

THE BORDEN STAR

VOLUME XXVIII

March 17, 1999

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

Poka Lambro Annual Meeting

The 48th Annual Membership Meeting of Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 1999. The meeting will be held at the Poka Lambro business office located 11.5 miles north of Tahoka, Texas on US Hwy. 87.

Members may register from 11:30 a.m. until the meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. One important item of business on the agenda is the election of two directors of the Cooperative. The Poka Lambro Nominating Committee met February 24,

1999 and nominated the following Poka Lambro members to be voted upon:

District 1:

Steve Furlow and Randy Simpson (Incumbent)

District 2:

Clint Flandermeyer and Donald Love (Incumbent)

Other highlights of the meeting will include the Cooperative's financial report, and the presentation of the three \$2,500 Poka Lambro scholarships. All Poka Lambro members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting. For more information contact Amy Preston at 1-800-422-2387

Priority Area to receive EQIP Funding

The Colorado Headwaters watershed has been approved as a Priority Area to receive Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds. Included in this watershed is approximately ninety percent of Borden County and sixty percent of Scurry County," stated Kevin Wright, Resource Team Leader, for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Snyder.

Seventy-five percent of the available funding for

EQIP in Texas is designated for Priority Areas.

"The agricultural producers within this Priority Area will have a better chance of receiving EQIP funding to do natural resource conservation work than those outside a Priority Area," says Wright.

Improving water quality for Lake J.B. Thomas, Lake Colorado City and Champion Lake, which supply drinking water for area citizens, is a main goal. Each of these

Ireland is coming to the Borden High School Auditorium



The home of the St. Patrick's Day tradition is coming to mean much more to Borden County High School theatre students this year with their approaching One-Act Play production of scenes from Brian Friel's Irish folktale, *Dancing at Lughnasa*. An eight person cast and four member crew of B.H.S. students will bring their contest piece to the Borden High School stage on Tuesday, March 23rd, at 7:00 p.m., in preparation for the U.I.L. One-Act Play zone competition to be held in Westbrook on March 25th. The top two plays from the District 9A-East Zone will advance to the district contest at Dawson High School on March 29th.

The story line of this 1991 Tony Award-winner

reservoirs receives surface runoff from this watershed to re-charge their water supply.

Conservation practices reduce the amount of sediment in surface runoff from agriculture lands.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance to farmers and ranchers that participate in this voluntary conservation program.

for Best Play of the Year focuses on a 1936 Irish family of five unmarried sisters as they experience hardship and heartbreak at the hands of the men in their lives. The story is a recreated memory of the youngest sister's son, Michael, who narrates the play as an adult. He shares with the audience the events of the summer he remembers most as a child—the summer that he was seven years old. During this summer, his mother's brother, Jack, returns to the family homestead after serving as a Catholic missionary to Africa for twenty-five years. Father Jack's questionable return is accented by the unexpected arrival of Michael's absent father, Gerry Evans, who sweeps Michael's mother, Christina, off her feet once again. Internal strife between the other strong-willed Mundy sisters (Rose, Agnes, Maggie, & Kate) develops as tension and financial hardship hit the family from all sides. Adding a soft touch, and thus giving the Mundy family what little joy they have, is the purchase of a wireless radio. The music from the outside world allows the sisters to relive

their teenage "wonder years" when the Festival of Lughnasa granted them freedom to express themselves through dancing. But as the play shows us, this revival of "freedom" does not come without consequences. The 40 minute production, with its plot twists and eye-opening realizations, promises to be an excellent evening of theatre.

The theatre students involved in the production have spent many late nights of rehearsal following basketball practice in order to bring this play to you. These actors and actresses involved (along with the character they are portraying) are: D.J. Smith as Michael, Holly Thomas as Rose Mundy, Kandace Kimmel as Maggie Mundy, Bekah Hensley as Agnes Mundy, Katie Kemp as Christina Mundy, Erica Schooler as Kate Mundy, Robert Stamper as Father Jack Mundy, and Dale Grant as Gerry Evans.

Crew members include Brenda Griffin, stage manager; Ross Aten, light technician; Krystle Lee, sound/music technician; and Ky Merritt, costumes, props, and makeup

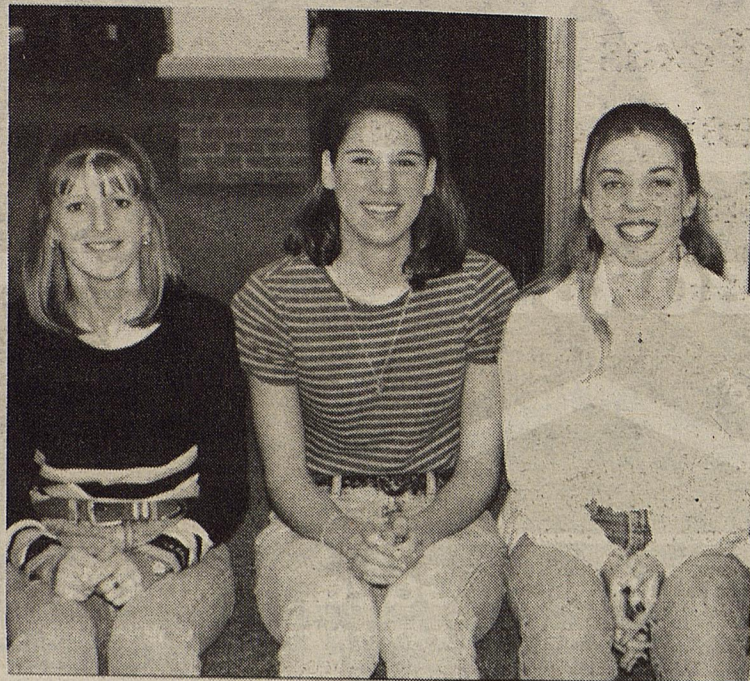
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Girls All-District Selections:

