

The Borden Star

Borden ★ Dawson ★ Garza ★ Howard ★ Lynn ★ Scurry

Volume XXXVII

June 24, 2009



The Tales of Texas Legend James Bowie

Every June, residents of Bowie, Texas participate in a celebration in honor of their town's namesake: James Bowie. "Bowie Days" involves several events such as a rodeo, a bass fishing tournament, and an antique car show. The man at the center of their celebration is remembered today for his colorful existence and his fervent dedication to Texas' independence.

According to most accounts, the legendary James Bowie was born on April 10, 1796. Bowie was raised in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana and as a teenager, he worked delivering lumber to market. When he wasn't working, Bowie enjoyed hunting and fishing and especially the thrill of capturing and riding wild horses and alligators.

Though he possessed an "open, frank disposition," an insult could provoke a hot temper in Bowie. Known for carrying a large butcher knife his brother had given him, Bowie became involved in a duel on September 19, 1827 that would go down in history as the Sandbar Fight. The original duel was between Samuel Levi Wells III and Dr. Thomas Maddox, who exchanged shots but missed each other. Another pair of men, Alexander Crain and Samuel Cuny, stepped in,

and when Cuny was shot, Bowie, a bystander, fired at Crain and missed. Crain then shot Bowie in the shoulder. Witnesses claim Bowie drew his butcher knife, chased Crain and stabbed him several times. Word of the fight got out and Bowie earned a reputation as the most formidable knife fighter in the South. Even his knife gained notoriety, as men across the South began flocking to the blacksmith to have knives fashioned in the likeness of the "Bowie Knife."

At age 34, Bowie took the oath of allegiance to Mexico and made his way to San Antonio. He was generally well liked by those he met along the way, as he was well traveled, conversational, and generous. On a darker note, Bowie had a love for gambling and operated under a mountain of debt. When he arrived in San Antonio, he presented letters of introduction to affluent Mexicans such as Juan Martin de Veramendi. Bowie gave off the impression of wealth and ingratiated himself with the Veramendi family. On October 5, 1930, Bowie officially became a Mexican citizen. A few months later, he married Ursula de Veramendi and they settled in San Antonio.

Shortly after his marriage, Bowie set out to reclaim a leg-

endary silver mine west of San Antonio from hostile Indians. His defeat of the Comanches and other Indians who roamed the region earned him further acclaim as a skilled fighter. Bowie earned the position as a colonel of the Texas Rangers, and he went on to lead an effort to defeat Mexican troops in the Battle of Conception. A man serving under Bowie during that battle said he was "a born leader, never needlessly spending a bullet or imperiling a life."

But the role that would win Bowie a permanent place in Texas history was his leadership in the Battle at the Alamo. In 1836, Army Chief Sam Houston got word that Mexican General Santa Anna was driving a large force to San Antonio. Bowie was sent to defend the Alamo with 30 men in tow. Upon his arrival on January 19, Bowie found an existing force of 104 men with hardly enough artillery to defend the Alamo.

Through his connections to influential Mexicans in San Antonio, Bowie learned that Santa Anna was on his way with a force of 4,500 men. Bowie pled with the government for more men, rifles and resources. In a letter to Gover-

(Continued to Page 2)

State Champion!



Raylea Underwood pictured with Charlie Wilson captured the Texas State Female Shooter title at the Ag. Science 381 Wildlife State Trap Shoot held in Kerrville, Texas.

Underwood Brings Home State Trophy

By Budy Wallace

The second annual Ag. Science 381 Wildlife State Trap Shoot was held in Kerrville on June 8th. The event, which was held at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Range hosted shooters representing 23 Schools in Texas.

Raylea Underwood represented Borden County Schools and the Ag. Science Department at the event and captured the Texas State Female

Shooter title by breaking 93 of the 100 targets thrown! On her way to capturing the crown, Raylea competed against 38 female shooters. Her score was also high enough to secure her the State Runner Up title in the overall 121 total men and ladies shooters division!

Raylea met the main requirement to compete as she

(Continued to Page 2)

Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

By Sue Jane Mayes

Confession time. This is not one of the commandments that I do well.

Oh, I can be nice and can mow a yard or two and wave when people drive by, but I don't love easily. Not the way this verse asks us to do.

It is a commandment that is, according to the book of Matthew, in the top two of all commandments.

Fortunately, I live next door to a guy that has made an art out of loving his neighbors.

