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The Post Dispatch

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City council considers property tax rate reduction

by Wes Burnett

A reduction in the city property tax rate from the current .7708 to .5825 is being considered by the Post City Council for the 2004 budget. That recommendation and others was presented to the council at its regular meeting Tuesday, July 1.

The budget planning ideas, all subject to change, include a \$1 per call increase for Post Volunteer Department members and an increase in full time city employee retirement plan from 10.03 percent to 11.91 percent.

Other preliminary budget plans include the purchase of a 4X4 pickup for the water department

for all-weather inspection of water lines, replace of the 1997 Ford, expansion of the wood and debris pit at the landfill and adding a half-time position at the landfill.

City manager Fred Stephens informed the council that a new state law which takes affect September 1, 2003 will require all food establishments to install and maintain grease traps. He explained that a number of Post food businesses are unaware of the new law and that the city will make an attempt to notify those businesses. A seminar may be scheduled to provide details for affected businesses.

Stephens pointed out that one of the main problems the city faces at its waste water treatment facility is the accumulation of grease.

In other matters, the council approved on second reading the franchise agreement with Atmos Energy and joined the county in an interjurisdictional agreement for emergency management services.

No action was taken on changing sewer and water rates, pending further review by city staff. Council members expressed concern that rates be uniformly set. Service to water users outside the

city limits was also discussed, with the council authorizing the city manager to study the issue in more detail for future consideration.

Mayor Archie Gill appointed a committee to review city hall building conditions. Stephens, Delbert Rudd, Dick Odom and Bill Pool will serve on the committee and report to the council on its findings.

A special meeting was scheduled Tuesday, July 15 with the Garza County Commissioners' Court to review and consider joint agreements between the two government bodies.



The final section of pipe was connected recently near Slaton as the Slaton-to-Post water pipeline project nears completion. The pipeline is being tested and storage tanks in Slaton and Post are being painted and getting final preparation requirements. Water is expected to flow through the pipeline within the next few weeks. When completed, the project will provide a backup water source for the City of Post.



Acting postmaster Margaret Toler (right) was joined by former postmaster Johnny Kemp (center) in congratulating retiring postmaster Roy Willis (left) at a farewell reception July 3 at the post office here.

Garza SWCD offers windbreak trees, hardwoods, conifers

The Garza Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offers the public the opportunity to purchase windbreak trees, along with a variety of hardwoods and wildlife packets. Barerooted hardwoods and containerized conifers are available.

The SWCD is currently taking tree and grass seed orders. Contact the SWCD to make your order today, varieties and quantities may be limited. The first tree pickup is scheduled for early March. Effective Windbreaks can lower utility costs in homes, increase crop production and provide wildlife habitats. They also

inhibit dust by reducing and re-directing wind. The height, density, the number of planted rows, the types of trees used, length and continuity are factors that determine the effectiveness of a windbreak. A properly designed windbreak lowers heat conduction and air infiltration in a home. This lowered energy used can save homeowners on their utility bills. In addition, Windbreaks can provide an excellent home for wildlife by offering food, cover and nesting habitat, which enhances hunting opportunities.

After five to seven years, windbreaks require

little maintenance. Although the cost of establishing a windbreak may be more than an individual would anticipate, the longevity and multiple benefits of a windbreak justify the investment. Windbreaks are a sound and wise investment that increases the value of a property while saving money through crop and livestock protection and reduced energy. The district has several sizes of trees available. They range from seedlings (approximately 12' in height) to five gallon-potted trees (approximately 3' tall). Evergreen seedlings are \$2.00 per tree; hardwood seed-

lings are \$1.00 per tree. 2 gallon-potted trees are \$9.00 per tree; 5 gallon-potted trees are \$15.00 per tree.

Trees should be ordered as soon as possible to reserve an order. Orders will be taken until all trees are sold. Contact the Garza SWCD at (806) 495-2056 ext. 3 or come in the office at 210 W. Main, Suite 2. All Garza SWCD programs are open to all persons without regard to any discriminatory factor.

KCBD picks Post for its tour

Post will again be a stop on the NewsChannel 11 Live Community Coverage Tour, with the 2003 visit of the Lubbock television crew set for Tuesday, July 15, at the courthouse. The event will be staged on the east lawn (front) of the courthouse, and will feature music by The Country Boys.

NewsChannel 11 will take its newscast on the road for five consecutive days, hitting Floydada July 14; Post, July 15; Lamesa, July 16; Levelland, July 17; and Plainview, July 18 for the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. broadcasts. All scheduled stops are to be made at the county courthouse in each community.

The public is invited to attend. Following the 6 p.m. newscast, the tour will serve sausage-on-a-stick, Cokes and ice cream. Donations of \$1 will be accepted on behalf of a local charity.

NewsChannel 11 plans to provide features stories from each community, and the public will be given the opportunity to meet and each with station anchors Karin McKay, Abner Euresti, John Robison and Emily Jones.

The Live Community Coverage Tour 2003 is sponsored in part by United Supermarkets, Blue Bell, Coca-Cola, Radio Lab, Pharr RV, Frito-Lay and Casa Rica Tortillas.



Member Texas Press Association 2003

Post Notes

VFW Ladies' Auxiliary Meets Monday

The Post VFW Ladies' Auxiliary meets Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the VFW. Plans for attending the state-wide training session will be discussed.

Post 6797 VFW meets Monday

Members of the Post 6797 VFW will meet Monday at 7 p.m. at the VFW.

Benefit for Quintana baby medical

A benefit to assist with expenses related to Shania Eulalia Quintana will be held Saturday, July 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Chapa's Family Restaurant. The event features brisket plates for \$6 each, a bake sale and raffle tickets for a DVD player, \$20 gift certificates and a CD player will also be sold. The baby suffers from a bone marrow disease, requiring surgery July 16 at Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas. She is the daughter of Laura and Lupe Quintana Jr.

Benefit car wash Saturday

A benefit car wash will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at United Supermarket to assist the Calvary Baptist Church in its efforts to repair the church's sanctuary roof.

OS Museum offers new exhibits

"Art Through The Ages," a new exhibit of swords, chess sets, jade, porcelain, state glass, African art, artifacts and more opened July 1 and continues at the OS Museum through September. Admission to the museum is free. The museum, located at 201 East Main Street (upstairs), is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

Public Library offers "Story Hour"

The Post Public Library's "Story Hour" begins July 8 at 10 a.m. for children ages three through five and at 10:45 a.m. for youth six years old through fifth grade. The event will be held each Tuesday through the end of July.

Church seeks help with roof fund

The Calvary Baptist Church is seeking help for its sanctuary building fund to replace the roof. Those interested in assisting should send donations to the Calvary Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 624, Post, Texas 79356. For more information call 495-3342 or 495-2342.

Post Public Library "Blue Bonnet" books

The "Blue Bonnet" books and tests are available at the Post Public Library. Third grade students must pass seven out of 10 questions and the fourth and fifth graders must pass eight out of 10 questions. There will be one test opportunity only. Parents should encourage children to take their time reading the book before taking the test.

County oral history project

The Garza County Oral History Project is seeking volunteers to assist in preserving local history. All necessary supplies and equipment, along with training, are available. Volunteers will be asked to help only a few hours each month. Call 495-4148 for more information and to volunteer.

Rotary Club "Dog Dip" July 12

Saturday, July 12 has been set for this year's annual Post Rotary Club "Dog Dip" from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Post Volunteer Fire Department building. Services include dipping for \$5, rabies shots for \$7 and other vaccinations will be available. State law requires that all pets be vaccinated for rabies, a law which is enforced by the City of Post.



Karen McKay and Abner Euresti, along with the other KCB News Channel 11 crew, will broadcast live from the Garza County Courthouse on Tuesday, July 15 at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. The event will also feature free food (\$1 donation for charity benefit) and entertainment for the public.



CitizensBank in Post is working on a beautification project on its lot just to the north of the bank on North Broadway. The project is expected to be completed in the coming weeks and will offer a special landscaping treat for visitors. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

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Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy (Ballentine) Bush



Hey everyone,
JULY 4th
I wanted to let those responsible for the fireworks display know what a terrific job they did. The fireworks were great. I know that these folks do this every year and probably don't get enough "thank you" messages, so I wanted to be sure and get mine in. Great job! **NOT SO GREAT A FOURTH**
To Rene Mason, the 4th did not turn out to be such a great day. Rene was hit in the eye by either a firecracker or a rock thrown by the pop of a firecracker. Now my info is second hand, but I was told that there was quite a bit of damage to her eye and that she was having to sit up at all times. Rene, I hope that things are much better at this writing but know that you are in my prayers and I ask everyone to add Rene to your prayers. Hopefully all will heal and everything will be fine. **DID YOU KNOW?**
Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the U.S. Treasury. It is impossible to lick your elbow.
Men can read smaller print than women; women can hear better.
If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both legs in the air, the person died in battle.
The worlds youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.
The average number of people airborne over the US at any given hour is 61,000.
And last..... The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work....Alaska
GET WELL
I want to send get well wishes to Nell Mathews who has been in Covenant with some problems. Hope she is feeling much better and home by time this comes out. **SENIOR MOMENT**
A couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.
The two elderly gentlemen were talking and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant, and it was really great. I would highly recommend it.
The other man said, "What's the name of the restaurant?"
The first man knits his brow in obvious concentration, and finally said to his companion "Amah, What is the name of that red flower you love?"
His friend replies, "A Carnation?"
"No. No. The other one," the man says.
His friend offers another suggestion, "The Poppy?"
"Nash," growls the man. "You know...the one that is red and has thorns."
His friend says, "Do you mean a rose?"
The first man says, "Yes, That's it. Thank you."
He then turns toward the kitchen and yells, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"
(Thanks to Barbara Gossett)

TILL NEXT WEEK
Well, guess that is all for this week. Please send in your news so everyone can enjoy and share. May God bless each of you. Have a great week end. Judy

Births

Lyndyn Jai Mosser

Charlie and Johnny Mosser of Lubbock are the proud parents of a daughter, Lyndyn Jai, born June 17, 2003 at Covenant Medical Center. She weighed seven pounds, seven ounces and was 21 inches long.

She joins two sisters, hannah and Tayla.
Grandparents are Nelda and Giles Dalby of Post and Alyce and Hugo Mosser of Slaton.



Lyndyn Jai Mosser

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County 4-H Council Meeting

July 17, 2003, at Noon, at the Extension Office. Club Presidents, Council Delegates and Alternate Delegates need to attend. Lunch provided for those who call 495-4400 to RSVP by 5:00 p.m. July 15.

4-H Booster Club Meeting.....

July 17, 2003, 5:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. Plans for rodeo and Achievement Banquet to be made. All 4-H parents are encouraged to participate.

Junior 4-H Clothing Project.....

.....sign up meeting at the Extension Office. A parent need to attend with 4-H'er.

Benson Memorial Golf Tournament.....

.....to be held August 12. Registration is \$50 per individual or \$200 per team of four. Registration must be postmarked by August 4. Come by or call the Extension office for more information or to pick up registration forms.

Benefit Saturday for Shania Quintana



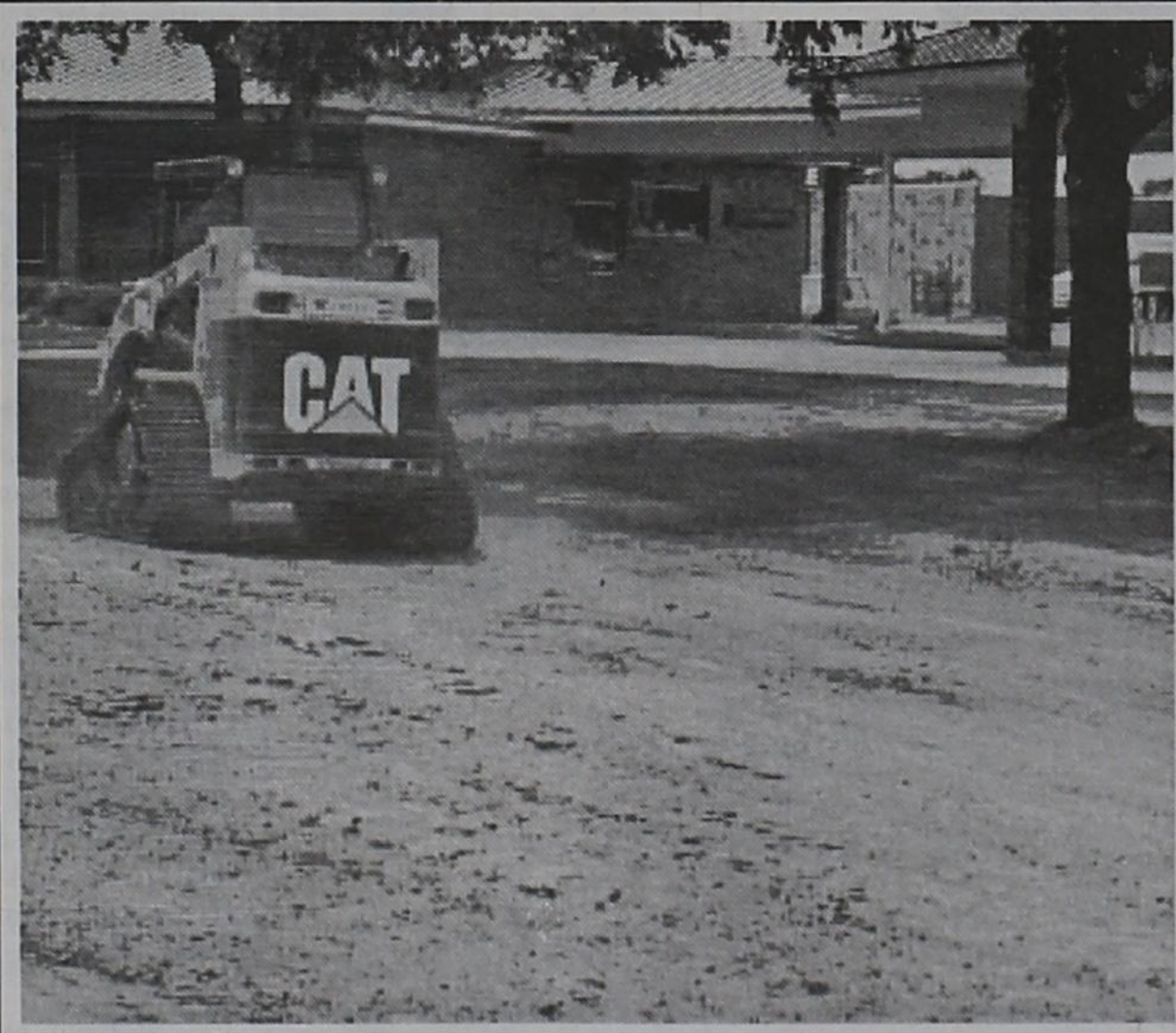
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chapa's Family Restaurant

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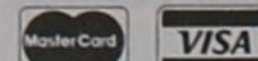
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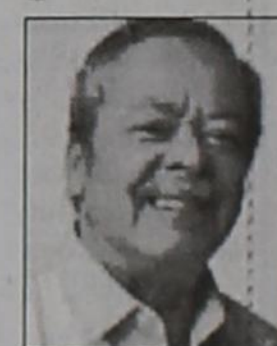
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Neighbor to Neighbor

by Julie Neitsch,

Garza County Extension Agent-Family & Consumer Science

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Summer Food Safety Picnics and Barbeques

"Everything but the kitchen sink" is what picnickers sometimes pack as they begin the summer beach, boating and barbecue season. However, outdoor food gatherings would be safer if picnickers could actually pack the kitchen sink. Foodborne illnesses resulting from cross-contamination rise during this season where food is often consumed away from home.

"The challenge of keeping hands and utensils clean is greater when preparing and eating food without having the use of a kitchen," said Susan Conley, director of Food Safety Education for USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. "Cross-contamination can occur when harmful microorganisms from raw meat and poultry are transferred to ready-to-eat foods if cutting boards, hands and utensils are not cleaned properly."

Here are important safety tips to remember when picnicking:
Keeping Everything Clean: Find out if there's a source of potable (safe drinking) water at your destination. If not, bring water for preparation and cleaning; or pack clean, wet, disposable cloths or moist towelettes and paper towels for cleaning hands and surfaces. Cross-contamination during preparation, grilling, and serving food is a prime cause of foodborne illness. Always wash your hands before and after handling food, and don't use the same platter and utensils for raw and cooked meat and poultry. Soap and water are essential to cleanliness, so if you are going somewhere that will not have potable water, bring it with you. Even disposable wipes will do. Include lots of clean utensils, not only for eating but also for serving the safely cooked food.

Keeping Hot Food Hot and Cold Food Cold: It's essential to keep hot food hot and cold food cold on the way to, and throughout, the meal. Holding food at an unsafe temperature is a prime cause of foodborne illness. Already-hot summertime temperatures can spike higher in direct sunlight on the beach or in a boat. Food should not be left out of the cooler or off the grill more than two hours (one hour when the outside temperature is above 90°F). Most bacteria do not grow rapidly at temperatures below 40°F or above 140°F. The temperature range in between is known as the "Danger Zone." Bacteria multiply rapidly at these temperatures and cause foodborne illness. They must be cooked to destroy these bacteria and held at temperatures that are either too hot or too cold for these bacteria to grow.

Keep Hot Food Hot: If bringing hot take-out food such as fried chicken or barbecue, eat it within two hours of purchase. Or plan ahead and chill the food in your refrigerator before packing it into an insulated cooler. In addition to a grill and fuel for cooking food, remember to pack a food thermometer to check that your meat and poultry reach a safe internal temperature. When reheating food at the outing, be sure it reaches 165°F.

Keep Cold Foods Cold: Carry cold perishable food like hamburger patties, hotdogs, luncheon meats and chicken in an insulated cooler packed with plenty of ice or frozen gel packs. Be sure raw meat and poultry are wrapped securely to prevent juices from cross-contaminating ready-to-eat food. Perishable cooked foods such as meats, chicken and potato or pasta salads must be kept cold, too. Store food in the cooler except for brief times when serving. Cook only the amount of food that will be eaten to avoid the challenge of keeping leftovers at a safe temperature. Discard any leftovers that have not remained cold.

For more information about food safety, contact the Extension Office at (806) 495-4400.

Source: Food Safety and Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture. By: Susan Conley & Steven Cohen. "USDA Offers Picnicking Tips for Summertime Food Safety" <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/news/2002/picnicking.htm>



Janet and Chuck Ratliff recently attended the VFW State Convention in Corpus Christi, where Chuck was installed as District 7 Commander and Janet was installed as District 7 President. They are members of Post 6797 VFW in Post.



Post VFW members Chuck Ratliff (left) and J.W. Jolly place flags on the fire as part of the flag retirement ceremony conducted last week.



Post VFW members J.W. Jolly (left) and Chuck Ratliff prepare flags for proper retirement at last week's ceremony. Approximately 60 flags were folded, burned and ashes buried at the event. The VFW expressed its appreciation to Radio Shack for assisting with the project and remind flag owners to keep worn or weathered flags until next year's flag retirement ceremony.

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Bullard family reunion news

Descendants and friends of Wesley Thomas and Ayra Bullard gathered at the family farm for the Bullard family reunion over the July 4 weekend.

Those attending included Wesley and Iva Lee Bullard of Post; John and Betty Bullard of Crowley; Kenith Bullard of Post; Cecil Bullard of Fort Worth; Alice Mayberry of Mineral Wells; Linda and Herb Atzbach, Brownfield; Patricia Self, Weatherford; Wilma Banner and son, Jonn, of The Colony; Sandy and John Smith of Lovington, N.M.; Kathryn and Heather Bullard of Post; Keith, Jana, Cody and Paige Bullard of Post; and Susan, Michael, Rachel and Gannon McAnulty of Arlington.

Also, Tina and Amanda Corfield of San Angelo; Michael, Tammy, Justin and Sterlin Self and Ethan Baldree of Post; Christina Atzbach of Brownfield; William and Nancy Atzbach of Brownfield; Kevin Atzbach and fiancée Krista Stice of Brownfield and mother, Julie; Alison Smith of Hobbs, N.M.; Aaron Woods, Michelle, Mark, Haley and Cayde of Lovington, N.M.; and Adam Woods of Big Lake.

Also attending were Gifford and Linda Johnston, granddaughters Bailey and Tory Johnston of Dublin; Tina Ashcroft of Benbrook; Jarrett Ferguson of Guthrie; Robbie and G.B. Wilke of Post; Jennifer and Ephraim Gonzales of Plainview; Mr. and Mrs. Bo Stevens of Plains; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Washburn and children of

Post; Oscar Newdigger of Brownfield; Gary and Jason Newdigger of Tahoka; and Kenny of Brownfield.

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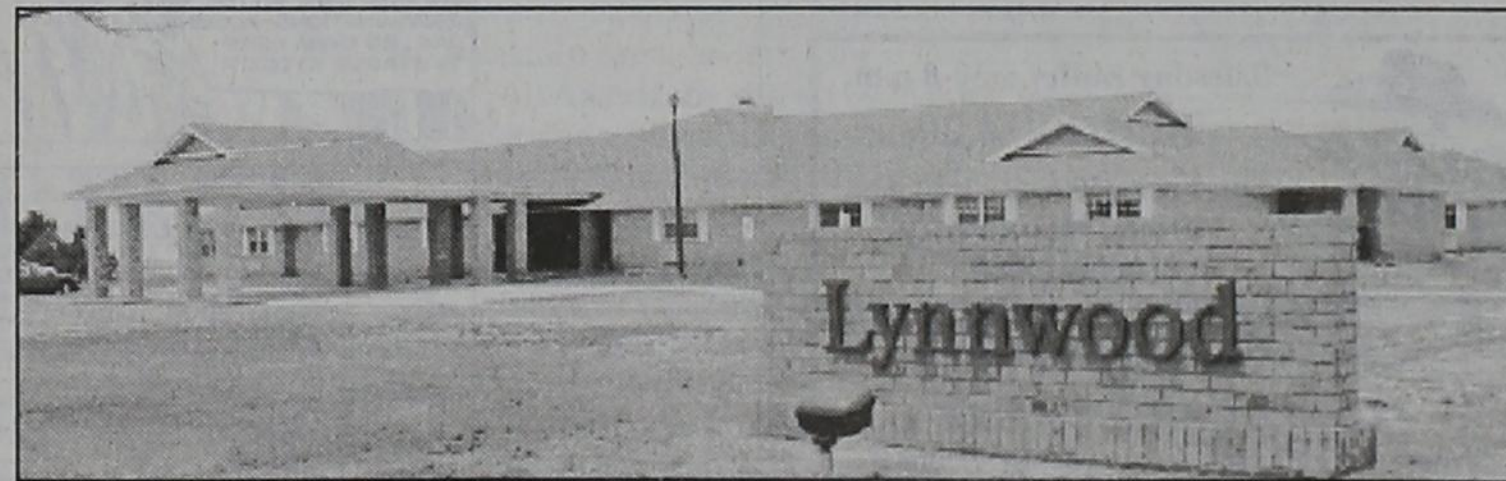
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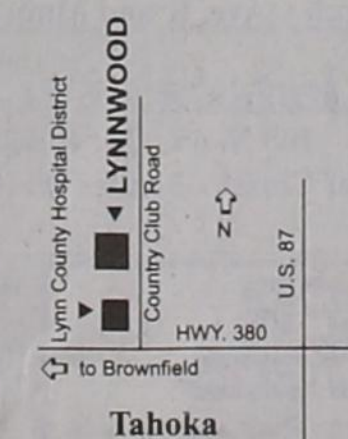
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Obituaries

David James Cray

Services for David James Cray, 30, of Southland were held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 3, 2003, in the Hudman Funeral Home with the Rev. Timmy Bates officiating. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery.

He died July 1, in Lynn County. Born March 4, 1973, at Reese Air Force Base, he married Beverly Noy on Oct. 18, 1992, in Woodrow. He was a construction worker. Survivors include his wife, Beverly; one son, Weston Cray of Southland; one daughter, Jessica Cray of Southland; his mother, Kay Ellen Graves of Bastrop; one brother, Curtis Dutton of Southland; one sister, Sherry Day of Lubbock; and his grandparents, Jess Dutton of Southland and Beverly Lee of Lubbock.

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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.

Unhappy with current state of affairs

I have always assumed that dealings between elected public officials, such as a judge and county commissioners and their private business dealings, was considered conflict of interest and illegal.

I also thought purchases of bonds were decided by a public vote, not by your commissioners or anyone else.

It's been stated that the prison has already been deeded to Garza County. How can that be? I know enough to know you can't deed over a property with a lien on it unless the new owner agrees to assume the lien. This would lead one to assume that this deal is already made.

Everyone here knows all of this was a business deal put together by several of the well-heeled and landed gentry of this community to make money! That's why the bond purchase wasn't put up for public vote. They wanted to make the money, the sure deal.

Well, now all of a sudden they don't want it anymore. So why the hell should we?

