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# The Post Dispatch

78th Year Number 29 USPS 439-620 © 2003 The Post Dispatch Newsstand Price 75¢ Thursday, December 18, 2003

## County sets out budget cuts

by Sheri Lewis

A brochure entitled "Garza County Tax Facts" will be flooding the community beginning this week as county officials gear up to defend the current tax rate against the upcoming rollback election.

The privately-funded brochure, printed Tuesday, will be available "anywhere we can put them," County Judge Giles Dalby said. Copies will likely be available in courthouse offices and at local businesses. A mail-out campaign also may be mounted.

Billed as "the truth about your taxes and a rollback election," the brochure is designed not to create fear but to shed light on the potential losses county residents could face in the fallout of a rollback, the judge said.

The front-and-back, single-page publication states that during a county commissioners workshop held Friday, the court decided on a number of cuts to be made in the event the rollback is approved by county voters.

The largest of those cuts, the elimination of four county employees, would save the county \$112,000. Trimming county funding to the City Park would save almost \$40,000, while cutbacks in money poured into the Community Center would generate an annual savings of about \$31,000.

The following is the complete list of proposed cuts as published in the brochure:

- Museum — \$18,000 • Library — \$11,291 • Teen Center — \$5,000 • City Park — \$33,999 • Community Center — \$30,738 • Summer Rec — \$7,000 • Sheriff's Office capital outlay — \$3,000 • Commissioners Court capital outlay — \$1,000 • Women's Protective Services — \$1,500 • Caprock Cultural Association — \$1,000 • Aid to other government — \$800 • Rural fires — \$2,000 • Fire department — \$2,000 • Miscellaneous — \$2,000 • Senior citizens — \$2,500 • Office cuts (each county office must cut \$2,000) — \$30,000 • Drug and alcohol education — \$5,000 • Four county employees — \$112,000 • Precinct part-time help — \$10,000 • Extension Office — \$16,454 • Sheriff's insurance (voluntary) — \$4,000 • Code enforcer — \$10,000 • Dues & subscriptions — \$5,000 • Commissioners Court supplies — \$1,000 • Drug testing — \$1,200

A total of \$316,482 would be saved through the implementation of the proposed cutbacks, according to the brochure.

Passage of the rollback would trigger the cuts across the board, Dalby said, and the cutbacks would cost seven local residents their jobs. Two full-time museum employees, one part-time Community Center employee and four courthouse employees would be written off the county payroll.

Commissioners would lose part-time help in the precincts, and the Extension Office secretary's position would be cut to part-time. Many of the services funded by both the county and the city would be shifted back to the city for support.

"It's set in stone," he said Tuesday afternoon. "I guarantee you we're going to do it (if the rollback passes).... That's exactly what we'll do."

The brochure goes on to list the "Taxpayer Top 15," or the top 15 taxpaying entities in Garza County. Most are oil and gas producers, large businesses or family partnerships.

"In reality, who really pays the majority of taxes in Garza County, and who will receive the refund (in the event of a rollback)?" asks the brochure. "...Forty-five (percent) of the ad valorem tax is paid by 15 taxpayers who will receive 49.15 percent of the refund. Only 23 percent, or \$67,625.98, will be refunded to real estate taxpayers. Altogether, 74 percent of the ad valorem tax is paid by oil and mineral interest."

The brochure also states that the average house appraisal in the county is \$21,532. If the rollback is passed, the one-time tax refund on that house will be \$16.52. The owner of a \$40,000 home will receive \$30.71, the owner of a \$70,000 house will receive \$53.74, and the owner of a \$100,000 home will earn a tax rebate of \$76.77.

The rollback election, set for Feb. 7, was called after the county tax rate was raised from .379 per \$100 valuation to .50 per \$100 valuation.

On Nov. 10, a petition bearing the signatures of at least 383 qualified voters was submitted to the court, asking for a rollback election.

Early voting in the rollback election will run from Jan. 21 through Feb. 3 in the county clerk's office.

County officials maintain the tax increase was made necessary because of state budget cuts and decreased local revenues.

Factors weighing into the hike, according to the brochure, included a recent electrical project at the courthouse, water line repairs, an increase in the cost of liability insurance, an almost 100 percent hike in the cost of worker's compensation and the required funding of the community supervision and drug and alcohol treatment programs — \$71,701 — which were previously funded by the state.



Town & Country is one of 10 Post businesses offering its customers copies of The Post Dispatch for sale inside its store. Other vendors are the Alamo Restaurant, Brady's Package Store, Chapa's Family Restaurant, Fast Stop (FINA), George's Restaurant, Nothin' Butt Smokes, Rick & Carolyn's Burgers & Fries, and United Supermarkets and Wes-T-Go. The Post Dispatch expresses its appreciation to these businesses for their continued service to the community. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

## Post ISD trustees agree to sell Justiceburg property

by Sheri Lewis

By a 6-1 vote, Post Independent School District trustees voted last week to sell a 264-acre parcel of property at Justiceburg obtained when that community's school consolidated with the Post school about 30 years ago.

School board members voted to sell the Justiceburg property in a public sale to be conducted by sealed bids in February, Superintendent Marlin Marcum said. Advertisements relating to the sale will be published in coming weeks in The Post Dispatch.

Trustees also moved to obtain a survey and appraisal of the property to estimate its market value. The state requires the school district to sell the property at market value, Marcum said.

At their Nov. 11 meeting, trustees opted to turn over the school site to the Justiceburg Community Center through use of a special warranty deed allowed by law.

In other business, trustees:

- Received the annual State of the District Report, which was favorable.
- Agreed to sell 10 WADA (weighted average daily attendance) units to the Borden County school district. The move will not result in any additional revenues for the Post ISD, but the district should realize additional services from the Region 17 Education Service Center.
- Reviewed a proposal to have the existing pre-kindergarten program to take over the local Head Start effort. Marcum said that because of financial constraints and facility limitations, the board declined the proposed move.

## Garza County Hospital District meets tonight

Board members of the Garza County Health Care District will meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Dec. 18, in the Community Room of Citizens Bank.

The regular December session will include a discussion and possible action regarding personnel holidays and a district indigent health care program policy.

Also listed on the meeting's agenda is a report on the Garza County Health Clinic operations for the month of November, discussion and possible action regarding health insurance options for district employees and reports on a grant application, X-ray equipment, indigent care and SPCAA Primary Health Care (new representative).

An open forum will be conducted at the end of the meeting.

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

## United Way short of goal

The United Way of Garza County remains about \$10,000 short of its 2003 goal of \$25,000, according to information provided by campaign officials this week.

"We still need about \$10,000 to be able to extend support to the following organizations - Women's Protective Services, Garza County Child Welfare, MAD DADS, Post Cares Inc./Meals on Wheels, The Salvation Army, Garza County Trailblazers, American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of Caprock Council and Post Little League," officials said.

"We would like to thank those who continually support United Way of Garza County. We know that some checks are on their way."

To make a contribution, checks may be sent to United Way of Garza County, P.O. Box 425, Post, TX 79356.



Local church choirs and singers brought a special touch of the Christmas spirit to Post at the annual Community Christmas Singing last week. The event was recorded by Post City Television and will be aired on Cebridge Media Channel 12 on December 25 at 1, 5 and 10 p.m. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

## Post Notes

### Santa at Wells Fargo today

Santa will be at Wells Fargo Thursday, December 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Photos with Santa will be offered.

### Schools close at 1 p.m. Friday

Post Elementary School will dismiss classes at 1 p.m., December 19 with buses running at that time. Classes resume Tuesday, January 6.

### Children's Christmas Party Dec. 20

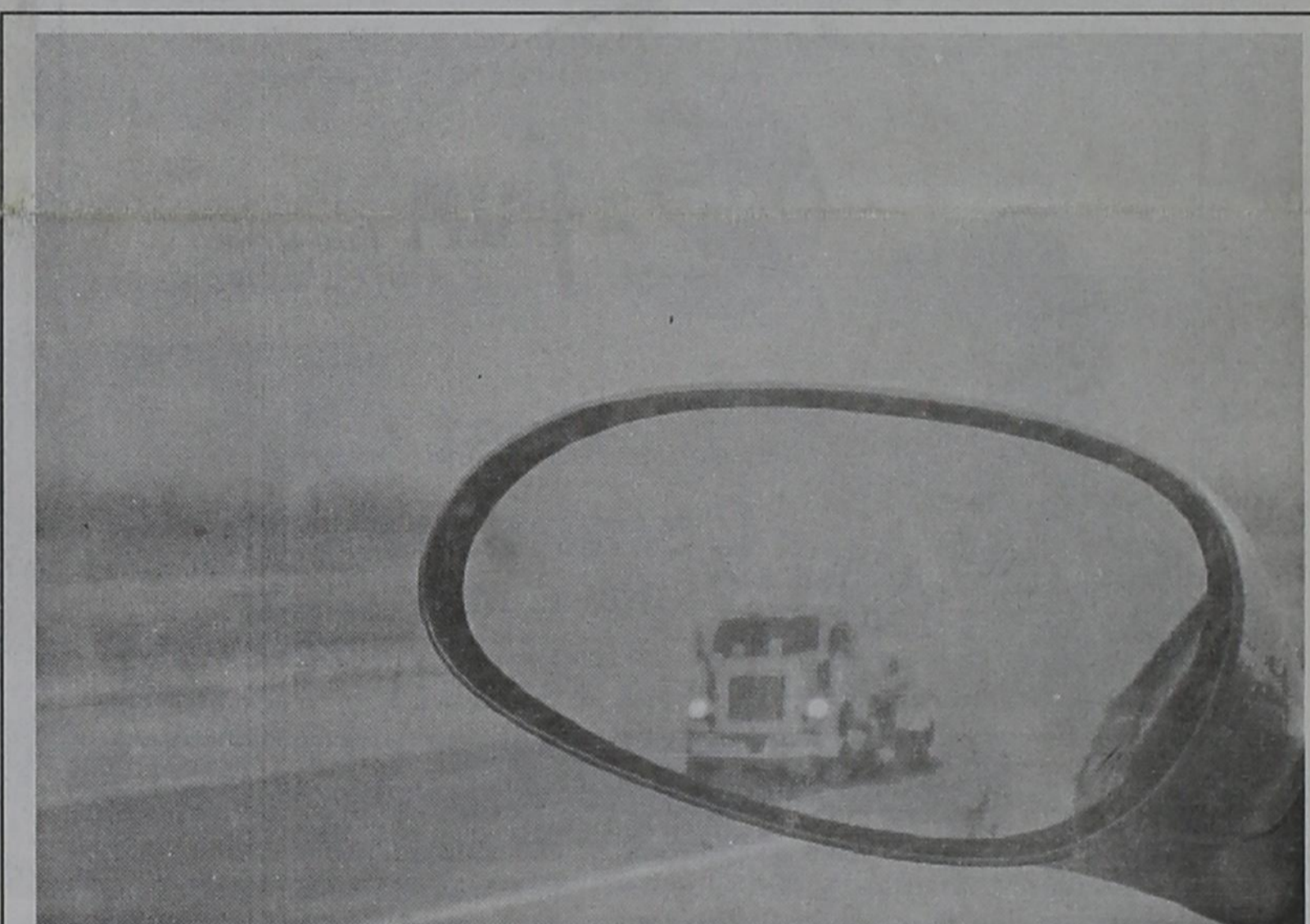
The annual VFW Ladies' Auxiliary sponsored Children's Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the VFW Hall. Santa will be at the party for children to visit.

### Post Dispatch holiday schedule

The Post Dispatch will publish its annual "Merry Christmas" edition on Wednesday, December 24. The edition will be packed with Christmas greeting ads and letters to Santa from area children. The office will be closed December 24, 25 and 26. Deadline for the January 2, 2004 edition will be Monday, December 29.

### Grassland Nazarene Choir Cantata

The Grassland Nazarene Choir will present the Christmas Cantata, "Come and Worship," at the church Sunday, December 21 at 6 p.m. The church invites all to join in the celebration.



### Ah... the nasty taste of blowing dust

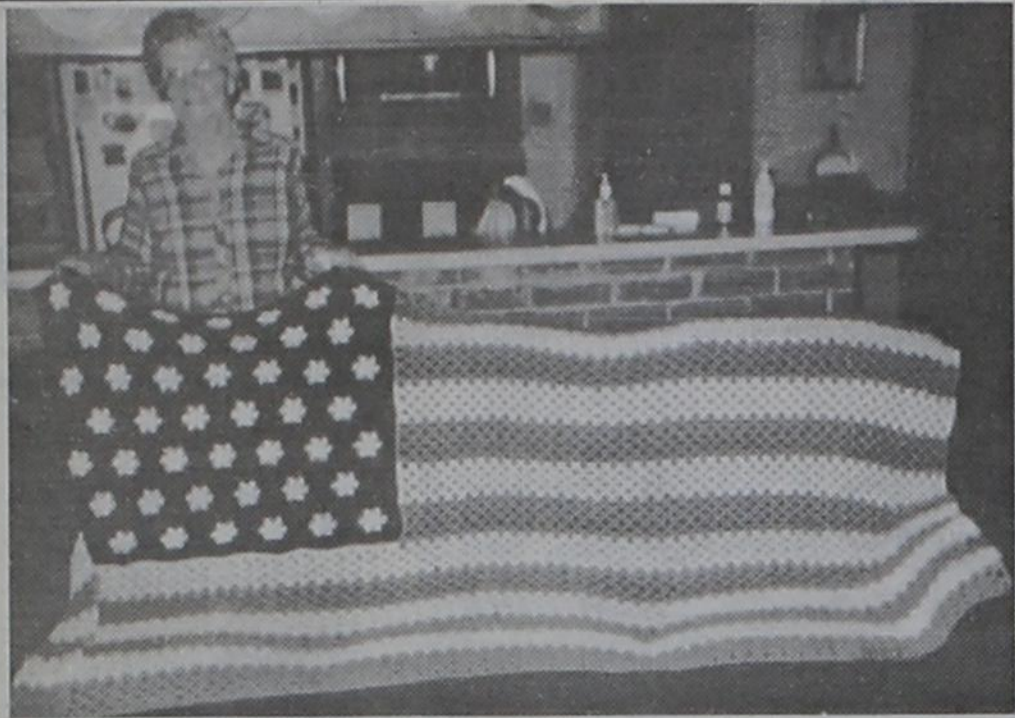
One of those unique West Texas weather events engulfed the South Plains Monday, as winds whipped up to 50 mph in advance of a cold front. Unfortunately, there was no moisture with the wind and dust. (Photo by Tim Burnett)



### Santa's Elves keep the Garza Theatre stage hopping

Performing to packed audiences at the Garza Theatre during its current production of "Miracle on 34th Street," are Santa's elves (left to right) Tianna Reyna, Elizabeth Elston, Chasiti Rutherford, Hannah Kirkpatrick, Nolan Bryan, Michael Porter and Bethany Ratliff. The play continues Friday and Saturday. Call the box office at 495-4005 for reservations.

CLIP 'N' TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GREAT SAVINGS ON YOUR FAVORITE BRANDS! Clip 'N' Save!



Opal Ray crocheted this American flag for her daughter. "It took about two weeks," she said.

## TCEQ commends City of Post

The City of Post received a commendation from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality following a recent inspection of the municipal landfill.

The landfill was the subject of a TCEQ inspection Oct. 21. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the city's compliance with Municipal Solid Waste requirements.

No violations were found during the inspection, according to a Nov. 24 letter to city officials from Randy L. Ammons, section manager for the Lubbock Region of the TCEQ, and "exceptional efforts... by landfill personnel to control and contain windblown litter" were observed.

"The TCEQ appreciates your assistance in this matter and your compliance efforts to ensure protection of the state's environment," Ammons said in his letter.



Reading from their book, "Welcome to Calicheville" are co-authors (left to right) Dorothy Stephenson of Lubbock, Nell Shaver of Crosbyton and Mary Ruthart of Seminole. The authors were special guests at Ruby Lane Books during the recent grand opening event. (Photo by Tim Burnett)

## Music & Piano Lessons

Call Randell Dodson for information  
495-1705 after 3 p.m.

## A Christmas Gift to last!

LIMITED TIME OFFER ONE MONTH FREE!

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## Area Girl Scouts participate Jan. 9 at South Plains Mall

Girl Scouts from 18 surrounding communities will gather at J.C. Penney's in the South Plains Mall in Lubbock Jan. 9 to kick off the annual cookies program.

From 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Girl Scouts will participate in activities that will teach them marketing and selling techniques, goal planning and customer service that will assist them in their cookie sales. Girl Scouts and community members can "follow the Path to Success" through the store to participate in a number of activities, games and crafts. Samples will be available, and attendees will be able to "meet" their favorite cookie.

Two new cookies will be introduced this year - the Lemon Cooler and Double Dutch. The Lemon Cooler is reduced fat; it is a vanilla cookie with zesty lemon chips dusted lightly with powdered sugar. Double Dutch Chocolate Chocolate Chip is made for the chocolate lover. It contains both creamy semi-sweet and milk chocolate chips in a crispy chocolate cookie.

The Girl Scouts also are offering everyone's favorites - Thin Mints (mint chocolate cookie coated in chocolate); Somoas (caramel and toasted coconut); All Abouts (chocolate bottom-coated shortbread); Tagalongs (layered peanut butter and chocolate); Do-Si-Dos (oatmeal cookies with

peanut butter filling); and Trefoils (shortbread).

More than 4,000 Girl Scouts of the Caprock Council will sell cookies from Jan. 5 through March 9. All cookies are priced at \$3 per box, with proceeds benefiting the local Girl Scout troops.

For 68 years, the Girl Scouts have been raising money to fund troop activities through the annual cookie sale. Girl Scouts have fun while building strong

skills, values and friendships.

For more information on the Cookie Celebration or to contact a participating Girl Scout troop, contact the Caprock Council office at 745-2855.

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Radio

Cebridge Media Channel 12

## Sheriff reports four arrests

Four arrests were made in Garza County during the past week, according to sheriff's department records.

On Dec. 8, an individual was arrested on a Garza County warrant. Two arrests were made Dec. 12 - one for public intoxication and the other for driving with an invalid license.

On Dec. 13, an individual was arrested for possession of marijuana, under two ounces.

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You are cordially invited to celebrate the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Mickey McMeans on Saturday, December twenty-seventh two thousand and three at two o'clock in the afternoon Post Community Center Post, Texas  
Your presence is your gift.

You Are Invited To Attend Our Christmas OPEN HOUSE  
Tuesday, December 23  
at 210 N. Broadway, Post  
from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Come Enjoy Refreshments and the company of good friends.

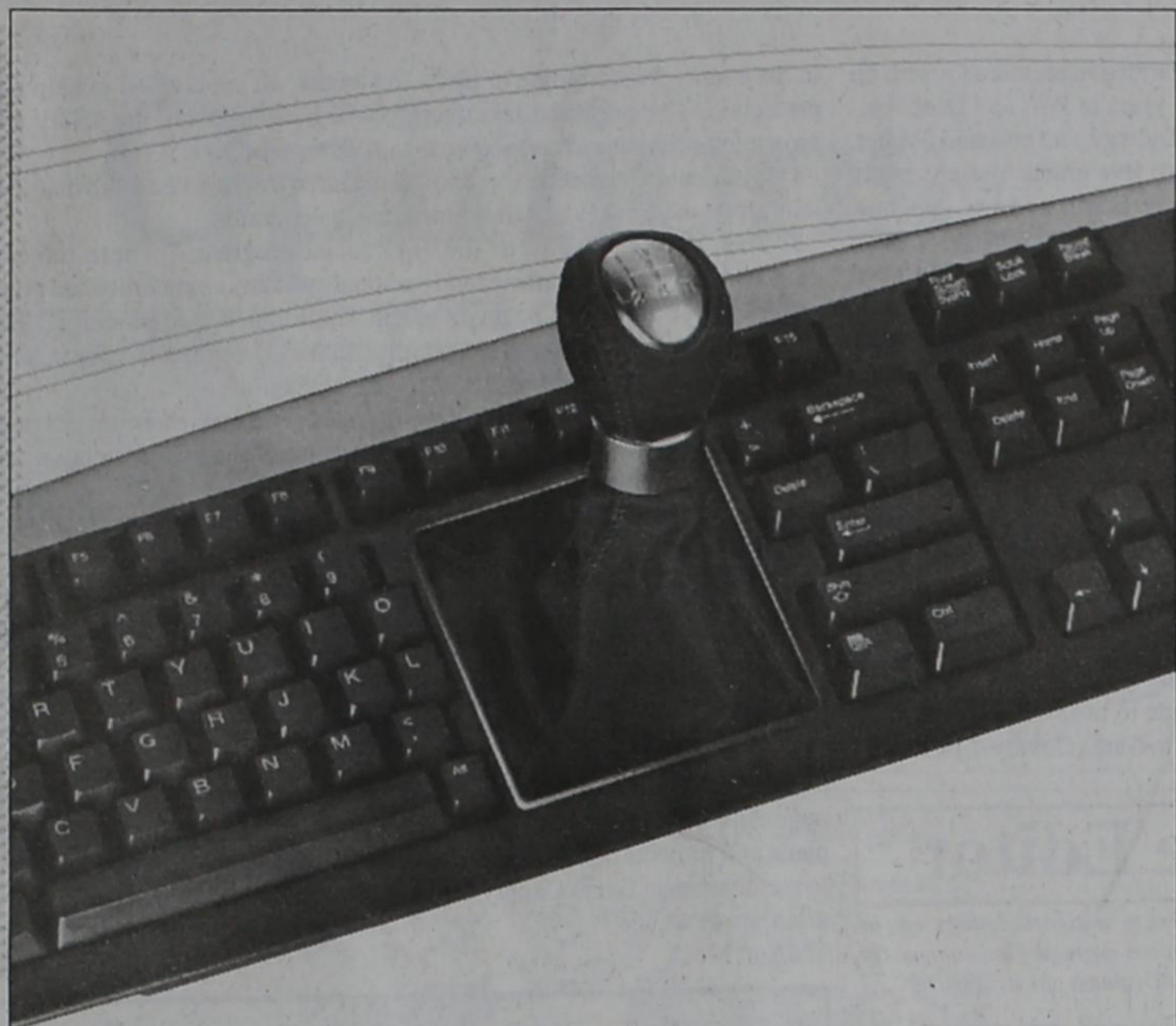
**CitizensBANK**  
Post, Texas (806) 495-3545

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

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### Judy M. Bush announces candidacy for tax assessor

by Judy M. Bush  
I am announcing my candidacy for the office of tax assessor-collector for Garza County in the Democratic primary.  
I was born in Lubbock to J.D. and Vada McCampbell and have lived in Garza County all but two years of my



Judy M. Bush

The Post Dispatch, Thursday, December 18, 2003 Page 3

life. I have been married to Jerry Bush for 37 years, and we have three daughters and seven grandchildren. I worked in the tax office for 15 years, first as a deputy clerk. I was appointed chief deputy in 1998. I feel that I am qualified to fill the position through experience and my years of service. I would appreciate your support and vote in the March primary.

### Give the gift of learning this holiday season

Texas Tech University Extended Studies is offering gift certificates for its spring courses.  
The Extended Studies spring catalog will be out before year's end, but the time is now to purchase gift certificates for holiday giving. Personal enrichment courses include:  
• Art courses - oil painting, advanced drawing and crochet.  
• Creative writing courses - poetry, journaling and short fiction.  
• Theater and dance classes - acting for adults, ballroom dancing, belly dancing and a refresher dance course.

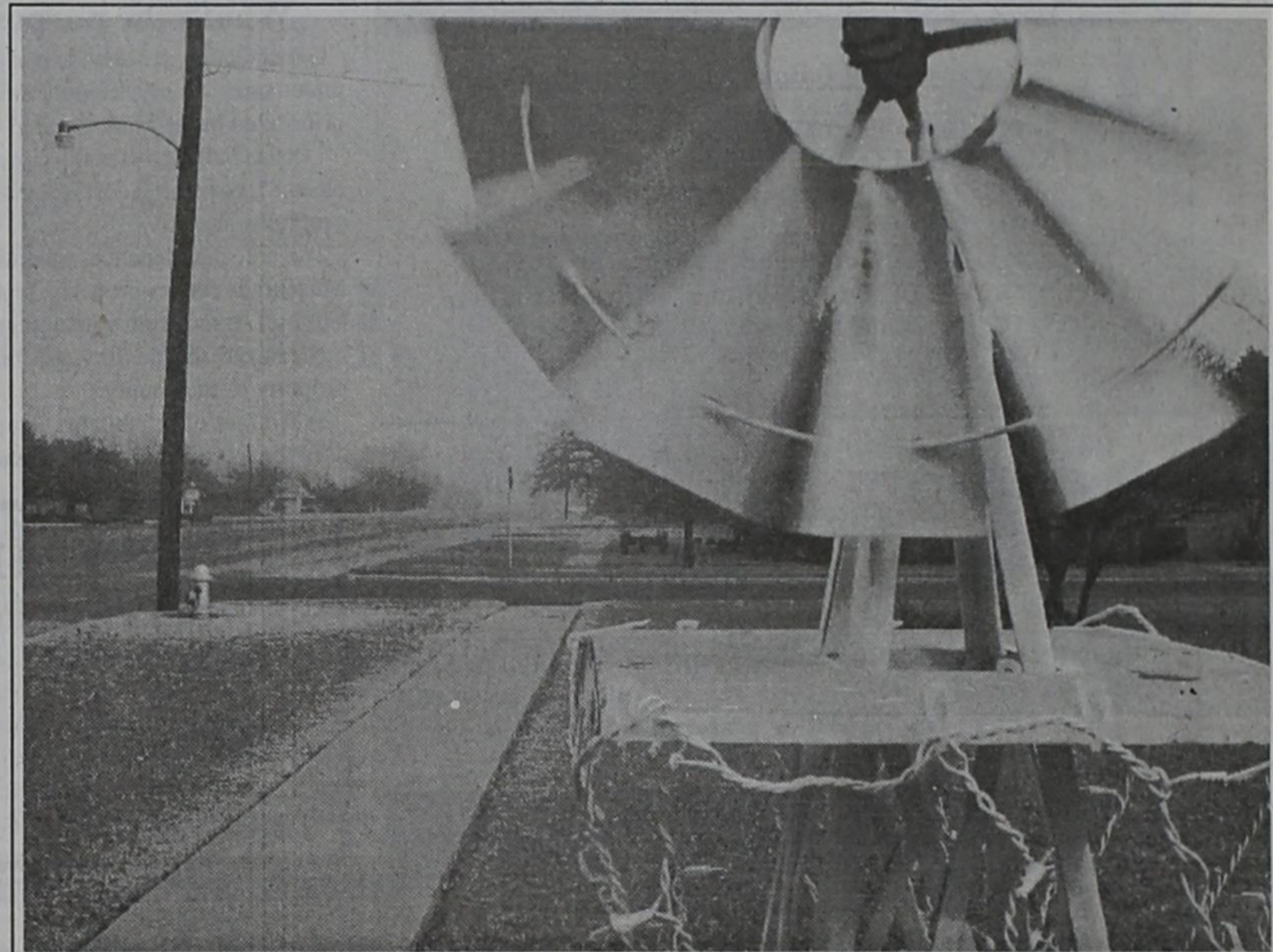
- Leisure activities - planting trees, discovering astronomy and a course on the Grateful Dead.
- Food, beverage and cooking courses.
- Conversational Spanish courses.
- Music courses - guitar, piano and singing.
- Photography - location photography and digital photography.
- Relationships - enriching your love life.

Lifelong Learning Community courses for the spring will once again include the Dinner and Drama series and the Lunch and Learning series, as well as an exploration of local sites called Hidden Lubbock, along with courses such as computers, current events, history and more.

The Adults Connecting with Kids series will include Mother and Daughter Belly Dance, Developing Healthy Self-Esteem, American Sign Language for the Family, Social Dining Etiquette and May the Force Be With You: The Star Wars Phenomena.

Spring courses begin as early as January, and enrollments are already being accepted.

Gift certificates are available for any amount and for any course. Course fees and schedules are available by calling 742-7200, ext. 270, or online at [www.dce.ttu.edu/profdev](http://www.dce.ttu.edu/profdev).



As Winnie the Poo would say ... "it was a very blustery day" ... in Post and the South Plains last Monday as a cold front whizzed through the area. Winds were recorded as high as 50 mph. (Photo by Tim Burnett)



December 14, 2003 thru December 27, 2003

DIET COKE, SPRITE OR  
**COCA-COLA**  
3 LITER BTL.  
**\$1.69**

6 PACK  
**\$1.89**



REG. OR SUGAR FREE  
ENERGY DRINK  
**RED BULL**  
3 FOR \$5

OR INDIVIDUAL CANS  
\$1.99 EACH



8.3 OZ.

**ALLSUP'S "MOO" GET ONE FREE!**  
BUY 12 GALLONS OF FRESH ALLSUP'S MILK...  
Collect Self Stick "Moo" Stamps Today & You Could Win FREE Milk For A Year!

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Store #124 326 W. 8th  
Post, Texas

16 OZ. COFFEE OR CAPPUCCINO  
AND A 2.5 OZ. PACKAGE OF  
MRS. FRESHLEY'S GEM DONUTS  
(CHOCOLATE, SUGAR OR CRUNCH)

**99¢**



MICHIGAN SCOTCH PINE  
CHRISTMAS TREES  
5-7 FT. **\$15.99**

HORTENSIA OR MARDI GRAS  
**PAPER NAPKINS**  
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ALLSUP'S  
**ICE CREAM**  
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**FUJI QUICK SNAP 400 CAMERA**  
REG. \$7.79  
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27 EXP.

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COMBO NO. 1	2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$1.99
COMBO NO. 2	2 HOT LINKS WITH BREAD & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$1.99
COMBO NO. 3	3 TAMALES, HOWLERS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$1.99
COMBO NO. 4	SAUSAGE/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE OR 22 OZ. FOUNTAIN DRINK	\$1.29

SANTA FE FLOUR TORTILLAS 12 CT. / \$1.59 REG.	99¢
BAR-S CHOPPED HAM 12 OZ. PKG. / \$2.29 REG.	\$1.49
ALLSUP'S WHITE BREAD 24 OZ. PKG. / 59¢ EACH OR	2 FOR \$1.09
ALLSUP'S WHEAT BREAD 24 OZ. PKG. / 69¢ EACH OR	2 FOR \$1.29
SHURFINE 9 INCH PAPER PLATES 40 CT. / \$2.89 REG.	\$2.59
SOLO PLASTIC CUPS 16 OZ. / 20 CT.	\$1.59
SHURFINE GRANULATED SUGAR 4 LB. BAG	\$1.99
SHURFINE BROWN OR POWDERED SUGAR 2 LB. BAG	\$1.29
SHURFINE FLOUR 5 LB. BAG	\$1.19
FOLGERS CLASSIC ROAST OR COLUMBIAN 11.5-13 OZ.	\$2.99
PLAINS EGG NOG QUART	\$2.09
TENDERCRUST BROWN'N SERVE ROLLS 12 PACK	89¢
HOT POCKET CHICKEN POT PIE EACH	\$1.59
SHURFINE WHIPPING CREAM 1/2 PINT	89¢
SHURFINE DIPS FRENCH ONION OR GREEN CHILI 1/2 PINT	\$1.29

# Obituaries

## Wagner Claude "Mutt" Graves

Services for Wagner Claude "Mutt" Graves, 89, of Post were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2003, in the Post Church of Christ with Charles McCook and Silas Short officiating. Burial was in the Terrace Cemetery under the direction of Hudman Funeral Home.

He died Sunday, Dec. 14, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

He was born March 12, 1914, in Lubbock to James Marion and Blanche Daugherty Graves, early pioneers of Lubbock. His grandfather, James William Graves, operated Graves Feed Store & Freight Line. In 1917, the family moved to Garza County, driving down Yellowhouse Canyon by wagon and team to a Crossroads community home site purchased from C.W. Post. He helped his father farm and ranch, and in 1936 he purchased his own land. He married Annie Violet Smith Dec. 23, 1937, and he and his wife continued cattle ranching and farming, producing cotton,



"Mutt" Graves and wife Annie at their 65th wedding anniversary

peanuts and watermelons. He later years, he farmed in partnership with his son. He was an avid league bowler for many years in Post and Lubbock.

Survivors include his wife; daughter, Willa Didway, and husband, Walter; and son, Ronnie, and wife, Diane, all of Post; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, including Cristal Didway Booth and her daughter, Tatum Booth, of Sallisaw, Okla., and her son, Justin Phelps of Tyler; Blair Didway, his wife, Shelly, and son, Wyatt, of Fallbrook, Calif.; CW2 Russel Graves, his wife, Lonna, and children, Zachary, Zeb and Hunter, of Seoul, South Korea; Ron Graves, his wife, Melinda, and children, Braden and Heston, of Floydada; and Angela Graves West, her husband, Mark, and children, Kyler and Karsen, of Lubbock; his brothers Oliver Teer and wife, Almeda, of California, A.P. Graves of Oklahoma, Bob Graves of Post and Cletus Graves and wife, Gerri, of Lubbock; and his sisters Charlene Haynie of Lubbock and Clara Mae Wise of Arkansas.

Pallbearers were Blair Didway, Ron Graves, Kolten Josey, Kyle Josey, Justin Phelps and Mark West.

Honorary pallbearers were Bill Case, Russel Graves, Jimmy Hodges, N.R. "Jiggs" King, Marion Matthews, Arlen Smith, Donald Windham, Doyle Young and William Young.

The family has suggested memorials be made to the White River Youth Camp, P.O. Box 455, Crosbyton, TX 79322 or to Garza County 4-H, 215 W. Main, Post, TX 79356.

## 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.*

### What's the purpose of county government?

Garza County has a wide and diverse list of responsibilities and trying to understand county funding might be easier if we put in some sort of prioritized order. Here goes:

1) Road building - a major concern in rural areas (what gets commissioners elected), governing costs (courts, other functions, state, national mandated programs and etc.)

2) Care, maintenance, operations of county properties (The Historical Museum is county property; private contributions solicited by the Caprock Cultural Association with a trained and professional staff have updated and modernized that facility. All historical items and data collected are also property of the county.)

3) Welfare of inhabitants, law enforcement, medical help and etc. (I've used the word inhabitants instead of citizens; it doesn't matter if a person is

in the county for a lifetime or just a few hours, all are entitled to help and protection. The proposed lake facility will help to insure the safety and protection of thousands of people that will visit the lake.)

4) Job creation has been a top priority in Garza County. The more than 200 jobs are at the prisons certainly impacts the economy.

5) Then comes "quality of life" or "social programs." These projects demonstrate the true character and personality of any community and gives people opportunities to be involved in "building the community." The energies of involved citizens are exciting, makes Post attractive for outside investments and businesses. It's also very contagious.

A large number of area people have invested time and resources in Garza County whether they are citizens or not because of the joy of "being a part of growing progressive actions."

I suspect there would be drastic cuts in all of these priorities, but the most cuts will no doubt be in the "quality of life" projects.

Many towns are "dying on the vine" because its elected officials don't recognize the value of citizen involvement and fail to support and encourage quality of life projects. I feel that the tax increase is due to general cost increases that all has to deal with and maybe the new proposed facility. Seems to me that Garza County has kept these as a minimum as much and as long as possible.

Garza County is in a "growth" period, the lake and the amphitheatre are major investments of private and public funds. These are also many new plans and projects of organizations in the works. All of these are designed to greatly impact Garza County's economy and growth tremendously. If we don't grow, we die.

JoAnn Mock

## EMT-Basic & Intermediate Course

### Become an EMT-Basic or Intermediate

EMT-Basic Jan 12 - April 28, 2004

Mon & Wed. 6 - 10:00 p.m.

WTC, 7A Building, Rm. 117

Cost: \$457.00

EMT-Intermediate Jan. 13 - May 26, 2004

Alternating Days. MW then T-Th. 6-10:00 p.m.

WTC, 7C Building, RM 108

Cost: \$704.00



CEU's will be available to already certified personnel

If you interested in this course, contact the Continuing Education Division at Western Texas College. Please call 915-573-8511 ext. 390 or respond by e-mail to ce@wtc.edu



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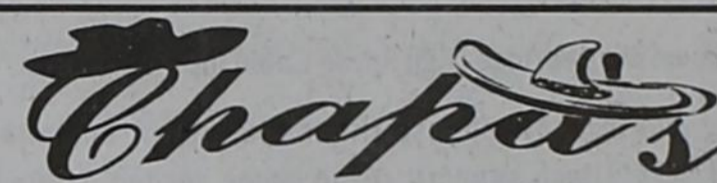
128 E. Main

495-2894

## KPOS Radio

Gospel music, Gospel messages ... Sunday mornings

Cebridge Media Channel 12



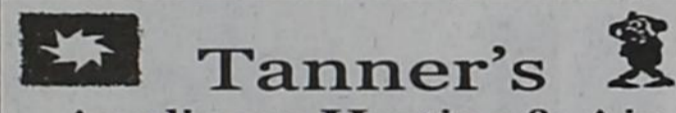
U.S. Hwy 84 Family Restaurant North 495-3848

## South Plains Answering Service

The personal touch for your business 495-3069

## KPOS Radio

Sunday Morning Gospel Music, Gospel Messages 97.7 FM & Cebridge Media Channel 12



806-495-1612

## PALMER

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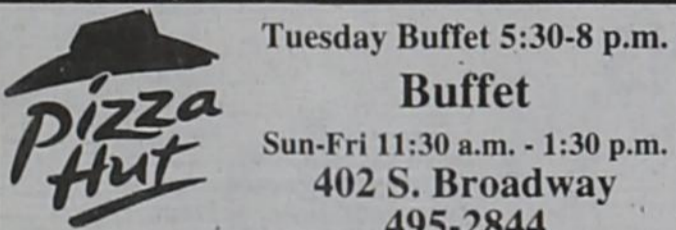
Upcoming Events: Jan. 2, 3 & 4 Feb. 6, 7 & 8



(806) 495-3529 • www.oldmilltradedays.com



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Tuesday Buffet 5:30-8 p.m.  
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# Post Devotional Page

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## On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

### Gabriel comes to Mary

The three most significant events in the history of mankind was the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. According to God's word, the most important of these are his death and resurrection. These two events brought about the righteousness and new-birth that is available now. It is with this in mind that we dive into the wonderful records of Jesus Christ's early years. Starting with his conception, the next series of articles will lay out the first two years of Jesus Christ's life.

Luke 1:26-27, "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgins name was Mary." In his book Jesus Christ Our Promised Seed, author Victor Paul Wierwille pinpointed the dates of many events related to Jesus Christ's early years. He calculated Gabriel's appearance to be on December 4th, 4 B.C. Later we will see how this date chronologically fits the date of Jesus' birth.

Luke 1:28-30 "And the angel came in unto her, and said, 'Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.' And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be." In Genesis 3:15, God gave His word about the seed of the woman. Throughout the Old Testament there are many records of faithful and humble women of God. Yet only one had the meekness and humility to receive God's seed that would miraculously conceive His child. This is why God chose her. Not only would she receive His seed, but she and Joseph would faithfully raise His son according to His will. Jesus Christ's faithful service toward His Father during his last year on earth, was a result of his upbringing under his mom and stepfather. God chose the best of all His people to raise His child.

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

Next week we will look at Mary's humble response to God's word. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation" (2Peter 1:20). On God's Word is designed to teach God's rightly divided word as it interprets itself.

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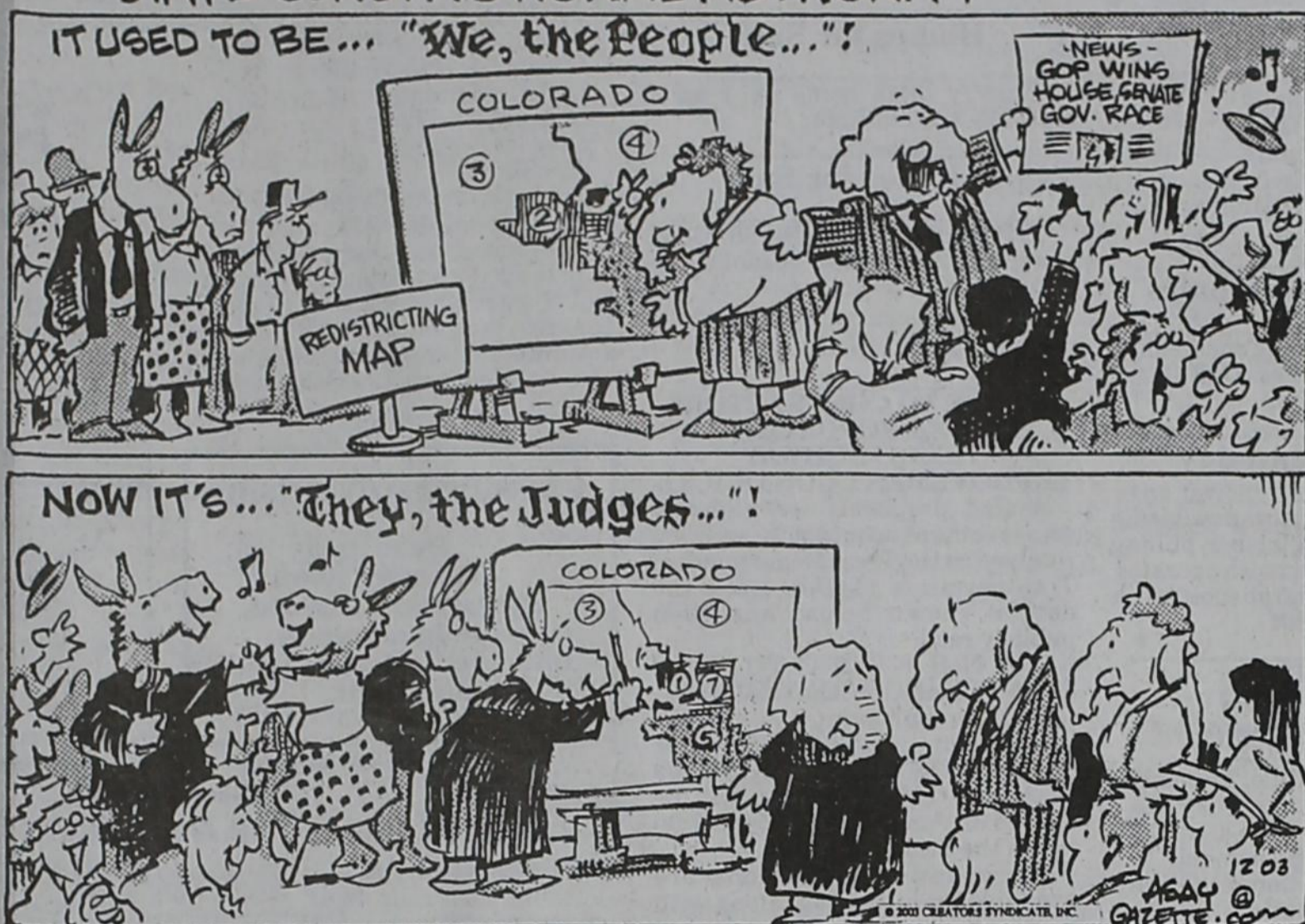
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# Opinions

## STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY



## Let's do some detective work

by Walter E. Williams



I'd like to enlist the services of my fellow Americans with a bit of detective work. Let's start off with hard evidence.

The Federalist Papers were a set of documents written by John Jay, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison to persuade the 13 states to ratify the Constitution. In one of those papers, Federalist Paper 45, James Madison wrote: "The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the Federal Government, are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State Governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation and foreign commerce; with which last the power of taxation will for the most part be connected. The powers reserved to the several States will extend to all the objects, which, in the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, liberties and properties of the people; and the internal order, improvement, and prosperity of the State."

If we turned James Madison's statement on its head, namely that the powers of the federal government are numerous and indefinite and those of the states are few and defined, we'd describe today's America. Was Madison just plain ignorant about the powers delegated to Congress? Before making our judgment, let's examine statements of other possibly misinformed Americans.

In 1796, on the floor of the House of Representatives, William Giles of Virginia condemned a relief measure for fire victims saying it was neither the purpose nor the right of Congress to "attend to what generosity and humanity require, but to what the Constitution and their duty require." In 1854, President Franklin Pierce vetoed a bill intended to help the mentally ill, saying, "I cannot find any authority in the Constitution for public charity," adding that to approve such spending "would be contrary to the letter and the spirit of the Constitution and subversive to the whole theory upon which the Union of these States is founded." President Grover Cleveland was the king of the veto. He vetoed literally hundreds of congressional spending bills during his two terms as president in the late 1800s.

## Bush shows politics is theater

by Sheldon Richman

Politics is corrupt theater. Actors set the mood, and some members of the audience have their pockets picked.

Exhibit A is President Bush's surprise trip to Baghdad on Thanksgiving. What's important is not the secrecy or the collusion by anointed members of the news media. It's the use of soldiers as props to amplify the big lie, namely, that the mission in Iraq is relevant to the security of Americans. This is a president whose administration is always looking for footage for campaign commercials. Remember when he donned a flight suit for the photo op on the USS Abraham Lincoln? That was the day he declared an end to major combat operations in Iraq. So why was it reported that on Thanksgiving Bush flew into a "war zone"? And this is the president who, when he spoke in England, had a designer backdrop studded with the words "United Kingdom." That wasn't for the benefit of the Britons.

So lunch with the troops in Baghdad was just the latest move in the perpetual campaign. He met with no Iraqis; they are merely the "liberated," that is, occupied.

It was pure theater, which is to say, mood-setting and emotional button-pushing. This is nothing new in politics, and it would be unjust to credit Bush with creating it. Funny thing is that when his predecessor did such things, Bush fans went apoplectic - and for good reason.

To say that politics is theater is to say that it is superficial. The debates between candidates and parties, both formal and informal, are shallow and confined to minor details. (See the recent Medicare tussle.) What takes center stage is the competition between personalities, especially the ability to create certain feelings in voters. In the end most people select a candidate on the basis of whether he or she makes them feel safe about the future. They know better than to take campaign promises seriously. Bush promised to be vigilant about government spending, to eschew nation-building, and to effect a foreign policy of "humility." What did the country get? The biggest spender in decades who has yet to veto an appropriations bill, the most confounding nation-building project in American history, and a strategic doctrine of offensive ("preventive") war. If a private company made false promises on such a scale it would go out of business.

Why do people allow this to happen? Because they are powerless to prevent it. Despite the humbug about the glories of democracy, most people realize that, individually, they have no chance of casting a

His often given reason was, "I can find no warrant for such an appropriation in the Constitution."

Today's White House proposes and Congress taxes and spends for anything they can muster a majority vote on. My investigative query is: Were the Founders and previous congressmen and presidents, who could not find constitutional authority for today's bread and circuses, just plain stupid and ignorant? I don't believe in long-run ignorance or stupidity, so I reread the Constitution, looking to see whether an amendment had been passed authorizing Congress to spend money on bailouts for airlines, prescription drugs, education, Social Security and thousands of similar items in today's federal budget. I found no such amendment.

Being thorough, I reread the Constitution and found what Congress might interpret as a blank check authorization - the "general welfare clause." Then I investigated further to see what the Framers meant by the "general welfare clause." In 1798, Thomas Jefferson said, "Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare, but only those specifically enumerated." The Constitution's father, James Madison said: "With respect to the two words 'general welfare,' I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators."

My detective work concludes with several competing explanations. The first is that the great men who laid the framework for our nation were not only constitutionally ignorant but callous and uncaring, as well. The second is it's today's politicians who are constitutionally ignorant. Lastly, it's today's Americans who have contempt for the Constitution, and any congressman or president upholding the Constitution's letter and spirit would be tarred and feathered.

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](http://www.creators.com).

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decisive vote. When was the last time an election outcome would have been different had you stayed home (or not stayed home)? Since no one voter makes a difference, no one has an incentive to take his vote seriously. People may protest that they do indeed take their votes seriously, but imagine that a genie granted your wish that whoever you vote for in the 2004 presidential election will win. I believe you would prepare for that election far differently from how you'll prepare for the actual one.

Economists call this "rational ignorance." Think of what it would take you, a busy person making a living and perhaps raising kids, to become really knowledgeable about the things a president (or congressman) has to deal with. Who has that kind of time? Who is able to read the federal budget - and understand it? Members of Congress don't.

Since regular people cannot devote themselves to such research and since, even if they did, their one vote would be no more potent than an ignorant vote, they substitute a proxy for knowledge about issues: the mood created by the candidates.

Thus the skills rewarded in politics are not related to knowledge, wisdom, or even administrative prowess. Thespian skills are what win. The only uncertainty is over which mood the voters are looking for this time.

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.

## War is barbarism

"War is at best barbarism.... Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell."—Herbert Spencer, Graduation Address at Michigan Military Academy [June 19, 1879] "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."—Dwight D. Eisenhower, Farewell Address [January 17, 1961] -

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## Another win for the folks

by Bill O'Reilly



Abercrombie and Fitch has raised the white T-shirt and surrendered. It is pulling its soft-core porn clothing catalog because the outcry has hurt the only thing that matters to A&F: the bottom line. Same store sales in November were down 13 percent in an approving economy. Apparently showing naked people in the catalog was stimulating, just not to clothing sales.

As you may know, Abercrombie and Fitch's target customer is between 12 and 25, so it is no wonder that a catalog promoting group sex would get some parents upset. A&F claimed the catalog was not sold to anyone under 18, but let's get real here: Kids were seeing it.

The catalog itself was perplexing as a marketing tool. It describes how great group sex is and that dolphins do it. So what kind of clothing are dolphins wearing these days? Do they have little sweatshirts on as they jump each other under the waves?

The secular New York Times described the situation using the same tactic it did during the Reagan movie drama. The controversy was generated by "conservatives," those killjoy pessimists who want to ruin all the fun. Here's how the Times put it: "After loud and sustained protests from socially conservative groups and feminist groups, the company announced... it was withdrawing the (catalog)."

Sure. It's only those nasty right-wingers and feminists that stirred this up. Liberal or independent thinkers would never object to their kids seeing a half dozen nude models doing the lambada together. In the world of The New York Times, everyday Americans would have no trouble with any of that.

Are you getting the picture here? Every time an issue of incredibly bad taste arises, like this catalog and the Reagan movie, the secular press tries to marginalize the opposition by defining it in political terms.

The truth is that most non-ideological Americans are getting sick and tired of offensive displays and outrageous behavior being rammed down their throats. Secularists do not want any judgments made about personal behavior, and if you oppose that, they try to make you out to be some kind of junior Jerry Falwell, demanding that everyone convert to Christianity. It's simply dishonest.

Here's proof that regular Americans have had enough. A new Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll says that 87 percent of Americans approve of Nativity scenes being displayed on public property during Christmas. Perhaps that's because the federal holiday of Christmas honors the birth of Jesus, so there might be some context here. But you probably did not read about that poll in the secular press. Maybe if they threw some group sex questions in that survey it would get wider exposure.

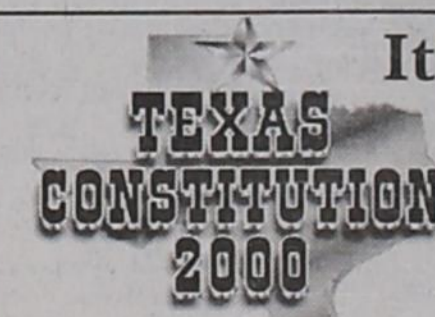
Never before in this country has such a slender secular minority had so much power. The ACLU has succeeded in knocking nativity scenes out all over the country against the will of the people. The New York City school system even forbids any display of the birth of Jesus in its buildings. So much for the history of a national holiday.

The one-two punch of outrageous and offensive behavior and the diminishment of public spirituality is something this country is going to have to come to terms with. Time after time commerce and the polls show that Americans want traditional values and are appalled by inappropriate material marketed to children. In the end, the will of the people will likely prevail, as the Abercrombie and Fitch situation proves. But the proponents of a secular society are fierce, and they are not going away anytime soon.

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](http://www.creators.com). This column originates on the Web site [www.billoreilly.com](http://www.billoreilly.com).

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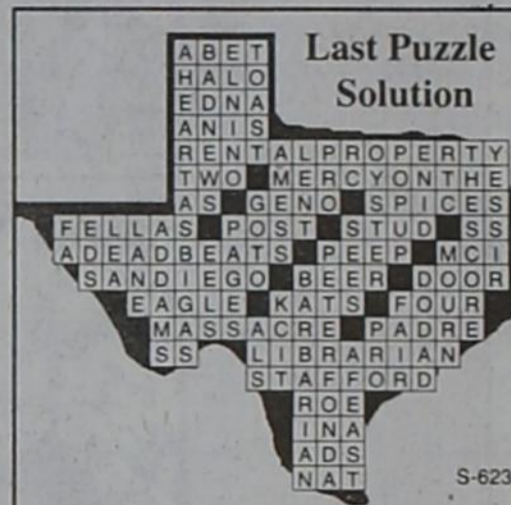
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Nikki Norman (center) goes for two points in action here last week for the Post Lady Lopes. Sarah Kirkpatrick (left), Tayler Starkey (right front) and Meagan Hoover (21) help out on the court. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

# Lady Lopes upend AHS JV 50-25

by Randy Courtney  
The Lady Lopes played extremely well in the tournament. Both Hamlin and Graham are ranked in the top 5 in their respected classes. Against Hamlin the Lady Lopes came from 18 points down to get within 2 and a chance to win the game. Against Graham the Lady Lopes went up against one of the premier post players (6'5") in

the state. I thought we really raised the level of our game in this tournament, which will help us tremendously down the road.

Brittney Courtney was named to the All-Tournament team.

Post 50 - AHS JV 25	
Jenee Lott	6
Brittney Courtney	15
Sarah Kirkpatrick	4
Tayler Starkey	17
Nikki Norman	8
Hamlin 51 - Post 49	
Jenee Lott	4
Logan Gregory	2
Tayler Starkey	12
Brittney Courtney	16
Sarah Kirkpatrick	7
Nikki Norman	8
Graham 43 - Post 31	
Meagan Hoover	7
Tayler Starkey	2
Brittney Courtney	8
Sarah Kirkpatrick	4
Nikki Norman	10



Traci Nelson brings the ball upcourt for the Post Lady Lopes in action here last week. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Kyle Gunn takes a shot at the basket for the Post Antelopes during action here last week. CoCo Valdez (left), Cole Easterling and Jett Lott (right) assist on the play. (Photo by Jerry Taylor)

## JV Lady Lopes continue winning

by Jerry White  
The Post Lady Lopes weathered a dust storm on the trip to Plains and then created a storm of their own defeating the Cowgirl JV 58 - 27. Scoring by quaters; 19 - 8, 15 - 11, 11 - 5, and 13 - 3.

The Lady Lopes were led by Ashley Powell coming off the bench to score her season high of 14 points. Also scoring in double figures were Ashley Wilson 11, and Jackie Hays 10.

Other Lady Lopes who scored were Rachel Gray 9, Laurel Tatum 8, Larissa Halford 6, and Kylie Easterling 2. The Post Lady Lopes JV season record is now 9 - 2.

### Lady Lopes JV Defeat Coahoma JV

The Post Lady Lopes defeated the Coahoma JV at the Post Old Gym Tuesday, December 9th. The Lady Lopes pressing defense built an 18 to 4 lead. From there the Lady Lopes cruised to a 43 to 25 win.

The Lady Lopes were led by Laurel Tatum and Jackie Hays who scored 10 points each. As a result of the press Larissa Halford scored 8 points in the first quarter. Other Lady Lopes

to score were Rachel Gray 8, Ashley Powell 4, Ashley Wilson 2, and Katie Vernon 1.

The Lady Lope JV season record is 6 - 1.

## Middle School girls' basketball

by Kara Swindell

7th  
I saw us getting better at teamwork with this game. We really seemed to look at the open player and try to get her the ball. We still are struggling with our defense, but I look for that to be improving with our upcoming games. Jakelin Delgadillo played a really good game for us defensively and offensively. She did a good job of making good passes and getting the ball to the open girl.

8th  
This is the best game I've seen for these girls yet. They came out strong early and never let up. Playing like a team was our goal for this game and they exceeded the expectations by far. Tamara Raymundo did an outstanding job on defense and did a great job of giving us passes that we can score off of. Samantha Hoover had a game high of 13 and did a great job for us offensively and defensively.

## Western Texas College Spring 2004 Registration Thursday and Friday January 8 and 9

Registration process begins in the WTC gymnasium

### Thursday

#### Evening Registration (any students)

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

### Friday

#### Sophomores (30+ hours)

8:30 a.m. last names A-F

9:30 a.m. last names G-O

10:30 a.m. last names P-Z

#### Freshmen (0 - 29 hours)

1:30 p.m. last names A-F

2:30 p.m. last names G-O

3:30 p.m. last names P-Z

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