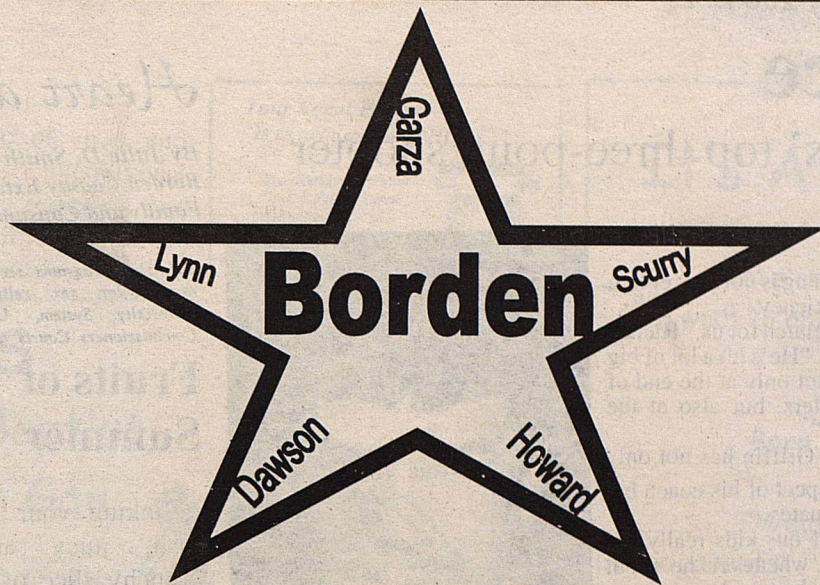


THE

Volume XXXII



STAR

July 7, 2004

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

A Sovereign Iraq

Sen. Hutchison's Weekly Column

From the moment the first bomb dropped in Baghdad last March marking the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom, our nation's dialogue has centered on seeing the mission through to a successful end. Since declaring a date for the official transfer of power, American and Iraqi diplomatic and military leaders have been preparing the nation for the June 30th handover.

Late Night Surprise

However, on June 28th, we awoke to the news that sovereignty had traded hands during the night – two days ahead of schedule and under a cloak of secrecy. The early transfer was an inspired step and a testament to how far the budding government has come under the newly minted leadership of President Ghazi Al-Yawer and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

Officials cited security concerns and the threat of attacks by insurgents as the principal reason for the change and, in addition, the new Iraqi government said they were ready to take the reins of their nation's future. Iraqis had already been in control of all ministries, from defense to electricity, and this official transfer was the final symbolic act, dissolving the Coalition Provisional Authority and solidifying Iraqi control. The swiftness and ease with which the

handover took place was an early, hopeful sign that the interim government was prepared to run the country.

The U.S. goal in Iraq was never one of occupation. The goal was the removal of Saddam Hussein and the threat he posed to the U.S. and the entire free world. Within hours of the departure of Iraq's acting administrator, Paul Bremer, the new U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, John Negroponte, landed in Baghdad and took his seat as our nation's envoy to the fledgling Republic.

A New Beginning

In a *Washington Post* column that ran hours before the handover, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi clearly captured the vision for the nation's future when he wrote, "We want a free, democratic Iraq that will be a source of peace and stability for the region and the whole world." Yet within the same breath of optimism, he also recognized the enormity of the task that lies ahead. "The challenges are great, and the stakes are high, both for Iraq and the world. We must not underestimate the magnitude of the task that lies ahead. Despite the hardships, we Iraqis are determined to work together and assume responsibility for our country. . . . With these efforts, God willing, Iraq will take its

Cont. to pg. 3

Gail FFA Students Attend Area Leadership Camp

Six members of the Gail FFA chapter have recently returned from an exciting trip to the Area II Leadership Camp. This event, which was sponsored by Howard College in Big Spring, hosted 275 FFA members throughout Area II.

Students attending the camp received high energy Leadership training from a dynamic Area Officer team who were assisted by State FFA President, Tobin Redwine, and Area II State Vice-President, Zach Moore. The students attended several workshops but still had time for recreational competition

and fun in the areas of volleyball and Ag. Olympics. Team awards in these areas were presented during an official dress banquet that took place during the last evening of the camp. Social and devotional events were also held each evening of the three day camp which allowed students to meet new friends and compare camp experiences.

During the final morning session, ten students were selected as outstanding participants. These individuals were chosen by the Area Officers for their cooperation and enthusiasm

during the camp activities. The Gail FFA chapter is proud to say that Tyler Wallace was chosen as an outstanding camp participant.

The Gail FFA members came home with a strong foundation of training to help in propelling the Gail FFA Chapter in its leadership success next year, as well as making a lot of new friends. Mr. Wallace wishes to express his thanks to Tyler Wallace, J Ryan Gicklhorn, Garrett Thomas, Brandi Hudson, Lacey Newton, and Becky Dobyms for taking time out of their summer to participate.

South Plains Cotton Thriving in Face of Harsh Weather

LUBBOCK – The 3.6 million-acre South Plains cotton crop has so far survived a gamut of harsh weather since producers broke out their planters in May. Rain, hail, wind, blowing sand and lack of rainfall in some areas have taken an estimated 100,000 acres of the crop.

Even so, a Texas Cooperative Extension agronomist says the bigger picture is pretty bright.

"We have seen cooler, wetter conditions with higher humidity during the past two

weeks, but the crop is still above normal in heat unit accumulation," said Randy Boman, extension cotton agronomist based at Lubbock. "The rainfall from recent storms has put the crop north of Lubbock in very good to excellent condition.

"We do have some ragged-up cotton out there, but by and large, most fields are doing very well. In my eight seasons at Lubbock, I haven't seen overall stands and crop conditions as impressive as they are now. Many fields that were planted in a timely

manner in May are now squaring."

Texas farmers planted approximately 6 million acres of cotton this year, from the Rio Grande Valley near Brownsville to the Texas-New Mexico border in the west, and as far north as some counties near Amarillo. The 20-county area surrounding Lubbock is often known as "the world's largest cotton patch," because farmers there typically plant more than 3 million acre of upland cotton each year.

Cont. to pg. 4

Three-point ace

Coyotes' Griffin 1A boys' top three-point shooter

By Dwight Heins
Lamesa Press-Reporter

Borden County boys basketball coach Trey Richey does not mind admitting that Coyote sharpshooter Ben Griffin has the green light.

"Ben knows that he can pretty much let it go from anywhere that he wants," Richey said.

"We haven't seen him take many bad shots in the past two years, either."

After all, he has not only earned that respect but he has also taken full advantage of it.

This talented Coyote junior has been recognized by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches as this past year's top Class 1A boys' three-point shooter.

Griffin earned that award from the TABC on the strength of his 77 long range bombs from outside the three-point arc this past season.

Griffin, who once hit a season-high seven treys in one night against Dawson, connected on a remarkable 38.2 percent of his three-point attempts.

Still, Richey admits whenever he was first notified about Griffin's statewide honor it still came as somewhat of a pleasant surprise.

"We knew that he hit a lot of three's this season," Richey said of Griffin. "We've also have seen in the past what it takes when it comes to this award, too. So whenever he hit 60 we knew he had a shot at it."

"I guess all those seven, six and five (three-point) nights add up in a hurry."

"It's not like he's been forcing it from out there, either. That night that he hit seven (three's) against Dawson, Ben took only 11 for the whole game. It wasn't like he was seven-out-of-20, but seven-for-11."

With Griffin leading the way, Borden County also topped the Class 1A boys in the 2003-2004 high school hoop season in that department.

As a team, the Coyotes connected on a whopping 129 three-pointers this past season.

