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Sheriff contacts AG's office about First Amendment issue

Garza County Sheriff Cliff Laws has been in contact with the state attorney general's office regarding a request filed several weeks ago by Post Dispatch publisher Wesley W. Burnett. After more than a week of trying to contact the state office, Laws said Wednesday he reached a representative of the office's Investigation Division on March 11. The AG representative advised that in order for her office to move forward with the complaint, a letter from the district attorney is required. 106th District Attorney Ricky Smith has been out of the office for

the past two weeks, Laws said, and it will be Monday before the sheriff will be able to talk to the DA.

Burnett filed his complaint in January with the Garza County Sheriff's Department, contending that several media representatives, including a Dispatch photographer, were denied "their Texas Constitutional and U.S. Constitutional First Amendment rights of free speech and press" when they were prevented by law enforcement officials from entering the courthouse with cameras during the final hours of the Nov. 8

(Continued on Page 10)



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Friday, March 21, 2008

La Marque AD, head coach to fill vacancy in Post ISD

by Sheri Lewis

Chris Jones, athletic director and head football coach for Class 4A La Marque High School, was selected to fill the vacant AD position at the March 13 meeting of Post Independent School District trustees.

Jones was selected from more than 120 applicants for the position, which has been open since Feb. 7.

"I'm real impressed with him," Superintendent Marlin Marcum said the day after the school board voted to hire Jones. "He's a fine Christian man. His organizational skills are exceptional, and he has a record of building a successful program."

Jones, now in his 19th year as a coach, comes to Post after spending the past five years as an athletic director and head football coach. He is in his first year at La Marque, where his Cougars football team was district runner-up and an area finalist with a 9-3 record.

This past season marked 10 consecutive years that Jones has been part of Texas high school football playoffs as either a head coach or coordinator.

Prior to La Marque, Jones spent four years at Class 2A Refugio High, where he guided his Bobcats football squad to a 34-14 record and four consecutive Class 2A playoff appearances and three district championships, according to his résumé. In 2006, Refugio finished the season 11-2 and reached the regional finals of the playoffs.

From 1998 to 2003, Jones was an assistant head coach and offensive coordinator in Class

3A Sinton High School. While at Sinton, the team Jones was involved in coaching finished two years as a regional semi-finalist, twice ended the season as a state quarter-finalist and in 2001 was a state finalist, losing 25-14 to Everman and finishing the year 14-1. During Jones' five years with the program, the Pirates posted a 55-10 record.

Jones also has logged time at Class 5A Bryan High School, where he was worked with freshmen offensive backs and defensive backs and was varsity girls track coach; Class 2A Honey Grove High, where he served as offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach and was head boys track coach; and Class 4A Frenship High School in Wolforth where he was junior high/freshman football and varsity boys track coach.

Since 1989, Jones has been responsible for teaching numerous classes, including Anatomy & Physiology, Aquatic Science, Biology I, Earth Science, Integrated Physics & Chemistry and Life Science.

"I intend to run a program that focuses more on turning student-athletes into accountable and responsible young men and women than it being a 'win-at-all-costs' program," Jones wrote in his application to the district. "I feel that Post is already a great place with great people, and I would hope to continue to make it that kind of place in the future."

Jones holds a bachelor's degree in education from Texas Tech University, which he attended on a track and field

scholarship following his 1984 graduation from Sealy High School. He played football and basketball and ran track while in high school.

He and his wife, Sandra, met while attending college at Tech and have been married for 15 years. They are the parents of two sons.

Sandra Jones teaches deaf

education at Hall Elementary in the Clear Creek Independent School District. She holds a degree in deaf education, but also can teach American Sign Language as a foreign language and special education.

The AD position in the Post ISD became available after district trustees voted 5-1 to pay out the remainder of

Tim James' contract, which was to run through the 2009 school year. According to information released following a Texas Public Information Act request by The Post Dispatch, the district's settlement with James allows for the payment of \$5,858 per month for the remainder of the current contract year, and \$70,297.50

for the 2009 school year.

Chris Jones and his sons plan to arrive in Post this weekend to allow the new coach to move into his office on Monday. The boys, Tyler, 12, a sixth-grade student, and 10-year-old Kyle, a fourth grader, will finish out the school year in Post.

Sandra Jones will move to Post as soon as she fulfills her contract with the Clear Creek ISD where she teaches fourth- and fifth-grade students.

"Both boys are real excited about starting school in Post after spring break," she wrote in an e-mail to The Dispatch. "Tyler and Kyle are both very active boys who look forward to making new friends at Post. They are also excited about moving closer to their cousins and grandparents in Lubbock and Idalou. The whole family is excited about moving back to West Texas. There's just something special about the people and students in West Texas."

The entire Jones family "will proudly wear the colors of the Bold Gold Antelopes of Post," she said, especially since both her husband's and her high schools - the Tigers from Sealy and the Petersburg Buffaloes - share the Antelopes' affinity for black and gold.

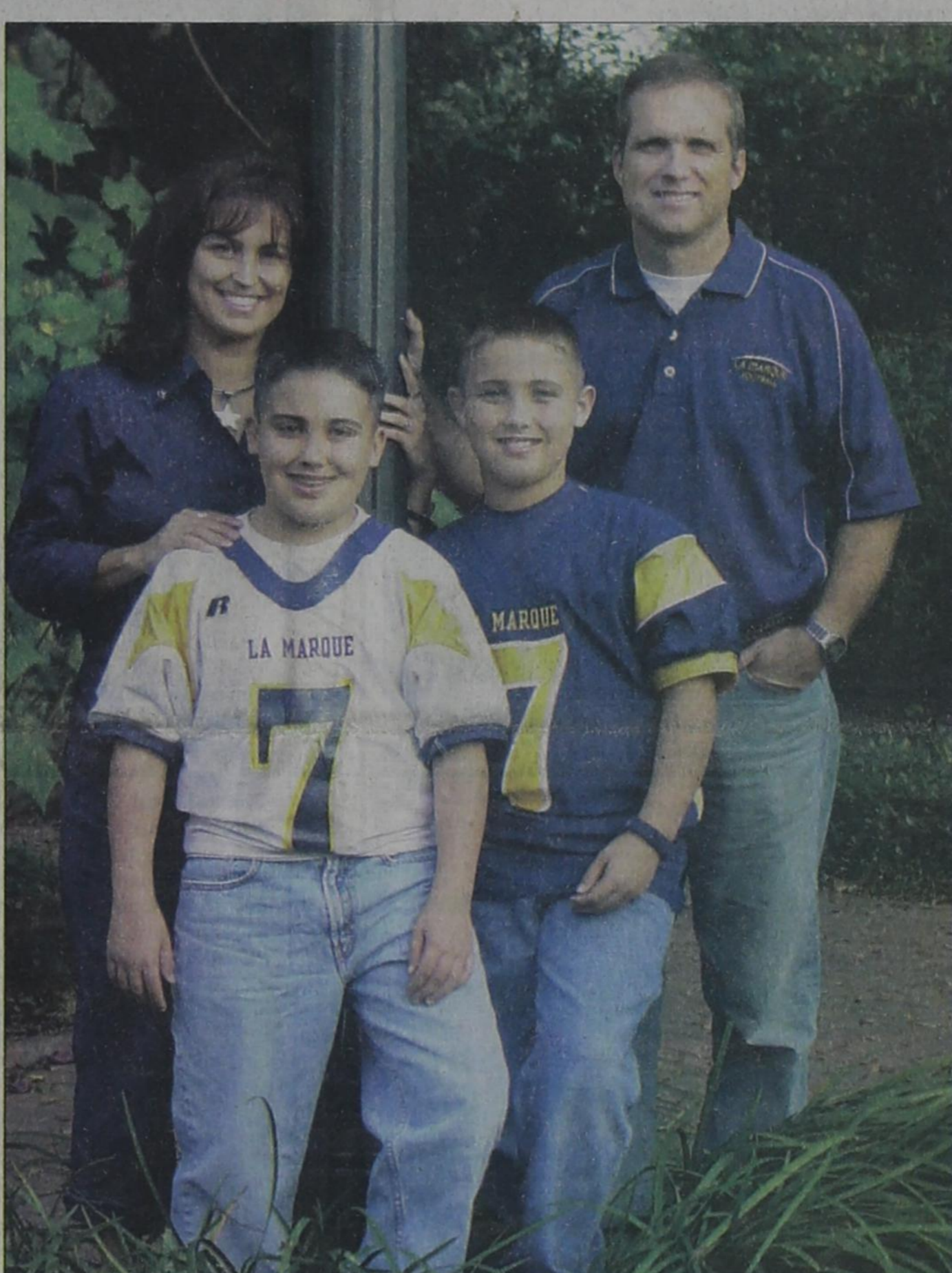
"The Jones are excited about being in Post and are looking forward to being a part of the great Bold Gold tradition," Chris Jones said.

Firefighters battle LAH weekend fire

Firefighters from the Post Fire Department and the Lake Alan Henry Fire Department were dispatched to a large grass fire shortly before 8:30 p.m. Friday about a quarter mile west of Reed's RV Park.

Shifting gusty winds fanned the blaze, which quickly got out of control. Firefighters summoned assistance from other fire departments, and personnel from the Snyder and Ralls organizations responded. Garza County also responded with its maintainers on scene to assist in controlling the

(Continued on Page 5)



Chris Jones, athletic director and head football coach for Class 4A La Marque High School, was hired last week by the Post ISD to take over as the district's new AD and head football coach. Jones is pictured here with his wife, Sandra, a teacher who specializes in deaf education, and sons Tyler, a sixth-grade student, and Kyle, a fourth-grade student. The new AD will assume his duties in Post on Monday.

Photo courtesy of Chris Jones

Post Notes

"Dearly Beloved" opens at Garza Theatre March 28

The Garza Theatre production of "Dearly Beloved" opens March 28 and continues March 29, April 4, 5, 11, 12 and April 13. The play is directed by Stan Tucker and features Beth Bass, Christie Baradshaw, Karen Dolter, Whitney Garrity, Christy Morris, Mitzi Ravenscraft, Derek Thomas, Stan Tucker, Ric Walton and Blair Wilson. Call the box office at 495-4005 for reservations.

Do Well, Be Well With Diabetes

A diabetes education program developed by Texas AgriLife Extension Service diabetes specialists, will be offered in Post beginning April 8 with sessions on Tuesday nights through May 6. The program will be held at the Garza County Trailblazers facility from 6 to 8 p.m. Registration fee is \$5 for the entire program with scholarships available. Call the extension office at 495-4400 for more details and to register.

Catholic Church Schedule

Holy Cross Catholic Church's will hold services on Good Friday, and Saturday beginning both nights at 7 p.m. March 23, Easter Sunday morning service will start at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Parent Teacher Organization meeting set

Be a part of the newly formed Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for Post Elementary, Post Junior High and Post High School. Parents, friends and teachers are welcome as election of officers will take place at the first meeting on Tuesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Post Elementary auditorium. Research shows children whose parents are involved get better grades, do better on tests, and have fewer discipline problems at school. This organization will create the kind of school community where teachers and administrators can do their best work and so can our children. Help build the kind of supportive, caring atmosphere that makes school fun!

More Post Notes on Page 2

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A large stretch of land near Lake Alan Henry shows signs of last Friday's grass fire that resulted in the destruction of homes and threatened area oil storage tanks.

Staff photo by Tim Burnett

Post City, Texas ... Home of Garza County Historical Museum

PTO organizing, meeting Tuesday

A Parent-Teacher Organization for Post Elementary and Junior High School is organizing.

The first meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the elementary school auditorium.

Parents, teachers and friends are invited to participate. Officers will be elected at the first meeting.

Research shows that children whose parents are involved in their children's education get better grades, do better on tests and have fewer disciplinary problems in schools.

The organization's organizers want to create the kind of school community where teachers and administrators can do their best work, which, in turn, will enable

children to do their best work too. They want to provide support teachers, inside and outside of the

classroom, and provide the resources needed to create optimal learning opportunities.

Stand Up for Kids event needs volunteers

The Children's Advocacy Center of the South Plains needs volunteers willing to Stand Up for Kids as part of a unique child abuse awareness event set for April 12 at Kastman Park, South Loop 289 and Nashville Drive, in Lubbock.

A total of 949 adults are needed from across the South Plains to stand shoulder to shoulder wearing Stand Up for Kids T-shirts. As a part

of national Child Abuse Awareness Prevention Month, this event is designed focus attention on the increasing number of children who are abused each day in Lubbock and surrounding communities.

The event, which will feature live entertainment and refreshments, will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Businesses, churches and organizations interested in committing employees and members

to be a part of this important event can contact Judy Powell at the Children's Advocacy Center 740-0251.

Individuals can sign up for the event by calling the Children's Advocacy Center at 740-0251.

The Children's Advocacy Center of the South Plains opened its doors in April of 1998 to provide services to more than 7,300 children, including children in Garza County. The center provides forensic interviews for investigating partner agencies and coordinates the multidisciplinary team meetings to coordinate those cases. In addition, the center provides free therapy to all children who come through the center as well as the non-offending caregiver. The mission of the center is to bring together community resources to speed the healing of child victims of abuse and trauma.

For more information, contact Carmen Aguirre, executive director, or Judy Powell, program director, at 740-0251.

Election Corner 2008 Garza County Democratic Run-off Primary Election April 8

See how Garza County voted in the March 4 primaries. Returns are online at www.GarzaCounty.net.

The Democratic Party will conduct a primary run-off election for the office of railroad commissioner. The candidates are Dale Henry and Mark Thompson.

Anyone who voted in the March 4 Republican Primary may not vote in the Democratic Party run-off.

Early voting (in person): March 31 through April 4 on the first floor of the Garza County Courthouse, 300 W. Main Street, Post.

Election day: April 8 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the first floor of the Garza County Courthouse, 300 W. Main Street, Post.



Named Post City Merchant of the Month for March is Hudman Furniture. Participating in the presentation is (left to right) PCM Secretary Naomi Matsler, Curtis Hudman and Richard Hudman of Hudman Furniture.
Staff photo by Tim Burnett

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To The People of Garza County

I had a great time during the Sheriff election, I enjoyed getting to know each of you. Thank you for inviting me into your home and making me feel like family.

Even though I lost the election, I would not trade the experience for anything. I was warned at the beginning that some folks will slam the door in your face, so don't let it make you feel bad. But that was not the case, never did anyone treat me unkindly, in fact, it was just the opposite. People would invite me in and share their feelings and concerns, not only about the race but about their family (a few even showed me their photo albums, which was awesome).

On the election night, when I saw I lost, I took my hat off and shook Cliff's hand and congratulated him, and asked him what I could do to help. I hope you will take the time to shake Sheriff Laws' hand and ask him what you can do to help him with his job. Sometimes change starts with us, maybe in our head, maybe in our heart, but just think of what we can do if we support each other and look out for each other.

Thanks, Maurice "Mo" Herridge

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Published by The Post Dispatch on behalf of the Post City Celebration Committee

Lady Lopes hold a 13-2 season with win against Denver City

The Lady Lopes hold a 13-2 season record, 1-1 in district play, following last week's games against Denver City and Slaton.

On Friday, the team was obliged to replay a game against Denver City that started three days earlier. On March 11, the teams were in the fifth inning of play when winds blew out the lights on the field, preventing completion of the game because of darkness. Because the fifth inning had not been completed, the entire game had to be replayed.

The UIL dictated that the make-up game be played on March 14, when weather conditions included strong, gusty winds and blowing dirt, but the Lady Lopes came up with a 13-7 win.

Offensively, Brooke Morris had two singles for two runs and an RBI; Sydnee Jones scored one run after being hit by a pitch; Miranda Hair had one single and a double for one run and a pair of RBIs; Branda Stevens scored two runs off a single and an RBI; Kelsey Overton scored a run off a single; Sabrina Sanchez scored two off a single and a three-RBI double; Alex Miller scored three off a trio of singles that netted two RBIs; Danica Williams scored once off a triple with one RBI; and Ashley Stenzel scored a run after being hit by a pitch, according to reports.

Defensively, Morris had one putout with three assists at shortstop; Jones had two assist at third; Hair pitched seven innings with one assist, eight strikeouts and three walks; Overton had one assist at catcher; Miller logged two putouts with one assist at second; and Stenzel had nine putouts at first.

On the following day, the team dropped an 8-3 game to Slaton. Post's offense included Morris scoring one off a double; Sanchez, Stevens, Stenzel and Gaby Vergara each getting a single; Hair scoring one run off a single and a double; and Bethany Berry scoring one off a walk.

Defensively, Hair pitched eight strikeouts and two walks; Stenzel had six first-base putouts; Morris had a pair of putouts and three assists at shortstop; Overton had a putout at home plate while playing catcher; Jones had an assist at third; Hair had a putout and two assists at pitcher; and Berry scored two putouts at left field.

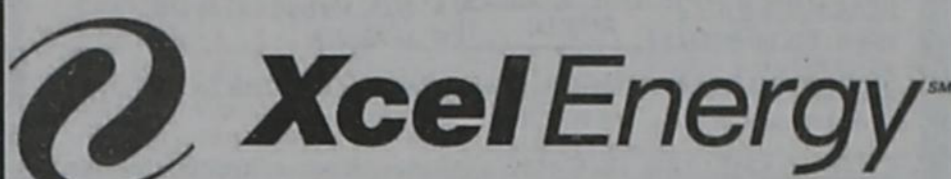
The team will travel to Tahoka Saturday for its next district match-up.



Hailey Berry (front) helps the Lady Lopes win the 400M relay during last Thursday's Junior High District Track Meet in Tahoka.
Photo by Jerry Taylor

Spring Sports

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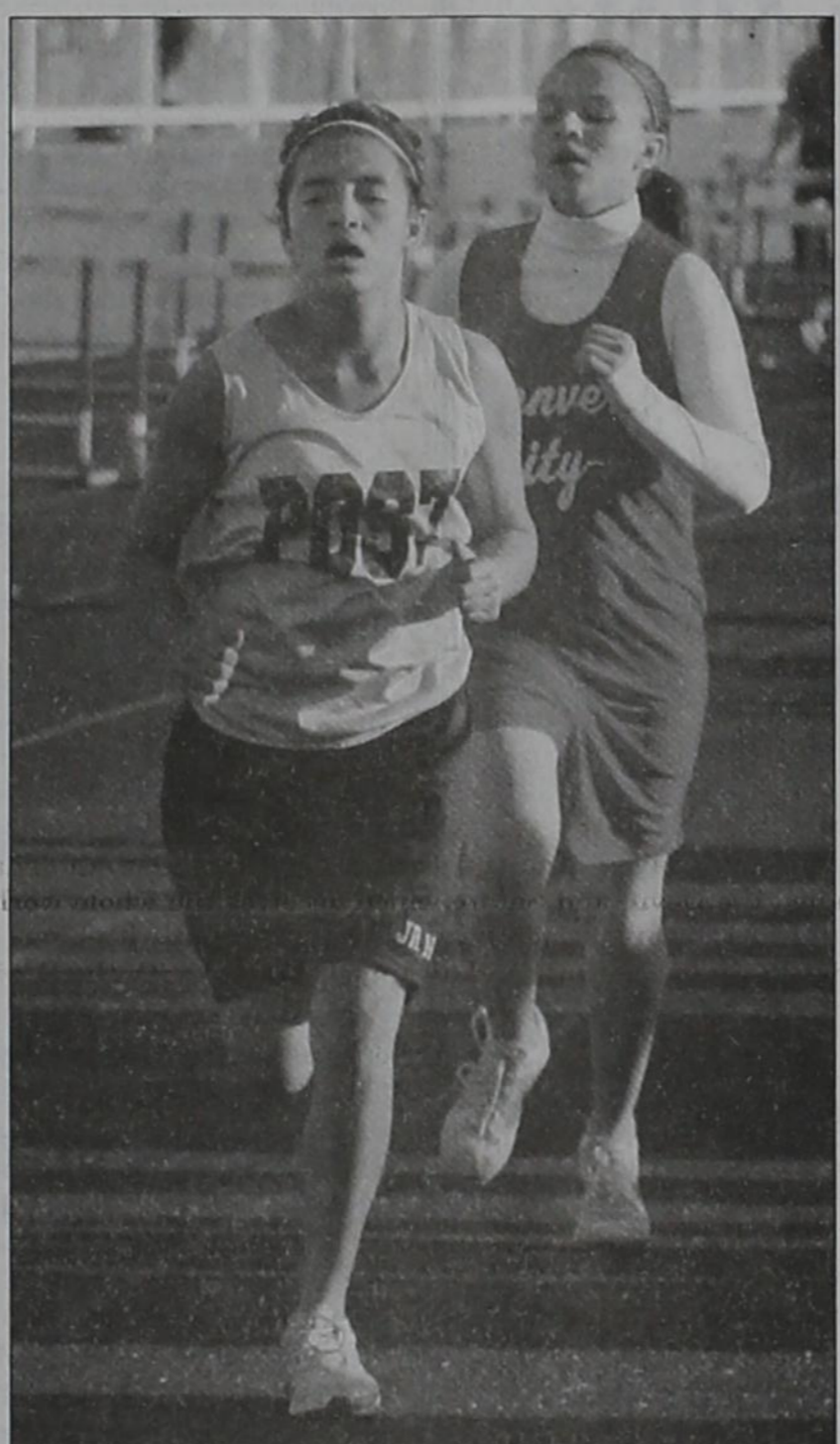
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Mercedes Solarzano faces the hurdles with flying colors during last Thursday's Junior High District Track meet in Tahoka.
Photo by Jerry Taylor



Leading the pack in the 800M run during last Thursday's Junior High District Track Meet is Fernanda Contreras (front).
Photo by Jerry Taylor



Caden Dean (left) keeps a good pace in the 800M run during last Thursday's Junior High District Track meet in Tahoka.
Photo by Jerry Taylor

Post High School Spring Sports Schedule

Post Lady Lope Softball

March 21 JV vs. Borden County (here) 4:30 p.m.

March 22 Varsity @ Tahoka 11 a.m.

Post Antelope Baseball

March 24 Roosevelt (here) (JV-V) 4:30 p.m.

Tennis

March 28 SPCHCA Levelland

Powerlifting

March 29 Boys State

Golf

March 27 Girls @ Denver City 9 a.m.

March 28 Boys @ Denver City 9 a.m.

Track

March 28 @ New Deal JVB, VB, VG

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Violation awaits District Attorney

(Continued from Page 1)

Pablo Soto murder trial in 106th District Court.

When the original complaint was filed, documentation also was provided to the Texas Rangers; however, the Texas Rangers declined to open an investigation unless and until they were asked to do so by the district attorney's office.

Last month, Burnett forwarded his complaint directly to 106th District Attorney Ricky Smith's office. Smith responded with a letter to Burnett suggesting that "everyone connected with the Pablo Soto case... would be potential witnesses on one issue or another regarding this case. I have, therefore, recommended that Sheriff Laws refer your complaint to the Attorney General's Office."

Additionally, complaints against 106th District Judge Carter T. Schildknecht and Garza County Judge Lee Norman were filed two weeks ago with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Burnett filed two separate complaints against the judges, charging that both were involved in acts of "official oppression" on Nov. 8 when their orders prevented media representatives from entering the local courthouse with their cameras.

"We are encouraged that Sheriff Laws has proceeded with notification to the District Attorney about this important constitutional violation," Burnett said. "It is a bit puzzling to discover, however, that our District Attorney didn't know that he was the official required to get the Attorney General involved. This issue has been stalled and delayed for more than two months because local officials don't seem to know what the law requires."



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