy official documents in that federal proceeding with the specific hope and intent

that the jury would convict Weaver? Didn't they lie about using incendiary devices at Waco?

And if they would do that against Randy Weaver or the Branch Davidians, why shouldn't we assume that they would do it against Saddam Hussein? Aren't the political stakes much higher in the case of Iraq than they were in the cases of Ruby Ridge and Waco?

In the 1960s, my father was the U.S. magistrate in my hometown of Laredo, Texas, which was one of the major ports of entry from Mexico. Whenever the feds arrested someone, they would bring him to the U.S. magistrate for a preliminary hearing and the setting of bail. After the suspect was indicted, he would appear before a U.S. district judge for arraignment and trial.

At the international bridge, everyone entering the United States was subject to a complete search by U.S. Customs officials. In the 1960s, many long-haired, anti-war hippies were being arrested at the bridge for possession of marijuana.

My father related to me that one day the U.S. district judge (who ordinarily was considered very pro-government) called him into his office and said, "Jack, I'm becoming increasingly concerned about the dropsie cases." What he was referring to was the increasing practice of U.S. officials to "drop" some marijuana into the cars of long-haired, anti-war hippies who they "knew" were guilty of smoking dope at some time in their life.

The reason for the federal judge's concern was that he knew that average Americans, virtually all of whom had attended public schools, would never believe that their federal officials would engage in such misconduct or that they would ever lie, especially after having sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution and especially after swearing to tell the truth with their hand placed on a Bible.

The federal agents knew that in a swearing match between a Customs agent in a federal uniform and crew cut and a long-haired, anti-war hippie, the jury would always assume that it was the federal agent who was telling the truth.

Both the federal judge and the U.S. magistrate knew differently. They knew that when federal officials are out to get someone they feel is deserving of punishment, they oftentimes stop at nothing to secure his punishment, including lying, committing perjury, falsifying documents, and obstructing justice.

Recall the matter of Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers. Ellsberg was a high official in the Pentagon and the Rand Corporation, which did studies for the Pentagon, during the Vietnam War.

He discovered a secret internal Pentagon history of America's involvement in the Vietnam War that detailed the many lies that had been told to the American people — lies that had been used as the justification for sending tens of thousands of American GIs to their deaths, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who

(Continued on Page 7)

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Who's hiding who?

by Bill O'Reilly



It is fairly easy to understand why France, Germany, China and Russia oppose removing Saddam Hussein by force; all of those countries are doing profitable business with Saddam, and all of them would like to see American power diminished.

But Pope John Paul II is another matter. His opposition to military action is understandable in theory but troubling in practice.

John Paul has sent his emissary, Cardinal Pio Laghi, to tell President Bush that attacking Iraq would be "unjust" and "immoral." That's like sending Sister Mary Theresa to tell Eminem to stop cursing. The president is firmly convinced that Saddam is an evil man with murder on his mind. Short of Jesus appearing in the Oval Office with an opposing point of view, Mr. Bush is not going to change his opinion.

The Catholic Church embraces the tradition of "just war." That is, any use of force must be accompanied by clear and convincing evidence that only force will solve a situation that is both threatening and immoral. And since there is the possibility that U.N. weapons inspectors might be able to restrain Saddam, the Pope believes there are still options to war.

The problem with this argument is faith, pardon the pun. The Pope is putting his faith in a system of inspections that very well might fail. If that happens and even a portion of Saddam's unaccounted for 8,500 liters of anthrax are used against people, a worldwide catastrophe would ensue.

The Pope does not answer questions, so it is impossible to know what he thinks about that possibility. We also don't know how John Paul squares keeping Saddam in power considering his murderous past. It's one thing for the Vatican to condemn Saddam's gassing of the Kurds, mass murder and rape in Kuwait, and funding of suicide bombing expeditions, it is quite another to prevent those things.

So what are America's 65 million Catholics supposed to do? Theologically, the Pope is on firm ground. Humanistically, he is one of the many Saddam enablers. If the nations of the world would unite against evil things like Saddam, and the insanity of countries like North Korea, deadly situations would be solved and the world would be a better, safer place.

But the world will not unite against evil, and the Pope does not call for that practical unification. Instead, he calls for peace. Does he really believe Saddam and Kim Jong Il are listening?

The Catholic Church teaches "tranquillitas ordinis," the peace of order which is supposed to be imposed by legal and political means. But as the world has seen, Osama Bin Laden, Adolph Hitler and, yes, Saddam Hussein has not been real bullish on "the peace of order." Instead, they have embraced the practice of "violent chaos."

As a loyal Catholic, I am glad the Pope is praying for America and for peace. I pray his prayers will work a miracle and Saddam will be removed from power without bloodshed.

But if that miracle is not forthcoming, this Catholic does not have faith that Saddam will not use his outlawed anthrax somewhere down the line.

And so to prevent the mass death that took place in Europe and Asia while another pope was praying 60 years ago, I support the moral quest of removing a dangerous killer from power. God forgive me.

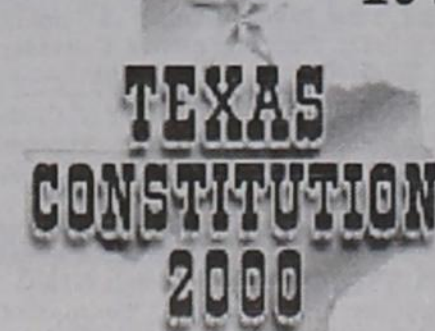
Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the new book "The No Spin Zone," in addition to last year's best-selling book "The O'Reilly Factor: The Good, the Bad, and the Completely Ridiculous." To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features 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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To the Post Community,
We would like to thank the Post ISD School Board, Mr. and Mrs. Plummer at the Garza Hotel, Mr. Burnett and all those who attended the reception on Sunday, March 9th. All of you made our family feel so welcome. We look forward to knowing you better and becoming a part of such a warm community.
Sincerely,
Marlin, Sterline, Stephen, and Emily Marcum

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DON ROBISON, Deceased, were issued on March 7, 2003, in Cause No. 1786, pending in the County Court of Garza County, Texas, to: Donna R. Ethridge.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Estate of Don Robison
c/o: Donna R. Ethridge
7914 Louisville
Lubbock, Texas 79423
Dated the 11th day of March, 2003
Leshie C. Acker
Attorney for Estate
State Bar No.: 00832000
122A East Main Street
Post, Texas 79356
Telephone: (806)495-3537
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Contract 6075-28-001 for STRIPING AND RPM INSTALLATION IN LUBBOCK COUNTY, etc will be opened on April 02, 2003 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$340,969.60. Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO:9349 State Office
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Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Sheriff reports 13 arrests

Thirteen arrests were recorded in the Garza County Jail log during the past week, according to sheriff's department records. On March 12, a 27-year-old was picked up for possession of marijuana, under two ounces.

Three arrests were made March 13, including that of a 32-year-old on a Travis County warrant; a 24-year-old on possession of marijuana, under two ounces; and a 21-year-old on Department of Public Safety warrants.

Five arrests were made March 14. A 36-year-old was jailed for driving while intoxicated and parole violation, two 23-year-olds were jailed for possession of marijuana, under two ounces, and a pair of 21-year-olds were arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

Two individuals, ages unknown, were jailed for DWI/first offense on March 16. On March 17, another individual whose age was unlisted was picked up on Department of Public Safety warrants.

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These Junior High students were participants in this past weekend UIL contest. They are 1 to r, back row, Nancy Wilson, Steve Pena, Corbie Windham, Richard Johnson, Tyge Payne, Robert Wood and Cheryl Thompson; front row, 1 to r, Debbie Ehrldge, Traci Tannehill, Tammy Johnson, Sharla Riley and Mindy Hamilton.

Yesteryears

10 Years Ago
March 17, 1993

The Post High School Treble and Mixed Choirs added their name to the history books March 10. Competing at the UIL concert at Texas Tech in Lubbock, the choirs both earned sweepstakes awards at the concert, the first from Post to do so in well over a decade.

A ruling by the U.S. Department of Justice accepting redistricting plan submitted by Post has placed the May 1 city elections on hold. Under the new plan that created five districts within Post will be voted on in August.

Channel 31, a television station that will be covering local events held its grand opening here last Monday.

Air Force Captain Travis R. Polk has assumed command of the hospital squadron, 96th Medical Group. Polk is a grandson of Marvin Hudman of Post.

The Post Bold Gold Lady 'Lopes easily outdistanced the rest of the field in capturing the Caprock Invitational Golf Tournament. Led by Cara Cash who shot an 88 to earn first medalist honors, with Tonya Harp shooting a 99 to earn second place. Other Lady 'Lopes were Holly Hardin, Dee Je Estep and Jill Stelzer.

20 Years Ago
March 13, 1983

Carly Rudd is glad to announce the arrival of her baby sister, Lindsey rae, born Thursday, March 3.

Kirt Williams, 14 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Williams, hooked a 9-lb. plus largemouth bass while fishing with his father in a Garza County tank. Kirt, when asked where he caught the fish, answered, "right in the tender part of the mouth."

Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Pete) Hayes announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Marinette to Jerry Tyler, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Tyler.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fluitt were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary, with a reception held in the Post Community Center. Their children, Mr. and Mrs. Jackey Fluitt and Mr. and Mrs. Delwin Fluitt hosted the event.

Post girls' basketball coach Sonja Curry's resignation was accepted by the Post Independent School District board of trustees.

Airman 1st Class Michael R. Holly, son of Lewis and Mary N. Holly of Post has arrived for duty at RAF Upper Heyford, England. He is a 1978 graduate from Post High School.

30 Years Ago
March 15, 1973

Garza's "1972-73" cotton harvest already has set a new record of an estimated 30,526 bales, and before it's all over in April—as The Dispatch has been predicting—gin managers expect to see it wind up at something like 34,204 bales.

A crowd of over 100 gathered just before sunrise this morning in City-County Park for the Post Chamber of Commerce's first annual "Ta'bana Yua'ne" and saw Frank "Chief" Runkles, in full Indian dress, point dramatically to the northwest, signaling an "average" crop year for 1973.

County Judge Giles W. Dalby and his wife, Nelda, were presented an appreciation plaque by Mayor Giles C. McCrary here last week on behalf of Cannon Air Force Base, for the assistance they rendered a Cannon AFB airman after he wrecked his automobile near their ranch home east of Post.

