

# THE BORDEN STAR

Volume XXXI

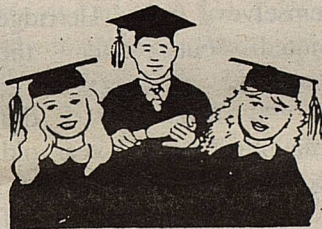
June 4, 2003

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

## Borden Co. ISD Annual Awards Assembly

### cuts college cost for graduates

According to the chief financial official at Texas Tech, tuition and fees will increase to \$5,044 for an average load of 30 hours yearly, and total annual expenses to live and go to Tech for 30 hours will rise to \$15,546. In plain language, the cost of 1 hour of college credit for a resident student at Texas Tech will rise to \$518. Such increases are typical of state-supported universities across Texas, so financial aid becomes increasingly important for college students. Although all Borden County ISD graduates of 2001-2002 and 2003 are academically eligible for the highly touted TEXAS Grant, most are not eligible because of the financial need criteria. The same economic criteria keeps many students from obtaining Pell Grants and other federal and state assistance.



others will graduate with 12 hours. Five juniors have already accumulated 12 hours, and, if the program is continued as planned, these students will graduate with 24 free college hours. The math is easy, the savings are huge. Savings to the seniors with 12 hours equals \$6,216, and projected savings to the present junior class can be as much as \$12,432 through the dual credit classes alone.

Costs at community colleges are not so high, and many of our graduates have elected to begin their secondary education there. They, too, will realize a great saving in time and money through their dual credit hours gained here at Borden County. Our hats are off to the Borden County Board and Administration for providing this unique opportunity and financial assistance for our present and future graduates.

Mary Airhart, Counselor  
Borden County ISD

The Annual Awards Assembly was held on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:50 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Mr. Jimmy Thomas school superintendent gave the welcome to all the students, teachers, parents and guest. He thanked the students for an outstanding school year and praised them for all their hard work and dedication to their school.

Mr. Chet Dye, school principal announced the Perfect Attendance Awards. Those receiving Perfect Attendance were:

**Elementary:** Cayden Vaughn, Lexi Peterson, Celina Guerrero, Tanner Richey, Vivian Hernandez, Michael Froman, Taylor Richey, Lacey Roberts, Raylea Underwood, Laura Griffin, and Katherine Froman. **Junior High:** Shelby Roberts, Taylor Peterson, and Dore Rodriguez. **High School:**

Caden Nowlain, Ben Griffin, Billy Roper, Tyler Wallace, Andy Lozano, Jami Gass, Michele Bond, Bobbie Kempf and Dalene Kempf.

The Scholastic Achievement Awards were then presented. These awards were presented to students with a 90 average with no grade lower than 85. Those students receiving this award were: Miller, Valentine, Whitney Anderson, Ashley James, Emily Mayes, Kyle Pinkerton and Michele Bond.

Mrs. Sue Jane Mayes then presented the Beta Achievement for 2002-2003. These students had no grade lower than a 90 in a six weeks. The students receiving this award were Katherine Froman, Carlos Hernandez, Rachel Wilson, Billy Roper, John Wilson, Micah Hensley and Talin Pepper.

Mr. Thomas presented the new Beta Club Achievement Awards to the following: Whitney Anderson, Ashley James, LaShae Johnson, Emily Mayes, Jami Gass, Carolina Arellanos, April Bouressa and Kyla Culp.

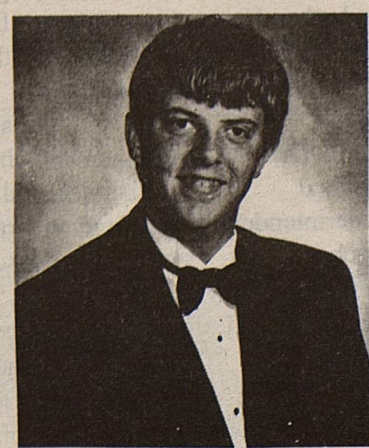
The Highest GPA Award was presented to Talin Pepper, 12<sup>th</sup>; Kyle Pinkerton, 11<sup>th</sup>; John Wilson, 10<sup>th</sup>; Whitney Anderson, 9<sup>th</sup>; Becky Dobyns, 8<sup>th</sup>; Rachel Wilson 7<sup>th</sup> and Katherine Froman, 6<sup>th</sup>.

Each year the teachers' select a senior girl and boy they feel are suited to receive the Citizenship Award. This award is based on the students overall attitude towards teachers and fellow students. This year's Citizenship Award was presented to Micah Hensley and Kevin Ellison.

### Citizenship Award



Micah Hensley



Kevin Ellison

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Immediately  
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HESITATE!**

## Departing Band Director sets sight (and sound) on continued Music Education

The first time Hector Aguero stepped on the campus of Borden Schools, he was sporting some long hair, a goatee, and his bride-to-be.

Gail, Texas, via Laredo via Texas Tech is a far cry from what the hopeful orchestra conductor expected to be, but more than likely he'll keep Borden County and its students close to his heart in the years to come.

After a year and a half with the Borden County ISD, Aguero is returning to Texas Tech to pursue work on his master's degree in orchestral conducting.

And Laura—the aforementioned bride—will conveniently be doing the same, but in vocal performance.

Aguero interviewed for the Borden County opening in December of 2002 thanks to a professor at Tech that encouraged the move.

Ironically, another student at Tech had been mentioned for the position, but the Tech professor knew that Aguero would be better suited and informed Superintendent Jimmy Thomas of just that.

Aguero came to interview—with long hair, a goatee, and a fiancé.

He returned in January with the job but without the other three.

Don't worry—he still had the fiancé, but Laura would remain in Lubbock to continue her studies at Tech.

The arrangement reached between superintendent and student teacher was simple and forthright—stay the semester and for at least one year.

Aguero agreed to do just that, working with the



music program K-12.

Even after offers came in during the summer, Aguero kept his word and remained with Borden County.

He and Laura married last summer and have kept separate residences during that time, with Aguero commuting on the weekends to their apartment in Lubbock.

After receiving word that he would get a Texas Public Education Grant, the Agueros knew that the time was right to get his graduate degree and set up "home" with Laura.

Laura, an accomplished soprano, will participate in a month-long internship in Iowa but will return in July to Lubbock and her husband.

Aguero's family still resides in Laredo where he graduated after attending a fine arts magnet school throughout high school.

The oldest of four and only boy, Aguero became interested in band after watching his uncle play the trombone in high school.

The saxophone would be Aguero's instrument as he studied music theory, composition, and even piano while attending the

fine arts school.

After a week of Texas Tech summer band camp in 1995, Aguero knew he liked the area.

Two years later, he sent in an audition tape and Tech offered him a scholarship.

The excitement was tempered by the fact that family wanted him to remain close to home—to attend Texas A&M Kingsville.

Aguero ventured out and the rest is history.

The future looks bright as Aguero will take this experience and try to do what he has always wanted—to conduct orchestras.

His contributions to Borden County and its music program are significant for such a short stay as was evidenced as last week's band concert.

The good news is that Aguero has a little sister still at home—a 6<sup>th</sup> grader who might just follow in big brother's footsteps.

Who knows? Maybe she'll walk into the superintendent's office one day here in Gail.

And she won't have to cut her long hair.

## Herridge receives GED Certificate in WTC Ceremony

You're never too old. Frank Herridge proved that May 27 when he was presented with much more than a certificate saying he had passed a test giving him what is equivalent to a high school diploma.

The certificate symbolizes what WTC President Eric Williams called "the magic door" to places an education can open up for an individual.

Williams spoke to the six students who received their GED's, and Borden County's Herridge held the distinction of being the oldest—and best dressed.

Education does make people feel better about themselves as Herridge pointed out after the ceremony.

"It feels like I did something," the 75-year old graduate said.

After 61 years of being away from formal education, that would be an understatement.

Herridge was supported not only by his wife—District Clerk Joyce Herridge—but by all three sons and their families.

He also knows that some special teachers helped along the way.