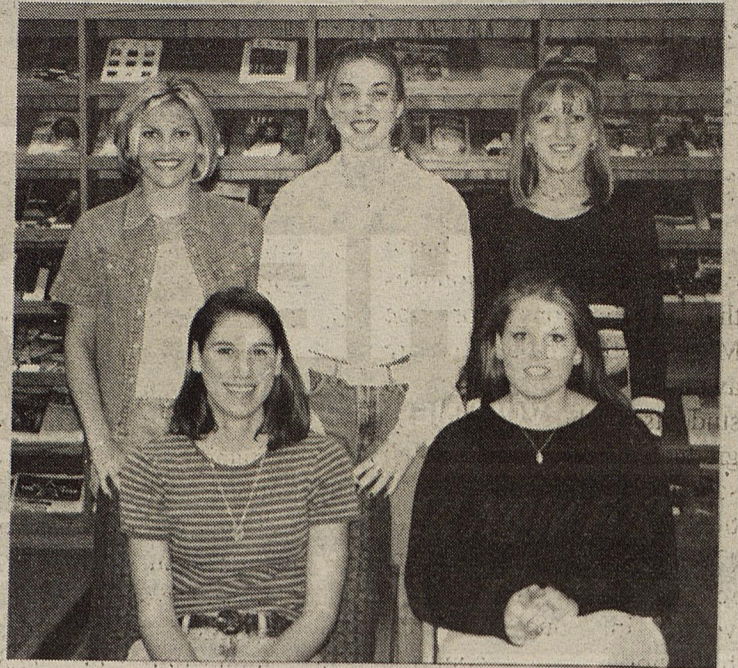
- Katie Yates, Grady, Sr.
- Valerie Wootan, Borden Co. Soph.
- Rebecca Robles, Grady Sr.
- Morgan Clements, Ira Soph.
- Julie Mayes, Borden Co. Jr.
- Brianna Fryar, Sands Jr.
- Carolina Madison, Grady Jr.
- Lindsey Smith, Borden Co. Jr.
- Jaci Hill, Westbrook Jr.
- Amanda Watts, Borden Co. Jr.
- Anna Hall, Sands Jr.

Honorable Mention:

- Katie Kemp, Borden Co. Sr.



Girls All-State Selections: (L. to R.) Lindsey Smith, Valerie Wootan and Julie Mayes.



Girls All-District Selections: (L. to R.) from Borden County, Katie Kemp, Sr.; Julie Mayes, Jr.; and Lindsey Smith, Jr. Bottom row: Valerie Wootan, Soph, and Amanda Watts, Jr.

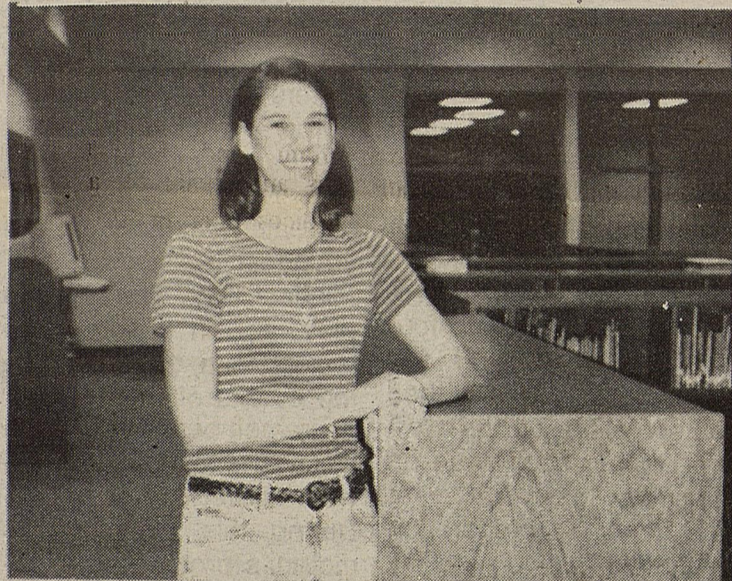
Class 1A All State Selections:

First Team:

- Kim Moore, Zehyr
- Sarah Dodds, Brooksmith
- Elaina Jones, Walnut Spring
- Amanda Ama, Strawn
- Valerie Wootan, Borden Co.
- Julie Mayes, Borden Co.
- Lindsey Smith, Borden Co.
- Krissy Shipman, Guthrie
- Sarah Littlecreek, Chillicothe
- Kia Morris, Lazbuddie

Second Team:

- Marianna Dobrovolny, Whitharral
- Tiffany Martison, Meadow
- Jennifer Harrel, Abbot
- Shara Hilliard, Slidell
- Miranda Corelius, Wellman-Union
- Katie Yates, Grady
- Tiffany Murphy, Aqiulla
- Morgan Clements, Ira
- Brianna Fryer, Sands
- Itaya Jackson, Calvert
- Kema Crawford, Brooksmith



Class A - All State Tournament Selection: Valerie Wootan, Sophomore



Six Man Coaches All-Star Game Selection: Katie Kemp, Senior

*Lady Coyotes
Are #1*

Thank You!