"The way that we look at it, there's not really a real bad outside shot in this game unless you're standing on that three-point line," Richey said.

"If you're going to shoot from out there, then you might as well get that extra point out of this deal."

In addition to Griffin, another gifted long-range bomber in the Coyotes' attack this past season was Adam Carter, who knocked down 21 treys.

A couple of other players who have proven themselves as threats from outside the arc are sophomores Aaron Pigford and Austin Tarleton.

Richey considers Griffin's long range shooting ability a definite weapon in the Coyotes' attack.

"We run a lot of offenses designed to help get him that look," Richey said of Griffin's three-point bombs. "We run a lot of screens just trying to get Ben a good look from out here."

"That shot's a definite weapon for us."

Griffin's timing is not bad, either, according to Richey.

"He's been clutch for us," Richey said of Griffin. "He's hit a lot of big shots for us, not only at the end of different quarters, but also at the end of games."

As a result, Griffin has not only earned the respect of his coach but also his teammates.

"The rest of our kids really believe in him whenever he's out there, too," Richey said.

"We've already seen him a couple of times in practice where he'll hit something like 10 in a row, and that's when he's just out there messing around, too."

"Ben already sees everybody's best out there, which makes this such a big compliment for him. It seemed like Ben's always guarded by our opponent's best, but he still hit 77 three-pointers this season."

"It's not like we run the ball up and down the floor and just jack up shot after shot. We basically run a controlled offense."

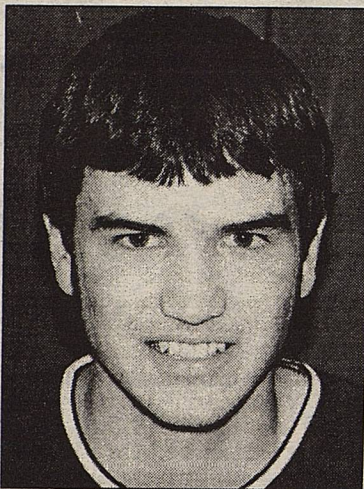
Despite the fact he is not shy when it comes to shooting those long range bombers, Griffin still thrives on being a good team player.

"He's the top three-point shooter in the state, but he's also our leading assist man," Richey said.

"It's not like Ben is just into getting his, but he's also into helping others get theirs, too."

After being recognized as one of the top guns in the state as only a junior, it will be interesting to see what Griffin does for an encore next season on the hardwoods.

In addition to being named as 1A's top three-point shooting boy by the TABC, Griffin also earned second-team all-state honors from



Ben Griffin

“Ben already sees everybody's best out there, which makes this such a big compliment for him.”

— BC's Trey Richey, on Griffin's award

“the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association.”

Following this season's success do not be surprised to see Richey continue calling on Griffin to keep on firing his long range bombers.

"That shot's a definite weapon for us. We might as well keep on using it."

Green Acres is the place to be . . .

4-H fun day is the life for me!

Sponsored by Borden County 4-H

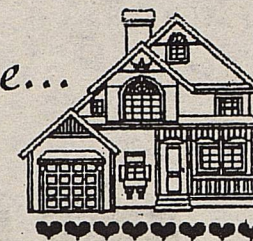


Who: Any youth entering Kindergarten through Fourth Grade
What: A Fun Day!
When: Thursday, July 15, 2004 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Where: County Show Barn in Gail
Cost: \$5.00 per child (to cover supplies)
Activities: It will be a full afternoon! We will be making crafts (leather craft, photo magnet, and garden project) and playing fun games. There will be more fun activities all related to gardening!

Info to know: Refreshments will be provided.
 For more information, or to let us know that you will be able to attend, please call or e-mail the Extension Office at 805/756-4336 or borden-tx@tamu.edu.
 We look forward to having YOU there!

Heart and home...

By Julie D. Smith
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.

