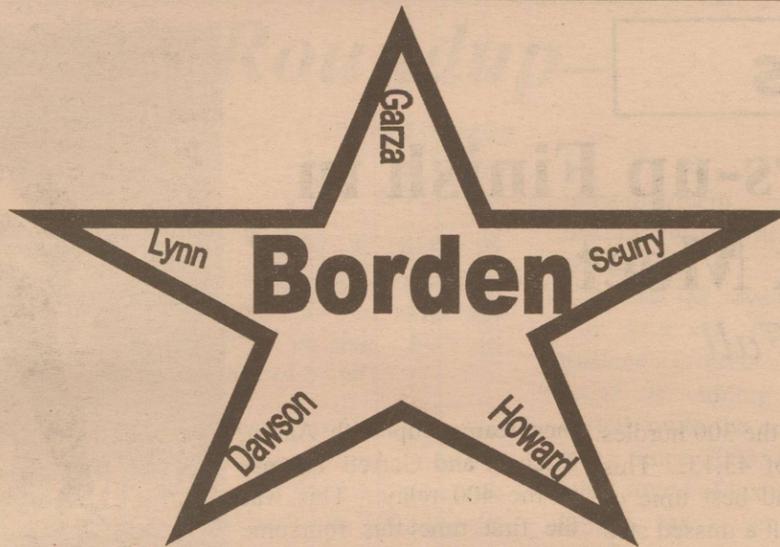


THE

Volume XXXII



STAR

April 19th, 2006

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

Abilene or Bust . . .

BHS UIL Academic Students Ready for Regional Contest

Fifteen students and three academic coaches from Borden County High School will vie for state berths this weekend in Abilene as they compete in the Region II-A UIL Academic Meet.

Many of these students will also be a part of the cast and crew of the regional-qualifying BHS One-Act Play, so a busy weekend is in store for these participants.

The BHS students earned the right to participate in the Regional Meet by placing first, second, or third individually in their respective contests or as a member of first place teams at the District 9-A Academic Meet held at the end of March.

Leading off the Borden County contingent in Abilene will be multiple event qualifiers Becky Dobyms, Rowdy Clary, and Rachel Wilson.

Dobyms, a junior, is seeking a return trip to Austin in her four events: Editorial Writing, Headline Writing, Ready Writing, and Spelling & Vocabulary. She qualified

for state last year in both Headlines and Spelling.

Clary and Wilson each qualified for the Regional Meet in three events. They will team up as members of the Current Issues & Events team and will then split up for their own events.

Clary, a junior, will compete as the District 9-A Champion in both Social Studies and Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking.

Wilson, a sophomore, will also compete in both Editorial Writing and Spelling & Vocabulary.

Competing in two events at the Regional Meet will be senior Andrew Lamming, juniors Jake Payne and Taylor Peterson, sophomore Kate Wallace, and freshman Carlos Hernandez.

Lamming makes his final trip to regional in both Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Extemporaneous Informative Speaking.

Payne will compete individually in Literary Criticism and as a member of the Social Studies team.

Peterson and Hernandez are both members of the Current Issues & Events and Social Studies teams.

Wallace once again qualified for regional competition in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking.

Finishing out the Borden County competitors are seniors Whitney Anderson (News Writing), Trey Soto (Headline Writing), and Austin Tarleton (Spelling & Vocabulary). Anderson qualified for state last year in Feature Writing, but her hopes are with News Writing this year.

Additional juniors participating will be Clint Chapman (Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking) and Christina Soto (News Writing).

Sophomore Sharelle Gass will make her first trip to regional in Poetry Interpretation, while freshman Katherine Froman will compete as a member of the

Deadline Extended to April 28th for CRP General Sign-up and Re-Enrollment/Extension Acceptance

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced an extension of the sign-up deadlines for both the Conservation Reserve Program (CPR) and the special CRO re-enrollment and extension opportunities until April 28, 2006. The deadline for both opportunities was originally April 14, 2006.

"I encourage all eligible farmers and ranchers to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Program enrollment options available now through April 28," said Johanns. "Farmers can improve out soil, water, air and wildlife habitat resources by re-enrolling and extending their CRP contracts."

After the CRP general sign-up ends on April 28, USDA's Farm Service agency (FSA) will evaluate offers based on cost and the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) factors of wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits. Accepted offers will become effective October 1, 2006.

In addition, subject to a compliance review, CRP participants with contracts expiring on Sept. 30, 2007, now have until April 28 to apply for special re-enrollment or extension opportunities offered by FSA. Participants ranking in the EBI's top one-fifth can re-enroll their land in a new 10-year contract. For lands

Cont. to pg. 6

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Track News

Coyote Runners-up Finish in the Area Track Meet

Four Schools Records Fall

By Coach Richey

The Borden County track season continued Thursday as they traveled to Roby to compete in the area Track Meet. In order for the track season to continue past this point, the athletes and or relay teams had to finish in the top four in their respective events. On this day, the Coyotes had their fair share of ups and downs, as they managed to set 4 more school records, but also found themselves just out of advancing in several events. Senior J Ryan Gicklhorn hoped to make a return trip to the Regional Track meet, but a 5th place finish in the shot put would not give him that opportunity. J Ryan put the shot 44'7" which was just a couple of inches out of not only 4th but 3rd as well.

Seniors Austin Tarleton and Aaron Pigford also just missed out as they tied for 6th place in the high jump with a leap of 5'8".

In the pole vault, sophomore Michael Bullinger just missed on advancing as he just barely knocked the bar off on his final attempt at 12'6" which placed him 5th in the competition. This was disappointing, as Michael still has one of the top 4 jumps in the region this year at 13'0".

Jake Cooley followed a 7th place finish in the 800 in a time of 2:10 with a strong 5th place finish in the 400 hundred in a seasons best 54.23, not bad for a freshman.

Junior Jake Payne also had disappointment, as he

finished 5th in the 300 hurdles with a time of 43.13. This was his second best time of the season, but a missed step late in the race cost him a chance to advance.

Jake Payne joined teammates Aaron, Michael and Brad Tatum to run in the 800 relay. Aaron Pigford elected to run in this race in hopes of helping the other three advance to the regional meet even though he had one of the top 8 times in the 200. This group ran a school record 1:34.03, which shattered the previous record of 1:38.18. Michael started it off with a 23.49, followed by a 24.37 by Jake, Brad Tatum ran a 23.89 after a slight bobble on his exchange with Jake. Aaron took the baton and did his best to catch up as he ran a 22.19 split, but in a photo finish, the Coyotes finished in 5th place, but a school record that may last for a long time none the less.

Austin Tarleton also triple jumped on this day, but his 39'10" was only good enough for 7th place. Austin also teamed up with Michael, Jake Payne and Jake Cooley to run the 1600 meter relay, but their 3:53 was also only good enough for 7th place.

J Ryan also competed in the Discus, but his 122' throw could only muster up a 7th place finish as well.

The Highs on this day came in the way of Brad Tatum as he bettered his school record of 13'6" by clearing a school record and regions best 14'0" to win the pole vault. Brad

then teamed up with Aaron, Michael and Garrett Thomas in the 400 relay. This was the first time this foursome was together, but it proved to be a good match, as they shocked the stadium as they ran a school record and top region time of 43.89 to win the 400 relay. Michael started it off with a solid lead leg, but Aaron swallowed the field to regain the lead. Brad did a super job of keeping the Coyotes close and then Garrett used a late surge to come from 3rd to overtake the Forsan and Roscoe runners just meters before the end. This time has them sitting in the top 3 currently in the region.

Garrett followed this by winning the 110 high hurdles in time that was his second best on the season at 14.09.

Aaron Pigford competed in the 100 meter dash, and on a day that started out poorly for the senior in failing to qualify in the high jump turned into his best day on the track as a close 3rd place finish with a time of 10.93 allowed him to advance in this event, but to break one of the oldest records on the board that was held by Chris Cooley at 11.09.

Garrett then returned to the track to take part in the 300 hurdles, which he won easily in a time of 38.91. Both of his hurdle times are not only the top in the region, but they are the top times in the state in class A.

So to recap, the Coyotes finished runner up in the meet while advancing Brad in



UP-UP-And a Way! Bradley Tatum makes a record breaching leap to advance to the Regional Track Meet.

the pole vault, the 400 relay team of Michael, Aaron, Brad and Garrett, Aaron in the 100 and Garrett Thomas in the 110 high hurdles and 300 intermediate hurdles. The Coyotes have high hopes of performing well at region and possibly taking a relay and several individual events to Austin if these young men continue to improve.

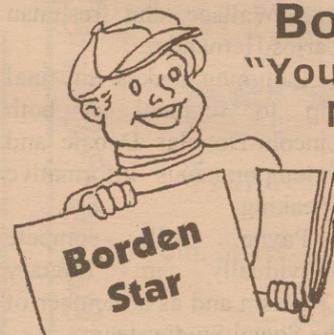
Good luck guys and congratulations on a super meet. You guys that closed out your season, congratulations on a super season and good luck to you next year.



Michael Bullinger *Reaches for the Sky* during the Area Meet

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Garrett Thomas jumping his way to the Regional Meet.

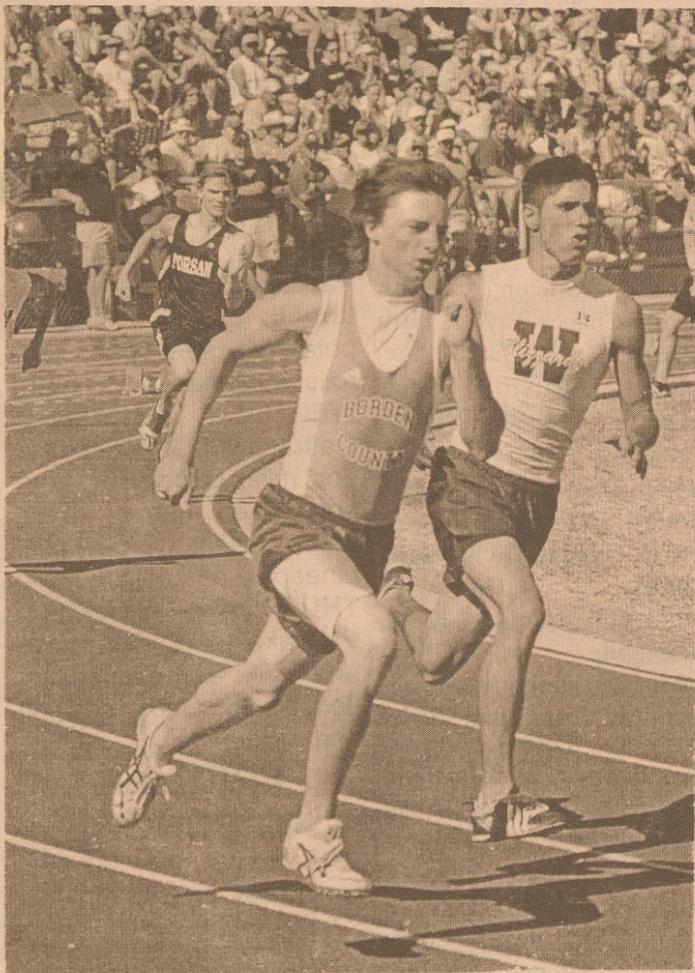


Austin Tarleton takes a **BIG** jump in the triple jump with a 39'10" leap to take 7th place



Big Effort!
J. Ryan Gicklhorn puts the shot 44'7" for place 5th

* * * *



Rounding the turn! Freshman, Jake Cooley place 7th in the 800 just shy of qualifying for Regionals.

* * * *

Congratulations to All our Track Team for a **GREAT** Season!



Taking the Hand-Off!
Jake Payne hands the baton to Bradley Tatum during the 800 relay



Over the Pole! Aaron Pigford's jump failed to qualify him in high jump, but qualified for the 100m dash.

Six-Man Region II Coyote sluggers prevail in All-Region Thriller

Senior Austin Tarleton continued his very successful basketball season as he followed up his MVP All-District results and his All-South Plains team recognition by being recognized by the Region II Six-man coaches by being selected to the All-Region First Team. Team mate junior Jacob Froman followed up his new-comer of the year with a 2nd team All-Region honor.

Senior Aaron Pigford after being selected all-district

received honorable mention six-man all-region. The official list of Six-man All-State players has not been released, but we can confirm that Austin Tarleton did receive 2nd Six-Man All-State Honors. Austin has also been selected to play in this years six-man all-star game that will take place in Lubbock this summer during the 2nd week in July.

Congratulations guys on a very successful basketball season.

Lamesa Press-Reporter

The Borden County Coyotes celebrated a thrilling 12-11 win over the Loraine Bulldogs on Tuesday evening at Western Texas College in Snyder.

"It ended up with a play at the plate and we got the call," Borden County Coach Trey Richey said.

Tuesday's nail-biting win improved the Coyotes' season record to 4-3.

"Our guys really showed lots of heart and character in this game," Richey said. "Our guys just kept on plugging.

"These guys really did play amazingly well again, especially for not playing much ball until this season."

The Coyotes scored two runs in the first inning, one

more in the third and fourth, three in the fifth and one in the sixth, before scoring four big runs in a seventh inning rally.

The Bulldogs scored six runs in the second inning, one more in the fourth and their final four in the sixth.

By pitching the first two and then also the seventh inning, Quentin Shafer was Tuesday's winning pitcher. He had four strikeouts, including two in the seventh.

Michael Bullinger pitched four strong innings in that game. Bullinger had four strike-outs and gave up only three earned runs.

J. Ryan Gicklhorn and Trey Soto both went three-for-five at the plate with three RBIs

each. Austin Tarleton went two-for-four with two RBIs and also scored two runs.

It was Soto who delivered Tuesday's game-winning RBI hit.

Asa Rutherford also had two hits, one RBI and scored one run.

Shafer also had one hit, one RBI and also scored four runs.

Bullinger had a huge bunt that kicked off the Coyotes' big seventh inning rally.

Six-Man 2005 - 2006 Boys Basketball REGION II ALL-REGION

1st Team

Derek Doss	Water Valley	SR
Robby Garcia	Grandfalls	SR
Austin Tarleton	Borden Co	SR
Taylor Nieheues	Garden City	JR
Josiah Hannon	Westbrook	SR
Justin Tubb	Grady	SO
Lee Roy Valerio	Fort Davis	SR
Jarrold Minton	Water Valley	SR
Gilbert Mendoza	Dell City	SR
Michael Walker	Loraine	SR

2nd Team

Cory Olson	Trent	SR
Shaun Maxie	Garden City	SR
Cory Morton	Westbrook	SR
Curtis Evans	Fort Davis	SR
Tate Nichols	Dell City	JR
Santos Ybarra	Sands	SR
Justin Machucca	Balmorhea	SR
Brandon Martinez	Grandfalls	JR
Jacob Froman	Borden Co	JR
Clemente Gomez	Sands	SR

Honorable Mention

Aaron Pigford	Borden Co	SR
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Making the Grade!

5th Six-Weeks

Beta Achievement

Senior: None; **Junior:** Becky Dobyms; **Sophomore:** Shelby Roberts and Rachel Wilson; **Freshman:** Katherine Froman, and Carlos Hernandez; **Eighth Grade:** Rachael Payne, Lacey Roberts and Raylea Underwood; **Seventh Grade:** Bailey Anderson and Taylor Richey; **Sixth Grade:** Austin Fields, Blake Turner and Austin Tyler.

5th Six-Weeks

Honor Roll

Senior: Whitney Anderson; **Junior:** None; **Sophomore:** Chelsea Minnick; **Freshman:** None **Eighth Grade:** Karl Lamming, D'Nae Johnson, Shylo Rinehart, and Brendan Tarleton; **Seventh Grade:** Kimberly Halkowitz and

Krista Tarleton; **Sixth Grade:** Chance Taylor; **Fifth Grade:** Kayla Darbyshire, Celina Guerrero, Kayla Pepper, Tanner Richey, Matthew Roberson, Riley Smith, Teryn Soto, Mattie Turner and Kylie Voss; **Fourth Grade:** Taylor Gass, Matthew Halkowitz, Matthew Ham, Kalyn Massingill, Mallory McMeans, Molly McMeans, Zach McMeans and Tyler Minyard; **Third Grade:** Frank Banman, Nathan Ham, Mackenzie Herring, Sean Tucker and Cayden Vaughn. **Second Grade:** Rhaeden Bland, Thomas Harrison, Jordan McAuley, Colby Pennell, Samuel Raborn, Tatum Richey, and Flint Roberts.

School Lunch Menu April 24th - 28th

MONDAY - Breakfast: Muffin, fruit juice and milk.

Lunch: Taco salad, corn, pudding and milk

TUESDAY - Breakfast: Pancakes, juice and milk;

Lunch: Steak fingers, potatoes, green peas, hot rolls, applesauce and milk.

WED. - Breakfast: Oatmeal w/toast, fruit juice and milk.

Lunch: Chicken and rice, carrot sticks green beans, breadstick, pineapple and milk.

THURSDAY - Breakfast: Pancake pup, fruit juice and milk.

Lunch: Sloppy Joe, salad, chips, cookies and milk.

FRIDAY - NO SCHOOL

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Great job!

Memorial Scholarships being Accepted

Brandon Adcock Memorial Scholarship

Applications are currently being accepted for the:

Brandon Adcock Memorial Scholarship.

Applicants wishing to be considered must submit a formal letter of application prior to May 19th, 2006. Letters of application must be sent to the following address:

**Brandon Adcock
Memorial Scholarship
Committee
PO Box 95
Gail, Texas 79738**

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

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

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

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

Members of the Brandon Adcock Family will have no input into the selection process. Complete selection

authority has been delegated to the Selection Committee, and the Committee has the authority to waive all rules, regulations and formalities in order to select the candidates that the committee feels is most deserving.

John Harding Memorial Scholarship

Applications are currently being accepted for the:

John Harding Memorial Scholarship.

Applicants wishing to be considered must submit a formal letter of application prior to May 19th, 2006. Letters of application must be sent to the following address:

**John Harding
Memorial Scholarship
Committee
PO Box 95
Gail, Texas 79738**

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

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

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

bility status related to the post-secondary institution to be attended.

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

Members of the John Harding family will have no input into the selection process. Complete selection authority has been delegated to the Selection Committee, and the Committee has the authority to waive all rules, regulations and formalities in order to select the candidates that the committee feels is most deserving.

J. Pat Porter Memorial Scholarship

Applications are currently being accepted for the:

J. Pat Porter Memorial Scholarship.

Applicants wishing to be considered must submit a formal letter of application prior to May 19th, 2006. Letters of application must be sent to the following address:

**J. Pat Porter
Memorial Scholarship
Committee
PO Box 95
Gail, Texas 79738**

The primary criteria used to determine the recipient of

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

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

Candidates must attend a state-accredited/Southern Association accredited college, university, or post-secondary institution to be attended.

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

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

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Opal Set for Regional Contest

For two weeks, they have waited. Now, the time has come.

The cast and crew of Borden County High School's One-Act Play production of *Opal* will perform this Saturday, April 22, 2006, at the Region II-A One-Act Play Contest.

The contest is set to begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Behrens Chapel of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

The Borden County production drew the final performance slot of the six play contest and should take the stage around 8:45 or 9:00 p.m. Saturday night.

The top two shows chosen by the judge will advance to the State One-Act Play Contest set for May 6, 2006, at the University of Texas in Austin.

Borden County will face competition at the Regional Contest from Benjamin High School's *Clara's on the Curtains*, Miles High School's *Into the Woods*, Menard High School's *You Can't Take It With You*, Saint Jo High School's *The Grapes of Wrath*, and three-time defending state champion Lindsay High School's *The Madwoman of Chailot*.

The Borden County play advanced to the Region II-A Contest following the announcement of results from the Region II-A, Area 1 Contest in Jayton on April 4th.

The advancement marks the first time for the

Borden County OAP program to advance to regional competition since 1992.

Starring in the lead role of "Opal" is sophomore Rachel Wilson.

Wilson is accompanied by a strong ensemble cast including seniors Garrett Thomas ("The Man That Wears Grey Neckties/Angel Father") and Andrew Lamming ("Narrator/General Store Owner/Big Judd/ Lumber Camp Man").

Junior cast members are Kalli Poole ("The Mamma"), Becky Dobyns ("The Girl That Has No Seeing"), Christina Soto ("Sadie McKibben").

Additional junior cast members are Clint Chapman ("Narrator/Man/Peter Paul Rubens/Lumber Camp Man"), Rowdy Clary ("Narrator/Square Dance Caller/Lumber Camp Man"), Sarah Harding ("Narrator/Gossip Sister"), Lacey Newton ("Narrator/Gossip Sister"), and Taylor Peterson ("Narrator/Lumber Camp Man").

Also starring in the show are sophomore Kate Wallace ("Angel Mother/Laura Ryden -The Thought-Girl With the Far-Away Look in Her Eyes") and freshman Katherine Froman ("Narrator/Selena's Mother/ Teacher").

Serving as members of the technical crew are seniors Trey Soto (Lights) and Brandi Hudson (Props & Costumes), junior John Cowart (Sound), and

freshman Krystal Hobson (Stage Manager).

Darrin Ard directs the production.

Break a leg at the Regional Contest, BC!



Cast and Crew of *Opal* to compete at Regional contest on Saturday, April 22nd. at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. Performance time will be announced.

Abilene or Bust!

Cont. from pg. 1

Spelling & Vocabulary team.

These students will be cheered on by academic coaches Sue Jane Mayes (Journalism, Ready Writing, Current Issues & Events, Spelling & Vocabulary, and Social Studies), Cindy Herridge (Literary Criticism), and Darrin Ard (Extemporaneous Speaking, Poetry, and One-Act Play).

They will be accompanied by Mr. Bart McMeans and Mr. Jimmy Thomas, B.C.I.S.D. administrators.

Good luck this weekend to all BC competitors. May you make it to STATE!

We have to do the best we can. This is our sacred human responsibility.

Albert Einstein

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bi-County Shared Services Arrangement (SSA) and formerly known as Bi-County Special Education Cooperative, is hereby giving notice of the destruction of inactive student records. This is being done in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines. Records designated to be destroyed are: 1) Special Education Student Records from Dawson ISD, Klondike ISD, and Borden County ISD; and 2) dated on or before December 31, 1996. Any persons wishing to obtain their individual records from Bi-County SSA, must contact the office before May 10, 2006. This can be done by contacting Bill Tarleton, director, at 806-756-4313, ext. 269 or 270. Fax requests can be sent to 806-756-4335. Bi-County SSA is located at 315 W. Kincaid/P.O. Box 95, in Gail, Texas 79738. The date of this notice is April 19, 2006.

Deadline Extended

Cont. from pg. 1

with restored wetlands, FSA offered opportunity for a new 15-year contract. FSA offered the second one-fifth group the opportunity for a 5-year extension; the third one-fifth a 4-year extension; the fourth one-fifth a 3-year extension; and the remaining participants a 2-year extension.

FSA county offices are now beginning to notify CRP participants with contracts expiring in 2008-2010 of their re-enrollment and extension opportunities. The dead-line for participants to respond is June 30, 2006.

CRP participants voluntarily enroll highly erodible and other fragile cropland in CRP through long-term contracts of 10 to 15 years. On the enrolled land, participants plant grasses, trees and other vegetation. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation covers.

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--Randy's Roundup--

*A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman
Randy Neugebauer*

Tax Day Recap

With tax season coming to a close, I thought it would be a good opportunity to take a look back at recent tax relief measures and the effect they are having on the U.S. economy. What I found from studies done by the U.S. Department of the Treasury paints an interesting picture.

In May of 2003, President Bush signed the Jobs and Growth Act into law, which reduced the tax burden on American taxpayers. Lower taxes have meant real savings for millions of workers. This year alone, 5 million individuals and families will see their income tax liability completely eliminated; 44 million families with children will receive an average tax cut of \$2,495; 14 million elderly individuals will save an average of \$2,043. Small businesses

will benefit as well: 25 million small business owners will see their tax burden decline by an average of \$3,641.

These tax savings are translating into positive news for the job market. In the three years since the tax relief went into effect, business investment has increased, the number of jobs have grown, and the unemployment rate has dropped. The U.S. economy is experiencing 31 consecutive months of job growth, which has resulted in the creation of more than 5.1 million new jobs (including 2.1 million in the past 12 months alone). Reports show that this growth is occurring in multiple sectors of the economy, including health, educational, business, and financial services. At the same time, the country's

unemployment rate is historically-low at 4.7 percent.

Federal tax revenues have also gone up. Despite the misleading rhetoric that tax relief is adding to the deficit, quite the opposite is true. Since 2003, when the latest round of tax relief was passed, tax revenues have increased each year. This

includes revenues increasing by 14% in 2005. More needs to be done to reduce the deficit - such as reining in spending - but raising taxes isn't the answer. To keep the economy humming along, we need to continue smart tax policies that allow small businesses and working families to keep more of their hard-earned money.

--Randy

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

CHEVRON U.S.A., INC. #15 SMITH ROAD, MIDLAND, TEXAS 79705 has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the **Spraberry** formation, in the following section and lease:

Jo-Mill (Spraberry) Field, Jo-Mill Unit Lease (60465), Well No.s **1313, 1412, 6311, 6313, 6314, 6331, 6421, 6422, 6441, 7213, 15** miles **SW** of **Gail**. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval approximately **6500** to **8000** feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show that they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within 15 days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 - (512)463-6792.

Shuttle Anniversary Continues Era of Exploration

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

This month, the U.S. space program reached a landmark in its history, and it looks forward to a promising new era. On April 12th, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the first space shuttle launch. The last quarter century of human space flight was dominated by this amazing spacecraft. The passing of the baton from the shuttle to a new generation of vehicles is on the horizon. With these vehicles we will reach new destinations and view new vistas.

Late last year, Congress enacted my NASA authorization bill, the first in five years. The bill does more than simply authorize funds for the space program. It begins the transition to the new era of exploration.

That era will continue this July with the launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery on the second Return to Flight test mission. During their mission to the International Space Station, Discovery's crew will test new equipment and procedures that increase the safety of space shuttles.

The successor to the shuttle program will embark on bold, new missions, including a return to the moon after a hiatus of more than 30 years. This time, it will be more than a brief visit; the moon will become a stepping stone for exploring the further reaches of space.

Our ultimate goal of this new era will be to set foot on the Red Planet. Incredible pictures from the Spirit and Opportunity rovers on Mars have given us a deeper sense of what it will be like to stand

on the surface of Mars, climb its rolling hills and explore its craters and valleys.

This new journey must begin from where we now are. It must build on the solid base of knowledge and experience that we have spent many years and invested extensive resources to develop. That base will not be completed until we return the space shuttle to full flight status; and we must finish the Space Station to provide an essential laboratory for important research.

Current plans call for the end of space shuttle flights in 2010, but we need to be sure we do not have a gap during which our nation is unable to perform manned missions. We do not yet know when the new Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) will become fully operational. Therefore, my bill requires NASA to notify the Congress if a gap appears likely and detail the steps they believe we should take to bridge that gap.

We must be able to sustain operations aboard the space station. It will be necessary to ensure that we have the capability to deliver cargo, re-supply the station, and return payloads to Earth. It is not enough for us to simply

attach the remaining modules to the space station and leave it behind. That would not meet our commitments to our international partners, our taxpayers, or to the scientists who have spent two decades planning and preparing to use the space station.

My bill maximizes our investment in the International Space Station by designating it a National Laboratory. It is an important national asset with enormous potential for scientific research and exploration, for example, increasing our understanding of cosmic rays and working to develop new sources of energy. This designation will open up new avenues for outside funding and support, and it will extend the benefits provided by the many unique possibilities for research on the space station.

Our efforts in space are essential to keeping our nation competitive. We have an exciting and bright future in space exploration. We are on a course that will bring important new knowledge and inspire the next generation of American scientists to do what, only yesterday, seemed like science fiction.

REMINDER: BURN BAN IN EFFECT!

All of Borden County is under a **BURN BAN**. All trash barrels must have an appropriate covering before burning. Please take *Special Precautions* with any Fire during this time for the Safety of You and Your Neighbors.



Gail FFA Horticulture Spring Plants Available

The Gail FFA Horticulture class has been working very hard learning about the wonderful world of Horticulture. They have been busy planting and transplanting plants in the greenhouse since early February. Our hard work to produce and grow flowers and vegetables has finally paid off. Healthy, hardy plants are everywhere!

The plants will be available for sale starting April 10th.

The following plants will be available:

Tomatoes: \$1.00
Early Girl
Bush Celebrity

Peppers \$1.00
Banana Pepper
Early Jalapeno
Bell Pepper

Flower variety: \$0.50

The Gail FFA Horticulture class wishes to express their appreciation to all who have supported their plant sales in the past, and we look forward to working with our customers this year.

For more information, contact Mr. Buddy Wallace, Ag. Science Teacher at 806-756-431 (School) 806-756-4478 (Home)

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