I say let the rich man bite the bullet this time. Hold up his end of the bargain or lose it. Learn how it feels to fail, to need help and not get it. Humility is good for you.

I would like to commend Mr. Propst for having the courage to ask publicly the troubling questions surrounding our now notorious prison bonds. This is fortunate and also unfortunate. Fortunate because you may have caused others to take a look at this. Unfortunate because now that the cat is out of the bag, these individuals and this obviously soured deal will now go so far underground into deep cover we'll never hear of it again, and they will cheerfully explain away our new mysterious debt with a concocted story from a spin doctor that Garza County now proudly owns land on the moon with a new state of the art hospital.

This has now become the land of the "golden rule." He who has the gold makes the rules. Where the American dream meant a 40- or 50-year job with the same company. Where you bought a home and raised a family and retired happily ever after on a nice fat pension.

Now you can borrow \$60,000 to buy a car, but they won't lend you \$10,000 to buy a home. Where companies and corporations use five or six initials for names and fake post office boxes for corporate headquarters. Companies designed not to last more than a few years without a name and address change to avoid any form of liability or loyalty to anyone or anything. Where these individuals can obtain millions, even billions of dollars without any collateral of their own for private and personal use. And if things go south, you just pawn the debt off on your unsuspecting and purposefully uninformed political district and constituents.

Yes, Garza County is now completely submerged in the political high tech subterfuge that covers this land.

I have worked nearly every day of my adult life, but I can't afford to own property here. Yet, through an unbelievable public referendum, I am being

forced through a new sales tax to subsidize property taxes for individuals in the community who wouldn't spit on me if I was on fire.

Merlin on acid couldn't have come up with a crazier scheme. Anyone with first grade math abilities could immediately understand how futile this is. It's a mere band-aid on a gunshot wound. Yes, folks, you property owners are in for another tax hike in the very near future.

To all us non-property owners, I can't believe we didn't defeat this piece of legislation. To me this is insult added to indignation. This just adds credence to a long-held opinion of mine - you can teach a monkey to read, but he'll never understand a word of it. I know it's just a part of a penny, but when pennies are all you've got, it hurts a hell of a lot more.

On the same agenda, we're to pay even more sales tax for water improvement. Let's see, that's a sales tax, plus two water rate hikes in the last three years. At this rate I'll have to start drinking whisky because I can't afford the water.

One of the best sources of new water in the nation is only a few miles south of us, but because of greed and the lack of people skills by our current "statesmen" and representatives, we have so alienated Lubbock, we'll never drink a drop of it.

There is really no surprise in this, for these same people, with families dating back to the Mayflower, under the guise of bringing civilization and God to this great land, murdered over a million of the true owners of this land, then stole every square inch of this nation to sell it back to us by the grain.

Yes, it's sad. The bull manure is now worth more than the bull.

W.M. Bevers

Police the whole world

Seems to me like the United States is attempting to run everyone's business except their own. I am eliminating bin Laden and Saddam & sons' brutal control. Looks like they (USA) has about wrecked everything over there except for them. Bush hasn't even finished those wars yet, now he is considering overthrowing another government (Liberia). I wonder who will be next.

I don't think there is any question that the torture and brutality to the population in those countries by their leaders, but I wonder if it is President Bush's obligation to level every country over there.

I believe bin Laden should be caught and caught and cut up in little pieces, then fed to the dogs. Saddam & sons probably need to be treated likewise. But then, don't we all think that some of the other countries over there take a more positive role in policing the world?

I haven't heard any mention of very many of our supposed allies that are losing soldiers to the ultimate price. We hear of American military people almost daily that are losing their lives. I am somehow or another beginning to wonder if losing that many American lives really that necessary?

I'm not too much of a fanatic on "one world government," but then don't we sort of wonder if today's wartime might just be another step in that direction?

Of course I am in full support of our troops and veterans of past wars, but like the Vietnam War, I'm not sure what the purpose really is.

There is no question that our military is serving our country, and God bless them for it. I'm not liking the idea of losing five or six of our men a week to the cause of who knows for sure what.

(More Letters on Page 6)

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI
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HOW THE LORD TOOK CARE OF ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS...
WHEN THE ISRAELITES UNDER MOSES' GUIDANCE ESCAPED FROM EGYPT INTO THE WILDERNESS IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THE PEOPLE BEGAN TO HAVE THEIR DOUBTS AND MISGIVINGS. AS THEIR MEAGER FOOD SUPPLIES PETERED OUT THEY BEGAN TO PAIN A DISMAL PICTURE OF THEIR FUTURE...

...THEY RANT AND RAVE BEFORE MOSES AND HIS BROTHER, AARON, FILLING THE AIR WITH THEIR BITTER RECRIMINATIONS—MOSES HAS LED THEM HERE TO STARVE TO DEATH!

...BUT THE LORD SPEAKS TO MOSES: "I HAVE HEARD THE MURMURINGS OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND I SHALL GIVE THEM FLESH TO EAT IN THE EVENING, AND IN THE MORNING THEY SHALL HAVE BREAD!"

JOHN LEHTI

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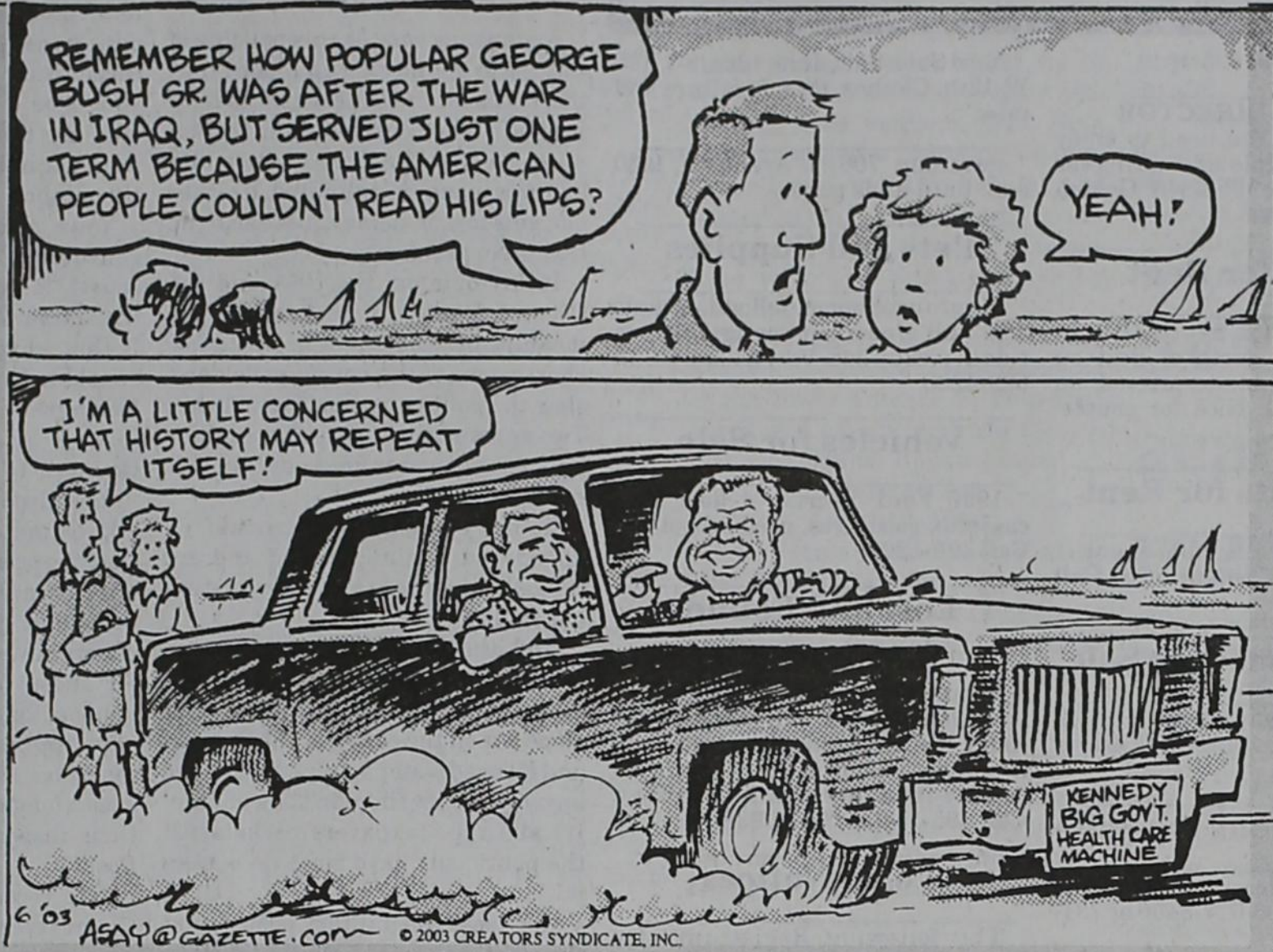
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Affirmative action, negative reaction

by Bill O'Reilly

America still has big trouble figuring out how to deal with racial issues. For a country that prides itself on "diversity," we continue to be clueless and even afraid to deal with race in a fair and constitutional way.

If you believe in what America stands for, then you must accept the fact that all U.S. citizens should be provided an equal opportunity to pursue happiness.

That means that no one citizen can be put above another on the basis of WHO that person is. We all know that theory is not always practiced, but it should be mandated by the federal law.

Therefore, no race-based preferences should be permitted in the USA. And that line of thinking mirrors the intent of the Constitution "to promote the general welfare." Notice the word "general." That means the welfare of all citizens.

So giving a black person points on a college admission application simply because of skin color is decidedly unconstitutional and unfair to boot. Do Michael Jordan's kids need those points?

However, there is another way to give disadvantaged Americans of all colors some help in improving their lives. And that is economic-based affirmative action. The plan is very simple, household income can and should be a consideration in any scholastic competition because there is no question that poor Americans have fewer resources than affluent Americans.

So if a student from a poor family achieves academic success in high school, surely that effort should be taken into consideration by colleges that want to recruit quality student bodies.

Economic affirmative action would immediately help African-Americans without the racial polarization that comes from color preferences. The latest census bureau statistics put the black poverty rate at 23 percent, as opposed to the Hispanic rate of 21 percent and 10 percent for whites. Therefore, poor minority students who achieve would automatically be in the forefront of economic affirmative action, and so would everybody else who's poor. No race could scream exclusion.

Clear thinking Americans know we are all in this together. The U.S. military is not a race-based organization. Those who are fighting for our country all live and die under the same flag. There are no racial quotas in the foxhole. Military training also emphasizes teamwork, which means helping members of the team who may be deficient in a certain area. So let's take a lesson from the armed forces.

All Americans should be looking out for their countrymen who are born into difficult circumstances. Anything society and the government can do to help those willing to help themselves is a noble enterprise.

But favoritism based on skin color or religion or family connections or any other personal characteristic was never part of the Constitutional mandate. The Founders saw too much of that in England and France, where the aristocracy took their privileges and the peasants got what was left over. The oppression of favoritism was rejected by the Framers, who knew it would lead to strife and violence.

Today in America, racial polarization is big business. People can achieve power and money by fostering entitlement thinking and hawking group victimization. Liberal guilt and conservative insensitivity both contribute to bitterness and unfair social policy. If racial harmony is ever to be achieved in this country, skin color judgments have to stop and the charlatans who push racial politics must be scorned.

The Al Qaeda killers don't care what color or religion or social class an American is. They just want to kill us. The more divided we are as a nation, the more opportunity our enemies have. Poor Americans deserve points for overcoming obstacles. I'm happy to award those points. And I don't care what color you are.

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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Destroying black youth

by Walter E. Williams



In last week's U.S. Supreme Court's affirmative action decision, Justice Clarence Thomas' dissent included a quotation from an 1865 speech by abolitionist Frederick Douglass. "What I ask for the Negro," Douglass said, "is not benevolence, not pity, not sympathy, but simply justice. ... All I ask is, give him a chance to stand on his own legs! Let him alone! ... Your interference is doing him positive injury."

Forget how the majority used the phrase "compelling state interest" to trump the 14th Amendment's requirement of equal treatment under the law and give continued sanction to racial discrimination. Let's examine some practical matters ignored in the pro-affirmative action celebration of the court's decision.

According to recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reports, the average black high school senior had math skills on par with those of the typical ninth-grade white student. The average 17-year-old black student could read only as well as the average 12-year-old white. Twelfth-grade black students were doing science problems at the level of sixth-grade white students and writing about as well as whites in the eighth grade.

As of 1998, only 18 percent of black students were rated proficient or advanced in reading, as compared to 47 percent for white students, which itself is nothing to write home about. In Michigan, the source of the controversy leading up to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision, just 2 percent of black eighth-graders score proficient in reading, compared to 34 percent of whites — again, nothing to write home about. In addition to grossly fraudulent education, there's unthinkable school violence at many of the schools that black students attend. According to a Department of Education report, "School Crime Patterns" (August 2002), "High schools with the highest levels of violence tended to be located in urban areas and have a high percentage of minority students (black and Hispanic), compared to high schools that reported no crime to the police." The bottom line is given the day-to-day destruction of education for black students at the primary and secondary levels of schooling, most will never be able to compete

academically. The fact that the affirmative action crowd demands discriminatory admission practices for post-graduate education such as in law and medical schools confirms something else. Black performance on admittance exams, such as the LSAT, MCAT and GRE, is stark testament that four years of undergraduate education cannot erase the damage of 12 years of fraudulent primary and secondary education.

In the name of diversity, college administrators and their campus sycophants support racially discriminatory admissions practices. They argue that racial diversity enriches the education experiences of all college students, for which there's absolutely no evidence whatsoever. However, since most college students and administrators are white, it might simply mean that racial diversity gives them a greater sense of superiority having a few campus mascots around, who can't hold their own, beholden to them.

Then there's the false-face of diversity, as Justice Antonin Scalia pointed out in his dissent. Academics support campus "tribalism and racial segregation" with "minority-only student organizations, separate minority housing opportunities, separate minority student centers, even separate minority-only graduation ceremonies."

Black politicians and civil rights organizations' loyalty to the education establishment means academic doom to black youngsters. Washington, D.C., politics and its schools, among the worse in the nation, are a case in point. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, along with most members of the Congressional Black Caucus, use private schools to educate their children. But, when D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams broke ranks with most black elected-officials and endorsed recently proposed education vouchers, Norton blasted him as being "a sell-out."

Whom do you think Frederick Douglass would deem the sell-out: those who seek an alternative to rotten schools that cost taxpayers \$13,000 a year per student or those who support the status quo?

To find out more about Walter Williams, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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What's happened to America?

by Sheldon Richman

Who says the government schools and the welfare state don't work? They work perfectly. They were designed to put the American people into a political coma, and that's what they've done.

The objective would never be framed that way. The politicians would say that the purpose was to create unity, patriotism, and gratitude toward those who "protect our freedom," that is, the government. But in fact, the purpose was to induce a political coma, and it's done so.

How else to explain that few people give a hoot that we were obviously lied into war by the president of the United States, the vice president, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense, and others, without a proper congressional declaration, and led to believe that Saddam Hussein was both willing and able to launch so-called weapons of mass destruction against us on 45 minutes' notice?

How else to explain that hardly anyone notices that with respect to criminal suspects the Constitution has been all but consigned to the paper shredder, with American citizens and others being held indefinitely without charge and without the right to go before a judge to challenge such treatment?

How else to explain that it's a matter of indifference to most people that the government has assumed the authority to secretly search homes and monitor telephone calls and email almost without restriction — and that this is still not enough power for Attorney General John Ashcroft?

How else to explain that questioning the good faith of the president is considered so beyond the pale that one is led to conclude that the Fuehrer Principle is being taught in the schools?

Finally, how else to explain that while the American people are making a bestseller out of a book by a conservative hit-woman who labels her political opponents traitors, they do not see that the real threat to freedom are those who think "national security" requires a blank check for the government.

Americans have been schooled into compliance and complacency. The president says Iraq could attack us at any time — and they believe it. The president hints that Iraq was connected to 9/11 — and they repeat it to pollsters. The president repeats the phrase "weapons of mass destruction" enough times — and they conclude that not only have such weapons been found, but Saddam Hussein even used them against U.S. forces. Who are you going to believe, the president or your eyes? Evidence? Who needs evidence? The president said so. Or kind of said it. Or implied it. Whatever. Can we celebrate the Fourth of July now?

How bizarre that for most people, sticking American flags on the car and front lawn is the highest sign of love for America, and questioning

the president's honor and veracity is the surest sign of treachery. After months of fruitless WMD searches, the politically comatose are satisfied with their leaders' and the media parrots' inane responses: "We'll find them eventually." "We know Saddam Hussein had them in 1988." Or: "Hussein was the real weapon mass destruction. Besides, we liberated the Iraqi people, didn't we?"

We have reached the dead end that many warned of for decades. Years of incessant propaganda have led to this sorry state. The people have let themselves be reduced from citizens to subjects. Independent thought, rigorous questioning, and rational skepticism — the marks of free people — now indicate a lack of patriotism, even "treason." In their place we find obeisance, obedience, and fear. The Supreme Leader says "boo" (or "terrorism" or "WMD"), and people cower and cry, "Protect us. We'll do anything you say. Take suspects away in the night. Hold them forever. Do anything. Just protect us."

The question that takes the cake is, "Don't you support the troops?" The noncomatose would know that to oppose sending Americans into unnecessary war is support. But that question is only supposed to change the subject. It's the kind of thing the politically comatose say when threatened by the reality of their abdication of responsibility.

The truth isn't pretty these days. But there it is. Look for yourself. If you can feel proud about it, I don't understand you.

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

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We would especially like to thank Golden Plains Care Center, Lubbock Primitive Baptist Church, First Baptist Church and a host of other friends who helped us through this difficult time.

There is nothing like living in a

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We love you all. Naomi Matsler and family Juanelle Etheredge and family Joy and Don Greer and family David and Karen Nichols and family Crystal and Jeff Hansen and family

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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.

(Continued from Page 4)

And money wise, is this policing of the world gonna run up a debt that the taxpayers will never be able to pay off? The Bush administration must be like the City of Post and believes money is unlimited. If either one gets low on money, just raise the taxes. No problem.

In my opinion, the USA and the City of Post will both know the meaning of bankruptcy in only a few short years of the voting polls don't slow the politicians down a little bit. Two or three more wars and another half a dozen water lines oughta just do us in.

In my opinion, Bush should go ahead and annihilate Iraq and get the hell outa there and stop wasting our military people.

And the city might as well lay water lines to all four corners of the county. I'm considering putting a ski slope out on the caprock somewhere, and I'll need water for my snowmaker anyway. Money shouldn't be a holdup. It's all in the taxpayers' pockets. All the politicians have gotta do is take it.

God bless the military people, and the politicians, God please tie their hands and tape their mouths shut on tax waste.

O.L. (Ferg) Ferguson

Judge Dalby and the Garza County Commissioners:

You missed a golden opportunity with your letter of 7/3/03 to enlighten me (and the rest of the taxpayers) with corrected information. You stated that the information in my letter of 6/22/03 was incorrect and that you "would have provided me any information I desired." Just what was incorrect? Diversion is a favorite tactic used to cloud the issues.

If you were trying to correct my information with the next portion of your answer, you only managed to confuse most of us. You stated, "As to not allowing the taxpayers to vote on the issue of the juvenile center and prison, we are not the bondholders of these facilities. We only lease the two facilities from the Garza County Facilities Corp."

Ofcourse the bondholders couldn't call a bond election. That would have to come from the commissioners'

court. Apparently the court chose not to involve taxpayers in the decision, opting instead to create a "dummy" corporation to float the bonds. And you raise a very important point - who are the bondholders, and why are their names being withheld from the public?

Your next statement is really confusing! YOU (commissioners court) "lease the two facilities from the Garza County Facilities Corp.?" Is that why Judge Dalby has such a "workload in his office?" Is the county leasing the facilities, or are they being leased by GCFC (a.k.a. Garza County?) to MTC and Cornerstone?

You also stated that "we received approximately \$400,000 in revenue from the prison, and last year received approximately \$52,000 from the detention center. This more than offsets any expense the county incurs for these facilities. As far as the support for the city, the prison alone pays approximately \$360,000 a year for water and sewer. We think that goes a long way on them shouldering their responsibilities to the City of Post."

"We receive?" Is "we" the Garza County treasurer? If so, does this not concretely support the notion that the JDC and prison are, in reality, owned by the county, since the county directly receives the benefit of payments from the lease of the facilities? The issue is not whether or not the facilities pay the expenses, but rather whether or not the facilities are, in truth, owned by the county. So where does this place the liability of the bonds if not on the county?

The next part of your letter lauds the community involvement of MTC. That is all very nice, but it is irrelevant to the questions being asked about the county.

Then you addressed the issue of the county purchasing the bonds of the JDC and stated that "we would have to buy those bonds at a low amount, if we even considered it, but if you had read the paper you would see that we had decided not to purchase the bonds and give up our position of no liability, as we have now."

Judge Dalby and the commissioners need to take their own advice and read the Post Dispatch. My letter to the editor and Judge

(Continued on Page 8)

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The City of Lubbock, Texas invites qualified individuals to apply for the position of PT Maintenance Worker - Lake Alan Henry. Lubbock is a strong community with a distinguished history, heritage and culture. The "Hub of the Plains" is the 11th largest city in Texas and the largest city on the South Plains with a population over 200,000. Information about the City of Lubbock along with Lubbock links can be found at <http://www.ci.lubbock.tx.us>

DUTIES: Maintains landscaped and unlandscaped areas at the Lake Alan Henry project area, including the Sam Wahl Recreational Area, the Wildlife Mitigation Area, and the John Montford Dam facility area.

QUALIFICATIONS: Any combination of education and experience equivalent to completion of a high school diploma with an additional one year experience in general maintenance work, including operation of light and heavy equipment. Possession of a Texas Operator's License. Knowledge of methods used in operating heavy construction-type equipment. Knowledge of methods used to maintain and repair equipment, vehicles, and reservoir facilities. Knowledge of basic techniques of welding. Ability to perform a wide variety of maintenance and repair to equipment and facilities. Ability to work independently of immediate supervision on weekends. Ability to read, understand, and implement department policies. Performs job duties in a way that promotes a positive image of the City organization and the department; demonstrates effective interpersonal skills and delivers exemplary customer service.

REPORTS TO: Lake Alan Henry Water Reservoir

SALARY RANGE: TR04 \$9.13 Hourly

BENEFITS: n/a

CLOSING DATE: July 18, 2003

TO APPLY: Send application to Human Resources, City of Lubbock, P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock, Texas 79457. All applications must be received in the Human Resources Office located at 1625 13th Street, Room 104 by 5:00 p.m. on the closing date. Resume must be accompanied by an application. The City of Lubbock is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City of Lubbock is under the Texas Public Information Act and information from your resume/application may be subject to release to the public.

The applicant(s) selected for this position must pass a felony conviction criminal history check at time of hire.

Yesteryears

10 Years Ago
June 30, 1993

An extensive ground and air search of Garza County by volunteer from the Civil Air Patrol has failed to turn up any clues to the whereabouts of Edna Blodgett. The 76 year old Post woman was last seen on June 2 and was officially listed as a missing person on June 14.

Several members of the Caprock High Rollers tumbling school are headed to San Diego, CA. and national competition. Meagan Mills, Barrett Scrivner, Shay Baldrige, Aimee Martin and Dodie Morris along with coach Amy Thuett will leave on July 6.

Army Cadet Brook W. Capps has been commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation and awarded a bachelor of science degree from the U. W. Military Academy, West Point, NY. He is the son of Paul Capps of Ingram and Edith Capps of Post.

Approximately 50 descendants of the McCasland family enjoyed a reunion at the Post Community Center. Nita and Bobby Terry of Post were the local hosts for the reunion.

Post's own Giles McCrary received a person "thank you" from board Chairman Gloria Galey from the Parenting Cottage in Lubbock for his contributions to the non-profit children's home.

20 Years Ago
July 6, 1983

Bunny Miller was named Babe Ruth Baseball Queen during awards ceremonies held last week. First runnerup was Kim Smith and second runnerup Heidi Ehret.

The spring 1983 Dean's Honor Roll at Wayland Baptist University includes one student from Post. Named to the list was Karla Evonne Josey, who posted a 4.00 grade average.

The weather was warm, the wind breezy and people found plenty of shade at the City-County Park Monday to enjoy a full day of old fashioned Fourth of July fun in Post.

Almost 780 people were served barbequed brisket and all the trimmings as an afternoon highlight.

Brian Overton, centerfielder for the Braves suffered a broken leg in the game played Tuesday. The accident occurred while Brian was sliding into third base. Brian was transferred to Lubbock's Methodist Hospital.

Shelly Haney, Josephine Basquez, and Labeth Jones, Brownie members of Troop 181 attended a brownie overnight camp at Camp Rio Blanco near Crosbyton recently.