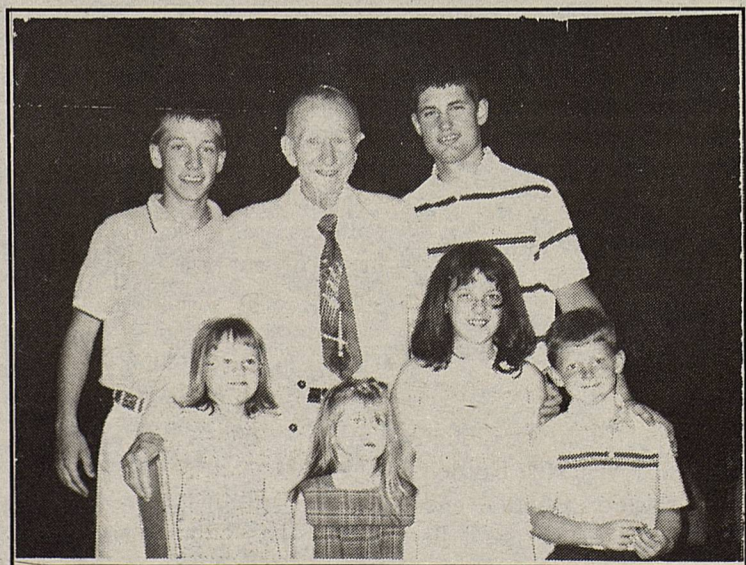
One of those, Margaret Corkran, spoke briefly to the students before they received their certificates.

"Earning a GED certificate is such a major accomplishment," Corkran said. "It is a symbol of determination, values, and self-respect."



**PROUD GRADUATE:**

Frank Herridge pictured with his wife Joyce, at the WTC Fine Arts Building where ceremonies were held present-ing him with his GED.



**GRANDDAD IN THE MIDDLE** Fiddler pictured with, from left to right front row, Megan Herridge, Savannah Herridge, Celeste Herridge, and Riley Herridge. Caden and Cody Nowlain stand on either side of their grandfather.

# It Takes Nine to "Tango, Tango"

Borden High School's Spanish III students can now say they have experienced a little bit of Argentina.

The seven students along with teacher Sue Jane Mayes and sponsor Darby Key enjoyed an evening in Ft. Worth recently at the Bass Hall Performance Center.

"Tango, Tango" was a combination performance of orchestral music with the Ft. Worth Symphony along with four featured couples performing the famous Argentinean dance stage front.

Prior to the concert, the group visited the Kimbell Art Museum where they viewed works by Spanish artists Picasso, Goya, Velazquez, and Miró.

At one of Ft. Worth's well-known restaurant, Joe T. Garcia's, a mariachi group gave a special command performance for the students.

Seniors Carolina Arellanos,

Oralia Galicia, Yessi Gonzales, Micah Hensley, Pati Rodriguez, Raul Rodriguez, and T. J. Sharp made the trip May 17, 18. Michele Bond was unable to attend due to a previous commitment.



**BUEN PROVECHO!** Spanish III class and sponsors enjoy a meal at Joe T. Garcia's in Ft. Worth. Front row: Micah Hensley, Pati Rodriguez, Oralia Galicia. Back row: Raul Rodriguez, Carolina Arellanos, Mrs. Mayes, Mrs. Key, Yessi Gonzales, and T.J. Sharp.



**TOCA LA GUITARRA** Carolina, with a little help from Mrs. Mayes, strums right along with Ricardo, the Mariachi guy.

## Borden County 4-H Shooting Sports Start Summer Schedule

Three age-group divisions will begin competing June 7, representing Borden County 4-H in trap and skeet shooting contests across the state.

Borden County participates in District II out of Lubbock, but meets will be held in various locations across the region.

Ray Don Underwood, a 1978 graduate of Borden High School, will be coaching this year's

shooters. In the sub-junior division, Underwood will be able to coach his own daughter, Raylea, along with Brendan Tarleton.

The junior division will be comprised of John Cowart, Symeron Rinehart, J. Ryan Gicklhorn, Caden Nowlain, and Austin Tarleton.

Long-time standout for the Borden County 4-H

shooting program, Brionne Jackson, will compete in the senior division.

Jackson will also continue in his pursuit of competing with the USA Junior Olympics.

### SUMMER SCHEDULE

- June 7: Gaines County
- June 14: Taylor County
- June 21: Garza County
- June 27,28: District II, Lubbock
- July 4, 5: District IV, Midland
- July 11, 12: San Angelo
- July 23-26: State 4-H Shoot, San Antonio

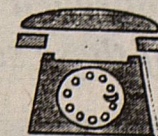


**MARTIAL ARTS IN SPANISH** Raul, Micah, Yessi, and Carolina try their hand at a popular park activity in Ft. Worth to relieve all that stress from having ridden with Mrs. Key and Mrs. Mayes.

### 4-H Horse Project Practice and Point Night Schedule 7:00 p.m.

Tues. June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Practice
Thurs. June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Practice
Tues. June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Practice
Thurs. June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Point
Tues. June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Practice
Thurs. June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Point & County Horse Show

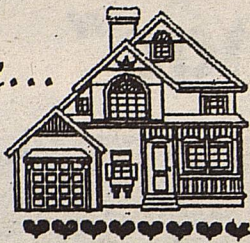
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**TPA** MEMBER 2003  
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# Heart and home...

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.

## Summer Time and Bicycles

It is summertime again! Now that the temperatures are rising, school is out, and children are playing outside, we must remember one of the most popular summer activities for children - bicycle riding. Whether it is a tricycle, bicycle, racer, or a mountain bike, motor vehicle drivers

must remember to be on the lookout for these young "drivers". Drivers must remember to share the road with bicyclists. Sharing the road is critical but drivers must also be alert to the fact that many bicyclists do not know the rules of the road or follow safety practices, especially young children. Young children, less than 10 years of age, do not have the skill and judgement to cope with traffic.

As a parent, it is critical to teach children safe cycling habits from their first day on a tricycle. Bicycles and tricycles

are not toys, they are vehicles that rely on human power to move. Knowing and practicing safe habits will reduce their risks of injury. Wearing a safety helmet is one critical habit that a cyclist needs to adopt.

When children first ride a tricycle, they need to wear a bicycle helmet. If they learn this habit from the very beginning, they more likely will always practice the habit. The risk of head injuries while riding tricycles is real. A recent review of pediatric trauma cases nationwide

showed that, although the tricycle population (children under 5 years old) accounted for a small proportion of children with bike-related injuries, their injuries were just as severe as those of older children (5-14 years old). As children move from a tricycle to a two-wheeler, continue to insist on their wearing a bicycle helmet. Letting your child choose a helmet is one way to encourage helmet use. Just make sure the helmet fits snugly, covers the forehead, and is certified to meet either Snell, ASTM, OR ANSI standards.

Head injuries are the most serious type of injury and the most common cause of death for bicyclists. Numerous studies have proven that bicycle helmets work to reduce head injury. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, a total of 60 bicyclists were killed in the state, nine of those fatalities were children ages five to nine. That number may not seem very significant, but if the seriously injured or killed individual is a member of your family or community, your life is affected. Wearing a bicycle helmet is just plain common sense and head injuries are preventable by the proper use of helmets. Parents and children are both responsible for wearing helmets when they ride.

Once a helmet has been involved in a crash, do not use it again. The damage may be obvious but sometimes it is not. The helmet may have small invisible cracks which weaken the shell. After a crash, buy a new helmet and use the old one as a reminder that helmets do save lives! For more information on summer safety, contact the Extension office at (806)756-4336.

### WAGON WHEEL MINISTRIES

#### MISSION TRAIL RIDE

#### FROM CARBON, TEXAS TO HOBBS, NEW MEXICO

#### PICNICS - BBQ'S - GAMES

#### CAMP FIRE SONGS

#### DRAMA - DEVOTIONALS

#### TESTIMONIES & MUCH MORE

WE WILL BE COMING THROUGH YOUR TOWN

### GAIL PARK PAVILION

7:00 p.m. Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Services following

The Wagon Wheel Ministries will be holding the Services at the Baptist Church in Gail Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> beginning with the morning service at 11:00 a.m. followed with a Pot Luck Lunch being served in the fellowship hall.

The evening service will be held at the Park Pavilion beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a Youth CookOut following the services.

Everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy all of these services

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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## 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.*

## U.S. Beef Supply Continue to be Safe Food Source

Continuous surveillance efforts throughout the beef industry has provided assurance that U.S. beef is safe and a nutritious food source, Texas Cooperative Extension officials said Wednesday.

No cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), widely known as mad cow disease, have been confirmed in the United States in the past 12 years with active surveillance at both slaughter firms and on the farm.

"Surveillance and testing of cows is a good protective measure of keeping our beef safe," said Dr. Buddy Faries, Extension program leader for veterinary medicine. "Any cows that show neurological signs, are weak or thin in body condition are tested at slaughter. These animals do not enter the food chain."

BSE was reported in Canada Tuesday — the first such

reported case in that country in more than a decade. A cow in Alberta tested positive for the disease after tests were taken from the cow after slaughter. The meat did not enter the food chain, Canadian officials said. BSE are found only in the brain and spinal cord.

Faries noted some important facts about the surveillance systems and about mad cow disease:

- Surveillance systems in the U.S. and in Canada have been in place to monitor cattle for diseases and unwholesomeness. Surveillance testing reassures the U.S. beef supply is safe.

- All cows that show neurological signs, weak or thin body condition are tested at slaughter. These cows do not enter the food chain.

- The beef itself isn't infected with BSE, only the brain and spinal cord. No evidence of

infection detected in milk or muscle tissue.

- No brains or spinal cords are ground in hamburger meat in the U.S.

- Surveillance testing, the ban on feeding ruminant protein to ruminants (feeding rendered cattle, sheep, goat or deer meat or bone meal back to beef cattle) and the prohibition on importing animals and meat products from BSE-affected countries has provided assurance that the U.S. and Texas will have healthy animals and wholesome meat products.

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has closed the border to the importation of Canadian cattle and meat products.

The eight-year-old Canadian cow that tested positive for the disease was part of a 150-head herd. The affected herd would be tested and depopulated, Canadian officials said.

In January, the cow was condemned due to unwholesomeness on slaughter and brain tissue was submitted for laboratory testing under the BSE surveillance program. Tests conducted at a laboratory in the United Kingdom confirmed infection of BSE in the cow's brain after initial tests were run at a Canadian laboratory.

## Applications for Academic Scholarship being accepted

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute is accepting applications for academic scholarships.

Sophomore, junior or senior undergraduates majoring in an agricultural field or graduate students working on a master's or doctorate in an agricultural field are eligible.

The scholarship is available to students attending one of the six following universities in the West Texas area: Abilene Christian, Angelo

State, Lubbock Christian, Sul Ross State, Texas Tech, or West Texas A&M. Students from the West Texas area attending the college of their choice are also eligible.

Recipients will be named and awarded the scholarships at WTACI's annual meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Lubbock Civic Center. Recipients must either attend the conference or designate someone to accept the award at the conference, or they do not receive the scholarship.

"These cows are regularly tested and taken out of the food chain," Faries explained. "No brains or spinal cords are ground for hamburger here in the U.S. Continuous surveillance is the means to detect possible cases of disease like we've seen happen in Canada. Mad cow disease is not in the U.S. and not likely to occur due to the compliance of the regulatory biosecurity measures currently enforced by USDA and the Texas Animal Health Commission."

For more information about mad cow disease, go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse-overview.html>

Deadline for application is June 15<sup>th</sup>. The application is available on-line at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>. For more information, contact Scott Armstrong, scholarship committee chairman, at 742-9786.

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## Keeping an Eye on Texas

### Texans on the Road

Bicyclists from all walks of life are out on the roads and trails of Texas.

The state's Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), a non-profit group that serves as the voice of Texas cyclists to the Texas Legislature, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Department of Public Safety, schools and local communities, estimates Texas retailers see more than \$200 million annually in bike sales, and the industry is growing.



SOURCES: Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn ([www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us)) and the Texas Bicycle Advisory Committee.

PHOTO: Texas Bicycle Coalition

**Caution:**  
**School's Out**  
**Watch for Children**

Message brought to you by this newspaper and the Texas Highway Patrol Association



**Texas Stories**  
A showcase of the Texas Spirit



**Tumbleweed Smith**  
Part owner of Texas

## Floyd County's Veterans Memorial

The veteran's memorial in Floydada is not only a tribute to Floyd County people who served in the Armed Forces, but also a tribute to the dedication and resourcefulness of a teenage boy.

When Skyler Cornelius, then a sophomore in high school, was traveling with his family he noticed a monument to veterans in the small community of Benjamin, population 264. Skyler was impressed that a place so small would have such a fine memorial. He thought if Benjamin could do it, Floydada could.

With the help of his mother, Skyler contacted the folks in Benjamin and other cities that had similar monuments and found out what companies built the granite structures. He called the Willis Granite Company in Granite, Oklahoma and laid out his plans for one in Floydada. He said he wanted to put the names of all the men and women in Floyd County who had ever served in the military and had an honorable discharge. He figured he needed enough space for about two thousand names. The company said it would cost about twenty thousand dollars.

Skyler submitted his design for the monument and apparently it was more elaborate than the company first thought. The price tag shot up to sixty thousand dollars. It didn't phase Skyler one bit. He kept going to different places, making speeches about the monument, seeking donations. He contacted news media all over the South

Plains and they went to Floydada and interviewed Skyler about his project.

The newspaper in Floydada ran front-page stories about the effort to raise money. The paper urged people who had been in the military to send in their information and make a donation if they so desired.

Skyler got the idea for the monument round Veterans day in 2001. He wanted it finished by November 11, 2002. He envisioned a huge dedication ceremony on that day.

The enthusiasm for the monument spread like wildfire. Skyler and his mother carefully logged all the names, making sure to get the correct spelling. The project had a board of directors composed of 28 school kids and 25 adults.

By July, 2002, sixty-one thousand dollars had been donated.

The names kept multiplying and soon there were 4,000, double the number first expected.

Skyler called the monument company again and told them he needed a bigger one. The monument company said he needed to raise thirty thousand more dollars.

"It was kind of a let-down, but it was also encouraging that we had that many people serving in the military," says Skyler. "Some of them date back to the Civil War."

The donations totaled \$93,000. Not a single fundraiser was held. Four thousand people attended the dedication on the courthouse square last November 11<sup>th</sup>. That's more than the population of Floydada.

## Texas Electric Cooperatives, South Plains College Awarded Job Training Grant

LUBBOCK - The unique partnership between Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC) and South Plains College (SPC) received a financial boost last week when the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) awarded a \$229,012 grant to the pair for job training. The grant will educate 150 electric line workers in skills necessary to their field and award college credit for those studies.

"This is a great opportunity for us," TEC Loss Control Director Robert Bryson said at the check presentation in Lubbock on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. "Although the technology in the electric utility field has changed, employees are still injured on the job, just as they were 20 years ago. There's still a long way to go, but with our association with TWC, maybe there's a light at the end of the tunnel." The partnership between TEC and SPC is the only electric utilities industry/college training program in the state. Novice, intermediate and advanced electric line workers receive valuable training needed to perform their duties more safely and efficiently, then return home to provide leadership and direction to other employees in their field. The SOC electrical power and transmission technology training curriculum consists of 65 college credits for an associate degree or 35 college credits for a certificate Degree in Electric Power Technology. The lineman training facility and main college campus are in

Levelland.

Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president, said the school took over the training program when it was discontinued by Texas A&M University. "Now we have the best lineman training program in the nation - it's world class," McDaniel said. "Especially in hard economic times, the grant money does help. This kind of partnership needs to keep coming on in order for us to continue."

TEC was part of the three-member consortium receiving a total of \$461,111 in grant funds from TWC. The Muleshoe Area Hospital

District and Denver city Nursing Home, who partner with SPC for job training, were also recipients.

Bryson noted that there are 5,000 electric utilities employees across the state who need this type of educational opportunity. "Our goal is to have all these guys work safely," he said. "Most of all, we want them to go home to their families with their lives."

The Electric Cooperatives is a statewide association of 75 electric cooperatives. It also has line worker training facilities in East and Central Texas.

### Subscription List

Below is a list of subscriptions that expired in December, January, and February and will expire in March. Please look on the list to see if your name is listed, if so please send \$12.00 payment to the: **Borden Star Box 137 - Gail, TX 79738**

This list will be published weekly. Thank you for your help and continuing your subscription to the Borden Star.

#### June Subscriptions Due:

Doyle, Eva	Smith, Larry
Edwards, Kelli	Smith, Joyce
Gass, Shirley	Steadman, Doris
Gray, Borden	Taylor, Benny
Jones, Don	Taylor, Buster
Lamming, Barbara	Taylor, Kirk
McWhorter, Kandy	Walker, Mark
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#### April Subscriptions Due:

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Big Country Elec. Co-op	Pucket, Lisa
Harding, Joe	Walker, Travis
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#### March Subscriptions PAST DUE:

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Clayton, Scott	Phinzy, Bill
First Presbyterian Church	TxDOT - Abilene
Lone Star F.L.B.A	Yellowhouse Machine

[If you have paid your subscription, and your name is listed, please contact the paper and see if your money has been received. Phone: 806-756-4402 or 756-4313]

**Thank You for your Subscription to the Borden Star**



Skyler will be a senior in Floydada High School in the fall.

# Summer Nuisances in The Lawn and Garden

The beginning of summer marks a time when school is out and many people venture outdoors to spend more time in their lawns and gardens. To keep the lawn and garden healthy, we must first be made a ware of summer nuisances that can wreck havoc outdoors.

Because humidity has been very high the past few weeks, insects and fungus are two problems for which to be on the lookout. First, insects such as grasshoppers, aphids, spider mites, thrips, and various caterpillars and worms can do much damage to leafy and flowering plants. At first sight of insects on ornamental or garden plants, it is important to identify the

insect so that proper treatment can be administered. Fire ants are also a serious problem for pets, children, adults and plants. Watch for mounds, appearing, especially after bouts of rain.

Fungi can also be

problematic in lawns and on plants this time of year. Brown patch and take-all disease are two problems affecting lawns during the spring and summer months. Both appear as yellow-green spots in grass, and quickly

Cont. to pg. 8

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## Beware of Home Improvement Scams

It's spring and the time of year that many homeowners consider home improvement projects. It's also the time of year that many scam artists are on the prowl trying to make some quick and easy money. Unfortunately, many home improvement "contractors" target unwary consumers—especially elderly people living alone—with high-pressure techniques to sell unnecessary and overpriced "home improvements."



Tips from your Community Banker

Never rush into signing a contract, especially in your home. If it's a really good deal, it will still be a good deal tomorrow. Make sure you read the contract in full. If the salesperson insists on you signing the contract immediately, tell him "no thanks." And remember that Texas law provides a three-day "cooling off" period on contracts signed in your home. Take advantage of it!

Home improvement scams top the list of national consumer complaints. A common scam to be on the lookout for is the contractor who offers to reseal your driveway. He's been working in the neighborhood and just happens to have some materials leftover and will reseal your driveway for a nominal fee of \$50.00. After he finishes the work, he may ask for \$2,000.00 and threaten to call law enforcement officials if you don't pay. Many people will unwittingly pay the \$2000.00 before realizing they've been "had."

Another rip-off might involve the "contractor" who comes to your door saying that while working on another house in the neighborhood, he noticed that your roof had some serious ice or snow damage. He will then quote a price for "minor" repair and probably do nothing. He will then tell you the damage was more extensive than he thought and ask for a much larger amount of money.

Rule number one when dealing with home improvement contractors: Be wary of a salesperson who appears at your door uninvited.

Many of these home improvement con artists employ different techniques in their sales pitch:

- They offer low prices for an item and later tell you that the item was out of stock and can only be replaced by a more expensive substitute.
- They misrepresent the urgency of the needed repair.
- They misrepresent the terms of financing.
- They add hidden extra charges above the negotiated price.


Never sign a contract that has blanks allowing an unscrupulous salesperson to go in later and fill in a different amount than was agreed to orally.

When making home improvements, be sure you do your homework to see what you can afford. Always get references and a written contract. Be sure to check with the Better Business Bureau to see if the company has had any complaints against them and more importantly if those complaints have been settled to the customer's satisfaction.

It is best to only do business with a company after you have done extensive research or the company has been recommended to you by a family member or friend.

There are many reputable home improvement contractors who have many years of experience in your local community. Make sure to work with them rather than the "here today and gone tomorrow" con artist.

Provided as a public service by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas



**SEEDS FROM THE SOWER**  
Michael A. Guido  
Metter, Georgia

A woman asked, "Can you tell me which platform to go to for the train to Boston?"

"Yes, ma'am," said the conductor. "Just turn to the left, and you'll be right."

"Young man," she said, "don't be so smartalecky."

"All right, ma'am," he answered. "Just turn right and you'll be left."

But if you'd go to heaven, you must turn right and go straight ahead. There is only one way. Our Lord said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by Me."

Our Lord not only gives us advice and counsel. He takes us by the hand. He walks with us. He strengthens us.

So come right, or you'll be left.