The Lady Coyotes and their coaches would like to take this time to show our appreciation for the Fantastic Support shown to us throughout the season and especially during the Play-offs. Your support and encouragement to each of us was a great driving force for all our victories.

Thank You So Much,
The Lady Coyotes,
Coach Winegarner &
Coach Wootan

Application for Marie Hall Scholarship Fund available

The Permian Basin Area Foundation announces that applications for the Marie Hall Scholarships are available for distribution to students who either (1) graduated from a high school located in one of the following counties, or (2) maintained a permanent residence for the last 5 years in one of the following counties: Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Kent, Loving, Lynn, Martin, Midland, Mitchell, Scurry, Sterling, Ward and Winkler.

Scholarship awards, ranging generally from \$250 to \$1500 per semester, are available to students of any academic pursuit. Recipients of the scholarship must attend one of the following colleges or universities:

1. Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas
2. Howard College, Big Spring, Texas
3. Midland College, Midland, Texas
4. Odessa College, Odessa, Texas

Ireland is Coming

Cont. from pg. 1

coordinator. Serving as alternates and understudies for the production are Ryan Grant, James Bond, and Lacey Grant. First-year Borden I.S.D. teacher, Mr. Darrin Ard, directs the play.

So, if you want to extend your celebration of St. Patrick's Day, come support your Borden County High School One-Act Play as they seek to continue in the many successes of the 1998-99 school year with the luck of the Irish.

5. Sul Ross University, Alpine, Texas
6. Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas
7. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Midland, Odessa or Lubbock, Texas
8. University of Texas of the Permian Basin, Odessa, Texas

Applicants may request an application by contacting the financial aid office of one of the above educational institutions. Completed applications are to be returned to the financial aid offices by May 12, 1999.

For further information regarding the scholarship program, please contact the Permian Basin Area Foundation at (915)682-4704.

Texas children to benefit from four early childhood development initiatives

By Laura Bush
First Lady of Texas

Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted. - Garrison Keillor

Wouldn't it be nice if babies came with an instruction manual? When my husband and I were first married, we had a couple of theories on raising children. The next thing we knew, we had a couple of children to raise and no theories.

Fortunately scientists and researchers have now verified that many of our generations - old practices

and instincts about raising children are correct. And they have made wonderful new discoveries about how children develop. Today parents can access a wealth of new information about early childhood development and about the best ways to help children build strong foundations for successful lives.

Scientific evidence confirms that a child's experiences from day on to grade one have a direct and profound impact on his future - and on our future in Texas. Many valuable experiences begin at birth...and what happens in the womb and during the infant and toddler years has an impact on a child's choices later in life.

As First Lady of Texas I want to help bring the latest early childhood development information to the people of Texas; not only to mothers, fathers and caregivers, but also to educators, health care professionals, policy makers, foundations and businesses. I am thrilled to advocate four early childhood development initiatives that will help Texans make the right choices for young children.

Ready to Read Initiative - focuses on preschool-age children. The initiative will help Texas communities establish early childhood programs based on a model head-start program in

Dallas at the Margaret H. Cone Center. This program is generously supported by the Texas Instruments Foundation, and it helps inner city, four-year-old children prepare for learning and reading in school. Standardized test results show that a majority of children who attended the program are performing better in school than those who did not, and they are

Cont. to pg. 7

Parents Club Pre-School Easter Egg Hunt



There will be a Pre-School Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday afternoon, April 1st at the Park Pavilion

Everyone is asked to bring 1 dozen candy filled eggs.

SEE YOU AT THE HUNT!

1999 Track Schedule

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------------|
| March 25 | Sands | Jr. High |
| March 26 | Sands | High School |
| April 1 | Wellman-Union | Jr. High |
| April 2 | Wellman-Union | High School |
| April 8 | Sands District | High School |
| April 12 | Wellman-Union | Jr. High |
| April 16 | Abilene Wylie | |
| | SUB-REGIONAL | High School |
| April 20 | Borden Co. | J.H East Zone |
| April 30 | Abilene Christian-REGIONAL | High School |
| May 1 | Abilene Christian-REGIONAL | High School |
| May 14-15 | Austin - STATE | High School |

Menu

Lunch: \$1.00 K-6th.
\$1.25 7th-12th.
Breakfast: .50c

March 22nd-25th

MONDAY: Steak Fingers, Carrots, Corn, Hot Roll, Fruit, & Milk

Breakfast: Egg & Cheese, English Muffin, Juice & Milk

TUESDAY: Tamales, Salad, Beans, Tortilla Chips, Pudding, & Milk

Breakfast: French Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk

WEDNESDAY: Chicken Strips, Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Jello & Milk

Breakfast: Pancakes, Ham, Juice & Milk

THURSDAY: Ham & Cheese Sandwich, French Fries, Salad, Cookies & Milk

Breakfast: Cinnamon Rolls, Fruit, Juice & Milk

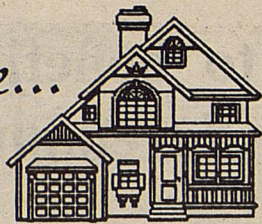
FRIDAY:

NO SCHOOL Weather Day



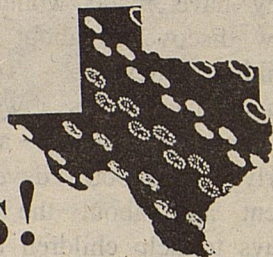
Heart and home...