Back in the 1980s, I taught this big burly guy named Tommy. Even then, he didn't fool me. School might not have been a top priority, but teachers have sixth senses when it comes to knowing when their students are plenty capable. Tommy was plenty capable plus some.

He left Borden County and finished at Coahoma, but fortunately for us, he married a Borden County girl, became father to four extremely talented children, and lucky for me came back to Gail and is now my neighbor.

Not only is he my neighbor,

but he is neighbor to many, many people around here. Some skills are self-taught—Tommy reads and studies diagrams and books and computer articles until he figures out exactly what he needs to do. Other skills have come from education that he received at trade schools or from work experience—on cars, mowers, appliances, fences, and even yellow Honda scooters.

I know that attending church regularly and doing all the things that we in the Bible Belt feel will either (1) get us into Heaven or (2) bring us nearer to God are important. However, there are times when I see God in people who are not always sitting on a pew.

No one is talking perfection here. The last thing Tommy would want is to be put on a pedestal. He's just a man—a good man and one whom my family recognizes as a kind person with a good heart and sweet spirit. He's a dreamer with ideas and inventions that could make him rich and famous, but most of the time he gets sidetracked by his own creativity—or by his many side projects (just ask his wife).

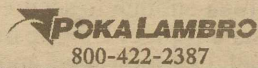
The world has some pretty selfish people tromping around these days. Borden County has many such folks such as Tommy who lend a hand and do so with the best of intentions. Brings to mind another famous "verse" not found in the Bible but a pretty good testament nonetheless: *in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart* (Diary of Anne Frank).

Thank goodness for good-hearted people and neighbors who live, not just know, the greatest of commandments.

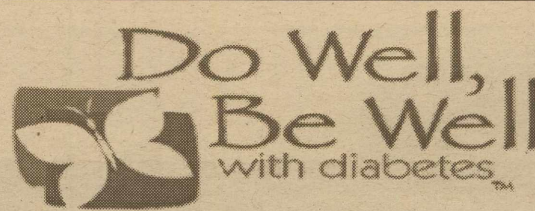
Drive Safely
Watch Out
for Our
Playing
Children

Poka Lambro Customer Notice

Effective July 1, 2009, the amount of the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) appearing on your bill each month will increase as a result of an increase in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) universal service fund contribution factor from 11.3% to 12.9%. The amount of the FUSC on your bill is calculated in accordance with the FCC's rules by applying the new universal service contribution factor of 12.9% (0.129) to the rates for interstate services that you used. The federal universal service fund program is designed to keep local service rates affordable for all customers, in all areas of the United States.



The Borden Star (USPS or PUBLICATION No. 895-520) is published weekly except Christmas and New Year's week for \$12.00 per year by the Borden Star, PO Box 137, Gail, Texas, POSTMASTER: Send Change of Address to the Borden Star, PO Box 137 Gail, Texas 79738.



Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes is an educational program for people with type 2 diabetes. The primary goal is to help participants learn how to manage their meal plan and self-care to maintain their blood glucose in the ranges recommended by the American Diabetes Association. The message is that, if you do well, you can be well with diabetes!

Classes will begin Monday, July 6th at 10:00 am and will be held in the Texas AgriLife Extension Service-Garza County Office located at 215 West Main in Post. The course will be three weeks long and classes will be held twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays. Classes will be team taught by health care professionals in Garza County and Borden and Garza County Extension Agents. For more information or to sign up, call Nancy McDonald at the Garza County Extension Office at (806)495-4400.

We will seek to provide all reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any Extension program. We request that you contact your Texas AgriLife Extension Service office as soon as possible to advise of auxiliary aid that you will require.

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex.



Legend James Bowie...

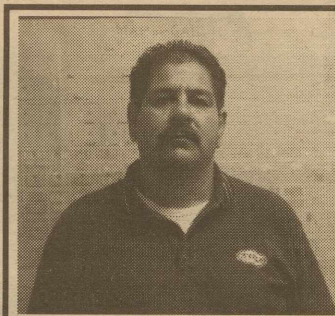
(Continued from Page 1)

nor Smith, Bowie said "the salvation of Texas depends in great measure on keeping Bexar out of the hands of the enemy." Houston had instructed Bowie to remove the artillery and destroy the fortress. Bowie refused.

