

Post Notes

Public Library extends hours

The Post Public Library has extended its hours with the following schedule: Monday through Friday, 6 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon and 2 to 6 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. These extended hours are effective until Tuesday, November 25.

Free computer classes

The Post-Garza Community Network is offering free computer classes, focusing on Level 1 Microsoft Excel. This is not a beginner course, but will be a little above basic with a focus on formulas. Classes are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., December 11, 16 and 18 at the PHS Media Center. To register or for more information, call Shellee at Post ISD (495-3343) or e-mail at sdodom@post.k12.tx.us.

A brighter Christmas for Main Street

The Post Commerce & Tourism Bureau is encouraging Main Street property owners and merchants to assist with the new Christmas lighting plans. The plan calls for using clear light bulbs for decorating buildings. Local outlets have clear light bulbs in stock and Mad Dads Inc. will offer its services for hanging the lights on buildings. Call Rodney Tidwell at 495-1244 or 620-0960. The Post Lighted Christmas Parade is set for Saturday, December 6. To enter a float, call the PCTB office at 495-3461. Cash prizes will be awarded to the best floats.

Church offers cornbread & beans plates

The Calvary Baptist Church, 6th and Avenue H, is offering Bean and Cornbread Fundraiser at \$5 per plate to assist in the repairs of the basement and foundation at the church. The bean and cornbread meal will be Wednesday, December 3 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the church. Call 495-2342 or 495-3342 for delivery orders. The church is also inviting the community to visit and view the new roof and sanctuary.

Annual Christmas Sing December 10

The First United Methodist Church is inviting fellow congregations to join in the annual Community Christmas Sing, set for 7 p.m., Wednesday, December 10. Each church choir, group or soloist is invited to sing one or two selections. Contact Patty Kirkpatrick at 495-2868 or the Methodist Church office at 495-2942 no later than Monday, December 8. There is a new sound system in the sanctuary and someone will be at the church December 10 to those who wish to practice, please contact the church in advance to schedule a practice time.

"Miracle on 34th Street" opens Dec. 5

The Garza Theatre production of "Miracle on 34th Street" opens Friday, December 5 for seven performances, continuing December 6, 7, 12, 13, 19 and 20. The play is directed by Laura Bryan and features an all star cast including Stan Tucker, Mitchell Britton, Marissa Merritt and Taylor Garland. Call the box office at 495-4005 for reservations.

Merry Christmas edition Dec. 23

The Post Dispatch will publish its annual "Merry Christmas" edition on Thursday, December 23, with a Friday, December 12 deadline for Santa Letters and Friday, December 19 for "Merry Christmas" advertisements.

Dalby Unit sponsors Angel Tree

Employees at the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility are once again sponsoring the Angel Tree to provide gifts and clothing for children who otherwise might not have gifts this Christmas. The facility is joined this year by the Post Lions Club in the effort. This is the fourth year employees at the Dalby unit have provided this outreach program for children. Those interested in contributing should contact Rev. Lloyd Stice at the First United Methodist Church (495-2942) or Rev. Ron Miner at the Church of the Nazarene (495-3044) or by mail to Joe Duran, P.O. Box 644, Post, Texas 79356. Gifts will be distributed December 19.

Trailblazers set Dec. 13 bake sale

The Garza County Trailblazers will hold a fund-raising bake sale at United Supermarket Saturday, December 13 beginning at 9 a.m.

Lions Club seeks Toys for Tots help

The Post Lions Club is once again asking for monetary and new toy donations for the annual "Toys for Tots" campaign. The program provides gifts for needy children for Christmas. To donate call 777-4783 or 495-5383.

Free Thanksgiving meal

The First Baptist Church is offering a free Thanksgiving meal at the school cafeteria on November 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Carry-outs are available only by reservation to widows, widowers and people with disabilities who are unable to attend. Call the church office at 495-3554.

Dalby unit plans blood drive

The Dalby Correctional Facility will host a blood drive Friday, Dec. 5, from noon to 6 p.m. in the bloodmobile. To donate, go to the bloodmobile on the drive date or contact Ruby Williams at 495-2175 for an appointment. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. Blood supplies are typically low during the holidays, and in recent weeks surgeries and blood treatments have been postponed or cancelled due to shortages. O- and O+ blood types are in great demand.

City crews work around the clock to repair water main

At 4 p.m. last Saturday, the 12-inch city water line that feeds Post's water distribution system from the tanks developed a major leak near 10th Street and Osage. It soon became a large problem, as the citizens of Post were without running water.

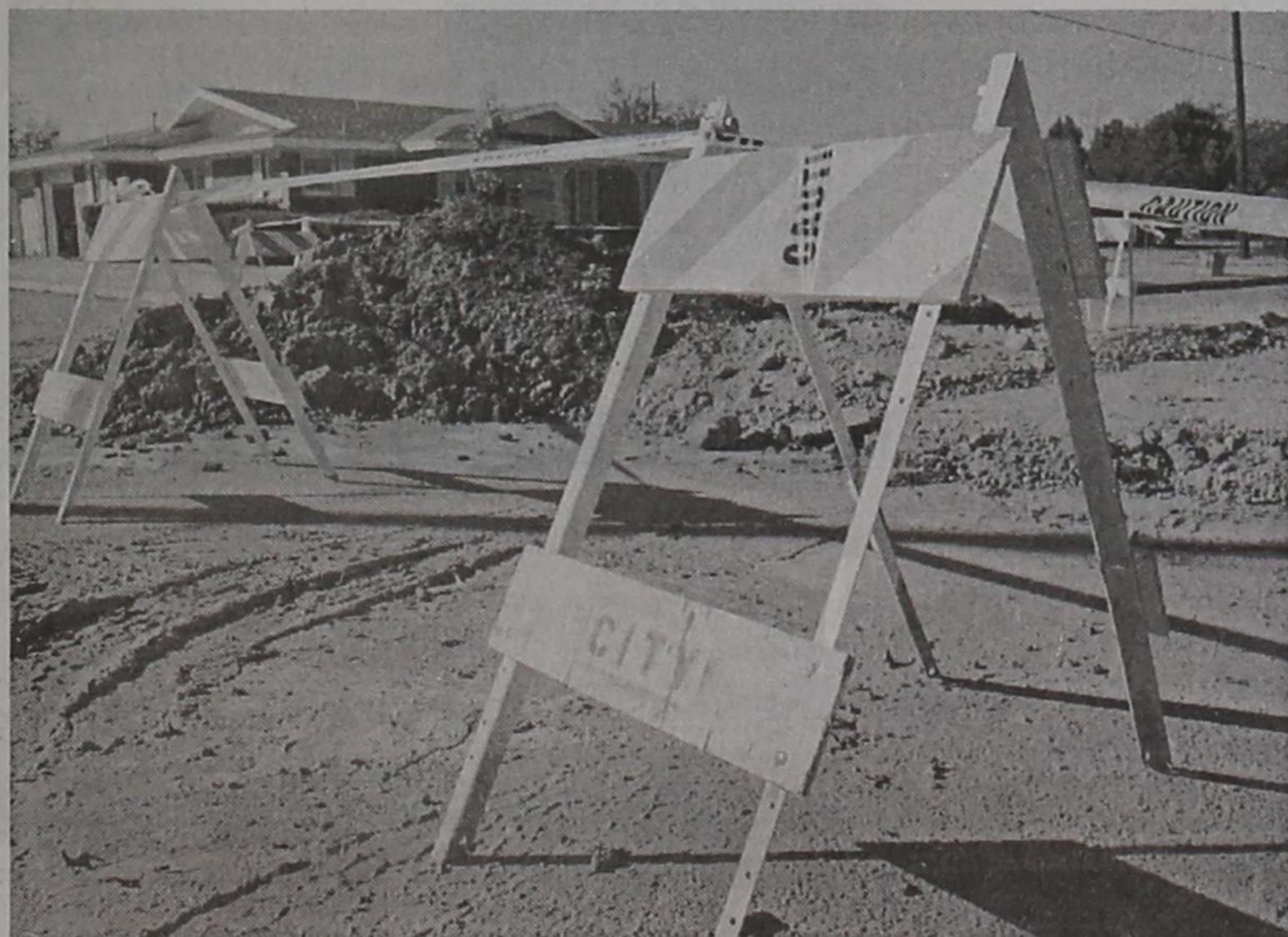
City employees Paul Perez, Johnny Torres, Larry Haynes, Frank Flores, Owen Gilbert and Delbert Rudd quickly responded to the situation.

They worked the remainder of Saturday afternoon and all of Saturday night until 8 a.m. Sunday, repairing the problem.

These gentlemen and other city employees have a long history of working well in tight situations and, in my opinion, are the unsung heroes of the community. They, and other city employees, rarely get much credit for their efforts to keep Post a good place to live and work.

Please, the next time you see any of these folks, tell them how much you appreciate the job they and others are doing.

Fred Stephens City Manager



These town officials and other employees worked around the clock to repair a 12-inch water main that had a major leak near 10th Street and Osage. The crews were not spared. It was a stark reminder of how important running water is, and how little appreciated until it is not available. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

The Post Dispatch

78th Year Number 26 USPS 439-620 © 2003 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 75¢ Thursday, November 27, 2003

Feb. 7 set for county tax rollback election

by Wes Burnett

An election date of February 7, 2004 has been set by the Garza County Commissioners' Court following validation of the recently submitted tax rollback petition. The resolution validating the petition signatures and setting the election date was presented by Judge Giles W. Dalby at Monday's regular meeting.

Tax Assessor Jeanette Hodges informed the court that her office verified 383 qualified voter signatures on the petition, which was submitted at the November 10 commissioners' court meeting by Fred Howell.

County attorney Les Acker explained that the February 7 date fell within statutory requirements for holding the election at the earliest possible date. Early voting will begin January 21 and continue through February 3 at the clerk's office during regular courthouse hours.