By Julie D. Mumme
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.

Walk Across Texas!



If Earnest Tubb could waltz across Texas for love, couldn't you and a group of friends walk across the Lone Star State for health?

Walk Across Texas is an eight-week program that will spark some friendly competitions in Borden County, other than in football and basketball. Teams of eight will compete to see who can log the most miles walking, jogging, or even biking. The kickoff for Borden County is Monday, April 5th.

Teams will keep track of their miles, which will be posted in the Extension office and published in the Borden Star.

Many people are unaware of the positive benefits of exercise. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number 1 problem in the United States. The risk of heart disease could be significantly reduced by regular exercise.

According to the Texas Department of Health, the positive effects of physical activity are not limited to lowering the risk of heart disease. Not only does regular exercise help relieve stress and anxiety, physically active people outlive inactive people," a TDH report stated.

Participating in Walk Across Texas is not only a great way to get involved with our community; it's a

healthy habit. To participate in Walk Across Texas, first get a team of 8 together; biking and jobbing teams are limited to four people; choose a team captain and name your team; fill out a registration form available at the Borden County Extension Office in Gail

We will have a kick-off party on Monday, April 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Building in Gail. Come out and plan to have a lot of fun!

For more information, call the Extension office at (806)756-4336.

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now \$4,170.
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Phone: 403 N. Austin
806/872-8335 Lamesa, TX.

Letters:

Dear Gail Water Users:

Borden County Commissioners' Court regret having to increase water rates, but increased cost of water from the property owner in Dawson County, as well as increased repair and operating costs make it necessary.

Therefore, the Borden County Commissioners' Court on March 8, 1999 set the schedule of rates for water users on the Gail Water System as follows:

To be effective beginning March 1, 1999

Churches -

Retired Senior Citizens:

\$10.00 minimum for the first 3,000 gallons, thereafter \$3.15 per each 1,000

All other:

\$19.00 minimum for first 3,000 gallons, thereafter \$3.15 per 1,000 gallons.

FOR THE BORDEN CO. COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Van. L. York
County Judge

NOTICE TO GAIL WATER USERS

The Borden County Water System has been notified by the Texas Department of Health that the water being supplied by our system exceeds the maximum constituent level for Fluoride established by the Department's "Drinking Water Standards" which were promulgated as required by the "Safe Drinking Water Act", Public Law 93-523 (U.S.)

The limit for this area has been set at 1.6 milligrams of Fluoride per liter of water. The samples of water from our system contained 5.4 milligrams of Fluoride per liter.

The excessive Fluoride content of the water may cause mottling of the teeth in children under 14 years of age. All dentists in this area are aware of the Fluoride level.

Consult your dentist for further information

FOR THE BORDEN CO. COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Van. L. York
County Judge

Wedding Plans Announced



Kerri Zachary & Peter Benavidez

Mr. and Mrs. Casey Zachary of Post, Texas are proud to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Kerri Sue Rios to Peter Paul Benavidez son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Benavidez of Borden County.

The couple will be married June 5th, 1999 in the First United Methodist Church in Post.

Both are 1997 graduates of Borden County High School. Peter is currently a student at Texas Tech University majoring in business. He is currently employed by Texas Tech University and the Dallas Cowboys Pro Shop.

The couple will reside in Lubbock, Texas.

JOB VACANCY

Job Title: Summer Maintenance Technician

SALARY: \$6.33 - \$7.85 per hour

LOCATION: US 180, Gail, Texas

JOB VACANCY NUMBER: 9 08 K503 550


CLOSING DATE: 04-09-99

Application and a copy of the Job Vacancy Notice may be picked up at the District Office at 4250 N. Clack, Abilene, Texas or any other TxDOT office. Completed applications may be mailed to TxDOT, P.O. Box 150, Abilene, Texas 79604 or returned to any TxDOT Office.

"An applicant needing an accommodation in order to apply for this job may call the phone number of the Human Resources Office (915)676-6817. You may also call the telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (512)416-2977."

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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, P.O. Box 137, Gail, Texas 79738. Second-class Postage paid at Gail, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send Change of Address to the Borden Star, P.O. Box 137, Gail, Texas 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 Court of Texas Cooperating.

San Angelo Show Results

Results from the San Angelo Livestock Show are as follows:


- Steers:**
Kalli Poole - 3rd place
HW American Cross
Tanner Poole - 3rd place
MW American Cross
Kaci Poole - 6th place
MHW European


Exhibiting barrows were Garrett Thomas, Holly Thomas, and Kalli Poole. T.C. Stipe exhibited a lamb.

Congratulations to all

exhibitors who participated in this past stock shot season. Good luck to each of you in the upcoming year.

Thank again to all who helped with the transportation of animals and exhibitors. Your assistance in all areas is greatly appreciated. Thanks to our Commissioners' Court and the staff at the Borden County I.S.D. for all your assistance in each years major stock shows.

EMS 
Memorials
IN MEMORY OF:
EDWARD SMITH
Jess & Sharlot Stone
Sid, Connie & Carrie Hart
J.D. Hart
Roland & Karan Key
Family
Jacque & Bo Hendricks
Donna Hendricks
Bertie Copeland Family
Joel Woelfel
Verna Faye Ogden
Borden Co. EMS
Linda Perry Stanford
Dorothy Dennis



SEEDS FROM THE SOWER
Michael A. Guido
Metter, Georgia

One day a father found it necessary to chastise his daughter. After the correction she climbed onto his lap and said, "Daddy, I love you."

"Why?" he asked.
"Because," she answered, "you try to make me good."

That's why our heavenly Father chastens us - to make us good.

The Bible says, "God's correction is always right and for our best, that we may share His holiness."

"Being punished isn't enjoyable while it's happening - it hurts. But afterward we see the result, a quiet growth in grace and character."

Corrected by God? Say like the little girl, "I love You, because You try to make me good."

Texas Wildflower Hotline

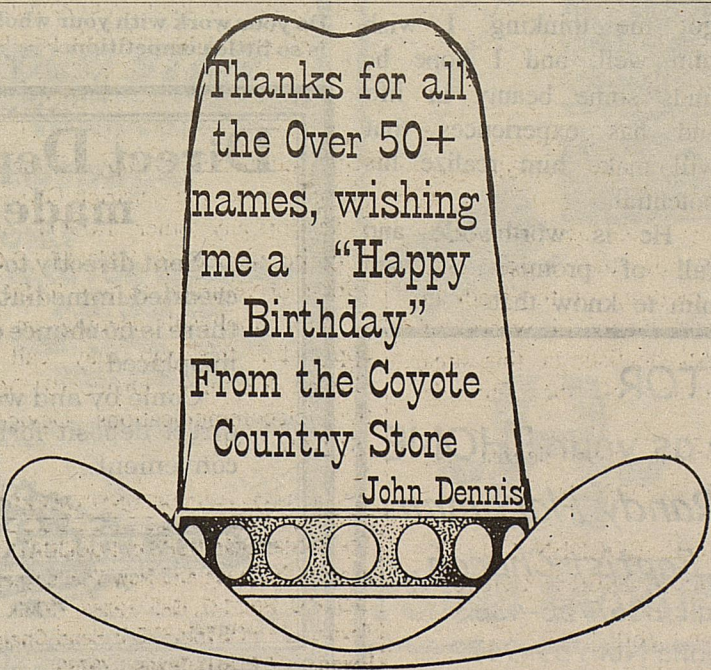


So you've got friends and family coming to town, and they want to see those famous Texas blue-bonnets . . . Where to go? Where to look? Search no more, simply call the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's **Texas Wildflower Hotline** sponsored by **NEWSRADIO 590 KLBJ AM** at (512)832-4037.

The Wildflower Hotline is a 24-hour service that details the locations of the most spectacular roadside displays of wildflowers throughout Texas. The Hotline runs **March 5 through May 21, 1999** and is updated every **Friday** by Wildflower Center botanists.

Wildflowers are blooming all over Central Texas, but the best place to see

them is still at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Named on of "America's best Public Gardens" by *Garden Design* magazine, the Center is open from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. During the month of April, The Center also is open on Mondays.



Thanks for all the Over 50+ names, wishing me a "Happy Birthday" From the Coyote Country Store
John Dennis

HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY JACQ

March 17, 1999
From Guess Who!



EMERGENCY ORDER PROHIBITION OF OUTDOOR BURNING

February 17, 1999

WHEREAS, in accordance with provisions of the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, a state of disaster has been declared based on the imminent threat of disaster from wildfire; and

WHEREAS, declaration of such disaster authorized the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of such fires;

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED, that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for all unincorporated areas of Borden County, Texas for the duration of the above mentioned declaration:

(1) Actions Prohibited:

A person violates this order if he burns any combustible material outside of an enclosure which serves to contain all flames and/or sparks, or orders such burning by others.

(2) Enforcement:

(a) Upon notification of suspected outdoor burning, the fire department assigned to the location of the fire shall respond to the scene and take immediate measures to contain and/or extinguish the fire.

(b) As soon as possible, a duly commissioned peace officer shall be sent to the scene to investigate the nature of the fire.


(c) If in the opinion of the officer at the scene and/or the Fire Chief, the goal of the order can be attained by informing the responsible party about the prohibitions established by this order, the officer may, at his discretion, notify the party about the provisions of this order and request compliance with it. In such instances, an entry of this notification shall be made into the dispatchers log containing the time, date, and place of the warning, and the name of the person receiving the warning.

(3) At the discretion of the peace officer and/or Fire Chief, second or flagrant violations of this order may be prosecuted in accordance with the statutes and procedures governing misdemeanors.

BE IT ALSO ORDERED that this order may be enforced by any duly commissioned peace officer and that the venue for prosecution of this order will be the Justice of the Peace Court, Borden County, Texas.

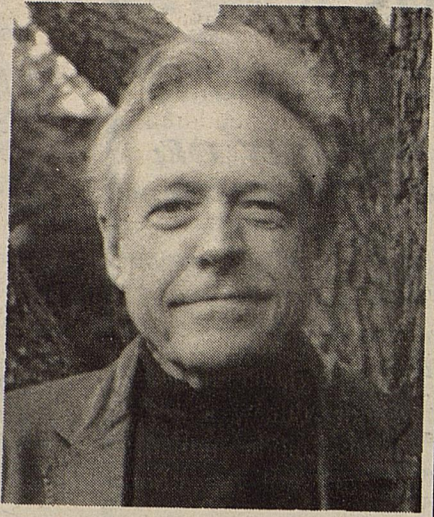
Van L. York
Van L. York, Borden County Judge

PRESS TO READ



Texas Stories
A showcase of the Texas Spirit

Tumbleweed Smith
Part owner of Texas



Is Life Fair?

I had a good time I speaking to a fifth grade class the other day. I was impressed with how smart the kids were. They answered a few questions I asked and were attentive. After doing some yo-yo tricks and telling them about some of my fifth grade experiences (like the time I misspelled the word crochet and thereby missed being the champion speller of the school). I got down to the main topic of the day: truth, fairness and building goodwill.

We got into some pretty deep discussions, especially for a fifth grade class. One youngster seemed so very bright. His hand shot up every time I asked a question. I could tell right away that he was the best student in the class.

At one point when we were discussing fairness in dealing with people and situations, that bright student raised his hand. When I called on him, he said three words I was surprised to hear. He said, "Life is unfair".

I asked him if he had read that somewhere or heard it from someone. I thought surely he had not lived long enough to come up with that conclusion about life. It was painful to me to hear an eleven-year boy, especially one who showed so much promise, utter what I personally considered to be

a negative comment. I may be in the minority here.

I noticed the class got fairly quiet when he said those words. Everybody seemed to withdraw a little. The youngsters became rather pensive. There was sadness in the room. We spent the next few minutes discussing the comment. After awhile things got back on track and the class lightened up. I was in front of the kids for some forty-five minutes, then sat down, feeling that at least the kids had something to think about the rest of the day.

It had been a few days since I spoke at the school. I have told some adults about the comment the youngster made. Most of them agree that life is unfair. Now, these are healthy people, above average in every way, able to have anything they want and do exactly what they want to do. And they think life is unfair.

I know that bad things happen to good people. Most of the bad things that have happened in my life I

have brought on myself. I take full responsibility. I don't consider life to be unfair. I think life is what you make it.

Some of the happiest people I have known have horrible, crippling diseases. Their eyes shine and they have positive outlooks. They are thankful for every moment of life and appreciate being alive.

I have talked with successful people who started out in large, poor families living on scraps of food and sleeping in one room. They were fortunate to get an education and build a good life. They don't think life is unfair.

I think life is a gift to be opened daily, and the person opening it should be thrilled with anticipation of what the gift might be.

That fifth grader sure got me thinking. I wish him well, and I hope he finds some beauty in life and has experiences that will make him realize his potential.

He is worthwhile and full of promise. I want him to know that.

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Gail Baptist Church
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 Mobile No: 759-9472




CAPITOL COMMENT
 U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



TRACKS LEAD TO THE FUTURE

Despite the nostalgia that trains evoke, I am one of those people who believes that passenger trains are the wave of the future, not a part of the past. In a state like Texas, where a "short" trip between two cities can mean 400 miles or more, efficient, affordable transportation is a necessity, not a luxury.

But good highways alone will not meet Texas' future transportation requirements. We need a carefully planned, flexible combination of highways, airports, trains and mass transit to get people around our state as quickly and comfortably as possible. These systems will increase mobility and enhance tourism all across Texas.

We should be looking for ways to combine each mode of travel to strengthen our entire state and national transportation network.

In rural and suburban Texas, such a multi-mode system has the potential to offer travelers options where few exist today.

For example, a grandmother in a rural area such as Bandera should be able to board a bus in her hometown, ride to the bus station in San Antonio, which is also the train depot, catch a train in San Antonio to visit their relatives in Houston, or connect to the airport and travel to Philadelphia to visit friends. Trains can provide a new kind of family vacation, or offer groups a way to travel to conventions or football games.

As we approach the next millennium, all Texans should be able to take advantage of such seamless, efficient connections.

A future-oriented transportation policy can only be created with states and communities acting as full partners.

Texas already has pitched in. When Amtrak reduced the frequency of the Texas Eagle two years ago, the affected cities worked together to initiate connector bus services to keep Amtrak's presence in Texas strong. The cities alongside the Eagle route have invested their money and enthusiasm to enhance Amtrak service. The service has been restored -- and is growing, as additional days are scheduled and Amtrak seeks more profitable contracts to include freight and mail delivery.

Forty years ago, the future of transportation was in highways and trucks, and the federal government built the interstate highway system. Twenty years ago, the future was in aviation and hundreds of airports were built or upgraded in federal-state-local partnerships.

Now those systems are mature, and their functions should be complemented by the further development and expansion of our passenger and commuter rail systems. This is a long-term investment that will pay big dividends not too far down the line.

Many of our highways and airport runways are operating at capacity. Railroad lines remain the one under-utilized transportation infrastructure.

Passenger rail has the ability to expand its capacity rapidly, carry on despite severe weather conditions and transport large numbers of people in an environmentally sound manner.

Railroads and light rail systems offer new options to people who can't drive and don't have access to airports.

We have seen the future, and there are train tracks running through it.


Do your work with your whole heart and you will succeed—there is so little competition.

—Jules Renard

Direct Deposit Banking
made easy . . .

Sent directly to our bank, your check is credited immediately to your account and there is no chance of it being lost, stolen or misplaced.

Come by and we'll help you fill out the direct deposit form, it's quick, easy and convenient.



O'Donnell **FDIC**

Texas children

Cont. from pg. 3

performing above the national average for most children their age. Governor Bush has asked the Legislature to appropriate \$2 million over the next two years to fund these pilot projects.

Reach Out and Read - a pediatric literacy program in which doctors and nurses actually "prescribe" reading to parents and their children during well-child exams. Volunteers read to children in the waiting rooms, and after each visit, young patients get to take home a free book. Texas currently has more than a dozen Reach Out and Read programs throughout the state, and we are asking hospitals and clinics to create pilot projects modeled after this successful program.

Take Time For Kids - a Texas Department of Health Initiative featuring educational programs, public service announcements and a parenting magazine. The public awareness campaign is designed to give parents helpful information on topics such as immunizations, hearing exams, nurturing and reading with children. Governor Bush

has included \$2.2 million dollars in his proposed budget for the *Take Time For Kids* parenting magazine.

Family Literacy - Texas communities are encouraged to establish family literacy programs through local collaborations. Grants will continue to be available from the First Lady's Family Literacy Initiative for Texas, which has already granted approximately \$600,000 to 30 Texas family literacy projects. Texas family literacy program will have access to new Family Literacy Resource Center at the University of Texas' Center for Reading and Language Arts. The center will provide technical assistance and information on research-based practices, assessment and accountability for any family literacy programs seeking guidance.

All of us have the tremendous responsibility to call attention to the science and seriousness of early childhood development. Major threats to children today are not a matter of chance but are a matter of choice - choices that Texans make for infants and children, and choices

that children, in turn, make later in life. Working together, we can shape the destiny of Texas children with our own hands and hearts.

If you would like to volunteer to read in your community, call the National Institute for Literacy at 1.800.228.8813.

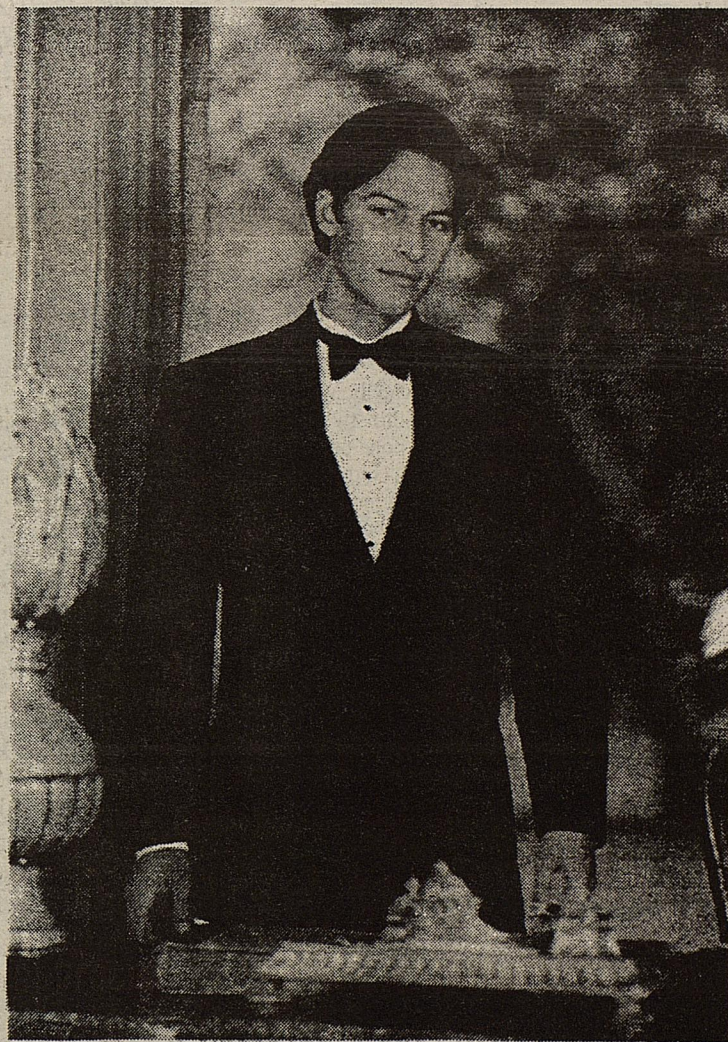
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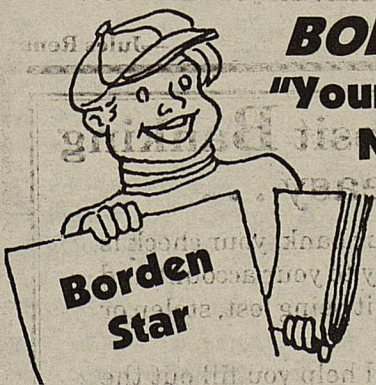


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COURTHOUSE NEWS

WHEREAS, On this the 22nd day of February, 1999, the Commissioners' Court of Borden County, Texas, convened in Special Session in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Courthouse in Gail, Texas, the following members of the Court being present, to-wit:

Van. L. York, County Judge, Presiding, **Doug Isaacs**, Commissioner, Prec. #1; **Larry D. Smith**, Commissioner, Prec. #2; **Vernon Wolf**, Commissioner, Prec. #3; **Hurston Lemons, Jr.**, Commissioner, Prec. #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:

edings were had, in accordance with the posted agenda:

MINUTES APPROVED

Minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting of February 8, 1999 were read. Commissioner Wolf made a motion to approve said minutes and motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaacs. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS ALLOWED

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

FIRE PROHIBITION

Commissioner Smith made a motion to extend Judge Van L. York's

Proclamation of Declaration of Disaster for Threat of Wildfires. This will continue until the threat of dangerous fires has subsided. Commissioner Wolf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Resolution joining the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program with the General Services Commission. Commissioner Lemons seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the General Services Commission is authorized to provide purchasing services for local governments pursuant to TITLE 8, SUBTITLE C, Chapter 271, Subchapter D, Sections 271.082 and 271.083 of the Local Government Code; and **WHEREAS**, the Commissioners' Court of Borden County is a Local Government defined as an entity qualified to participate in

the Cooperative Purchasing Program of the General Services Commission pursuant to section 271.081 of the Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of section 113.85(a) of the General Services Commission administrative rules, the Agent(s) of Record, Van L. York, County Judge is authorized to execute any and all documentation for Borden County pertaining to its participation in the General Services Commission Cooperative Purchasing Program; and **WHEREAS**, Borden County acknowledges its obligation to pay participation fees established by the General Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Adopted this 22nd day of

February, 1999 by Borden County

VAN. L. YORK,
County Judge
DOUG ISAACS,
Commissioner, Prec. #1
LARRY D. SMITH,
Commissioner, Prec. #2
VERNON WOLF,
Commissioner, Prec. #3
HURSTON LEMONS, JR.,
Commissioner, Prec. #4
JOYCE HERRIDGE,
County Clerk

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Wolf to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaacs and approved unanimously.

DECLARATION OF DISASTER THREAT OF WILDFIRES

February 17, 1999

WHEREAS, Borden County has not had rainfall for an extended period; and

WHEREAS, weather forecasters offer little promise of a change in the windy, dry conditions in the near future; and **WHEREAS**, these windy, dry conditions pose the threat of large, dangerous and fast-moving wildfires; and

WHEREAS, such fire has the potential of endangering lives and damaging property on a large scale;

WHEREAS, the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 authorizes declaration of a state of disaster "if the threat of disaster is imminent"; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity at which such a fire could escalate to major proportions constitute an imminent threat of disaster; and

WHEREAS, declaration of such disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of fires; and

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of dangerous fires;

BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED that I, Van L. York, County Judge of Borden County, do hereby declare a state of disaster based on the threat of large wildfires in Borden County, Texas; and

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above statute and order, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without authorization by the Borden County Commissioners Court.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster is being declared solely for the purpose of implementing controls aimed at mitigating the hazard posed by wildfires during the current dry weather.

BE IT ALSO ORDERED THAT the purpose of this order is the mitigation of the hazard posed by wildfires by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning, which purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 17th day of February, 1999.

Van L. York
Van L. York, Borden County Judge

Taxes and Home Ownership

Whether buying a first home or in the process of selling one, home ownership can have a big effect on tax returns.

Some of the settlement fees and closing costs can be deducted in the tax year the home is bought. These costs include certain real estate taxes, mortgage interest and points that meet certain requirements.

Other costs may be included in the basis of the property. Basis is a way to measure the investment in a home for tax purposes. Costs like abstract and recording fees, surveys and owner's title insurance are included in the basis.

People who itemize deductions can deduct interest on most mortgages secured by their first or second home. They can deduct qualifying points on a loan to buy or improve their main home in the year they paid them. And they can usually deduct real estate taxes imposed by state or local governments for the general public welfare.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 replaced two tax breaks for home sellers with a more generous one. Under the old law, those 55 and older could exclude up to \$125,000 of gain.

And anyone who bought a replacement home within two years of the sale might postpone taxes on some or all of the gain. Under the new law, taxpayers can exclude up to \$250,000 of gain (\$500,000 on a joint return, if both meet the residency requirement) from the sale of a home.

The new exclusion is allowed once every two years, but only if the person used the home as a principal residence for at least two out of the five years before the sale. The seller must pay tax on any gain exceeding the exclusion — the replacement home rule no longer applies. If a person sells before satisfying the two-year residency requirement because of a change in employment or health, the maximum exclusion amount (\$250,000 or \$500,000) is prorated by the percent of the two-year time met. This proration also applies to anyone who owned a home on Aug. 5, 1997, and sells it before Aug. 5, 1999, regardless of whether there was a change in employment or health.

Because of this larger exclusion of gain, the average person may not need to keep track of the home's cost basis once the two-year residency requirement is met. Only if the home

sells for more than the maximum exclusion amount will the taxpayer even have to figure the gain. In that case, one would need accurate records of all items affecting the basis. This includes improvements such as adding a room, finishing a basement or putting up a fence.

More information on buying, owning or selling a home is covered in the following free publications. Call 1-800-829-3676 or check them out on the IRS Web site at www.irs.ustreas.gov.

- Publication 523, *Selling Your Home*
- Publication 530, *Tax Information for First-Time Homeowners*
- Publication 936, *Home Mortgage Interest Deduction*



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