Nearly 10 days later, William Travis arrived at the Alamo with 30 troops, and shortly after, Davy Crockett arrived with 12 men from Tennessee. After a power struggle with Travis, Bowie became ill and physicians were unable to diagnose him. Bowie was bed-ridden and Travis became commander of the forces. Santa Anna arrived on the outskirts of San Antonio several days later and began their siege of the Alamo on February 24. According to one reporter's account, when Travis realized they would likely be defeated, he drew a line in the sand—calling on

those who were willing to die in the fight to cross it. Bowie requested that Crockett and others carry his cot across the line.

On March 6, the Mexicans attacked the Alamo and all 188 defenders were killed. Accounts of Bowie's death vary. Perhaps the most accurate version depicts Bowie on his cot with his "back braced against the wall, and using his pistols and famous knife" before he was killed. When his mother was informed of his death, she said of her son, "I'll wager no wounds were found in his back." Killed while defending the Alamo and his beloved Texas, Bowie's colorful legacy will continue to be told and retold for generations to come.



Kenneth Wayne Gonzales

NOTICE

The following person has registered with the Borden county Sheriff's Office as a registered sex offender.

Kenneth Wayne Gonzales, 46 years of age, male
402 Sourdough Road, Coahoma, Texas 79511

Convicted of INDECENCY W/CHILD SEXUAL CONTACT

Victim was a female, 12 years old

Billy J. Gannaway
Borden County Sheriff

Wildlife State Trap Shoot...

(Continued from Page 1)

was a recent student and course completer in the Ag. Science 381 Wildlife Class taught in the Borden County Schools Ag. Science Department.

Congratulations Raylea! We are proud of you on this outstanding accomplishment and we thank you for representing Borden County ISD and Gail Texas in this event!

Charlie Wilson, contest director from Texas Parks and Wildlife Agency stated that there was a large increase in shooter numbers from last year as the contest continues to grow. He also gave a big "Thank you" for all sponsors and event coordinators.

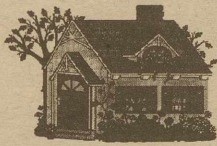
Got News?

Mail it to:
P.O. Box 137
Gail, TX 79738
806/756-4313
ext. 275
email:
kdean@bcisd.net

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

Heart and Home ...

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



Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Children at Risk in Hot Cars

Texas AgriLife Extension Service would like to remind parents that summertime is here, and with the increase in temperatures, the danger of children dying from being left unattended in vehicles increases.

Temperatures in parked vehicles can rise very quickly. According to San Francisco State University's department of geosciences, in just 10 minutes the temperature can increase by almost 20 degrees. A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's, making children more vulnerable to a deadly condition known as hyperthermia or heat stroke. At a body temperature above 104 degrees, heat stroke can occur.

Although even mild outside temperatures can be dangerous, with Texas temperatures climbing into the upper 90s each day, the danger becomes even greater.

Janette Fennell, founder and president of the Kids and Cars program, reports that there have been six hyperthermia deaths nationally so far this year. Fortunately, there have been none in Texas so far in 2009. However, last year in Texas, there were nine vehicle heat-related deaths. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 42 deaths nationally last year. Texas leads the nation with the highest number of vehicle hyperthermia deaths - 52 for the years 1998-2008.

During this time period, more than half of the deaths were due to the child being 'forgotten' in the vehicle by the caregiver. Parents and caregivers can take precautions to prevent these needless deaths by making sure that children are not left alone in vehicles and cannot have access to unlocked vehicles.

National Safe Kids reports that one-third of the heat-related deaths in 2000 were due to children becoming trapped in a vehicle they had crawled

into.

Here are some safety tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

* Never leave infants or children in a parked vehicle, even if the windows are partially open.

* Do not let children play in an unattended vehicle. Teach them that a vehicle is not a play area.

* Make a habit of looking in the vehicle - front and back - before locking the door and walking away.

* If you are dropping a child off at childcare, and normally it's your spouse or partner who drops them off, have your spouse or partner call you to make sure the drop went according to plan.

* Ask your childcare provider to call you if your child does not show up for childcare.

* Do things to remind yourself that a child is in the vehicle, such as writing yourself a note and putting the note where you will see it when you leave the vehicle; placing your purse, briefcase, or something else you need in the back seat

so that you will have to check the back seat when you leave the vehicle. Another reminder is to keep an object in the car seat, such as a stuffed toy. When the child is buckled in, place the object where the driver will notice it when he or she is leaving the vehicle.

* Always lock vehicle doors and the trunk, and keep keys out of children's reach.

