

The Borden Star

Borden ★ Dawson ★ Garza ★ Howard ★ Lynn ★ Scurry

Volume XXXVI

August 27th, 2008

Gavel Passes To BHS Teacher Leader of the Pack

When former Ag-Science teacher Sid Long left Borden county Schools, he took the same position at Robert Lee, Texas. In 1976-1977, one of his students was a sophomore boy named Buddy. Buddy Wallace. Yes, that Buddy Wallace.

Wallace is now entering his 26th year teaching at Borden County, but as of July 31, he

is beginning a prestigious year-long term as President of the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, or VATAT.

Serving as President is an honor of big-size proportion: Texas boasts over 1,500 Ag-Science teachers. One of VATAT's family branches—the FFA—counts over 60,000 student members and is grow-

ing.

Wallace accepts the challenge of leadership in this multi-faceted organization.

"The bottom line is that we all work together to promote the education of our youth," said Wallace.

VATAT is a sixty-member board which meets four times annually at its headquarters in Austin.

Wallace has served nine years on the board. His peers elected him to the five-year leadership commitment. After serving as President this year, Wallace will return to chair committees in his role as Past President and then to chair the Texas FFA Board.

As this year's President, Wallace fills a position that demands public speaking skills, in-depth knowledge of the organization's goals, and even some legislative savvy.

"There may be opportunities when the Texas legislature returns to session in January 2009 to testify on behalf of all ag. Programs," said Wallace. "It's sort of like being the mouthpiece for the organization."

Those closest to Wallace know that he views this important role as far more than a chance to persuade politicians. He wants to persuade more young Ag-Science teachers across the state to become involved in VATAT.

"The challenge I want to

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Raylea Underwood, a Junior at Borden County High School, recently competed in the 2008 Scholastic Clay Target Program National Championships in Sparta, Illinois.

Raylea Underwood Attends National Shoot in Illinois

Raylea Underwood, a junior at Borden County High School, along with a record 2,100 young shooters from 35 states, competed in Sparta, Illinois, at the 2008 Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) National Championships during the week of July 30 - August 6. Sparta, Illinois, is the home of the World Shooting and Recreational Complex that houses 120 trap fields, 2 sporting clays ranges and 24 skeet fields. The SCTP allows young shooters from across the nation an opportunity to compete for scholarships in three shooting disciplines. The program is set up for 3-man teams

for American Skeet and Sporting Clays and a 5-man team for American Trap.

In the Junior Varsity Sporting Clays division, Raylea participated on a 3-man team, along with Tyler Chaney and Ashley Butchee. They were competing against 28 teams from across the nation, each shooting 200 targets. Raylea and her team claimed 10th in the nation in their division!

This same team also participated in the Varsity American Skeet division where they again shot 200 targets each. This 3-man team placed 16th out of 38 teams.

(Continued to Page 2)



Mr. Buddy Wallace

Gavel Passes To Underwood Shoots at Nationals...

BHS Teacher...

(Continued from Page 1)

tackle this next year is one of promoting membership to our young teachers. As a professional organization, VATAT offers so many benefits to teachers. In turn, those benefits help our students," said Wallace.

His mantra for 2008-2009: The Big Picture. And Wallace sees the big picture as including the recruiting, retaining, and development of future Ag-Science teachers in Texas. For perhaps the first time in the state's history, a shortage exists in this field. Wallace wants to address that in his platform.

"Mentoring is the key," said Wallace. If we can institute a massive mentorship training program, we can have a great impact on the future of all of our Vo-Ag programs.

Wallace should know. It was Mr. Long who years ago had the kind of influence to which Wallace is referring when he passionately talks about mentoring.

Leadership training has become as focus of VATAT. This year the organization hosted the first ever VATAT leadership training in Corpus Christi.

At the induction ceremonies held the last week in July, Wallace was given the gavel by

outgoing President Alton Mitchell, Vo-Ag instructor at Eastland High School. The ceremony also had some historical implications as the first woman officer, Sandra Choate of Athens, was sworn in as VATAT's Vice-President. Next year, Wallace will be on hand to see history as he passes the gavel to Choate who will be the first woman President of the Texas organization.