Dalby suggested that the court hold workshop sessions in December to consider the impact on the budget if the rollback election is successful. "We'll just have to cut all the non-essential items," Dalby commented. He also said "it looks like we'll have to trim \$309,000 from the budget."

Dalby emphasized that if the rollback election succeeds, the county would no longer be able to meet its joint agreement obligations with the City of Post. The joint agreement includes funding for the community center, parks, library, law enforcement, and airport.

In other matters, the court

- Denied a public assistance application due to the applicant's stated income not meeting indigent guidelines.

- Approved a resolution for a VOCA Grant Application in support of the Victims' Assistance Program. The \$45,173 grant includes \$7,411 of county funding.

- Approved agreement with Lubbock County Dispute Resolution Center, replacing the current agreement with South Plains Association of Governments, which notified the county it will no longer provide that service.

- Approved purchase of new computer software and equipment and service for the Treasurer's office, estimated at \$8,757 per year for three years.

- Approved a resolution and order confirming the recent election establishing the Lake Alan Henry Water District.

GHD directors button down spending

by Sheri Lewis

The Garza County Health Care District board of directors did a little belt tightening last week during their regular November meeting, passing on an upgrade of the district's phone system and canceling the district's involvement in the posttexas.com Web page.

Board members discussed ongoing problems with the phone system that has served district facilities since 1990. The system loses memory anytime there is a power loss, district administrator Tanya Boucher said, and some of the handsets cut in and out.

The board looked at the prices of several suggested replacement systems, but decided all of the options were "a little too pricey." Instead, it was decided that the phone switch linked to the system is the primary problem. The board authorized Boucher to purchase a new switch at a cost of approximately \$1,200 plus labor.

Directors also reviewed their involvement in the posttexas.com Web page that is managed by the Caprock Cultural Association. Boucher said that although the board feels the site is a valuable tool, they opted to hold off on continued involvement in the project. Participation in the Web page could be re-evaluated at a later date.

In other business, directors:

- Discussed personnel vacation and holiday policies. No action was taken.

- Discussed the indigent health care program. No written hospital district policy regarding the program exists, Boucher said, but the board is interested in establishing one.

- Received the clinic reports for the month ending Oct. 31. Expenditures were \$46,603, although some credit may be coming back to the district. Collections were \$30,307. Total loss for the month was \$16,295 (that amount was \$20,040 in September). Accounts receivable were \$44,000, and Boucher reported that the clinic is staying "pretty current" with collections. A total of 701 visits were recorded in October, compared to 621 in the previous month. The total number of procedures was at 1,234 (1,007 in September). Many of those procedures were for the administration of flu shots.

- Passed on the agenda item calling for a discussion regarding a

medical director allowance and a car allowance for physicians at the clinic.

- Cast votes for candidates for the board of directors of the Garza Central Appraisal District.

- Appointed board member Zoe Kirkpatrick to serve as the district's representative to work with the city, county and school district in determining plans for the sale of properties following foreclosures.

- Determined there will be no paid employee holiday on the days immediately following Thanksgiving and Christmas. Boucher said the clinic is slated to be closed on those days, so local residents will need to contact the on-call physician in the event health care assistance is required.

- Received an update on the FQHC Incubator Program Community Grants application. The district is in the process of reapplying for the next portion of the grant, which could provide as much as \$75,000 in grant monies.

- Received the indigent care report. A total of \$53,353 in bills was paid, \$13,756 of which involved indigents. Boucher described the amount as "very high compared to what we usually see." A total of 16 indigents were served at the beginning of the month, with that number dropping to 15 by the close of October. The district received almost \$15,000 in discounts thanks to payments made at the Medicaid rate.

- Received a report on Irma Sanchez, the new representative for SPCAA Primary Health Care.

- Received a report on the city's and county's agreement to assist in the purchase of an electrocardiograph (ECG) unit for use in one of the local ambulances. During their Oct. 23 meeting, health care district directors agreed to cover one-third of the cost of a new 12-lead ECG unit. Cost for the piece of equipment runs between \$18,000 and \$21,000. The ambulance service plans to purchase one ECG unit for placement in one of its two emergency vehicles. They approached the hospital district in hopes of receiving financial assistance for the purchase of the second unit.

"Miracle on 34th Street" opens Dec. 5

The holiday favorite "Miracle on 34th Street" will be staged at the Garza Theatre beginning Dec. 5.

Seven performances are scheduled - Dec. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 19 and 20.

"This is a wonderful production for company and church Christmas parties and family reunion fun," reads the handbill touting the theatre's latest production. "Come early and talk to Santa himself (bring your camera). Browse the wonderful shops

along Main Street in Post for some unique gift ideas. Make it a fun and memorable holiday evening while enjoying some of the best entertainment in West Texas."

Based on the book written by Valentine Davis, the Garza's rendition of "Miracle" is being directed by Laura Bryan. Its cast members include David Johnson, Stan Tucker, Mitchell Britton, Kevin Bryan, Michael Vorauer, Jackie Neal, Taylor Garland,

Marcie Johnson, Marissa Merritt, Keely Ratliff, Jason Porter, David Savage and Cordell Green.

Curtain times are Friday and Saturdays, 8 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. for the Sunday matinee.

Tickets cost \$9 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12. Tickets are available at the box office Monday through Friday, 12:30-5 p.m. (except show weekends, noon to curtain time). Call 495-4005 for more information.



Visiting Post last week during the Texas Historical Commission's Regional Workshop were (left to right) Larry Oaks, Janie Hedrick, Greg Smith, Terry Colley, Robert Johnson, Eugenia Reyes and Brent Cruse. The workshop focus was on historical preservation of the Plains. The event was hosted by the Post Commerce & Tourism Bureau. (Photo by Tim Burnett)



Mr and Mrs Lee Proctor

Lee and Billie Proctor celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Lee and Billie Moreland Proctor celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently in Odessa at a reception hosted by their children.

They were married in Post on Nov. 23, 1953.

The Proctors have five children - Debbie and Larry Wood of Brownfield, Linda and Jim Watson of Cottonwood, Ariz., Margaret and Brent Nelson of Odessa, Teresa and Garin Howard of Houston and Buddy Lee Proctor, also of Houston.

Attending from Post were Mrs. Proctor's sisters and their spouses, Linda and Larry Waldrip and Yvonne and Tommy Hill. Also in attendance were her sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Chuck Wilks of Lubbock; her brother, Buddy Moreland, and wife, Mary Ann, of Sunnyvale; as well as a number of other family members and friends.

Births

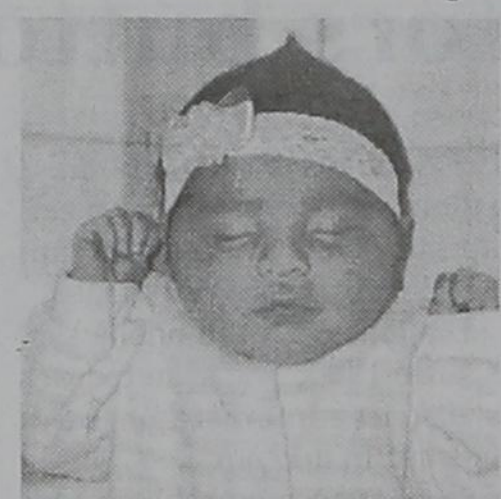
Audrey Brooklin Collazo

Adrian and Susan Collazo have announced the birth of a daughter, Audrey Brooklin Collazo, at 11:10 a.m. Nov. 11, 2003, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

The infant weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces at birth.

She was welcomed home by two sisters, Janikah and Alexis.

Grandparents are J.R. Collazo of Post, Sally Collazo of Amarillo and Jose and Betty Reyes of Amarillo. Great-grandparents are Mary Collazo of Post and Valentina Nuncio of San Angelo.



Audrey Brooklin Collazo

Rebekah Lynn Pearce

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Pearce of Hillsboro, Oregon announce the birth of their daughter, Rebekah Lynn on October 20, 2003.

Rebekah weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. Rebekah's sisters are Jordan and Amy Pearce.

Grandparents are Wayne and El Wanda Culvahouse and Glenda Pearce, all of Midland, and Herb Pearce of Comanche. Great-grandparents are Leta Davies, formally of Post, and the late Curtis Davies, R.O. Pomroy of Monahans, and the late J. S. and Eula Culvahouse.



Rebekah Lynn Pearce

Claire Elizabeth Simpson

Jim and Jill Simpson have announced the birth of a daughter, Claire Elizabeth, at 11:50 a.m. on Nov. 11, 2003, at University Medical Center in Lubbock.

The infant weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces, at birth and was 20 3/4 inches in length.

She was welcomed home by a sister, Olivia.

Grandparents are Donny and Donna Stelzer, Sherry Sappington and Riley Simpson. Great-grandparents are James and Linda Dye, Julius and Isabelle Stelzer and Jim and Ada Lou Bird. Great-great-grandpar-



Flora Gomez and Steve Gonzales

Flora Gomez, Steve Gonzales announce engagement

Steve Gonzales and Flora Gomez have announced their engagement and approaching marriage. The couple will marry Monday, Dec. 22, 2003, in Las Vegas at The Chapel of the Fountain.

Parents of the couple are Danny and Susan Gonzales and Gustavo and Irma Gomez, all of Post.

The bride-elect is a 1999 graduate of Post High School. She attended South Plains College and is employed by Olive Garden in Irving.

The prospective bridegroom, a 1998 Post High School graduate, holds an associate degree from Western Texas College. He is employed as assistant superintendent by Brook Hollow Country Club in Dallas.

The couple would like to invite all family members and friends to the wedding.

Parents of the infant are Sarah Byrd and Willie Mae Dye.



Claire Elizabeth Simpson

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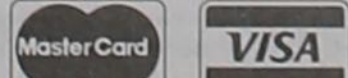
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A Thanksgiving Wish

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A joyous holiday to all.

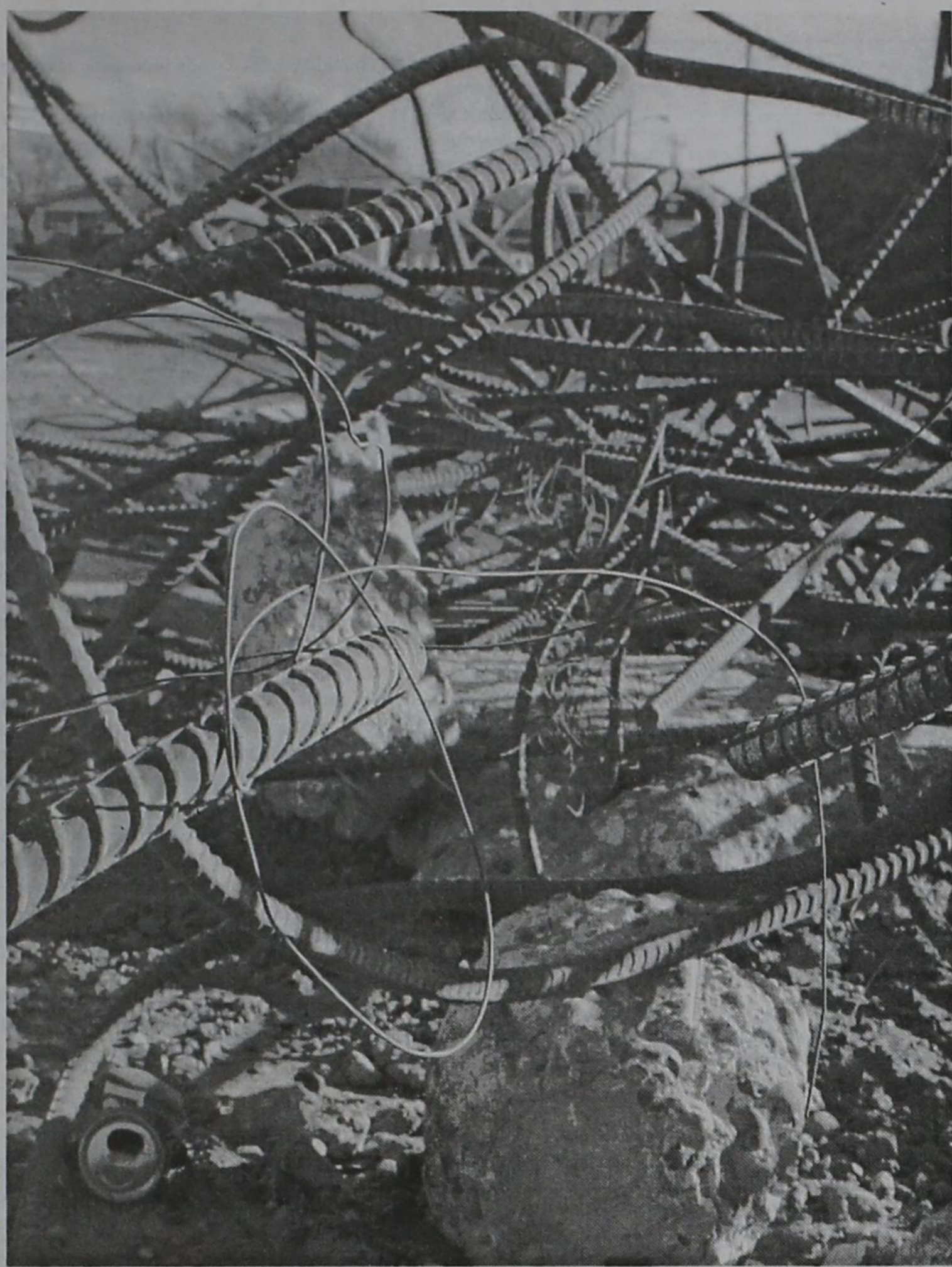
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Construction marches on as U.S. Hwy 84 project begins to take shape in Post. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

Rural electric coops merge for more energy

Five additional electric cooperatives have joined the Amarillo-based Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, bringing member co-ops in the system to 16, with loads exceeding 1000 megawatts and annual revenues exceeding \$300 million.

New members of the alliance are Coleman County Electric Co-op, headquartered in Coleman; Concho Valley Electric Co-op, headquartered in San Angelo; Lyntegar Electric Co-op, headquartered in Tahoka; Southwest Texas Electric Co-op, headquartered in Eldorado; and Taylor Electric Co-op of Merkel.

The new members will assign their existing wholesale power contracts to Golden Spread. As soon as all required contractual and regulatory approvals can be obtained, Golden Spread will become responsible for supplying electricity to the new members.

Ricky Smith announces candidacy for district attorney

I am announcing for re-election to the office of district attorney.

My wife, Theda, and I were born and raised in West Texas. We have four children, and we are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren, with another on the way. We know how important it is to keep our communities as safe as possible from crime.

I received my bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University and my law degree at Baylor University. I am a member of the State Bar of Texas, the College of the State Bar of Texas and am board-certified in criminal law.

Serving as your district attorney has been an honor and a privilege. I have always believed that the office is yours and that you trust me with it. I have worked hard to keep that trust. Most mornings I am in the office by 6:30 a.m. and it's often past 5 p.m. when I close for the day. My door has always been open for you to come in if you need anything from me. Officers throughout the district know they can call me at any time of the day or night if they need help.

I have a very fine group of people working with me. Together, we have worked to make sure that the citizens of the 106th Judicial District receive top-notch, professional prosecution from the district attorney's office.

Theda and I are thankful for the opportunity you have given us to work for you. We sincerely appreciate you and hope that you will continue to support us.

Ricky B. Smith District Attorney

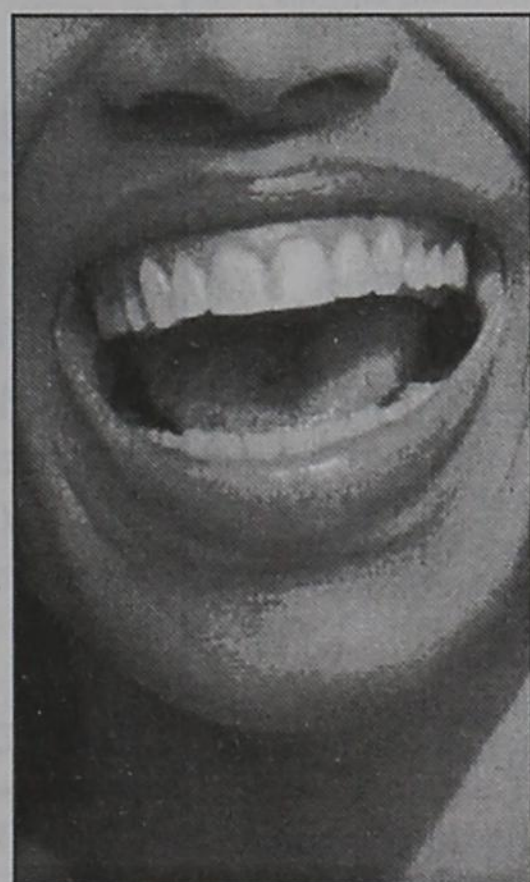
Golden Spread is a consumer-owned generation and transmission cooperative organized in 1984 to provide low-cost, reliable electric service to rural distribution cooperatives. The original member co-ops are located in the Panhandle, the Oklahoma Panhandle and the Texas South Plains.

"We are pleased that five additional cooperatives have joined our innovative and growing network of member-owned electric providers," said Robert W. Bryant, president and general manager of Golden Spread. "Golden Spread is dedicated to providing solutions for generating electric power for area distribution cooperatives. We provide crucial flexibility and a smart hedge against future energy variables in a volatile industry."

Golden Spread and its 16 member systems will now serve approximately 184,000 meters in 80 counties for a combined 64,800 miles of energized line.

Golden Spread generates a portion of its members' electricity needs and purchases the balance from other wholesalers. The parent cooperative also sells energy to other utilities when its power supply resources are not needed to serve member system loads. It owns 50 percent of Mustang Station, a state-of-the-art generating facility located near Denver City. Mustang Station burns natural gas in two large gas turbine generators to produce 300 megawatts of power. Exhaust heat from the turbines is converted to steam to power a third generator with no additional fuel cost.


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Hospice of Lubbock offers Christmas party for children

Every December, about two weeks before Christmas, Hospice of Lubbock conducts an annual children's Christmas party.

Families with children who've been served by Hospice of Lubbock and those who attend the children's grief groups are invited to attend. Invitations are mailed out at the beginning of November, and each child who attends received a \$25 gift from Santa.

Hospice of Lubbock conducts numerous community-wide support groups for children and adolescents (ages 5-16) who have experienced the death of a loved one. There is never a charge for the support groups, and they are offered year-round 12-week sessions. During these sessions, Hospice of Lubbock promotes and teaches positive grief management in age appropriate ways.

The support groups offer children a safe place to talk about their feelings and experiences with others their own age. Peer support groups have been found to be one of the most effective therapeutic ways to express grief and begin the healing process.

Children, as well as adults, grieve over the loss of a loved one who has been a part of their everyday lives. Frequently, children are not able to express their grief verbally, so it surfaces in their behavior, schoolwork, as a physical ailment or it affects their emotional

development. Even children who appear to have adjusted well are often struggling inside with grief.

"Grieving children are not always able to identify what they are feeling, and if identified, may not know what to do with such emotions," said Bereavement Services manager Michael Hardin. "Hospice of Lubbock's support groups provide children and adolescents with the opportunity to understand and cope

with their grief."

The Christmas party is an event designed to bring together all the children Hospice of Lubbock serves into a fun environment. Anyone interested in sponsoring a child's Christmas gift for \$25 should contact Hospice of Lubbock at 806-795-2751 or send donations to Hospice of Lubbock, Children's Christmas Party, P.O. Box 18800, Lubbock, TX 79490.

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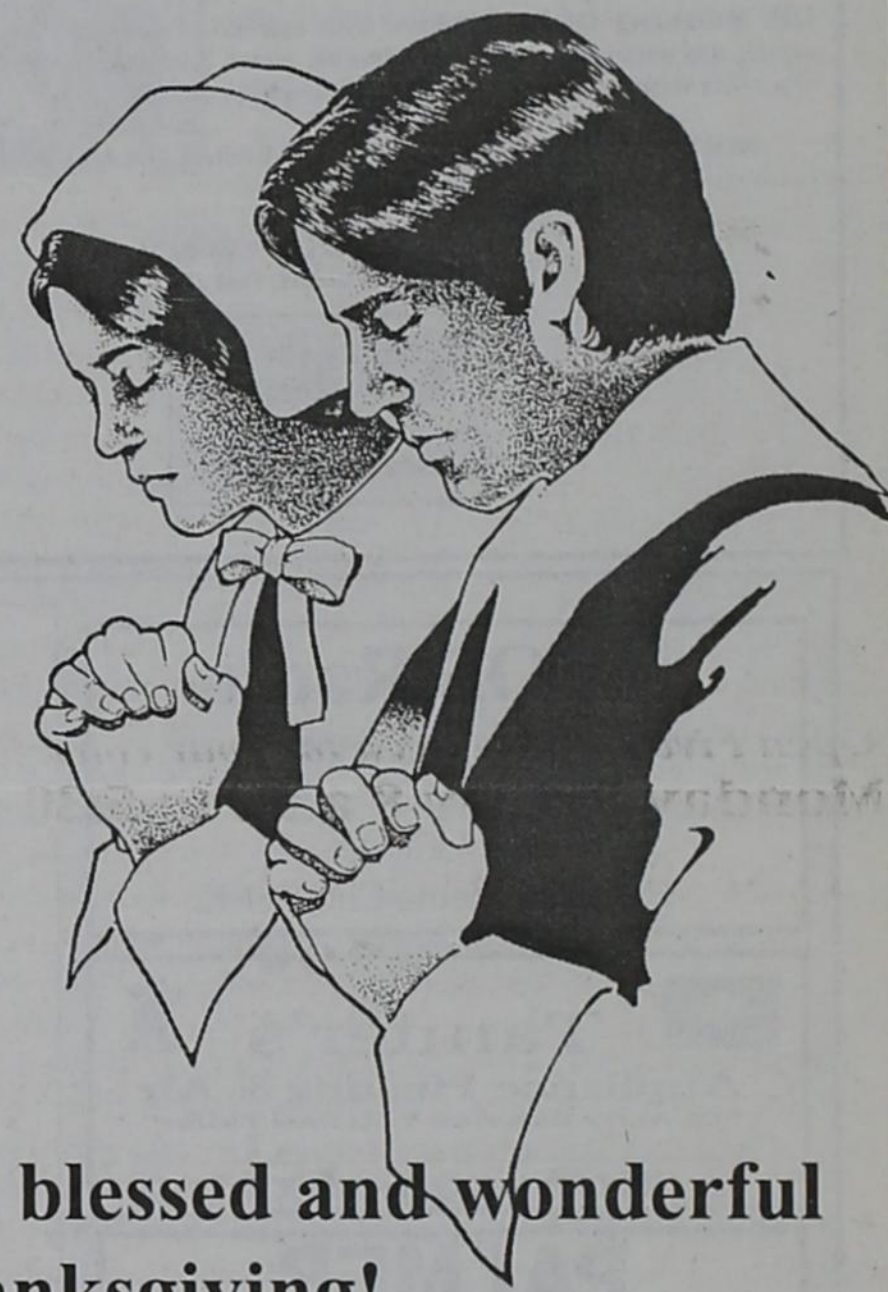
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Obituaries

Jacqueline Ann Allen

Funeral services were held November 22, 2003 for Jacqueline Ann Allen at the Hudman Funeral Chapel with Delaine Rapp officiating. Burial was at Terrace Cemetery under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home.

She died November 21, 2003 at the Slaton Care Center in Slaton. She was born April 27, 1934 in Milwaukee, Wis. to George Kohler and Clairese Myers.

Mrs. Allen was a member of the Church of Christ and was a homemaker. She was preceded in death in 1982 by her son Daniel Nusbaum.

She is survived by daughter Mitzi Ravenscraft of Lubbock, sister Yvonne Chance of Maryland and grandchildren Melanie Ravenscraft of Colorado Springs, Colo. and Christopher Ravenscraft of Lubbock.

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FREEDOM OF BELIEF: As Disciples we are called together around two essentials of faith, a belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and the freedom to follow our conscience guided by the Holy Spirit and prayer and are expected to extend that freedom to others.

BAPTISM BY IMMERSION: Although Disciples practice baptism by immersion, other baptism traditions are honored.

THE MINISTRY OF BELIEVERS: Both ordained ministers and lay persons lead in worship and spiritual growth. And above all, Jesus Christ is the Son of The Living God, who offers saving grace to all who seek it through His Son.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US THIS SUNDAY OR ANY SUNDAY AT 11:00 A.M.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
812 West 13th Street, Post, Texas



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.

Save interest, pay taxes by Jan. 31

A rollback election regarding the 2003 Garza County tax rate is set for Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004. Garza County tax statements have been mailed out to taxpayers, and payment of such taxes is due on or before Jan. 31, 2004.

Texas law does not authorize an extension of the Jan. 31 deadline in the event the rollback proposition fails; therefore, taxpayers are encouraged to pay their county taxes on time. In the event the rollback proposition passes, the county tax assessor is required to calculate and issue tax refund checks to taxpayers who have paid.

Taxpayers would be wise to pay their county taxes before the Jan. 31, 2004, deadline so as to avoid 7 percent penalty and interest charges as of Feb. 1, 2004, if the rollback proposition does not pass on Feb. 7, 2004.

Leslie C. Acker Garza County Attorney

Limit tax increase...

After reading the comments by JoAnn Mock and Linda Puckett in their letters published in November 20 issue of the Post Dispatch I believe a response is necessary. One thing needs to be made clear to everyone: a tax rollback election will not eliminate any programs or jobs.

That can only be done by elected County officials. However, a rollback will limit the increase in the tax rate to an increase of 11.67%.

This is a simple calculation since the rate last year was \$379 per \$100 valuation and the rollback tax rate is \$.42323 per \$100 valuation. Most reasonable people would consider the 11.67% increase extremely generous but from the shrill tone in the letters apparently some people believe anything less than a 31.93% increase will result in the total destruction of Post and Garza County.

Based on information provided by the Garza County Tax Assessor-Collector Office, the operating taxes last year were \$1,475,678. The rollback rate will increase taxes to \$1,593,717 and the budgeted rate will increase taxes to \$1,882,803. This sounds like a lot of taxes and a big increase for a county of 4,872 people.

The State Legislature wisely recognized that some governmental entities might get carried away with their desire to spend taxpayer funds and set up the tax rollback procedure.

When this procedure was established the rollback rate was set up to be calculated so that it included a generous increase. This served as a warning

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128 E. Main 495-2894

that governmental officials should take care when increasing taxes above the rollback rate.

County officials have from 30 to 90 days from the date they certify the validity of the petition to order an election. If these officials are trying to do what is best for Garza County they will have the election at the earliest possible date.

Fred Howell

To all Garza County taxpayers:

It doesn't matter whether you agree or disagree with the person who signed the petition. It is every taxpayer's right to voice their opinion about the tax increase with a vote. It seems that the only way to get a vote was to sign the petition.

Terry Moore

What is the purpose of county government?

Letters with a lengthy list of primarily social organizations provided by Jo Ann Mock and a letter with a plethora of personal pronouns from Linda Puckett point up two reasons for taxpayer concern. Funding by Commissioners Courts (prior and present) of a number of these were not in line with county purpose and "although worthy" do not serve the best interest of the majority of Garza County residents.

The state edict for county government is to provide law enforcement, a court system, roads and bridges and indigent care. The other organizations should be funded by private donations, United Way or local churches. County budgets that adhere to funding only those expenses related to the stated county functions leave money for taxpayers to use for their philanthropic interests (i.e. culture and history). Government entities with taxing authority should always make the best decision based on the majority of those served by the entity.

I work for an entity that is directly affected by the state budget and we made some very hard decisions to address the budget shortfall. We did a very painful reduction of 24 employees, changes in our retirement system and employees picked up a larger portion of their health care costs. I think the Commissioners Court could consider these solutions. Austerity is never pleasant, but it is often the reality that must be faced.

I'm sorry we cannot all agree on the way we believe the county government should be handled, but as adults there is a way to disagree and still respect others' opinions. The tax rollback election is the opinion of close to 400 Garza County taxpayers.

Carol Peppers

Cutting social services?

After reading about and watching the video of the County Commissioners' court meeting Nov. 10, I wanted to make several comments and suggestions.

First of all, I want to commend Fred Howell on a very professional presentation of the petitions for the rollback election on behalf of the taxpayers who signed them. Folks, we have a very capable and knowledgeable man here with a lot of potential.

Now, concerning several things stated at the meeting, I have serious questions. Judge Dalby and Commissioner Lee Norman stated that should the rollback pass, it would cut from the budget at least \$300,000, and they were concerned cuts would have to be made in social services for local

More Letters on Page 7

Post Devotional Page

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

There are times when it is difficult to find something to be thankful for. Overburdened with stress and anxiety, it is easy to lose sight of what God has done for the whole world. God gave His beloved son so that we can be filled with holy spirit. He raised His son from the dead so that anybody might be saved, and lay hold of the victory that is even over death itself. This is God's love, which His people should magnify and be thankful for.

Jesus Christ showed God's love by willfully laying down his own life. He allowed the Jewish and Roman authorities to seize him. He did not complain when they laid false accusations against him. He did not beg Pontius Pilate to let him go when given the chance. He let himself be chosen to die, instead of a murderer. Jesus Christ knew his authority as the son of God. According to Matthew 26:51-54 he could have prayed to his Father. His Father would have given him more than 12 legions of angels. Yet he desired to see the scriptures be fulfilled according to his Father's will.

His sufferings and death fulfilled the scripture in Genesis 3:15, "...and thou shalt bruise his heel." The word "heel" is a figure of speech emphasizing the temporary nature of Satan's affect on the seed of the woman (Jesus Christ). Jesus Christ was bruised in that he completely died and was laid in the grave. It was only his "heel" in that his Daddy bore witness to the truth by raising him from the dead, never to die again. This is the love of God toward the world.

According to 1John 3:16-18, we can know God's love because Jesus Christ laid down his own life for all who would become the brethren. And the brethren ought to lay down their lives for each other. This is a great truth.

God's children are not called to die on a cross, like Jesus did, but to be living sacrifices. As it is written, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1-2).

How can God's people serve Him, if they are trying to carry the burdens of stress and anxiety? God teaches His people to not carry those burdens, but to give them to Him with prayer and thanksgiving. "Be anxious for nothing. But in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God..." (Philippians 4:6-7).

With thankfulness toward God...let those requests be made known to Him. Trust God, that what He promised, He is able also to perform. And the peace that is from God absolutely shall guard your hearts and thoughts through Christ Jesus our Lord.

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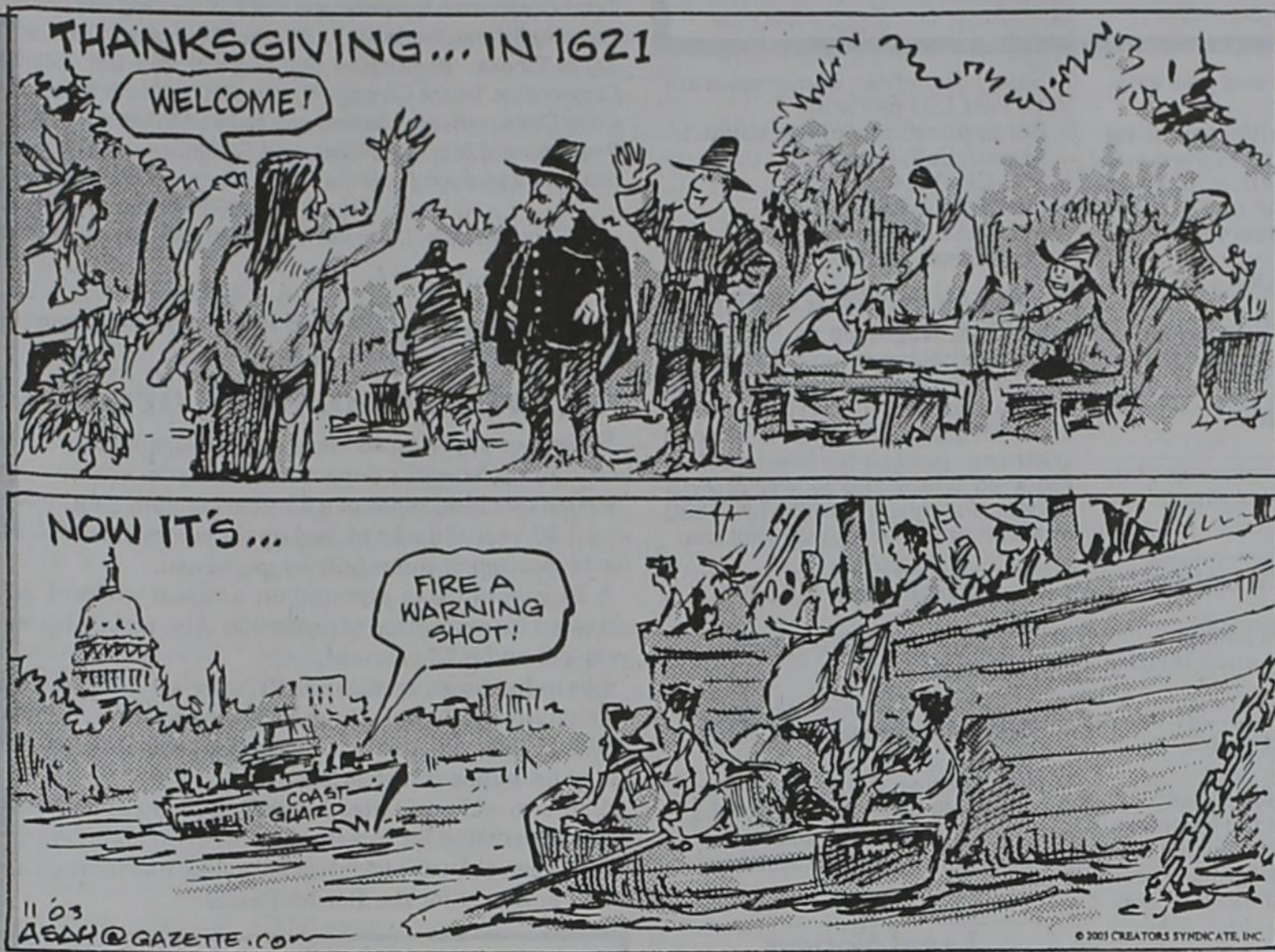
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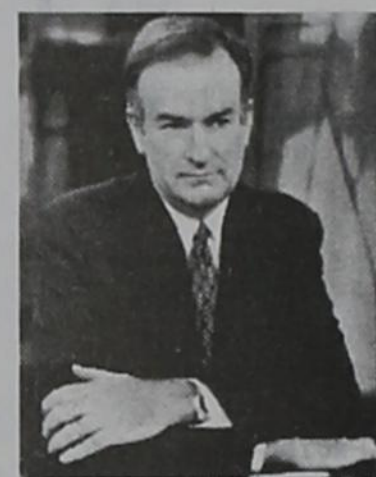
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Juiced

by Bill O'Reilly



In August of 2001, I had the privilege of singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at Wrigley Field in Chicago. After brutalizing that tune, I was asked to do an inning of color commentary on the game between the Cubs and the Cards for Fox Sports. I agreed and sat down with announcers Joe Buck and Tim McCarver, who, to be honest, didn't look all that thrilled with my presence. Would you?

Anyway, I opened up with an observation that Cardinals' slugger Mark McGwire could not even pinch-hit in the game because his body had broken down. Then I asked if Buck and McCarver thought his condition might have something to do with all the "supplements" McGwire had admitted taking to bulk up his body. There was an awkward silence, and finally, Buck said: "it was such a nice afternoon, what happened?"

We all laughed, but the question was never answered primarily because Major League Baseball didn't want it to be answered. However, the dirty secret in pro sports is now out in the open: Steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs are all over the place.

I know this because a friend of mine, the former NFL lineman Lyle Alzado, told me years ago that steroid use was common among pro football players. He told me that a few months before he died from cancer. He strongly believed the steroids contributed to the cancer. He described his routine of injecting himself with what he called "juice" very vividly. I will never forget it.

Pumped-up athletes are now common, and few believe you can change your entire physical makeup in the weightroom. Young people know that big stars make millions and drugs are how some of them got there. Many spectators don't care, but they should. Sports are really an art form, and the skill players bring to their games can be beautiful to watch. But bodies built by chemicals are not beautiful; they are perverse. The professional sports leagues in America should be ashamed for looking the other way all these years.

How many American kids are ruining their bodies by using the latest supplemental junk? It's impossible to say, but think millions. Lyle Alzado never imagined he would die in his early 40's. But he did, and he was one tough guy.

Growing up I was thrilled by the exploits of Willie Mays, Frank Gifford, Walt Frazier and Rod Gilbert. These guys were magical. They were blessed with tremendous skills and brought joy to the millions of fans who watched them compete with discipline and flair. There was something clean about sports back then. That is no longer the case.

Now we have superfreaks, driven by money and tacitly encouraged by leagues that put dollars above all. Want to ruin your body? Fine. As long as you can hit that baseball or sack that quarterback.

You can still take me out to the ballgame, but I know it will never be the same. The juice is no longer in cups, it is running through veins. The "supplement" pushers have changed everything, but, as Alzado and McGwire found out, there is always a price to pay. To quote an old ad line: "it's not nice to fool around with Mother Nature."

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the new book "Who's Looking Out For You?" To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com.

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Harm's a two-way street

by Walter E. Williams



The largest losers of America's anti-tobacco crusade aren't tobacco companies and smokers, it's the American people who are incrementally giving up private property rights. You say, "Hold it, Williams, I agree that people have the right to smoke and harm themselves, but they don't have the right to harm others with those noxious tobacco fumes!" Let's look at it, because harm is a two way street.

If you're allergic to tobacco smoke or just find its odor unpleasant, and I smoke in your presence, I harm and annoy you. However, if I'm prohibited from smoking a cigarette in your presence, I'm harmed because of a denial of what I find a pleasurable experience.

There's an obvious conflict. One of us is harmed. How can it be resolved? There are several ways. You might consider the harm I suffer trivial compared to yours. You could organize a sufficiently large number of people and lobby lawmakers to enact smoking bans in bars, restaurants and workplaces. Alternatively, I might consider the harm you suffer trivial, and organize a bunch of people and lobby lawmakers to mandate that smoking be permitted in bars, restaurants and workplaces.

Let's think about this for a moment. If you owned a restaurant, and did not allow smoking, wouldn't you find it offensive if a law were enacted requiring you to permit smoking? I'm guessing you'd deem such a law tyranny. After all, you'd probably conclude, it's your restaurant, and if you don't want smoking it's your right. Similarly, I'd deem it just as offensive if smoking were allowed in my restaurant and a law were enacted banning smoking in restaurants.

The totalitarian method to resolve the conflict is through political power and guns. In other words, the group with the greatest power to organize government's brute force decides whether there'll be smoking or no smoking in restaurants. Totalitarians might justify their actions by claiming that bars, restaurants and workplaces deal with the public, and thus the public should decide how they'll be

used. That's nonsense. Just because an establishment deals with the public doesn't make it public property.

The liberty-oriented method to resolve conflict is through the institution of private property. In fact, conflict resolution is one of the primary functions of private property, namely it decides who gets to decide how what property is used in what way. Put another way: Who may harm whom in what ways? In a nutshell, private property rights have to do with rights held by an owner to keep, acquire and use property in ways so long as he doesn't interfere with similar rights held by another. Private property rights also include the right to exclude others from use of property.

Under the liberty-oriented method of private property, as a means to conflict resolution, we'd ask the question of ownership. If the owner wishes his restaurant to be smoke-free, it is his right. Whether a smoker is harmed or inconvenienced by not being allowed to smoke in his restaurant is irrelevant. Similarly, if a restaurant owner wishes to permit smoking, it is his right, and whether a nonsmoker is harmed or annoyed is also irrelevant. In the interest of minimizing possible harm either way, it might be appropriate for restaurant owners, by way of a sign or other notice, to inform prospective customers of their respective smoking policy. That way, customers can decide whether to enter upon the premises.

In today's America, the successful anti-tobacco campaign has become a template for conflict resolution through the forceful imposition of wills through the political system. It's part of a continuing trend of attacks on private property rights. Private property rights are the bulwark for liberty, and should be jealously guarded and not be sacrificed for the sake of expediency.

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 government's war on children

by Sheldon Richman

Goose Creek, S.C., recently was the scene of a horrific event spotlighting two government institutions: schools and the war on drug users.

On a quiet day early in November a squadron of policemen stormed into Stratford High School, automatic pistols and shotguns drawn. They ordered the students to the floor and forcibly placed some there themselves. Then the police searched for drugs.

They found none. (Had they found Ritalin it wouldn't have counted. That's an approved drug, administered by compulsion when "necessary.")

Police and school officials later explained that they conducted the raid, which was captured by a security video camera, because marijuana and pills had allegedly been bought and sold by students previously.

This justified an armed invasion? School principal George McCrackin said he'd use "any means" to keep his school "clean."

In television interviews several parents angrily pointed out that a tragedy could easily have occurred. The image of belligerent cops pointing loaded guns at children was not what they had in mind when they sent their kids off to school that day.

Yet we really shouldn't be surprised. Concern about the schools' inability to teach reading and arithmetic has overshadowed the fact that those schools were not set up mainly for that purpose. Before there were "public schools" literacy and numeracy were high and growing. The government set up schools to accomplish something that the flourishing private-school market wouldn't do: indoctrinate children so that they would become pliant subjects of the state. As education historian Ellwood Cubberly wrote approvingly in 1919, "Only a system of state-controlled schools can be free to teach whatever the welfare of the State may demand." Or as the 19th-century sociologist Edward Ross said, the job of schools is to gather "little plastic lumps of human dough from private households and shap[e] them on the social kneadingboard." Or as the U.S. Bureau of Education put it in 1914, "The public schools exist primarily for the benefit of the State rather than for the benefit of the individual." That's why "socialization" was always the first objective of govern-

ment school systems. Academic subjects were a distant second. "Socialization" has two meanings. The benign sense denotes teaching children social skills so they can get along with others at work and play. The malignant sense means instilling collectivism in children so they will see themselves not as autonomous individuals, but rather as more or less identical worker bees serving the Nation. The latter sense, promoted last century by education philosopher John Dewey, directly conflicts with America's founding tradition of individualism and freedom. Such collectivism sometimes becomes the overt theme of presidential campaigns, such as John McCain's in 2000 and Wesley Clark's in 2003.

Given this mission - the conditioning of each child to believe his own life is less important than the Nation - the raid in Goose Creek is no surprise at all. For decades the government has conducted a ruthless war against the distributors and users of certain drugs (but not others). Like the prohibition of alcohol in the 1920s, this war has no basis in pharmacology; outlawed drugs are no less capable of moderate and responsible use than scotch or bourbon. Even former drug czar William Bennett admits that most users of illegal drugs are not addicts. (The quotation is in Jacob Sullum's book *Saying Yes*.) What counts with any substance is the sense of responsibility in the individual using it. We don't need prohibition aimed at adults to prevent children from using drugs, just as we don't need it to prevent children from drinking. In fact, prohibition encourages drug use because forbidden fruit is the most tempting.

Thus the "war on drugs" is an exercise in authoritarianism that has nothing to do with the welfare of the American people. Of course it is a big part of the school curriculum: schooling's main purpose is to mold children into Good Citizens who will obey the state without question. What better way to teach that lesson than to have gun-pointing cops dropping in at the schools every now and then?

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

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The Post Independent School District is accepting proposals for surveying 264.4 acres of Garza County located near Justiceburg. The survey proposal is to be completed and returned to Post ISD by December 5, 2003. The Meets and Bounds to be surveyed and marked are defined in the deed for the property held by Post ISD. Contact Superintendent Marlin Marcum at 806-495-3343 for details. Proposals are to be submitted to Superintendent of Schools, Post ISD, P.O. Box 70, Post, Texas 79356 on or before December 5, 2003 and must include the approximate date of the survey report delivery to Post ISD.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
The Post Independent School District is accepting proposals for establishing Market Value for a parcel of land consisting of 264.4

acres more or less located near Justiceburg in Garza County and adjacent to Lake Alan Henry. Post ISD is seeking a proposal from a certified appraiser to establish market value for the property. For details, including a map of the property, contact Superintendent Marlin Marcum at 806-495-3343. Proposals must be submitted to Superintendent of Schools, Post ISD, P.O. Box 70, Post, Texas 79356 by December 5, 2003 and must include delivery date of the Market Value Report to the superintendent.

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County-wide 4-H Christmas Party....

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4-H Bears

Need a stocking stuffer? 2003 4-H Bears are needing a home. Pick yours up today at the Extension office for only \$10 each.

Sheriff reports 17 arrests last week

Seventeen individuals were recently booked into the Garza County Jail, according to sheriff's department records.

Arrests included that of a 53-year-old jailed for driving while intoxicated and a 20-year-old was picked up for commitment. A 31-year-old was jailed for revocation of community supervision.

A 28-year-old was arrested on a bench warrant and a 23-year-old was arrested for revocation of probation. Also picked up on warrants were a 31-year-old and a 23-year-old.

Two individuals, ages 20 and 21, were arrested for assault/family violence. Two individuals, ages 20 and 45, were jailed on Lubbock County warrants, and a 19-year-old also was picked up on a warrant. A 50-year-old man was jailed for public intoxication.

A 36-year-old was jailed for non-payment of child support and a 62-year-old was arrested for interference with an emergency call.

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- 1 1991 Half ton Chevrolet Pickup Short Wide Bed ... 1GCDC14H8M2192686
- 1 1997 Ford 4 door Crown Victoria. 2FALP73W8VX107829
- 1 1989 Half ton Chevrolet SWB Pickup 1GCDC14H7K220314
- 1 used MTD Riding Lawn Mower
- 1 used John Deere Riding Mower
- 1 used 1,000 gallon fuel tank on skids
- 1 used 500 gallon diesel tank on stand
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- 1 used Outboard Motor

The City may reject any bid or all bids, for any reason.

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DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2003
TIME: 10 A.M.
PLACE: North Entrance to the Lynn County Courthouse

The Northeast 120 acres of Sect. 1265, Cert. 175, Abst. 1241, John H. Gibson Survey, Lynn County, TX, located 1 mile south of Southland and 1 mile west on County Road.

The successful bidder will be expected to present a money order or cashier's check one hour after the conclusion of the sale. If payment is not received within the time allowed the auction will be reconvened and property will be re-offered for public auction.

For information call Farm Service Agency (FSA) at 785-5644, Ext. 2

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•• All On Hwy 84:
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•• 640 acres of ranch land for sale 22 miles N. of Post - 2 miles W. off Hwy 651. Contact Mike Mitchell, (806) 495-5515.
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Yesteryears

Compiled by Donna Jones from the files of The Post Dispatch

10 Years Ago November 10, 1993

The Post Health Care Clinic will celebrate its one year anniversary next Monday, Nov. 15. The staff of the clinic, Dr. Shen Chen, Physician Asst. Mike Cahill, office manager Vicki Gray, LVN Judy Leclair and receptionist Sandra Scribner, along with representatives from Methodist Hospital will host the open house.

Heading into their game last Friday against the Tahoka Bulldogs, all the Bold Gold needed a victory to stay in the running for a playoff spot. The 'Lopes got their win, 36-0 over the winless Bulldogs and then had to sit back and wait for a coin toss to determine if they advanced into the playoffs. Their luck held and the 'Lopes will advance into next week's bi-district game against the Springlake-Earth Wolverines in Levelland.

Month of planning culminated October 31, in the largest, most diverse Caprock Photographers Fall Exhibit yet, with 339 entries by 89 photographers from as far away as Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The Courthouse annex bond vote no surprise. As expected, the \$1.2 million bond issue on the November 2 election went down to defeat. Post and Garza County voters turned the measure away by a count of 486 against and only 154 favoring the idea.

20 Years Ago November 13, 1983

For the first time in Post High School history, the Antelope football team has captured the undisputed bi-district championship in two consecutive years. The 1983 team brought home the trophy from Brownfield last Friday night, following a convincing 25-0 shut-out over the Frenship Tigers. Milton Williams led the Antelopes in rushing with 216 yards during the game. Joel Kirkpatrick connected on five of eight pass attempts for 87 yards, including a touchdown toss to Charles Johnson.

Births: Pete and Lucy Martinez announce the birth of a daughter, Kimberly Lynn born November 3 in Garza Memorial Hospital; Ricky and Rasalinda Guerrero announce the birth of a daughter, Evelyn Noel born November 10 in Garza Memorial Hospital.

The Fall Fashion Clinic which was cancelled earlier due to inclement weather has been rescheduled for November 15 in the Post Community Center. Fall fashion will be featured during the clinic along with color coordination. The clinic is being sponsored by La Posta and Lynne Wendell Griffith, a Color I associate.

Announcing the opening of The Listening Center. Client centered counseling, absolutely professional and confidential. Call Travis Ellis, M.A., B.D., B.P.C. Room 201 (second floor in the McCrary Building).

30 Years Ago November 8, 1973

Firemen were called to Post High School at 11:05 a.m. Monday as a precautionary measure because a fire which developed in a heater in the southwest wing of the building produced excessive smoke. "We wanted to be sure it wasn't an electrical fire which could cause expensive damage," Supt. Bill Shiver said. He said damage was confined to the heater itself, and that apparently sawdust caked into the heater from the nearby industrial arts department has caused all the smoke.

There will be a community supper in the Graham center next Tuesday honoring Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Edwards who will be moving soon. We are sorry to have the Edwards leave our community. We will miss them so much.

David McBride, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thelbert McBride, was one of a group of 50 boys to receive his Eagle Scout award in a Court of Honor at the First United Methodist Church in Lubbock. David was the only Boy Scout from Post to receive the award at this time.

Mrs. Joy Pool has been chosen "Teacher of the Week". She has been with the Post school system for seven years and has been teaching for 11 years. Mrs. Pool graduated from Hardin-Simmons University with a BS degree.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Snow are the

Steve White shares national ranch rodeo championship

Steve White, manager of the Wagon Creek/Spade Ranch of Throckmorton, was a member of the Spade Ranch's rodeo team that recently won the reserve world championship at the World Ranch Rodeo Finals in Amarillo.

The Spade Ranch's team qualified for the world finals by winning the Wichita Falls Ranch Rodeo in August.

Twenty teams from Canada, Kansas, Idaho, California, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and Texas competed in the event. The Spade team missed the world championship by two points.

The team earned world championship belt buckles for winning both grounds of the team penning. It placed in several other events, including a first place in the first go of the wild cow milking.

White is the son of Noel and Orabeth White. The couple attended the Amarillo competition.

Others from Post who attended included Mr. and Mrs. Tom Middleton, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Williams, Danny Vernon of the Saddle Traders Shop in Post and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Carlisle.

parents of a daughter, Tina Lynn born in Garza Memorial Hospital.

John Miller Post 6797, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in conjunction with other groups and individuals across the United States, will help coordinate a nationwide symbolic "flag run" on Thursday, Nov. 15, Post Commander Gene Gandy announced today. This "run" is to be call AIM for the MIA - Americans in Motion for the Missing in Action; and it will be used to focus public attention on the fact that more than 1,200 Americans have still not been accounted for in Indochina.

40 Years Ago November 14, 1963

The Post school board voted unanimously Monday night, upon the recommendation of Supt. Barry B. Thompson, to consolidate the Post Primary School and Post Elementary School into one administrative unit. The board's action on consolidation of the two units came after it had accepted the resignation of Noel Clemmons as principal of the primary school.

Wesley Scott, well known Garza County farmer, has purchased a half interest in Post's Pontiac-Rambler-GMC truck dealership from Guy Floyd and the two are incorporating their new firm under the name, Floyd-Scott Motors, Inc.

The Denver City Mustangs scored in every quarter Friday night to defeat the Post Antelopes, 48 to 0, in a game at Denver City that earned the Mustangs the right to represent District 4AA in the bi-district playoff game. Coach Harold Teal's Antelopes will play against the Frenship Tigers in Antelope Stadium next Friday night to wind up their season. The team needs a victory to clinch second place in District 4AA standings. Nine Seniors to play their last game for Post are Pat Sullivan, Danny Odom, Ricky Little, Pat Cornell, Wendell Johnson, Tom Clark, Curtis Hudman, Richard Hart, and Jackey Fluit.

School Page: This week's "Twirler of the Week" is Miss Arleta Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Robinson. Arleta is a sophomore this year. She has been in the band since her seventh grade year. This is her first year as a twirler.

Linda McMahan was name this year's FFA Sweetheart. Fred Leiby's nomination of Linda as a candidate for FFA Sweetheart earned him the honors of presenting her with the sweetheart jacket.

50 Years Ago November 19, 1953

The City of Post's street renaming project has been completed. With the Main and Broadway intersection as the hub, all streets running north and south have been designated as avenues and lettered from "F" on the east through "S" on the west. Streets running east and west have been numbered from "Third" on the south to "Fifteenth" on the north. "The reason we did not start with an 'Avenue A' and a 'First Street,'" commented City Superintendent R. H. Tatesaid, "is because if the city expands to include new streets, confusion would result in the numbering and lettering sequence."

Miss Avalon Harris became the bride of Jackie Hays, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hays, Thursday evening in Calvary Baptist Church.

In an impressive ceremony Wednesday morning, the new flag and flagpole presented to the Post Grade School by John Miller Post 6797 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was formally dedicated. The grade school was turned over for the dedication program and also represented were the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cubs and Brownies, most of them in uniform. The Post High School band played for the program after marching to the grade school campus from the band hall.

Coach Vernon Ray's Post Antelope basketball squad will begin practice Monday. Five lettermen, three of them over six feet in height, are back for this season's squad. They are Billy Meeks, Larry Waldrip and Bobby Crowdy, who, along with two other lettermen, Charles Chandler and Moody Graham, are expected to form the nucleus for one of the best cage teams at the school in recent years.

More Letters...

(Continued from Page 4)

citizens. Mr. Norman stated that the state poverty level average is around 16 percent, but in Garza County we have a 21.3 percent poverty level, thus we need more social services here.

While that is true and I certainly do not want to see any social services cuts, the fact that Garza County has such a high poverty level only emphasizes further the need to hold tax increases to an absolute minimum.

Those at or near the poverty level don't own property, but they do have to pay rent to property owners who will only have to raise the poor folks' rent to be able to pay the taxes. The people of Garza County simply cannot afford to pay such high taxes!

If they're worried about having to cut social services, what about cutting out that big expensive emergency center that has been planned? Mike Sanchez stated at the meeting that there were "rumors" floating around about a building at Lake Alan Henry that would cost over \$600,000 and that it was not in the budget to build that.

It seems strange to me that only a few months ago, Terry Bartlett stood before the Commissioners' Court and reported on the proposed emergency center building for which they had obtained a figure from an architect. The amount given for building that emergency center was \$760,000.

At that meeting, it was addressed as a "need" to build that center, and plans were being made to do so. This is not just "rumors" about this big expenditure of county money! And this is one big place to save county tax money!

Also during the meeting, Mr. Norman was speaking of the programs that were cut from the state budget that we are having to pay for out of county funds now. Granted, the state did dump a number of programs in the laps of counties and cities across the state. I'm sure it is putting a bind in most of their budgets to find money to cover these programs, but just how many of them are raising their taxes by almost 30 percent?

I don't think there are very many counties that are exceeding the rollback tax rates set by the state tax code. Why does Garza County have to raise taxes so drastically when the others aren't? We don't have any more burden from those state program cuts here than the other counties.

I feel that we simply need to do what is really needed for Garza County and forget the "extras" and expenditures for Lubbock's lake. We can live within our means and keep taxes low.

A remembrance of November 22, 1963

This may or may not particularly interest you, but I have some memories of Nov. 22 and certain days closely following that date in 1963 (also closely preceding it). I will share some.

That year, I was teaching in the Post High School and had just had lunch and on my way back to the high school building heard that Mr. Kennedy had been shot in Dallas. By the time my first class of the afternoon was to begin, the school was abuzz with the news. Mr. Clark, the principal, was listening to the radio and... said he would keep us informed about developments. Also, he offered prayer over the intercom. I do not recall any attempt on my part to give instruction. Soon, Mr. Clark announced, "The president is dead." School was subsequently dismissed.... By late afternoon, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram was carrying the giant headlines....

The next day there was supposed to be a pre-Christmas parade to kick off the shopping. Local merchants donated items for the parade floats. This parade was postponed until the Saturday following the Thanksgiving four-day weekend. (Unfortunately for the merchants, I guess, some way, the parade had to halted due to high winds. The Spanish float was devastated even before entering.)

There was no school on Monday. There was a tribute to Mr. Kennedy downtown in front of the courthouse. Mr. Barry Thompson, superintendent of Post ISD, read a poem he composed.

I left Thanksgiving morning for Dallas to join family.

A newspaper printed in Mexico (probably Monterrey) read, "A pesar de todo dan gracias" - "In spite of everything, they (we here in USA) give thanks."

Arthur Robertson Fort Worth

★ Taxation is immoral - it is theft

★

Cathy Whitten introduces new CD at Ruby Lane Books December 5

Singer/songwriter and former Post resident Cathy Whitten will introduce her premiere CD, "Cathy Whitten," Dec. 5 at Ruby Lane Books in Post.

Whitten's appearance is part of the grand opening events at the bookstore, which is located at 127 E. Main in the Caprock Cultural Association building. She will be in the store from 4-6 p.m. and will perform at the CCA awards dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Her parents, Jim and Mona Boles, owned Post's KPOS radio station for 27 years.

"I'm very excited to be back in Post for a visit and to share this exciting event with my friends there," Whitten said. "When I was 13, my dad put me on the air after school as an on-air personality... and I was hooked."

Whitten began her public singing career at the age of 14 and learned to play guitar and write songs.

The artist penned three of the songs on her debut CD. Her children, R.H. and Amanda, inspired one of the songs, "So Much More." On the release, Whitten also covers several favorite country standards, including "I Walk the Line" and "Cowboy's Sweetheart."

Whitten's CDs will be available at the bookstore during its grand opening weekend and after Dec. 1 at Hastings, Ralph's Records and the Wild Mare Leathery and Saddlery in Lubbock. CDs also may be ordered by contacting Whitten at 806-778-7911.



Cathy Whitten

Trailblazers see federal funds cut, need local help

The Garza County Trail Blazers has bumped up its "suggested donation" for congregant and home-delivered meals in an effort to counteract rising costs and budget cuts.

The new "suggested donation" is \$3 per meal. That amount previously stood at \$2.

Under new guidelines, Trail Blazers must pay the South Plains Association of Governments \$2,451 to contract for meal services while offsetting SPAG budget cuts, according to a handbill the Trail Blazers organization recently distributed to its program participants.

"We have been advised by (SPAG) for the past several years to increase our suggested meal price as did all the other senior centers in our region," the handbill reads. "We are hopeful that all of our seniors know that we have no other choice at this time."

Trail Blazers traditionally maintained its \$2 per meal "suggested donation" in the past through community support and fundraisers.

"Hopefully through everyone's support and willingness to make our fundraisers an even bigger success, this new suggested donation of \$3 per meal may be reduced," the handbill reads. "Please always remember this is only a suggested donation."

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

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Neighbor to Neighbor
by Julie Neitsch,
Garza County Extension Agent-Family & Consumer Science

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

4-Hers Participate in Summer and Fall Projects

4-Hers have been active this past summer and fall participating in the clothing and food and nutrition projects. They have had many great opportunities to learn about various aspects of these two areas. The 4-Hers have also opportunities to compete at county and district competitions.

Two 4-H youth participated in the clothing project meetings held July and August. They learned about the basics of sewing, clothing care, attended a modeling class, learned the importance of good grooming, comparison shopping, and participated in a community service project. Lynette Thuet taught a modeling class to 4-H members during one project meeting, and we thank her for her support and assistance! Kelli Martin, a member of the Golden Clover 4-H Club, participated at the District 2 Fashion Follies competition held at Texas Tech University and the South Plains Fair. Congratulations Kelli on your accomplishments!

Junior and senior food and nutrition project meetings were held in September and October for 4-H members. Eight junior 4-Hers participated in the junior food and nutrition project meeting and nine se-

nior 4-Hers attended the senior meetings. Youth learned about food safety, kitchen safety, comparison shopping, the food guide pyramid, the importance of nutrients and vitamins and what functions they provide for the body, and canning basics.

Jaymee Melius, John Bocko, and Reagan Belongia, all junior 4-H members, competed at the Garza County Food Show. Jaymee Melius won a blue ribbon and first place with her "Apple and Cheese Crisp" dish, John Bocko won a blue ribbon and first place with his "No Bake Chips Ahoy Dessert", and Reagan Belongia won a blue ribbon and first place with her "Fruit Enchiladas" dish. All youth did a fantastic job!

Jayme Melius and John Bocko both competed at the District 2 Food Show competition on November 8, 2003 in Levelland. They each did a great job representing our county. We appreciate all youth's participation.

Rene Melius, Nita Jo Heckaman, Juanetta Bocko, and Jaquita Blevins were project leaders for the food and nutrition project. They are the be commended for their hard work and efforts, and the Extension Staff would like to say thank you and that these leaders and volunteers are appreciated for working with our youth and supporting our 4-H program!

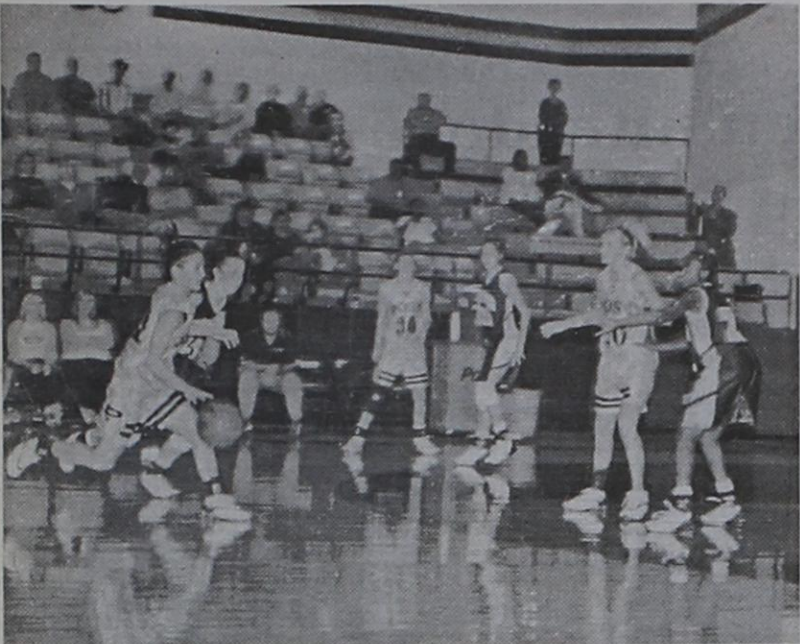
ACROSS

- TXism: "living _____ on the hog"
- early Fort Worth lawless area: "Hell's Half _____"
- TX Roger Miller's "Dang Me" was '64 Song of the _____
- TXism: "pay him _____ never mind"
- TXism: "in a coon's _____" (long time)
- TXism: "porch sitter" 15 high cards
- TXism: "packed like _____ in a can"
- TX Willie concert series (2 wds.)
- TX Tommy Lee was Woodrow _____ in "Lonesome Dove"
- TXism: "a _____ the pan"
- TX Roy Orbison's "_____ the Lonely"
- rustled cattle
- A&M's color, with white
- with "sodium," it's fertilizer
- _____ Pepper
- TXism: "_____ as lightning striking your zipper"
- Gen. Robt. _____
- TX ABC reporter Donaldson (init.)
- San Antonio's King William Street is named after King _____ of Prussia

DOWN

- horse morsels
- TX Blue Bell product: _____ cream
- ex-mayor of Fort Worth Kay _____
- TX war memorial: "Texas _____"
- TXism: "got knocked _____ or two"
- "top dog" in a TX corp. 43 in Lamar Co. on 271
- Astro or Ranger base
- This George wasn't a TXn cause he didn't lie (init.)
- TX lottery's first director Linareo
- Astro pitching goals
- Cowboys hold this camp in July
- El Paso theater has a _____ Wurlitzer organ
- name before Exxon
- TXism: "_____ McCoy"
- TXism: "that's _____ do you do"
- Rio Grande sediment 17 tobogganers
- rare birds seen at Bentsen State Park
- TX pitching legend Ryan (init.)
- not an AM station
- TX boy
- TXism: "got _____ deal" (cheated)
- TX drive-in eatery
- _____ Ocean, TX
- TXism: "would have to prime my mouth to _____" (thirsty)
- embrace (2 wds.)
- Dallas Co. named for this George (init.)
- sweet outlet
- fruit grown in the Rio Grande Valley
- TX Roddenberry line: "where _____ has gone before"
- TXism: "_____ he's a rooster, he'll crow" (inevitable)

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Post Lady Lopes win opening game against Anton here. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

Post varsity girls edge Anton

Post	7	14	8	6	35
Anton	6	13	6	5	30

Post scoring

Brittney Courtney	9
Taylor Starkey	8
Sarah Kirkpatrick	6
Jenee Lott	4
Donae Dalby	4
Logan Gregory	2
Meagan Hoover	2

"I thought we shot the ball poorly tonight. I told the girls at half time we just needed to relax and settle in to our office a little more. I thought Tayler Starkey and Jenee Lott played extremely well on defense. Coach Randy Courtney.

Lady Lopes JV Open With Win

The Post Lady Lopes JV open the 2003-2004 basketball season with a decisive win over the Anton JV. The Lady scored 63 points while allowing Anton only 3 points.

All of the Lady Lopes contributed in the scoring. Scoring for the Lady Lopes were Ashley Wilson 14, Lural Tatum 12, Rachel Gray 10, Larissa Halford 8, Jackie Hays 6, Kylie Easterling 6, Courtney Copeland 4, and Ashley Powell 3. The Post Lady Lopes JV record is 1-0.

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Shallowater upends Post Middle School girls basketball

by Kara Swindell

I didn't think we played as a team very well and we didn't hustle as well as I know these girls can. We've really got to work on defense and blocking out.

We had some good looks at the basket, but just couldn't capitalize on them. Jackie Slaugh did a great job shooting free throws for us.

Post 8th grade girls lose to Shallowater

We had some very bright moments in this game. I thought the girls ran the offense and press very well, but it was the small things that ended getting us in the end.

Poor passes and missed shots were the deciding factor. One thing about this group, they never stopped going 100% when they were down. It's very hard to keep going when you're down and these girls went hard until the end.

Samantha Hoover played a great game for us on defense and on offense.

Middle School girls do well in first outing

by Kara Swindell

7th grade girls

I thought these girls did a good job for their first game. It took about the whole first half to get rid of the nervousness, but after that, we started settling down. We do have a lot to work on. We really didn't do as well with defense as I would have liked them to, but I know that will come with time. We had some really good looks at the basket at the post area. The post players really worked hard.

8th grade girls

I'm really proud of these girls. We went in behind at half time and came back a new team. They handled New Deal's zone really well in the second half. They handled the adjustments I threw at them and executed them really well. Lori Jones had a great game for use defensively and offensively. Marlee Plummer had an excellent defensive effort the second half.

Speical phone call for special children

"A Phone Call from Santa" is a new project designed to brighten the holidays of area children while benefiting families served by the Lubbock Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Between 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 11, 'Santa's helpers' will gather to make calls to children to talk about their Christmas lists.

"Parents, grandparents, friends... anyone can fill out a questionnaire and submit it for their favorite kiddo to be added to Santa's list," said Karen Sims, a member of the LIHN board and project chairman.

To register a child, a questionnaire must be completed and mailed to the LIHN. A \$10 donation is requested; for each additional child within the same household a \$5 donation is requested. Questionnaires are available at most area United Supermarkets.

LIHN is a faith-based organization providing services for the area's homeless families with children.

"Families receive counseling and guidance," said Lone Heartsill, executive director of LIHN. "During the day, they have a place to hang their hat, the Samaritan House, which gives them a phone number to use in job hunting and other activities needed to get their lives more settled. Families stay overnight in one of 12 host churches, where they receive nutritious meals, a warm bed and compassion for the 600-plus volunteers that help make this program successful."

For more information on the LIHN or the "Phone Call from Santa" project, call 744-5035.

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A Proclamation.

"...We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace — too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people.

I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our benevolent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Abraham Lincoln, October 3, 1863

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