

THE BORDEN STAR

Volume XXIX

June 20, 2001

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

Many Texas children could die or be seriously injured during swimming season

"I only turned my back for a few seconds." Too often these are the words spoken by a parent after a child drowns. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under 4.

Weekend water outings in June can be the most deadly. Most drowning take place on weekend afternoons in May through August, with June the peak month. In Texas, 63 people drowned in June 1999.

Preliminary data also shows that in Texas 387 adults and children died from drowning in 1999, usually in a lake, river or creek (153) or a swimming pool (64). Another 270 were admitted for at least 24 hours of hospital treatment and 97 were treated but not admitted. Frequently the drowning victim was a child who was left unattended.

Even the most innocent lapse in parental attentiveness can be deadly. Small children can drown in the time it takes to answer the phone, and there's rarely splashing or cries for help to alert anyone that a child is in trouble.

Active attentiveness is what's needed by an adult for the entire time the child is near the water. Also, good

barriers are also necessary — the more the better.

Drowning at residences often happen not at the child's home but at the home of neighbors or grandparents who have no young children.

Homeowners often ask 'why do I need fences or other protection around my pool? I don't have any kids.' But it's visiting children who get into trouble while the adults are elsewhere.

Almost half of all submersion incidents at pools happen at someone's home, and half of these were at the victim's home and the other half at another person's home.

Health officials advocate layers of protection around swimming pools because one good barrier may not be enough. Having multiple safeguards such as fences, door latches and alarm system is more effective. Install pool covers designed to prevent children from falling or otherwise entering the pool. If poorly designed covers are used, children can fall into the pool and drown.

Pool safety is a community issue, and many communities have fence codes. Some local

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Career Spanning Five Decades

Long-time Special Ed Director Set to Retire

By Sue Jane Mayes

Johnnye Smith has seen many changes in her 40 plus years of education, but the biggest change is just on the horizon.

Next week, Mrs. Smith will step aside as Special Education Director for the Borden, Dawson, and Klondike school systems, a position she has held since 1987.

Add to that resume several years at St. Christopher's in Lubbock in the 1960's, a 15-year career with the Lubbock ISD followed by a brief three years in Abernathy, and it is easy to see why Mrs. Smith's decision to retire constitutes a major change.

Mrs. Smith will be honored Sunday, June 24, with a reception from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dal Paso Museum in Lamesa.

Working as a certified diagnostician, and director of special education, Smith was hired by the three area schools in 1987 to service a special education co-op, comprised of Borden ISD, Dawson ISD, and Klondike ISD.

"I talked to Mr. McLeroy (Borden), and he called the other two superintendents, Mrs. Logan (Klondike) and Mrs. Airhart (Dawson)," said Smith. "We all met at a little

restaurant in Lamesa, had lunch, and called back the following week from Ruidoso to say I would take the job."

"I took this job for only three years, but one year led to another," said Smith.

During the course of her career in education, Smith notes that many reforms in the area of learning disabilities have altered



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Johnnye Smith

Archeologists Confirm Remains of Third Person Buried at Fort St. Louis

VICTORIA, Texas — Texas Historical Commission (THC) archeologists, in conjunction with forensic experts, have learned that the skeletal remains of a third individual were buried in a common grave at the Fort St. Louis archeological site, the first European colony in Texas.

The remains, believed to be those of early settlers, were discovered at the site last November in a shallow grave overlooking Garcias Creek, where several French artifacts have been discovered.

University of North Texas forensic experts are

conducting tests on the remains which initially were believed to be those of two males. The confirmation of a third individual was made on the basis of identification of a total of five humeri, or upper arm bones, and three patellae, or knee caps, removed from the common grave. They were taken to the Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology and Human Identification at the University of North Texas in Denton where staff hopes to determine the sex, age, and stature of these people.

For more information, contact the THC Archeological Division at 512/463-6096

Long-time Special Ed Director Set to Retire

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schools' approach to special education instruction.

"In the early 1970's, with the passage of Bill 94142, special education became a focus for all schools and made so many programs available," she said.

And, the focus was in the classroom for Smith, who began her work in schools as a reading specialist.

Ironically, while Smith was working for the needs of the learning disabled, she also faced another stigma, this one at home.

Working women, particularly working mothers, was not the norm in the early 60's or 70's.

"My brother called me the night before I went to work (at St. Christophers') and read me the right act," she said. "My parents threw a fit."

Smith, after having received degrees from Texas Tech, continued with her career in education for the next 40 years.

What does Smith see as the biggest change in her field in this time span?

"They have programs now for any kind of disability, and those programs start at birth," said Smith.

With special education thriving, Smith can retire with the satisfaction that she was a key player in the process, first as a teacher, then as a diagnostician and director of special education.

She can also take satisfaction in knowing she and her husband Don, a retired Navy officer, will spend more time with five granddaughters, who ages range from 4 to 21.

In the course of a long, productive educational career, Johnnye Smith has influenced numerous lives, of those students with whom she worked and the school personnel with whom she served.

Some things never change.



Testing time: Mrs. Smith, shown testing just one of her many students.