Michael Haas, a sixth grade student at Post Junior School, won the annual Garza County spelling bee over 14 other Post and Southland junior high students here last Friday afternoon.

Post Public School News: Randy Kennedy has been chosen this week for the "Senior in the Spotlight". Randy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Kennedy. He has two brothers, Jimmy and Benny. His father works in the oil field as a pumper. Randy attends the First Baptist Church.

40 Years Ago
March 14, 1963

Phil Foster a senior at Post High School recently competed with 16 other classmates for first place in a 50 mile hike, starting just this side of Brownfield to Post. Fighting blowing dust throughout the day was the biggest handicap to Phil and most of the other 16 hikers who failed to finish. Phil sprinted the last block to finish line at Broadway and Main Street.

Mrs. H. A. Thurlo of 24 West 13th Street, began taking rabbits shots Monday at The Medical Center after being bitten by a mouse at her home here.

The group of youths from the Church of the Nazarene won second place for car decorations in the motorcade trip made to Bethany, Okla., last Thursday. The prize was a chicken dinner. The teen-agers enjoyed their visit to the campus of the Nazarene College campus and plan to return next year.

Lenny Howell, senior band student at Post High School, will participate in the Texas Solo Music Festival in Austin. Lenny, is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Graydon Howell.

School Page: Juniors couples seen around campus are YUvonne Corley, Don Hammonds; Carol Smith, Floyd Hair; Charlotte Young, Richard Stice; Diane Maxey, Ronnie Graves; Shirley Sappington, Ricky Little; Linda McMahon, Gary Howell; Carol Hodges, Gary Brewer; Margie Harrison, Don Pennell; Diane Kiker, Johnny Hair; and Shirley Bostick, John Bland.

50 Years Ago
March 12, 1953

Luck rode all the way with E. R. Pierce, a Lamesa truck driver, Friday afternoon in a wild, weird race with death. The grim race began one mile west of Post when the truck's brakes failed to function while it was coming off the caprock, swept past two schools which little more than an hour before had discharged hundreds of students, roared through the downtown section just one block south of Main Street, and came to an abrupt halt when the cool-headed driver swerved the runaway vehicle into a loaded box car at the Santa Fe depot.

Pete Crispin and Albert Odom will be ordained as deacons at Calvary Baptist Church Sunday afternoon.

Miss Helen Dolores Moore became the bride of Noah Wilson Stone in a candlelight service read Sunday evening in the First Methodist Church.

By turning their library of approximately 100 volumes into a rental library, members of the Garza County Home Demonstration Council may have taken the first step toward a permanent public library for Post and Garza County.

Guy (Sunny) Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Davis, suffered a gunshot wound in his left leg Tuesday afternoon from a .22 rifle which was accidentally discharged when he fell while climbing a railroad embankment. The youth was reported Wednesday to be recovering at his home here.

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Rot at the center of the empire...

(Continued from Page 5)

were being killed.

One of the biggest lies concerned the false and fake report of the North Vietnamese "attack" at the Gulf of Tonkin, which was used as the means to circumvent the constitutional requirement of a congressional declaration of war before the president can wage war.

Ellsberg secretly copied the documents and released them to the New York Times. Desperately attempting to protect its lies, the federal government immediately secured an injunction against the publication of the Pentagon Papers. Even worse, they actually indicted Ellsberg for treason and, perhaps worst of all, they broke into his psychiatrist's office in the hope of finding evidence to destroy him in the public eye.

Fortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the publication of the documents and a federal judge dismissed the charges against Ellsberg on the basis of the government's misconduct. When the truth was revealed, the American people were finally able to force their government, including the Pentagon, to withdraw all U.S. forces from Vietnam.

It is impossible to estimate how many lives were saved by the courage of Daniel Ellsberg. It is impossible to estimate how many more lives would have been lost by the rot at the core of the American empire, a rot that protects lies, obstruction of justice, and other such wrongdoing.

Unfortunately, every time federal wrongdoing emanating from the rot is exposed, many Americans seem to take it with a grain of salt. They brush the disclosure aside, almost as if they would have preferred never learning about it. The attitude seems to be: Do whatever you think needs to be done, but just don't tell me about it because I don't want to be responsible for the moral consequences.

Thus, when Americans learned that the feds had subjected African Americans to syphilis experiments, their reaction was predictable: "This is terrible. We just have to make sure it never happens again." It was the same when they learned that the feds had subjected Americans to radiation, chemical, and biological experiments.

It was the same after the feds gassed their own people at Waco. It was the same after the feds killed Randy Weaver's wife and young son at Ruby Ridge and then engaged in their deliberate pattern of perjury and obstruction of justice in their attempt to wrongfully convict Weaver, whom the jury ultimately adjudged not guilty of the serious crimes that the feds had accused him of.

Or consider that American jurors will quickly and without thinking convict an American businessman of paying bribes to foreign officials to circumvent ridiculous regulations. But when federal officials use U.S. taxpayer money to engage in a public spectacle of bribery and blackmail of foreign countries in a desperate attempt to win their support or their vote, Americans are nonplussed.

One of the biggest examples of the moral numbness and blindness that afflicts Americans has been the federal government's horrific conduct against the Iraqi people, both before and after the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Before the war, the U.S. government furnished chemical and biological weapons to Saddam Hussein, with the express intention that he use them against the Iranian people.