* If a child is missing, check the vehicle first, including the trunk.

* If you see a child alone in a hot vehicle, call the police.

* If a child is in distress due to heat, get them out of the vehicle as quickly as possible. Cool the child rapidly. Call your local emergency number immediately. (In Borden County that number is 806-759-5311.)


While there are already some electronic gadgets on the market to help prevent these needless tragedies, the best precaution is to be vigilant and follow these safety recommendations.

Thought for the Day

*Hardening of the heart
ages more people than
hardening of the
arteries.*

--Unknown

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System



On the Wild Side of Life
by Cody G. Hill
Borden County Extension Agent -
Agriculture

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Nation's First Case of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) for 2009 Detected in Texas

The nation's first case of vesicular stomatitis (VS) for 2009 has been detected in a horse in Starr County, in far south Texas. VS is a sporadically occurring virus that is endemic to the U.S. Signs of the disease include blisters, lesions and sloughing of the skin on the muzzles, tongue, teats and above the hooves of susceptible livestock, which include horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, deer and some other species of animals.

"The most recent outbreak was in 2006 limited to Wyoming only, where 17 horses and a dozen cattle on 13 premises were confirmed to have the virus," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "To prevent the spread or introduction of infection, many states and countries will place additional entry requirements or restrictions on the movement of animals from affected states, or portions of the state. Call the state or country of destination before moving livestock, to ensure that all entry requirements can be met. Do not risk shipments being turned away, or worse, spreading disease and facing legal action by animal health authorities."

"Often horses are the signal, or first, animals to be confirmed with vesicular stomatitis when the virus is active. If the blisters and lesions are seen in cattle, sheep, pigs or other cloven-hooved

animals, our first concern is a possible introduction of foot-and-mouth disease, the most costly and destructive foreign animal disease. Horses are not susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease, but anytime blisters or unusual sores are seen, animals should be examined by a veterinarian as soon as possible."



"Move sick animals away from the remainder of the herd to protect against disease spread," urged Dr. Hillman. "Do not move sick animals from the premises, and call your veterinarian or the nearest Texas Animal Health Commission area office, or the Austin headquarters at 800-550-8242. Laboratory testing to confirm infection can be run at no charge to the livestock owner.

"Vesicular stomatitis is painful for affected animals, but usually, the lesions will heal within two weeks to a month. For some severe cases, owners may elect to have an infected animal euthanized, to put an end to the suffering. In dairies, VS infection can lead to a substantial loss of production," said Dr. Hillman. Treatment of VS-infected animals consists of supportive care, and antibiotics may be needed to prevent secondary infections in the open sores. Animal health officials in nearly all states, including Texas, require VS-infected animals and their herd mates to be quarantined until at least 21 days after all lesions have healed. A follow-up examination of the animals by the state veterinarian's office is required prior to quarantine release.

VS outbreaks are extremely sporadic, and years may lapse between cases. Sand flies and black flies are thought to play a role in the virus transmission, so controlling insects is important. In 2005, the VS outbreak involved livestock on at least 445 premises in nine states, including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. In 2004, affected animals were detected in eight counties each in Texas and New Mexico and in 22

Colorado counties. Before the 2004 outbreak, VS had been "silent" since 1998, when Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas had cases.

More information about VS and a map showing the location of Starr County in Texas are available on the TAHC web site at: <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us>.





LAMESA BUTANE CO.

ARLEN MORRIS, Mgr.

