

THE BORDEN STAR

Volume XXIX

May 9, 2001

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

Pepper, Wins Persuasive Three Others Compete at U.I.L. State Meet

Borden County High School senior Trent Pepper added to his accolades this past weekend as he brought home two more state medals – this time, it is as State Champion in Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking and as a recipient of the bronze third place medal in Calculator Applications.

Pepper was one of four B.H.S. students making the trip to the University Interscholastic League Academic State Meet. Joining him were seniors Ross Aten in Current Issues and Events and Krystle Lee in Poetry Interpretation. Sophomore Micah Hensley also competed in Feature Writing. All three of these students performed well but did not place in the top six in their events.

Pepper advanced to the finals in Persuasive Speaking after finishing second in his preliminary

flight. In the finals, however, he received first place rankings from all three of his judges – a very rare feat at the State Meet. Pepper spoke on the topic: “How would the creation of a European government affect members of the European Union?” Joshua Campbell of Harper High School was second, followed by District 9-A foe Corey Cornutt of Highland.

In Calculator Applications, Pepper scored a 281, good for third in the state in 1A. He was beaten by Mark Birkenfeld of Nazareth High School (317) and Daria Perez of Bruni High School (299).

Attending the State Meet as coaches were Darrin Ard, Sue Jane Mayes, and Rich Powers.

Congratulations to all competitors. Thank you for your time, dedication, and hard work!

FFA Horse Judging Team Competes at State

Three members of Gail FFA horse judging team represented the area well with a first place finish among area qualifiers.

Overall, the team placed 16th out of 63 teams at the state level meet, hosted by Texas Tech University April 28.

Pepper, Hensley top Borden County Class of 2001

Mr. Chet Dye, principal of Borden County High School announce this week that Trent Pepper is the valedictorian and Rebekah Hensley is the salutatorian of the 2001 graduating class at Borden County High school.

Twelve Borden County seniors are scheduled to graduate in ceremonies at 8 p.m. May 25 at the Borden County High School auditorium.

Trent is the son of Kelly and Lesa Pepper of the Plains Community of Borden County. He will graduate with a grade of 98.64 for the four year period in high school.

Trent was a chosen as a National Merit Scholar, State Finalist Wendy's High School Heisman, State Finalist VFW's "Voice of Democracy" contest, Texas Association of Secondary School Principal's All-State

Senior Kandace Kimmel along with sophomores Heather Crawford and Brandi Shafer earned the state-qualifying berth with their work throughout the spring.

Advisor Buddy Wallace accompanied the girls to Lubbock for the Saturday morning competition.



Trent Pepper



Rebekah Hensley

Academic team, and the American Legion Boy's State Delegate. He was a State Champion in the 3200m run and Cross Country, State UIL champion in Persuasive Speaking and a Medalist in Calculator Application. He was chosen as All-District, All-region and Academic All-state basketball team member. He was voted as Mr. BHS and Most Likely to Succeed by his peers.

Trent plans on attending John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Rebekah (Bekah) Hensley, daughter of Randy and Donnell Hensley of the Plains Community is the salutatorian for the 2001 graduating class. Bekah has maintained a grade of 95.84 for the four year period in high school.

While in high school Beka was a member of the Beta Club, Spanish club and was on the Annual Staff. She participated in One-Act Play, and State Cross Country Meet, She was named All-Region, and 2nd team All-State in Basketball. She participated at the State Track meet on the 800m. relay and at the State U.I.L. meet in Prose Interpretation. She was a cheerleader for 2 years.

She plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in Nursing, and become a Nurse Practitioner.

Baccalaureate service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 20th, 2001 in the school auditorium.

Commencement exercise will be held Friday, May 25, at 8:00 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Copeland, Pepper and Stipe in Austin

Three BHS Athletes to compete at State UIL Track and Field Meet; Pepper Goes for Gold Again

For the sixth consecutive year, Borden County High School will be represented at the UIL State Track and Field Meet in Austin.

Events begin Friday morning and continue through late Saturday evening.

Coach Bobby Avery travels with three Coyote athletes this year: senior Trent Pepper and juniors T.C. Stipe and Rika Copeland.

Pepper will be making his fourth consecutive appearance in the meet, having finished fourth in the 1600m in 1998, 1st in the 3200m in '99 and 2000, 3rd in the 1600m in '99 and 2000.

Stipe, Borden High School's middle distance runner, will compete in the 800m run. The smooth-running junior is making his first-ever appearance for the May meet.