Let that sink in: Federal officials entered into a partnership (or conspiracy, if you prefer, given that federal officials kept the agreement secret for many years) with Saddam Hussein in which the U.S. government agreed to (and did) furnish Saddam with U.S.-made weapons of mass destruction and he, in turn, agreed to (and did) use those weapons against the Iranian people. (See the second list of links in my article "Points to Ponder at Five Minutes before Midnight.")

When U.S. Senator Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) recently asked U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld about the germ transfers to Saddam Hussein, Rumsfeld innocently replied, "I have

never heard anything like what you've read, I have no knowledge of it whatsoever, and I doubt it". Rumsfeld added that he would ask the Defense Department and other agencies to search their records for evidence of the transfers.

How in the world could a high U.S. official not know or even forget about transferring weapons of mass destruction to Saddam Hussein, especially given that Rumsfeld himself played a key role in the foreign policy shift to Iraq in the 1980s and was even assigned by the first Bush administration to cozy up to Saddam Hussein?

Oh, it just couldn't be that Rumsfeld was lying to Senator Byrd when he played the innocent, could it? U.S. federal officials don't lie. They don't commit perjury. They don't use fake and false evidence.

They don't furnish weapons of mass destruction to brutal foreign dictators. They don't teach dictators how to torture their own people. They don't engage in obstruction of justice. Only corrupt foreign officials do those types of things.

After the Persian Gulf War, instead of simply entering into a peace treaty with Iraq that would have brought hostilities to an end, the feds employed the method that was utilized at the end of the Korean War (another war waged without the constitutionally required declaration of war from Congress): Keep the tensions and hostilities going as long as possible, which provides a constant and continual threat justifying ever-increasing budgets for the military-industrial complex.

Thus, year after year the feds have engaged in continual illegal bombing attacks against the people of Iraq (enforcing the so-called no-fly zones in the absence of any UN resolution authorizing either the zones or the attacks) and in enforcing what is arguably the most brutal and comprehensive set of economic sanctions in history. (See the first list of links in my article "Points to Ponder at Five Minutes before Midnight.")

The horrible significance of those economic sanctions is twofold: Not only have they contributed to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children, but year after year federal officials have been even more indifferent to those deaths than they were to the deaths of the Branch Davidian children, whom they gassed, or to the death of Randy Weaver's boy, whom they shot in the back.

(Interestingly, the feds are planning to use the same CS gas against the Iraqis that they used against the Branch Davidians, despite the fact that the gas violates the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention.)

Moreover, Pentagon officials apparently intend to again use depleted-uranium bullets in the upcoming invasion, despite the fact that in the Gulf War such bullets had a lasting radioactive effect on both U.S. servicemen and the Iraqi people.

The government's indifference to the ammunition's radioactive effect on its own soldiers brings to mind the scene in Braveheart in which the king orders his archers to fire arrows into the middle of the conflict; when the king's aide points out that the arrows will kill their own soldiers, the king simply responds that the arrows will kill the other soldiers too.)

What type of government would react with indifference to a failed and destructive policy of economic sanctions that it knows is contributing the deaths of multitudes of innocent children? What type of government would employ a policy that squeezed the life out of children in the hope of persuading their parents to oust their ruler from office?

What type of government would subject its own soldiers to radiation without any warning? Indeed, what type of government would put its own citizens in harm's way by leaving such a policy in effect after being warned by terrorists after the 1993 World Trade Center attack that such a policy would motivate more terrorist attacks against Americans?

There is a rot at the center of the American empire, and the rot has been there a long time. Unfortunately, it is a rot that the American people simply do not want to confront. It's just too painful

to confront the possibility that the root of their woes lies with the rot at the center of their empire.

It was the same in the Soviet Union. Most Russians who worked for the Soviet government were the same as Americans who work for the U.S. government—they were honest, hard-working, ordinary people who believed in their country, worked hard at their jobs, and were busy raising their families.

But at the core of the Soviet system was a rot, and that rot attracted a certain type of vermin that thrived off the rot. And no matter how devoted and hard-working the ordinary Soviet worker was, his dedication and labor could not eradicate the rot at the core of the Soviet empire. The problem was a systemic one.

One of the worst consequences of this type of rot is not only that it diminishes the moral consciousness of people in a society but also that it causes them to live what might be called the "life of the lie." The affliction enables them to easily recognize wrongdoing by foreign regimes but precludes them from recognizing the wrongdoing of their own government.

Thus, if it was the Soviet government incarcerating Russian citizens for the rest of their lives without a trial and without even being permitted to speak to an attorney, Americans would be outraged. If it was the Soviet government torturing criminal suspects or prisoners of war, Americans would be outraged.

If it was the Soviet government using innocent children as an instrument of foreign policy, Americans would be outraged. If it was the Soviet government spying on and monitoring the activities of the Russian people, Americans would be outraged. If it was the Soviet government secretly spying on UN Security Council members, Americans would be outraged.

If it was the Soviet government waging a war of aggression against Afghanistan or Czechoslovakia, Americans would be outraged.

But if it's the U.S. government contributing to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children through the most brutal set of economic sanctions in history, sacrificing American GIs and killing tens of thousands of Iraqis in a "liberating" war of aggression of Iraq, arresting and incarcerating U.S. citizens for the rest of their lives without a trial and without being permitted to even talk to a lawyer, and torturing both POWs and criminal suspects, all of a sudden the conscience of all too many Americans disintegrates into mush.

Thus, for example, while people consider it evil for Saddam Hussein to have used chemical weapons against the Iranian people, they feel it was just an "honest mistake in foreign policy" for U.S. officials to have furnished those weapons to him with the express intention that he use them against the Iranian people.

Neither Saddam Hussein nor Osama bin Laden nor North Korea nor Iran nor the Islamic world is the biggest threat to the liberty, health, safety, and welfare of the American people.

Instead, that threat lies with the cancerous rot that continues to grow at the center of the American empire—a rot that in fact comes with empire. Until Americans finally confront that uncomfortable truth, they will continue to suffer the consequences. Unfortunately, it might take a catastrophe before they decide to do so.

Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation.

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Post High School March Calendar

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March 22	Caprock Relays	
March 24	Boys golf @ Sundown	
March 25	District UIL Literary @ Roosevelt	JV, varsity baseball @ Tahoka, 4 p.m.
March 26	District Lincoln-Douglas Debate @ Post	Girls golf @ Sundown
March 27	District UIL Literary @ Roosevelt	
March 28	JV, varsity baseball, home, 4:30 p.m. (Roosevelt)	
March 28-29	Tennis tourney @ Colorado City	
March 29	District OAP @ Post	Track @ Floydada
March 31	District golf @ Tahoka	

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Sports

'Lopes hammer Lockney 17-3

by Ernest Fox

Post traveled to Lockney March 11 to play the Longhorns in a pre-tournament game, winning 17-3.

Lockney (22-3) last season, lost to Holliday in the Class 2A regional quarterfinals, came into the game decimated by injuries. Post collected 13 hits and got solid pitching to roll past Lockney 17-3.

Starter Randon Blacklock pitched two innings of one-hit ball and Cody Fox (3-1) pitched two innings of no-hit ball to notch his third win of the season in relief. Bryan Looney closed the fifth inning.

Offensively, the majority of Lockney's outs were strikeouts (13). Post (10-4) put pressure on the Longhorns (4-7) in the third inning when the

Antelopes hung up nine runs. With a 9-0 lead, the Antelopes finished the Longhorns off with an eight-run fifth.

Batting for Post were Luis Zubia, sacrifice bunt single, ground rule double, single with two RBIs; Blacklock, E-6 single, walk; Looney, double, single, four RBIs; Jon Eilenberger, two singles, one RBI; Fox, homerun, three RBIs; Patrick Gonzales, single, walk; Jett Lott, E-6 hit, two singles, two RBIs; Mitchell Mills, one on-base by hit batter, one walk; Kenny Ratke, E-9 single, one double, one walk, two RBIs.

'Lopes take second at Muleshoe tourney

Post 9, Denver City 0

Opening game for Post in the Muleshoe Invitational Tournament March 13-15 was the District 3-3A Denver City Mustangs fresh off their win at the Roosevelt Tournament.

Offensively, Denver City had one clean hit to the outfield, which RF Brody Robertson handled with ease. So dominant was the Antelope defense that of Denver City's five base runners, two were thrown out at second, one erased in a double play with two Mustangs stranded on base in the first inning.

All games in the pool play round of the Muleshoe Invitational face a four-inning or hour-and-a-half time limit.

Offensively, the Antelopes recorded nine base hits, five for extra bases.

Batting for Post were Kenny Ratke, one triple, E-6 hit; Jon Eilenberger, one on-base by hit batter, one single, one walk; Cody Fox, one single, one double, a triple, four RBIs; Patrick Gonzales, E-6 hit; Jett Lott, two singles; Mitchell Mills, one ground rule double with two RBIs; Robertson, one double, two RBIs.

Pitching for Post were Fox (4-1) going for four innings, one hit, two walks with five strikeouts. Fox's pitching count showed 23 strikes and 17 balls.

Post 13, Lockney 2

Post went 2-0 in the tournament standings, beating the Lockney Longhorns 13-2.

Due to a scheduling quirk, Post has played Lockney two of their last three games.

Offensively, Post averaged 15 runs per outing, while giving up 2.5 runs per game while sweeping the two-game season series.

Robertson reinjured a knee legging out a play at first base. His availability is questionable until district action begins Friday when Idalou comes to Post.

So dominant was Post offensively that the Antelopes had only three strikeouts in 27 at-bats. Mills and Eilenberger hit their second and first home runs of the season, respectively.

Batting for Post were Zubia, E-6 hit, one single; Blacklock, one single, one RBI; Looney, one single, E-1 hit, two RBIs; Eilenberger, one walk, one sacrifice fly, one homerun with four RBIs; Fox, E-9 hit, one RBI; Gonzales, one single, one double; Lott, one single, one triple, one RBI; Mills, two walks, one homerun, one RBI; Ratke, one single, one walk, one RBI.

Pitching for Post was Blacklock, going four innings with seven hits, two walks and six strikeouts. Blacklock's pitching count showed 36 strikes and 30 balls.

Post 7, Dimmitt 4

Post fell behind 3-0 when Dimmitt got to Antelope pitcher Looney for three hits, including a three-run blast by Dimmitt's cleanup batter in the top of the first. In Post's half of the first, however, Looney punched in a run for Post on a single up the middle, scoring leadoff batter Zubia who got on by a hit batter at bat.