Presidential responsibilities have taken Wallace to Arkansas this summer to attend the Region II (Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico and Colorado) meeting of the Agriculture Association of Educators. He will travel to Charlotte, North Carolina in December for the national AAE meeting.

"I feel blessed to have such support of our board and administrators to allow me to fulfill this position," said Wallace.

Borden County's administration is quick to point out their reason for being so supportive.

"Buddy is a man of integrity, said Superintendent Jimmy Thomas. "He is the role model we are looking for in a teacher."

The Wallace File

- 1979 graduate of Robert Lee High School
- 1983 Texas Tech graduate
- 1983 hire at Borden County ISD
- 2006: elected Secretary-Treasurer of VATAT
- 2007: elected Vice-President of VATAT
- July 2008: began term as VATAT President

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Two more team members, Rance Nicholson and Shelby White, joined the team to participate in American Trap, competing on a trap range that extends 1½ miles long and contains 120 trap houses. This 5-man team competed against 130 teams from across the nation. The top two placing teams in this division tied for 1st place shooting 987 out of 1,000 targets. Raylea and her team members had a combined total of 937 targets, placing 68th overall. Competition was very tough with only 50 targets difference between 1st and 68th place.

Raylea shot her all time best in American Trap with a score of 100 out of 100 on Monday

and 98 out of 100 on Tuesday. Raylea's trap score of 198 tied her for 2nd high in ladies division in the nation. She had to use her back-up gun for the sporting clays and skeet competition, but her Dad, Ray Don Underwood, had her "baby", a Weatherby shotgun, repaired in time for her to shoot it in the American Trap division and did it make a difference. WOW!

Raylea and her parents, Ray Don and Jana Underwood, enjoyed their trip to Illinois, even

though the weather was very hot and humid. They were able to see the big Mississippi river every day and fields and fields of corn.

Raylea would like to thank all the people that supported her on this shoot and says that she "could not have done it without you!". She has lifetime memories from this opportunity along with being able to make new friends from Tennessee, Alabama, Saskatchewan and several other places.

Congratulations Raylea!!!

Borden County Football 2008 Schedule

Week #	Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
Scrimmage	Aug. 16	Saturday	Ropes/O'Donnell	Gail	TBA
Scrimmage	Aug. 21 or 22	Thurs./Fri.	Klondike	Klondike	TBA
#0	Aug. 30	Saturday	New Home	Trent	10:00
#1	Sept. 5 or 6	Friday/Sat.	TBA	TBA	TBA
#2	Sept. 12	Friday	Wellman-Union	There	7:30
#3	Sept. 19	Friday	Rule	Here	7:30
#4	Sept. 26	Friday	Klondike	Here	7:30
#5	Oct. 3	Friday	Sterling City	There	7:30
*#6	Oct. 10	Friday	Buena Vista	Here	7:30
*#7	Oct. 17	Friday	Grandfalls-Royalty	There	7:30
*#8	Oct. 24	Friday	Sands	Here	7:30
*#9	Oct. 31	Friday	Westbrook	There	7:30
*#10	Nov. 7	Friday	Open		

**District Opponents for 2008-2009: Sands, Grandfalls-Royalty, Buena Vista

Head Coach: Trey Richey

Borden County Football Junior Varsity 2008 Schedule

Week #	Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
Scrimmage	Aug. 16	Saturday	Ropes/O'Donnell	Gail	TBA
Scrimmage	Aug. 21 or 22	Thurs./Fri.	Klondike	Klondike	TBA
#0	Aug. 27	Thursday	New Home	Here	6:00
#1	Sept. 4	Thursday			
#2	Sept. 11	Thursday	Wellman-Union	Here	7:00
#3	Sept. 18	Thursday	Rule	There	7:00
#4	Sept. 25	Thursday	Klondike	There	7:00
#5	Oct. 2	Thursday	Sterling City	Here	7:00
*#6	Oct. 9	Thursday	TBA	TBA	TBA
*#7	Oct. 16	Thursday	TBA	Here	7:00
*#8	Oct. 23	Thursday	Sands	There	7:00
*#9	Oct. 30	Thursday	Westbrook	Here	7:00
*#10	Nov. 6	Friday	Open		