Johnnye Smith shown with Max Manley and Robbie Phipps.

County 4-H Horse Show

Thursday, June 21, 2001
Borden County Rodeo Arena

You are cordially invited
to attend a retirement reception
honoring

Johnnye Smith
Sunday, June 24, 2001
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Dal Paso Museum
South 1st & Main Street
Lamesa, Texas

Swimming season

Cont. from pg. 1

building codes require a fence, an alarm or other barrier to prevent access from the back door to the pool. Parents may call local police or health departments to report a pool without a fence or other protection. They also can encourage their communities to adopt local building codes that require additional safety barriers for pools.

You can help reduce the chances your child will be a statistic. Teach children these safety rules:

- If you're playing with something that falls in the swimming pool, do not go into the pool to get it yourself. Ask an adult to get it for you.
- Never play close to the edge of the pool because you can fall in.
- Always stay away from the deep end of the pool
- Never run on the pool deck or boat dock.
- Always jump in feet first
- And a rule that's excellent for all ages: Never swim alone.

Some additional suggestions to help keep your children safe:

- Never leave your child alone near the water, even for just a few seconds. Be actively attentive and keep small children within arm's reach.
- Avoid swimming in natural bodies of water where water may not be sanitary and dangerous currents, debris

and rocks can't be seen from the surface.

- Always use approved personal-flotation devices rather than inflatable toys to keep your child afloat.
- Have a first-aid kit, a phone and emergency phone numbers nearby.
- Be sure all neighborhood pools have fences or walls at least 4 to 5 feet high all the way around that do not have footholds for children to climb. Avoid vertical bars more than 4 inches apart and chain link fences that provide footholds.
- Keep chairs, tables and other items that would enable a child to climb over away from pool fences.
- Fence gates should be self-closing and self-latching. The latch should be out of a child's reach.
- Purchase alarms. Door alarms cost about \$6- at hardware stores. Wrist alarm bands go off when children get wet. And a pool alarm goes off if anything weighing more than 10 pounds falls in.
- Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) from the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

For more information, call TDH's Recreational Sanitation branch, at 512-834-6635, or check the TDH Web site at www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/gp/pools.htm.



Thank You!

Just want to say Thank You! To all our friends for the prayers, calls, cards and food that were sent our way during my recent knee surgery. Your kindness is so greatly appreciated.

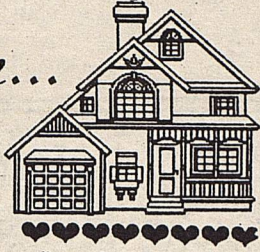
Sue & Rube



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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 a Huge success

Twenty-nine Borden County residents participated in the *Walk Across Texas* program during April and May. Together, these individuals walked 1159 miles over the six-week period. What an accomplishment!

The mileage breakdown for each team is: Toddling Teachers = 385.2 miles; County Cruisers = 318 miles; Beauties and the Beasts = 281 miles; and the Wind Walkers = 184.75 miles

The *Walk Across Texas* program was designed to encourage people to start and maintain a physical fitness program. We are very pleased that we walked over one thousand miles! A special thanks to everyone that participated in the 2001 *Walk Across Texas* program!



BORDEN COUNTY 4-H
HORSE PROJECT

BAKE SALE
MONDAY,
JUNE 25, 2001



from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

at the Borden County Extension Office
Conference Room



Sponsored by
Borden County Extension Program Council
In Support of
Responsible, Self-Motivated Youth & Adults



Appraisal Review Board For the Borden County Appraisal District

Notice of Public Meeting of the Appraisal Review Board:

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting of the Appraisal Review Board of the Borden County Appraisal District will convene at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 22, 2001, at the meeting room in the county courthouse.

The board will here and determine taxpayer and taxing unit appeals on all matter permitted by the TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE.

The Appraisal Review Board will be in session until all timely-filed appeals are heard and resolved.

This notice is given pursuant to the Open Meeting Act, Chapter 551, Government Code.

Annual 4th of July Celebration

Sponsored by First Baptist Church Gail

CONCERT

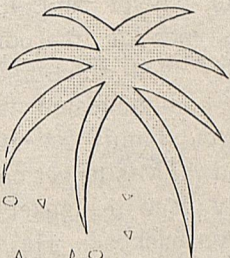
Ray Perryman

Minister & Christian
Recording Artist

Sunday, July 1st

6:00 p.m.

County Show Barn
(Love offering excepted)



Ice Cream & Fireworks
to Follow

(bring your favorite Homemade Ice cream
& Goodies and your fireworks)



Area Youth Seeking SUMMER WORK

Do you need a baby sitter
or help with your
House cleaning?
Call: Cassidy Rinehart at
806/756-4323

Thank You!



I would like to thank the teachers, employees, administration and Board of Trustees for the beautiful flowers sent to me during my surgery and hospital stay. Your thoughtfulness was so greatly appreciated

Holly, Phillip and Baylee Benavidez

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Borden County, Texas

The Commissioners Court of Borden County cordially invites the Public to attend a hearing on the topic of county redistricting on the 25th day of June, 2001, at 3:00 p.m. This meeting will be held in the District Courtroom, Borden County Courthouse.