In second inning action, Dimmitt quickly went down with Looney roaring back to get two strikeouts and a pop out to Ratke. Post inspired potent offense, came alive as five of the first six Antelopes scored to seal the four-inning game for Coach Katwinkel's team.

Hitting for Post were Zubia, one hit batter on base; Blacklock, one walk; Looney, one single, one walk, one RBI; Eilenberger, one single, one sacrifice fly, one RBI; Fox, one single, one RBI; Lott, E-7 hit, E-3 hit; Mills, one double, one RBI; and Ratke, one walk, one single and one RBI.

Pitching for Post was Looney, four innings with six hits, no walks and six strikeouts. His pitching count showed 26 strikes and 16 balls.

Post 5, Abernathy 2

Post notched its fourth straight win in the tournament, beating Abernathy 5-2.

The win set up the Post Antelopes in the championship game.

Post batting first, plated one run on Looney's sacrifice bunt, scoring Ratke who doubled leading off the inning. Abernathy quickly answered by plating two runs to take a quick 2-1 lead on a walk, a RBI ground-rule double and a two-base throwing error down third base line.

Post starter Fox regained control as every Abernathy Antelope struck out, except two (a walk and a 4-3 put out - Colton Valdez to Gonzales) in the five-inning game, including four in the final inning. Post finally put away the pesky Abernathy team by erasing the four-inning tie by scoring three fifth-inning runs as Ratke, Mills and Eilenberger scored the deciding runs.

Batting for Post were Ratke, two doubles and a walk; Mills, bunt single, one on-base by hit batter; Looney, sacrifice bunt, sacrifice fly, two RBIs; Eilenberger, two singles, one double, one RBI; Fox, one ground-rule double, one RBI; Gonzales, one walk and an E-6 hit.

Pitching for Post was Fox, going five innings, one hit, two walks and 15 strikeouts. His pitching count showed 49 strikes and 27 balls.

Post 9, Roosevelt 15

Post and Roosevelt sent a message to fellow District 4-2A members - the district title starts and stops here.

Two of the most potent 2A offenses met in an old-fashioned slugfest as pitchers' ERAs took a beating.

Every Antelope starter except one (a walk) had at least one hit; three players produced two hits. Every Eagle starter except two had at least one hit, with four players having at least two hits apiece.

Roosevelt, in the visitor batting order, jumped to a quick 4-0 lead while the Post Antelopes roared back, blasting Eagle starter Aaron Sharp and reliever Aaron Rave as 10 Antelopes came to bat and plated five runs in the opening inning.

Roosevelt matched this feat in their half of the second inning as 11 Eagles came to bat, producing six runs on six hits and two error hits.

Both teams scored in every inning of the four-inning, time-limit championship game as four homeruns were blasted - three by Eagles and

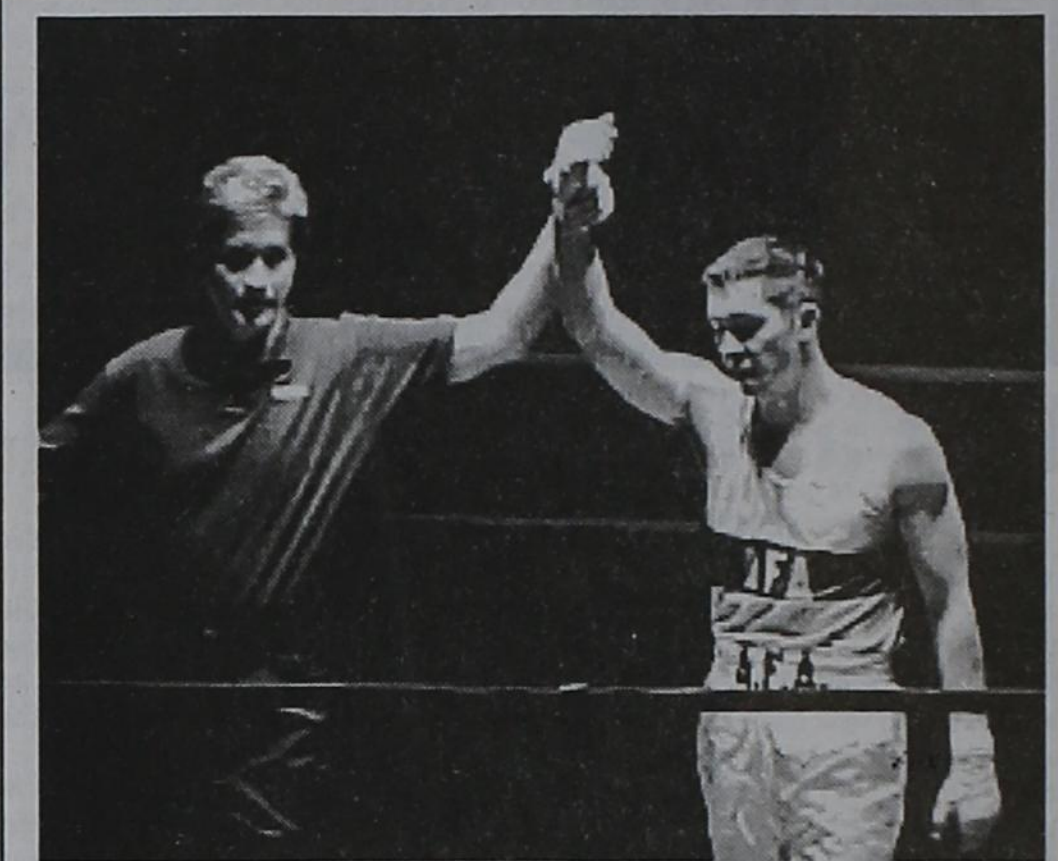
one by Antelope C Mills, who narrowly missed another with a double off the outfield wall.

Pitching for Post was Looney, going two innings with 10 hits, one walk and one strikeout. Looney's pitching count showed 18 strikes, 23 balls. Jett Lott, one inning pitched, one hit, one walk, one hit batter and one strikeout. His pitching count showed four strikes and seven balls. Mills, one inning; two hits, no walks and one strikeout. His pitching count showed four strikes and six balls.

Batting for Post were Ratke, two singles; Mills, one homerun, one double; Looney, one single; Eilenberger, one double and a walk; Fox, one on-base by hit batter, one double; Gonzales, one single; Lott, one single and a sacrifice bunt; Blacklock, one double and two singles; and Coby Jones, one walk.

PHS Spring Sports Schedule

Baseball	host Idalou	March 21, 5 p.m.
	@ Tahoka	March 25, 6:30
Tennis	@ Brownfield Tournament	March 21 & 22
Track	@ Caprock Relays	March 22



Former PHS graduate and Air Force Academy cadet Clay Knight (right) has earned a spot at the Western Regional Boxing Championship in Reno, Nev. March 20-23. Knight won the Wing Open Middle Weight Championship at the Academy to qualify for the regional rounds. He is the Jenny and Brent Smith and grandson of Riley and Mary Miller.

Post ISD Site-Based Decision-Making Committee sets campus goals

Five tasks designed to target school improvement planning were undertaken at the Post Independent School District's Site-Based Decision-Making Committee meeting March 12.

Following a PowerPoint presentation by the new Post ISD superintendent, Marlin Marcum, committee members tackled the projects put before them. Brian Browlow, committee director, led the session.

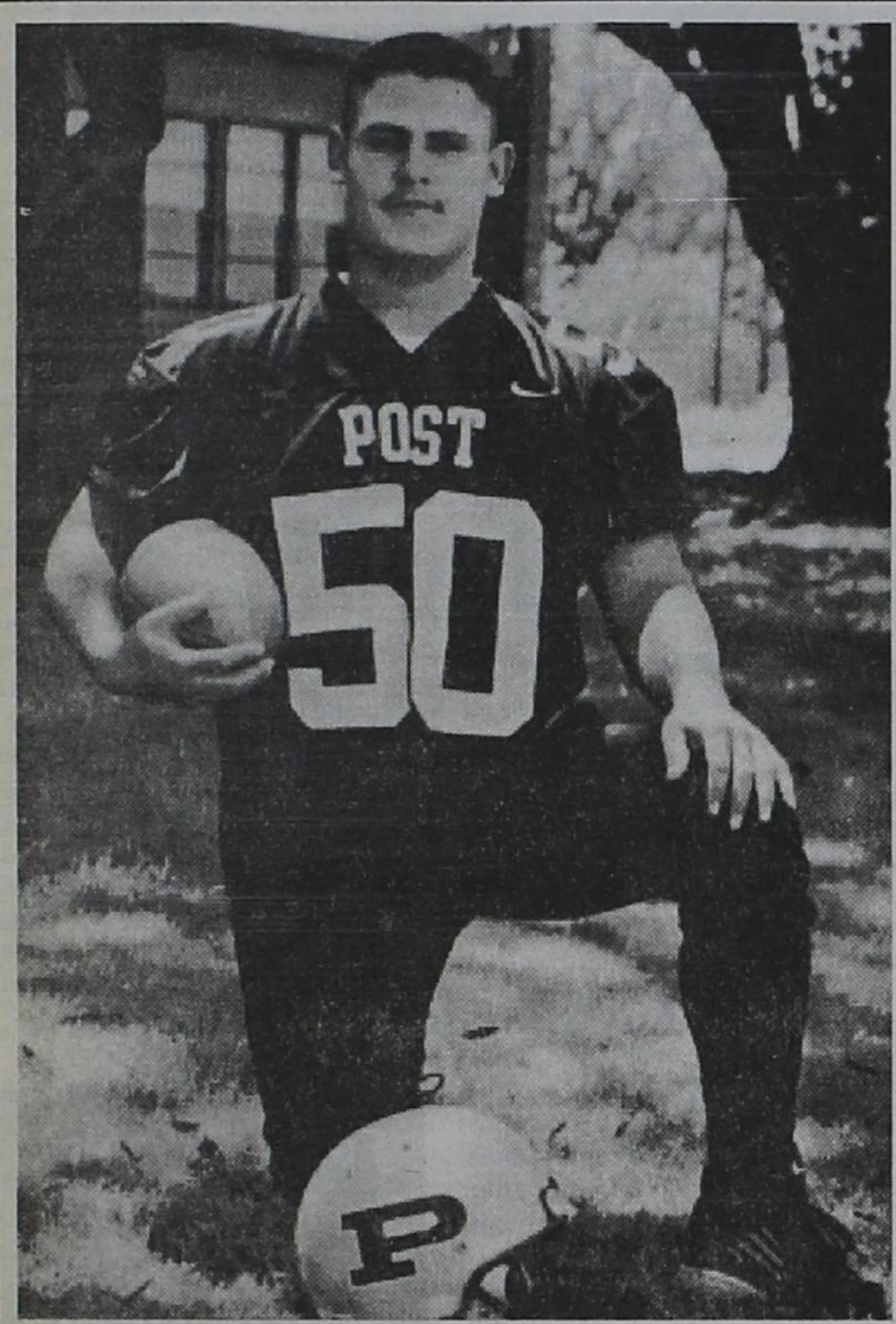
The committee's action items included:

- Selection of Amy Easterling to serve as the committee's recording secretary.
 - Approval of the committee's planning cycle and meeting schedule (early November, assess progress; mid-January, assess mid-year progress and set calendar; late February, formulate new plan).
 - A consensus on three performance goals: All Post ISD students will reach high standards at a minimum attaining proficiency or better in reading, language arts and math, all limited English proficient students will become proficient in English and all students will graduate; all students will be taught by highly-qualified teachers; and, all students will be educated in learning environments that are safe, drug-free and conducive to learning.
 - Adopted the following topics for staff development: technology, conflict resolution, discipline strategies, classroom management, district discipline policies and Student Code of Conduct.
 - Approved a calendar for use in the 2003-2004 school year.
- Committee members present for the session included Johnny McGregor, Charles Hardin, Linda Waldrip, Diane Windham, Michelle Wischkaemper, Jan Olson, Donna Porter, Debbie Johnson, Patricia Hernandez, Dedra Adams, Jason Powell, Leslie Tatum, Susan Ferguson, Suzanne Hudman, Christy Morris, Fred Postell, Robert Wilson, Bobby Dean, Dusti Osborn, De'Sanne Fluitt, Kimberly Swim, Natha Jo Henderson, Easterling, Brownlow and Marcum.

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Post High School senior Bryan Looney has been invited to participate in the "NO KAI OI" Pigskin Classic this summer in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii. He will be a part of the Texas All Star Football team competing at the event June 24-July 1. The event includes teams from as many as 12 states. In order to join the team, Bryan must raise \$2,095 before May 15, 2003. The cost of the trip includes airfare from Dallas and six nights at the Westin Maui Resort and meals. Those who are able to help Bryan should contact his parents, Leslie and Diana Looney at 495-0454 or send contributions to 905 West 6th Street, Post, Texas 79356.

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ACROSS

- what TXns do best
- graduation gown
- TXism: "chew ___ awhile"
- TX-based hotel chain: ___ Quinta
- ex-Cowboy Renfro dressed in jeans
- weather maker "El ___"
- Rangers manager Bobby (1985-92)
- TXism: "hard as putting up ___ a windstorm"
- famed Aggie coach ___ Bible
- ex-Cowboy CB Waters
- TXism: "___ together like chili and pepper"
- Travis Tritt's ___ Quarter (Call Someone Who Cares)
- breakfast food
- TX-filmed "The ___ Heaven"
- he starred with TX Zellweger in "Jerry Maguire" (init.)
- govt. medical help this Heche was in "Wag the Dog" with TX Willie
- TXism: "chompin' at the ___"
- the best
- longtime Valley congressman
- Garza

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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DOWN

- sis's sib
- TX Tarzan Ely
- Taylor Co. seat
- "whoopee ti yi yo, ___ doggie"
- TXism: "got less than the widow's ___" (broke)
- TXism: "more than you ___"
- at
- Rangers league (abbr.)
- dir. to Houston from Dallas
- TXism: "it ain't ___ in cement"
- TXism: "trapped like ___ possum"
- ex-Cowboy Dorsett
- TXism: "___ tight he squeaks when he walks"
- TX Ginger Rogers mother
- TXism: "got the short ___ of the stick"
- visor
- bomb
- TXism: "___ it in the bud"
- birth mo. of TX Dan Rather
- maker of "Top Hat" with TX Ginger
- Mavs were this for for first 14 games in '02-'03 season
- Brer Rabbit met up with ___ baby
- TXism: "hook, ___ and sinker"
- TXism: "he couldn't drive a ___ snow bank"
- many TXns fought in ___ nam
- meanly
- bet to pick the 1st & 2nd horse at Lone Star Park
- TXism: "horny ___"
- wild goose sound
- OK town
- Clint of "Space Cowboys" with TX Tommy Lee (init.)
- TXism: loud ___ hungry call"
- Big ___ Nat. Park
- "now you've gone and ___ it"
- "king" so. of the border
- Mrs. Roosevelt
- TXism for "get going" (2 wds.)
- TX WWII hero Audie (init.)

Saturday, June 28
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 7 p.m.

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R... pay... unl...

BU... CAPP... pay... e... profit... Espres... require...

DRIVE... Region... up to 3... Ops. I... DRIVE... Hiring... O/O-S... for exp... Call 1-1... DRIVE... Low co... log and... burse... Swift T... DRIVE... S ga-O... G... f... O... h... n... C... S... r... C... e... l... N... t...

The Post Dispatch

MARCH 10, 2003

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