Both Pepper and Stipe have competed at the state level in cross-country the past two years; Pepper finishing second this year and Stipe eighth.

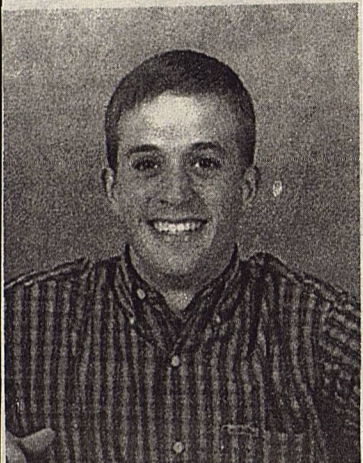
Copeland will try for a medal in the girls' shot put competition, having won regional with a personal best of 36' 6 three-quarters inches.

At last year's regional meet, Copeland just missed out on a ticket to Austin with a third place medal in Abilene.

Times, state records, and personal bests for these three athletes are in the boxes accompanying this article.

All events will take place at Myers Stadium, east of Memorial Stadium off of Red River Road on the University of Texas campus.

Trent Pepper
3200m run, 9 a.m. Friday
1600m run, 3:05 p.m. Saturday



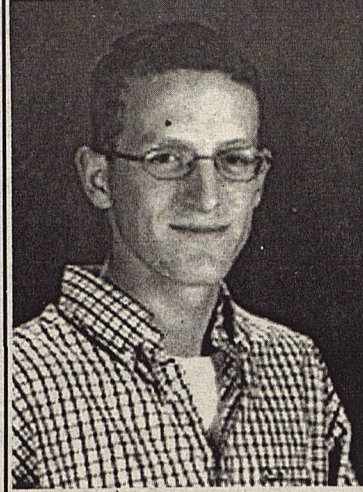
Defending State Champion
3200m run
State Meet Record: 9:38.00
Trent's Personal Best and School Record: 9:35.53
1600m run
Trent's Personal Best and School Record: 4:25.53

Rika Copeland
Shot put: 10 a.m. Saturday



School Record: 39' one-half inches set by Tammy Cooley
Rika's Personal Best: 36' 6 three-quarter inches

T.C. Stipe
800m run, 12:40 p.m. Saturday



T.C.'s Personal Best: 1:57.97 (school record)

**GOOD LUCK AT STATE
RIKA - TRENT - T.C.
WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!**

**THE COYOTE
COUNTRY STORE**

School Menu Week of: May 14th - 18th

MONDAY: Fajita, beans, salad, fruit cup & milk
Breakfast: Muffin, juice & milk

TUESDAY: Pizza, corn, salad, jello & milk.
Breakfast: Sausage, biscuit, fruit juice & milk.

WEDNESDAY: Chicken nuggets, green peas, potatoes, hot rolls, fruit & milk
Breakfast: Cereal, toast, juice & milk.

THURSDAY: Chicken fried steak, potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, pudding & milk.
Breakfast: French toast, fruit juice & milk.

FRIDAY: Cheeseburgers, chips, salad cup, fruit & milk.
Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito, hash browns, juice & milk.

Managers Choice: The last week (May 21st - 25th) of school will be Managers' Choice for daily meals.

BORDEN HIGH SCHOOL "PROJECT GRADUATION"

Parents and friends of the Borden County High School Class of 2001 are asking for donations for "Project Graduation". Project Graduation is a *Drug and Alcohol Free* Celebration for the graduates and their friends on graduation night.

This project helps make this very important event in the lives of our children SAFER and helps to make a very memorable evening for all. Your gifts and donations will be greatly appreciated and will help make this night even more exciting.

You may send your gift or donation to : "BHS Project Graduation" in care of Borden County ISD. P.O. Box 95, Gail, Texas 79738. Or contact any senior parent or the school.

Sincerely,
Class of 2001 Senior Parents.

Pre-School Day

Pre-school day has been set for Friday, May 18th. If your child will be five (5) years old on or before September 1st, 2001 and will attend school in the fall of 2001, they are invited to come join us.

The day will begin at 8:05 a.m. and dismiss at 12:30 p.m. This will be an early dismissal day for the entire school.

Your child will be able to meet their class-room teacher, Mrs. Smith, their principal, their P.E. coach, music teacher and everyone that will be involved with them in their school day.

A Social Security card, immunization records, and a birth certificate are needed for pre-registration.

Please notify the bus driver in your area, if your child plans to ride the bus. Lunch will be provided for each child by the school.

We are looking forward to visiting with you and your child. If you have any questions, please call the school at: 806/756-4313.

Insuring Texas Kids

A scratched knee and runny nose are all part of being a kid. But what happens when a scratch becomes a broken bone, or a runny nose becomes the flu? For families with insurance the answer is simply a visit to the physician; for those without insurance, the answer is to go to the emergency room or hope the flu goes away on its own.

Currently in the state of Texas there are 1.3 million uninsured children. To help reduce this number and provide affordable insurance for working families, the Texas Legislature launched the TexCare Partnership, a new children's health insurance campaign that incorporates the new state-federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), along with Medicaid and the Texas Healthy Kids Corporation.

The physicians of Texas Medical Association urge working parents who cannot afford health insurance for their children to contact their local TexCare Partnership office about signing up for one of these programs.

CHIP is designed for families who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid - the state-federal program that provides care for low-income Americans - but cannot afford to buy private insurance. It covers services such as hospital care,

surgery, x-rays, therapies, prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse treatment, emergency services, eye tests and glasses, dental care, and regular health check-ups and vaccinations.

To qualify for CHIP, a child must be:

- A Texas resident
- A U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident (the citizenship or immigration status of the parents does not effect the child's eligibility);
- Under age 19;
- Uninsured for at least 90 days
- Living in a family that meets certain income requirements (for example, a family of four with a monthly income between \$1,000 and \$2,600, depending on the age of the child).

Children who enroll in CHIP receive 12 months of continuous coverage but must re-enroll once a year.

With CHIP many families only pay an annual fee of \$15 to cover all their children in the plan. Higher-income families pay monthly premiums of \$15 - \$18, which covers all children in the family. Some families also will have Co-payments, which will not exceed \$90 a year for doctor visits, prescription drugs, and emergency care.

Since CHIP began in May 2000, TexCare partnership has enrolled 314,360 children, out of an estimated potential of 473,189 families. Twenty-five thousand children whose families earn too much to qualify for CHIP were referred to Medicaid and another 42,864 were referred to Texas Healthy Kids Corporation, a public-private initiative to provide affordable private health insurance for children.

Thanks to TexCare partnership, parents are reporting fewer visits to the emergency room and more visits to primary care physicians for routine care.

To contact TexCare Partnership to see if your children qualify for one of its programs or to receive more information about health insurance, dial (800)647-6558 or visit their Web site at www.texcarepartnership.com.

The Medical Association is a professional organization of more than 36,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 118 component county medical societies around the state. The Association represents 85 percent of the doctors of medicine licensed and residing in Texas. TMA's key objective is to improve the health of all Texans.

From the Counselor: By Mary Airhart

The Borden County ISD is updating its Gifted/Talented (G/T) program in keeping with the needs of its students as well as State mandates to include and serve a wider spectrum of our student population. Children and youth with outstanding talent perform and show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. Such outstanding talents are present in children and youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor. The Borden County ISD is making a concentrated effort to identify and serve these students through a cooperative effort involving parents, teachers, students, and community.

The first step in this process is the nomination of individual students who are capable of performing at high levels. These nominations may be made by parents, teachers, and/or other students or community

members. Do you know a student in this district who does things faster, more creatively, and with better understanding than other children of the same age? The Borden County ISD needs your help to identify these students. If you know such a student and would like to nominate that student for the G/T program, please contact Mary Airhart for a nomination form.

Thank you for your interest and support of Borden County ISD students.

Sincerely,
Mary Airhart
G/T Coordinator

Election Results

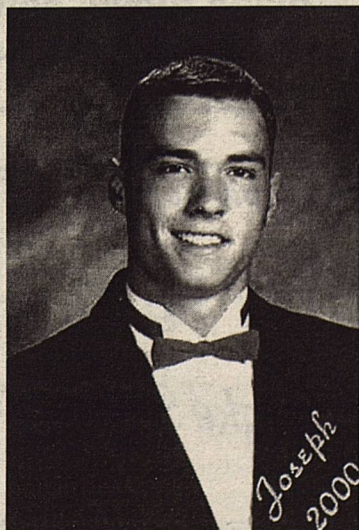
The results of the May 5th, 2001 School Trustee Election is as follows:

Dennis Poole	102
Randy Hensley	92
John Anderson	79
Kenny Hensley	75
Freddy Roberts	69

Hardman joins Navy

Joseph Hardman, a 2000 Graduate of Borden County High School, will leave for Chicago, on May 21st to begin Basic Training for the U.S. Navy. Due to his above average test scores, Joseph has been chosen to enter into the field of Advanced Electronics/Computers.

Joseph is the son of Randy and Debra Hardman, of Gail. His mom said, "he's not only our son, but our hero and we are very proud of him".



May 2001



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 FFA Lone District Meeting @ Ira, 4:00	4 Progress Reports	5
6	7	8 FFA Lone Wolf Dist. Banquet @ Loraine 6:00	9	10	11 Holiday Possible Band Trip	12 FFA Area II Degree Check
13	14 Gail FFA Banquet End of the Year Biology Test	15 Awards Banquet EOY U.S. History Test	16 EOY Algebra I Test	17 Title I Parent Meeting 6:30 Spring Concert 7:00 EOY English II Test	18 Jr./Sr. Banquet Kindergarten Pre-Registration Early Dismissal FFA Area II @ San Angelo	19
20 Baccalaureate 11:00	21	22	23 Awards Program	24 JH Graduation	25 HS Graduation & Drug Free Party	26 Teacher Workday
27	28	29	30	31		



Texas Stories
A showcase of the Texas Spirit

Tumbleweed Smith
Part owner of Texas



What's the value of your precious possessions?

I heard about this auction stuff. Where you take things in, get them appraised. The amounts for some items are astronomical. One question: Who the heck's gonna buy them?

So you happen to have Foujita drawing valued at \$15,000. How do you find a buyer?

I like putting a value on things the old fashioned way, if you like something enough to keep, and it means a lot to you, it's valuable.

Someone suggested I visit with a man who had a collection of pocket knives. It was, in my opinion, a modest collection. Just a cigar box full of knives. He wouldn't let me interview him because he thought someone would read about the collection and come steal it.

I ran into the same situation with a woman who had a table she bought in England. It weighs just under a ton. She did let me interview her, but called back and didn't want me to use her name or where she lived. She thought someone would hear about the table, hunt her house down, break in and take the huge table.

I heard a radio program this past weekend where a couple of guys were appraising books. People came to the live broadcast carrying books that had been in their possession for years.

The book guys were knowledgeable, and seemed to really get a kick out of telling someone who was extremely proud of a "first edition Charles Dickens: that it really wasn't first edition,

that it was a second printing and worth only six dollars and ninety-five cents. The owner, of course had hoped to have it appraised at half a million dollars.

On the other hand, a woman brought in a book that she considered worthless and it was appraised at two thousand dollars. Again, is there a big market for an early edition of "The Little Engine That Could?"

There seems to be more and more of this type of programming on weekend radio. One person had a collection of mustache cups, in fact had written a book on the subject. I think that would be a rare book.

People collect everything, I guess. A friend of ours collects eye wash cups. You don't see many of those. That is, unless you're looking for them. Then they turn up everywhere.

A man in Lamesa collects hymn books with shaped notes. Not many of those around today. Somebody in Woodville collects hornets' nests, the ones that look like small barrels. The only place I've ever seen one of those is in his collection.

In the regular course of life, you run into people all the time who collect pencils, coins, stamps, records, Edsels, barbed wire or books by H. Allen Smith. You seldom run into someone who collects two story houses. But I know tow people who do. They have several of them all lined up on their acreage.

It's a good thing people enjoy their collections

The Pampered Chef, LTD. Is joining the fight to "Help Whip Cancer"

Breast cancer affects the lives of families every day. This year, approximately 182,800 cases will be diagnosed and about 40,800 women will die of the disease. According to the American Cancer Society, early detection is the best protection.

Through its "Help Whip Cancer" corporate-giving campaign. The Pampered Chef, Ltd., a leading seller of high-quality kitchen tools and specialty food items, has partnered with the American Cancer Society to raise both awareness and funds for breast cancer early detection and education programs.

At in-home cooking demonstrations throughout the month of May, The Pampered Chef's 60,000 + Independent Kitchen Consultants nationwide will encourage guests to purchase a special Adjustable Measuring Spoons Twin Set, featuring pink measurement markings, or a pink Twixit! Clip Combo Pack. For each Adjustable Measuring Spoons Twin Set purchased, \$2 will go directly to the American Cancer Society's breast cancer early detection and education programs. And for each pink Twixit! Clip Combo Pack purchased, \$1 will be donated to the American Cancer Society's breast cancer early detection and education programs. Both he measuring spoons and the unique pink-colored clips come in a twin-

because finding a buyer for their stuff would be difficult. Anyway, to them it's invaluable.

pack and include helpful information about the importance of breast cancer early detection. The Pampered Chef Kitchen Consultants further support the cause by promoting the sharing of the Twixit! Clips and the measuring spoons with a friend, reinforcing the message of "Hope, Progress and Answers" through early detection.

Help Whip Cancer Kitchen Show Fund-raisers held in May can be designated to benefit the American Cancer Society. A percentage of total sales are donated directly to the organization's breast

cancer early detection and education programs. Last year. The Pampered Chef donated over \$400,000 to the American Cancer Society through its "Help Whip Cancer" campaign.

For more information about how you can "Help Whip Cancer" in May by purchasing Twixit! Clips, the Adjustable Measuring Spoons Twin Set and/or hosting a Kitchen Show Fund raiser, please call your Independent Kitchen Consultant for the pampered Chef, Ltd., Kendra Wiss at 806/756-4350.

To Our Friends at Borden I.S.D.

Thank you so much for the cute Duck & Balloon Gift arrangement you sent during my surgery and short stay in the hospital. It was so thoughtful of you and greatly appreciated.



Thanks Again,
Phillip, Holly & Baylee

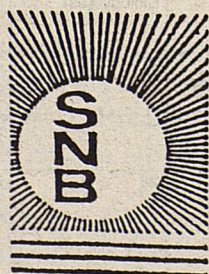
Carroll Piano Tuner

Will be in Gail on
Thurs. May 17th.




If you are interested in having your piano tuned, contact Jeanette at 756-4415 or 756-4466 after 5:00 p.m.

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Landowners Seek Diversity, Income through Wildlife Management

Higher production costs and shrinking profit margins are leading many Texas landowners towards a greater appreciation of Wildlife. They wonder if their abundant land resources can be profitable managed for eco-tourism as well as traditional livestock production.

"Basically, there are two motivations managing wildlife on your property. One is for personal recreation. Either you enjoy seeing or viewing wildlife, enjoy having them on your place - or you, your family or guests intend to hunt them" said Dale Rollins, Extension wildlife specialist based in San Angelo. "The other is a commercial situation, where you are

charging someone for the trespass rights to enjoy deer, quail, turkey or other wildlife.

"We're seeing increasing interest in both segments of that audience. On the commercial side, more and more landowners are seeking ways to diversify their income. Especially in situations where the cattle market is down, or drought is prevalent. They've got another asset out there, and in many parts of the state the income potential from wildlife surpasses grazing values from livestock production."

A grazing lease worth \$4 to \$5 per acre may well be

Distant Learning Center Offers Summer Courses

This summer several college courses will be offered in the Distance Learning Center at Borden County School. If you are interested in registering for any of these courses, contact Kip Wallace or Mary Airhart at Borden County School. South Plains College will be offering the following courses:

1st Summer Term
Classes begin June 4th and end July 5th

HIST 1301
History of the US to 1876
M-R 7:30 am -9:25 am
Bogener

HIST 1301
History of the US to 1876
M-R 9:30 am -11:25 am
Bogener

SPCH 1321-002
Business and Prof. Speech
M-R 11:30 am -1:25 pm
Holt-Day

HIST 1301
History of the US to 1876
M-R 9:30 am -11:25 am
Graves

2nd Summer Term
Classes begins July 10th and end August 9th

HIST 1302
History of US Since 1876
M-R 11:30 am - 1:25 pm
Graves

Brandon Adcock Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted

Applications are currently being accepted for the **Brandon Adcock Memorial Scholarship**. Applications wishing to be considered must submit a formal letter of application prior to May 16th, 2001. Letters of application must be sent to the following address:

**Brandon Adcock
Memorial Scholarship Committee**
P.O. Box 95
Gail, Texas 79738

The primary criteria used to determine the recipient of this scholarship is that the individual selected will be an outstanding young person that is a positive representative of the Borden County School Community evidence by their respective moral character, service-minded attitude, dedication, and scholastic achievement.

Recipients must be a candidate for graduation or be a former graduate from Borden County High School.

Candidates must attend a state-accredited/Southern Association accredited college, university, or post secondary institution to be eligible for consideration. The selection committee will have sole authority to determine the candidate's eligibility status related to the post-secondary institution to be attended.

Financial need will not necessarily be a criterion for consideration; however, financial need may be considered by the selection committee.

Complete selection authority has been delegated to the selection committee by the Brandon Adcock Family, and the committee has the authority to waive all rules, regulations and formalities in order to select the candidates that the committee feels is most deserving.

Cont. to pg. 7

Walk Across Texas Milage			
Team	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Country Cruisers	42	51.75	35
Toddling Teachers	35.5	40.8	60.3
Beauties & The Beasts	25	28	52
Wind Walkers	30.25	33	36.5

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Need someone to do yard work or odd jobs around the house or farm. If so call Caden at 756-4460

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A Mom is a person who makes things okay, who fixes things, locates things, puts things away...
"Mom will take care if it."
"Mom will stay calm."
What would we do if we didn't have Mom?"

Happy Mother's Day

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The Nursing Shortage: An Old Problem Takes on New Proportions

Nursing shortages are nothing new. Since World War II — when the U.S. economy and opportunities for women began growing at a rapid pace — frequent, cyclical shortages of health care professionals have been common. But the current shortage of registered nurses, which already is affecting hospitals throughout Texas, is anything but typical.

Unlike the shortage of the 1980's this is not one of just sheer numbers, but about having nurses with the needed skills and experience to work in the increasingly high-tech, high-acuity hospital environment. The combination of several factors — a growing demand for health care services, an aging nurse workforce and declining enrollments in nursing baccalaureate programs — means that today's nursing shortage could be a full-blown crisis within a few short years.

Growing Demand

A recent study by the Texas Nurse Workforce Data System project indicates that the rate of RNs per 100,000 population in Texas is well below the national average. To match the national average in 1999, Texas would have needed 28,000 more registered nurses. As a result, vacancy rates in many hospitals are increasing, ranging from 10 percent to more than 20 percent in some specialty areas. Generally, vacancy rates of 9 percent or greater indicate a significant and serious shortage.

The demand for health care services, due in part to Texas' explosive population growth and the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, also continues to increase. Highly trained and experienced nurses will be needed to care for their growing, high-acuity patient population.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment

opportunities for registered nurses will grow more rapidly than all other occupations through 2008. The jobs will be plentiful, but will anyone be there to fill them?

Shrinking Supply

The average employed RN in Texas is 44 years old, while the average age of doctoral — prepared nursing faculty is 55. Within the next 10-15 years, a majority of the current RN workforce and its educators could be retired.

At the same time, nursing school enrollments are declining at an alarming rate. Between 1995-96 and 1998-99, there was a 16 percent decrease in the number of graduates from Texas nursing schools. Why? Today's young people are choosing careers that offer higher pay and more flexibility. And women, who traditionally have dominated professions like nursing and teaching, now have wider array of career options from which to choose. Even among the current nurse workforce, jobs in research, managed care and consulting have lured RNs away from the bedside.

While more must be done to recruit young people into nursing, the effort will be futile if Texas' nursing education programs can't keep up with the demand. In 1998 and 1999, Texas schools of nursing turned away more than 3,000 qualified applicants to RN programs due to lack of adequate faculty.

First Steps

With the nursing education system in Texas cooperating near capacity, the only way to increase the number of RN graduates is to expand enrollment. A bill introduced by Sen. Mike Moncrief (D-Ft. Worth) and is House companion, sponsored by Reps. Patricia Gray (D-Galveston) and Craig Eiland (D-Galveston) is a good first

step in addressing this looming disaster.

The legislation, known as the Nursing Shortage Reduction Act of 2001, expands the capacity of nursing programs by providing some \$28 million to fund additional student positions and the necessary faculty positions. The proposal also would:

- Provide incentives for nurses with advanced education to teach,
- Emphasize recruitment and offer financial assistance to qualified students enrolled in RN educational programs.
- Support innovative ways to recruit and retain nursing students, particularly from under represented populations, and
- Improve nursing workforce data collection/analysis to better predict RN supply and demand.

"Our goal is to double the number of nursing graduates — from 5,000 to 10,000 — by 2007," said Alex Green, RN, PhD., dean of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of nursing and president of the Texas Nurses Association.

However, to begin to meet this goal of increasing the nursing graduate pipeline, the Texas Legislature must act *now* to provide the necessary funding.

A Good Investment

Elmer Ellis, FACHE, president of east Texas Medical Center Regional Healthcare System in Tyler and chairman of the Texas Hospital Association, says that increasing funding for nursing education is a sound financial investment in the future of Texas.

"Nursing is a profession that offers personal fulfillment, and graduates will find jobs waiting for the, good wages with benefits and stable employment situations," he noted. "Texas received the double benefit of

having professional workers who help support the economy and who ensure that high-quality health care

continues to be available for future generations. It's a win-win situation when Texas has the nurses it needs."

J. Pat Porter

Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted

Applications are currently being accepted for the *J. Pat Porter Memorial Scholarship*. Applicants wishing to be considered must submit a formal letter of application prior to May 16th, 2001. Letters of application must be sent to the following address:

J. Pat Porter
Memorial Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 95
Gail, Texas 79738

The primary criteria used to determine the recipient of this scholarship is that the individual selected will be an outstanding young person that is a positive representative of the Borden County School community as evidenced by his/her high moral character, service-minded attitude, dedication, and determination to succeed along with maintaining passing grades.

Potential recipients must be a member in good standing of the current Borden County High School graduating class or must be a previous graduate of Borden County High School.

Candidates must attend a state-accredited/Southern Association accredited college, university, or post-secondary institution to be eligible for consideration. The Selection Committee will have sole authority to determine the candidate's eligibility status related to the post-secondary institution to be attended.

Financial need will not necessarily be a criterion for consideration; however, financial need may be considered by the Selection Committee.

Members of the Porter family will have no input into the selection process. Complete selection authority has been delegated to the Selection Committee, and the Committee has the authority to waive all rules, regulations and formalities in order to select the candidates that the Committee feels is most appropriate. The selection process is a subjective task that will be left to the discretion of the J. Pat Porter Scholarship Selection Committee in order to select a person that the Committee feels is a dignification of the positive attributes that were exhibited by the late J. Pat Porter.



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Income through Wildlife Management

Cont. from pg. 5

worth that much or more as a quail or deer lease, Rollins added.

That's where Extension's wildlife appreciation days come in. These intensive, one-day seminars test landowners wildlife knowledge while educating them on best wildlife management practices.

A recent Deer Appreciation Day in Stonewall County on the Rolling Plains attracted more than 50 landowners interested in expanding their knowledge of wildlife stewardship and management.

"We bank on the deer management triangle at these events. Habitat is the bottom leg of the triangle. One side is population management,

such things as buck-doe ratios and harvest levels," Rollins said. "The other side of the triangle is people management . . . especially when your dealing with leases.

"We teach landowners that habitat is the foundation. One habitat you build the deer population . . . through sound management. Then you integrate or add people management by marketing wildlife through hunting or eco-tourism"

Aside from receiving an overview of deer management, landowners share their ideas on leasing land and managing land for hunting or tourism. They also get an up-close look at wildlife biology and anatomy.

Landowners also learn how to properly identify and age deer, the importance of genetics, and how nutrition plays a role in promoting and maintaining a healthy deer herd.

Then it's out to the field, where discussions on habitat assessment, beneficial plant species, predators, brush control and grazing are the order of the afternoon.

Every landowner or land manager should carry a camera, and use it to build a scrapbook of the vegetation on their place," Rollins said. "This habitat is the foundation of your land management plan. There are a number of resources available to landowner who want to improve their wildlife

and land management, but don't know where to get started.

"Resources they can access locally include the county Extension agent, USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Texas parks and Wildlife Department biologists. These are free public resources. There are also consultants who can tailor-make land and wildlife management plans for a fee."

An often over-looked resource is the Internet. There is a wealth of background materials, seminar information, and symposium proceedings on wildlife management available at non-profit and commercial Internet sites, Rollins said.

The Texas Agricultural

Extension Service offers several wildlife appreciation and management seminars throughout the state each year. At present, these seminars focus on two wildlife species: quail and deer.

"We talk about the critter, how to appreciate its habitat needs, and how to incorporate that into our overall land management scheme," Rollins said. "We haven't gotten into deer appreciation days full scale. We've spent a lot of time on quail, but there is a growing demand for deer information. I can see where we will be doing a lot more deer appreciation days in the future."

For more information call Rollins at (915)653-4576

7...THE BORDEN STAR, WED., MAY 9, 2001



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January 2001

Keeping Kids Safe is Everybody's Business

It's Up To You

"Saving the Family Farm and Ranch"

By Glen Webb
PART II

Lack of Management

However harsh the federal estate tax can be to Texas family farms and ranches, the lack of a coherent management plan put in place before the death of a patriarch or matriarch is equally devastating. According to Texas A&M, the average rural acres owned by a single landowner has declined by 74 percent since 1992. Selling rural land from estates is the largest motive for this fragmentation. In 1999 alone, close to 40% of the rural land sold in the state of Texas resulted from an estate settlement. Too many times when a patriarch or matriarch dies the family faces intra-family disputes due to the management burdens that accompany rural land. Family members who become joint beneficiaries of land often disagree on what is best for the family farm or ranch. Without clear planning in advance, family members turn on one another in an attempt to grab their share of the proverbial land pie. After the civil wars cease and the land is partitioned the beneficiaries go their separate ways as divided landowners. But, to quote Abraham Lincoln, "United we stand, divided we fall." Without a clear management plan in place, family farms and ranches become divided and fall.

Today, many beneficiaries of ranch land no longer live in the community where the land is located. Therefore, too many times people who inherit land avail themselves of the opportunity for quick cash by selling their land to the neighboring rancher. In most cases it does not even matter whether the neighbor has been a good neighbor or a bad neighbor. Nor does it matter if the neighbor is offering fair market value for the land. If the neighbor has cash, the family farm or ranch gets smaller.

Some beneficiaries want to keep the land because of the

strong sense of family heritage; however, they lack the commitment needed to manage the property effectively. All too often land remains neglected and abused, while back in the suburbs the beneficiaries receive their yearly checks from grass leases and royalties. As many rancher, farmer, or conservationist will tell you managing rural land is a full time job. The out-of-town landowners do not realize their neglect leads to greater problems. Neglect results in questionable easements, pollution from pumping units and bulk tanks, increased poaching, dilapidated fences, soil erosion, and out-of-control prickly pears and mesquites just to name a few problems. However, none of that seems to matter to the absent landowner because they are getting their checks. Life is fine in the suburbs, but, the problem does not go away on the family farm or ranch, it just gets worse. But all too often the ends justify the means because the next generation can sell it to that neighbor for quick cash. The family farm or ranch gets a little smaller.

Other beneficiaries of land ostensibly want to protect their land; however, the first thing they do is use it for collateral on a needless loan. Many times beneficiaries of land have no idea about the proper reasons for mortgaging their land, but they know they can get cash from that friendly banker. The problem is the friendly banker more often than not defines the terms, uses the land to secure the mortgage and charges an unusually high interest rate. Before the poor beneficiary knows it the banks or other creditors have attached the land to a judgment received in bankruptcy, foreclosure, or a lawsuit. The creditor owns the property and the family farm or ranch gets a little smaller.

Many people in Texas believe that inherited land is separated property, free from

risk in potential divorce proceedings. However, that is not the case. Judges in the State of Texas can consider separate property when making what is known as a "just and right equitable division." If a former spouse's lawyer decides the land would make a good settlement in a divorce agreement, then the land may be at risk. Also, in Texas, a former spouse may be eligible to place a lien on the family farm or ranch until he or she received what is known as a "community reimbursement." The irony is the beneficiary's land has been in the family for generations, but a good divorce lawyer takes part of it away in one court proceeding. The family farm or ranch gets a little smaller.

Other beneficiaries believe they are going to get rich off of leasing their hunting rights. However, the well intentioned beneficiary does not realize that leasing their land for hunting means a higher legal duty of care for people who come on to their property. The higher duty means a trial lawyer will have an easier time proving the beneficiary was negligent if a hunter gets hurt or killed, or hurts somebody else while on the property. Furthermore, many beneficiaries do not understand or know about or care about insurance. When an accident occurs on the beneficiary's property the land itself may not even serve as a down payment to cover this personal liability. While the good people at the Texas Wildlife Association have done their part by helping pass state laws to cap damages, there is still enough personal liability to crush the beneficiary who owns a smaller tract of land. It is a sad day when family farms and ranches must be sold to pay off judgment creditors who have been successful in a court of law. The family farm or ranch gets even smaller.

The sad realization is that

management issues can destroy a family and fragment family farms and ranches out of existence. All too often, what was once vibrant and productive land, which has been in families generation after generation, is lost because of the lack of foresight to put a plan in place to deal with these complicated issues before they arise. This lack of planning leads to chaos among the beneficiaries who are left to deal with problems they often times know little about. The problem is compounded when lawyers get involved and try to solve the problems the families should be solving for themselves. The results are

predictable. Increasing fragmentation of rural land, which leads to fewer family farms, and ranches, which leads to fewer small town communities, which leads to a loss of Texas' heritage.

Part III - A Solution: The Family Limited Partnership will continue next week.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

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

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

District: Abilene

Contract 0295-02-024 for FLY ASH TRT EXITS BS, FL BS, UNDERSEAL, ACP in BORDEN County will be opened on June 06, 2001, at 1:00 P.M. at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Pre-qualified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit pre-qualification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Pre-qualification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract (s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 3445

State Office

Construction Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 79704
Phone: 512/416-2540

District Office (s)

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

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.