30 Years Ago
July 5, 1973

The Slaton Savings and Loan Association held ground-breaking ceremonies here Tuesday for its first branch office. A brick ranch-style office building, with a front porch, fireplace, and drive-in window, will be built on the 80-foot lot in the 100 block north Broadway where Levi's Restaurant formerly was located.

The new city-county youth center, with David Feaster as the youth director, will open its doors on July 12.

Jimmie Wesley Swofford, Floydada High School band director for five years, will be Post's new high school band director, succeeding Herb Germer.

Postex Super Doffer Chester Warren registered his best doffing time ever during the Burlington Company finals, but failed to win the corporate championship. Warren lost to Walter Capps of Asheville, N. C., in the finals by 2.39 minutes.

Post's racquet-wielding rancher, Bob Macy, won the Men's 35 singles division in Sunday's finals of the annual Highway 80 Lubbock Open Tennis Tournament.

40 Years Ago
July 4, 1963

R. G. (Wilke) Wilkerson, who loves to collect old things, has one of the most unique store windows anywhere at Wilke's Supplies in the 200 block on East Main street. It's a museum of the former Garza County and Texas way of life.

Parents of all Dodger baseball players honored the team with a picnic on Thursday. Players present were: Tommy Greenwood, David Pierce, Jimmy Poer, Dennis Dodson, Bill Alexander, Larry Holland, Richard Buerger, Neff Walker, Larry Kirby, Kyle Josey, Arthur Whitley, Mike McCullough, Terry Cross and Mackey Sappington.

Mr. and Mrs. John Redman and three children are vacationing in Nowato, Okla., where they are visiting their mothers, Mrs. Vina Redman and Mrs. Dorothy Herring.

The Rev. Edgar Graham Jr., new pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, will begin his new ministry here with the Sunday morning worship service.

"West Side Story" winner of 10 Academy Awards, will begin showing at the Tower Theatre on Thursday, July 4 with a 2 p.m. matinee, theatre manager Johnny Hopkins said.

50 Years Ago
July 2, 1953

With Garza named as one of the 152 Texas counties President Eisenhower has declared eligible for government assistance to farmers and ranchers, machinery was set in motion here Wednesday afternoon for operating the drouth relief program.

The first relief will be in the form of a carload of cottonseed pellets to be used as livestock feed. Also, 2,000 bushels of corn and 200 tons of cottonseed cake.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley L. Butler are parents of a daughter born in Garza Memorial Hospital. She has been named Rita Lynn. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Butler and O. R. Cearley are the grandparents.

Dr. John R. Rountree and family will move to Post July 6 from Dallas, where he has interned at Parkland Hospital. His application for a position as staff member at Garza Memorial Hospital is to be acted upon by the hospital board on July 7.

Members of Girl Scout Troop Four returned home Sunday after spending a week at Las Leonitas Camp at Buffalo Lake. Girls attending were Delores Dye, Kay Jones, Sherry Custer, Billye Lou Hill, Anita Henderson, Barbara Sue Shytle, Patsy Gibson and Katy Whitaker.

A 258 pound meteorite, found in 1937 near Fluvanna, is being exhibited in the Science Building of Texas Christian University, Fort Worth.

Sheriff reports four arrests

Four arrests were recorded in the Garza County Jail log during the past week, according to information supplied by the sheriff's department.

A 19-year-old was arrested for possession of marijuana/under two ounces and driving while license invalid.

A 42-year-old was picked up for driving while intoxicated/first offense, while a 59-year-old also was arrested for DWI.

A 39-year-old was jailed on a Hockley County warrant.

SPC police academy registration

Pre-registration deadline is Aug. 3 for the next Basic Peace Officer Evening Academy at South Plains College in Levelland.

The 576-hour academy will meet Sept. 2 through Aug. 3, 2004. Classes will meet 5-10:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday in the SPC Law Enforcement Building, Room 115.

A fingerprint and criminal history background check is required through the Texas Department of Public Safety and takes a week to 10 days to process, said Larry Nichols, chairperson of the Professional Services and Energy Department and academy coordinator.

The course is designed to meet requirements set by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education for persons wishing to take the state's peace officer licensing exam. The course will include basic topics such as all Texas laws and procedural requirements, use of force, human relations, professionalism and ethics, fitness and wellness, strategies of defense, mechanics of arrest, criminal investigation and many others.

A total of 24 hours of college credit will be awarded on completion of the academy.

The academy is open to persons 21 years of age or older who want to become Texas peace officers. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, high school graduates or possess the GED certificate with 12 hours of accredited college or university credit.

Applicants cannot have a Class B or higher conviction in the last 10 years. A non-refundable \$25 application fee is required for the background check. Applicants must take an SPC police academy entrance exam and apply separately to the college.

Academy packets are available in the Law Enforcement Building, Room 102. The academy will be offered in four sessions.

For more information, contact the SPC Law Enforcement Office at 806-894-9611, ext. 2291.

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ACROSS

- home of TX Sports Hall of Fame
- former TX Ranger catcher Rodriguez
- TXism: "slim and _____" (unlikely)
- Corpus Christi AM
- "Gone to Texas" meant "on the _____"
- TXism: "missed it _____ country mile"
- TXism: "_____ graze" (eat)
- TX Kenny Rogers group: "The First _____"
- TXism: "honest as the day _____"
- in Falls Co. on 77
- this James was a notable president of Trinity Univer.
- medical facility
- San _____ TX
- TXism: "I _____ that like a duck needs an umbrella"
- Panola Co. named after this Cherokee word for "cotton"
- Dr. Pepper producer in China self-proclaimed "guardian of liberty" org. (abbr.)
- San Antonio school: "Palo _____"
- TXism: "twisters" _____ "hippo" or "aero" ending
- pecan vendor (2 wds.)
- tavern disturbance (2 wds.)
- TXism: "if I was _____ better I couldn't stand it"
- TX H. L. Hunt produced _____ vera cosmetics
- TXism: "rules the _____"
- toward the rear of a boat
- apple center
- Gulf pleasure cruiser
- "bear" so. of the border
- Comanche is from _____
- TXism: "_____ word for 'enemy'"
- TXism: "caught _____ handed"

DOWN

- Kermit is its seat
- guacamole fruit
- perfect shootist? (2 wds.)
- Vega h.s. class
- this Falk was a noted UT baseball coach ('40-'67)
- TXism: "gave _____ own medicine" (retaliated)
- TXism: "a day late _____ a dollar short"
- TX Kenny Rogers _____ I Can Make it on My Own"
- TXism: "comfortable _____"
- TXism: "talked a _____ streak"
- James F. Dobie was an expert on TX folk _____
- OK town
- TXns like it iced
- giant appliance maker
- TX singer Charley (init.)
- Yo _____ Digo Creek
- always check _____ park office before occupying a site in a TX park
- Montague Co. on hwy. 82
- TX feuds book: "I'll Die Before _____"
- this Earl was UT Heisman winner & Oiler great RB (init.)
- TXism: "don't _____ off half cocked"
- Rangers leg. (abbr.)
- citrus drink
- "Whatever _____ wants _____"
- George Washington wasn't a TXn cause he couldn't _____ lie
- Astro goof
- TXism: "loose as a _____"
- send out
- TXism: "old _____ dirt"
- Paso, TX
- 47 sample again
- 48 foot part
- Tech or UT female

4th of July fun in Post!



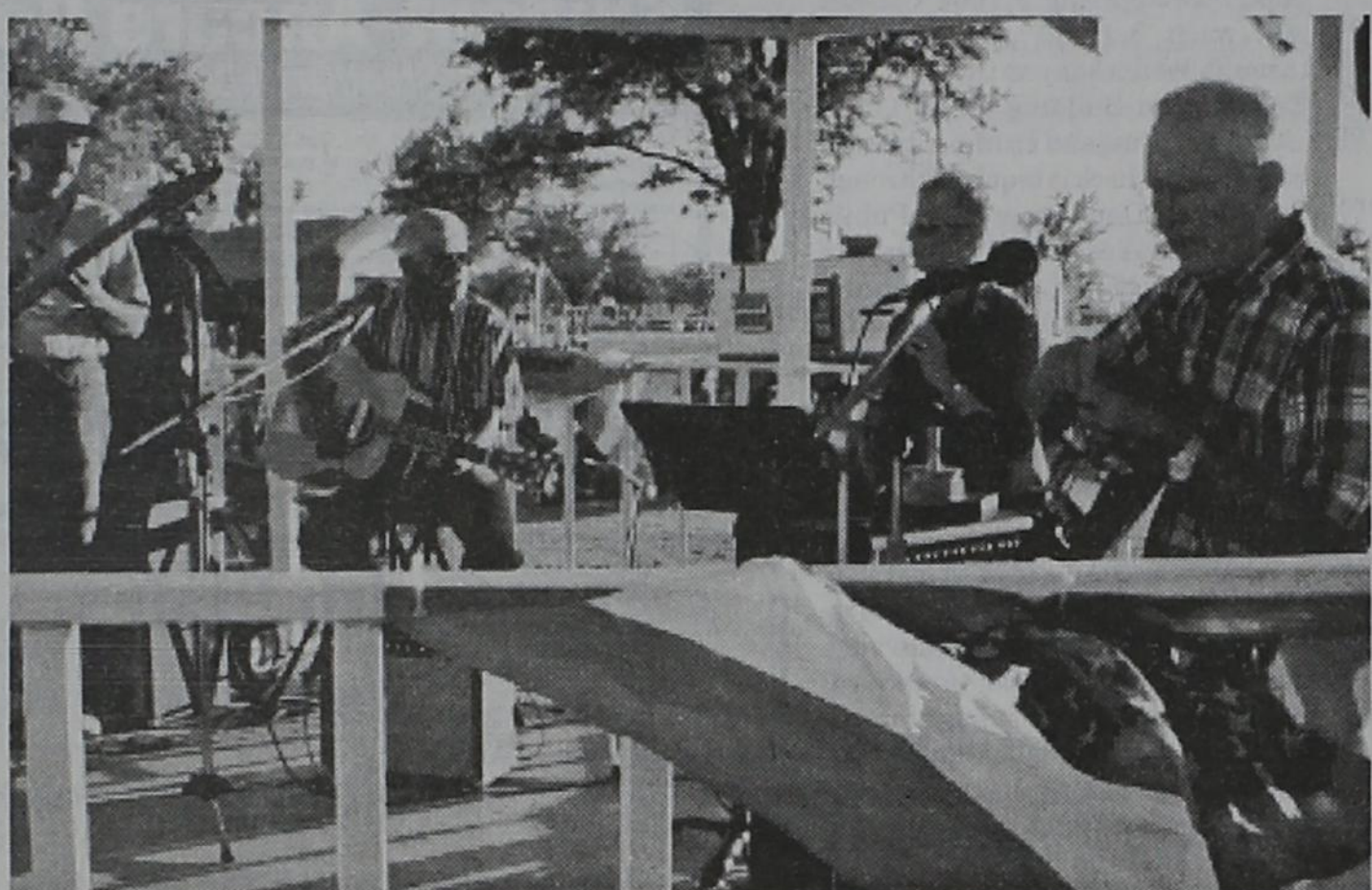
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Home for a visit ... Billy Crawford and his fiancée Amber Barnes. Billy, a former PHS football star, suits up for the Baylor Bears again this year, playing as a tight end.



Kiddie train engineer knows how to keep 'em happy!



Filling the air with great music at Old Mill Trade Days

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from Page 6)

Dalby's announcement that the commissioners' court was not going to purchase the JDC bonds was printed in the same issue of the Post Dispatch. So I couldn't have read it in the paper.

Not buying the bonds was a good decision, but why was it even considered by the county? Is there some unstated liability at issue?

So now for the Lake Alan Henry issue, you stated that Lubbock reimburses us \$111,000 for law enforcement and furnishes seven officers during peak weekends when we have large crowds. You stated that "the county is responsible for the citizens in all of the county for fire and protection" and questioned if I was implying that the county should not serve "the people of Justiceburg and the new housing developments around the lake."

As a former law enforcement officer, I know that the law enforcement in Garza County is primarily the duty and responsibility of the county sheriff, not the commissioners' court. As far as can be determined, the sheriff has not requested additional forces or expenditures due to traffic at Lake Alan Henry. The arrangement with Lubbock was at the personal direction of the county judge (according to public records of meetings regarding agreements with the City of Lubbock) using the constable and a huge increase in constable deputies, expenses and obligations as leverage against the sheriff - in effect, bypassing the authority of the sheriff. The city of Lubbock is responsible for enforcing its ordinances inside

the boundaries of the property owned by the City of Lubbock around Lake Alan Henry just as it is in the city limits of Lubbock. It is not the responsibility of Garza County to enforce city codes and ordinances inside the borders of Lubbock property at Lake Alan Henry. Neither is it the responsibility of Garza County to provide fire and emergency response crews inside the property owned by the City of Lubbock.

Yes, the people of Justiceburg and the new housing developments around the lake will pay taxes just like the rest of us do and will expect and demand the same services. Justiceburg and the lake area should be treated no different than any other unincorporated community in Garza County, such as Southland, Graham Chapel, Ragtown, etc. There have been more people living in Southland for more years than Justiceburg and the Lake Alan Henry area! There is more justification for additional services in Southland! Our EMS and volunteer firemen have a long and proud history of serving all the people of this county very effectively from their present facilities. It is improper for county officials to place more emphasis on Justiceburg than Southland or any other community in this county.

As for the emergency services at the lake, you stated that "this was an architect's plan, and we have not made a commitment to build anything. We did receive a gift of four acres to build a facility on, if we need it. We are also working with Lubbock on a facility they are building at the lake, where they want to house fire and emergency

personnel and equipment." So, who paid the architect? No Garza County tax funds should be spent on any facility in direct support of Lake Alan Henry - that is Lubbock's responsibility! Housing developers in the area must do as others do and build their own infrastructure to support the development. They should not expect Garza County taxpayers to foot the bill for emergency services facilities dedicated to the lake area which are expensive to build and even more expensive to maintain (emergency personnel and upkeep/replacement of equipment).

In conclusion, you stated that you "feel fiscally responsible for fulfilling the needs of the people in the county with the resources we have, along with all of our obligations to the public. The taxpayers also have an equal fiscal responsibility to hold every elected official accountable for every dime that is spent, including extravagant, unnecessary and wasteful projects in support of private development ventures."

In can only assume that the letter I received (an unsigned copy) and which was attributed to the Garza County Commissioners' Court met with approval of County Judge Giles W. Dalby and commissioners Lee Norman, Mason McClelland, Mike Sanchez and John Valdez. If that is true, then the voters will want to take into consideration the impact of the letter when election time rolls around.

Charles J. Propst
Dear Mr. Propst:

In answer to your questions concerning the Garza County Public Facility Corp.: (The Post Dispatch 7/03/03).

Yes, it has a board of directors who meet on call. The president is Bob Macy, the vice president is Victor Ashley and secretary is Janie Lopez, with Drew Kirkpatrick and Sherry Pollard as board members.

The meetings of the Garza County Public Facility Corp. are posted and open to the public, just like the Commissioners Court or the City of Post. The Garza County Public Facility Corp. last met approximately 120 days ago to accept the Cornerstone Management Contract. Minutes for the meeting are in the records of the Commissioners Court in the County Clerk's office. Your brother-in-law, Jerry Hays, can furnish you a copy of the meeting minutes.

Initially, the Garza County Public Facility Corp. did have an office and phone on the first floor of the courthouse. As the facilities were built and running smoothly, the need for a full-time office was no longer needed. The phone was disconnected to save taxpayers money, and the mail was forwarded to the county judge's office to be forwarded to Mr. Macy. My office does help Mr. Macy with correspondence and phone calls.

As to the workload added to my office, I have nothing to do with the day-to-day operations. Management & Training Corp. and Cornerstone Programs see to that requirement. However, my office does have to monitor monthly reports, negotiate contracts with the Bureau of Prisons and Texas Youth Commission. The Bureau of Prisons and Texas Youth Commission also report to me regarding monitoring reviews and revisions. I chair a monthly juvenile board meeting at the detention center. My office must have policy and

procedure books for both facilities, and these books must be updated and current at all times. These are just a few of the many things that are required of my office.

The bonds for the facilities were created under the Public Security Procedures Act, Title 9, Chapter 1201 of the Government Code, formally Article 717 VATCS. When these bonds are paid, Garza County will own the facility. Garza County is the lessee, and therefore is required to enter a

contract with an operator to operate the facilities. Each facility has a book that outlines every procedure and document for the creation of these facilities. These documents are on file in the county clerk's office for you to review, if you wish. If you do review these documents, you will find that Garza County or the taxpayers have no liability issue.

Giles W. Dalby Garza County judge

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