The Commissioners Court is considering one or more alternate plans for the redistricting of County Commissioners Court precincts. Changes in the existing boundaries of each Commissioners Court precinct will also have an impact on election precincts, polling places, and Justice of the Peace/Constable precincts. Public comment is sincerely solicited.

Signed: Van L. York
County Judge
Borden County

Branon Funeral Home

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Texas Stories
A showcase of the Texas Spirit

Tumbleweed Smith
Part owner of Texas

Backpacking around the world

Charlie Bott grew up in Big Spring, got a good college education and became a nuclear engineer with GE in California. A few years ago, he got the travel bug. He quit his good job, threw a few articles of clothing into a backpack and took off.

"I thought I had enough money to travel about nine months, but I found it didn't cost near what I thought it would, so I extended the trip to nearly two years," GE rehired Charlie and he's now is back home in San Francisco.

Charlie wanted to see some places, but the rest of the trip was sort of free lance. He would get to a place, meet other travelers who would tell him about different places they had been. That peaked Charlie's curiosity, so he would go there. "I saw some things I never thought I'd get to see."

He started in Turkey, then went throughout the Middle East, India, Africa and Asia.

He said he'd pay a dollar or two for a meal and about the same amount for a night's lodging. "I got by for about ten dollars a day. I didn't know you could do that. It's quite different from here in San Francisco."

Charlie said he was never scared. "I tried not to stand out. I just observed. It's kinda nice to be in areas that are making history. Years from now I can say I was there when certain events were occurring. It's great to be exposed to parts of the world and cultures that have traditions that I have never seen before."

He found some differences, but some similarities. "I saw mothers loving their children the same way everywhere I went. That was beautiful."


He decided to make the trip because he was nearing thirty. In fact he turned thirty while he was gone. "I was afraid I was going to miss some things that were happening in this world that I

never knew about. Now I can look at the globe and understand what's going on I certain countries. I know what the people wear, their food and music, what makes them happy. I just wanted to be able to do that before I died. I figured now was the time to do it."

He spent three months exploring Egypt and used several types of transportation He even hitch-hiked. Charlie communicated with friends and family by email and used ATM's to get cash. The only piece of luggage he had was a backpack. He had one pair of long pants, a pair of shorts, two shirts, underwear and socks. "It's amazing the small amount of stuff you need to get by. When winter came I'd buy some warmer clothes, then give them away when it got warm."

Just before he left, Charlie bought a small video camera. It was an expensive piece of equipment, but he's gals he made the investment. He shot some twenty hours of tape and will someday make a movie of his trip. He also kept a journal of his travels.

"It's amazing how many people I met who were doing the same thing I was doing, just seeing the world Not many Americans, thought. I think anybody who's interested in doing a trip like this



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.

Meat Goat Show for 2002

The Borden County Jr. Livestock Association Officers and Directors have approved for the 2002 County Livestock Show a meat goat show. This new addition is included on a trial basis for one year. After the 2002 Jr. Livestock Show, the

should get things in order and just go do it. It was a fascinating experience that greatly enriched my life. I smile when I think about it.

Board will review the effects the goat show had on the 2002 show in terms of success and feasibility of this project for future years.

Rules and guidelines to include minimum weight, tooth rule, and de-budding (to list a few) are in the process of being put together. If you are interested in the goat project, please call the Extension office at 806/756-4336 and as soon as guidelines are complete, we will mail you a copy.

LEGAL NOTICE


Pursuant to Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code, Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners Court of Borden County, Texas will convene in special session on the 25th day of June 2001, at 3:00 p.m. to receive public comment on redistricting of County election, justice of the peace and commissioners court precincts. Following the public hearing, the Commissioners Court will take up for consideration and possible action one or more alternative plans for the redistricting of County Commissioners Court precincts. The Court reserves the right to take any and all appropriate action regarding the redistricting of Borden County political boundaries, including the acceptance of new boundaries for the Commissioners Court precincts, modification of any boundaries, and/or tabling the pending proposals for alter consideration and/or action.

The Public is invited to attend and participate in this meeting. Those wishing to address the Court should sign a speakers request form provided for this purpose. Each speaker will be asked to come before the Court, to identify themselves, their address, and the Commissioners Court precinct and Election precinct they reside within. Comments should be reasonable concise and to the point. Questions will be answered, but the Court will not permit argument or excessive discussion of any particular topic. The hearing will be conducted under rules of judicial decorum. A tape recording of the hearing will be made of this hearing. Your comments will be transcribed and included with the submission of the proposed changes to existing Commissioners Court precincts to the United States Department of Justice.

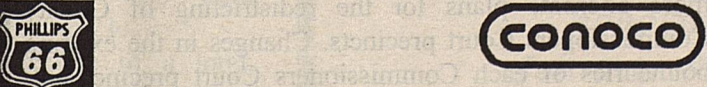
For the Borden County Commissioners Court

Van L. York
County Judge
Borden County

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