Fruits of Summer

Sinking your teeth into a lush, juicy and audibly crunchy slice of watermelon is one of life's sweetest joys. It does not take much to get the cream of the crop, finding that perfect watermelon, peach, nectarine, or other summer fruit simply requires good detective work and an active use of all your senses.

Here are a few tricks of the produce trade every smart shopper should know

- Follow the Golden Rule of Choosing Fruits: Your nose knows. If fruit is supposed to be sweet, it should smell sweet. Sometimes though, we find it necessary to poke and squeeze fruit to determine if it is ripe.
- Pick the fruit toward the bottom or at the back of the rack. It tends to be fresher because the produce department regularly rotates fruit when new stock is added.
- Separate your fruit from other groceries in the cart, and ask for the sacker to bag it separately as well. This will prevent it from being bruised while shopping and when transporting it home.
- Avoid fruit with visible blemishes,

bruises and discoloration. These are warning signs of spoilage.

- Beware of buying fruit in bulk. You will spend less initially, but waste more in the long run because of spoilage. However, if you do buy fruit in bulk, inspect each bag/carton thoroughly for bruises or signs of mold.
- Wash and clean your fruit thoroughly to get rid of any pesticides and dirt. Remember to eat it right away or let it dry before you put it back in the refrigerator because, wet fruit is more apt to spoil.
- Refrigerate melons, seed fruit and berries (especially raspberries and blackberries) to extend freshness.
- Ripen bananas and stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines and other pitted produce) at home by placing them in a brown paper bag away from direct sunlight and at room temperature for a day or two.
- You can easily freeze fresh fruit by washing thoroughly and drying well then freezing in appropriate freezer bag or container. Thaw and enjoy or use frozen in smoothies, ice cream or in fruit salads.

Drive Safely . . .

Watch out for our Children!

The Borden Star (USPS or PUBLICATION NO. 895-520) is published weekly except Christmas and New Year's week for \$12.00 per year by the Borden Star, P.O. Box 137, Gail, Texas 79738. Second-class Postage paid at Gail, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send Change of Address to the Borden Star, P.O. Box 137, Gail, Texas 79738.

A Sovereign Iraq

Cont. from pg. 1

rightful place among the free and prosperous nations of the world."

To move forward with these goals the interim government has outlined the following goals:

1. Establish security
2. Address the dire economic situation
3. Develop a strong and independent judicial system
4. Accelerate the nation's political process and march toward democracy

These four goals will not be met overnight and they won't occur without international support. U.S. troops will remain in Iraq in an effort to achieve the first goal and assure the remaining can take root. It is our hope that other nations who have stood on the sidelines will see the progress in Iraq and step up to the plate. We did receive welcome news that the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) has agreed to help train Iraq's security forces, but it is also time for NATO to send troops to support the critical mission of stopping the terrorists.

It is clear that we have more work to do, most notably to stamp out the treacherous attacks against innocent Iraqis and U.S. soldiers. But, with this important transfer of power, we are closer to establishing

a fully democratic Iraq and sending an unequivocal message to the terrorists that their tactics will fail and their time is up.

Your Local Pastor
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Bro. Randy Hardman
Gail Baptist Church
Call: 806/756-4363
Mobile No: 759-9472



VBS First Baptist Church Gail



July 25th - 29th, 2004
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

BORDEN COUNTY ISD BID REQUEST

The Superintendent's Office, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Borden County Independent School District will receive bids and/or quotes for propane, diesel, and gasoline for the 2004-2005 school year.

Proposals shall be addressed to Jimmy Thomas; Borden County Independent School District; Box 95; Gail, Texas 79738, and shall be delivered in a sealed envelope marked appropriately as "Propane Bid" and/or "Gasoline/Diesel Bid". Proposals will be received up to but no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, July 16, 2004. Bids will be opened and read as they are received. Proposals will be tabulated, researched, and selected by the Board of Trustees or its designee as appropriate. Bids received after specified date will not be considered.

The Borden County ISD Board of Trustees or its designee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposed bids, to waive any and all technicalities, and to accept the proposal that will best serve the needs of the District.

Questions regarding bid specifications and additional information shall be directed to Jimmy Thomas by writing the above address; by e-mail to jthomas@bcisd.net; or by calling 806-756-4313. Transmissions by fax may be sent to 806-756-4310.

By Order of the Board of Trustees
Borden County Independent School District
Mike Valentine, Secretary



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Local
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872-5356

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It's A Boy!



Kate and Ryan Davis of Spearman wish to announce the birth of their son:

Jack Ryan

Born: June 22, 2004 3:52 am
Amarillo, TX

Weight: 7 lbs, 15 oz, - 20 1/4"

Grandparents:

Bill & Mary John Phinizy, Borden County
Liz Hohertz Metcalf & Tom Metcalf,
Ft. Collins, Co.

The late Mike Davis, Panhandle, TX
Maggie Davis is Jack's proud Sister!

BORDEN COUNTY ISD BID REQUEST

The Superintendent's Office, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Borden County Independent School District will receive bids for a 2004 pickup for the Agricultural Science Department according to the following MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS:

- New 2004 Fleet-Type 4-Door Pickup with Single Rear Wheel
- No Carpeting on Floor
- Vinyl Seating
- Heavy Duty Chassis and Heavy Duty Suspension with GVW Rating of 9000 Pounds or Greater
- Gasoline Engine Not Less Than 6.0 Liter
- Automatic Transmission
- Long Wheel Base
- Trailer Towing Package
- Radio- AM & FM
- Axle- Anti Spin Differential- Ratio 3.73 to 4.10
- Gauges- Amp, Oil Pressure, Temperature
- Air Conditioner
- Tilt Steering
- Cruise Control

Proposals shall be addressed to Jimmy Thomas; Borden County Independent School District; Box 95; Gail, Texas 79738, and shall be delivered in a sealed envelope marked appropriately as "Pickup Bid". Proposals will be received up to but no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, July 16, 2004. Bids will be opened and read as they are received. Proposals will be tabulated, researched, and selected by the Board of Trustees or its designee as appropriate. Bids received after specified date will not be considered.

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By Order of the Board of Trustees
Borden County Independent School District
Mike Valentine, Secretary

Have a
Great Summer!



Moore-Rains
Insurance

Frances Rains
Stephens

O'Donnell

806-428-3335

South Plains Cotton

Cont. from pg. 1

Approximately 10 percent of that acreage never makes it to harvest due to weather insects, disease or other causes.

Wind, driving rain and hailstorms in June took about 85,000 acres of cotton in Randall, Castro, Briscoe, Swisher, Floyd, Hockley and Lamb counties. In contrast, many dryland acres in counties south of Lubbock may be lost, or teetering on the edge of survival, due to lack of rainfall.

"We believe that up to 200,000 acres of dryland cotton south of Lubbock was dry planted and likely did not receive any significant

rainfall," Boman said. "Some dryland fields have received little rainfall and may not have emerged to a good stand. The situation is changing daily, as evening thunderstorms continue to work across the region. As we move into July, the cotton calendar is now working against us."

Producers hit by recent storms should carefully evaluate their damaged fields before making any replant decisions, Boman said. There is a host of information on evaluating damaged crops, making replant decisions, and choosing catch crops to replace failed cotton on the

Internet at: <http://lubbock.tamu.edu>.

"Making Replant Decisions" and "2004 Alternative Crop Options After Failed Cotton" in the cotton section of the Lubbock Web site may be particularly helpful for producers with crop damage.

Overall, the 2004 Texas cotton crop is off to a strong start and is progressing well, according to Carl Anderson, Extension Economist based at College Station. In the June edition of his monthly "Cotton Market Comments," Anderson rates half the crop in good to excellent condition and only 11 percent as very poor.

About one-third of this year's six-million-acre crop

is irrigated and two-thirds is dryland. Excellent sub-soil moisture conditions give the crop a yield potential of at least 5.3 million bales, compared to last year's 4.3-million bales, Anderson said.

Cotton harvest has begun in the Rio Grande Valley, while producers elsewhere are waiting for drier conditions to finish out their growing season. Meanwhile, South

Plains producers will be watching the skies for evening storms that could bring more rainfall or crop damage.

A weekly update on crop conditions across the South Plains is available through Extension's "Focus" newsletter - published electronically at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus>

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Nice Outbuildings
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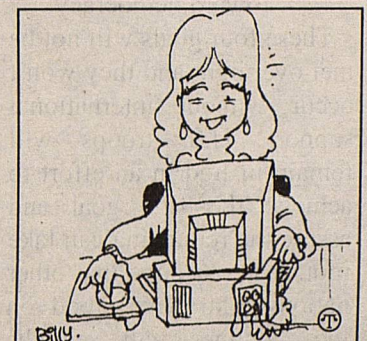
Branon Funeral Home
Understanding and Guidance When You Need it Most!
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806/872-8335 Lamesa, TX

ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING
WHEREAS, the Commissioners' Court finds that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated area of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners' Court of Borden County that all outdoor burning is prohibited in the unincorporated area of the county for 90 days from the date of adoption of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code 352.081, and other applicable statutes. This Order does not prohibit burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Natural Resources Commission for: (1) fire fighter training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or, (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.
In accordance with Local Government Code 352.081(h), a violation of this Order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00
ADOPTED this 28th day of June, 2004 by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.
Van L. York, County Judge
Attest: Joyce Herridge, County Clerk
By Jana Underwood, Deputy

Did You Know?

(NAPS)—New applications of nuclear science and technology have increased the need for radiation protection technologists. According to the American Nuclear Society, the demand for radiation safety professionals is approximately 130 percent over the supply. Radiation safety professionals are trained to ensure the safe use of radioactive materials. Familiar with the biological effects of radiation exposure, they monitor the use of radioactive material in industry, operate detection equipment, conduct diagnostic imaging, or otherwise make sure that nuclear materials are properly used. To learn more about nuclear-related careers, visit the American Nuclear Society web site at www.ans.org/pi/np/radsafety.

Imagine seeing Daniel Boone's family Bible, General George Custer's ivory-handled pistols and George Washington's long rifle—all in the same place.



These are just some of the historical treasures on display at a new museum. Located in Louisville, Kentucky, the Frazier Historical Arms Museum is a collaboration between the collection of Owsley Brown Frazier and Britain's Royal Armouries, Britain's oldest museum. To learn more, visit the site at www.frazierarmsmuseum.org or call the Greater Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-888-LOUISVILLE.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the APACHE CORPORATION, 6120 S. YALE SUITE 1500, TULSA OK 74136 has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code Section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to distance between well to directional drill Well No. 2, Murphy, W. Ed "RB" Lease, 1588 Acres, Sec. 81, Bk. 25, H & TC RR CO Survey, A-37, Von Roeder, W. Clearford Field(s), Borden County, being 8.3 miles in a north direction of Vincent, Texas. The location of this well is as follows:
SL: 900' from the south line and 30' from the west line of lease.
900' from the south line and 30' from the west line of survey.
BHL: 1675' from the south line and 850' from the west line of lease.
1675' from the south line and 850' from the west line of survey.
Field rules for the Von Roeder, W. (Clearfork) field(s) are 660/1320, 80 acres.
This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 4620 feet
PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Rule 37 (h) (2) (A), this application may be granted administratively if no protest to the application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protest should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative Bill G. Spence, consultant, at 512-495-6416. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512) 463-6899.
IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE BY August 01, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. . IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.
THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

Caution:
School's Out
Watch for Children
Message brought to you by this newspaper and the Texas Highway Patrol Association