Coaches: Trey Richey, Peter Benavidez and Fernando Baeza

Borden County Football Junior High 2008 Schedule

Week #	Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
#2	Sept. 11	Thursday	Wellman-Union	Here	5:30
#3	Sept. 18	Thursday	Rule	There	5:30
#4	Sept. 25	Thursday	Klondike	There	5:30
#5	Oct. 2	Thursday	Sterling City	Here	5:30
*#6	Oct. 9	Thursday	Buena Vista	There	5:30
*#7	Oct. 16	Thursday	Grandfalls-Royalty	Here	5:30
*#8	Oct. 23	Thursday	Sands	There	5:30
*#9	Oct. 30	Thursday	Westbrook	Here	5:30
*#10	Nov. 6	Friday	Open		

Coaches: Trey Richey, Peter Benavidez and Fernando Baeza

School Lunch Menu Sept. 1-5, 2008

Monday - Breakfast: Sausage & Biscuit, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Beef & Bean Burrito, Potato Wedges, Salad, Peaches and Milk.

Tuesday - Breakfast: Toaster Pastry, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Popcorn Chicken, Potatoes, Corn, Hot Roll, Apple Slices and Milk.

Wednesday - Breakfast: Pancakes, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Fajitas, Salad, Pinto Beans, Jell-o w/pear and Milk.

Thursday - Breakfast: Cereal & Toast, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Meat & Gravy, Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Cobbler and Milk.

Friday - Breakfast: Biscuit w/gravy, Sausage, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Hot Dog w/chili, Chips, Salad, Fruit, Yellow Cake w/frosting and Milk.

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By: Senator John Cornyn
The road from Texas six-man football to fame in the National Football League is one rarely traveled. Players on six-man teams, more than 120 across the state, might call it the "impossible dream." So, when that distant opportunity becomes reality, people never forget the athlete who made the exceptional journey.

The achievements of Jack Pardee, who played for the six-man Christoval Cougars more than five decades ago, probably surpassed most expectations in his hometown south of San Angelo. He went on to become an All-American for Texas A&M, All-Pro for the Los Angeles Rams and Washington Redskins, and two-time NFL Coach of the Year.

After NFL head coaching jobs in Chicago and Washington, he came back to Texas in the 1980s when he coached the Houston Gamblers, the University of Houston Cougars and the Houston Oilers. His many achievements came full circle when he was selected for the Texas Six-Man Football Hall of Fame in 2005.

Jack Pardee's success draws attention to the rich heritage of six-man football in Texas, where the intensity of the players and the enthusiasm of their fans belie the size of the high school and the community. The ladder of high school football starts with the six-man teams, which come from high schools with less than 100 students.

Despite their size, these teams are ingrained in the lore of Texas high school football. Many of their names grab our attention: Jayton Jaybirds, Trent Gorillas, Kress Kangaroos, Rankin Red Devils and Buckholts Badgers. Six-man football holds a warm place in the hearts of fans in larger places too. It is one of the stars in the galaxy of Texas high school football, which includes more than 1,100 teams.

Stadium lights brighten the skies above Texas towns large and small every Friday night. Some games are played on Saturdays or other days, but Fridays are prime time for high school football. Long before

there was a book and a hit television series by the same name, the "Friday Night Lights" symbolized a sport that turned into a passion in Texas.

Game day becomes a social event where fans of all ages gather to support the pride of their community. Televisions are turned off and stores close early as fans head to the community's main event to root for their team. Bands, drill teams and cheerleaders add to the pageantry.

The six-man game differs from all other high schools. It is played on a shorter field, 80 yards instead of 100. Quarters are 10 minutes, instead of 12. The game can end early if one team leads by 45 points at the end of the first half or during the second half. First downs come after a gain of 15 yards, not 10. Touchdowns still count for six points, but field goals are worth four, instead of three.

These and other differences generate non-stop action and high scoring games. In last year's Division I six-man state championship game, the Richland Springs Coyotes defeated the Rule Bobcats, 98-54. The Motley County Matadors took the Division II state title

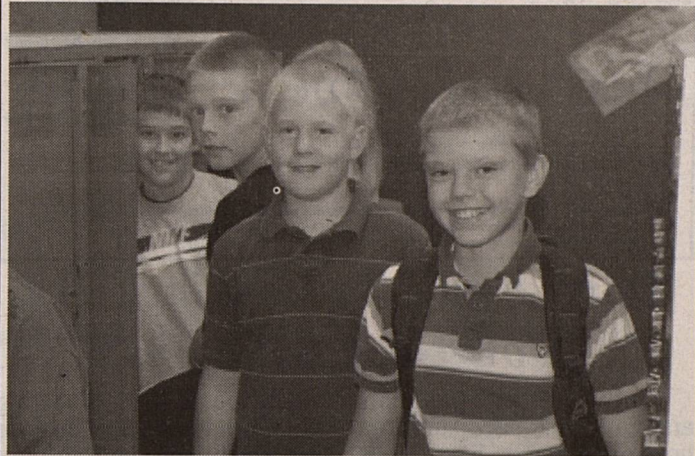
with a 44-38 win over the Woodson Cowboys.

The legacy of six-man football extends beyond the state championships and the record books. The teams reflect the unique character of each town. The school is the heart of the community. In its classrooms, dedicated teachers nurture students' dreams and cultivate their potential.

Texas has more six-man teams than any other state. Six-man football represents qualities and a way of life in places that typify the Texas spirit. The niche these teams hold in their hometowns and throughout Texas high school football is one we can all admire and enjoy.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security and Refugees subcommittee and the Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

First Day of Jr. High



All smiles on the first day of Jr. High are (left to right) Cayden Vaughn, Frank Banman, Nathan Ham and Sean Tucker.

Drive Safely. Watch for our children.



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First Day, First Class




Former BHS student Colt McCook now finds himself on the other side of the desk. Hired as the new girls' basketball coach, McCook will also be teaching 7th Grade Texas History, Economics, U.S. Government, and World Geography. He is pictured here with his first-ever public school class on opening day.

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

Don't Feel Like Cooking? Try Slow-Cook Solutions

Throw in the ingredients and go. Come back later to a house that smells like a holiday. What's not to love? Some 80% of American households own a slow cooker, according to Beth Hensperger and Julie Kaufmann, coauthors of three slow-cook cookbooks, including Not Your Mother's Slow Cooker Recipes for Entertaining (Harvard Common Press, 2007). Yet most pull out their Crock-Pot only for soups and stews, missing lots of opportunities for easy cooking. Check out the slow-cooker recipes at www.EatBetterAmerica.com and try these ideas to help make your slow cooker work harder for you.

Choose the right cooker. Today, high-tech "smart pots" allow you to program start and stop times. But even your low-budget, basic Crock-Pot can do more than you might imagine. An oval cooker works well for beef roasts, chicken, and for meat loaf. Tall, round ones are best for soup, stew, and chili. Small cookers make perfect meals for one or two.

Avoid making mush. "You have to abandon the idea that you can leave everything on all day," says Kaufmann. "Not everything is an eight- to 10-hour recipe." Avoid overcooking, and be sure to add tender ingredients (snap peas, seafood, tomatoes) late in the process so everything comes out cooked to the proper consistency.

Watch the water. "We found that slow cookers tend to work best with either very little liquid (a tablespoon or 2 to 1 cup, as in braising) or submerged in a lot (as in stewing)," says Kaufmann.

