

Let's Give County Citizens Back Their Government!
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VOTE March 7 Republican Party Primary
Early Voting February 21 thru March 3
Pd Pol Adv Paid for by Phil Mathews, P.O. Box 684, Post, Tx 79356

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**Post City Texas... Gateway to
Lake Alan Henry & The Great South Plains**

The Post Dispatch

A Garza County Tradition Since 1926

80th Year, Number 38 USPS 439-620 © 2006 The Post Dispatch

Newsstand Price 50¢ Thursday, February 16, 2006



Jason (left) and Heather Blacklock visit their home Monday morning, after it burned to the ground last Thursday night with their children Blair (in Jason's arms), Corey in Heather's arms and Carson (front). (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

Break-in results in hefty loss for local businesses

by Sheri Lewis

More than \$30,000 worth of equipment, tools and merchandise was stolen from a pair of downtown businesses over the weekend.

Les Rutherford said someone broke into a back window at his Post Automotive shop late Friday or early Saturday. The back door was unlocked and the overhead door was opened, allowing a trailer to be driven into the building for full access to its contents. Once inside, the individual or individuals involved

Continued on Page 2

Post Notes

Church selling gordita plates

Church of God of Prophecy, 602 W. 14th street will be selling gordita plates Thursday, February 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$5 per plate. Call in orders to 495-3644.

Revival at Post Church of the Nazarene

The Post Church of the Nazarene will host Purkhalter Ministries as part of its winter revival this month. Revival services will be conducted in the Church of the Nazarene, 202 W. 10th St. (corner of 10th and Ave. K) Feb. 8 through Feb. 12. Wednesday through Saturday services will be at 7 p.m.; Sunday services will at 10:45 and 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

A night on the town

Raffle tickets are being sold to benefit Eric Reyna's baseball tournament in Australia. The drawing will be Feb. 14, 2006. The winner will receive one dinner for two at Chapa's, two tickets to Garza Theare and one night for two at Garza Hotel. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Tickets will be on sale at 1 p.m. at the baseball field this Saturday. Call 495-3211 for information or see Freddy, Tina or Eric Reyna.

Post 6797 men to met Monday

VFW Post 6797 men will meet on Monday, February 13 at 7 p.m. at the post on the Clairmont Highway. All members are urged to attend.

Ladies Auxiliary meeting set Feb. 13

Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 6797 will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, February 13 at the post. All members are asked to attend as the upcoming district meeting will be discussed. Bring items for the food basket.

Fun evening set for Senior Citizens

A "Young at Heart Celebration" is scheduled at the Garza County Trailblazers Center on Tuesday, February 14, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Event organizer Grady Shytle reports that the event features entertainment, food, music door prizes and games. All proceeds go to our "Seasoned Citizens." Tickets for the event are \$10. Those interested in sponsoring or assisting with the event should call Shytle at 790-1701.

Free GED classes

There is open enrollment for GED classes which are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the high school. These classes are free to the public. For more information call 495-2770.

IA Bi-District game at Antelope Arena

Basketball fans will be interested in attending Tuesday night's Class IA Bi-District championship girl's game. The match-up will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Antelope Arena between Klondike and Aspermont.

Important meeting for 8th grade parents

On Monday, February 20th, all 8th grade parents will meet at the Citizens Bank room at 5:30 p.m. to plan the 8th grade banquet. It is very important that everyone attends.

Bold Gold Classic set Feb. 18

On Feb. 18th, Post High School will hold a UIL invitational academic meet called the Bold Gold Classic. 80 invitations have been sent out to 1A, 2A, and 3A schools. The meet will feature twenty-one contests, which include accounting, calculator app., computer app., number sense, ready writing, science, spelling, editorials, features, headlines, news writing, social studies, informative speaking, persuasive speaking, poetry, prose, and LD debate. Teachers and parents will help with judging, monitoring and the concession stand. Any adult interested in helping should call Sterline Marcum at 495-2770.

Clerk's office offers info on election

The Garza County and District Clerk's office invites those interested in the latest information concerning the March 2006 Primary Election to visit the Garza County web site at www.GarzaCounty.net. Then click on the March 2006 Primary Election link. Also, to get information about the new voting system, click on Voting Machines. For any other questions please contact the clerk's office at 495-4430.

SPCAA energy assistance program

South Plains Community Action Association, Inc. (SPCAA) has received funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to operate the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). January 2006 through December 2006. The primary intent of this program is to make funds available to enable SPCAA to respond to energy needs affecting low-income households. For additional information concerning this program, contact Billie Williams at 495-2329.

School board candidate workshop offered

Area school board candidates and citizens interested in learning more about school board service are invited to attend a candidate workshop from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 23 at the Region 17 Education Service Center, 1111 Loop 289, Lecture Hall, Lubbock. The workshop will provide information pertaining to what is involved in being elected and serving as a local trustee. The workshop is open to the public; admission is free. For more information, contact Tanya Barnett at TASB, 512-467-0222 or 800-580-8272, ext. 6248.

Community rallies to aid family who lost home, vehicle in fire

by Sheri Lewis

Jason Blacklock had what was probably the worst day of his life last week when he, his wife and three children were forced to flee from their home Thursday night as flames devoured almost everything they owned.

But you'd never know by talking to him.

"We're blessed," he said Tuesday evening. "We got what was most important out of the house. Everything else is pretty much gone, but now I've got more clothes than I had before the fire. There's some good people in this town."

The people Blacklock is referring to are the many faces organizing assistance for the young family. It's a multi-faceted effort that sprang up almost immediately, and it continues to grow.

Since the fire late last week, accounts to assist the Blacklocks have been established at both Wells Fargo Bank and Citizens Bank. A contributions box has been set up at United Supermarket. And the First Baptist Church is organizing a "community-wide shower and pounding" to assist the family. (The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the church's Fellowship Hall; contributions also may be dropped off at the church building weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. See the related article in today's Dispatch for the family's wish list.)

Dickie Wallace also has made a rent house available to the couple.

Blacklock said he's still unclear as to exactly what happened that night to cause the fire. The family went to bed at about 10 p.m., but he was awakened by the crackling and bright flashes of flames. He jumped up and began calling for his wife to grab the children and get out of the house. She ran to get the children, and he ran outdoors to grab a water hose.

"By the time I got there, I could see it was too far gone," he said.

While Jason Blacklock raced to get the water hose, his wife, Heather, and their children were headed out the back door of the couple's rented home. There, the couple's 6-year-old son stopped, touched the door and told his mother, "It's not hot, Mama."

"He'd learned that," Jason Blacklock said. "He knew it was safe to go out that door."

Heather Blacklock scrambled outside with her son and 5-month-old twins and raced toward her husband's pickup, which was parked away from the house near a barn.

Firefighters were called and arrived "pretty fast" in about 10 minutes," Jason Blacklock said.

A dispatcher for the Garza County Sheriff's Department fielded the fire call at 11:33 p.m. The Blacklocks' home was located in an area near CR 145 and CR 210 northwest of Post.

Firefighters worked and extinguished the blaze in about an hour, but after the fire was out the winds shifted, causing the remaining portion of the charred building's roof to collapse.

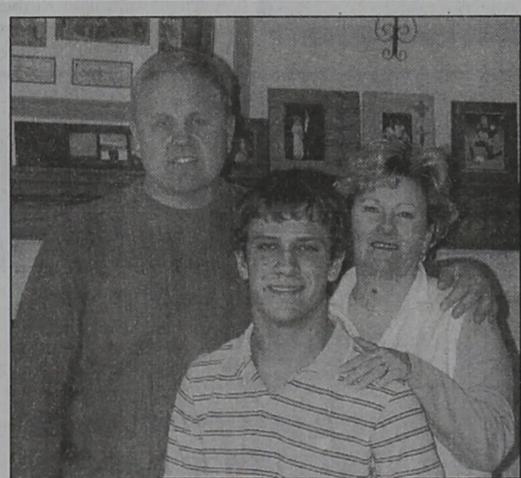
"We lost everything -- my wife's car and a work truck that belonged to Mason Bros.," Jason Blacklock said.

Deputy Tommy Binford labeled the incident a "total loss" and said the investigation into the cause of the fire suggests it might have been electrical.

The Blacklocks have revisited the site since last week's fire, but little remains. Jason Blacklock said his wife salvaged a keychain made for her by her grandfather, Jody Mason. It had melted into the floorboard of one her car. The couple also found a money clip that belonged to Jason, but little else.

Still, Jason Blacklock remains upbeat.

"That fire, that was the worst thing I have ever experienced. It really was. But I got my family out, and everything else can be replaced," he said. "We're just grateful for everyone's help. I just wish we knew how we could pay everyone back for all the help they're giving us."



Post High School senior Jonathan McGregor (center) is joined by his parents Johnny (left) and Mickie McGregor in celebration of his advancing as a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship.

McGregor listed as finalist in National Merit Scholar program

by Sheri Lewis

He was sitting in class at Post High School last week when the announcement came over the loud speaker: Jonathan McGregor is a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

"It was a pretty nice surprise," said the Post High School senior, adding that the surprise was made even more special because his father, who is principal of the high school, made the announcement.

The son of Johnny and Mickie McGregor of Post, Jonathan received a letter late last week notifying him of his finalist standing. Another letter from the National Merit Scholarship Corp. could be in the mail sometime next month, advising him of his designation as a Merit Scholar and winner of a Merit Scholarship.

The National Merit Scholarship Program, according to the corporation's Web site, is an academic competition designed to provide recognition and scholarship to high school students. Students enter the program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test), which serves as the initial screening for more than a million entrants each year.

About 50,000 students with the highest test scores qualify for

Continued on Page 2

VOTE

Lee Norman
for County Judge
Republican Party Primary
March 7, 2006

Experienced Leader Working for Garza County
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Early Voting Starts February 21 for March 7 Primary Elections

VOTE Charles Morris

for
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March 7 Republican Party Primary

Pd. Pol. Adv. Pd. for by Charles Morris, Rt 3 Box 85, Post, Texas 79356

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Judy's Jabberin'

by Judy Ballentine Bush

Hello, Hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day. The weather sure was wonderful and warm, but think I would rather have seen a rainy day. That would have been a great Valentine Day gift.

Anyway, hope you didn't eat toooooo much candy and that you enjoyed your day.

GET WELL WISHES

To Kathy Rakin, who has really had a rough time of it, lots of get well wishes. Kathy has been in the hospital but is home now and hopefully on the road to recovery.

Also, update on Debbie Mason, she is home and doing fairly well. Everyone keep these two ladies in your prayers.

A LITTLE LATE, BUT TOO CUTE TOO PASS UP Redneck Valentine poem

Collards is green, my dog's name is Blue and I'm so lucky to have a sweet thang like you.

Yore hair is like cornsilk a-flapping in the breeze. Softer than Blue's and without all them fleas.

You move like the bass, which excite me in May. You ain't got no scales but I luv you anyway.

Yo're as satisfy'n as okry just a-fry'n in the pan. Yo're as fragrant as "snuff" right out of the can.

You have some'a yore teeth, for which I am proud; I hold my head high when we're in a

crowd. On special occasions, when you shave under yore arms, well, I'm in hawg heaven, and awed by yore charms.

Still them fellers at work, they all want to know, what I did to deserve such a purdy, young doe.

Like a good roll of duct tape yo're there fer yore man, to patch up life's troubles and fix what you can.

Yo're as cute as a junebug a-buzzin' overhead. You ain't mean like those far ants I found in my bed.

Cut from the best cloth like a plaid flannel shirt, you spark up my life more than a fresh load of dirt.

When you hold me real tight like a padded gunrack my life is complete; Ain't nuttin' I lack.

Yore complexion, it's perfection, like the best vinyl sidin', despite all the years, yore age, it keeps hidin'.

Me 'n' you's like a Moon Pie with a RC cold drank, we go together like a skunk goes with stank.

Some men, they buy chocolate for Valentine's Day; They git it at Wal-Mart, it's romantic that way.

Some men git roses on that special day from the cooler at Kroger. "That's impressive," I say.

Some men buy fine diamonds from a flea market booth. "Diamonds are forever," they explain, suave and couth.

But for this man, honey, these won't do. Cause yo're too special, you sweet thang you.

I got you a gift, without taste nor odor, more useful than diamonds.

IT'S A NEW TROLLIN' MOTOR!!

TILL NEXT WEEK

Hope all of you have a great weekend. May God bless each and every one of you. Judy



Emily L. Marcum



Shannon Rasbeary

Rasbeary, Smith and Marcum recognized by Post Rotarians

Three Post High School seniors - Shannon Rasbeary, Sterling Smith and Emily L. Marcum - were recognized by the Post Rotary Club during February.

Rasbeary, the daughter of Joe and Michele Rasbeary, has been active in several organizations and activities while at PHS, including National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Students, One-Act Play, girls' varsity basketball manager, softball manager, track manager, UIL, the golf team and dinner theater.

Her awards and recognitions have included being named to Who's Who Among American High School Students, National Honor Society and Outstanding Health Student.

"I'm very involved in my youth group, and I also love to volunteer and work with the children at my church camp," she said. "Music and singing are big interests of mine as well, and I really enjoy playing golf with my dad."

Rasbeary plans to obtain a teaching degree in elementary education while minoring in history at Sam Houston State University.

Smith, the son of Perry and Kelly Smith, has been active in PHS sports, including four years of varsity football, varsity basketball, track, golf and varsity baseball. Also, he's been a Post FFA member for four years and has been involved in National Honor Society and Student Council. He has served as



Sterling Smith

a class officer each year of his high school career. He presently serves as vice president of the senior class. He also has been active in stock show and was named Academic All-District.

Other interests include the First Baptist Church youth group, all sports, rodeo, calf roping, stock shows, and family and friends.

Smith's honors and awards include All-District 5-2A First Team Quarterback; All-District First Team Secondary; All-South Plains First Team Secondary; All-South Plains Second Team Quarterback; All-State Academic; Academic All-District, 2004 and 2005; Wrangler All-Star Team. He is president of the Texas High School Rodeo Association and vice president of the Tri-State High School Rodeo Association.

Smith plans to attend either Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene where he will play football or Odessa College where he will participate in rodeo-related activities.

"I plan to attend Hardin-Simmons this fall because of the cost of tuition," he said. "Another college option is to rodeo for Odessa College. I plan to get a degree in coaching."

Marcum, the daughter of Marlin and Sterline Marcum, has been active in one-act play, LD debate, band, prose, poetry, cheerleading, FCS, exempt and National Honor Society.

While in high school, Marcum has earned a second place finish at state in one-act play; was twice named LD debate district champion and served as an alternate to state; was named Best Actress at the zone level and was twice named to the All-Star Cast at the district level; was district champion, exempt; and served as drum major and a varsity cheerleader.

Marcum's interests include fishing, reading, writing, swimming, spending time with her family and friends and playing with her dogs.

She plans to attend Texas Tech University where she will major in communication and minor in Spanish and political science before going on to study law at Tech's law school.

"I am a hard worker and I utilize resources and ability to achieve my goals," she said. "I am not easily deterred from challenges; in fact, I look at challenges as a blessing, because if I achieve them, I have grown in wisdom and character."

Harp said she and her husband, who lease space to Rutherford, might offer a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals involved in the crime.

Anyone with information related to the crime is asked to contact the Garza County

Let's Give County Citizens Back Their Government!

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- Fresh & Fair Approach
- For a Voice in Your County Government ...

Vote for Phil Mathews for County Judge

VOTE March 7 Republican Party Primary
Early Voting February 21 thru March 3

Pd Pol Adv Paid for by Phil Mathews, P.O. Box 684, Post, TX 79356

Break in hurts local businesses...

(Continued from Page 1)

also managed to break into an adjacent stockroom that is part of Radio Shack.

The stockroom was the only part of Radio Shack not monitored by security cameras, owner Thressa Harp said.

A "large portion" of the automotive shop's equipment and tools was taken, Rutherford said. Layaway items, excess stock and batteries stored in

the Radio Shack stockroom also were stolen.

Estimated losses for Post Automotive totaled about \$30,000, said Deputy Tommy Binford of the Garza County Sheriff's Department. About \$2,300 worth of merchandise was taken from Radio Shack.

The two businesses share a building in the 100 block of Main Street. The window broken out to gain access to the business faces the alley between Post Automotive and United.

The incident was discovered Saturday morning. The doors, including the overhead door, were found closed when the crime was discovered.

"There was nothing out of place outside the broken pane where entry was made," Binford said.

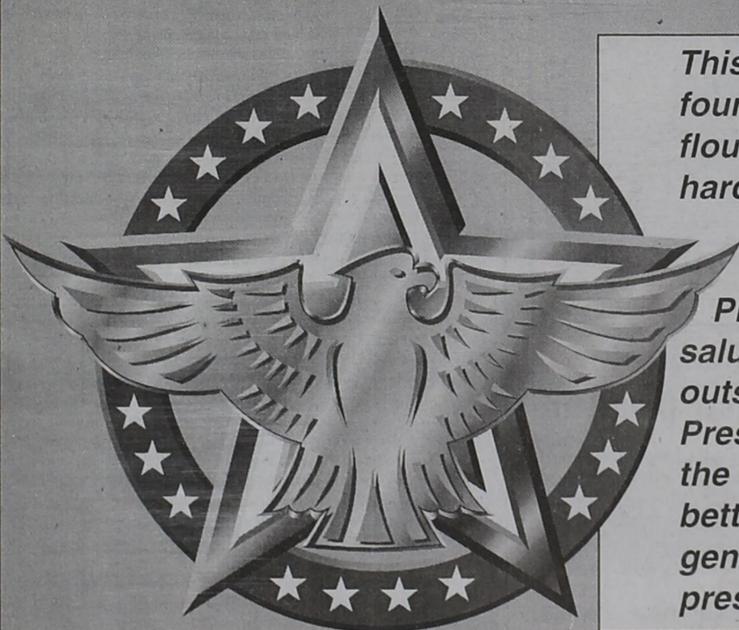
The investigation into the crime is ongoing. Representatives of the Department of Public Safety crime lab have been called in to assist in gathering evidence.

Binford said the sheriff's department is pursuing several leads and believes that more than one person was involved in the crime.

In the meantime, Rutherford said the loss of his tools effectively cripples his business, at least for a while.

"It's got me running real lame right now," he said.

In Recognition of President's Day
we'll be closed Monday, February 20



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Two PHS teams qualify for state

Post High School will send two teams to the State CX District Debate Meet in Austin next month thanks to first and second place finishes earned Feb. 8 at the district meet in Shallowater.

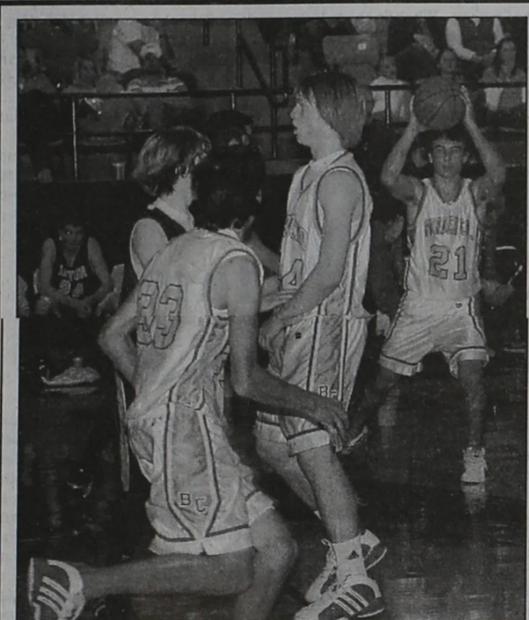
Taking first place was the team of Jonathan McGregor and Vince Robles. Second place went to Meagen Howard and Suhani Bhakta, according to information made available by school officials.

Only two teams in each district earn the right to advance to the state-level contest, which is scheduled for March 12-14. Both teams representing this district will be from Post.

The state contest will include 64 teams representing 2A schools. The first day will include four rounds of preliminary competitions; then, based on records, 16 teams will break into octos, then quarters, semi-finals and finals, school officials said.

The upcoming Austin contest, to be conducted on the University of Texas campus, will mark McGregor and Robles' second trip to the state competition. It will be the first such experience for the female competitors.

Seven teams competed in the district contest, representing Shallowater, Idalou and Post.



Borden County Coyotes Clint Chapman (21) looks to pass the ball during last Friday's practice game against Anton in Antelope Arena. Chapman logged 2 rebounds, 2 steals and 1 assist as the Coyotes rallied from behind to maintain a lead until the last few minutes when Anton jumped ahead to win 38 - 35. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)

Post ISD oversees overhaul of Antelope Stadium field

What's 20 percent sand, 20 percent silt and 60 percent clay? (Need a hint? It's where the Antelopes play.)

The football field at Antelope Stadium is undergoing a facelift of sorts after district officials recognized problems with the gridiron at the close of the 2005 season. The field was holding water, particularly in its center, and the surface has developed a number of uneven areas.

Shortly after the last snap on the home turf, district workers tilled the surface to prepare for the addition of some new dirt in 2000 yards' worth. Seventy-two loads, worth \$147 per load, were hauled in.

Garza County contributed the dirt, some of which came from drainages along state highways, and hauled it in for the school district, Superintendent Marlin Marcum said. To help offset the county's expenses, the school district provided fuel during the project.

District officials then paid more than \$4,000 to level the playing field. "The remaining work was and is being done by our staff," Marcum said. The high school's ag department shot the elevations, and Mark Odom provided advice on drainage.

Today, the field has been seeded with a cold weather grass expected to die out in the summer heat. In the spring, the surface will be re-seeded with La Prima Bermuda, a drought-resistant fine-blade grass that is "fast becoming a standard on playing fields," Marcum said.

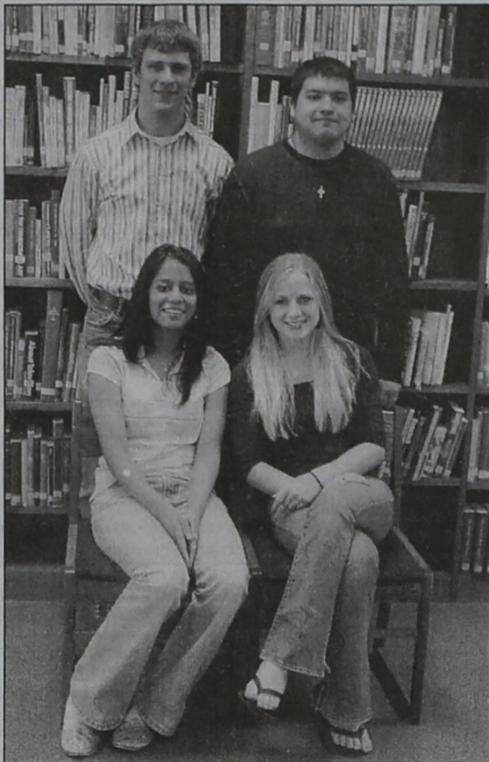
The soil has been tested for mineral and element content, as well as for humus content. Marcum said it appears to be of good quality for growing grass, and the sand and clay content has been designed to control compaction.

Plans call for the field upgrade to be completed prior to graduation at the end of May.

"Once the field has received a good rain or two it will settle and another top dressing will be applied to level and maintain the proper drainage," the superintendent said. "As do area farmers, we are looking forward to a good, slow, soaking rain."



Post ISD grounds and maintenance crew members restoring the playing field at Antelope Stadium are (left to right), Rogelio Acosta, Manuel Lopez and Mark Odom. The team has labored since the 2005 football season ended to complete the project before May.



Post High School students sweeping the Cross X District Debate meet last Wednesday, February 8, in Shallowater are (back row left to right), Jonathan McGregor and Vince Robles (front row), Meagen Howard and Suhani Bhakta. The team of McGregor and Robles placed first, while Howard and Bhakta placed second at the meet. Both teams advance to the State meet on March 12 - 14. (Photo by Shellee Odom, courtesy of Post ISD)

Dispatch reporter asked to leave 'closed' courtroom proceedings

A reporter for The Post Dispatch was asked to leave the courtroom in the Garza County courthouse last week where preliminary proceedings were under way in a civil case filed in the 106th Judicial District Court.

The reporter, Sheri Lewis, was assigned by the newspaper's publisher to cover the proceedings in a case involving several county officials, MTC, the firm charged with operating the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility, and several of its employees.

Upon arrival in the courtroom, Lewis witnessed a group of five or six individuals working around a table in the center of the courtroom. One of the individuals was being questioned; a court reporter was on hand to record the proceedings.

A lone man was seated several feet away, observing the events.

After several minutes, one of the women involved in the proceedings walked over and asked Lewis if she had been called to give a deposition. Lewis replied she had not. When Lewis was asked to identify herself, she did so and provided the name of the newspaper with which she works. The woman returned to the table and informed the others that a member of the media was present.

Following a quiet discussion, one of the men involved in the actions stopped the court reporter. Lewis was quizzed as to who had asked her to attend the morning's proceedings. She said she had been asked by the Dispatch's publisher, Wes Burnett, to attend the session. When asked how Burnett knew of the proceedings, Lewis said she did not know and suggested the publisher might be able to answer the question.

After another brief period of hushed discussion, the man seated in the audience area of the courtroom, Jon Smith, said he had talked to Burnett, but had not asked that a reporter be sent to cover the proceedings.

Lewis was advised that "sworn deposition testimony" was being taken as part of a motion to transfer venue, and that such action is not open to the public.

It was stated that conducting such business in a courtroom setting is unusual.

Lewis was told a hearing related to the action is set for March 21. That session will be open to the public, and Lewis was advised to check with the clerk's office for the specific time the hearing will be conducted.

The reporter left the courtroom without incident.

No signs were posted on the exterior of the courtroom doors declaring the ongoing session closed, and no bailiff was present to ensure the proceedings were secure.

A dozen local residents and MTC are named in a lawsuit filed May 13 by Smith, who alleges defamation of character through slander.

According to the court document, the defendants "conspired, on numerous occasions, to defame" Smith's character by alleging he was involved in the "distribution of illegal drugs in Garza County and in the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility." The motives of the defendants, the document states, were to "destroy" Smith's credibility following his allegations of "illegal and/or improper contract bidding" by Management Training Corp., the firm contracted by Garza County to operate the Dalby Unit.

Named as defendants in the petition are MTC; Joe Rasberry, warden of the Dalby Unit; Dalby Unit employees Charla Miller, Jeffrey Steward, Jeff Smith, Susan Payne, Eric Mathis and Kathy Wright; Garza County Judge Giles W. Dalby; Dana Tanner, a constable's office dispatcher; Garza County Sheriff Cliff Laws; Marinett Tyler, a dispatcher in the sheriff's department; and Angela Massey, an employee of the county judge's office.

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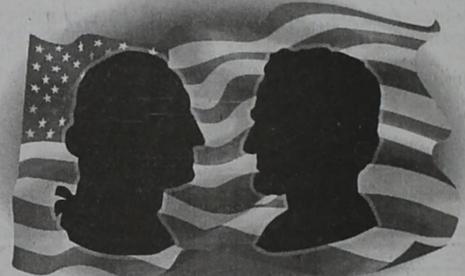
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Celebrating Their Legacy



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Monday, February 20.

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on Tuesday.

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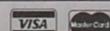
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Obituaries

Lorenzo Ramirez

Services for Lorenzo Ramirez, 91, were held Feb. 8, 2006. Burial was in the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona under the direction of the Universal Funeral Home.

He died Jan. 30 at the VA Hospital in Tucson, Ariz.

Born in Brady March 25, 1914, his family moved to Post in 1925 where they worked with the Kennedys. In 1941 he joined the U.S. Army, serving during World War II. He moved to Phoenix in 1947.

Survivors include his wife, Isabel, one daughter, Ester, one son, Roman, and six grandchildren, all of Phoenix, and two sisters, Frances Lau of Phoenix and Lenora Ramirez of Post.



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Iola Viola Halama

Services for Iola Viola Halama, 89, of Menomone Falls, Wis., were held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, 2006, in the Hudman Funeral Home with the Rev. Billie Smith officiating. Burial followed in the Terrace Cemetery.

She died Feb. 10 in Grapevine. She was born Aug. 25, 1916, in Lakewood, N.M., to Jeff and Ida Yarbro. Survivors include one son, John Noll of White Bear Lake, Minn.; one daughter, Cindy Stewart of Edmonton, Canada; one brother, Willard Yarbro of Post; and two sisters, Frances Murphy of Merritt Island, Fla., and Eunice Pope of Post.

Jake "Sonny" Webb Jr.

Graveside services for Jake "Sonny" Webb Jr. were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, in the Dundee Cemetery in Dundee. The Hudman Funeral Home of Post was in charge of arrangements.

He died Monday, Feb. 13, in Slaton. Born Dec. 6, 1924, in Dundee to Jake and Zella Webb, he was a member of the Church of Christ of Slaton.

Survivors include his sister-in-law, Jo Webb of Slaton; one nephew and his wife, Jack and Caron Webb of Albuquerque, N.M.; and three nieces and their husbands, Jane and David Bartholomew of Houston, Anne Evans of Temple and Lynn and Randy Melton of Slaton.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Alex Webb.

I could become a part and is the kind of government I could support. This is the philosophy of the national, state and local Republican Party, and that's why I am a Republican.

Irene Howell Chairman Garza County Republican Party

My little hero

A fire recently destroyed the home of Jason Blacklock and his family. All got out safe and no one was injured because of my hero.

With the fire raging, my son and daughter sought their way out. My little hero, Carson Mason Blacklock, because of the training he had received at school, felt of the back door and saw that it was not hot. He said this way was safe, and it was.

His dad was trying to get to a hose to put water on the fire. My hero stayed with his mom, sister and brother 'til the fire department could get there with their heroes.

Because of my little hero and his training, he did the right thing. Pe-Paw Blacklock (World's Best Fisherman) and Pa Mason (World's Second Best Fisherman) are so proud of their little hero.

All children need to pay attention to fire safety. They might some day need to be a hero, too.

Don Blacklock

Responds to candidate forum

After Viewing the Forum on Channel 12, I too wonder with the gentleman who asked our Precinct 4 Commissioner Candidates how they planned to keep Lubbock from taking over Lake Alan Henry. Mr. Sanchez' comment was to "fight." How do you intend to fight Lubbock Mr. Sanchez?

My question along with this one is, how can we fight when Mr. Norman (who is running for County Judge) takes political contributions from citizens outside of Garza County who, listing the contributor's address of 82nd St, is this in Lubbock? One donation in the amount of \$3000.00, which is a lot of money. What do these Lubbock citizens hope to gain by "donating" to a local candidate?

Giving a large amount of money is a bit suspicious that something in return will be expected. I also have to wonder about Mr. Norman's respect for the law when he tries to hide this information from the citizens of Garza County by not reporting all contributions, (you might ask yourself, what else will he hide if elected Garza County Judge).

I thought our county judge is expected to follow the law, not make it up as he goes along. Now the real question, not all of us are in a position to contribute money, do we need someone like this sitting judgment on those of us that were not able to make a contributions?

Sandy Smith

Girls' conference set this weekend

A fun-filled, inspiring weekend conference for girls in grades 7 through 12 will be conducted this weekend. The event will be "packed with praise and worship music, heart-to-heart talks regarding issues teenagers girls face today, fashion and looking our best from the inside out." Guest speakers also will be on hand. "Every person you will hear from... will share what we've all found: That nothing in life can bring lasting satisfaction, enduring peace and self-confidence like living in the will of God and knowing Him personally," states the press release about the conference. Registration begins at 6 p.m. Friday at the Post City Lodge, followed by a conference-opening meal at the First United Methodist Church. The event will run overnight through Saturday, ending at noon. For more information, contact Janice Plummer or Melanie Morris.

www.thepostdispatch.com

Letters to the Editor

Letters must be signed by the writer. Editor reserves right to edit for brevity, grammar, libel and accuracy. Letters are published at the sole discretion of the editor.

Questions raised about voting

I have had several phone calls from local residents who have asked how they can vote Republican. Some have said, "I don't know if I'm a Republican or a Democrat." Others have said, "I don't know the difference; we all seem about the same around here."

So, I thought I would try to explain the difference, as I see it, by giving you a brief review of what most Republicans are all about.

The party was started in the early 1850s. They believed settlers should have free land in the west. The name was chosen because it alluded to equality and was reminiscent of Thomas Jefferson's Democratic-Republican Party.

Republicans became a national party in 1856, and John C. Fremont was nominated for president. His slogan was "free soil, free labor, free speech, free men, Fremont." He lost. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected the first Republican president.

The Republican symbol is the elephant. In 1874, Democrats tried to scare voters into thinking President Grant, a Republican, would run for a third term. Thomas Nast, a cartoonist for Harper's Weekly, depicted a Democrat jackass trying to scare a Republican elephant. Both symbols stuck.

Republicans have served as president most of the 19th century and the early 20th century. Under Ronald Reagan and George Bush the United States ended the Cold War and became the world's only super power.

Republicans have long believed individuals, not government, can make the best decisions; all people have equal rights; decisions are best made close to home. The Republican philosophy is that Americans should have the freedom to make their own decisions and live their own lives, free of governmental influence. Individual liberty, individual decision-making, entrepreneurship and creativity are our rights and responsibility. Americans have the freedom to better themselves and their families.

A party that cherishes West Texas beliefs of respect for God, home and traditional families; that values life; that believes in community support for education; and that requires morality of its leaders; that supports a limited government, open to citizens, accountable to taxpayers, always seeking to save taxpayer funds and eliminate waste, responsible to the community, showing personal honesty and integrity are the qualities of a party to which

On God's Word

By Timothy W. Burnett

God's love overcomes the challenges of life

It is written in God's word, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes on him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This is the sum of what God in heaven did for us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God in heaven understands the condition of mankind, and He gave us exactly what we need to endure and conquer the challenges of life in this world. When we stay our minds on the hope of everlasting life, we are comforted. Any trouble that we face in this world is miniscule compared to the gift of everlasting life from God.

With God's love abiding in our decisions and actions, fear is cast down. The decisions people make are often based on fear of the unknown future, getting hurt, death, losing our livelihood, to name a few.

Do not confuse fear with prudence and caution. God teaches us in 1John 4:18, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear." When we are not in fear, then we have confidence toward God, and whatever we ask, we receive from Him (1John 3:21).

The troubling challenges in life are not truly from God in heaven. Yet through our Lord Jesus, we are blessed with a way out. God will not let us endure beyond what we can handle. And as long as we are staying our hearts on trusting Him, we will be in the place at just the right time to receive God's mighty help.

Knowing this, we can approach this time as an opportunity to grow and mature in our fellowship with God. When we dearly love somebody, we want so much to be by their side and help them to endure those

troublesome days, and to share their happy times. In so doing, we build on a relationship together. The same is true for God and His love for us.

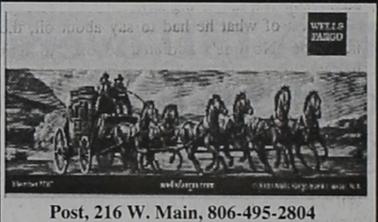
God knows something about us that we often forget... we are weak. That's right. In walking with God's love during troubling times, as we endure and hold fast to God's word and act on confidence toward Him, we are strengthened by His mighty strength.

As we stand firmly with God right in front of us, and do not give up on God, we will grow in God's strength. Look at 2Corinthians 12:9 "And He said unto me, 'My grace is strong for you. For My power is made perfect in weakness.'"

To be "made perfect" meant to be accomplished. God's power is accomplished or fulfilled in weakness. When we fully recognize our weakness in any situation and place all of our trust in God, then His working power is accomplished in due time. Troublesome challenges in life can be seen as indirect blessings in that we are filled with joy in knowing that God is fully able to help us, we are growing in God's power, developing patience and endurance, and maturing in our overall relationship with God. In the end, God gets the glory by all. God loves us so much. And He wants only the best for us. Let's keep our trust in God with all our hearts, and not lean on our own understanding.

In all our ways acknowledge Him and let Him direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5-6). Then we can soon enjoy the rich blessings that God is preparing us for.

Visit my website at geocities.com/christinyou7/love



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Opinions

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Get the picture?

by Bill O'Reilly

So here's my question, and it's a simple one because I am a simple man: The New York Times will not print any of those Danish political cartoons that mock Islamic violence, but it will publish a picture of Mary, the mother of Jesus, covered with dung. What's up with that?

Here's what the Times wrote about the cartoons: "(We) and much of the rest of the nation's news media have reported on the cartoons but refrained from showing them. That seems a reasonable choice for news organizations that usually refrain from gratuitous assaults on religious symbols." OK, fine, I agree with the editorial that appeared on Feb. 7. But the next day, the newspaper ran a picture of the dung-covered Mary accompanying an article entitled: "A Startling New Lesson in the Power of Imagery."

So we can't see the prophet Mohammed with a bomb in his turban in the Times, but we can see a sacrilegious "gratuitous assault" on Mary that came from a shameful Brooklyn Museum exposition in 1999. Do I have that right? Once again we have a huge double standard in play in the secular-progressive press. In 1989, the Los Angeles Times and the Boston Globe, among others, published a picture by photographer Andres Serrano that showed the crucified Christ submerged in urine. Serrano was also featured in a New York Times fashion spread, according to reporting in The Washington Post.

And then there was the play "Corpus Christi," which featured a gay Jesus who had sex with some Apostles. The New York Times opined that folks who protested the play had "contempt for artistic expression." Maybe I'm wrong, but dung on Mary, Christ submerged in urine, and a gay Jesus just might be "gratuitous assaults on religious symbols." But, again, I'm kind of dense when it comes to "artistic expression," so I could be way off here. The real question is this: Do the editors of The New York Times intentionally want to denigrate Christianity? I don't know. I can only go by the best available evidence, and the case I just made seems airtight. Religious minorities in the USA seem to be given much more respect by the Times than the religious majority. Remember, 84 percent of Americans identify themselves as Christians.

If you read The New York Times and the other secular-progressive papers, you know they often see the Christian majority as "oppressive." And it's easy to see why. Many Christians oppose unfettered abortion, euthanasia, and gay marriage -- just to name three issues that the S-P's champion. Resistance to "progressive" change in America is strong in quite a few Christian communities. So they have become "dangerous" to some in the S-P press. Therefore, any denigration of Christian symbols is far more acceptable than the negative depiction of minority religions. Would The New York Times print a picture of Mohammed covered with dung? If you think so, I have a condo in Baghdad I'd like to sell you.

The cold truth is, it is open season on Christian symbols in much of the American press. That was demonstrated during the Christmas controversy, which the S-P press denied even existed. Insulting Christian icons is wrong, just as mocking the prophet Mohammed is wrong. The difference might be that Christians are taught to turn the other cheek, while militant Muslims might react a bit differently. And The New York Times knows it.

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

by Wes Burnett

Last week Republican Party county judge candidate Lee Norman visited our offices, offering an explanation about the delay in filing advertising expenditures on required reports. Mr. Norman said that he had not received an invoice for the advertising published in the Garza County Gazette in December and January.

"I don't have to report those expenses until I pay them," he said, "and I can't pay them if I don't have an invoice."

We explained that it is customary in the newspaper business to send statements at the end of every month, and we found it a bit odd that Norman hadn't reported the expenses or the in-kind contribution if the ads were discounted or free to the candidate. We also pointed out that Mr. Norman's treasurer had paid Post City Television in January for December advertising, but it was not listed on the latest report either.

Mr. Norman suggested that there must have been an oversight on the failure to list payment to Post City Television. He also said that he expected to receive invoices from the Gazette "any time now." He said that he had made arrangements with the Gazette (whose owners are unnamed but apparently operated by James N. Jarrett) for an agreed price for the advertising.

We also explained to Mr. Norman that we have carefully studied the statutory law regarding candidate filing requirements, and are certain that expenses must be reported for those obligations incurred during the reporting period. Mr. Norman suggested that we write a follow up explaining that he was trying to follow the rules.

The problem with Mr. Norman's explanation is quite simple ... he doesn't know or understand the law. The election code and the Ethics Commission rules governing political candidates refer to "normal business practices" ... and normal business practices include a standard called "Generally Accepted Accounting Practices." Under those standards, expenses and revenues (contributions) are accounted for at the time of the obligation.

It is just plain common sense ... if a candidate did not have to report expenses until an invoice arrived, well then, there might never be an invoice, especially if a candidate instructs the vendor to hold the invoice until after the election. The law is written as it is so that citizens can review the records and be well informed as to the details of each candidate's disbursement and collection of funds.

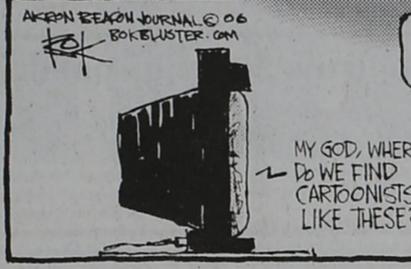
A telephone call to the Ethics Commission would have informed Mr. Norman that even if he doesn't know the exact amount of the advertising cost, he is required to at least make an estimate, and if necessary, enter corrected information on a later report. But in this case, Mr. Norman admitted that he already knew the cost.

It is entirely possible that Mr. Norman truly intends to "follow the rules," but the record so far shows a surprising lack of due diligence. This is particularly important considering that he aspires to serve as county judge.

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Bush speaks nonsense on energy

by Sheldon Richman

Despite the bravado in his State of the Union address, President Bush actually admitted that his efforts in the Middle East are destined to fail. Here's what he said: "America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world." He then unveiled billions of dollars in new subsidies to find an alternative to oil.

What's going on here? Haven't we been told repeatedly that Bush's policy in the Middle East is going to bring freedom, democracy, and stability to the long-suffering oil states of the region? Why the subtle confession that the policy will fail?

Could the victory of Hamas in the Palestinian elections have convinced Bush that his democratic crusade may not achieve his stated goals? Whatever the reason, his remarks about oil betrayed a glimmer of realism. In this administration, that is big news.

The rest of what he had to say about oil, though, is shot through with nonsense. No one's addicted to oil. Addiction implies passivity and helplessness; it doesn't even apply to drugs. It certainly has nothing to do with oil. We use oil because under current circumstances, it makes sense to use oil. It's efficient and still cheaper than the alternatives. Maybe, as the Wall Street Journal suggests, Bush's remarks about oil are poll-driven, but it is rather premature to declare the dawn of the post-oil era. Much of the earth has not been explored, much less tapped. And there are huge quantities of shale oil and tar sands in Canada and the United States, quantities that rival Saudi Arabia's crude-oil reserves. There's lots of oil outside the Middle East. So what's the president talking about? (Incidentally, only 11 percent of oil used by Americans comes from the Persian Gulf.)

Not that all is well with energy. More than most industries, energy has been shaped substantially by government intervention. It is a politicized industry. Companies have grown large thanks to an array of pro-corporate policies. For

half a century the U.S. government has meddled in the Middle East largely to keep the oil companies' investments secure. This has worked to the detriment of would-be competitors that might have come up with alternatives in a laissez-faire environment. The fact is, we have no idea what the energy industry would have looked like had the government kept hands off and let free competition determine the outcome.

Clearly, Bush is nowhere near learning this lesson. His speech included promises to use taxpayer money to find the next source of energy. He seems to think it will come from switch grass and wood chips. But how the heck can he know? There's no trick in giving a few big well-connected corporations billions of dollars and having them come up with a new form of energy. The trick is finding energy forms that make economic sense, with benefits outweighing costs. Subsidies distort people's perception, guaranteeing that what they do will not make economic sense. Did we learn nothing from the synthetic-fuels boondoggles of the Jimmy Carter years?

Advocates of big government (Bush included) always think that subsidies are an efficient way to achieve an economic objective. The truth is the opposite. The only way to know whether a solution is economically sensible is to have all the costs borne openly by producers and consumers; as the economists say, all externalities should be internalized. Forcing the taxpayers to bear the costs will create an illusion that will mislead everyone, wasting resources and leaving us worse off.

To have a rational energy industry there is only one choice: a free, unsubsidized market. In other words, the best energy policy is no energy policy.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) in Fairfax, Va., author of *Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State*, and editor of *The Freeman* magazine.

National leaders trash rule of law

by James Bovard

President Bush proudly announced in December that he is violating federal law. Bush declared that, in 2002, he had ordered the National Security Agency to begin conducting warrantless wiretaps and email intercepts on Americans. Bush asserted that the wiretaps would continue, regardless of the law.

Bush claims that he must ignore the law because the secret federal court created to authorize such wiretaps moves too slowly to protect U.S. national security. Amazingly, Bush's claim has been treated with respect, if not deference, by much of the nation's media. Much of the media has groveled to Bush's claim the same way that the special court grovels to federal agencies.

In 1978, responding to scandals about political spying on Americans in the name of counterespionage, Congress passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). FISA created a new "court" to oversee federal surveillance of foreign agents within the United States.

The FISA court may be the biggest lapdogs in the federal government. The court approved almost everyone of the 15,000 search warrant requests the feds submitted between 1978 and 2002, and continue to approve more than 99% of requests.

FISA provides a judicial process only in the sense that the room where the political appointees convene is called a "court." As national security expert James Bamford observed, "Like a modern Star Chamber, the FISA court meets behind a cipher-locked door in a windowless, bug-proof, vault-like room guarded 24 hours a day on the top floor of the Justice Department building. The eleven judges (increased from seven by the Patriot Act) hear only the government's side."

Federal agencies can submit retroactive search warrant requests up to 72 hours after they begin surveilling someone. In 2002, for instance, Attorney General John Ashcroft personally issued over 170 emergency domestic spying warrants in 2002, permitting agents to carry out wiretaps and search homes and offices for up to 72 hours before the feds requested a search warrant from the FISA Court. Ashcroft used such powers almost a hundred times as often as attorney generals did before 9/11.

Congress set a very low standard for FISA search warrants. In federal criminal investigations, the government must show probable cause that a person is involved in criminal activity before being permitted to impose a wiretap. Under FISA, the government need only show that a person is a suspected agent of a foreign power or terrorist organization. The standard is different because Americans' rights are protected by the Fourth Amendment, while foreign agents do not receive the same shield from government intrusion.

When FISA authorizes surveillance, the feds can switch on all the turbos. In a 2002 decision, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court noted that after it grants a surveillance request, "the FBI will be authorized to conduct, simultaneously, telephone, microphone, cell phone, e-mail and computer surveillance of the U.S. person target's home, workplace and vehicles. Similar breadth is accorded the FBI in physical searches of the target's residence, office, vehicles, computer, safe deposit box and U.S. mails where supported by probable cause."

After 9/11, the Justice Department vigorously lobbied for Congress to revise FISA to permit it to be used for spying on Americans with little or no relations to foreign powers or terrorist plots. Ashcroft claimed that the reform was needed

because FISA had impeded efforts to track terrorists. The dispute was not over whether foreign agents should be tracked: no one in Congress was opposed to that. The issue was whether the feds could launch massive surveillance operations against U.S. citizens on the pretext of fighting terrorism even though there was no evidence of their criminal wrongdoing. Congress acquiesced to Ashcroft's demands.

A few months after the Patriot Act was signed, Ashcroft proposed new regulations to "allow FISA to be used primarily for a law enforcement purpose." The seven FISC judges unanimously rejected Ashcroft's power grab as contrary to federal law. The Bush administration appealed the decision, and a special FISA appeals court met in secret and only the Justice Department was permitted to argue its side. Steve Aftergood, editor of the *Federation of American Scientists' Secrecy News*, commented that the transcript of the hearing (released months after the fact) showed that "the judges generally assumed a servile posture toward the executive branch, even consulting the Justice Department on how to handle its critics." The FISA appeals court, in a November 2002 decision, gave Ashcroft everything he wanted.

Even though the FISA court is often a farce, providing only a facade of judicial procedure, any restriction on domestic spying was too much for the Bush administration. Or perhaps Bush believes that being obliged to request retroactive search warrants tarnishes his imperial majesty. There is an old saying about some people being too proud to fight. Perhaps George Bush is too proud to get a warrant before he spies on Americans.

It remains to be seen whether Congress or federal courts will hold the president liable for proclaiming that he is above the law.

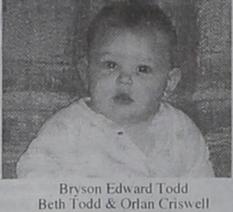
James Bovard is the author of *Attention Deficit Democracy* (Palgrave, January 2006) and *Terrorism & Tyranny* (Palgrave, 2003), and is policy advisor at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org).



Grandma's Little Valentines



M'Keison Ranae Saldivar
Jeanie Wilkerson
Great-Grandparents
Edna Bilberry
John Huffman



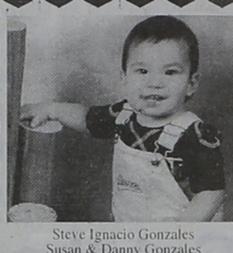
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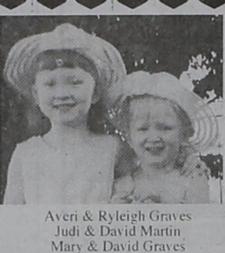
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Josie & Jorge Armendariz



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Averi & Ryleigh Graves
Judi & David Martin
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Great Grandparents
Edna Bilberry
Nova Thomas
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Julia Cameron
Stanna Welch &
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Great Grandparents
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Marcella Perez of Post, shares her valentine gifts from a special friend.

Local UIL meet to draw 500-plus participants

More than 500 students and their coaches will pour into Post Saturday for the Bold Gold Classic UIL Invitational Academic Meet.

Eighty invitations were sent out to 1A, 2A and 3A schools, according to school officials. Almost 30 schools have made plans to participate.

The meet will feature 21 contests, including accounting, calculator applications, computer applications, number sense, ready writing, science, spelling, editorial writing, feature writing, headline writing, news writing, social studies, informative speaking, persuasive speaking, poetry, prose and Lincoln-Douglas debate.

Both the high school and elementary school buildings will be used to accommodate contestants.

Post High School students participate in various meets throughout the year in preparation for the district-

level competition. This year's District 5AA contest will be March 29-30 at Denver City. Students placing at the district meet earn the right to advance to regional, area and state competitions.

Several PHS students already have qualified for state-level contests, including members of the Cross Examination teams who took first and second places in the district Cross-X meet last week and the one-act play cast and crew.

The University Interscholastic League was created to provide leadership and guidance to public school debate and athletic teachers. It exists to provide educational and extracurricular academic, athletic and music competitions. The UIL organizes and supervises contests that assist in preparing students for citizenship,

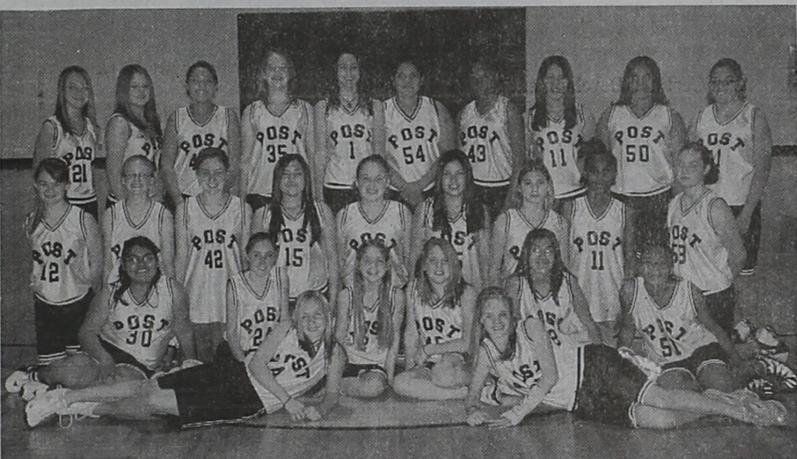
according to a press release from the school. Its aim is to provide healthy, character-building educational activities carried out under rules providing for good sportsmanship and fair play for all participants.

Local middle school and elementary school students also participate in UIL academic contests.

Post Middle School and Post Elementary both were named district champions this year. Students at these levels are not eligible to advance to higher level contests, but participation in the academic meets prepare them for competitions at higher levels.

Teachers and parents will handle judging, monitoring and concession stand operations for this weekend's Bold Gold Classic. Any adult interested in assisting should contact Sterling Marcum at 495-2770.

Congratulations 7th Grade Girls



Post Antelope 7th Grade Girls Basketball team - (back row left to right) Alexis Dunn, Kelsey Overton, Leah Perez, Amber Wilson, Cheree Conner, Kayly Villalon, Eboni Thompson, Franchesca Varela, Jayta Whitehead and Andie Polanco (second row), Macy Blair, Cheyenne Morris, Alisha Jones, Crystal Hernandez, Sierra Hodge, Tifanie Pierson, Kensley Hair, Marylynn Curtis and Alex Tuttle (third row), Evette Rodriguez, Cassidy Pitts, Britny Bouldin, Alissa Morrow, Tanisha Piaz and Skylor Brown (front row), Caitlin Cravy and Katelyn Short. Not pictured is Alex Lang, Tiny Williams, Sydnee Jones and Miranda Hair.

Rocker A
Eric, Jayta, Ericka, Luke & Claire Cravy

Will, Lisa, Zachery & Lindsey Morrow
Just Computers

Congratulations 7th Grade Boys



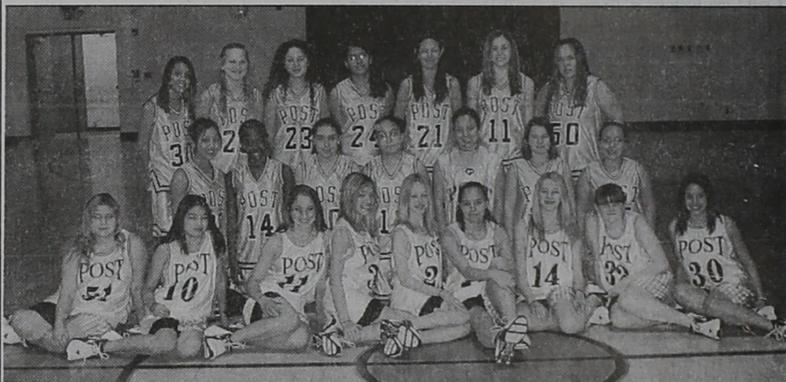
Post 7th Grade Boys Basketball Team - (back row, left to right) Ernest Saldivar, Quentin Benham, Manuel Lopez, Kyle Copeland, Blake Davis and Jonathan Perez (front row), Dylan Huffman, Chess Postell, Kameron Strivens, Skylor Taylor and Brian Osborn.

Larry & Mary Hair,
Mathew & Steven
Fred, Kay & Brenna Postell

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495-4567



Congratulations 8th Grade Girls



Post Antelope 8th Grade Girls Basketball team - (back row left to right) Kelly Chapa, Lindsey Morrow, Kloe Mason, Chandni Bhakta, Tori Zapata, Kristen Leach and Alex Cruz (middle row), Melinda Vega, Chelsey Sapp, Tranna Reyna, Alexandra Rodriguez, Brittany Day, Brooke Morris and Courtney Basquez (front row), Mysty Ayala, Darlene Araiva, Cheyenne Bouldin, Yesenia Gomez, Alex Miller, Crystal Sanchez, Branda Stevens, Toni Wait and Danica Williams..

Will, Lisa, Zachery & Alissa Morrow
Budget Inn
Mike & Daxa Bhakta

B&A LP Gas

Kurt & Cynthia Williams

FARMERS
Mistie & Mitch Day

Congratulations 8th Grade Boys



Post 8th Grade Boys Basketball Team - (back row, left to right) Josh Rodriguez, Aaron Norrell, Reed Williams, Clint Windham, Trent Babb, Giles Dalby and Aaron James (front) Luis Duran, Travis Bergin, John Bocko, Solomon Abraham, Shiloh Short, Eddie Pizana and Quinten Valdez.

Jimmy, Rhonda & Coco Valdez

CitizensBANK
Post, Texas (806) 495-3545

D&D Winco₂

Mike Babb

Lady 'Lopes lose close one to Roosevelt, 46-44

The Lady 'Lopes lost a close game last week to Roosevelt 46-44.

The game was close in the first quarter, but Roosevelt jumped out to a 22-16 halftime lead. Post rallied, outscoring Roosevelt 17-5 in the third period, but Roosevelt revamped its game to squeak past the Lady 'Lopes in the final quarter.

Gray led scoring with 20 points, followed by Wilson with eight, Hoover with six, Vernon with four, Lott with three, Tatum, two, and Hays, one. The team successfully hit 74 percent of its free throws.

Gray and Wilson led assists with three apiece. Gray led offensive rebounds with five, while Lott and Tatum topped

the defensive rebounds column with seven each. Lott, Tatum, Gray, Wilson and Hays each had a steal in the game.

**Your Vote Is a SECRET
No One Knows How You
Vote or for whom you
voted!
SECRET BALLOTS**



Antelope D.J. Baiza loops around for a layup shot during last Tuesday basketball action against Roosevelt in Antelope Arena.
(Photo by Jerry Taylor)



Laurel Tatum (11) pushes in two points against a tough Roosevelt defense as Rachel Gray (12) stands poised for support last Tuesday in Antelope Arena.
(Photo by Tim Burnett)

PHS powerlifters post strong showing at Roosevelt contest

Post High School weighed in with a pair of impressive finishes at Saturday's powerlifting meet in Roosevelt.

The men's team finished in fourth place in a field of 25, while the women's team earned a second place finish behind Plainview in a field of 11 teams.

Taking first place individual finishes were Israel Beggs and Alana Zubia, according to a report from the coach. Second place finishes went to K'Nell Dalby, Blake Nichols and Erica Ortiz. Allison Blevins took a third place finish, while Valerie Moreno and Kenny Garay each took fourth place in their respective contests.

Finishing in fifth place were Kelsey Sanderson and Josie Whisenhunt.

Other top 10 finishers included Steffi Norman, Keisha Odom, Ashley Stenzel, Zach Witcher and Preston Ortiz.

Garza Theatre banking on good run with "Funny Money"

"Funny Money" will start its run at the Garza Theatre this weekend. The comedy, directed by Christy Morris, will be staged Feb. 17, 19, 24 and 25 and March 3, 4 and 5. Performances will begin at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:30 p.m. for the Sunday matinee.

The play, billed as a "hilarious romp involving mixed identities and revolving briefcases," stars Rob Holton, Laura Bryan, Tim McIntire, Karen Dolter, Rick Fay, Doug Young, Mikey Gonzales and Richard Whiting.

Tickets cost \$9 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12. Tickets may be purchased at the Garza Theatre box office.

For more information on the play, contact the box office at 495-4005.

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IT'S A GREAT AMERICAN TRADITION!**

Drew Mouton

Republican For State Representative District 85



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Past & Present

Community Foundation
(Current President)

Main Street Project
(Past President)

YMCA
(Past Vice President)

Chamber of Commerce
(Past Executive Vice President)

Area Certified Development Corp.

Rotary Club
(Past President)

County Industrial Development Corp.

Little League Baseball

Junior Achievement

United Way
(Past Chairman & President)

Malone & Hogan Hospital

Other Community Involvement

Past & Present

• Trustee - First United Methodist Church Trust Fund

• Chairman Free Enterprise program for 700 Area High School juniors & seniors

• Chairman Civil Service Commission

• Member - Zoning Board Of Adjustments

• Volunteer Speaker - Next Generation program to encourage students to stay in school

• Volunteer - Rotary Literacy Program

• Volunteer - Shattered Dreams Program for area students

• Coach - Little League Baseball & Girls Softball (10 years)

• Guest Speaker - Fellowship of Christian Athletes

• Volunteer - Hunter Education Course for area youth

"I will appreciate your vote in the March 7 primary."

Paid political ad paid for by Mouton for State Representative, P.O. Box 1030, Big Spring, TX 79721, Katie Grimes, Treasurer



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Commissioners split on vote on county engineer



Earning a superior rating on their UIL Class II Clarinet Trio ensemble performance at Lubbock Coronado High School last Saturday are (left to right), Abby Ayala, Bailey Odom and Ericka Cravy.

Garza County commissioners voted to retain a county engineer during their Friday meeting, but the move was not made with the unanimous approval of the court.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Glenda McClellan voted against the measure, which was approved 4-1.

The court voted to retain Rich Oller on an annual contract to serve as county engineer.

In a letter to the court, Oller proposed a retainer of \$25,000 per

year was agreed upon, with projects over an estimated construction cost of \$100,000 to be negotiated for a separate fee for the provision of professional services.

Oller, of the Lubbock firm of Oller Engineering, detailed for the court a needs assessment and the benefits the county will realize by having an engineer on retainer.

"Garza County is experiencing growth in the county with the development of Lake Alan Henry and

the areas in and around Post has also started to grow," Oller said in his letter. "With this growth comes various development issues related to public service such as roads, drainage, utility lines and other development issues."

Oller wrote that by hiring a county engineer, the county will realize administration assistance through recommendations concerning road maintenance budgets; estimates for maintenance-related improvements; written reports on precinct road conditions; having a liaison with the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Lubbock, Lake Alan Henry and other governmental agencies; assistance with direction on road maintenance and repairs; and review of all projects involving the county, assuring compliance with proper advertising, design and bidding issues.

Assistance also will be made available with building inspection and code enforcement through reviews of Uniform Building Codes and Southern Building Codes, as well as the preparation of standards for building codes to be adopted by the county; building inspections in the county; and the development of minimum subdivision standards for future developments.

The county engineer can provide assistance in roadway design and maintenance through the review of all roads and ditches to maintain appropriate side slopes; determine maintenance areas to be completed and make necessary assignments with crews; work with crews on maintenance issues; review all bridge repairs and assure compliance with state regulations; review safety standards for all county roads and intersections; prepare budgets for roadway improvements; conduct annual roadway condition report; and review all drainage related to roads.

Also, to review storm water permit

issues for roadway maintenance and improvements; prepare minimum standards for county roadway design; review grand opportunities for roadway improvements and material acquisition; provide assessment of all surface conditions and prepare a master plan of maintaining roadway surface treatment; determine right-of-way widths for all county roads; review all right-of-way requests for crossings and pipeline placement, according to Oller's report.

In other business, the court:
• Considered Tasha Phergson's bid for Lots 40-44 in the Hart Addition on May Street. The court accepted the \$700 bid, but it was noted that before the agreement can be finalized the other taxing entities involved with the property must give their consent. Commissioners were set to consider Phergson's bid for Lots 57-60 at 612 May St., but she withdrew her bid for the property.

• Considered a joint request by Post Cares, the Salvation Army and the Ministerial Alliance to allow the use of the old jail facility as a temporary lodging site for transients; however, no representatives of any of the three organizations was on hand for the meeting. The court voted to reject the proposal.

• Voted to amend the Road & Bridge #1 budget to allow for an equipment purchase. Commissioner Gary McDaniel asked that \$25,000 previously budgeted be moved to the capital expense account to complete the down payment on a Caterpillar road grader.

• Voted to approve the Lessee's Authorizing Resolution for Precinct 1.

• Voted to approve members of the Early Voting Election Team as presented (see related story in this issue of The Post Dispatch).

• Received a report from the county clerk pertaining to the upcoming primary elections (see related story in this issue of The Post Dispatch).

PHS band members earn right to compete at state level



Post High School Euphonium Quartet members earning a superior rating on their UIL Class I music at Lubbock Coronado High School are (left to right), Israel Beggs, Cass Tatum, Tim Wilson and Kassie Parrish. The Quartet will advance to State solo & ensemble contest on Monday, May 29.

More than a dozen Post students will advance to the State Solo & Ensemble competition May 29 after earning Division I ratings on Class I musical selections.

The Division I ratings were awarded following the Solo & Ensemble contest conducted recently at Coronado High School in Lubbock.

Students tapped to move on to the state-level competition include Israel Beggs, Kassie Parrish, Tim Wilson, Cass Tatum, Lawrence Harmel II, Meagen Howard-Griffis, Adam Meredith, Jonathan McGregor, Eric Reyna, Vincent Robles, Drew Fumagalli, Preston Ortiz, John Rodriguez and Joey Guerra.

All are Post High School students with the exception of Rodriguez, who is an eighth grade student at Post Middle School.

"I am proud of my seniors... I am especially proud of Vincent and Jonathan," said Aaron Rathbun, band director. "(They) have been to state before... In an effort to continue a tradition of excellence,

I asked them to take some younger kids with them this year. It was a tough assignment. You never know who you can count on. They did, and I know they have instilled some pride into the other kids."

Rathbun noted that Ortiz and Fumagalli "took a chance" on working with an eighth-grade student. The high school students "helped instill some pride and a sense of belonging in that young man."

Students earning Division I ratings on Class II pieces included Abby Ayala, Ericka Cravy, Bailey Odom and Allen Heckaman.

Those receiving Division II ratings included Ashley Crane (Class II), Colt Mason (Class I), Travis Rasbeary (Class III) and Patricia Wright (Class III).

"I am really proud of the kids. They received some good instruction and were willing to put out the effort to win. I continually remind them to remove luck from the equation. Their success was not an accident," Rathbun said. "They earned it."

This is the busiest time of the school year for many students - one-act play, basketball, baseball, power lifting and UIL literary events, the band director said.

"Getting all these kids to the different points of competition takes a lot of planning and cooperation. Our high school staff has always worked together to make things happen. I want to thank Mr. McGregor, Miss Bush, Coach Wright and Coach Motheral for their efforts in making sure these kids were successful."

Rathbun also thanked Bernie Tackitt, Randall Dodson, Staci Johnson, Byron Morgan, Darren Weaver and Chris Wheeler for their work with the students.

Garza County voters still have a paper ballot

by Jim Plummer

Garza County and District Clerk Garza County Clerk Jim Plummer is glad that the commissioners approved the purchase of the new voting system that will be used for the first time in the March 2006 Primaries.

Months ago Garza County entered into a contract with Election Systems and Software (ES&S) for the purchase of the AutoMARK voter assist terminal and the M100 ballot tabulator systems. The HAVA (Help

America Vote Act) compliant system provides for use of a paper ballot. The main objective in choosing a system was to not make too much of a change in the voting habits of Garza County voters.

Plummer said, "A federal mandate forced us to obtain an accessible voting machine for each polling place. With the choices available to Texas counties, we chose the only system that begins and ends with a paper ballot."

The voting system allows a voter to mark the paper ballot with a ball-point pen or to use the AutoMARK machine to mark your ballot. "The voting machine is there to enhance the voting experience for those with visual or physical disabilities. Although, a voter without a disability can also use the voting machine," added Plummer.

The ballots will be counted by the M100 tabulator system at the central counting location at the courthouse. Plummer said, "The beauty of having the paper ballot is that they can be scanned and counted manually."

If there is a problem with the tabulators, the ballots can be counted by the election judges and clerks."

Early Voting Open during Lunch Hour

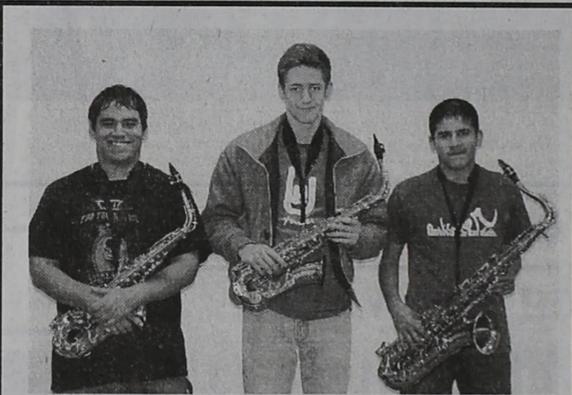
The Garza County Courthouse is the place for Early Voting for the 2006 Primary.

Both Republicans and Democrats will share the same location for

(Continued on Page 12)



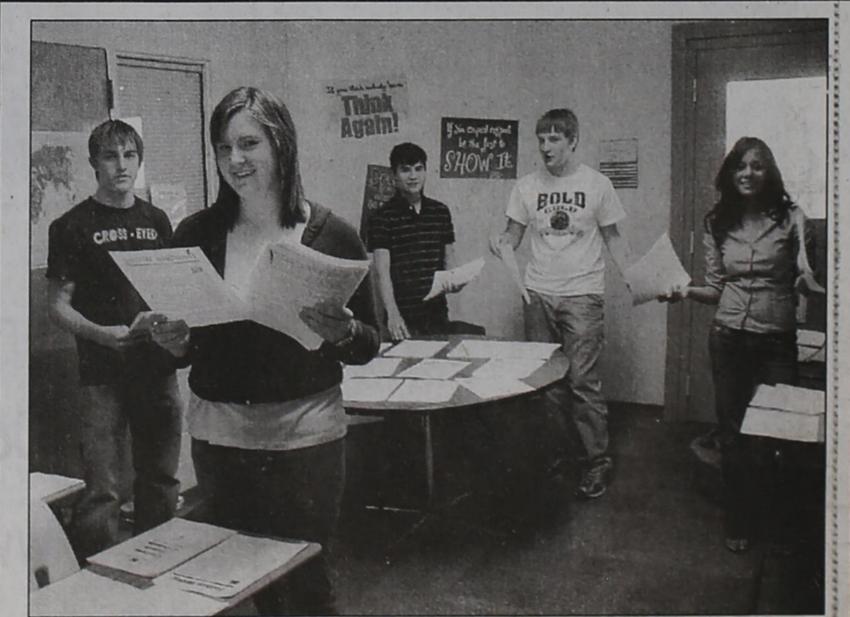
Pride of Post Band members performing solos in last Saturday's UIL Solo & Ensemble contest at Lubbock Coronado High School are (back row left to right), Joey Guerra, Colt Mason, Allen Heckaman, Travis Rasbeary and Meredith Adams (front row), Patricia Wright, Susan Littrell and Ashley Crane. Joey Guerra will advance to UIL State Solo & Ensemble on Monday, May 29.



Post High School Saxaphon Trio earning a division I rating during UIL Solo & Ensemble contest last Saturday at Lubbock Coronado High School are (left to right), Preston Ortiz, Drew Fumagalli and John Rodriguez. Rodriguez qualified for the trio as an 8th grade student from Post Middle School and will advance with the group to State UIL Solo & Ensemble contest on May 29.



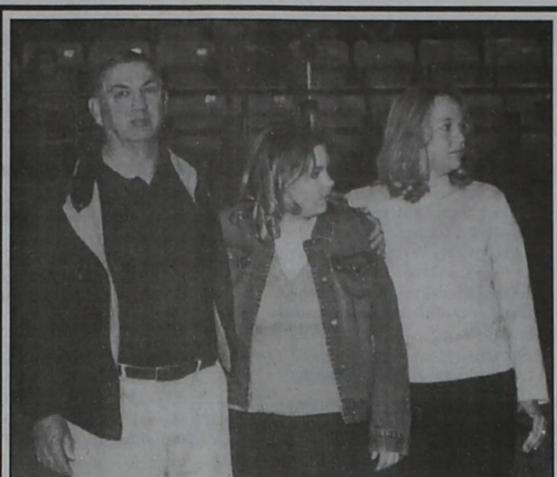
Post High School Brass Sextet members advancing to State UIL Solo & Ensemble contest on May 29 are (left to right), Eric Reyna, Vince Robles, Meagen Howard, Meredith Adams and Jonathan McGregor. The musicians performed their Class I piece at a division I level during the UIL Solo & Ensemble contest last Monday at Lubbock Coronado High School. Not pictured is Lawrence Harmel II.



Post High School academic team members preparing for this Saturday's Bold Gold Classic U.I.L. meet are (left to right), Heath Fellhauer, Becca Striblin, Adrian Nava, Timothy Wilson and Suhani Bhakta. (Staff photo by Tim Burnett)



Lady Lope Senior, Laurel Tatum sheds tears as a packed home crowd shows their appreciation for her by cheering in recognition of her final game in Antelope Arena. Holding her close during last Tuesday's game against Roosevelt are Laurel's parents Tim (left) and Leslie Tatum.



Shannon Rasbeary (center) is recognized as a senior Post Lady Lope basketball team member during last Tuesday game against Roosevelt in Antelope Arena. Sharing the moment with Shannon are her parents Joe (left) and Michele Rasbeary.



Senior Antelope basketball player, Kenneth Garay (center) is recognized by a cheering community of fans in Antelope Arena during last Tuesday's game against Roosevelt. Accompanying Kenneth are his family Elizabeth (left) and John Armendariz.



Senior Jenee Lott (center) soaks in a very special time with her mother Gena Lott (right) and dad Jeff Lott (left) as a packed house of fans in Antelope Arena cheered in recognition of her last year with the Lady Lopes basketball team.

2005 - 2006
**Bold Gold Senior
 Basketball Players
 Thank you!!!**

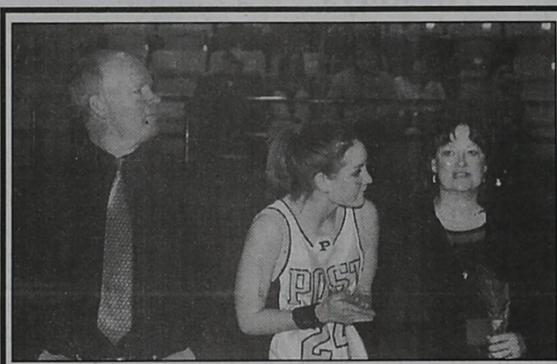
Photos by Jerry Taylor



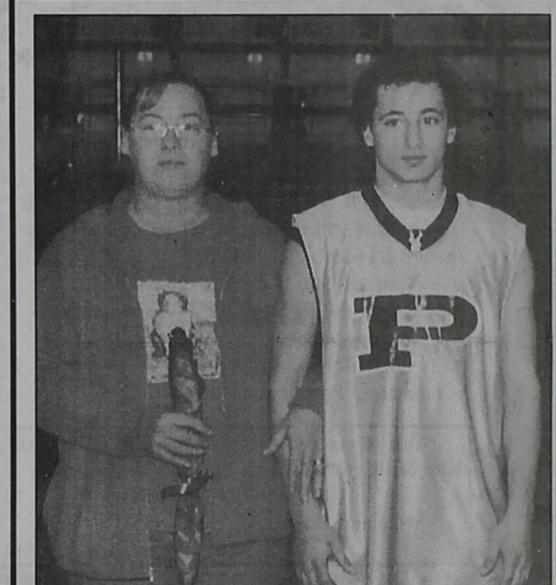
Senior, Kadie Vernon (center) of the Post Lady Lopes basketball team happily accepts the recognition from a cheering community of fans during last Tuesday's game against Roosevelt in Antelope Arena. Her parents Danny (left) and Tanya Vernon stands by Kadie during the special event.



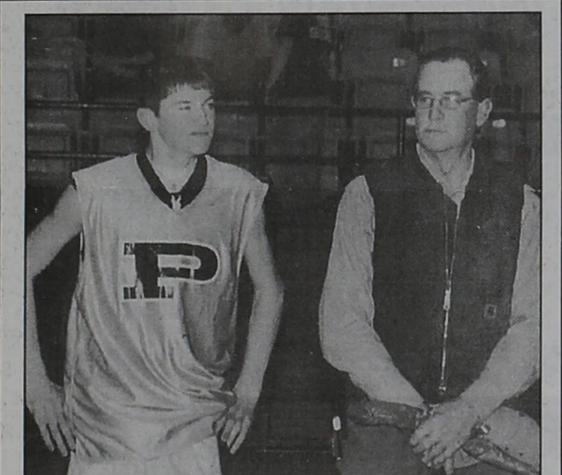
Senior, Dionn Heckaman (center) stands in awe of the cheering Lady Lope fans' recognition for her last year as a fellow member of the basketball team. Dionn is accompanied by her parents Bobby (left) and Nita Jo Heckaman.



Senior, Ashley Wilson (center) is recognized for her last year to play basketball in Antelope Arena as Lady Lope fans applaud with great excitement. Standing close by with Ashley are her parents Robert (left) and Julie Wilson.



Senior Chris Rangel (right), is awestricken by the applauding fans as the community recognized him for his final basketball game in Antelope Arena during last Tuesday's game against Roosevelt. Basking in the moment with Chris is his mother Shelly Duran (left).



Senior, Roby Lester (left) takes in the applaud of Antelope fans in recognition for his last year to play basketball during last Tuesday's game against Roosevelt in Antelope Arena. Proudly enjoying the moment with Roby is his father Greg Lester.



Lady Lope basketball senior player, Ashley Powell (center) shares her special moment of community recognition with her family Ken and Sherri Young (left & right).



Antelope Senior Sterling Smith (center) stands before a cheering community of fans during last Tuesday's senior recognition ceremonies in Antelope Arena. Sharing this important moment with Sterling are his parents Kelly (left) and Perry Smith.



Senior Antelope basketball player, Robert Apolar (right), gets a kick out of all the excitement as Antelope fans recognized him for his last year of playing in Antelope Arena during last Tuesday's game against Roosevelt in Post. Sharing the moment with Robert is his father Tony (Left) Apolar (left).

Living on the Edge of the Caprock
 by Greg Jones, CEA-AG

Garden Checklist for January-February

- Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs while they are dormant.
- Make flower and vegetable garden plans now before the rush of spring planting. Time spent in armchair gardening before the fireplace will pay off in improved plant selection. Besides, it is fun to page through the garden catalogs.
- Sow seeds in flats or containers to get a jump on plant growth before hot weather arrives. Petunias, begonias, and impatiens should be sown in early January. Warm temperature plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, and periwinkles, should be sown in late January or early February.
- Apply a light application of fertilizer to established pansy plantings. Use one-half pound of ammonium sulfate per 100 square feet of bed area. Repeat the application every 4 to 6 weeks, depending on rainfall. Dried blood meal is also an excellent source of fertilizer for pansies.
- Prepare beds and garden area for spring planting.
- Select and order gladiolus corms for February/March planting. Plant at two-week intervals to prolong flowering period.
- Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs overwinter in the pouch, and start the cycle again by emerging in the spring to begin feeding on the foliage. Hand removal and burning of the pouches are ways of reducing the potential damage next spring.
- The life of the plant received as a Christmas gift can be prolonged with proper care. Keep the soil moist, but provide drainage so that excess moisture can flow from the pot. Keep the plant out of range of heating ducts and away from heating units. Keep in a cool room at night, preferably at 60 to 65 degrees F.
- Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly the first year.
- When buying plants, the biggest is not always the best, especially when dealing with bare-root plants. The medium to small sizes (4 to 6 feet) are usually faster to become established and more effective in the landscape than the large sizes.
- Prune bush roses during February or early March. Use good shears that will make clean cuts. Remove dead, dying, and weak canes. Leave 4 to 8 healthy canes, and remove approximately one-half of the top growth and height of the plant.

- Now is an excellent time to select and plant container-grown roses to fill in those bare spots in your rose garden.
- When pruning shrubs, first prune out any dead or damaged branches; then thin out by removing about one-third of the canes or stems at ground level, removing the oldest canes only; and last, shape the rest of the plant, but do not cut everything back to the same height.
- Plant dahlia tubers in late February and early March.
- In Central and South Texas, the following flower seeds may be sown directly without protection in well prepared flower beds in February or March: nasturtiums, annual phlox, California poppies, coneflowers, and larkspur. Petunia plants may be set out in sunny, well drained locations, with little chance of cold damage except in far North Texas.
- Water foliage plants as well as other containerized plants only when needed and not by the calendar.
- Climbing roses should be trained but not pruned. Weave long canes through openings in trellises or arbors and tie them with jute twine or plastic/wire plant ties. Securing canes now prevents damage from winter winds, and contributes toward a more refined look to the garden when roses are blooming. Wait until after the spring flowering period to prune climbing or once-blooming shrub roses.
- Earth Kind uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum gardening and landscape performance while preserving and protecting the environment. For more information on Earth Kind Landscape Management Practices see our web site: <http://earthkind.tamu.edu>
- Source: Dr. William C. Welch, Horticulturist, Texas Cooperative Extension Programs conducted by the Texas Cooperative Extension serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

Classified Advertising

Card of Thanks

The Johnson family would like to thank everyone for their support in our time of bereavement. The cards, flowers, and prayers were all beautiful.
Sincerely,
Rosie Bell

We would like to thank the Post Volunteer Fire Department and Lyntegar, for their quick response to what could have been a very serious situation. Thanks to everyone for all of the calls and concerns.
Thanks again,
Sincerely, Kim, Rhonda, Stace, & Steffi Norman and the residents of Cedar Hills

Thank you to everyone for the prayers, flowers, candy, gifts & cards given to me after my accident. I'm glad Sydnee and her parents are okay, too. Thanks to all of my friends and family and to my teachers. You don't really know how nice people are until something like this happens to you.
Sincerely,
Morgan "Tiny" Williams & Family

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FRAME! 4/2/2 CP C/H/A in living area! FP. Extras!! appliances, hot tub, pool table, **UNDER CONTRACT**, 5th.

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FRAME! 3BR, 2B, garage, storage, cellar, fenced, 114 W. 13th St. ACREAGE AVAILABLE 44.5A \$67,000 fronts U.S. Hwy 84.

Anne Sims

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Acreage for Sale

Land wanted for sale or lease. 100-600 acres near Post. 495-3423.

Legal Notices

Election Notice

An election for Position Five Director of the Lake Alan Henry Water District will be held on May 13th, 2006. An application for a place on the ballot for this Position may be obtained from Jim White, secretary of the Board of Directors for the District, P. O. Box 6, Jayton, Texas (806)237-3373 or Leslie C. Acker, 122A East Main, Post, Texas (495-3537) and must be filed on or before March 13, 2006.

To be eligible for this Position, a person must be at least 18 years of age and be: (1) a resident of the District in Garza County; (2) an owner of real property in the District in Garza County; (3) an owner of at least 10 per cent of the outstanding interest of a corporation or limited partnership that owns real estate in the District in Garza County; (4) an agent, employee, or officer or director of a corporation or partnership that owns real estate in the District in Garza County; (5) a person who served as an initial director of the District; or (6) a member of the Commissioners Court of Garza County, Texas.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TXDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Lubbock
Contract 0905-00-041 for MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION in LUBBOCK County, etc will be opened on March 08, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

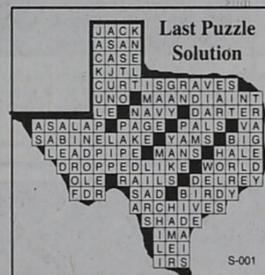
Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TXDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TXDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TXDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 19253
State Office
Constr/Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
Lubbock District
District Engineer
135 Slaton
Lubbock, Texas 79408-0771
Phone: 806-745-4411

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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NOON
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2 City Lots - Excellent Location
City Lots - Roberson Addition
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TexSCAN Week of February 12, 2006

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AUCTIONS

AUCTION - LUXURY SKI Condominiums, Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel & Condominiums, Steamboat Springs, Colorado, March 18, 2006, at 10am. Daily previews. www.Steambo atGrandAuction.com, David L. Harley, Broker. Lic.#ER40030654.

1953 CADILLAC CONVERTIBLE to be auctioned at the 25th Annual Cox Collector Car Auction, Branson, Missouri, April 21, 22, 23. Consignment or Bidding Information: 1-800-335-3063. www.bransonaction.com

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DRIVERS - PAY INCREASE! \$1,000 sign-on for experienced OTR. Dedicated and Regional available also. Owner/Operators, Teams & CDL grads welcome. USA Truck, 1-866-483-3413.

DRIVERS - OTR \$4,000 Sign-on Bonus. Experienced Drivers, 1 yr. OTR. We are F.F.E.! Good miles, good money, strong benefit package. No Hazmat. 1-800-569-9298. Students welcome.

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WOLFF TANNING BEDS. Buy direct and save. Full body units from \$22 a month. FREE color catalog. Call today. 1-800-842-1305, www.np.eistan.com

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DEFEND OUR HOMETOWN and provide disaster relief in the Texas Army National Guard! Up to \$10K enlistment bonus, paid career training for valuable job skills, 100% tuition assistance, up to \$20K student loan repayment. Accepting high school juniors and seniors, college students and graduates. Call today, 1-800-GO-GUARD, or visit www.TXARNG.com

HELP WANTED - EARN extra income assembling CD cases from home. Start immediately. No experience necessary. 1-800-405-7619, Ext. 725.

SECRET SHOPPERS NEEDED. Pose as customers for store evaluations. Local stores, restaurants and theaters. Training provided. Flexible hours. Email required. Call 1-800-585-9024, Ext. 6280. www.ProShoppersOnline.com.

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AIRLINE MECHANIC - Rapid training for high paying Aviation career. FAA predicts severe shortage. Financial aid if qualify - job placement assistance. Call AIM 1-888-349-5387.

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FLORIDA BUILDERS LOTS - Double your investment in 1 year. Looking for the next new area to invest in? Gated golfcourse communities. Wholesale pricing. 1-954-328-1010, www.SunStyles.com.

NEW TO MARKET - 100 Acres - HUNTING RANCH. First chance to own hunting retreat. Big buck area, plus turkey, dove, quail and more. Very private with EZ highway access. \$49,900 w/financing. 1-866-899-5263.

668+ ACRES, 130 miles west of Del Rio, shared water well, \$245 per acre. End of road, mule deer, owner financed, 5% down. 1-800-885-4578, www.ranchenterprisesltd.com

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BUILDING SALE! "Rock Bottom Prices!" 20x26 now \$3340. 25x30 \$4790. 30x44 \$7340. 40x66 \$11,490. Factory Direct...26 years. Many others. Ends/accessories optional. Pioneer 1-800-668-5422.

STEEL BUILDINGS - FACTORY deals. Save \$\$\$ 40'x60' to 100' x 200'. Example: 50' x 100' x 12' = \$3,600/sq. ft. 1-888-467-4443, www.rigidbuilding.com

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Extension Extras

4-H Photography Field Trip.....

.....Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., February 22, 2006, Extension office.

4-H Clothing Project

Youth interested in participating in the 4-H Clothing Project need to call 495-4400 to sign up.

4-H'ers Compete at Ft. Worth

Several Garza County 4-H members exhibited their animals at the Fort Worth Livestock Show last week. Results included: Miranda Hair-5th. Lt. Wt. Hereford; Skylar Jones-12th. Mdl. Wt. ABC; Pake Jones-14th. Lt. Wt. ABC; and Steven Hair-19th. Mdl. Wt. European. Other participants were Ja D. Young, Allison Blevins, Jarrett Blevins, Brenna Postell, and Sidney Shipp. Good luck to all participants going to San Antonio and San Angelo.

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

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Yesteryears

Compiled by Donna Jones
From The Post Dispatch archives

10 Years Ago
February 15, 1996

Jeff Redman took first place in recent Cross X Debate competition here and Jill Stelzer won second place. They will advance to state competition in Austin in March. Post Middle School student Tandi Humble was recognized this week for reading all 20 books each year for the past four years in the Bluebonnet Reading Program. Russell Bird, Shad Blair and Sarah Williams from Post have been named to the Dean's Honor List for the 1995 semester at South Plains College. The JV Lady Lopes brought home the district title after a win over Sundown Friday. Lead Scorer for the game was Torrie Foster with ten, Kasey Hardin with nine, Kendly Jefferson with seven, Jennifer Strawn with six and Pam Chapman, Becca Stelzer and Tammy Matthies with two each. Others playing include Shanna Pennell, Rachel Reiter, Shelley Shifflett and Jodi Gregory. The team is coached by Shana

Matthews.

20 Years Ago
February 19, 1986

Named FHA Sweetheart during ceremonies last Saturday at the school auditorium was Heidi Ehret. Other contestants were Alicia Pettyjohn, Belinda Martin, Christina Martinez, Kerry Hart, LaDonna Scott, Krisha Mason, Marcie Sneed, Golden Capps, Tyra Alexander, Keitha White, Kim Smith, Darby Gordon, Amber Crenshaw, Laura Crenshaw, D'Lynn Young, Jana Scott and Jenny Hudman. Post High School Senior Tim Tanner signed a letter of commitment to Eastern New Mexico University for a full football scholarship. Tim was joined by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tanner. A special retirement reception will be held for County-District Clerk Carl Cedarholm on Friday, Feb. 28 in the Court House foyer. Cedarholm has served 36 years to the county. "Save the Garza Building" is the theme of the Caprock Community Theater group's effort to restore the old downtown building for stage

productions. Work on the outside of the building begins Saturday with volunteer effort by local theater enthusiasts.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Barton of El Paso, Texas, announces the engagement of their daughter, Brenda Kay to Bart McMeans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mickey McMeans of Post.

30 Years Ago
February 19, 1976

Dr. Charles McCook, local dentist, has been elected president of the Post Chamber of Commerce for the new club year. McCook will succeed Ed Bruton, Postext Plant Manager, as Chamber president.

George W. Miller, a Garza farmer who farms 90 acres near the Close City Community, was selected to receive the Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year Award at the SCS annual awards banquet held at Jackson Cafeteria.

Pam Carpenter, senior, won the title of FHA Sweetheart at the conclusion of the Feb. 14 pageant. Kim Lott was first runner-up and Lesa Haley was second runner-up.

D'Linda Tyler was named a winner in the Sonatina, Sonata, Concerto Contest sponsored by the Lubbock Music Teacher's Association.

Jan Hall of Post is the only sophomore on the Texanette basketball team at South Plains College. As a

freshman she was one of the key defensive players for SPC, and this season she has taken up where she left off last year. Miss Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hall of Post, has helped the Texanettes to a 13-1 record this year.

40 Years Ago
February 17, 1966

Marilyn Jones and Ruben Solis were crowned 1965-66 basketball sweethearts. Both youngsters are seniors. Arleta Robinson, sponsored by the senior class, was named winner Saturday night of the annual Valentine Sweetheart contest. First runner-up was Marcia Newby and second runner-up was Carol Camp.

Mrs. Joyce Teaff, member of Mu Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, was crowned chapter sweetheart at the sorority's annual Valentine party. She was escorted by her husband, Roy Teaff.

David Nichols has signed his 1966 contract with the New York Yankee baseball organization and has been assigned to Fort Lauderdale of the Florida State League for the coming season, his father, M. S. (Martin) Nichols, said today. David, a student at Tarleton State College, played in the Florida Rookie League last summer after signing with the Yankees.

Ricky Welch and Beverly Duncan have been elected "Mr. and Miss PHS" for the 1965-66 school year.

50 Years Ago
February 16, 1956

Leroy Fenstermaker of Llano, former Rice Institute quarterback, was employed by the school board as head coach at Post High School, where

The Post Dispatch Thursday, February 16, 2006 Page 11

he replaces V. F. (Bing) Bingham, who resigned Jan. 15.

Floy Richardson was elected president of the Post Stampede Cowboys at the group's annual meeting in the City Hall auditorium.

The Rev. Clinton Edwards formerly of Luling La., conducted his first services Sunday as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.

If junior high school students seem a little "bouncier" than usual, it can be credited to the new trampoline installed this week in the school's gym. The principal said plans are to present a public performance of trampoline acrobatics when the students become a little more proficient at the art.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Pierce have announced the purchase of the OK Food Store at 312 N. Broadway from Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Bowen.

60 Years Ago
February 19, 1946

Thirty-two years ago a man came to Post who was destined to wield much influence in educational, religious and civic affairs. T. R. Greenfield, accompanied by his wife moved from Bertram, Texas, to become superintendent of schools for

a very young town. On Feb. 22, 1916 Mr. Greenfield became a business owner. He purchased the stock and building belonging to J. C. Houseman for the sum of \$2,500. Today, the firm boasts a stock of \$30,000. This week the 30th anniversary is being celebrated by Greenfield Hardware Company.

Members of the Post's championship girls basketball team are Josh Cook, Marietta Norman, Claudia Ticer, Billie Cowdrey, Ganell Babb, Peggy Sue Robinson, Betty Kennedy, Jimmie Chandler, Bobbie Chandler, Leona Hulsey, Joy Shepherd, Alma Outlaw and Jo Ella Cowdrey.

The Garmolia 4-H club girls and lunchroom co-sponsored a box supper on Feb. 14 in the Garmolia auditorium. Music and entertainment for the crowd was furnished by Roger Turner, Clonnie Mae Gribble, and Raymond Gerner with accordion, piano and guitar numbers. Miss Gribble sang several request numbers.

Classified Ads: For Rent - Six or eight bedrooms. Family style meals served, Leake's Hotel, Southland.

Post Antelope Athletics ...
Catch all the action on
Post City Television
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Post City Television

Daily Program Guide

February 17 thru February 23

Friday, February 17

7 a.m. Garza County Candidate Forum
10 a.m. This Week In Post City
3 p.m. Family Harvest Church
5 p.m. Garza County Candidate Forum
7 p.m. This Week In Post City

Saturday, February 18

7 a.m. Garza County Candidate Forum
9 a.m. This Week In Post City
1 p.m. Post Lady Lope Softball
3 p.m. Family Harvest Church
5 p.m. Garza County Candidate Forum
7 p.m. This Week In Post City
10 p.m. Post Lady Lope Softball

Sunday, February 19

1 p.m. Post Lady Lope Softball
3 p.m. Family Harvest Church
5 p.m. This Week In Post City
8 p.m. Post Lady Lope Softball
10 p.m. Garza County Candidate Forum

Monday, February 20

7 a.m. PHS Antelope Weekly
7:15 a.m. Garza County Candidate Forum
9 a.m. This Week In Post City
7 p.m. PHS Antelope Weekly
1, 5 & 10 p.m. Post Church of Christ Sunday Services

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, February 21, 22 & 23

7 a.m. PHS Antelope Weekly
7:15 a.m. Garza County Candidate Forum
9 a.m. Garza County Commissioners' Court
11 a.m. Post ISD Board of Trustees
1 p.m. Garza County Hospital District
3 p.m. Post City Council
7 p.m. PHS Antelope Weekly
7:15 p.m. Garza County Candidate Forum

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ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED—Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Fortin are announcing the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Loveta, to Roy Josey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Josey. The wedding will be read Feb. 27.

From the archives of The Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 24, 1956

Menus

Post ISD

February 20 - Breakfast - Sausage & egg biscuits, fruit, milk.

Lunch - Nacho supreme, salad, pinto beans, fruit cocktail, milk.

February 21 - Breakfast - Muffins, sausage, fruit, milk.

Lunch - Pizza, salad, corn, peaches, milk.

February 22 - Breakfast - Cheese sandwich, fruit, milk.

Lunch - Steak fingers, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, jello, milk.

February 23 - Breakfast - Oatmeal, toast, bacon, fruit, milk.

Lunch - Ravioli, cheese sticks, salad, peaches, milk.

February 24 - Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, milk.

Lunch - BBQ on bun, french fries, salad, ice cream, milk.

Southland ISD

February 20 - Breakfast pocket, peach cup, cereal, graham crackers, milk.

Lunch - Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, roll, strawberry shortcake, milk.

February 21 - Breakfast - Cereal, muffins, juice, milk.

Lunch - Soft flour tacos w/fixins, spanish rice, pinto beans, fruit cup, milk.

February 22 - Breakfast - Breakfast burritos, juice, milk.

Lunch - Chicken patty sandwich, beans, french fries, apple, chocolate cake, milk.

February 23 - Breakfast - Biscuit & gravy, cereal, graham crackers, juice, milk.

Lunch - Burrito w/chili & cheese, tossed salad, orange quarters, cookie, milk.

February 24 - No School.

TRAILBLAZERS

February 20 Closed for Presidents Day

February 21 - Chicken strips, w/gravy, potatoes, broccoli, hot rolls, brownies.

February 22 Chicken fried steak, w/gravy, peas & carrots, corn hot rolls, peaches.

February 23 - Green chili chicken, mexican corn & beans, salad, cornbread, fruit.

February 24 - Turkey & dressing, green beans, macaroni & cheese, wheat rolls, orange sections, pumpkin crunch.

2005 Archives

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ACROSS

- 1 this Nicklaus won 70 & 71 TX Byron Nelson Classic
5 TXism: "mean ___ old range cow"
6 TXism: "suit ___ company" (relatives)
7 Wichita Falls TV
8 this Houstonian was among 1st black legislators in TX
17 "one" south of the border
18 '24 slogan: "Me for ___ Got a dern Thing Against Pa"
21 TX Joan Crawford: Lucille ___ Sœur
22 military service of TX Chester Nimitz
23 endangered TX fish: "Fountain ___"
24 TXism: "tame ___ dog"
29 this Geraldine starred in TX Horton Foote's "Trip to Bountiful"
30 TXism: "sidekicks"
31 Dallas has a ___ hospital
32 body of water on TX-LA boundary
34 "sweet taters"
35 TX rock 'n roller: "The ___ Bopper"
36 TXism: "It's a ___ cinch"
37 TX McMurtry novel: "Dead ___ Walk"
38 Plainview is seat of this county
39 TXism: "___ a hot horseshoe"
41 TX Jim Reeves hit: "Welcome to My ___"
42 Grand ___ Opry
43 train tracks
44 Lake El Sal ___
45 U.S. pres. at '36 TX Centennial (init.)
46 TXism: "tear jerker"
47 one shot under par at 1-across (var.)
48 TX State Library is keeper of TX
50 TXism: "spends his time looking for ___" (lazy)
51 Gov. Hogg's only daughter
52 Hawaiian "howdy"
53 TX Willie's "Who'll Buy My Memories?" (The ___ Tapes)
DOWN
1 TX Ginger Rogers married him at 17
2 TXism: "dainty ___ bride"
3 Dimmitt's "___ County News"
4 got down on knees
9 TXism: "spittin' ___ of"
10 Ranger or Asiro "closer" objective
11 8-time bull riding champ, TX Donnie
12 health provider at TX hospitals (abbr.)
13 TX Carolyn Jones was "Morticia" in this TV family
14 liquid containers
15 TXism: "still wet behind the ___"
16 TXism: "___ a spell"
19 this Brand was Reese on "Laredo"
20 Branch Davidian event near Waco
22 TXism: "___ plucked chicken"
24 TXism: "old ___ dirt"
25 "My Gal ___"
26 TXism: "it's not ___ of roses"
27 "Champion ___ Texas"
28 Johnson Co. event: "Pioneers ___ Settlers Reunion"
29 TX Roy Orbison's "Pretty ___"
30 window glass
33 TXism: "he couldn't lick his upper ___"
34 TXism: "runs off at the mouth"
35 TX actor Corbin
37 "false alarm" (2 wds.)
38 rasslin' grips
40 TXism: "more of them than ___ in Texas"
41 "We ___ Soldiers"
44 sub command
47 So. TX Indian tribe
49 Ranger Frank who got Bonnie & Clyde

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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(Continued from Page 1)

recognition within the program. That number is pared down as the corporation recognizes its Commended Students (about 34,000 are recognized nationwide); semifinalists (about 16,000 students recognized); and finalists (about 15,000 recognized).

Winners of the Merit Scholarship awards are selected from the finalists "based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments," according to the Web site. Selections are made through the review of each finalist's academic records, test scores, information pertaining to activities and leadership, recommendations and an essay written by the student.

Jonathan was asked to pen an essay about what sets him apart. Students recognized through the program are eligible for scholarships, and Jonathan said a Merit Scholarship would help underwrite his creative writing studies at Texas A&M University.

"It's a pretty good scholarship," he said. "It would go a long way helping me to get into honors classes in college."

The recognition also may open doors for additional scholarship opportunities.

"Being a finalist it looks pretty good when you put that on your application," Jonathan said.

Mickie McGregor said she and her husband are "really proud" of their son.

"He's worked really hard and always been a good student," she said. "I feel very blessed, and all the glory is to God for this," Jonathan said.

"I'm really looking forward to the future."

January 2006 Conservation Reserve Program Contract Re-enrollments and Extensions Overview

On January 31, 2006, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that it will offer certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants the opportunity to re-enroll in new CRP contracts or to extend their current contracts.

Between 2007 and 2010, 400,000 contracts covering 28 million acres are scheduled to expire. FSA is offering re-enrollments and contract extensions to certain contract-holders in an effort to preserve CRP's significant and enduring environmental benefits to American farmland.

This decision is also meant to reduce the potential adverse effects CRP expiration could have on nearly 16 million acres of land in 2007.

FSA considered more than 5,000 comments received during a Federal Register public comment period; held a public meeting; and met with conservation, environment, commodity, and farm organizations.

Eligible CRP Participants

Those eligible for re-enrollments and contract extensions are CRP participants with contracts expiring before September 2010. Participants with 15-year contracts will not be offered and extension.

Contract Selection
 FSA has determined that a contract may be re-enrolled or extended based on:

Environmental Benefits Index factors at the time of the original CRP offer, and the land's location within a national conservation priority area. Environmental Benefits Index

The Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) is a ranking of the land's contribution to improving:

soil erosion; water quality; air quality; trees; and wildlife habitat; or other cover considered to be an enduring benefit to the land. At the time of the original CRP offer, FSA collected EBI data based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. EBI rankings were unique for each piece of ground offered into CRP. Each offer was assigned a point score based on its relative environmental factors and competed against all other offers.

National Priority Areas

To determine contract eligibility, FSA also considered whether the land was located within a national priority area. These areas are lands with significant adverse water quality or habitat issues. These areas are the:

Chesapeake Bay; Long Island Sound; Great Lakes Region; Prairie Pothole Region in the Northern Plains Region; and Longleaf Pine Region in the southeast. Re-enrollment and Extension Terms

Contracts by sign-up will be offered in

five groups. CRP participants ranking in the top one-fifth of the EBI can re-enroll their land in a new 10-year contract, with one exception. For those lands with restored wetlands, FSA will offer a 15-year contract.

The second one-fifth group will be offered a 5-year extension, the third one-fifth will be offered a 4-year extension, the fourth one-fifth will be offered a 3-year extension, and the remaining contracts will be offered a 2-year extension.

Eligible participants may re-enroll or extend all or any portion of their existing CRP contracts, but they may not increase the number of acres under contract.

Notification of Contract Holders
 FSA will send letters to current CRP participants with contracts expiring September 30, 2007. The letters will notify contract holders of:

their contract status; the March 27 through April 14, 2006, deadline to accept offers; and the length of the contract offered. CRP participants will be asked to confirm their interest in a re-enrolled or extended contract subject to a compliance check.

CRP participants with contracts expiring in 2008 through 2010 will be notified later this year about their contracts.

Rental Payment Rates

CRP participants who accept a contract extension will maintain their current rental rates. CRP participants who accept re-enrollments will be paid based on the updated county posted soil rental rates effective at the time the contract was approved.

Conservation Plans
 For re-enrollments, a new conservation plan will be developed. For contract

extensions, the existing conservation plan will be used.

Site Visits
 Regardless of which conservation plan participants take part in, each contract holder must agree to a site visit that verifies the contract is in compliance, including cover that is:

appropriate for the site according to the conservation plan; and free from noxious weeds, insects, and pests. If the cover is not properly maintained or there is another violation, FSA will notify the participant that the re-enrollment or extension may not be approved. Because all participants agreed to establish and maintain the cover appropriate for their area and contract, cost-share money will not be available for extensions or re-enrollments for most participants.

For More Information
 Contract summaries are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp.htm>

More information on CRP is available at local FSA offices and on FSA's Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/default.htm>

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cally or visually impaired. The AutoMARK voter assist terminal is both HAVA and ADA compliant. The Democratic Primary will be held at one consolidated location on March 7. On that day Democrats will vote in the Teen Room of the Post Community Center.

Voter Registration Card or ID Required

When you go to vote, be sure to bring your Voter Registration card or some type of identification like a driver's license. Voters without identification will not be permitted to cast a regular ballot but may be eligible to cast a provisional ballot.



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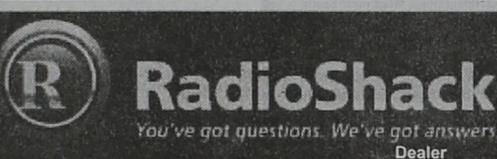
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(Continued from Page 8)

early voting that begins Tuesday, February 21, 2006 and ends Friday, March 3, 2006. This year the polling place will be open weekdays from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and will not close during the noon hour. Clerk Jim Plummer hopes that being open during lunch will be an asset to the voters.

With the implementation of HAVA (Help America Vote Act) special attention is given to the voting location. District and County Clerk Jim Plummer received permission from the commissioners' court to add two van accessible parking places in front (east side) of the courthouse. "This will be more convenient for voters and visitors with disabilities. From the parking places, it's a straight shot into the courthouse and to the early voting room," said Plummer. The

polling place will be equipped with one table for voters who choose to mark their ballot with pen and another table with one AutoMARK voter assist terminal for those who need or choose to use the new voting machine.

Democrats Contract for Election Services

Recently the Democratic Party of Garza County entered into a contract with the clerk's office for election services for the 2006 Primary Election Day on March 7 and the possible run-off election in April. Party Chair Lewis Earl signed a contract that requests the use of one of the ES&S AutoMARK voting machines and M100 ballot tabulators. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that all voting places in all elections have at least one voting system that is accessible to voters who are physi-

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COMBO NO. 7	2 HOT LINKS WITH BREAD & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.49
COMBO NO. 8	2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59
COMBO NO. 9	CHIMICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.39
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