Long Distance	Local
1-800-772-5201	806/872-5200
	806/872-5356

P.O. Box 382 • 501 South Lynn • Lamesa, Texas 79331



BRANON
FUNERAL HOME

403 N. Austin Avenue
Lamesa, Texas 79331
806-872-8335 Fax: 806-

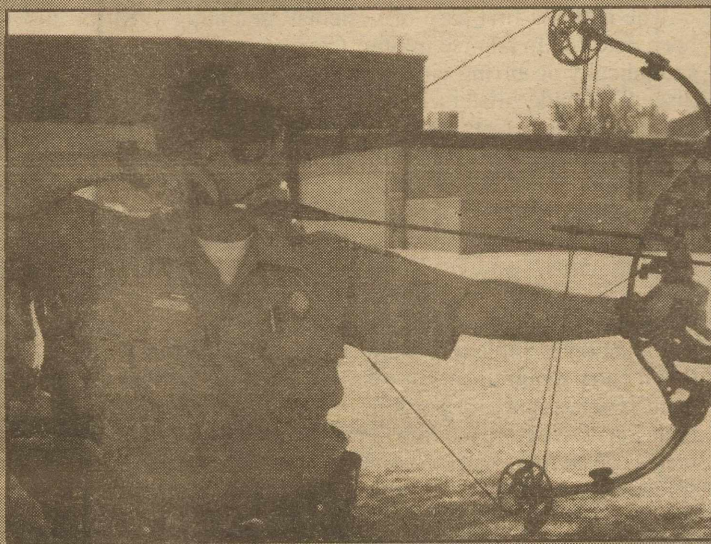
3rd & 4th generations still serving this area.

Parents Practice Too!

During the last two weeks of school, Borden County 2nd and 3rd graders were entertained by their parents.

These parents shared their special talents that took years of practice. The parents' examples helped the students realize that in order to achieve a goal, it takes practice.

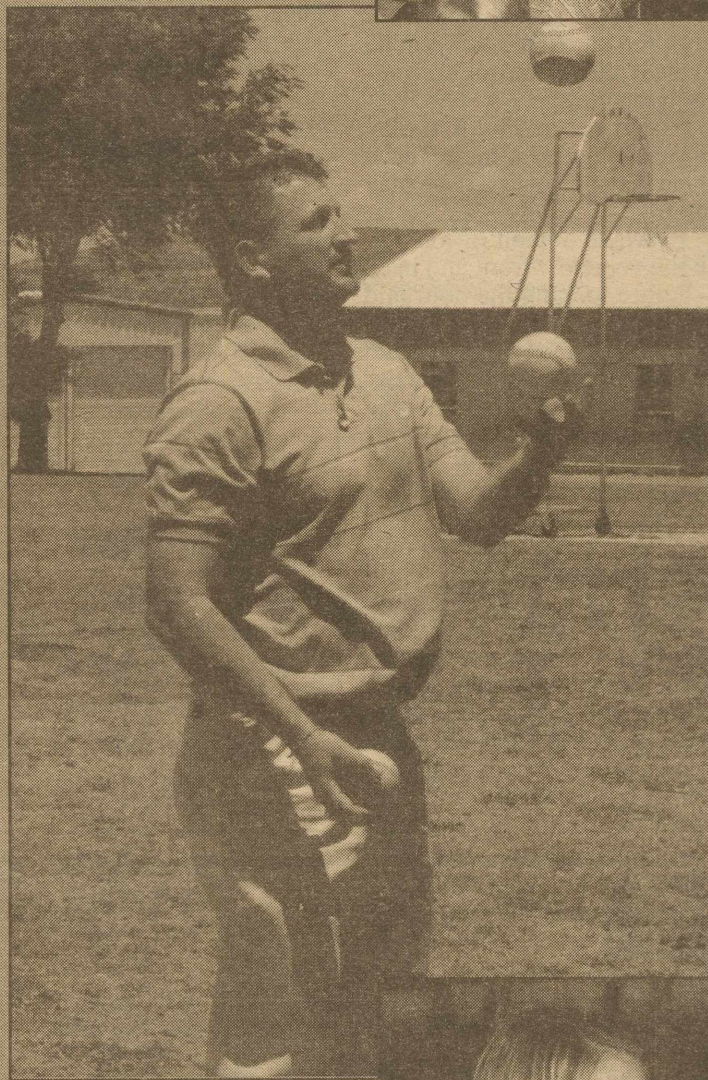
Thank you to those of you who shared your talent.



Borden County students look on as, Borden County Game Warden, Brent Tucker (above) demonstrates how to hold and aim a bow. Brent is the father of Cheyenne, Ashlyn and Kennedy Tucker



Mrs. Spencer's 2nd graders and Mrs. Richey's 3rd graders enjoyed a lesson on sewing provided by Kim Kiefer (above). She is the mother of Blaine Culver.



Several parents show how practicing can help you accomplish a goal. (top) Becky Nix and her father, Joe Webb, of Lamesa, perform with their guitar and fiddle. Becky is the mother of Thomas, J.W., Erin and Ben.

(Left) The 2nd and 3rd graders were entertained while watching Coach Richey juggle baseball's. He is the father of Taylor, Tanner, Tatum and Trace Richey and Brandi Webb (bottom) performs a tune on the piano. She is the mother of Brittan and Brinley Webb.