Wake up to a real breakfast. Slow cook great jams and granola or perfect porridges and steel-cut oatmeal. Simply toss in the ingredients the night before, set on low, then awake

to delicious smells. Since big cookers have excess surface area, Kaufmann suggests buying a small one (1 1/2- to 3-quart size, \$10 to \$20) if you'll be eating lots of steel-cut oats and other breakfast grains.

Slow cook great veggies. Your slow cooker is perfect for roasting beets or little potatoes in a small amount of olive oil, salt, and herbs. If you slow cook corn on the cob standing upright in the husks (minus the silks) in 1/2 cup of water, it creates a combination of roasting and steaming, says Kaufmann, which avoids the waterlogged effect you may get from boiling.

Make meals you wouldn't expect. In addition to making great soup stocks and chili, the slow cooker comes in handy for dried beans and even steamed brown bread. Cook a healthy and hearty turkey meat loaf in your Crock-Pot and it'll stay moister than an oven-cooked version.

Don't forget dessert. Slow cook a steamed persimmon pudding or a low-fat and moist cake. Or try caramel apples for a yummy treat. For poaching pears use an oval cooker or a round one big enough to avoid stacking the pears. Then adapt your favorite stove-top poached-pear recipe using apricot or raspberry jam, cinnamon and cloves, orange peel, or ginger.

Pull it out for the party. "If you don't want guests standing at the stove for the entire party

dipping up hot cider or mulled wine, move your big slow cooker to the another room, plug it in, and keep beverages warm," says Kaufmann. "It's like a mobile punch bowl."

Source: *Eat Better America*
web site <http://www.eatbetteramerica.com>



Got News?

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Snyder National Bank



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September 4-H Meetings

(held in the Conference Room at BCISD)

Cool Clovers 4-H Club Meeting (3rd - 5th grade)
Tuesday, September 2 from 11:30- 12:00 p.m.

Junior High 4-H Club Meeting (6th-8th grade)
Tuesday, September 2 from 12:30-1:00 p.m.

High School 4-H Club Meeting (9th-12th grades)
Wednesday, September 3 from 12:35 to 1:05 p.m.

Bring a sack lunch or bring your lunch tray to the Conference Room.
You can sign up for 4-H at this meeting. Come and bring a friend!!

Everyone is welcome!!
4-H IS FUN!!!



Thank You

We wish to thank all of the people who fought and controlled the grass fire on our land south of Gail on Sunday, August 10. We don't know how many of you helped or who you were, but you are greatly appreciated each and everyone. A special thanks to Gary and Connie Stipe for keeping me informed by phone.

*Respectfully,
Mrs. Bill Sealy (Jean)
and family*

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Agriculture News
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

Wheat Management Meeting Set For September 5 in O'Donnell

Area growers interested in wheat production are invited to a wheat management meeting on Friday, September 5 at the O'Donnell Community Center (100 Nassau Road, O'Donnell). The meeting is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Dawson, Borden and Lynn Counties. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 9:30 a.m.

Topics to be addressed include: review of 2007-2008 variety trials, seeding rates, fertility and best management practices for grazing and for grain production.

2 CEU's will be offered for pesticide applicators.

For more information contact: Texas AgriLife Extension Service Office in Dawson County - (806)872-7539 or Texas AgriLife Extension Service Office in Borden County - (806)756-4336 or Texas AgriLife Extension Service Office in Lynn County - (806)561-4562.

Borden County 4-H News

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

Lamb, Goat and Swine Validation

What is validation? Why do we validate? These are questions that are often asked by 4-H and FFA families.

The validation process is designed to identify ownership, assist in identification at the county and/or major stock shows, and to aid in the recover of lost or stolen animals. This process is conducted across the state of Texas so to exhibit at the Borden County Junior Livestock Show and/or Ft. Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston, or Austin, 4-H'ers and FFA members must have their animal validated.

Lamb and goat projects will be validated in the month of October. During this process, lamb and goats will be tagged, nose printed, and hair samples collected.

Swine will be validated in the month of November. Swine will be tagged, hair samples collected and ear notches documented.

There are also fees involved in the validation process. Lamb, goat, and swine validation for animals who will be exhibiting at the county and major livestock shows will require a state tag. A validation fee of \$7.00 will be charged for each animal validated with a state tag.

Those projects that will only be exhibited at the Borden County Junior Livestock show will need to pay \$5.00 per head for validation. The deadline to order lamb and goat tags is September 2, 2008. Deadline to order swine tags is September 23, 2008. You will need to call the Borden County Extension Office or Cody G. Hill to pre-order your validation tags if you plan on exhibiting a lamb, goat or swine at the Borden County Stock Show or at a major stock show in 2009. (This procedure was also in place for the families showing steers.)

All tags must be paid for when ordered. Each family needs to make sure they order enough tags to validate all of their projects. Ordering one extra tag is always a good policy!!!

For more information, or to order your validation tags, contact Cody G. Hill, CEA-Ag Borden County at (806) 756-4336 or (806) 790-0121.

BORDEN Co. Show BARN
GAIL, TEXAS
SEPTEMBER 20
6:00 P.M.

SATURDAY NIGHT

COYOTE

OPRY

FISH FRY
5:00 p.m.

YOUTH ART Exhibit

MUSIC CONCERT
by local AREA TALENT

PIE, CAKE, &
COBBLER
AUCTION

RIFLE RAFFLE

NO ADMISSION
DONATIONS ACCEPTED

PROCEEDS TO
BENEFIT BORDEN
Co Jr. LIVESTOCK ASSOC

Fund-raiser for the Borden County Jr. Livestock Association
Buy a chance to own this gun!!

Ruger M77 Rifle
.22-250 caliber



stainless steel barrel with laminated wood stock

Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20

proceeds to benefit the
youth of Borden County

Drawing to be held during the Coyote Opry,
Saturday, September 20, 2008
at the Borden County Show Barn.

You do not have to be
present to win!!

To purchase your tickets, contact any Borden County Jr. Livestock
Association Director or come by the Extension Office.

Texas Stories

A Showcase of the Texas Spirit
Tumbleweed Smith

Sunrise At Machu Picchu Lives Up To Its Billing

On the last day of our trip we stayed in our hotel room in Lima as long as we could because we didn't want to leave. We experienced the city's convenience, its welcoming atmosphere and the friendliness of the city's residents. English is spoken everywhere and dollars are accepted right along with Peruvian Soles. The attractive city is just a 6-hour flight from Houston and in the summer (winter there) it has the same time. Lima is in the Eastern Time zone, but Peru doesn't observe Daylight Saving Time. There is no jet lag going or coming. I don't understand why we don't hear more about Lima. It's so dynamic and is the fourth largest city in South America behind Sao Paulo, Rio and Buenos Aires. Nearly nine million people call Lima home. Our hotel was the Casa Andina Private Collection in the Miraflores section of town. Plazas, parks and stores are all within easy walking distance.

Peru celebrates its independence from Spain on July 28. We were there a couple of weeks before the holiday and nearly everyone was wearing pins showing colors of the Peruvian flag. When I asked a waiter in a restaurant about the pin and where I could buy it, he gave me one.

That happened the first few hours we were in the city and set the tone for the entire trip. Needless to say I wore the pin all the time we were in Peru.

The purpose of our trip was to visit Machu Picchu, the mysterious ruins high in the Andes. It is mostly associated

with the Incas, but more than eighty civilizations lived there before the Incas.

We took a plane to from Lima to Cuzco, the largest city near Machu Picchu. The flight lasted slightly more than an hour and on the way we saw the snowy peaks of the Andes poking through the clouds. A three-hour ride on the Hiram Bingham train took us to Machu Picchu. We were fortunate to spend the night just a stone's throw from the ruins.

The hotel is the Sanctuary Lodge, a perfect name for the place. Most people visit Machu Picchu for just one day, arriving early and spending a few hours there. We got to see both the sunset and sunrise in the midst of the architectural wonder. We could have watched the sunrise from our hotel window, but preferred to see the first rays of daylight illumine the Temple of the Sun. Machu Picchu is one of the new Seven Wonders of the World and a popular destination. Thousands of college-age people were there, mindful of the spiritual nature of the place.

We expected the temperature to be cool, since it was winter season in Peru, but we quickly shed our coats as the days warmed up. Many young people were wearing shorts and thin t-shirts. We hiked to the Gate of the Sun, the place where the sunrise first hits during the December solstice. Machu Picchu has been high on our list of places to visit.

I'm glad we got to experience it. You should go.



It's Time to Turn Off the Water in the Texas High Plains

Commentary by David Oefinger, Executive Director-Texas Pest Management Association, Austin, Texas

It was not my intention to sit down and pen this message to High Plains farmers, but the idea literally opened before my eyes this morning at the breakfast table. It's time for High Plains growers to cut their use of water ... in fact, regulators should not allow one drop of water to be used for agriculture in the nation's largest cotton patch. Period. Now, hold on. You have to finish reading this commentary before you hang me from the nearest tree. There is a message here. This morning, as I sat down to my toast and coffee, I opened the Austin American-Statesman to the front page ... and there it was ... the idea for this commentary: "Armstrong tops list of city's largest water users."

This morning's newspaper listed the 10 largest water users in Austin, Texas. Coming in number 1 was Lance Armstrong (bicyclist, lobbyist, techie and musician). According to the article, every minute during the month of June, about five gallons of water passed through the sinks, sprinklers, fountain, and pool at Lance Armstrong's home that rests on 1.16 acres of land. Armstrong used a total of 222,900 gallons of water in one month to feed his thirst. At the bottom of the list was Jerry

Jeff Walker, who used 135,400 gallons of water during June. The other eight major water users fell between Armstrong's and Walker's name. The greatest amount of acreage for a residence was 3.266, but the remaining users were below 1.8 acres.

I know that agricultural water use is always a big topic on the Texas High Plains, but water is really important here in Central Texas, too, with the blind salamander and all. Perhaps we could consider piping your water here to Austin, where there is a real need. During June, Samsung (one of the largest industries in the Austin area), consumed 109,825,300 gallons. See? We need your water! Armstrong said that he was a "little shocked" that he had used that much water. He had been in

California during the month of June and thought his electric bill was a little high, but the cost of his water bill had never been brought to his attention. His estate is managed by a professional management firm. Now that's a nifty idea. Maybe some of you farmers could spend a little more time out of town during the growing season and let a citified management firm run your operation. Then you would never know how much it cost you to farm. It's just a thought...

Armstrong's water usage during June was enough for 26 average Austin residences. All totaled, the top ten users used enough water in one month to fill a football field with 3 feet of water.

Many of the water users said that they were not aware of the amount of water they were using. It is interesting, though, that in all my years of being involved in agriculture that I have not found 1 single High Plains grower who could not give me a ball park figure of how much water they were using, how much water it takes to produce an average crop, and how much it cost. I guess that comes from spending too much time on the farm tending to business. You folks should lighten up and spend more time traveling and

(Continued to Page 8)

LAMESA BOYS CLUB YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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Thought for the Day

Stress is when you
wake up screaming
and realize you
haven't fallen
asleep yet.

Source: St. Louis Inspirational
Christian Connection.

Cotton  **News**
from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

(Continued from Page 1)

leave the water to us city folks.- One of the Austin water users said she was not shocked at all by her water bill. She figured that there must be a broken pipe somewhere on the quarter acre lot. But city officials doubted the broken pipe theory, saying that they had informed the user numerous times that she was consuming too much water. Another user said that this was his first home and he figured it was just "pricey" to maintain a yard and pool. He said a management firm paid his water bill and he never knew that he had used 151,500 gallons of water during June. Still another Austinite

went on vacation and left the water cycling in the swimming pool. It makes me wonder how many High Plains farmers have gone on vacation and left their irrigation pumps running... The real story here, however, is that the top ten water users really are minor when considered with the total amount of water used by city residents and industry. City officials say that demand for water will easily exceed its supply unless consumers act to implement conservation measures. I hear that some High Plains state legislators are concerned about a proposal by T. Boone Pickens to

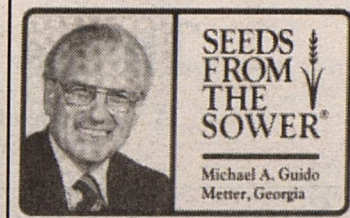
pipe your water to Dallas. Well, folks here in Austin need your water, too ... for their pools, their fountains, and their lush lawns and landscape. Now, mind you, that's Austin folks ... I live in Round Rock. I have no pool, no fountain and my lawn is dying...but I do feel for my neighbors. Now while your state legislators may have a fight with Mr. Pickens, they'll face some really fierce competition here in Austin ... we have a blind salamander that needs your water! This commentary is best summed up by an Austin reader's comment to the Statesman's article: "Typical hypocrites. The Austin elite like to lecture the rest of us about conservation, but they don't practice what they preach. I have 1 acre, and 1,700 sq foot home. I have an orchard, and a nice veggie garden. I follow the rules for watering and I conserve as much as I can. It is very irresponsible not to, and bad planetary citizenship. Gar-

dens before golf courses, food before pools." Did he actually say "food before pools"? What a novel little thought.

Editor's Note: "Cotton News", a weekly service of Plains Cotton Growers to the cotton industry and news media in the 25-county High Plains area, is mailed from Lubbock each Friday. Its contents are confined to news items and comments pertaining to the High Plains cotton industry which is so vital to us all. Anyone interested in making comments about the contents of this column can call PCG at 806-792-4904 or Email PCG at: cotnews@plainscotton.org

Got News??

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kdean@bcisd.net



SEEDS FROM THE SOWER
Michael A. Guido
Metter, Georgia

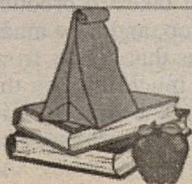
One day a friend baked me a cherry cake. While enjoying the second piece, my teeth came down on something that wasn't cake.

It was a cherry stone. When I reached for it, I also found a broken tooth.

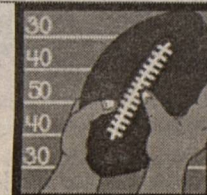
Nursing the pain I thought on Living Proverbs 20:17, "Some men enjoy cheating, but the cake they buy with such ill-gotten gain will turn to gravel in their mouths."

Yes, cheating pays - but the goodies turn to gravel, the thrills to ills, the paradise to perdition.

Your shady deals won't bring you a sunny life here or hereafter.



August 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 District 4-H Officer Training, 9:30 - 12:30 at TTU	2 Physicals (7 th - 12 th) - Depart Gail 8:00 a.m.
3	4 Two-A-Days start 4:30 p.m.	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 CPR/First Aide Workshop	12 Registration: A.M. 9-12 Seniors P.M. 1-5 Juniors FFA Lone Wolf District Officer Meeting @ Snyder	13 Registration: A.M. 9-12 Sophomores P.M. 1-5 Freshmen	14 Registration: A.M. 9-12 - 8 th , 7 th , 6 th P.M. 1-5 - Late Registration	15	16 HS Football Scrimmage vs. Ropes/O'Donnell Here TBA
17	18	19 Staff Development	20 Staff Development	21 Staff Development HS Football Scrimmage @ Klondike 6 p.m.	22 Work Day	23
24	25 First Day of School Issue Books No schedule changes	26 Teacher request for textbooks due to Principal	27	28 JV Football vs. New Home There 6:30	29 Staff return paperwork to Superintendent's office	30 Varsity Football vs. New Home @ Trent 10:00