**BRANON FUNERAL HOME**  
*Understanding And Guidance When You Need It Most*  
"Service in this area since 1922"  
403 N. Austin 806/872-8335

Contact: Mae Beth Palone, Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT), 512/474-6889

# Nuisances

Cont. from pg. 7

spread, killing grass and allowing weeds to take over lawns. Powdery mildew and black spot are two common problems associated with ornamental plants and shrubs, particularly crepe myrtles and rosebushes.

So, how can you reduce the chance of your lawn being affected? First, eliminate excessive irrigation. Lawns do not need to be watered more than twice a week, and watering in the morning is best. When mowing, never take off more than one-third of the leaf tissue. Acidifying fertilizers such as ammonium sulfate or slow release urea may be helpful in disease control. Maintain a recommended level of potassium, since grasses low in this essential growth element appear to be more vulnerable to attack. Be aware of insects and problems in your yard and garden. If you suspect a problem or disease, stop the problem before it starts. Visit with your county extension agent or soil and water conservation district (SWCD) for help with identifying possible problems. It is always better to be safe than sorry?

For more information on this article, please contact Amber Preston at the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board at [apreston@tssweb.state.tx.us](mailto:apreston@tssweb.state.tx.us), or call (254)773-2250.

**Have a Great Summer!**



**Moore-Rains Insurance**  
**Frances Rains Stephens**

O'Donnell

806-428-3335

## Consumer Confidence Report 2002

(Drinking Water Quality Report)

BORDEN COUNTY WATER SYSTEM

Phone No: 806/756-4391

### Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED

by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and they have determined that certain water quality issues exist which prevent our water from meeting all of the requirements as stated in the Federal Drinking Water Standards. Each issue is listed in this report as a violation and we are working closely with the TCEQ to achieve solutions.

#### En Espanol

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en español, favor de llamar al tel. 806/756-4391 par hablar con una persona bilingue en español.

Where do we get our drinking water? Our drinking water is obtained from Ground water sources. It comes from the following Lake/River/Reservoir/Aquifer: OGALLALA. TCEQ will be reviewing all of Texas' drinking water sources. The source water assessment has been completed and the report will be available this year. It allows us to focus on our source water protection activities.

### ALL drinking water may contain contaminants.

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

#### About The Following Pages

The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored constituents which have been found in your drinking water. U.S. EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 constituents

#### Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

### Public Participation Opportunities

**Date:** June 9, 2003

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Location:** Borden County Courthouse Commissioners Court Room

**Phone No:** 806/756-4391

#### DEFINITIONS

##### Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

##### Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

##### Treatment Technique (TT)

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

##### Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units

MFL - million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

pCi/l - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

#### Lead and Copper

Year	Constituent	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
1999	Lead	1.1000	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
1999	Copper	0.0640	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

Total Coliform NOT DETECTED

Fecal Coliform NOT DETECTED

#### Violations

Violation Type	Explanation	Health Effects	Duration	Steps to Correct
MCL-FLUORIDE		Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.	3/26/1982 to PRESENT	Search for alternate water supply

#### Required Additional Health Information for Arsenic

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic will be decreasing from 0.05 mg/l (CCR - 50 ppb) to 0.010 mg/l (CCR - 10 ppb) effective January 23, 2006. TCEQ is providing the following health effects language according to new Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reporting requirements for arsenic.

Because the highest reported arsenic level on this report is above 10 ppb, this information is required by EPA:

*"Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer."*

#### Inorganics

Year	Constituent	Highest Level at Any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2001	Arsenic	22.5	22.5000-22.5000	50	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2001	Barium	0.033	0.0330-0.0330	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2001	Nitrate	0.79	0.7900-0.7900	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2001	Selenium	3.3	3.3000-3.3000	50	50	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
2001	Gross alpha adjusted	3.1	3.1000-3.1000	15	0	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
2001	Gross beta emitters	9.9	9.9000-9.9000	50	0	pCi/l	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

Organics NOT TESTED FOR OR NOT DETECTED

Disinfection Byproducts NOT TESTED FOR OR NOT DETECTED

#### Unregulated Contaminants

Year	Constituent	Average of All Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Unit of Measure	Reason for Monitoring
2002-2002	Bromoform	1	1.0000-1.0000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2002-2002	Dibromochloromethane	0.5	0.5000-0.5000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants