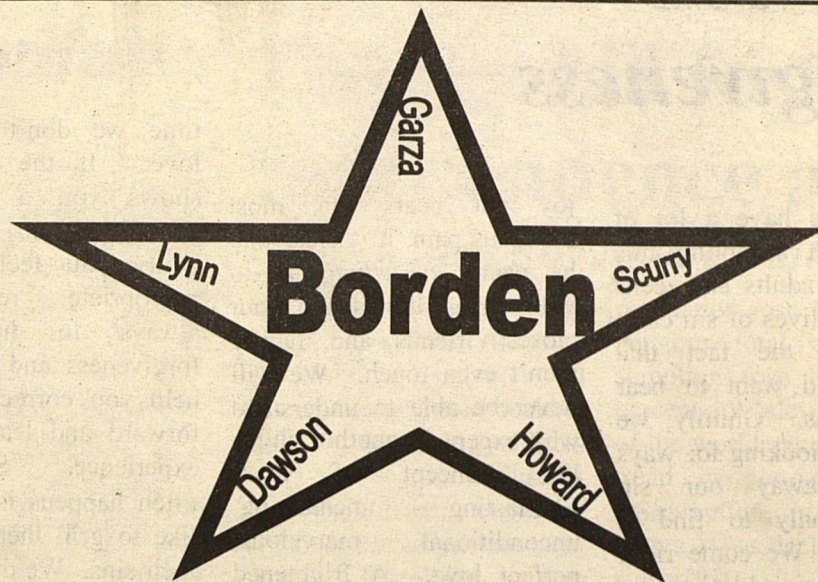


# THE

Volume XXXII



# STAR

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005

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

## West Nile Virus can flare up in summer

By Patti J. Patterson,  
M.D., M.P.H.  
Texas Tech University  
Health Sciences Center

Through the first day of summer just passed on July 21, 18 cases of West Nile Virus already have been reported in Texas for the year, including two cases in horses in the Panhandle and a human case in Swisher County, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Experts say that the potentially serious illness, one of the newest infectious diseases in the United States, is a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into fall.

West Nile Virus is spread most often by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes become carriers when they feed on infected birds; the mosquitoes then may spread the virus to humans and other animals when they bite. The virus also can be spread, in a very small number of cases, through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breast feeding and even during pregnancy from mother to baby, the Centers of Disease Control reports. The virus is not spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing.

West Nile Virus can affect the central nervous system,

and about one in 150 people infected will develop severe illness. The symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, vision loss and paralysis. Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected will display milder symptoms which may include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the torso. About 80 percent of those infected with the virus will show no symptoms at all, according to the CDC.

People older than age 50 are most at risk of developing serious symptoms when infected with West Nile Virus and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites.

Scientists are pursuing a human vaccine for West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses, and most veterinarians recommend that house owners do so.

### Fighting the bite

Fighting mosquito bites reduces the risk of getting West Nile Virus, as well as other illnesses that mosquitoes may carry. The CDC offers steps to reduce your risk:

- Apply insect repellent containing DEET. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends products

containing no more than 10 percent DEET on children ages 2 to 12 years, while some experts suggests it's OK to use low concentrations on infants older than 2 months old.

- When possible, wear long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors, and spray clothing with repellent to prevent mosquitoes from biting through thin fabric.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours, which is from dusk to dawn. Consider avoiding outdoor activities during the evening and early morning.
- Drain standing water around your home, and get rid of items that hold water.
- Install or repair screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Report any dead birds to the local health authorities.

Symptoms of West Nile Virus typically take between three and 14 days to develop. A milder case of the virus will improve on its own and people do not necessarily need to seek medical attention, through they may chose to do so. If severe

## All-School Reunion Reservations are needed ASAP

It's almost time! With only a few weeks left, plans for the 2005 All-School Reunion are being finalized. Information has been sent out, and forms are being sent in. The All-School Reunion will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Borden County School in Gail, Texas.

The reunion organizers are hoping for a large crowd of ol' friends and classmates to gather for a fun time of visiting and reminiscing. The reunion will begin on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. with early registration and visiting in the cafeteria. Light refreshments will be served.

On Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m. registration will continue. Pictures of classes, families, friends and individual will be scheduled if wanted. There will be tours of the school and visiting will take place in the cafeteria. A catered lunch

will be served at noon in the County Showbarn. The cost of the meal is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 11 and younger.

If you do not have a reservation form, they may be picked-up at the County Judge's Office, Sheriff's Office, County Agent's Office or the Coyote Store in Gail. If you live in the Plains Community, they may be picked-up at Judy Kingston's residence. Be sure to get your form in the mail as soon as possible. An estimated count for lunch is needed.

Make plans now to attend the 2005 All-School Reunion and enjoy getting re-aquainted with ol' friends, classmates and teachers. A large turn crowd and a good time is being expected for all.

For more information, contact Judy Kingston, Carol Lewis, Joel Dennis, or the Borden Star.

See you at the Reunion!

symptoms develop, seek medical attention immediately, as hospitalization may be necessary. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are encouraged to talk to their doctor if they develop symptoms that could be West Nile Virus.

It's important to remember that the chance that any one person is going to become ill from a single mosquito bite remains low. But taking the proper precautions to prevent mosquito bites will help ensure a healthy summer and fall.

**SLOW DOWN! – Watch Out for the Children!**



# Accepting Forgiveness

By: Becky Dohyns  
BHS Junior

Christ's forgiveness is such a simple concept that children grasp it immediately, yet adults and adolescents continuously struggle to understand it. The principle is simple enough: Christ forgives all of our sins. By his blood we are freed of all our transgressions. Whenever a heart asks in earnest for Christ's forgiveness, it is given, no matter what the sin may be. All we have to do is accept the gift that has already been given.

Some of us have a lot of trouble with accepting this gift. Most adults and teens engulfed in lives of sin can't comprehend the fact that Christ would want to bear their burdens. Guiltily, we spend years looking for ways to clean away our sin ourselves, only to find it impossible. We come right back to the simple truth we heard as children of the free gift of forgiveness. We often think Christ wants nothing to do with us, but if He not only shares in our most glorious

joy but bears our most torturous pain, it is clear that he wants *everything* to do with us - things that our closest friends and family won't even touch. We will never be able to understand why except in another child-like concept of love. Everlasting, unchanging, unconditional, marvelous, perfect love. A frightened and repentant little boy who has lost five hundred dollars of his father's money does not slap his father in the face and scream, "I want to earn it back on my own!" when he is simply offered a hug and an "I love you and forgive you" instead of severe punishment. Neither should we refuse our Lord's most generous and undeserved offering.

If you try to earn forgiveness on your own, you are essentially slapping your Heavenly Father in the face. When you don't forgive yourself, you're not accepting God's gift. When you don't let God forgive you, Christ's death means nothing. It is wasted. Those that fear the Lord hate the fact that Christ has suffered on our behalf, but he suffers more every

time we don't accept His love. If the Holy Spirit shows you a sin you've committed, no matter how guilty you feel, the more appropriate response is always to humbly ask forgiveness and ask God to help you correct it. Move forward and learn from the experience. Sadly, what often happens is that people like to grill themselves over their sins. We dwell on them over and over and carry huge weights on our shoulders, and in so doing we render Christ's death meaningless. Some people even like to think that if they keep telling themselves how horrible they are for sinning and keep their sins to themselves, they're practicing humility. They are mistaken; this is *pride* - pride in thinking that we can possibly carry our sin on our shoulders. True humility is being all the more thankful for Christ's free gift every time we realize how much we don't deserve it and can't bear it, not giving him another defiant blow in addition to all He's already taken.

Christ has already given the gift. To do any less than accept it unconditionally

shames him more than our sin could ever do. If there is any wrongdoing you're withholding from Christ, trying to atone for it on your own, let me just tell you right now - give it up. Christ's blood is infinitely more powerful than human deeds will ever be. As the popular hymn goes, "This is all my righteousness - nothing but the blood of Jesus." When we realize that we can't carry our sin by ourselves and rely on Christ's forgiveness for all of our righteousness, that is the moment he becomes our God.



**SEEDS FROM THE SOWER**

Michael A. Guido  
Metter, Georgia

In Cadet Chapel at West Point you'll find the shields of great American soldiers. On each one you'll find their names.

But there's one shield that's different. It has the date of birth and of death, but no name. It's the shield of Benedict Arnold.

He once was a great leader. But he denied his country, and his country denied him.

Our Lord said, "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

**Roll on over to NBSI!**

**Ramblin' Road Trip**

PSALM 25:4 *Which Way Do I Go?*

Who: Pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
(based on last school year)

When: July 24-28  
6 - 8:30 pm

Where: First Baptist Church  
Gail

Sunday night (24<sup>th</sup>) will  
be Family Night!

SERIOUS FUN AHEAD

## All-School Reunion Information

**What:** Borden County School Reunion (Held every five years)

**When:** August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 (Friday night & Saturday)

**Where:** Borden County School; Gail, Texas

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**Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> - 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.**  
Early registration and visiting in cafeteria with light refreshments

**Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
Registration and visiting in School Cafeteria  
Pictures of classes, friends, families & individuals  
Tours of the school available  
Catered Lunch served in County Show Barn

Lunch Reservations Necessary: Please RSVP as soon as possible.  
Cost: Adults - \$10; Children below 12 yrs. - \$7.00  
Please make checks payable to Borden County ISD Exes, and mail to:  
Judy Kingston  
751 Borden Co. Rd. 130  
O'Donnell, Texas 79351



# - Randy's Roundup - Energy bill fosters

By Congressman  
Randy Neugebauer

## Celebrating Our Independence

As a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, independence Day has come to carry even greater significance for this country than it did before. Rather than retreat in fear following that awful day as the terrorists had hoped, most Americans awoke to the realization that two vast oceans are not enough to prevent attacks on our shores and that our independence may not be as secure as we thought. Indeed, it can be difficult to comprehend that there are many across the globe who wish to bring the United States to its knees and threaten American liberty. But an unwillingness or inability to understand this new reality does not make it any less true or any less dangerous.

In the three and a half years since 9/11, America has been called to stand up and defend our freedoms. Many have responded, but chief among those who have answered the call are the brave men and women of the U.S. military and their families. The sacrifices they have made in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other dangerous corners of the world have gone a long way toward ensuring that we continue to live as a free nation.

Last week, President Bush spoke to the nation about the progress that is being made in Iraq. The president indicated that the mission in Iraq has experienced some dark days, and some dark days are sure to lie ahead. Despite the

tough road, however, Iraq has undergone a tremendous transformation during the course of the last two years, and it is imperative that we complete the mission. In my two trips to Iraq, I have witnessed considerable progress as this country for the first time introduces its citizens to democratic ideals such as free elections and constitutionally protected liberty.

With the unflinching support of the American people behind our troops and their mission, I am confident the bright days will increasingly outnumber the dark, and a free Iraq will become an important U.S. ally in an otherwise unfriendly region of the world. Therefore, on July 4, let us all renew our commitment to our military and its efforts to help another country establish its independence.

## On This Week's Agenda...

Following the Fourth of July holiday, I will be gearing up to help make the case for Dyess Air Force Base at the Base Realignment and Closure Commission hearing on Monday, July 11. The hearing will take place in San Antonio and I encourage all who can make the trip to show their support for Dyess and Abilene.



In spite of its clumsy appearance, the hippopotamus is an excellent swimmer and can run as fast as a human being.

# independence and security

By U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

With oil prices hovering around \$60 a barrel, the price for petroleum is over 50 percent higher now than it was last year. Energy affects every part of an industrial economy, from manufacturing and transportation to services. Petroleum is also the source from which we create plastics, adhesives and light-weight composite materials.

High oil prices have occurred in large part because of a tightening supply and increasing demand. China and India alone account for the majority of the increase in world demand. Consumers in the United States are feeling the effect of higher energy prices worldwide because we are increasingly dependent upon imports. The American Petroleum Institute's latest data shows we depend on imports for 64.3 percent of our petroleum needs. In 1973, when an OPEC oil embargo hammered the U.S. economy, we were importing 28 percent of our oil.

Petroleum imports are rising because our domestic production is declining. New fields are no longer being drilled, existing fields are aging and consumption is rising. Helping offset these trends has been increased energy efficiency in the United States. According to various sources, including the Energy Information Agency, the U.S. Gross Domestic Product rose 32.2 percent in the 10-year period from 1994 through 2003 and our

population rose 13.1 percent, yet our total energy consumption rose by only 9.6 percent. While most regions of the world show an upward trend in per-capita energy consumption, in the United States, it has declined slightly since 1980.

Although America is becoming more efficient, we are facing growing exposure to changes and disruptions in the international energy markets, particularly involving petroleum. This is why our passage of the energy bill is vital for our national security.

The importance of a comprehensive energy bill cannot be overstated. It provides us a roadmap for achieving greater energy independence which will make us less vulnerable to price swings. The bill encourages domestic production, improves conservation efforts and promotes renewable sources of energy. This is good for consumers, for businesses and for the environment.

To boost domestic production, the bill streamlines oil

and gas development on existing federal lease sites to bring fuel to market sooner. It seeks to diversify our sources of energy to give us flexibility and adaptability. It does this by stimulating use of clean nuclear power, providing incentives for solar, wind and geothermal energy. It establishes a federal loan guarantee program to encourage the design and development of clean innovative technology and new energy sources. The bill requires fuel manufacturers to use eight billion gallons of ethanol in gasoline by 2012.

An ambitious program to design and use clean coal burning technologies will help America use its 250-year supply of coal in environmentally safe power plants. A program researching the use of clean-burning hydrogen in cars is included in the legislation as well as

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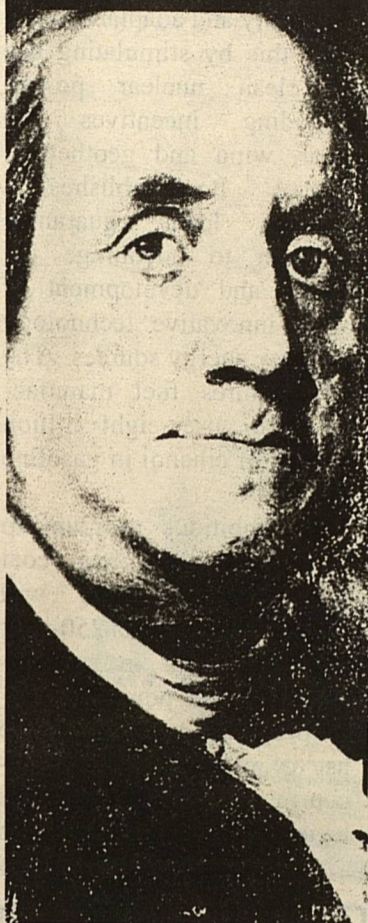
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## "Mailbag"

### Benjamin Franklin, First Postmaster General



Born in Boston in 1706, Benjamin Franklin left school at age 10 to work in his father's candle shop. In 1718, Franklin apprenticed to his brother James, a printer and founder of Boston's *New England Courant*. Franklin read voraciously, contributed anonymous articles to his brother's newspaper, and managed the paper while his brother was imprisoned for a political offense. At 17, Franklin ran away and ended up in Philadelphia, where he found work as a printer. Franklin started his own print shop by 1728 and purchased *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. His wildly successful *Poor Richard's Almanack* secured his fortune.

#### Postal Career Begins

Franklin was appointed Postmaster of Philadelphia by the British Crown Post in 1737. Newspaper publishers often served as Postmasters, which helped them to gather and distribute news. Post-

masters decided which newspapers could travel free in the mail – or in the mail at all.

Postmaster General Elliott Benger added to Franklin's duties by making him comptroller, with financial oversight for nearby Post Offices. Franklin lobbied the British to succeed Benger when his health failed and, with Virginia's William Hunter, was named joint Postmaster General for the Crown on August 19, 1753.

Franklin surveyed post roads and Post Offices, introduced a simple accounting method for Postmasters, and had riders carry mail both night and day. He encouraged Postmasters to establish the penny post where letters not called for at the Post Office were delivered for a penny. Remembering his experiences with the *Gazette*, Franklin mandated delivery of all newspapers for a small fee. His efforts contributed to the Crown's first North American profit in 1760.

In 1757, while serving as joint Postmaster General, Franklin went to London to represent Pennsylvania's government. In 1763, back in the colonies, he traveled 1,600 miles surveying post roads and Post Offices from Virginia to New England.

In 1764, Franklin returned to London, where he represented the interests of several colonial governments. In 1774, judged too sympathetic to the colonies, he was dismissed as joint Postmaster General.

#### First Postmaster General under the continental Congress

Back on American soil in 1775, Franklin served as a member of the Second Continental Congress, which appointed him Postmaster General on July 26 of that year. With an annual salary of \$1,000 and \$340 for a secretary and comptroller,

Franklin was responsible for all Post Offices from Massachusetts to Georgia and had authority to hire Postmasters as necessary.

#### Founding Fathers of a New Nation

In 1776, Franklin worked with the committee that created the Declaration of Independence, then left for Paris to secure French support for the war with England. The treaty of alliance he negotiated in 1778 was vital to the success of the American Revolution. Later, Franklin helped negotiate the peace treaty with Great Britain.

Franklin returned to Philadelphia in 1785. He attended the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and lived to see the Constitution adopted. He died April 17, 1790.

Franklin was a postal pioneer, printer, writer, statesman, diplomat, civic leader, scientist, and inventor. He helped establish a library, fire company, academy, philosophical society, militia, hospital, and better streets and street lighting in Philadelphia. His scientific contributions included a study of electricity and lightning, theories of heat absorption, measurement of the Gulf Stream, and invention of the lightning rod, bifocals, and the Franklin stove.

Biographer Carl Van Doren wrote: *In any age, in any place, Franklin would have been great . . . Numerous as his achievements were, they were less than he was.*

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## Energy bill

Cont. from pg. 3

provisions and mandates to encourage utilities to expand, modernize and improve the reliability of the electric power grid.

The energy bill is strong on conservation, too. It requires the federal government to devise a plan to save one million barrels of oil a day by 2015.

This legislation also provides help in dealing with environmental problems. The bill included the Coastal

Impact Assistance amendment which I co-sponsored to ensure that Texas will get federal assistance for handling energy problems which may occur in areas with offshore oil exploration. The bill will provide funding for wetland restoration and coastal restoration.

I have long argued that our nation needs a coherent energy policy. I am gratified that the Senate has, at long last, passed this important and necessary bill.

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#### BORDEN COUNTY ISD PUBLIC NOTICE

The Superintendent's Office, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Borden County Independent School will receive bids and/or quotes for propane, diesel, and gasoline for the 2005-2006 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 15, 2005**. 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 the specified date will not be considered.

The Borden County I.S.D. 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 additional information shall be directed to Jimmy Thomas by writing the above address; by e-mail to [jthomas@bcisd.net](mailto: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