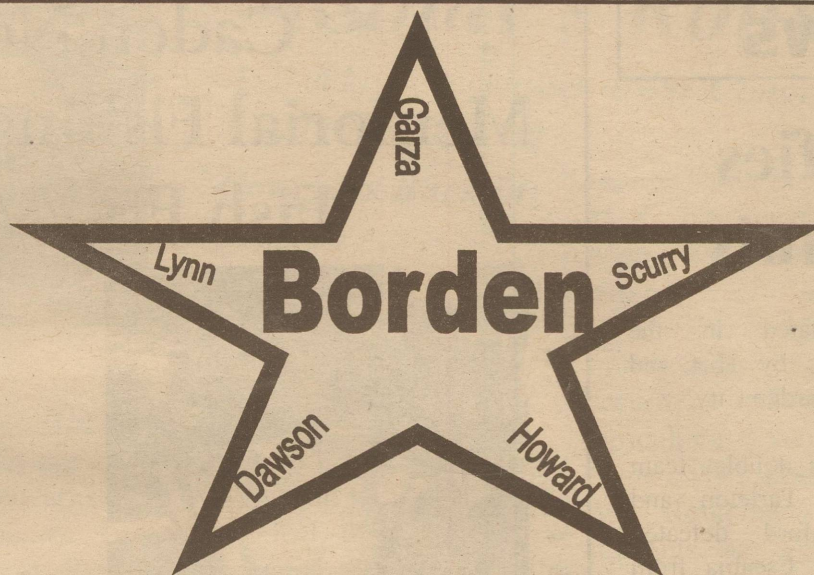


THE

Volume XXXII



STAR

April 26th, 2006

Serving the Counties of Borden, Dawson, Garza, Howard, Lynn & Scurry

From Abilene to Austin

Four BHS UIL Academic Students Advance to State Meet; Squad Places Third Overall

Following a successful showing at this past weekend's Region II-A Meet, four Borden County High School students will compete at the U.I.L. Academic State Meet in Austin in two weeks.

Senior Andrew Lamming, juniors Becky Dobyns and Rowdy Clary, and sophomore Kate Wallace also led BHS to an overall third place finish in the meet with 136 points.

District 9-A nemesis Garden City High School was named the regional academic champion with 245 points.

Ironically, BHS had previously downed GCHS at the district meet in March by a mere 27 points.

Perennial state academic champion Lindsay High School was second at regional with 195 points.

The four advancing students from BHS will represent the school in Austin in six different events.

Lamming finished third at the regional meet in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and will compete at the State Meet for the first time.

Dobyns will be returning to the State Meet for the

second consecutive year. She will compete in three separate events after placing first in Spelling & Vocabulary, second in Ready Writing, and third in Editorial Writing at the regional meet.

Also making a second trip to the Academic State Meet will be Clary. He went to state as a freshman in Social Studies and will return to Austin as the regional champion this year in the same event.

Wallace will compete in two events in Austin. She placed second in both Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking and Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

Fifteen students from Borden County High School competed at the regional meet, several placing in the top six in their respective events.

Sophomore Rachel Wilson's fifth place finish led the Current Issues & Events team to a close third place finish. Wilson also placed fourth in Spelling & Vocabulary. The team finished a very close third as

The Speech & Debate Team finished a close second overall to defending state champion Lindsay High School.

In addition to his success in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Lamming also finished fifth in Informative Speaking. In Persuasive Speaking, Clary also placed fifth, narrowly missing advancement in that event as well.

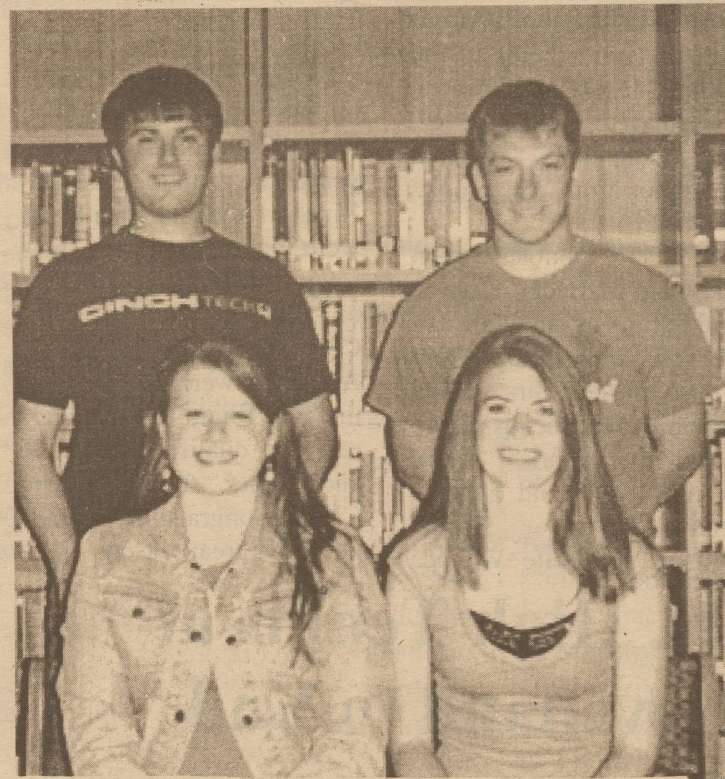
Sophomore Sharelle Gass finished sixth in Poetry Interpretation to finish off the speech team scores at 50 points total.

Senior Trey Soto placed sixth in Headline Writing.

Additionally, the Social Studies Team placed second overall.

Going into the One-Act Play Contest Saturday night, BHS was sitting in fourth place overall by three points. Although the play did not advance, additional points were earned for individual acting excellence, lifting BHS to third.

Dobyns was named to the regional All-Star Cast as "Selena" in *Opal*. Senior Garrett Thomas, starring as



State Bound! (L. to R.): Rowdy Clary and Andrew Lamming. Kate Wallace and Becky Dobyns

* * * * *

"Angel Father/Andrew Givens," was named to the Honorable Mention All-Star Cast.

Also competing at the regional meet were seniors Whitney Anderson and Austin Tarleton; juniors Clint Chapman, Jake Payne, Taylor Peterson, and Christina Soto; & freshmen Katherine Froman and Carlos Hernandez.

Additional one-act play participants were senior Brandi Hudson; juniors John

Cowart, Sarah Harding, Lacey Newton, and Kalli Poole; & freshman Krystal Hobson.

Academic coaches attending the regional meet were Sue Jane Mayes, Cindy Herridge, and Darrin Ard.

Special thanks go to both Mr. Jimmy Thomas, B.C.I.S.D. superintendent, and Mrs. Kim Thomas, who helped chaperone the trip as well.

Good luck in Austin!

Tennis News

Chapman Qualifies for Regional Tennis

By Coach Turner

For the second straight year Clint Chapman finished as the number two boys singles player in district 9. Clint will play in the region 2 tournament in Abilene on April 26th and 27th. The tournament will be held at Hardin-Simmons University. Clint defeated Bo Eggemeyer from Garden City in the quarterfinals and Garrett Nichols from Sands in the semifinals. Clint dropped the final to Trey Chavez, the defending regional champion from Westbrook.

In Girl's Doubles action the team of Becky Dobyms and Sarah Harding defeated Gibson and Olson from Trent in their first round match before being eliminated by eventual champions Medina and Shuelke from Grady. Rachel Wilson and Kate Wallace

were defeated in the quarterfinals by Hirt and Hirt from Garden City.

The boy's doubles team of Austin Tarleton and Aaron Pigford defeated Gibson and Escabia from Loraine before dropping a quarterfinal match to the eventual champs Halfmann and Niehues from Garden City.

Mixed Doubles were allowed in the spring tennis meet for the first time this year. The team of Symeron Rinehart and Christina Soto were eliminated in the first round by Maxie and Gully of Garden City. John Cowart and Whitney Anderson were defeated in the first round by eventual regional qualifiers Pierson and Lopez from Garden City. Congrats to all the kids on a great season.

Jr. High Tennis at Levelland to End Season

By Coach Turner

The Borden Junior High tennis team had a terrific Saturday at the Levelland Junior High Meet on April 22nd. Flynn Chapman defeated players from Littlefield, Levelland, All Saints, and SPCHEA to win the boys singles "A" division. Olivia Key defeated players from Sudan twice, and Levelland before dropping the championship match to Levelland in the

girls singles "A" division.

Michael Cooley and Karl Lamming defeated Muleshoe, Levelland, and All Saints to win the boys doubles "A" division. Brendan Tarleton and John Hensley defeated Whiteface, Sundown, and Levelland to reach the finals of the boys doubles "B" division. Tony Soto and David Rodriguez defeated Sundown, Meadow, and Levelland to also reach

the finals. The team of Tarleton and Hensley defeated Soto and Rodriguez 6-4 to take the championship. Michael Froman lost his first round match to All Saints but rallied to defeat Christ the King and Morton on his way to the consolation final in boy's singles "B" division. Michael lost that match 2-6 to Christ the King. Alvin Herrington dropped two matches to Meadow and

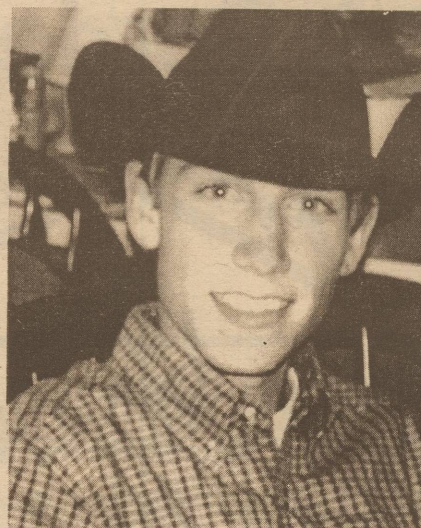
Morton in boys singles.

In girls doubles "B" division Taylor Richey and Krista Tarleton defeated Levelland and SPCHEA to reach the semifinals where they lost to Levelland. Taylor and Krista then defeated Levelland 6-1 to take the bronze medal. Shylo Rinehart and Bailey Anderson defeated All Saints in their first round match

before losing to Sudan in the second. Rachael Payne and D'Nae Johnson lost to Levelland in the first round. Bailey Anderson then took over for the retired Johnson and the girls played their way to the consolation final. They defeated Sudan and Meadow before losing to Levelland in the final match. Lacey Roberts and Raylea

Cont. to pg. 3

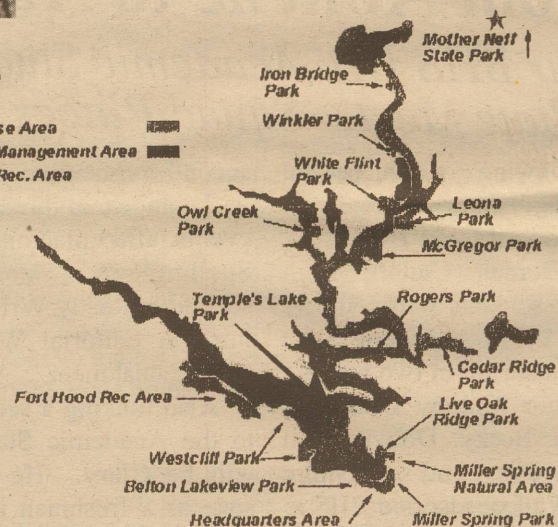
Caden Nowlain Memorial Fishing Tournament Fish Fry / Auction



May 13, 2006
6:00 p.m.

LEGEND

Public Use Area
Wildlife Management Area
Limited Rec. Area



Lake Belton

All proceeds go toward
Scholarships for
Borden County
Class of 2006

To Register:
Fishing Tournament
Call Darrell Nowlain
254-405-2500

For Fish Fry / Auctions
Call:
Cindy Herridge
806-756-4460



Students and Sponsors representing Borden County at the Regional UIL Meet in Abilene.

4-H News

South Plains District 4-H Fashion Show Results

The District 4-H Fashion Show was held on Tuesday, April 11th in Lubbock. The judging events, awards ceremony and modeling were held at the First Church of the Nazarene. One youth from Borden County participated in the event. Kylie Voss competed in the Junior Construction Dressy Division. Kylie constructed a bubble print seersucker sundress and a coordinating solid linen shrug jacket.

We are proud of the accomplishments this young

lady has made and are grateful for her representing Borden County 4-H in this event.

Kylie is a fifth grader at Borden County Elementary School and the daughter of Tammy and Ray Simmons and granddaughter of Connie and Gary Stipe of Gail.

School

Lunch Menu

May 1st – 5th, 2006

MONDAY – Breakfast: Pancake Pup, fruit juice and milk.

Lunch: Pizza, corn, salad, pineapple and milk

TUESDAY – Breakfast: Biscuit w/gravy, sausage, fruit juice and milk; **Lunch:** Chicken fried steak, potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, applesauce and milk.

WED. – Breakfast: Muffin, fruit juice and milk. **Lunch:** Popcorn chicken, green peas, potatoes, roll, and milk.

THURSDAY – Breakfast: French toast sticks, fruit juice and milk. **Lunch:** Fish, pork & beans, potato salad, hush puppies, Rosie applesauce and milk.

FRIDAY – Breakfast: Waffles, fruit juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Cheeseburger, French fries, salad, cup, chocolate chip cookies and milk

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"Mail Bag"

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Some of us rent safety deposit boxes at our bank or financial institution. They provide security for our valuable possessions, and peace of mind for us.

For security, convenience and peace of mind concerning your mail, nothing beats a box at your local Post Office.

Security – Your mail is protected, under lock and key as well as by Federal statute.

Access – You can pick up your mail at your convenience, early, late, any time the Post Office lobby is open. Since most Post Offices are located near other businesses, you may want to get a jump on the day by receiving your mail at a Post Office box near

where you work. **Anonymity** – P.O. boxes let you receive important

Jr. High Tennis

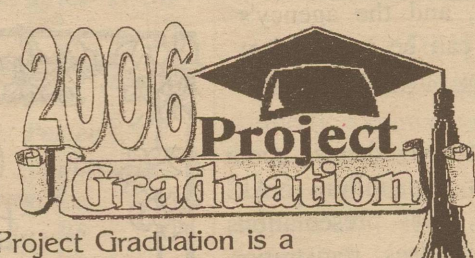
Cont. from pg. 1

Underwood lost their first round match to Levelland before defeating Meadow and Levelland to reach the consolation semifinals. The girls lost the match to Levelland on a tie breaker.

The tennis team did a great job and a big thanks to those parents who came out to watch. We appreciate you. Next action will be the district 9 tournament in Garden City. B team tournament is Friday, May 5th at 4:00pm. A team tournament starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 6th.

mail that is for your eyes only, or to keep your personal or business mail private. Only you have the key.

Stability – If you move often, or travel a lot, and need to establish one place where you receive your mail. Cont. to pg. 8



Project Graduation is a drug and alcohol free celebration sponsored by parents in partnership with Borden County School.

Parents and friends of the 2006 Senior Class of Borden County High School are asking for donations for Project Graduation.

Your tax-deductible gift would be appreciated by our students and parents. A list of all donors will be posted at the festivities and listed in the Thank You advertisement in the Borden Star.

Donations may be sent to:

BORDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
"PROJECT GRADUATION"
 P.O. Box 95
 Gail, TX 79738



Let Me Get My Hat!

By Dennis Poole,
Borden County CEA-Ag,

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Texas Animal Health Commissions Says Proposed Premises Registration "On Hold" Till 2007; Voluntary Registration Continues

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will not address proposed regulations for premises registration at the upcoming May 4 TAHC commission meeting in Austin. Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and TAHC executive director, said the proposed premises registration regulations have been placed on "hold," and will not be considered by commissioners until the winter or spring of 2007.

Dr. Hillman said the TAHC will continue to promote voluntary, free registration of sites (premises) where livestock and fowl are held, handled or managed. As of April 4, more than 10,000 premises have been registered in Texas; more than 213,000 have been registered nationally. Premises registration is the foundation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), which, when fully imple-

mented, would enable animal health officials to trace the movement of diseased or exposed livestock or poultry within 48 hours.

Information and agendas for Commission meetings will be posted on the TAHC web site, filed in the Texas Register and announced through news releases. All TAHC commission meetings are open to the public. The TAHC's Austin headquarters may be reached at 1-800-550-8242, and the agency's web site can be accessed at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us>.

Information sheets about premises registration, NAIS booklets, or presentations about premises registration may be requested by contacting the nearest TAHC area office, or by calling the TAHCs headquarters and asking for Kenny Edgar, identification coordinator, or Carla Everett, public information officer.

REMINDER: BURN BAN IN EFFECT!

All of Borden County is under a BURN BAN. All trash barrels must have an appropriate covering before burning. Please take *Special Precautions* with any Fire during this time for the Safety of You and Your Neighbors.



Courthouse News

WHEREAS, On this the 10th day of April, 2006, the Commissioners' Court of Borden County, Texas, convened in Special Session in the Commissioners Court room in the courthouse of Gail, Texas, the following members of the court being present, to-wit:

VAN L. YORK, County Judge, Presiding; MONTE SMITH, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1; RANDY ADCOCK, Commissioner, Precinct No. 2; ERNEST REYES, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3; JOE BELEW, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4; JOYCE HERRIDGE, County Clerk and Ex-Officio of the Commissioners' Court Constituting a quorum, when the following proceedings were had, in accordance with the posted agenda.

MINUTES APPROVED

Minutes of the Commissioners Court meetings of March 27th, 2006, were read.

Commissioner Belew made a motion to approve said minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS ALLOWED

The current accounts were examined and Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve and pay said accounts. Commissioner Adcock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PIPELINE CROSSING OF LANDRUM ROAD

Commissioner Belew made a motion to approve the application for proposed pipeline crossing in Pct 4 for Jon Herring at or near 501 Landrum Road. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

BORDEN COUNTY ROADS

Commissioner Belew made a motion to enter into a contract with Allison, Bass & Associates to implement the provisions of Chapter 258 of the Texas

Transportation Code to place all roads that are maintained by the County before 1981 to be placed in the Borden County Road System. Motion was seconded by Adcock. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

No new item presented

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Belew to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Reyes and approved unanimously.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES READ AND APPROVED THIS THE 24th DAY OF APRIL, 2006

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Dennis Poole

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Size 3
Call Debra at:
806-756-4364

You are invited to a
Bridal Shower
honoring
Kari Jones
bride-elect of *Tom Griffin*
Sunday, May 7th
3:00 - 5:00 pm
In the home of *Patricia Barr*
11511 North FM 1205
Coahoma, Texas
Call for directions 432-965-3382

Memorial Scholarships being Accepted

Brandon Adcock Memorial Scholarship

Applications are currently being accepted for the:

Brandon Adcock Memorial Scholarship. Applicants wishing to be considered must submit a formal letter of application prior to May 19th, 2006. Letters of application must be sent to the following address:

**Brandon Adcock
Memorial Scholarship
Committee
PO Box 95
Gail, Texas 79738**

The primary criteria used to determine the recipient of this scholarship is that the individual selected will be an outstanding young person that is a positive representative of the Borden County School Community as evidence by their respective moral character, service-minded attitude, dedication and scholastic achievement.

Recipients must be a candidate for graduation or be a former graduate of Borden County High School.

Candidates must attend a state-accredited/Southern Association accredited college, university, or post-secondary institution to be eligible for consideration. The Select Committee will have sole authority to determine the candidate's eligibility status related to the post-secondary institution to be attended.

Financial need will not necessarily be a criterion for consideration; however, financial need may be considered by the Select Committee.

Members of the Brandon Adcock Family will have no input into the selection process. Complete selection authority has been delegated to the Selection Committee, and the Committee has the

authority to waive all rules, regulations and formalities in order to select the candidates that the committee feels is most deserving.

John Harding Memorial Scholarship

Applications are currently being accepted for the:

John Harding Memorial Scholarship. Applicants wishing to be considered must submit a formal letter of application prior to May 19th, 2006. Letters of application must be sent to the following address:

**John Harding
Memorial Scholarship
Committee
PO Box 95
Gail, Texas 79738**

The primary criteria used to determine the recipient of this scholarship is that the individual selected will be an outstanding young person that is a positive representative of the Borden County School Community as evidence by their respective moral character, service-minded attitude, dedication and participation in school activities as a student of Borden County High School.

Recipients must be a candidate for graduation or be a former graduate of Borden County High School.

Candidates must attend a state-accredited/Southern Association accredited college, university, or post-secondary institution to be eligible for consideration. The Select Committee will have sole authority to determine the candidate's eligibility status related to the post-secondary institution to be attended.

Financial need will not necessarily be a criterion for consideration; however, financial need may be considered by the Select Committee.

Members of the John Harding family will have no input into the selection process. Complete selection authority has been delegated to the Selection Committee, and the Committee has the authority to waive all rules, regulations and formalities in order to select the candidates that the committee feels is most deserving.

J. Pat Porter Memorial Scholarship

Applications are currently being accepted for the:

J. Pat Porter Memorial Scholarship. Applicants wishing to be considered must submit a formal letter of application prior to May 19th, 2006. Letters of application must be sent to the following address:

**J. Pat Porter
Memorial Scholarship
Committee
PO Box 95
Gail, Texas 79738**

The primary criteria used to determine the recipient of this scholarship is that the individual selected will be an outstanding young person that is a positive representative of the Borden County School community as evidence by his/her high moral character, service minded attitude, dedication and determination to succeed along with maintaining passing grades.

Potential recipients must be a member in good standing of the current Borden County High School graduating class or must be a previous

graduate of Borden County High School.

Candidates must attend a state-accredited/Southern Association accredited college, university, or post-secondary institution to be attended.

Financial need, will not necessarily be a criterion for consideration; however, financial need maybe considered by the Select Committee.

Members of the Porter Family will have no input into the selection process.

Complete selection authority has been delegated to the Selection Committee, and the Committee has the authority to waive all rules, regulations for formalities in order to select the candidates that the committee feels is most appropriate. The selection process is a subjective task that will be left to the discretion of the J. Pat Porter Scholarship Selection Committee feels is a dignification of the positive attributes that were exhibited by the late J. Pat Porter.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bi-County Shared Services Arrangement (SSA) and formerly known as Bi-County Special Education Cooperative, is hereby giving notice of the destruction of inactive student records. This is being done in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines. Records designated to be destroyed are: 1) Special Education Student Records from Dawson ISD, Klondike ISD, and Borden County ISD; and 2) dated on or before December 31, 1996. Any persons wishing to obtain their individual records from Bi-County SSA, must contact the office before May 10, 2006. This can be done by contacting Bill Tarleton, director, at 806-756-4313, ext. 269 or 270. Fax requests can be sent to 806-756-4335. Bi-County SSA is located at 315 W. Kincaid/P.O. Box 95, in Gail, Texas 79738. The date of this notice is April 19, 2006.

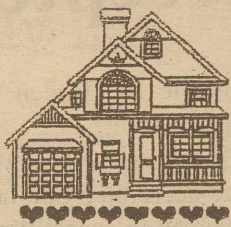
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Still only \$12.00 yearly 806/756-4313 ext. 275

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Heart and home...

By Julie D. Smith
Borden County Extension Agent
Family and Consumer Sciences



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Statewide Schools to Celebrate Texas Bike & Walk to School Day

Texas students are set to join thousands of other children across the state who will bike and walk to school on Thursday, April 27. Parents, teachers and community leaders can also join in the festivities by bicycling and walking to school and work.

Texas Governor Rick Perry demonstrated his concern for children's health and safety by signing a proclamation which decrees Thursday, April 27, 2006 to be Bike & Walk to School Day in Texas. In part, the Governor's proclamation states: "As families increase their levels of activity, one option they may wish to pursue is to encourage their children to bike or walk to school. Ensuring that children can do so safely requires parental, neighborhood and community-wide support. To increase awareness of this fitness option, April has been dedicated for an educational campaign."

This is the first time that Texas has dedicated a statewide day to bicycling and walking to school. Children, their families, neighbors and school staff are encouraged to bike and walk for their health, for the health and safety of their communities and for the fun of it.

Texas Bicycle Coalition is spearheading this inaugural

upon the popular International Walk to School Day, held every October.

Texas Bike & Walk to School Day encourages physical fitness through a healthy, active lifestyle and seeks to:

- share the importance and fun of physical activity
- teach children safe walking and bicycling behavior
- help students arrive more alert and ready to learn
- reduce traffic congestion and speed near schools
- instill responsibility and self-confidence in children
- reclaim neighborhood streets

A copy of the Governor's proclamation and the complete Texas Bike & Walk to School Day resource guide including flyers, a poster, instructions, FAQs and resources for teachers are available at www.BikeTexas.org.

Fight back on Your Electric Bill

As electricity becomes more scarce and more expensive, you can help yourself, the environment and the economy by taking some simple steps to conserve power. As is evident in California, utilities can't do much in the short term to add capacity. The best bet is for consumers to reduce consumption, especially at peak times.

According to surveys of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), lighting accounts for 20-25% of all electricity sold in the United States. That's why it is recommended that you install energy-efficient lighting devices. They can have a big impact by significantly reducing electric consumption.

Here are four tips that can take the effort out of saving dollars on your electric bill.

1. **Install dimmer switches.** By dimming the lights in a room you use less electricity. For example, a light bulb that at 50% brightness uses approximately 40% less electricity. A dimmer switch also extends the life of your bulbs. A bulb at 50% brightness will last approximately 20 times longer. Dimmers can also add ambiance to a room.

2. **Install occupancy sensors.** An occu-

Cont. to pg. 8

BikeTexas Safe Routes to School

Texas Bike & Walk to School Day seeks to:

- share the importance and fun of physical activity
- teach children safe walking and bicycling behavior
- help students arrive more alert and ready to learn
- instill responsibility and self-confidence in children
- reduce traffic congestion and speed near schools
- reclaim neighborhood streets


Be Healthy! Stay Safe! Have Fun!

Texas Bicycle Coalition

PO Box 1121
Austin, Texas 78767-1121
512-476-8105 (7483)
Fax 512-426-7498
mail@biketexas.org

Texas Bike & Walk to School Day

Thursday, April 27, 2006



It starts with you!
Help your school participate!
Become a Team Leader!

For event resources and information, visit
www.BikeTexas.org

The BikeTexas Safe Routes to School Program is a program of the Texas Bicycle Coalition Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Advancing Bicycle Access, Safety & Education - www.BikeTexas.org

Team	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Total Miles
Mesquite Roadrunner	73	79	78.5	230.5
County Cruisers	45.5	50.5	43	139
Wayward Walkers	38.5	47.5	51.5	137.5
Jabber Walkies	48	37	47	132

Walk Across Texas!



A Fun and Fitness Program

To find out how you can Walk Across Texas, call your County Extension Office.



Texas Stories
A showcase of the Texas Spirit

Tumbleweed Smith
Part owner of Texas

Spring Time in Texas

Life seems to begin in the springtime. The earth feels cleansed, blessed again, purged of winter's darkness. We witness the season of hope and renewal.

Spring is when you want to get a cane fishing pole and a can of worms and go to the creek, even if you've never done that before. It's when you want to sit and watch a bug for about an hour. Our just stretch out and stare at your shoes.

Spring is when you think about going bare-footed and wearing fewer clothes. You might even get out that bicycle and take a spin. Or climb a mountain. It makes you feel frisky, like you're three years old and you've just finished taking a bath.

You pull out the ice cream freezer and begin to imagine how the fruits of summer will taste. You think about swimming and convertibles and warm, sensuous nights.

No season offers more promise than springtime. And no place shows off its spring wardrobe any better than Texas. When it's springtime in Texas, fields of blue and red and yellow appear and the air is scented with wildflower perfume.



--Randy's Roundup--

A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer

Congress Back in Session

Congress returns from the Easter District Work Period this week with a

we still anticipate spring. We want to hear the birds, to feel the -sunshine, to experience life outside the house. Spring makes you appreciate the sense of freedom that exists in Texas. The skies open up and seem larger. Texas has more sky than most places, anyway.

The 24-hour celestial parade is an event not to be missed in the spring. We awaken to a dawn dressed up in sunrise pink. Later the golden sun illumines the clouds, which become active in mid afternoon and flat around the bump each other. At sundown the sky is streaked with reds and oranges. And darkness brings its own special magic.

It's fun to go outside at night, lie on a pallet and look at the stars. If you're lucky you'll see one fall. You might even see a satellite streaking across the heavens. Spring makes you glad to be alive.

host of issues on its plate. Over the next several weeks, we will consider a number of important issues - the budget, illegal immigration and border security, energy, and agriculture policy, just to name a few. Stay tuned to the Roundup for my thoughts as we address these issues.

Big Spring VA Hospital

West Texas veterans got a boost last Thursday as the Veterans Administration (VA) announced that the VA hospital in Big Spring will remain open and possibly expand its mission over the next few years. The announcement came as the VA completes a study on reorganizing its hospital system. This means that area veterans will continue to have access to one of the premier VA health facilities in the Southwest.

The VA's decision to keep the Big Spring hospital in its system capped a two-year long process. While it was ultimately based on objective factors like location, services provided and high medical standards, I think it's fair to say that the support shown by the people of Big Spring played no small role in the VA's decision. From the mayor to the average citizen, Big Spring demonstrated its commitment to keeping the hospital open and

available to West Texas veterans. That commitment of support was never more evident than when thousands of residents turned out when I brought the VA secretary to Big Spring a couple years ago.

The VA's decision was a good one for West Texas, and - most importantly - for West Texas veterans.

Ports-to-Plains

On Wednesday, I will host a lunch meeting between Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves and members of the Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus, which I chair. We will discuss the status of that important interstate trade corridor, as well as congressional efforts to provide resources to expand the corridor.

Medicare Reminder

Finally, I want to remind folks once again that the deadline to sign up for the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit is May 15. Seniors can sign up online, over the phone, by fax, or directly with health plans. Seniors or family members with questions about the Medicare prescription drug benefit can call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit <http://www.medicare.gov>.

--Randy

One today is worth two tomorrows.

- Benjamin Franklin



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Fight back on Your Electric Bill

Cont. from pg. 6

pancy sensor automatically turns lights on when someone enters a room, and then turns them off after the person leaves the area. They're ideal for closets, hallways, the laundry room or garage—all the places where lights may needlessly be left on for hours, or even days. Wall-switch models are designed to replace standard wall switches, so they're easy to install.

Install motion detectors outside. Many homeowners know that good outdoor lighting makes their homes less appealing to burglars. But keeping outdoor floodlights or other lights on all night long can be expensive, not to mention a bug haven! Instead, install a motion detector to control outdoor security lights. Motion detectors are programmed to detect the presence of body heat. When they detect the presence of a person or animal, they automatically turn the outside lights on. They will also turn the lights off when they no longer detect the presence

of body heat.

Install digital timers. If anyone in your family has left the bathroom exhaust fan or heat lamp on all day, you'll appreciate the convenience of timers—and the fact that they can reduce energy consumption. The latest digital timers are installed right in the wall, wherever you would put a standard wall switch. Many versions come from the factory with preset time intervals, and other offer programmable time settings. To use a timer with a present interval, sim-

ply push the button for the length of time you want to fan or lamp to be on. The timer will turn it off automatically. You can use digital timers with longer time intervals to control you outdoor landscape lighting.

So, instead of telling your family to turn off the light when they leave a room, which seldom produces the desired results, consider installing one or more of these new electrical devices. They take the effort out of saving electricity and they'll pay for themselves quickly with the amount of electricity they save.

Source: The Leviton Institute newsletter *Helpful Hints on Home Electricity*

Mail Box

Cont. from pg. 3

mail, then a Post Office box is the answer. Your mail is there when you return.

Flexibility – Expand your company without opening new offices. Apply for P.O. boxes in cities where you do business, and pick up your mail as your travel. You don't have to live in a community to get a Post Office box there.

Value – Boxes come in five different sizes, from 3 inches by 5 ½ inches to 22 ½ inches by 12 inches. Check with your local Post Office to see what sizes are available. You'll

find the price to be reasonable, too. Based on a customer's eligibility for carrier delivery service, a no-fee Post Office box may be available. Otherwise, the semi-annual fees range from \$9 to \$348, depending on the box size and the Post Office.

Post Office box delivery is a secure and private means of getting your mail. For more information, visit any Post Office.

Glass, China, and reputations are easily cracked and never well mended.

- Benjamin Franklin

Public Notice

Basic and low cost telephone services from Verizon

Verizon is an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in Texas under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Texas Public Utility Commission guidelines. As such, we receive universal service funding, which enables us to provide service at reasonable rates to high cost, usually rural areas and low income customers.

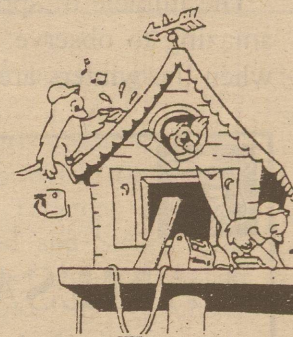
Under those guidelines, Verizon certifies that it provides the following basic services for a monthly charge of \$7.10 to \$16.40 (plus Federal Subscriber Line Charge, applicable taxes and surcharges) to residence customers.

- Single-party service
- Voice grade access to the public switched network
- Touch call service
- Access to emergency services (including 911 and enhanced 911)
- Access to operator, interexchange and directory assistance services

We also provide a Lifeline discount for qualified low-income residence customers of up to \$13.50. Also available to qualified Lifeline customers is a low-cost Link-up basic connection service at a 50% discount (up to \$30.00). In addition, we can provide Lifeline customers with free toll blocking to help them control long-distance usage. If Lifeline customers do not pay toll charges, their access to the toll network may be denied, but their local service won't be disconnected.

For more information please call our customer sales and solution center at 1-800-483-4000 (Residence). For information on Lifeline/Link-Up Service call Lite-Up Texas at 1-866-454-8387.

Moore-Rains Insurance



Happy
Springtime

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