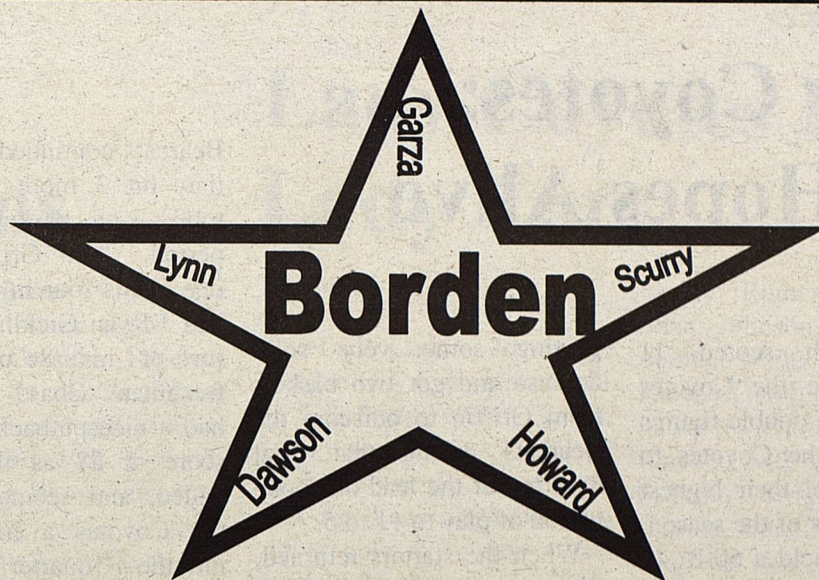


# THE

Volume XXXII



# STAR

February  
January 9<sup>th</sup> 2005

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

## Iraq's Elections Show Hope for Democracy

By Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

There is little that people living in Iraq have not seen in the 5,500 years that have elapsed since the world's first literate society, Sumeria, arose on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. But recently, the long-suffering people of this nation experienced something new — they voted in free elections.

"Now I feel that Saddam is really gone," Fatima Ibrahim told MSNBC after casting her ballot in Irbil, in the Kurdish northern region. She was a young bride of 14 and only married three months when her husband, father and brother were rounded up by Saddam Hussein's police and have never been seen again.

This woman and millions of her fellow Iraqis refused to be intimidated by terrorist threats and went to the polls. In an election widely hailed as fair and free, over 60 percent of the Iraqi people turned out. Even Sunni Iraqis ignored calls by their religious leaders to boycott the election and voted in higher than expected numbers. The election is for 13 provincial councils and the new 275-seat National Assembly, which will draft a new constitution.

Neighboring Jordan watched the elections with great interest. King Abdullah II

offered congratulations and said the successful election proved the Iraqi people are "stronger than the extremist groups trying to destabilize Iraq."

As President Bush noted in his stirring inaugural speech, "The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in the world."

Unfortunately, while the Iraqi people have begun their pursuit of democracy, they still face thugs who desperately want to deny this new nation freedom. Jihadists allied to Al Qaeda and remnants of the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein are trying to regain power.

We should not let the horror of these tactics obscure an important point: the terrorists fear what an Iraqi democracy would mean for their cause. The Jihadists and Baathists fear history will sweep them aside, and they are doing all they can to block the spread of freedom.

Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, the Jordanian who has publicly declared allegiance to Osama Bin Laden, and is considered the architect of attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces, has said as much. "We have declared a fierce war on this evil

principle of democracy and those who follow this wrong ideology. Anyone who tries to help set up this system is part of it."

Further, Osama Bin Laden himself, in a recent Al-Jazeera-distributed tape, urged Iraqis not to participate in the election.

The important thing to keep in mind is that the Iraqi people demonstrated in impressive numbers that, however difficult the path may be, this election was a key step toward complete self-rule and the establish-

Cont. to pg. 8

## Texas Trail Ride Series

The Best of America by Horseback™ television show is looking for horses and riders to participate in their series of trail rides in Texas. The weekly outdoor show will be taped on location in late February and March. The series will begin airing this July on both Dish TV Network and DirecTV, being hosted by Outdoorsman, Tom Seay and Co-Hosted by movie wrangler, Doug Sloan; both of Virginia.

The weekly show will feature selected trail ride locations across America and

will feature Texas during this series of rides. The show will focus on the available trails, stabling locations and their accommodations as well as area attractions. The conclusion of each program will feature a campfire segment and a performing music group selected from national auditions.

The show is a result of the 10-year Anniversary of Tom & Patricia Seay's American Transcontinental Trail Ride from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. That 3,000 mile ride visited 83 cities and towns with riders from 19 states and Canada. That ride was covered on CNN, commented on by Paul Harvey Radio, and featured in the French Television documentary, "The American West".

The Trailmaster, Tom Seay, was quoted as saying, "The one thing I am looking forward to the most is meeting and riding with as many Texas horse people as possible." "I really welcome the opportunity to accept as many invitations as possible to visit with civic clubs, speak at schools and meet with the local business community". There is no charge for Seay or any of his group to visit schools or speak to civic groups. Seay also said "I've heard so much about Texas Bar-B-Que and

Cont. to pg. 7



**100<sup>th</sup> Day of School celebrated by kindergarten and first grade students:** Back row (L. to R.) Madison Benavidez, Jordan McAuley, Kylee Dean, Tatum Richey, Channing Miller and Hayley Gray. Middle row: Rhaeden Bland, Bryce Turner, Thomas Harrison, Tanner Freeman, Avery Price, Zoie Key and Julia McAuley. Bottom row: Colby Pennell, T.J. Doyle, Samuel Raborn, Merik Valentine, Flint Roberts, and Jayden Benavidez. See story on page 4.

# Good Week for Coyotes; Keep Play-off Hopes Alive

By Coach Richey

After having Tuesday nights game at Dawson being postponed, the Coyotes had an opportunity to look at the scoreboard and see what their play-offs hope might have as the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Garden City Bearcats played the Sands Mustangs. The Coyotes needed an upset victory by the Mustangs to be able to control their own destiny as far as the play-offs were concerned. But, while the Coyotes got an extra day to prepare for the Dragons, the Bearcats took care of business, which meant the Coyotes had to win out and hope for help from the Klondike Cougars on the final Tuesday of the season. But first, the Coyotes had the unenviable task of going to Dawson on Thursday and then playing host to those Bearcats on Friday.

The Coyotes, possibly playing some of their best basketball of the season got off to a very quick start at Dawson as they quickly built a 15 to 4 lead. The Dragons, who were in a very good position for the play-offs themselves, but they also needed to win out to get in. But, on this night, the Coyotes played extremely well. The Coyotes kept the Dragons at arms distance the entire night. In fact, the Dragons hit a shot just before half to cut the Coyote lead to 26 to 21. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter the Coyotes continued to play solid offense and defense which allowed the Coyotes to build as much as a 16 point lead late in the game. The Coyotes used a very balanced offensive attack to build this 16 point lead as Junior J'Ryan Gicklhorn scored a team high 17 points, 13 of which came in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, and senior Ben Griffin tallied 12 points, while senior Garrett Chapman and junior Austin

Tarleton each scored 11 points to give the Coyotes four players in double figures and allowed the Coyotes to produce one of their highest scoring outputs of the season. The Coyotes held a 60 to 44 lead with 1:28 left in the game, but the determined Dragons made one last push, as they finished the game on a 12 to 0 run to make the final score 60 to 56. With the victory, the Coyotes kept their play-off hopes alive.

Also scoring for the Coyotes was senior Adam Carter with 5 points and junior Aaron Pigford and senior John Wilson with two each. Also contributing to the impressive victory were freshman Chase Pinkerton, and junior Garrett Thomas. With the victory, the Coyotes improved to 17 wins and 13 loses on the season and evened their district record at 4 and 4. Below are the score by quarters for this contest.

<b>Borden Co.</b>	15	11	13	19	= 60
<b>Dawson</b>	8	13	9	26	= 56

On the very next day, the Coyotes had the unenviable task of following up their very impressive and hard fought victory over Dawson, by hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Garden City Bearcats. The Coyotes had to win to keep any hopes of making the play-offs and then get some help on Tuesday. The Coyotes came out in this contest like a team that was exhausted, as they looked very slow and sluggish as they quickly fell behind 9 to 0. But, with over 3 minutes remaining in the opening quarter, the Coyotes subbed the entire bench and this seemed to spark the Coyotes and up the energy level. The second group and Ben Griffin actually finished the quarter

playing some very solid defense and got two baskets from Griffin to outscore the Bearcats during that final 3:40 to cut the lead after one period of play to 11 to 5.

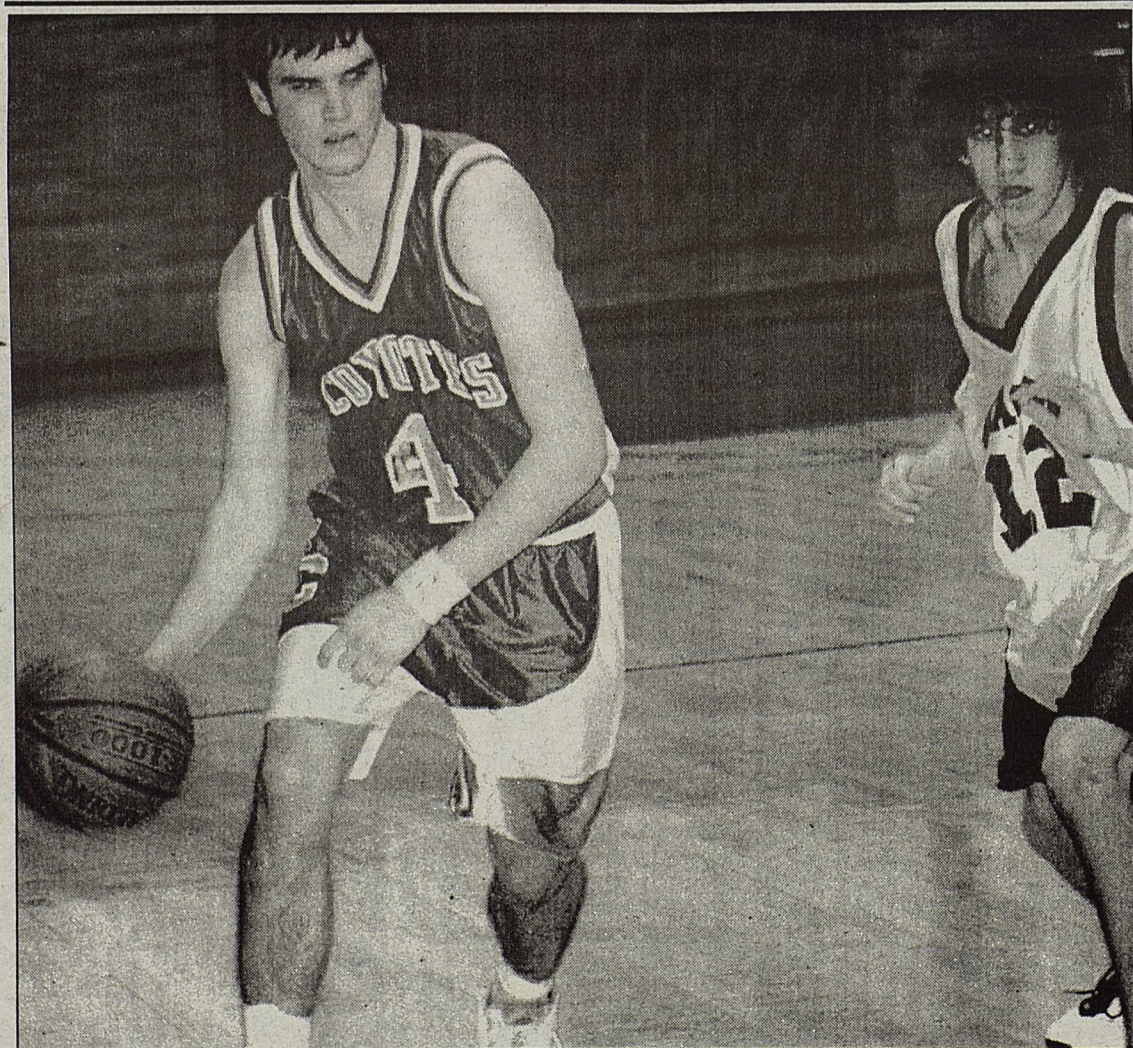
When the starters returned, they seemed to be energized by watching the subs effort, and it was contagious and the entire Coyote team just seemed to outhustle the visitors for every loose ball, and dominate the boards. The Coyotes could only manage 11 points in the quarter, but did not give up a field goal to the visitors until moments after the Coyotes took their first lead a Bearcat athlete hit a running jump shot from about 35 feet for a 3-pt basket to give his team a 17 to 16 lead going into the final period. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, the

Bearcats continued to lead as they hit 3 more of the six total 3-pt baskets in the period. Ben Griffin added one of his four in the quarter and J'Ryan Gicklhorn scored for of his 8 points and freshman Chase Pinkerton had a nice putback to tie the score at 27 as the quarter ended, and seemed to give the Coyotes a lift heading into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. In that 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the Coyotes played perhaps their best complete quarter of the season as they dominated on both ends of the floor. The Bearcats could manage only a couple of late putback baskets by their top player and the rest came from the line as the Coyotes sealed the victory with a very impressive 18 to 10 score and a 45 to 37 victory. The Coyotes got some unbelievable effort by all of the players. They hustled for every loose ball, and worked hard on the boards against a bigger and stronger Bearcat

team, but the Coyotes would not be denied as they improved to 18 and 13 on the season and 5 and 4 in district.

The Coyotes will now have to beat the Sands Mustangs at Sands on Tuesday and then hope that the Klondike Cougars pull the big upset at Garden City. If all of that happens, the Coyotes will play the Garden City Bearcats most likely in Big Spring on Friday. Leading the way for the Coyotes was senior Ben Griffin in perhaps his best game of district play with 18 points, also scoring was the reliable J'Ryan Gicklhorn with 8 points. Austin Tarleton, who scored 5 big points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter ended with 7 points, while seniors Garrett Chapman, who played as hard as anyone I have ever seen, and Adam Carter who has taken complete control of the offense for the Coyotes by making fantastic decisions

Cont. to pg. 3



**SLIDING PAST**

Borden County senior guard Ben Griffin (4) dribbles past Dawson's Dustin Rivas during Thursday's varsity boys game at Welch. Griffin

finished the game with 12 points, leading the Coyotes to their 60-56 win over the Dragons.

## Lady Coyotes Defeat Dragons

By Coach Turner

The Lady Coyotes won their 10<sup>th</sup> game of the season Thursday night in Welch by the score of 49-48. Cold shooting at the free throw line helped the Lady Dragons stay close. BC trailed 25-21 at the half but closed out the third quarter with a 7-0 run to take the lead 32-31. Both teams scored 17 points in the final quarter. The Lady Coyotes had to hold on at the end as both point guards, Emily Mayes and Lindsey Stamper, had fouled out. La

Shae Johnson led the offensive attack with 16 points. Cassidy Rinehart joined her in double figures with 12. Emily and Lindsey both finished with 9 points. Whitney Anderson closed out the scoring with a three pointer. The Lady Coyote JV dropped a 36-20 decision to Dawson. Cassidy Ogden led with 7 points while Heather Brooks finished with 6. Sarah Harding scored 3, while Becky Dobyns and Kate Wallace finished with 2 each.

## Borden JV Defeats Dawson JV

By Coach Avery

The Borden Coyote JV boys defeated the Dawson Dragon JV last Thursday in Welch by a score of 42 to 36. The Coyotes trailed at the half 22 to 21 and led by 3 going into the third period, 30 to 27, but the Coyotes outscored the Dragons in the fourth period 12 to 7.

Leading the Coyotes in scoring was Andrew

Lamming with 14 points. Lamming was a perfect 6 of 6 from the free three line. Jacob Froman scored 11 points, Caden Nowlain scored 9 points, and Trey Soto scored 8 points. Playing good defense in the game was Quentin Shafer, Asa Rutherford, Clint Chapman, Miller Valentine, and Rowdy Clary.

## Good Week for Coyotes

Cont. from pg. 2

with the ball, each had 5 points. Chase Pinkerton also scored 2 points while Garrett Thomas, John Wilson, and Aaron Pigford played some very important minutes throughout this huge district

contest. Below are the score by quarter for the Coyotes.

<b>Borden County:</b>				
5	11	11	18	= 45
<b>Garden City:</b>				
11	6	10	10	= 37

## School Menu

**Week Of: February 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**MONDAY:** A "Pizza" My Heart, Cupid' Kisses (Corn), Sweet Smiles (Oranges), Chocolate Valentine (Brownies) Love Potion (Milk). **Breakfast:** Hot Pockets, Fruit Juice & Milk.

**TUESDAY:** Chicken Fried Steak, Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Fruit & Milk **Breakfast:** Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Juice, & Milk.

**WEDNESDAY:** Chicken Nuggets, Green Peas, Potatoes, Rolls, Fruit & Milk. **Breakfast:** Biscuits w/gravy, Fruit Juice & Milk

**THURSDAY:** Cheeseburger, French fries, Salad cup, Cookies & Milk. **Breakfast:** Breakfast Burrito, Fruit Juice, & Milk.

**FRIDAY: NO School – HOLIDAY**

## Lady Coyotes Pounced by Lady Cats

By Coach Turner

The Lady Coyotes lost to the Garden City Lady Kats 55-41 in Gail Friday night. Garden City pounced to a 15-4 lead at the end of the first quarter and the Lady Coyotes were never able to recover. GC lead 30-16 at the half and 49-22 at the end of three. The Lady Coyotes used a big 19-6 fourth quarter advantage to make the score more competitive. Emily Mayes hit 4 three pointers and finished with 18 points.

Lesley Rutherford and La Shae Johnson each had 5 points, while both Cassidy Rinehart and Christina Soto had 4. Whitney Anderson finished with 3 and Lindsey Stamper wrapped up the scoring with 2. Free throw shooting was the difference as the Lady Coyotes made 7 or their 8 attempt but couldn't overcome Garden City's 20 of 30.

The Lady Coyote JV played their best game of the year and narrowly lost to Garden City 20-17. The JV teams

have met three times this season with the Lady Kats taking the first game by 31.

The Lady Coyotes were beaten at the free throw line in this one as Garden City made 14 of 27 from the line.

The Lady Coyotes only went to the line 6 times and made only 2. Cassidy Ogden led the scoring with 7 points and both Sarah Harding and Danelle Copeland finished with 4. Kate Wallace wrapped up the scoring with 2 points.

## Borden JV Defeats Garden City JV in Triple Overtime

By Coach Avery

The Borden Coyote JV boys won a close game the other night in Gail against the Garden City Bearkats in three overtime periods by a score 47 to 45. Caden Nowlain sank a big 3 pointer in the final period that proved to be the decisive bucket in the contest. The Coyotes led most of the game taking a 17 to 10 half time lead. That

lead was cut by the Bearkats as they scored 10 points in the third to the Coyotes 6.

The Coyotes were actually outscored in the fourth period and the overtime periods by one point, 24 to 25. Big free throws by Clint Chapman and Jacob Froman in the overtime periods also helped seal the deal. Froman had 20 points in the game including four 3

pointers. Caden Nowlain had 13 points including two 3 pointers and making 4 of 4 attempts at the charity stripe. Clint Chapman had 5 points, Andrew Lamming had 4 points, Quentin Shafer had a three pointer, and Trey Soto had two points. Playing good defense in the game was Miller Valentine, Asa Rutherford, Symeron Rinehart and Rowdy Clary.

## UIL Students participate in Practice Meet

On Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> several Borden County UIL students traveled to Wylie ISD to participate in a Practice Meet.

Below are the results:

**Informative Speaking:**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Tyler Wallace

5<sup>th</sup> place: Billy Roper

Semifinalist –

Andrew Lamming

**Persuasive Speaking**

3<sup>rd</sup> place: John Wilson

6<sup>th</sup> place: Adam Carter

Semifinalist –  
Kate Wallace

**Current Issues & Events:**

Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> place

John Wilson – tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>

Rachel Wilson

Rowdy Clary

Taylor Peterson

**Literary Criticism:**

Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> place

John Coward

Trey Soto

Clint Chapman

**Mathematics**

4<sup>th</sup> place: John Wilson

**Prose Interpretation:**

5<sup>th</sup> place: Tyler Wallace

Semifinalist –

Cassidy Rinehart

**Poetry Interpretation:**

Semifinalist –

Adam Carter

Lindsey Stamper

Also Participating: Becky

Dobyns, Emily Mayes, Aaron

Pigford, Christina Soto,

Austin Tarleton and Garrett

Thomas.

Happiness comes of the capacity to feel deeply, to enjoy simply, to think freely, to risk life, to be needed.

—Storm Jameson

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# Students Celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> School Day

The kindergarten and first grade students at Borden County ISD have been counting the school days. The big day finally arrived on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005. It was the One Hundredth Day of School!!! Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Gray packed the day with activities celebrating the number 100. There was a special breakfast in Mrs. Miller's room and each student presented their 100 collection. There were a lot of collections, such as M&M's pennies, hair ties, colored candies, marbles, pretzels, and cheese puffs.

By unanimous vote the 100 toys brought by Sam Raborn were declared the best collection of all.

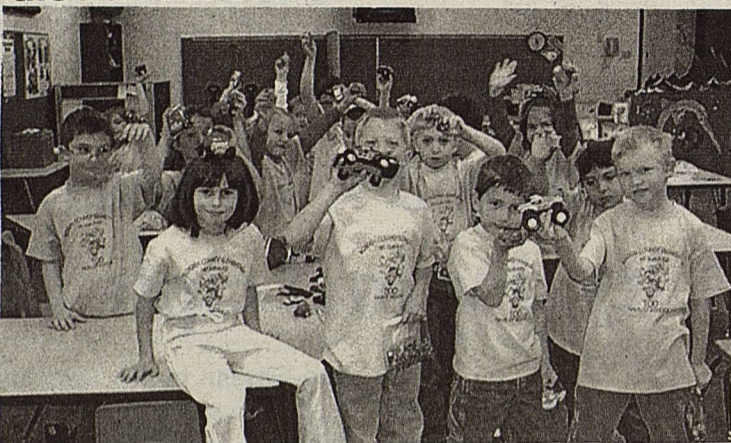
The special t-shirts were a hit with everyone; so were the balloons that were released in the afternoon. The balloons floated out of sight quickly toward New Mexico. The students hope someone will find one and write them a note.

Other activities were 100 physical activities, 100 booklets, a collection of 100 snacks, making a 100 piece necklace, and a 100 can food drive.

The celebration was enjoyed by everyone. Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Miller are already counting the days until the next 100<sup>th</sup> day of school.



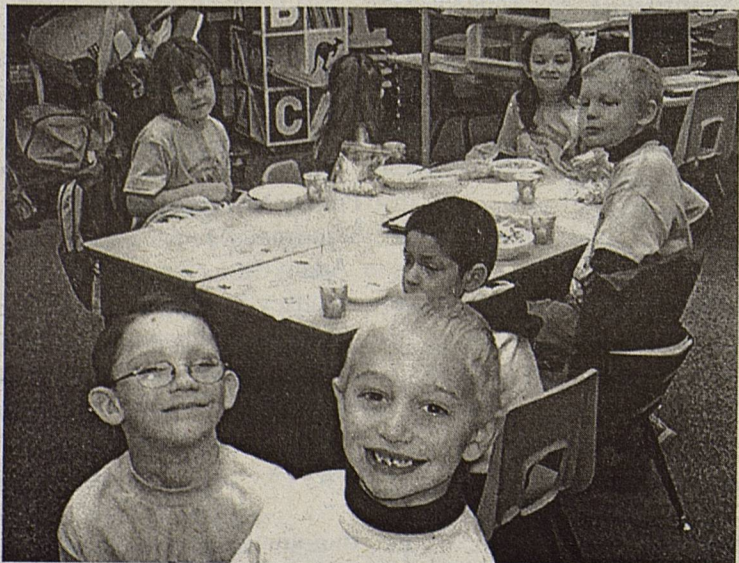
Kindergarten and first grade students form the Number 100.



Students show some of the 100 toy collection



Colby Pennell, Kylee Dean, Julia McAuley, Flint Roberts, Jordan McAuley and Makayla Herrington enjoying breakfast.



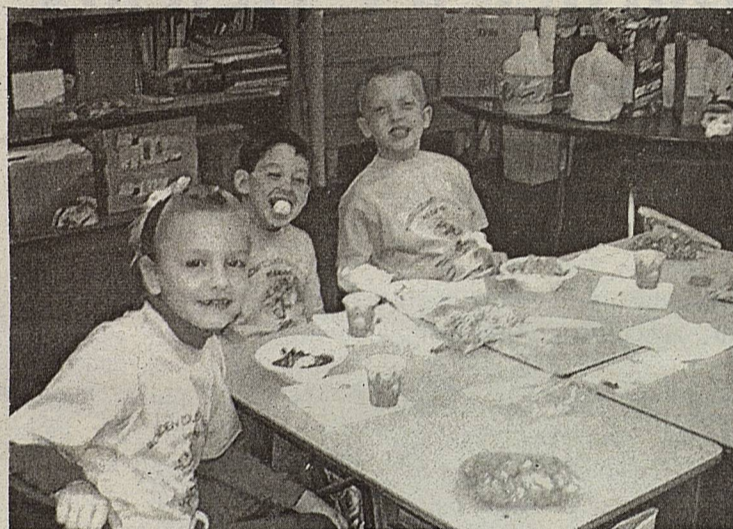
T.J. Doyle, and Colby Pennell smile for the camera. In the background, Kylee Dean, Julia McAuley, Jordan McAuley, Flint Roberts and Jayden Benavidez enjoy visiting.



Madison Benavidez, Channing Miller and Tanner Freeman.



FLY, FLY, AWAY! The students let their balloons go and watch as they head West over Gail Mountain.



Tatum Richey, Bryce Turner and Thomas Harrison fill up on the special breakfast.



What's Going On? Merik Valentine, Avery Price, Hayley Gray, Zoie Key, Samuel Raborn and Rhaeden Bland look at all the action going on in their class room as they all enjoy the special breakfast served in the first grade class.

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*From the Counselor:  
By Mary Airhart*

**Financial Aid Meeting is Set**

A meeting to help students and parents complete the necessary forms to receive federal financial aid will be held from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, in the Student Center of Lamesa High School.

The meeting is for students – and their parents – who will be going off to a college or vocational school in the fall of 2005 to help them complete student aid forms and is open to all area high school students.

Everyone who comes to the meeting is reminded to bring their federal tax return or W-2 form to the meeting, since the information on those documents will be needed to fill out the forms.

Representatives from the local accounting firm of Wilton, Newberry, Heidel, Leonard and Horton will be on hand to help transfer the information from the tax

forms to the student aid forms.

Representatives from Howard College, Plains Capital Bank and LEARN, Inc. will be on hand during the meeting to provide information to participants.

Moses Pena, a counselor from LEARN, Inc. in Lubbock, will provide information about means for obtaining financial aid. Pena also will be on hand to answer any questions about financial aid.

Tammy, Roark, vice-president in charge of student loans at Plains Capital Bank in Lubbock, will field questions about loan applications.

Anyone interested in obtaining federal financial aid needs to attend Thursday's meeting. The earlier you fill out and get in the forms, the better chance you have of receiving help.

**Scholarships Available from Poka Lambro**

Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is now accepting applications for three \$2,500 scholarships to be awarded in March of this year. Entry deadline is March 4, 2005.

The son or daughter of any member of Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. graduating from an area high school is eligible to apply. Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic achievement, involvement in extra-curricular activities and financial need.

Applications have been sent to area high schools and may

also be obtained by contacting Poka Lambro or visiting Poka Lambro's web site at [www.poka.com](http://www.poka.com). Scholarship presentations will be made at Poka Lambro's Annual Membership Meeting in March. For additional information, please contact Amy Preston at 1-800-422-2387

**Ex-Student Reunion Meeting to be held**

There will be a meeting of the All-School Reunion group on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

All ex-students, teachers, present teachers and ex-students parents are encourage to attend this meeting to help with the planning of the All-School Reunion to be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Committee's need to be organized and volunteers are needed to help send out information to exes.

Also, if anyone knows addresses of any ex-students or teachers, please get in touch with Judy Kingston or Joel Dennis so they will be sure to get on the mailing list.

If you are a parent of an ex-student of BHS, and not sure your child is on the list, please contact us to see if we have your child's address.

All help is needed to get this event planned so everyone can enjoy visiting and seeing ol' friends.

**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 Court of Texas Cooperating.

**Ft. Worth Results**

Borden 4-H and Gail FFA Lacey Newton, Kylan had several exhibitors Reynolds, Lacey Roberts, showing steers and lambs at and Riley Smith.

Ft. Worth. Results are as follows:


**Steers:**  
Kalli Poole - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place LW American  
Shelby Roberts - 7<sup>th</sup> Place LW American

**Lambs:**  
LaShae Johnson - 4<sup>th</sup> Place Class 5 Medium Wool.

Congratulations to these exhibitors! Good luck to the exhibitors preparing their animals for exhibition at San were: Chelsea Minnick, Antonio.

*Thank you,*  
*Thank you for all the prayers and concerns for Jason and our family. Everyone was really great during our time of need while he was in the hospital. If it was not for the BC EMS we would not have received the proper care and attention that we needed during that time.*  
*We are thankful to be part of a small community that treats us like family. A special thanks goes to BC ISD for the gifts you gave. It really amazed us how people that you have only spoken with a casual Hi and bye was able to call and check on us and willing to do anything for us during this time.*  
*Thank you also, for all the food that was brought over, that really helped me out.*

*Thank you again,*  
*Jason and Chanda Price*



**Child-care Needed during School Spring Break March 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>. Call: 806/439-6670 or 806/759-5252**

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**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DAVID WILLIS DENNIS, Cause #367, Borden County, Texas**

Notice to all persons is hereby given that the original letters of Testamentary upon the estate of David Willis Dennis deceased, were issued to the undersigned on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2005, in the proceedings indicated below my signature hereto, which is still pending, and that I now hold such letter. All persons having claims against said estate, which is being administered, the county below named, are hereby required to present the same to us, at the address below given, before suit upon same are barred by the general statutes of limitation, before such estate is closed, and within the time required by law Jacquie Dennis Whalen, Box 11, Gail, Texas, 79738/Mary Ann Dennis Awtry o/o Russell Awtry 17207 CR 1440, Wolfforth, Texas 79382 or their attorney Preston L. Poole, Jr., at P.O. Box 296, Post, Texas 79456.

DATED: February 03, 2005

Jacquie Dennis Whalen  
Mary Ann Dennis Awtry

# Can Agriculture Survive the Decline of the Ogallala Aquifer in the Southern High Plains?

Texas High Plains agriculture, including crops and livestock, contributes over \$5.5 billion annually in revenues but is highly dependent on water pumped from the Ogallala aquifer. More than 95% of water withdrawn from the Ogallala in the Southern High Plains is used for irrigation but today that water source is declining at an alarming rate with some wells already dry. Withdrawal rates exceed 1 foot per year while the potential for recharge is generally less than 1 inch. As depth-to-water increases, more energy is required to pump water to the surface, thus, increasing costs and lowering profitability for producers.

About 20 to 25% of the U.S. cotton crop is produced in this once vast grassland. Most of this cotton is produced in monoculture systems that are economically risky and contribute to wind induced soil erosion and depletion of ground water resources. Although large numbers of cattle are found in this region, other than grazing of wheat pastures prior to entering area feedyards, little integration of livestock and crop production has existed. Complementary benefits of integrating crop and livestock production could improve nutrient cycling, reduce soil erosion, improve water management, interrupt pest cycles, and allow economic risk to be spread out through diversification.

In 1997, scientists from Texas Tech in partnership with other universities, government agencies, producers, and area industries worked together to design and implement a long-term systems oriented field study

that has compared the cotton monoculture typical of the region to an integrated cotton, forage, and livestock system for grazing by stocker steers. Both systems used a subsurface drip system to deliver irrigation water. No-till planted cotton in the integrated system was grown in alternate rotation with small grains for grazing by the steers. A water-use efficient warm-season perennial grass used for grazing and autumn seed production makes up one half of the integrated systems acres. This research was funded primarily through the USDA-SARE program. Results of the first 5 years are published in the March-April issue of the *Agronomy Journal*.

The integrated crop and livestock system has used 23% less water for irrigation, 40% less nitrogen fertilizer, fewer inputs of other chemicals, and has improved profitability by about 90%, compared with the cotton monoculture. Cotton grown in rotation with small grains reduced soil erosion potential to below critical levels while soil erosion potential for the cotton monoculture exceeded maximum levels recommended for a sustainable system. Inclusion of forages in the system improved soil microbial activity and increased

carbon sequestration compared with the cotton monoculture. Integrating cotton and livestock production reduced economic risk through diversification of income with multiple marketable products compared with the cotton monoculture.

The agricultural future of the Texas High Plains depends on development and adoption of alternative strategies that can protect natural resources and reduce demands for water and that can provide economic returns to sustain producers and rural communities. Diversification of the cropping and livestock systems away from monoculture practices is a step toward accomplishing these goals. "The greater the decline in water level in the aquifer as water becomes scarce, the more justification there will be to adopt the integrated approach" states Dr. Eduardo Segarra, the economist on the project. Further research is needed urgently to test other integrated systems and to speed adoption of practices by producers and industries. Dryland systems must be incorporated to further reduce demands for irrigation water use.

Vivien Gore Allen, Texas Tech University Department of Plant and Soil Science, Lubbock, TX 79409-2122  
Phone: 806-742-1625, Email: felician@ttu.edu  
Media Contact: Matt Baker (matt.baker@ttu.edu)

## NBC's "Fear Factor" Sets Bad Example

On January 29, NBC ran a segment of the reality show "Fear Factor" that required barefoot, handcuffed contestants to work their way through an electrified maze as they received numerous painful shocks. The set was designed to look like a high-voltage substation.

Airing this ordeal and labeling it as entertainment was irresponsible and could encourage children to take similar unnecessary risks," said Fredda Buckner, general manager of Big Country Electric Cooperative. "Our goal at the cooperative is to make the safest possible electric environment for member-customers. At a minimum, an electric shock is painful. In extreme cases, a shock can kill."

NBC emphasized that the stunt was designed and monitored by professionals and that the general public should not attempt stunts using electricity, but participants on the show were not confident they should be attempting it either. "This isn't right," said one contestant. After completing the maze through groans, and gritted teeth, another contestant said, "I'm still shaking. I can feel that [electric] pulse inside my body."

Big Country Electric Cooperative reminds consumers to take electricity with deadly seriousness:

- Use caution around electric appliances. Keep them away from water
- Never use or touch frayed electric cords.
- Don't overload electric circuits.
- Stay indoors during electrical storms.
- Never cut the third prong on an electric cord.
- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.
- If someone is in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 instead.
- Don't try to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick.
- Don't drive over downed power lines.
- If a tree or a large branch is touching or falls on an electric line, call your electric cooperative immediately.
- Never trim trees that grow close to power lines; that is a job for professionals. Call your electric co-op for assistance and guidelines.
- Don't allow children to climb trees to build tree houses close to power lines.

### Branon Funeral Home

Serving in this area since 1922

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# Texas Trail Rides

Cont. from pg. 1

steaks." "Traveling with a film crew, I hope to be able to spread the word about true Texas hospitality and about the best places to eat."

Every horse group or riding club that joins any of the Texas trail rides will be interviewed for a show segment. Also, every rider will be photographed with their horse to be included in a book being written about the series by a journalist/photographer.

The Texas Horse Council based in Houston invited Best of America by Horseback™ to ride the following Texas locations: Conroe, TX; 7-IL Ranch in Cat Spring, TX; Hill Country Natural Area in Bandera, TX; Big Bend Ranch State Park in Presidio, TX; Perrie Haynes Ranch in Killeen, TX; Cooper Lake in Sulphur Springs, TX; Caddo National Grasslands at Coffee Mill Lake in Telephone, TX; Lake Fannin Wilderness in Bonham, TX; Ray Roberts State Park in Aubrey, TX and Palo Duro Canyon in Canyon, TX.

Interested riders or groups must have advanced registration. Each ride is limited in size. Registration is on a "first-come, first-serve" basis until full. No gate registrations will be permitted. Information and registration forms are available from Best of America by Horseback™ at

[www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com](http://www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com) or their e-mail is [andorafarm@aol.com](mailto:andorafarm@aol.com) or by phone: 540-829-9555. You can also contact the Texas Horse Council at [www.texas-horse-council.com](http://www.texas-horse-council.com).

Contact: Best of America by Horseback™

Becky Ballantyne,  
Production Manager

Website:

[www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com](http://www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com)

E-mail:

[andorafarm@aol.com](mailto:andorafarm@aol.com)

Phone: 540-829-9555

Best Of America By Horseback™ features trail rides that will be re-discovering America, it's people, music and most scenic places, all on film, all by horseback.

## GOT NEWS?

Mail it to:

P.O. Box 137 Gail, TX.

Or call: 806/756-4220

e-mail

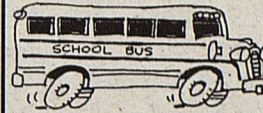
[vadcock@bcisd.net](mailto:vadcock@bcisd.net)

DRIVE CAREFULLY - - -

Watch Out for the Children!

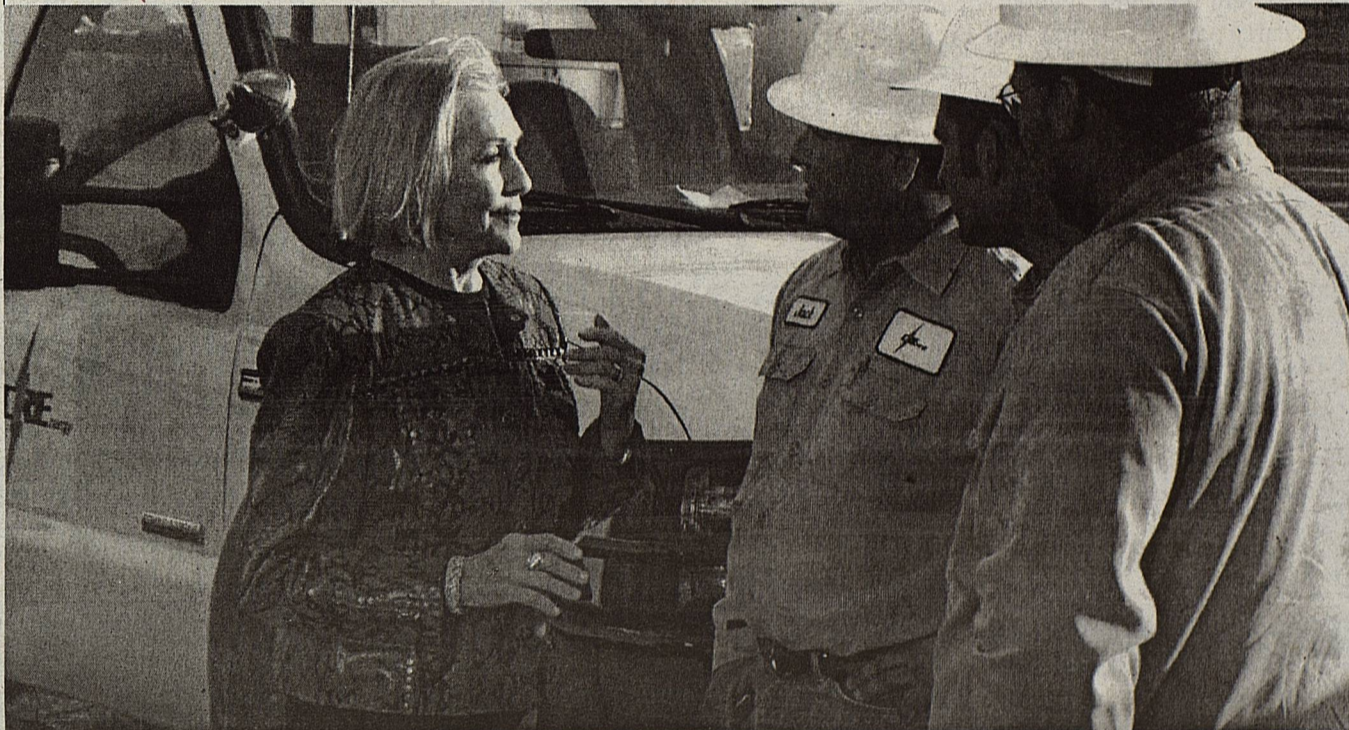
An Important Reminder from:

**Moore-Rains Insurance**



Frances Rains Stephens  
701 - 8<sup>th</sup> St. - O'Donnell, TX  
806/428-3335

## At Cap Rock Energy we're more than your electrical provider.



### We're your community electrical company.

When Cap Rock Energy linemen were installing a new transformer in San Saba County, they saw a fire roaring across the hilltop of their customer's property ... headed toward a neighbor's land.

They jumped from their trucks, grabbed shovels and helped Wynne Lou Ferguson and her husband stop the fire from spreading.

Other lineman grabbed cell phones ... called the volunteer fire department and helped direct firefighters to the scene. They worked together until the fire was extinguished.

After that ... the Cap Rock Energy linemen went back to work and finished installing the new transformer.

"They are more than Cap Rock employees ... they are friends and they are neighbors."

- Wynne Lou Ferguson

**Cap Rock Energy. Going the extra mile.**

[www.caprockenergy.com](http://www.caprockenergy.com)



# Iraq's Elections

Cont. from pg. 1  
ment of a democratic system of government.

We should remember our own past, when, after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, our nation was torn by, first, Shays' Rebellion and, later, the Whiskey Rebellion. These challenges to the new republic led some to doubt the survival of the American experiment.

The path has occasionally been rocky since then. Women marched, suffered ridicule, and were sometimes jailed as they sought the right to vote in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Only 40 years ago, African American leaders risked their lives to

secure the same liberties others already enjoyed during the struggle for civil rights.

While our progress has been difficult at times, our democratic republic has not only survived; it has prospered. Today we are a beacon of hope and freedom for the world, proving that democracy is not achieved overnight. Although it sometime seems fractious and divisive, it still provides the best form of government man has yet devised.

We must bear those lessons in mind as we support the democratic process in Iraq. It may not be perfect, but it is an important step in the right direction. Recently, our nation saw a touching

demonstration of the Iraqis' appreciation of our sacrifices during President George W. Bush's State of the Union Address. Safia Taleb al-Suhail, leader of the Iraqi Women's Political Council, hugged and comforted Janet Norwood of Pflugerville, Texas, whose son was killed in Iraq while serving with the Marines.

By seeing this struggle through, we will deliver a devastating blow to the terrorists and a resounding victory for freedom. I want our friends in Iraq who value liberty to know that we Texans do not abandon our friends when things get difficult. Our country must remain a reliable friend of freedom

## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date (s) shown below, and then publicly read.

### CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: **Abilene**

**Contract 1531-01-013** for the **SPOT BASE REPAIR** in **BORDEN** County will be opened on **March 08, 2005** at **1:00 p.m.** at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Pre-qualified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit pre-qualification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Pre-qualification 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](http://www.dot.state.tx.us) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

**NPO: 15529**

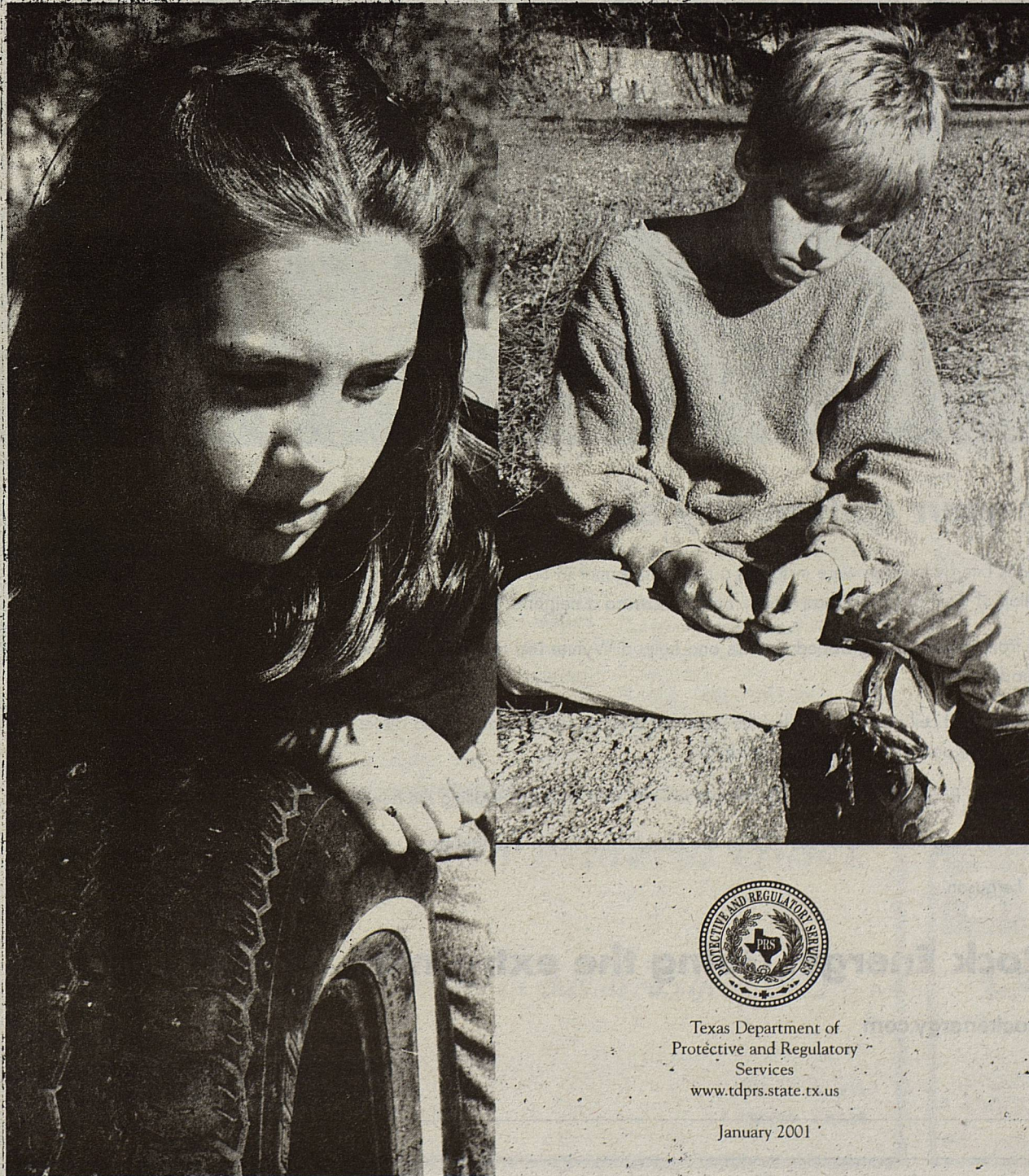
#### State Office

Constr./Maint. Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540

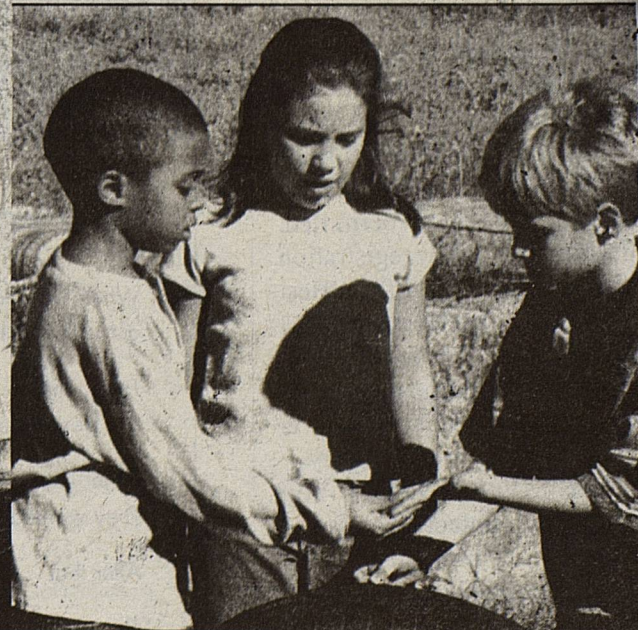
#### Dist/Div Office(s)

Abilene District  
District Engineer  
4250 N. Clack  
Abilene, TX 79601  
Phone: 915-676-6800

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.



# Parent Alert!



Texas Department of  
Protective and Regulatory  
Services  
[www.tdprs.state.tx.us](http://www.tdprs.state.tx.us)

January 2001

## Keeping Kids Safe is Everybody's Business

## It's Up To You