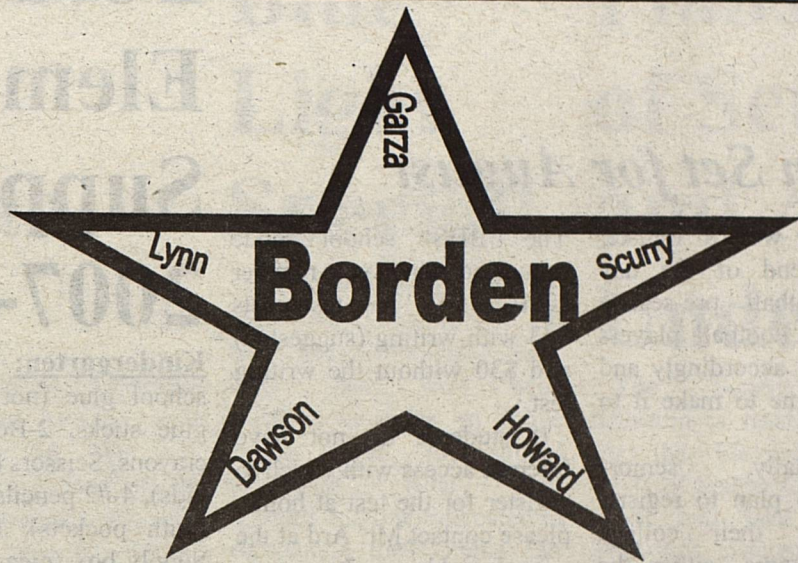


THE

Volume XXXV



STAR

August 8th, 2007

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

Traffic Sign Vandalism Increasing in Borden County

Texas Department of Transportation officials in Borden County have noted an increase in traffic sign theft and vandalism. The signs are being stolen off their posts as well as being objects of target practice.

"Although signs are quickly replaced," Jibber Herridge, Borden County maintenance section supervisor, said, "when stop signs and warning signs are taken it becomes a safety concern."

"Any missing signs can endanger travelers. Especially significant are the warning signs that warn of a potential road hazard. The vandalizing of certain signs, especially stop, yield, and warning signs can risk a person's safety and violators can be criminally prosecuted," continued Herridge.

In addition to the safety

aspect, the costs associated with traffic sign vandalism are high. The funds expended on replacing these signs could be spent elsewhere, TxDOT officials say.

Taxpayers in the TxDOT's Abilene District spent more than \$223,146 for 7,508 signs in fiscal year 2006 and have already spent \$246,246 for 4,870 damaged or missing signs this fiscal year beginning in September 2006. Statewide, 2,056 signs were replaced for a cost of \$2,363,979 in fiscal year 2006 and so far this fiscal year, it has cost the taxpayers \$2,373,005 to replace 65,463 stolen and vandalized signs along state roadways. Wood and metal signs cost approximately \$25 per square foot to produce.

Cont. to pg. 6

Gail FFA Members Attend State Convention

Ten members of the Gail FFA Chapter have recently returned from a fun filled trip to the 2007 State FFA Convention. The five day event which was held in Corpus Christi, hosted over 10,000 FFA members and guests from across the state.

The Convention began on Tuesday, July 9th with registration and orientation. The Gail Students, along with advisor, Buddy Wallace and sponsor Kristen Wallace, arrived on Monday to travel to Mustang Island Beach of a fun day in the sun and surf. The rest of the week was filled with award sessions, keynote addresses, leadership workshops, state/national officer elections, and a fun night for all members. A concert featuring Johnny Cooper and Stoney Larue rounded out a full day on Wednesday evening.

Members from across the state also witnessed the election and installation of the new State FFA President, First Vice-President, and

remaining 07-08 State Officer team. Inspirational retiring officer speeches, state level awards, and state level speaking competition were also part of this exciting week.

The Gail group headed home on Friday, July 12th with a case of mild sunburn, souvenirs, a bus full of beach sand, great memories of the trip, and ideas of how to fulfill the convention theme of "Breaking Down the Barriers".

Gail FFA members attending the convention were: Shelby Roberts-Lone Star Degree Recipient, State Delegate; Kate Wallace-Lone Star Degree Recipient, State Extemp. Speaker; Miller Valentine-Lone Star Degree Recipient; Sharelle Gass-Lone Star Degree Recipient; Lacey Roberts-State Delegate; Shylo Rinehart-Member; Chellsie Pigford-Member; Cory Teel-Member; and Skyler Williamson-Member.



Gail FFA Members attending State Convention are (L. to R): Sharelle Gass, Shelby Roberts, Skyler Williamson, Shylo Rinehart, Chellsie Pigford, Miller Valentine, Chasity Rutherford, Lacey Roberts, Kate Wallace and Cory Teel.

Back To School Blues... Er...News

BCISD Registration Set for August 15th-17th



With the end of the month of July behind us, it is just over two weeks before the start of the 2007-2008 school year across the state of Texas as the mandatory start date of Monday, August 27th, 2007, edges closer and closer.

Now, as you begin your back-to-school shopping trips, Borden County I.S.D. junior high and high school students should also plan to come register for the upcoming school year.

BCISD Registration has been set for Wednesday-Friday, August 15-17 in the BCISD Library. Registration times are from 9-5 each day.

All BJH and BHS students, as well as any new elementary students to the district who have not completed their paperwork, should register during these times.

BJH students (grades 6-8) will receive their class schedules and will select their lockers. The process should be completed in about 5-10 minutes.

BHS students (grades 9-12) should plan on meeting with Mr. Ard, BCISD guidance counselor, for around 20 minutes each. They will finalize their class schedules, update or create their four-year graduation plans, select their lockers, and discuss other academic issues.

Students should expect a

line if they wait to register until the end of the day before football pre-season workouts. Football players should plan accordingly and arrive in time to make it to practice.

Additionally, seniors should also plan to register online for their college entrance exams—either the ACT or SAT—during registration. They will need to bring a parent's credit card to pay for the test online.

The SAT's closest administration is October 6th with a deadline of September 10th. Therefore, seniors will be able to register for this test administration at regular school registration.

On the other hand, if a senior is wanting to take the first ACT test of the year, it is scheduled for September 15, 2007, with a registration deadline of August 10th. Register online at www.actstudent.org if you would like to take the ACT during this administration.

The BHS school code requested when you register is 442-650. The test costs \$43 with writing (suggested) and \$30 without the writing test.

If students do not have Internet access with which to register for the test at home, please contact Mr. Ard at the school, and he can help you.

A supply list for Borden County Elementary students accompanies this article. Supply lists for junior high and high school students will be distributed either during registration or on the first day of classes.

If you have questions concerning registration or you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ard, Mr. McMeans, or Mrs. Rinehart at the school during regular office hours (8-5) at (806)756-4313.

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.
—Malcolm S. Forbes

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in case of an Emergency!
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806/759-5111**



TPA MEMBER
2007
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Borden County Elementary Supply Lists 2007-2008

Kindergarten: Elmer's school glue (not paste), 2-glyue sticks, 2-Boxes of 16 crayons, Scissors (Fiskars for kids), 4-#2 pencils, 2-Floders (with pockets), big eraser, Supply box (cigar box size), