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# The Post Dispatch

80th Year, Number 5

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Thursday, June 30, 2005

# Commissioners approve plan for improving Fuller Road

by Wes Burnett

Time

and

success

mellowed

Voting 3-1, the Garza County Commissioners' Court Monday morning approved a motion by Precinct One Commissioner Mike Sanchez to make improvements to the existing roadway known as the Fuller Road (County Road 378) on the south side of Lake Alan Henry.

The motion included rescinding court action June 28, 2004 when commissioners approved an agreement with rancher Will Senn for a roadway on the west and north side of his property. Senn offered to donate right of way around his ranch, with the Fuller Road to be abandoned by the county as part of the action to replace the road with a westerly and northerly connection to property being developed around the lake.

Precinct Two Commissioner Mason McClellan cast the lone "no" vote, with commissioners John Valdez and Gary McDaniel approving the motion.

Senn's attorney, Alan Carmichael had made a presentation earlier,

Senn's attorney, Alan Carmichael had made a presentation earlier, asking the court to uphold its previous agreement and "do the right thing." Carmichael pointed out that the exchange of right of way relieved the county of any financial burden, recommending that the developers, "who stand to benefit financially from this roadway," pay the cost for building the roadway.

John Huffaker of Amarillo represented developers LaWayne Feagin and Jody Ashley. He explained that a recent lawsuit filed in the 106th District Court does not involve the county. "We filed because of comments by Mr

# Highway traffic collections enrich County & State by \$38,106.17 in May

by Tim Burnett

Garza County Justice of the Peace Courts collected \$38,106.17 during the month of May largely from highway travel and traffic fines issued, according to official reports. The fund raising program, operated by Garzy County in coordination with the State of Texas, took advantage of travelers who were accused of violating State Transportation Codes.

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 collected \$19,583 which included 143 misdemeanor cases, while JP Court Precinct 2 reported \$18,523.17 involving 152 misdemeanor cases.

State and county code enforcement officers are "just doing their jobs" by enforcing the traffic code, but what was sold to the public in the 1920s for

"safe" roads, is now a huge money making scheme for corporate governments.

The State of Texas gradually shifted the public perception of the Code's underlying scope so that all travelers appear required to register their automobiles with the State of Texas. A study into the underlying scope of the Texas Transportation Code has revealed exactly who is required to register

their automobiles with the State.

The exact scope of the Texas Transportation Code was discovered by allowing it to narrowly interpret itself according to its strict construction. The scope of the Transportation Code is "Transportation."

The term "Transportation" is not defined in the Texas Code. According to the United States Transportation Code and Black's Law Dictionary, the term "Transportation" is defined as transportation by a carrier for hire.

Use of the roads and highways for the purpose of "transportation for hire by carriers" was what fell under the scope of the Code. Even to this day, the Code protects the traveling public by regulating vehicles using the roads for the purpose of "Transportation."

The registration requirement falls within the limited scope of the Transportation Code. The only automobiles that are required by statute to be registered with the State are those that use the roads for the purpose of transporting for hire: for example, busses, cabs, freight carriers, etc.

The registration renewal receipt proves the above point. The receipt cites "carrying capacity", "tonnage" and "travel trailer length" to be at "0".

Most travelers know the "carrying capacity" of their automobiles is more than "0".

Senn's attorney that the road might be closed to the public. We simply want to clear the up the question in the court as to the status of the raod.

The developers also repeated their previous position that the Fuller Road is a public roadway, and pointed out the increased tax revenues anticipated to the county as benefits for the county.

Others in attendance supported the proposition that the Fuller Road has been a public road since the 1930s.

Carmichael told the court that he believed that an explanation should be given by the court for the reversal of its June 2004 decision. "We had an agreement," Carmichael emphasized, "What happened to cause this change?" There was no response to the question.

In opening discussion about the issue, Judge Giles W. Dalby critized The Post Dispatch for its report that the Tuesday, June 21 "executive session" was a "secret" meeting. "We posted this meeting," Dalby said, "and it was not a secret."

In his comments, Dalby said that the court needed to meet behind closed doors to discuss "personalities" and that the court needed to shield itself from embarassing "others and ourselves." He also said that the court had the right to meet in closed session for discussion with its engineer.

The Post Dispatch, in its June 23 report, cited the Texas Open Meetings Act, which allows for closed sessions with the court's attorney, but does not authorize shutting out the public for discussions with its engineer.

"Something's changed," Carmichael, "there's been an attempt to change the minds of the court, and it just doesn't make sense." Carmichael also asked if the court would be using the existing road or the road as defined by the recorded deed. The court did not answer his question if condemnation proceedings were going to be initiated.

Later in the meeting Monday, the court approved its engineer Rich Oller to proceed with plans for replacing the bridge with a concrete culvert on the roadway.

"We don't want to move too fast on construction," McClellan pointed out, "due to the fact that there may very well be a lawsuit over this."

In other matters, the court approved Watson Food Service for providing food at the Garza County Regional Juvenile Center. Two other bids were considered.

A budget revision for the county agent was approved in the amount of \$1,860 related to pickup repairs and travel expenses. Agent Gregg Jones has been notified that he has been named for a national distinguished service award, with a presentation in New York.

A public assistance application in the amount of \$313.90 was approved following review by county attorney Les Acker.

# Gross sales increase 17.8% in Fourth Quarter 2004

Gross sales were up almost 18 percent in Garza County during the final quarter of 2004, according to the State Sales and Use Tax Analysis Report distributed May 31 by the state comptroller's office.

According to the report, Garza County had almost \$14,500,000 in gross sales for the final quarter of last year, compared to about \$12,300,000 in the same quarter of 2003. The 17.8 percent increase was realized despite the fact that the last quarter of 2004 saw fewer reporting outlets – 274 – than the 316 reported in the last few months of 2003.

Use tax purchases totaled \$101,752 at the close of 2004, according to the report. The amount subject to states sales and use tax totaled almost \$7,400,000.



## Evening sky offers celestial show

This scene of the full moon could be seen last Wednesday night from the City - County Park. In other star-gazing news, the planets Venus, Saturn and Mercury have been appearing together during the past week and may be seen on the western horizon during sunset twilight between 9:30 and 10 p.m. Venus and Saturn closely lined up toward the north while Mercury can be dimly seen lower on the horizon.

Looking farther up in the sky, Jupiter can also be seen shining brightly during sunset. For more information log on the internet at www.astronomy.com.

(Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

# Big July 4th celebration features family fun, fireworks

The fourth annual Fourth of July celebration sponsored by MAD DADS will kick off at 5 p.m. Monday in the city park.

Music will fill the park area as celebration participants enjoy food served up by local residents, clubs, organizations and church groups. Admission to the park will be free of charge.

Sidelining activities will be several game booths that will target the younger members of the crowd. Game booth tickets will be 50 cents apiece. Booth space will remain available right up until the event starts Monday afternoon, said event organizer Diana Poe.

"We need more booths, especially food," Poe said. "Any club or organization that wants to raise money – they're more than welcome."

Booth space costs \$10 for a booth without electricity and \$15 for one with electricity.

At 6 p.m., a decorated bicycle parade will take place, followed by a live auction at 8 p.m. Items to be auctioned off, all donated by local and area merchants, include dinners, gift items, pictures and decorations.

After the auction, a drawing will be held for the giveaway of a camcorder. Tickets for the camcorder giveaway cost \$1 each and may be purchased by contacting Poe at 495-3867.

All funds generated by the auction, booth space rental and the camcorder giveaway will benefit the local MAD DADS youth program, Poe said.

Wrapping up the evening's entertainment will be a traditional Fourth of July fireworks display orchestrated by the Post Volunteer Fire Department. Poe said this year's display will be even larger than last year's, and the 2004 event she described as "magnificent."

"It will be beautiful," she said, "and we'll be seeing even more this year."
The fireworks display should run anywhere from 30 to 45 minutes.
For more information on booth space, contact Poe at 495-3867.

# Post Notes

## Entertainment at OMTD

Old Mill Trade Days will feature the Nifty Fifty Car Club on Saturday, July 2. Ballet Folkelorico Paloma Libre, a dance troup from Lorenzo will also provide entertainment with two special performances, the first beginning at 11 a.m. and then again at 2 p.m. The Country Boys will take the stage on Sunday afternoon. Come out and enjoy great entertainment this week-end.

## Fireworks to benefit building fund

Caprock Springs Fellowship will be receiving proceeds from Mr. W firework stands. Proceeds will benefit the building fund. The stand will be open June 24-July 4 from 9 a.m. until late.

## 4th of July Celebration in park

Help is needed to make this year the biggest and best celebration ever. Set up a food or drink concession, a game booth, etc. It would be a great fundraiser to send children and teens to camp. Be a part of the excitement and get your booth now. Call 495-3867 or 495-1207.

## Annual dog dip

The Post Rotary Club along with Veterinarian Dr. Larry Mills will have a pet vaccination and dog dip on Saturday, July 9 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Post Volunteer Fire Station on Avenue H. Rabies vaccinations are \$8 with other vaccinations available. The dog dip is \$5.

## Tamale sale to benefit Biaza

Delicious hot tamales will be sold Friday, July 9 at the home of Anita Ayala, 815 W. 8th street. The cost is \$6.50 per dozen. To place your orders please call 495-3708. We will begin at 8 a.m. until sold out. All proceeds will go to D.J. Biaza to play in the Coast to Coast Nation Wide baseball league in Orlando, Florida this winter.

## Book of Acts bible study

A weekly bible study in Book of Acts will be held each Wednesday beginning at 10 a.m. at the Caprock Apartments' community room and then at 1 p.m. at the Post Manor Apartments' community room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Youth lock-in set at gym

Bethel Assembly of God Church will sponsor a youth lock-in on Friday, July 22 from 7 p.m. - 12 a.m. at the school's old gym located at 501 S. Avenue K. Come and enjoy live music, games and good food. Door prizes will be given away. For more information call Noel Diaz at 495-0022.

## Beth Walker Memorial Library Fund

The Beth Walker Memorial Library Fund has been established to aid the Post Elementary, Middle School, and High School libraries with non-budget expenditures. Mrs. Walker was a long time librarian in the Post schools. Annual or one-time contributions can be made to the Beth Walker Fund in care of the Post ISD business office at 501 S. Avenue K.



# Neighboring farmers lend helping hand

Assisting in the plowing of cotton for Joe Neal Clary are (left to right), Daniel Contreras, Tino Alinez, G.B. Wilke, Mac Terry, Robert Wilke, Danny Gonzales and Joe Neal Clary. The neighbors pitched in and plowed about

300 acres for Clary on Wednesday, June 22. Clary is recovering from surgery and is unable to work for several weeks. This is known to be a critical time for cotton farming as it is recovering from extensive rains. (Photo courtesy Lee Norman)

# www.thepostdispatch.com



Happy 1st Birthday! Nadia Jae

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## Dr Angela **Tobias** honored

Dr. Angela Tobias was recently recognized with the Women's Health Award given annually by the Highland Hospital/University of Rochester Family Medicine Residency Program in Rochester, N.Y.

Candidates are nominated by fellow resident physicians and faculty members for their contributions to the health care of women. A committee comprised of faculty members decides the winner.

Tobias was nominated for restarting a program that sends family medicine resident physicians to an underserved innercity neighborhood clinic to provide obstetrical care to low-income and underinsured women.

Tobias' name was inscribed on a plaque that hangs at the hospital. In addition to the award, she received a \$300 prize.

The daughter of Frank and Carol Tobias of Post, Tobias is in her third year of residency in family medicine in Rochester. She is the granddaughter of the late Garland and Georgia Davies and the niece of Richard and Berta Fuentes of Post.

### Kelly Moore earns WTAM honors

Kelly L. Moore of Post was one of more than 1,200 students named to honor lists for the spring 2005 semester at West Texas A&M University, according to a university press release.

Moore is a junior nursing major at West Texas A&M.

## **Post City Television**

"It's What Post City Is All About" Local News • PHS Sports **Cebridge Connections** Channel 12



The staff of Chapa's Restaraunt standing with recent visitors from Sweden are (left to right), Melissa Curtis, Lori Jones, IngaBritt & Benny Adolfsson, Amando Chapa IV, Veronica Chapa and Amando Chapa III. The Adolfsson's are visiting the united States from Skanninge, Sweden. The couple planned a drive to Amarillo, Yellowstone National Park and finally Los Angelos before returning to Sweden.

Wesley's Great grandparents are

Lillie Willis of Lubbock, Betty

Stanley, Ginger Phillip and Benny

Mattie Lean Soto

announced the birth of a daughter,

Mattie Lean Soto, at 1:46 p.m. June 10, 2005, at Highland Hospital in

The infant, named after her late

grandmother, Mattie Perez, weighed

7 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 19 inches

She was welcomed home by four

brothers - Sergio, Jose, Andrew and

Leno and Rebecca Soto have

Wilks, all of Post.

in length at birth.

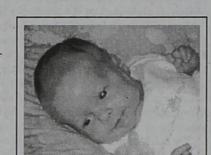
(Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

## Births

#### Wesley Glenn Wilks

We are happy to announce the birth of Wesley Glenn Wilks to Kipp and Vanessa Wilks.

He is the brother of Russell Wilks. Born on March 18, 2005, Welsey is the great grandson of Ronnie and Annette Riggs along with Kim and Patsy Wilks.



Wesley Glenn Wilks

#### White River Lake Weekly Report June 27, 2005

Gauge reading: 2351.70 Feet below spillway: 20'9" Rise - 0" Rainfall (past week): 0" Rain to-date: 6.64" Source: Mickey Rogers, WRMWD general manager

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Singing the National Anthem, with no music accompaniment, during Greenbelt Bowl on Saturday, June 11 in Childress is Payton Steed (right). Payton is the six year old daughter of Chuck and Paige Steed of Childress, and the Granddaughter of Norman and Cary Gay Tanner of Menard, Texas. She is also the Great granddaughter of Dick and

Payton received a roaring standing ovation following her performance. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

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July



Post 9-10 Little League team defeats O'Donnell during All Star tournament in Post

Post 9-10 Little League players being recognized prior to the All Star game against O'Donnell on Monday night, June 27 are (left to right), Dustin Robinson, Vance Blair, T.J. Basquez, Dalton Holly, Pake Jones, nathan Guerra, Blaine Osborn, Zach Bush, Nolan Prather, Jordan Duran and McLayne Hall. Not in photo are Tommy Basquez (Manager) and Coaches Ruben Soto and Greg Jones.

The Post team defeated O'Donnell with the 10-point rule (13-3) and advanced to play against Lamesa Wednesday night in Post.

(Staff photo by Tim Burnett)



### Randon Blacklock signs with **Howard College**

Post High School graduating senior Randon Blacklock recently signed with Howard College at Big Springs, to play baseball.

Blacklock was also named Player of the Year on the All-South Plains Class 2A baseball team.

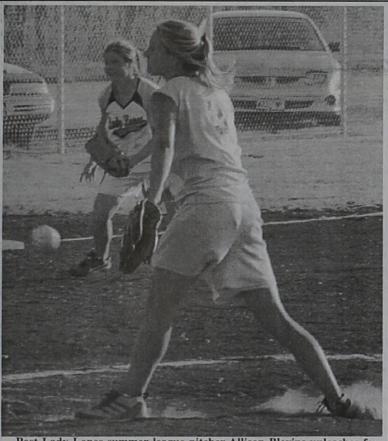
## Blacklock gets regional honor

Four members of the Post Antelope baseball team earned spots on the All South Plains Class 2A Baseball Team, according to reports.

Randon Blacklock, a senior, was tapped as Player of the Year. Blacklock had a .464 batting average. He had 48 runs scored, 18 doubles, seven triples, nine home runs, 39 RBIs and a .936 slugging percentage. In pitching, Blacklock went 8-1 with 79 strikeouts. He also made first team All District 5-

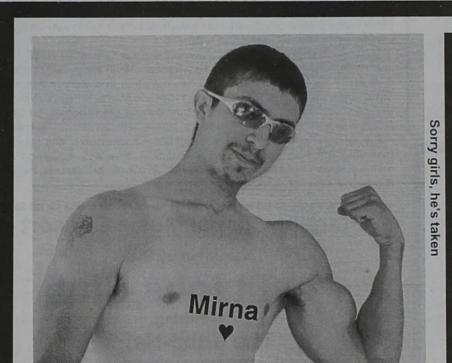
Miles Gray, a junior, was named to the First Team. The second baseman led with a .910 fielding percentage with only seven errors. He was part of four double plays. On offense he batted .342 with five doubles, a triple and 42 runs scored. He made five home runs and 32 RBIs. He also was listed first team in All District 5-2A.

Making Second Team were Coco Valdez, a senior second baseman, and Jett Lott, a senior outfielder.



Post Lady Lopes summer league pitcher Allison Blevins unleashes for anther strike during Tuesday night's softball action in Post, against the Blue Crew team out of Lubbock. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

# www.postcityradio.com

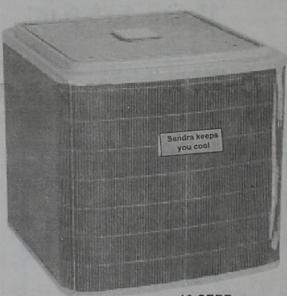


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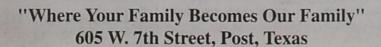
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Mose McCook (right) enjoys puzzle time with Victoria Hernandez

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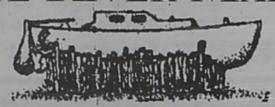
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# An American Icon: Charles William Post, Founder of Post City, Texas

(Editor's note: The following is part five of a series of articles compiled by Linda Puckett from the archives of the Garza County Historical Museum and the book "C.W. Post - The Hour and the Man" by Nettie Leitch Major.)

Charlie Post's road experiences were invaluable in shaping the perfect salesman yet to be, giving him a far greater awareness of the needs and potential of the new west than was afforded the average man of that day.

Much like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, curiosity and a healthy imagination prodded him to either invent or make improvement to existing implements. His more practical early inventions were of farm machinery and others such as a particular kind of paddle to generate electricity by waterpower. The paddle proved very successful and was brought into use many times during the various Texas ventures a few years later when Post found it necessary to furnish electric power for street

In 1880, Post had returned to Springfield with the firm resolve to manufacture a seed planter he had previously designed with a longtime friend, A.L. Idle, doing business as Idle & Sons Engine Builders. The two were granted a patent in 1879.

The firm Coleman, Post & Reed was established to make the seed planter by hand, while Charlie traveled his territory to help finance operating costs. By 1881, with the help of outside capital, they established the Illinois Agricultural Works Inc. to manufacture Post Capital City Cultivators

The new company was incorporated with a capital stock of \$300,000. The climate would be beneficial. officers were L.H. Coleman, president; S. Mendenhall, treasurer; and C.W. Post, general manager. Aurrie and Carroll Post, with their father, Rollin, each had an interest and active part in the business. Carroll was a road salesman, C.W. supervised the shop, the mechanics and all clerical details. He held \$50,000 face value of the capital stock, which was held in his wife, Ella's, name since it represented the investment of her funds as security for a bank loan to establish the new business.

Subsequent patents for a sulky plow (1882), three cultivators (1882, 1883) and 1884), a harrow (1887) and a hay-stacker (1890) were solely those of C.W. Post. His interest in this field was nurtured in childhood when his father had a warehouse at the corner of 110th and Adams Streets as a dealer in plows, cultivators, reapers and grain. Behind the residence on Sixth Street was a little shop attached to the stables where the boys learned to make various implements for their own use. Charlie spent long hours in that old workshop, laboring over mechanical drawings, designing and making farm implement improvements. Through his travels he was thoroughly familiar with the needs of farmers.

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C.W. Post ca. 1910

The implement business was a complete success from the outset and continued to prosper until the local banker who made the loans became interested in taking control of the fast-growing business. Post's subsequent quarrels and lawsuits with the banker ran on for a number of years. The business weighed on Charlie's shoulders, along with the stress of dealing with the Springfield banker, placing him under great nervous strain and overwork. Mother Nature took a hand in the matter in August of 1885 when he was felled from a complete collapse from nervous exhaustion and confined at home for many months with no business activity whatsoever

Without his knowledge and guidance at the plant, the business soon felt the loss of his astute management and skill. The company was liquidated.

There was a sidelight to the quarrel with the Springfield banker, one that shows Post's ability to forgive and forget in spite of the longtime difficulties and bitter exchanges. Some years later at Battle Creek, C.W. was told by a mutual friend that the banker was in very poor health and financial difficulties. He immediately sent a substantial sum of money to the banker's wife, with a warm and friendly note, recalling only pleasant news and fond memories from childhood days.

The recuperation from his illness was slow and discouraging, and many months would pass before Post was able to turn his attention to further pursuits. Advice from doctors and family suggested that the winters in Illinois were not the best for him and that perhaps the south or southwest

(Part VI picks up in 1886 as C.W. and brother Carroll make a long exploring trip through Texas, seeking a likely location for a business and a beneficial climate.)





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## On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

## Jesus Christ prayed with an honest heart

Following Jesus' walk with his disciples they stopped at a place known as Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36 and Mark 14:32). The record in Luke 22:40 says they stopped at the "mount of Olives". It appears that Gethsemane was the location of an Olive garden which probably included an Olive press (see The Companion Bible with Bullinger's notes for verse 40). According to John 18:1, they first crossed over a brook called Cedron.

When they stopped Jesus told his disciples to pray so that they might not enter into temptation, and then he separated himself from them a short distance away. He then kneeled down to pray (Luke 22:40-41). The records of Mark 14:32-33 and Matthew 26:36-37 seem to refer to the same event. Jesus told his disciples to sit at a certain spot while he prayed. He took with him Peter, James and John. The record shows that Jesus began to be sorely amazed and very heavy or weighted down with depression. He said, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death. Tarry here and watch" (Mark 14:34 and Matthew 26:38).

He went a little farther away and "fell on his face" praying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." The record in Matthew 26:39-44 reveals that he made the same request to his Father three different times. Each time he returned to find his disciples asleep. In Mark 14:35-38 we learn that his prayer was basically to not have to endure what was to come. After his first prayer he found his disciples sleeping and said to Peter, "You're sleeping? Couldn't you watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."

Turning to Luke 22:43-44, we find that after his first prayer an angel appeared to him from heaven and strengthened him. While in extreme agony he prayed even more earnestly. His sweat poured out like great drops of blood. The reference to great drops of blood was very likely a figure of speech emphasizing the greatness of his agony.

Jesus was about to face the most difficult time of his life. He felt extreme agony and depression. Look at his response to the feelings. He prayed to his Father. With an honest heart he asked if it might be possible to bypass what was coming. He was checking to see if there was any other way. He then finished by meekly saying, "not as I will, but as you will." What a fantastic example of prayer! Jesus was feeling very weak and vulnerable. Notice that his Father strengthened him by sending an angel.

When we feel agonized and depressed about something, we can go to God with an honest heart, and make our specific requests known to Him. God's word teaches us to "be anxious for nothing. But in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6-7). The end result is a peaceful heart.

It's written in God's word, "Be still and know that I am God..." (Psalm 46:10). Out of haste, Jesus Christ could have decided to not go through the whole painful process. Instead, he stayed focused on God's promise of glory. In the name of Jesus Christ, let's pray with the confidence that God is able to faithfully back His

For the archives of On God's Word visit www.geocities.com/christinyou7/love.html.

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## **Church Directory**

Bethel Assembly of God (Bi-Lingual) 407 May St.

Assembly of God

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Catholic Holy Cross Catholic Church Ave. K and Main St., 495-

Church of Christ Church of Christ 108 N. Ave. M, 495-2326 15th & Ave. S Graham Chapel Church of Christ

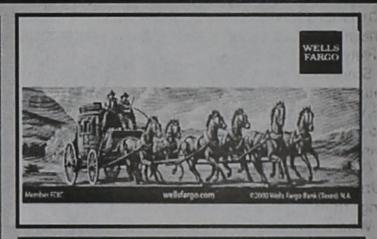
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# An open letter to Christian conservatives

by Pastor Chuck Baldwin

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current events and trends with an intense appreciation for truth. My desire is also to awaken a lethargic population to an ever increasing societal, cultural, political, and spiritual departure from America's historic Christian roots and from a commitment to constitutional government.

When I confronted the foibles and fallacies of President Bill Clinton, Christian conservatives hailed me a hero. I was deluged with congratulatory emails and letters. Their appreciation for my work could not be expressed loudly or often enough.

However, when I confront the foibles and fallacies of President George W. or inactions, as is my constitutional right and duty to do. Bush, those same Christian conservatives call me every dirty name in the book. I am suddenly their enemy. Their songs of praise for my work have turned into a cacophony of hate. But amazingly, I am saying the same things now that I said then. So, what has changed?

numbers of Christian conservatives. Where once they stood for truth, they now stand for political parties. Where once they gave their loyalty and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the

Declaration of Independence, and even the Bible, they now swear loyalty and allegiance to G. W. Bush and the Republican Party. It seems that many Christians have become little more than spineless lackeys for a political machine. They seem to have lost the ability to think critically and objec-

Scores of readers have chastised me for criticizing President Bush, calling him God's "anointed." Countless numbers of Christians seem to believe that G.W. Bush deserves the kind of unquestioned loyalty that they would give to the Apostle Paul or even to Christ Himself. Of course, such thinking is beyond foolishness; it borders on blasphemy!

G. W. Bush is an elected politician. He was elected President of these United States. Nothing more; nothing less. He has no more divine "anointing" than any other elected politician.

Where was all this "anointing" talk when Bill Clinton was elected Presi- any elected politician is not his rhetoric, but his loyalty and commitment to dent? The same God that permitted Bush to become President permitted. America's founding principles. This should be the overriding determinate Clinton to become President. Yet, Christian conservatives called Clinton the Anti-Christ, whereas they now want to add Bush to the Holy Trinity. However, they can't have it both ways: If Bush is God's "anointed," so was Clinton.

While we are on the subject, it seems lost to most Christian conservatives policies. I will not be partaker of his political sins. that G.W. Bush is a member of the same church denomination as Senator Hillary Clinton. Yet, I doubt that we will hear many of them referring to my responsibility. If, however, these columns can somehow create a hunger Hillary's divine "anointing."

The fact is, under our form of government, God has given to "we the principles, they will have attained their intended purpose. people" the right and responsibility of selecting our leaders.

Therefore, we have the President, the Congress, the courts, and the state and local leaders that we elect.

There is no king or monarch in America! There is no "divine right" to any political party or to any politician to any public office in this country! In America, the people must rule themselves. They do this through their

elected lawmakers and elected chief executives. When the people's elected leaders stray from their oaths of office, when they violate their contracts with the people, when they govern unjustly or unconstitutionally, it is the right and duty of the people to openly criticize

them, scold them, and replace them. One of America's finer presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, said, "To announce city and state E-mail: chuck@chuckbaldwinlive.com

My purpose in writing these columns is to make people think, to confront that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public. Nothing but the truth should be spoken about him or anyone else. But it is even more important to tell the truth, pleasant or unpleasant, about him than about any one else.'

My criticisms of President Bush are consistent with my criticisms of President Clinton. They are based on his policies, statements, and administrative decisions. I never attempt to judge his heart, for only God has judgment and authority there. However, I will continue to judge his actions,

Accordingly, I charge G. W. Bush with posturing himself as a conservative while giving us bigger government than did even Bill Clinton. I charge him with creating the machinery with which a police state may emerge. Furthermore, I charge President Bush with attempting to take more I submit that what has changed are the attitudes and principles of vast freedoms away from the American people than any president in modern

> I also believe that Mr. Bush has redundantly violated his oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and that he has given nothing but lip service to the pro-life and pro-family agendas. It is also my contention that President Bush has jeopardized the security of these United States and has made a mockery of our nation's laws by his treacherous illegal alien amnesty proposal. He also lied to the American people by saying he supported the Second Amendment only later to endorse the Clinton gun

> Even worse, I charge Christian conservatives with willingly surrendering their independent thinking as well as their American heritage in order to accommodate President Bush and the Republican Party. I further charge them with selling their spiritual birthright for a mess of political pottage!

> We should expect more of our leaders than lip service. Indeed, if any elected office holder talks the Christian talk, he should be held to a higher, not lesser, standard. Beyond that, the one standard that really matters for as to whether he or she is re- elected or un-elected, party affiliation or denominational affiliation notwithstanding.

> Therefore, I stand by my criticisms of President Bush. And I will continue to warn the American people of his big government, pseudo-conservative

Whether readers react with anger or appreciation to these columns is not for truth, a thirst for freedom, and a reverence for America's founding

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Chuck Baldwin is Founder-Pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. In 1985 the church was recognized by President Ronald Reagan for its unusual growth and influence. Dr. Baldwin is the host of a lively, hard-hitting syndicated radio talk show on the Genesis Communications Network called, "Chuck Baldwin Live" This is a daily, one hour long call-in show in which Dr. Baldwin addresses current event topics from a conservative Christian point of view. Pastor Baldwin writes weekly articles on the internet http://www.ChuckBaldwinLive.com and newspapers.

To learn more about his radio talk show please visit his web site at: http:// /www.chuckbaldwinlive.com. When responding, please include your name,

# Congress and the Federal Reserve erade your dollars

by U.S. Congressman Ron Paul

Last week the US Treasury department issued a warning to the Chinese government with regard to its policy of pegging the value of the Chinese yuan to the US dollar. In essence, the Treasury department accuses China of artificially suppressing the value of its currency by tying it to the dollar, thus making Chinese imports very cheap and worsening our trade imbal-

This kind of bluster may serve political interests, but in reality we have nobody to blame but ourselves for the sharp decline in the US dollar. Congress and the Federal Reserve, not China, are the real culprits in the erosion of your personal savings and buying power.

Congress relentlessly spends more than the Treasury collects in taxes each year, which means the US government must either borrow or print money to operate- both of which cause the value of the dollar to drop. When we borrow a billion dollars every day simply to run the government, and when the Federal Reserve increases the money supply by trillions of dollars in just 15 years, we hardly can expect our dollars to increase in value.

If anything, the US government should be embarrassed that another nation has depressed its currency by tying it to the US dollar. An economically sound nation would take pride in its currency, one that maintains a stable value and provides incentive for savers. Yet here we are, mad at China for our own sin of flooding the world with cheap dollars.

The root of the problem is the Federal Reserve and our fiat monetary

system itself. Since US dollars and other major currencies are not backed by gold, they have no inherent value. Their relative values are subject to political events, and fluctuate constantly in highly volatile currency markets. A fiat system means every dollar you have can be eroded into nothing by the actions of politicians and central bankers. In essence, paper currencies like the US dollar operate as articles of faith— faith in the policies of the governments and central banks that issue them.

When it comes to a government as deeply indebted as our own, that faith is sorely lacking among investors worldwide. Politicians often manage to fool voters and the media, but they rarely fool financial markets over time. The precipitous drop in the US dollar over the past few years is proof that investors around the globe are very concerned about American deficits and debt. When investors lack faith in the U.S. dollar, they really lack faith in the economic policies of the U.S. government. Unlike wealthy currency traders, most Americans are stuck with their U.S. dollars.

Average people, particularly those who depend on savings or fixed incomes to fund their retirement years, cannot abide the continued devaluation of our currency. A true strong-dollar policy would not depend on the actions of China or any other nation. It would, however, require a constriction of the money supply and higher interest rates, both of which would cause some short-term pain for the American economy. In the long run, however, such a correction is the only alternative to the continued erosion of our dollars.

The Post Dispatch, Thursday, June 30, 2005 Page 5

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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of indivdiduals, guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstone for our freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

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# Now we know for certain who really owns "our" property

by Wes Burnett

Americans no longer enjoy the right of property ownership.

Last week the U.S. Supreme Court, which might better be called the supreme socialist tribunal, handed down one of the most anti-American rulings in its history, declaring that "eminent domain" now includes private use of your land for someone else'a private purposes, if that use is determined to be "for the public good."

Until now, government had been restricted to taking of property only for public uses... and had been considered limited to roads and highways or other strictly publicly owned facilities. But now, governments can take property from one owner and give it to another person (or corporation) to build shopping centers or whatever else government says is "good for the public" (or increased tax revenues).

In this decision, the highest court in America has affirmed our consistent editorial message that none of us actually own property ... it all belongs to the government, and the owner has the right to do with it as it sees fit.

I am certain, on this, the eve of another Independence Day celebration, that those who fought, died and sacrificed all they had, in orders to ensure our freedom and liberty, could never have imagined how far government would exceed its originally intended role. It's such a shame that my generation (and at least four generations before) relinquished the guaran-

tees that were secured on our behalf without so much as a whimper. Without the security of property ... we can only be considered slaves of the state. Sadly, I doubt very few if any voices of opposition will be heard this July 4th, as speakers at Independence Day celebrations all over this once great bastion of freedom and liberty will proudly shout about how we enjoy liberty and freedom, while ignoring the tyranny that enslaves us.

Without security of property ... we can no longer call ourselves the "land of the free."

As for the brave, where are the voices of our political leaders? How many will stand at the pulpit and demand that our once venerated constitutional rights will be secured?

Thomas Jefferson said it best in his brilliantly penned American Decla-

ration of Independence: "That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their

Safety and Happiness." "These ends," to which Jefferson refers, are "certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." From that day until near the 20th century, "the pursuit of Happiness" was considered as the right of property ownership. Our American ancestors understood very clearly that property ownership was at the very seat of liberty and freedom. They knew first hand how dangerous government can be when it has the power to strip individuals of their property. They were

Shame on us for turning our backs on those who fought and died for our liberty and freedom. We are doomed to a future of slavery in exchange for our desire for perceived security and our lost love for freedom and liberty. But we must face the heavy reality of this life on earth ... there can be no security while being ruled by an immoral government, which neither values nor secures liberty or freedom.

embarking on a life-threatening rebellion against just such a government.

And let us not make the mistake of blaming the national government solely for this demise ... the voracious appetite for more and bigger government starts right here in Post City, Garza County, Texas.

Our loss of freedom and liberty (by demanding more and more of government) starts at home ... when we elect local officials who, like the U.S. Supreme Court, believe that government "knows best" and through the power of taxation, rips it from the hands of those whose labors paid the price for what they believed was "their" property.

As long as we allow government to continue its theft of private property, through taxation or "eminent domain," we are dooming ourselves and our progeny to a slow and painful journey as slaves to the state.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to expand the power of government is a prime example of our often stated truth: "In a democracy, government always exceeds it constitutional authority." We continue to repeat the mistakes of the past when we elect people to public office who believe it is okay for government to steal from the people. That is the curse of a

Had we resisted the move to a democracy, and stood firm for a republic \* form of government, we would not be facing this crisis of insecurity of property ownership and our very liberty. But sadly, the vast majority of Americans (and Texans) support the socialist democracy that has consumed this once great republic.

When the history writers of tomorrow make their comments on our time, they will surely point to June 2005 as a major turning point in the demise of the great American republic. This final nail in the coffin of property ownership is but one in a long series of government usurpation of its originally intended authority. The first nail was the authority for government to tax property. Of course, when it started, few recognized the end result for which we now suffer.

Next year there will be another election ... let us hope and pray that the majority of voters here will seek and elect people to "serve" in public office who understand the importance of securing the right of property owner-

We have the power, as Jefferson wrote, to secure our own liberty and freedom ... we are not bound by the dictatorship of the U.S. Supreme Court. Just as many refused to accept court decisions on slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries, so we have the right to "just say no" to a court in our time that blatantly ignores our unalienable rights.

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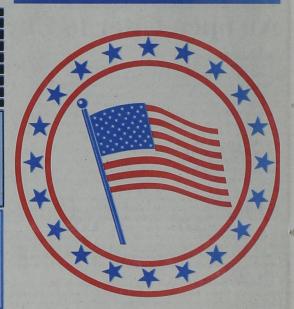
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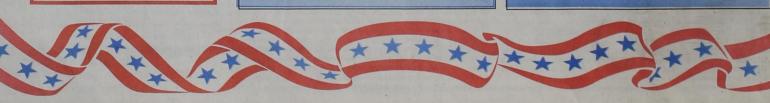
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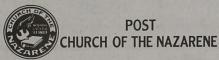
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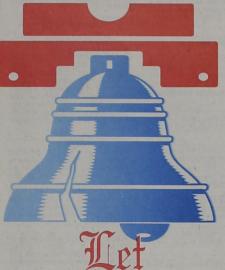
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#### **Legal Notices**

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC **HEARING TO** ADOPT AMENDMENT TO THE RULES

Garza County Underground and Fresh Water Conservation District (U&FWCD) has called for a public hearing on July 12, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in the District office at the Garza County Courthouse to adopt the new penalty amendment to the rules.

#### NOTICE

This is to give notice of intent to introduce in the 79th Legislature, First Called Session, a bill to be entitled an Act relating to the expansion of the Salt Fork Water Quality District and the appointment of directors by the commissioners court of each county included within the boundaries of the district.

Western Wireless is proposing to construct a 300i guyed telecommunications tower off FM 2458. Alternatives to the proposed project include:

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916 W. 13th - good purchase.

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HERRING PLAZA! Several spaces for offices or shops. Some rentals in place. Located in historical downtown Post, 207 E. Main. Call for details and appt to show.

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#### 10 Years Ago June 29, 1995

Little League All-Stars headed for competition in Lubbock are coach Larry Scrivner, manager Gary Blevins, Michael Huff, Sean Leary, Brandon Perez, Ricky Halford, Martin Garza Jr., Barrett Scrivner, Jeremy Baker, Ross Babb, Justin Norman, Rowland Castaneda, Casey Short, Brooks Conner, Ryan Wulfjen and Scotty Gaydos.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Hahn will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary July 8 in the Community Room at Norwest Bank in Post. The couple were married on July 7, 1945 at the home of the Reverend Porter Arnold in Spur, Texas.

Winners in the recent poster contest sponsored by the Juvenile Probation Department were Vanesa Leos, Anda Criswell, Stace Norman, Jake Lott, Starlett Greathouse, Tye Mason, Gonzalo Ramirez, Priscilla Garcia, Kylie Easterling and Lakisha Gilbert.

Senior League All-Stars competing at Dixie Field in Lubbock are coach Steve Gonzales, Sam Woods, Orlando Castillo, Jamie Hernandez, Anthony Flores, Luis Leos, Bryan Navarro, T. J. Gaydos, Colt Miller, Raymond Perez, Roy Soto, Braden Conner, Clell Knight, Ricky Quinonez and manager Frank Flores.

#### 20 Years Ago July 3, 1985

One of the best July 4th celebrations in the history of Garza County will kick off with an airshow at the airport east of Post with a formation fly-over by U. S. Air Force T-38 aircraft from Reese AFB followed by a full afternoon and evening of entertainment and fun at the city-county

Mr. and Mrs. John Bland announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Tanya Lyn to Danny Vernon of Lubbock.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mannis announce the engagement of their daughter, Leslie Lynn, to Timothy Tatum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Tatum of Post.

Green Thumb Garden Club members are planting roses at the new retirement housing project at 15th and Ave S. Members attending the initial planting were Chairman Maxine Earl, housing unit manager Delores Redman, committee member Alma Williams, club president Mrs. Ida Jones and "doing the work" Joe Williams and Ivan Jones.

Rachel Lyne Hubble was born June 20, in Garza Memorial Hospital. She is the daughter of Kathie and Nathan Hubble of

#### 30 Years Ago July 3, 1975

Two Post junior high teachers, Miss Yvonne Lewis and Mrs. Margaret Tannehill, have been selected as "outstanding secondary educators of America" for 1975.

Madie Johnson of Post will fly from Dallas to Chicago to Stuttgard, Germany, to visit her son Floyd, who is stationed in to visit his cafe. the Army there.

Tim Tannehill placed first in the long jump and second in the 100 yard dash in the Texas AAU Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships at Borger.

Raymie Holly of the League Champion White Sox was presented the Babe Ruth League batting award for the best hitter for 1975.

Service station business from Dwayne Capps. Hair said the station is adding a tire department for the sale of new Gulf tires for both cars and trucks.

40 Years Ago July 1, 1965

Harold Teal, head football coach and athletic director of Post High School for

the last three years, has resigned this position here to accept the head football coaching job at Tucumeari, N.M., high

school for the 1965 season. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Callis celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary with an open house in their home on Sunday.

Susan's Stuff: Bill Duncan left June 13 from Beaumont on a German freighter for a year's tour of Europe; Benny Owen has also ventured out into the outer world. He's working for the Forest Service in Arizona taking forest inventory around the northern rim of the Grand Canyon; It seems Jackie Huff is the one and only lifeguard at the swimming pool this year thus Carol Camp spends her mornings trying hopefully to teach the kids how to swim.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Chaffin were installed as district commander and Auxiliary president of District 7 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the 45th annual session of the VFW, Department of Texas, held in El Paso.

#### 50 Years Ago June 30, 1955

Ira Lee Duckworth, vice president of the First Natinal Bank will retire Friday after 36 years' association with the institution.

Dr. Gerald L. Marable will be associated with Dr. John R. Rountree in the Garza Medical and Surgical Clinic.

"Double Utopia," the television story of Post, was seen by thousands this week on the "Texas in Review" program of the Humble Oil and Refining Co. Individuals prominently shown in the film included old-timers George "Scotty" Samson, T. L. Jones, W. S. Duckworth and County Judge Oscar Graham.

Voters at Grassland turned down a proposal to consolidate the Grassland School District with the Tahoka School District by a vote of 50 to 16 in a special

John F. Lott of Post in one of the 114 cadets who were graduated this year from the High School Division of the New Mexico Military Institute at Roswell.

The Crowder Family featuring Little Joe, will appear at the grade school auditorium here July 22. The Crowder Family is widely known to radio and television audiences of West Texas.

#### 60 Years Ago June 28, 1945

Five Garza county boys, O. R. Cook, ir., Ted Aten, James Brookshire, Don McClendon and "Porky" Davis are in the Pacific together, according to a letter received by Mrs. O. R. Cook. The five men, all in the infantry, sailed from the states en route to their Pacific island destination on May 26. The Post soldier expressed his happiness at their still being together and also told his mother to send him some food.

The popular cafe known to patrons as Whitie's Cafe recently was enlarged to almost twice its original size. Mr. Graham extends a cordial invitation to Garza folks

Bobby Macy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ike Macy of Coral Gables, Fla., who was visiting here recently, was honor guest when his aunt, Mrs. John Lott and his grandmother, Mrs. Mamie Slaughter Lott, entertained at the John Lott home.

Fry's Feed and Hatchery building located on the Snyder highway has been re-styled to feature the red and white Jack Hair has purchased Capps' Gulf checkerboard design of the Purina

The largest single shipload of veterans to return through New York arrived June 22 when 12,326 Army and 2,200 Navy Personnel disembarked from the superliner Queen Mary.

(((XXX)))

### Thanks to all

I want to thank each and every one for the beautiful cards and the telephone calls while I was in the hospital and after I came home.

They really meant a lot to me. Thanks to Alma Williams for the lovely cake she brought me.

Thanks for all your prayers most of

To my Church Family for the lovely plant. I love it. God bless all of you. I love each of

you. Lucille Bush

# Crow's Feet Chronicles

#### The Bald-Heads and New-Teeth Reunion

by Cindy Baker March may come in like a lamb and go out like a lion, but the 2005 Bonhi Reunion came into Bonham like a backed-up toilet and went out like a

droopy eyelid. The older women were scurrying around on Friday to get quick Botox injections while the younger gals stood in line at the salons for their final bronze-all-overtanning sessions. And, that was in between nibbles of the "I've-got-to-be-a-size-6-again" diet of

tofu, rice cakes and fingernail chips. In contrast, many seasoned gents were lined up at the doctors' offices to get instant relief from the gout. Whether the pain was more severe or not on that day, a guy couldn't afford to hobble like the walking wounded in front of the dames of days past.

Inoticed that the hair of many young men had turned loose rather than gray. That infirmity called for gargantuan sunglasses, goatees, and gaudy floral shirts-anything to draw attention southward, I guess.

I was aware that Paul Paxton still had a head full of thick hair. It was the color of a chocolate Moon Pie, though, while his nose hairs resembled angel hair. And Dexter Fornoy had a horseshoe haircut, with only-a 11/2-inch horizontal strip of hair above the ear, traveling from temple to temple. He, too, had painted a sable swath

I'm no better. I had run into the store to buy a Dark Ash Blonde (I guess that's what color my hair was in 1965!) hair color product to touch up my roots. Hurrying through the checkout line, I swiped my credit card and carelessly pressed "Spanish." From there it was just a guess. I hope that "Credito" and "Bueno" were right

When I arrived home and tore open the box, I realized that I had accidentally bought Platinum Sneeze. With no time to exchange, I proceeded with the treatment. My suddenly white roots made my Ash Blonde ends look like they were hanging in thin air. Oh well, nobody in my class sees all that well anymore.

Lana was voted Most Preserved of our class while Jesse was named Most Improved. (We'll probably never know if Jesse had her teeth bleached, replaced, or painted with Pearl Spackle.) Lana brought her yearbook for us to sign again, since it was a milestone reunion for our group. I wrote, "I can't believe it's been fooooofffffffoooorrr . . .

I can't say it." Love, Cindy. I handed the yearbook back to Lana and suggested we all attend one of the four dances in town. When we walked into the first establishment, we were blasted with head-banging music—The Almond Brothers' "Whippin' Post." Bertha whispered to me, "I think my water broke. Let's get out of here."

The second dance hall was blaring Led Zeppelin's, "Immigrant Song." We thought we could dance to that number, but Benny Earl's cane was confiscated at the door. That left Molly to drag him across the floor like a war

Finally, we heard Shaun Cassidy's "Da Doo Ron Ron" at the third dance hall and knew we were getting warmer. Berl and I lasted 31/2 minutes before we both began wheezing. Edith's hip came out of socket and Emma jarred her uppers, so we knew it was exodus

Finally, we limped into the fourth dance, where the arthritic blue-hairs were dancing to Glenn Miller's, "Chattanooga Choo Choo." This is the group of folks who eat lunch at 10, dinner at 2, and breakfast the night before.

Ahhh. For the first time, we could really relax and enjoy the music. After a few glides along the dance floor, Winfred looked at his watch and realized it was already 9:00 p.m. We agreed that it was time to call it an evening and go home to take our pill.

Oh well, the barbecue was already repeating on me, and flatulence had rolled in on Minerva. cindybaker@cableone.net

> www.postcityradio.com Cebridge Connections Channel 12

# 106th District Court

# judgements reported

The following is a list of cases heard on June 21 in the 106th District Court of Garza County, according to information supplied by Sheriff Cliff Laws. The following judgments were rendered:

 State of Texas vs. Randi Elizabeth Barker; charged with hindering apprehension. Sentenced to 10 years probation, \$2,500 fine, \$18,742.65 in restitution and 600 community service hours.

· State of Texas vs. Matthew Rynn Norman; charged with revocation of probation/sexual assault. Sentenced to 20 years in the TDJC.

 State of Texas vs. Matthew Rynn Norman; charged with revocation of probation/forgery. Sentenced to two years in state jail, a \$1,000 fine and

restitution of \$7272. · State of Texas vs. Matthew Rynn Norman; charged with escape. Sentenced to eight years in the TDJC, a \$5,000 fine and restitution totaling

• State of Texas vs. Matthew Rynn Norman; charged with tampering with government records. Sentenced to eight years in the TDJC and a

\$5,000 fine. State of Texas vs. Kevin Dewayne Morris; charged with burglary of a building. Sentenced to 18 months in the state jail, a \$2,000 fine, \$548 in

court costs and \$788 in restitution. State of Texas vs. Bobby Crowley; charged with revocation of probation/ forgery. Sentenced to 20 months in state jail and fined \$2,000. Also ordered

to pay \$548 in court costs and \$1,665 in restitution. State of Texas vs. Roxanne Nicole Navarro; charged with possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay a fine of \$2,500 and restitution of \$140. Also ordered to serve 300 hours of community service.

 State of Texas vs. Rogelio Perez Soto; charged with injury to a child/ elderly/disabled. Sentenced to 10 years probation, fined \$2,000. Ordered to pay court costs of \$548 and service 300 hours of community service.

7 a.m.

10 a.m.

2 p.m.

5 p.m.

11 p.m.

2 p.m.

p.m.

# Sheriff lists nine arrests

The Post Dispatch Thursday, June 30, 2005 Page 9

Nine arrests were made recently, according to reports from the Garza County Sheriff's Department.

Arrests included a 37-yearold male for possession of marijuana; a 32-year-old male for possession of marijuana; and a 19-year-old female for possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

A 39-year-old male was picked up on a child support warrant, while at 26-year-old female was arrested for driving while license invalid. A65-yearold male was picked up on revocation of probation, and a 27-year-old male was arrested for driving while license invalid.

A17-year-old male was jailed for possession of marijuana, and a 27-year-old male was arrested for assault/family violence.

# www.thepostdispatch.com

# Post City Television Daily Program Guide

July 1 thru July 7

Friday & Saturday, July 1 & 2 Dr James Bell Interviews Gene Young

This Week In Post City "Sounds of the Heart" This Week In Post City

Post Opry Country Music This Week In Post City

Sunday, July 3 This Week In Post City "Sounds of the Heart"

5 p.m. 8 p.m. This Week In Post City Favorite Broadway Tunes - David Morrow 11 p.m.

Monday, July 4 "Sounds of the Heart" 7 a.m.

10 a.m. This Week In Post City 1, 5 & 10 p.m. Post Church of Christ Sunday Services Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, July 5, 6 & 7

Post City Council

7 a.m. Garza County Commissioners' Court a.m. Post ISD Board of Trustees 2 p.m.

Garza County Hospital District 5 p.m. July 4th Celebration 8 p.m.

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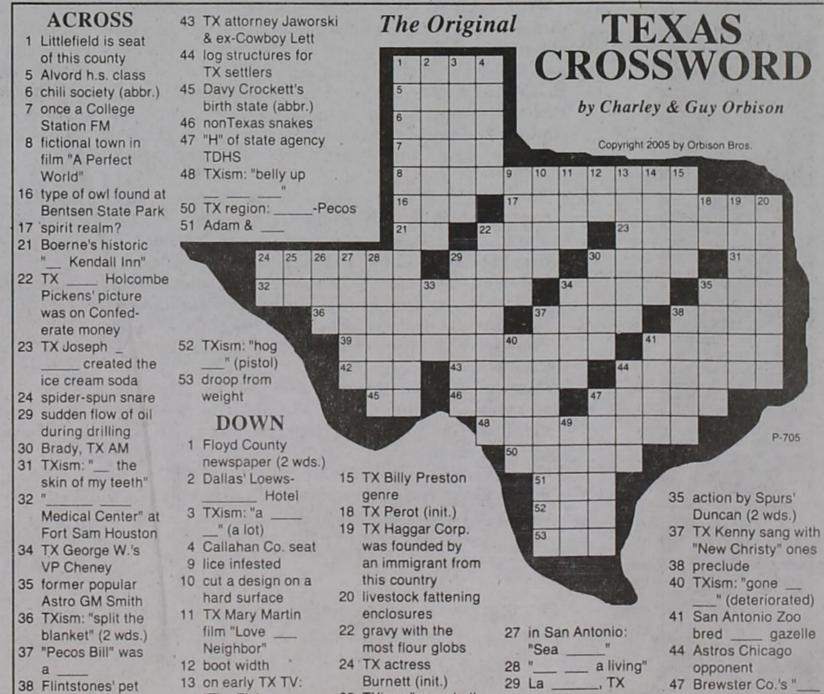


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33 William Bonney

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"Billy the Kid"

Mountain"

climbing

49 TXism: "does a cat

gear?"

"The Flying \_

14 TXism: "cold as

Boys"

\_\_-old enchilada"

39 particular places

41 TXism: "hot as a

42 TX Bonnie & Clyde

stove"

# The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies

The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. -- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. —Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain [George III] is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy

the Head of a civilized nation. He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit

to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our

common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our

Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The signers of the Declaration represented the new states as follows:

New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

Massachusetts: John Hancock, Samual Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery

Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott

New York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark

Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross

Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean

Maryland: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton

North Carolina: William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn

South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton