

The Borden Star

Borden ★ Dawson ★ Garza ★ Howard ★ Lynn ★ Scurry

Volume XXXVII

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Borden County students run through rehearsal of the one-act play *The Beggar's Opera*. Pictured are (left to right) Michael Porter, Chasiti Rutherford and Eric Espinoza. The production of the play is set to take the stage next Tuesday.

Begging For A Victory BHS One-Act Play to Compete Tuesday

The cast and crew of the Borden County High School 2009 One-Act Play production of *The Beggar's Opera* will take the stage next week for the first time at their District 4-A, Zone 1 Contest.

The Zone Contest will begin at 2:00 p.m. on March 24 in the Borden County I.S.D. auditorium.

This contest will include

productions from four other schools in the area. Sands High School's *Steel Magnolias* will begin the contest at 2:00 p.m. The Borden County High School production of *The Beggar's Opera* will go second, so an approximate 3:00 start time is probable. However, the contest manager suggests that BHS spectators ar-

(Continued to Page2)

Texas Drought Losses Approach \$1 Billion

*More losses expected for producers if
sufficient rain isn't received*

By Blair Fannin
COLLEGE STATION — The state's ongoing drought has cost the state's farmers and ranchers nearly \$1 billion, and losses could continue to mount this spring if sufficient rainfall isn't received for forage or row crops, Texas AgriLife Extension Service economists report.

Rainfall this week over much of Texas was too little too late as ongoing drought has cost livestock producers \$569 million since November. Cattle producers have spent substantial amounts on hay and supplemental feed, according to agriculture officials, and the drought losses also include failed wheat crops usually used for grazing.

When totaling losses already sustained since November, AgriLife Extension economists said the ongoing drought has cost Texas \$829 million to date. Those losses will likely surpass the \$1 billion mark in the next 60 days as livestock producers continue to make supplemental feed purchases or sell cattle and calves in a declining market, said Dr.

David Anderson, AgriLife Extension livestock marketing economist.

"The lack of rain has reduced wheat grazing production, resulting in less forage available and lost income from grazing," Anderson said.

"Texas is the largest beef cow producing state in the United States with more than five million head. More than 60 percent of the state's beef cows are located in counties categorized as being in severe to exceptional drought.

"The effects of drought on livestock go well beyond the immediate year. Drought results in reduced conception rates and calf crops the next year. The lack of feed results in lower cattle sale weights. Range and pasture recovery from drought can take multiple years and can result in reduced stocking rates while ranges recover."

Dry conditions across the state began in 2008 and have continued into early spring. Late rains that came in August of last year were too late for crop farmers, but did "grant a reprieve for ranchers in some parts of Texas," said Dr. Mark Welch, AgriLife

Extension small grains specialist.

"That reprieve was short-lived as dry weather returned and has remained throughout winter," he said.

Last fall, Texas farmers planted 5.9 million acres of winter wheat. Over the course of the winter, the condition of that wheat crop has deteriorated, Welch said. According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, about two-thirds of the Texas wheat crop is rated as being in "very poor" to "poor condition."

"These are the worst wheat condition ratings since the drought of 2006 - a year when only 25 percent of planted wheat acres were harvested and the yield on those acres averaged 24 bushels," Welch said. "The long-term average wheat yield in Texas is 30 bushels per acre."

Meanwhile, Texas' crop planting continues to be bleak due to the onslaught of dry weather, Welch said. Corn planting is 20 percent complete compared to 33 percent

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Borden County's Teryn Soto jumped a 4'8" for 1st place at the Grady Wildcat Relays. The girls and boys team's both placed 1st in the meet.

Missy Coyotes Take 1st in Wildcat Relays

By Coach McCook

The Borden County Missy Coyotes recently traveled to Grady to participate in the Wildcat Relays. The girls' team took 1st place with a total of 95 points. The following are the results:

2400 Meter Run: Taylor Gass-3rd and Shea Burkett-7th.

400 Meter Relay: Lexi Peterson, Kalyn Massingill, Kayla Pepper and Sydnie Day-2nd 59.05.

800 Meter Run: Mollie McMeans-5th-2:56.72.

100 Meter Hurdles: Kalyn Massingill-3rd-21.12.

100 Meter Dash: Sydnie Rebeles-(2nd-14.46), Kaylyn Dean, Celina Guerrero, Mindy Tyrell.

800 Meter Relay: 1st-2:06.12-Teryn Soto, Kalyn Massingill, Taylor Gass and Sydnie Rebeles.

400 Meter Dash: Teryn Soto-4th-1:12.34 and Mallory McMeans-7th-1:14.91.

300 Meter Low Hurdles: Taylor Gass-4th-1:04.08.

200 Meter Dash: Kayla Pepper-34.5, Kaylyn Dean-35.5, Jordan Day-36.5 and Maeghan Herridge-38.6.

1600 Meter Run: Mollie McMeans-6th-7:06 and Shea Burkett-7th-7:08.

1600 Meter Relay: 2nd-5:01-Mallory McMeans, Lexi Peterson, Kayla Pepper and Teryn Soto.

Shot Put: Kaylyn Dean, Kayla Pepper, Steelie Sanders, Celina Guerrero and Kassie Gaines.

Discus: Celina Guerrero, Kaylyn Dean, Kayla Pepper, Steelie Sanders, Mindy Tyrell, Maeghan Herridge and Kassie Gaines.

Long Jump: Kalyn Massingill-6th-12'3"; Sydnie Rebeles-11'11"; Taylor Gass-11'3" and Lexi Peterson-11'1/2".

High Jump: Teryn Soto-1st-4'8" and Jordan Day-3'6".

Pole Vault: Taylor Gass.

Team Total: 95 points

One-Act Play...

(Continued from Page 1)

rive by 2:45 because no late entries will be allowed into the auditorium.

The BHS performance will be followed by productions by O'Donnell High School (*The Cover of Life*), Ira High School (*The Cripple of Inishmann*), and New Home High School (*Kimberly Akimbo*).

The top two productions from the Zone Contest will

advance to the District 4-A Contest to be held at O'Donnell High School on Tuesday, March 31.

The BHS comedy tells the story of a company of ragtag beggars in the early 18th century who are performing a play for a London street audience. Their classical plot surrounds the appearance of "Captain MacHeath" (played by junior

Eric Espinoza), a romantic highwayman who becomes involved in a love triangle with two women at the same time – "Polly Peachum" (junior Chasiti Rutherford) and "Lucy Lockit" (junior D'Nae Johnson).

The girls' parents – "Mr. Peachum" (sophomore John Hensley), "Mrs. Peachum" (sophomore Phyneshia Rutherford), and "Mr. Lockit" (junior Brendan Tarleton) – create quite a stir as the two women fight for MacHeath's affection.

Joining the cast of fifteen are juniors Kagan Benham ("Dolly"), Karl Lamming ("Matt/Prisoner"), Chelsey Sapp ("Mrs. Coaxer"), & Michael Porter ("Ben/Constable").

Fellow sophomores are Krista Tarleton ("Jenny") and Miles Valentine ("Filch"). Freshmen cast members are Raegan Belongia ("Mrs. Slammekin"), Kobie Benham ("Jem/Prisoner/Hangman"), and Collin Telchik ("Ned/Prisoner").

Technical crew members for the production are senior Katherine Froman (Stage Manager), juniors Chellsie Pigford (Props & Costumes Manager) and Shylo Rinehart (Sound Technician), and sophomore Tony Soto (Light Technician).

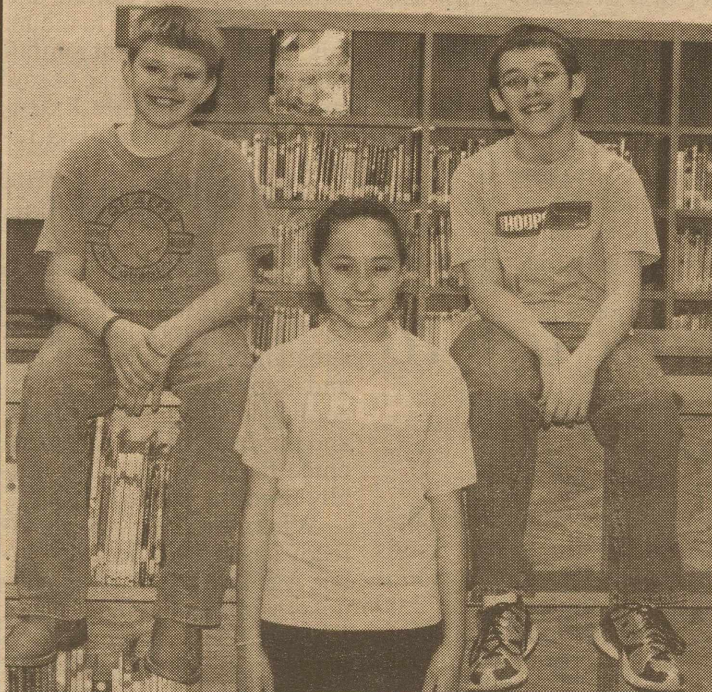
Sophomore Derek Tatum and freshmen Vivian Hernandez and Chance Taylor serve as alternates. Darrin Ard is the show's director.

Break a leg, cast and crew of *The Beggar's Opera*!





Seventh grader, Matthew Ham, leaves the blocks to start the 400 meter relay in Grady's Wildcat Relays. The team ran a time of 56.10.

Pecos Bill Tall Tales



After reading about tall tales in their literature class, the Borden County Sixth Grade wrote tall tales of their own about Pecos Bill. The stories were judged by a three-person panel. Pictured are the three writers for best tall tales: (top left) Sean Tucker-Second Place, (top right) Cayden Vaughn-Third Place and (bottom) Tye Basquez-First Place.

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Booster Club Meeting

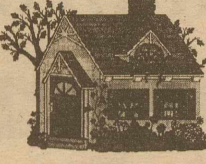
The Borden County Booster Club will be holding a meeting on Monday, March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Show Barn.

All BCISD parents or anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

Heart and Home ...

by Julie Smith
Borden County Extension Agent-Family and Consumer Sciences



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Great Looks For Less

Rearranging your existing home furnishings is a great way to give your home a new look without spending a dime. Here are some great tips to help you create that new look you've been dreaming of.

How you decide to arrange your furniture will affect the room's appeal, comfort, and functionality. If you use a combination of furniture styles, you could end up with a fun "eclectic" assortment. Understanding some basic rules about furniture arranging will help you get off to a good start.

Define the purpose of the room: This will help you decide how to use the space effectively. For example, if you need a place to work or study, you will want to allow room for a desk and chair. This could affect the size of other furniture you may want to include.

Choose a focal point: You might include the television, fireplace, a window, or an aquarium as the focal point in your room. Decide where you want to focus attention so you can arrange the furniture accordingly.

Remember, some furniture expands! A good example is a hide-a-bed sofa. Make sure there is actually enough room to pull the bed out. When you set up your dining set, you'll need to leave space to pull chairs out from the table. Areas for hobbies tend to take up extra room, too.

If you like to sew, you'll

need room for the sewing machine as well as a table to lay out your projects. And if you favor reading, don't forget to plan for good lighting and a comfortable chair.

Don't waste valuable space: Position large pieces of furniture parallel to the wall, especially in smaller rooms. Diagonal placement of furniture cuts down on precious space.

Traffic lanes are important: People normally establish a familiar path from one point to another shortly after moving into a new home. You may have to do some rearranging if you find that the traffic lanes are continually obstructed or inconvenient. It's also important from a safety perspective that you maintain a clear, uncluttered path to the main exit of any room.

Before you actually begin moving furniture, sketch out the room dimensions and use basic shapes to represent different pieces of furniture. It's much easier to try different layout options on paper than moving heavy furniture multiple times!

Finally, for a more dramatic result, try moving pieces into different rooms in your home. You'll be surprised at how well an old bedside table might look in your living room as an end-table. Be creative and enjoy!

Source: *Right@Home* web site <http://www.rightathome.com>



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AgriLIFE EXTENSION
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Agriculture News
by Cody G. Hill
Borden County Extension Agent -
Agriculture

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Houston Stock Show Results

Borden County 4-H and Gail FFA members recently exhibited their animal projects at the 2009 Houston Livestock Show.

Results are:
Steers: Thomas Nix - 1st place LW Chiapina. Others exhibiting steers were Kaitlyn Perry, Flint Roberts, and Lacey Roberts.

Lambs: Miles Valentine - 5th place Class 4 Medium Wool. Merik Valentine - 8th place Class 1 Fine Wool.

Kylie Voss - 22nd place Class 1 Fine Wool Cross. Also exhibiting lambs were Kagan Benham and Raylea Underwood. Raylea also exhibited a goat.

Swine: 1st Wave - Krystal Hobson - 8th place HW York. The 2nd wave of swine will exhibit this week and those results will be in next week's paper.

Congratulations to all 4-H and FFA members and their families!

Sign-Up for EQIP

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) in Texas is having a continuous sign up for the 2009 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The funds allocated for the EQIP program will help farmers and ranchers improve natural resources on private working lands in Borden and Scurry Counties said Kevin Wright, District Conservationist in Snyder.

The program provides cost share payments to producers applying approved conservation measures to help solve natural resource problems. The priority resource concerns were established in each county by local work groups who identified the most important natural resource issues in the area.

In both Borden and Scurry

Counties the priority resource concerns are: 1) Plant Condition, 2) Domestic Animals, and 3) Erosion Practices.

Through EQIP, NRCS also funds projects that address specific statewide resource concerns recommended by the Texas State Committee. The 2009 statewide resource concerns are EQIP Quail and Invasive Species (Salt Cedar).

Immediately following the end of the sign up period all applications will be ranked. Producers with an approved application will work with an NRCS Conservation Planner to develop a contract and a planned schedule to begin implementing conservation practices.

For more information contact the NRCS office at 5309 Big Spring Highway in Snyder or call (325) 573-6317, ext. 3.



Got News?
Mail to:
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Ext: 275
Email:
kdean@bcisd.net

School Lunch Menu

Mar. 23-27, 2009

Monday - Breakfast: Omelet & Toast, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Corn Dog, Salad, Mac & Cheese, Fruit and Milk.

Tuesday - Breakfast: Muffin, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Mexican Casserole, Refried Beans, Salad, Orange Slices and Milk.

Wednesday - Breakfast: Biscuit & Sausage, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Pizza, Corn, Salad, Pineapple, and Milk.

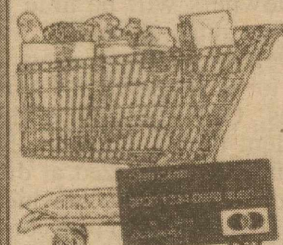
Thursday - Breakfast: Pancake Pup, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Lasagna, Carrots, Tossed Salad, Breadstick, Apricots and Milk.

Friday - Breakfast: Waffles, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Hamburger, Salad, French Fries, Cake w/Frosting and Milk.

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
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Texas Stories

A Showcase of the Texas Spirit
Tumbleweed Smith

A Firm in Monahans Outfits the Military

Jeff Wemmer is President and CEO of a company in Monahans called Best Made Designs. It produces a line of military equipment under the brand name Spec.- Ops. (which stands for Special Operations). Jeff says he and his partner, Bryan Heflin, saw the need for a good military line of packs, pouches and belts while they were both working for Camelbak, a firm that makes portable water systems for military and law enforcement personnel.

"Our military sales really started picking up in the late 90's," says Jeff. "Military folks kept coming to me and asking when we were going to start making ammunition belts and pouches and other items needed by our fighting forces. We just decided to go out on our own and start a new company."

Jeff is 45 years old now and says he was raised as a military brat. His father was in World War Two and was an advisor for wars in Korea and Vietnam. He grew up on the eastern shore of Maryland and spent much of his time hunting and fishing. When he was seventeen he tried to enlist in the Navy, but was rejected because of an eye problem. So he started out making a life of his own. He was a fisherman in the north Atlantic, a bike racer, a cowboy and a big game hunter and guide. He says he started Best Made because he wanted to do something he could be proud of.

"It's more than a business, it's a way of life for us. I thought the military was going to be my life, but it wasn't meant to be, so this is second best, making sure our fighting men and women have the proper gear. I'm on one side of

the fence and the military is on the other side, but we're still chunking rocks at the same enemy." The company produces items that are 100% made in the USA, even down to the thread used in the products. Bryan Heflin, co-owner and General Manager, was born and raised in Monahans and in 1998, when the two started thinking about starting a company, a former sewing factory building in Monahans was vacant. So they moved in. The building has 40,000 square feet and sits on twelve acres of land. Around 100 employees make the military articles plus a line of hunting gear.

Best Made Designs makes tactical nylon products: packs, pouches, rifle slings and belts. Jeff says these represent military personnel's office, closet, filing cabinet and sometimes even their bed and breakfast. He wants to make our defense forces as comfortable as possible, while at the same time providing equipment that is bomb tough. The bulk of Best Made Products are now going to Iraq and Afghanistan. Jeff goes to those places to see what our military needs and to check on how the equipment is holding up. He and Bryan are both extremely aware of quality and make sure the items they sell are in the best shape possible. Jeff was in Iraq last July 4th and got to witness the re-enlistment of 1,250 troops, the largest re-up ceremony ever held in wartime on foreign soil. A picture of that ceremony (which occurred in Saddam's palace) is in the company's catalog. He says it was a moving experience for him and a statement of pride that should have been reported on every news outlet in the US.

Thought for the Day

*Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible.
There is no glory for God in that which is humanly
possible. Faith begins where man's power ends.*

Source: thisdaysthought.org

Poka Lambro Texas Annual Meeting Drought...

(Continued from Page 1)

Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is set to host their 58th Annual Membership Meeting - Thursday, March 26, 2009. The meeting will be held at Poka Lambro's main business office located 11.5 miles north of Tahoka, Texas on US Hwy 87.

Member registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:00 noon. The business meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. One important item of business on the agenda will be the election of three direc-

tors of the Cooperative.

Other meeting highlights will include the reports of officers and directors and the presentation of Poka Lambro Scholarships. All Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative members are encouraged to attend the meeting. Members may pick up door prize cards when registering at the meeting. Members must be present to win door prizes.

For additional information please contact Amy Preston at 1-800-422-2387.

Drive Safely Watch for Children

Importance of Grazing Deferment

The objectives for most Producers are to improve weight gains, improve forage quantity and quality, increase the number of animal units, and meet the nutritional needs of the animal during resource demanding times. These goals can be met with the proper stocking rate, type of animal, grazing system, and water distribution. Without taking these key points into consideration, landowners are forced into situations where they must make uncomfortable decisions. For example, during a drought season many landowners are forced to sell several of their livestock because they do not have the resources to meet their own needs or their livestock's. This can be avoided by following a proper management plan for your livestock. If drought years or a down time in the cattle market can be anticipated, the better equipped landowners will be able to survive tough times.

Deferment is a good tool to use to be prepared for hard times. One advantage of deferment is that it allows the pastures to be grazed at different times of the year which increases grass and forb composition and forage production. It is important to allow the grasses to recover so that energy is stored in the crown of the plant. Grasses are most

susceptible to grazing when they are sending energy to the crown for storage. If too much of the leaf area is removed, the grass cannot produce enough energy reserves to survive the dormant season, so it is imperative that deferment occurs in fall (August to November) to allow regrowth for plant survival through the winter. At the start of the new growing season is also an important time to defer from grazing to allow new growth (April to June). This is especially important on rangeland that has been grubbed and reseeded to grass. Unfortunately, the reason for range improvements not being a success is that there is not a follow up plan for deferment to rest the pastures. There is no one grazing system that will meet the desires of every ranch. Most grazing systems will incorporate one or more grazing methods in addition to rotational grazing, which are based upon the type of vegetation, climate, soils, objectives and needs.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides sound technical assistance, backed up with current scientific information, to producers nationwide. Our objective is to assist producers to improve our natural resources. We assist producers with all resource concerns,

during the same period in 2008, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture, while grain sorghum is 6 percent complete compared to 22 percent a year ago.

Uncertainty remains for the state's cotton crop, Welch said.

"Given the regular occurrence of dry weather in West and South Texas, and the late planting date in West Texas, it is not unusual to be facing uncertainty about the level and condition of cotton plantings in Texas," he said. "As the West Texas crop is not planted until May, there is still ample time for conditions to change."

Source: [Texas AgriLife Extension Service.com](http://TexasAgriLifeExtensionService.com)

and provide incentives through government programs to resolve local resource concerns. Questions and concerns about natural resources can be brought to the attention of the USDA-NRCS field office located at 5309 Big Spring HWY, Snyder, TX 79549, or call at 325-573-6317 ext. 3.

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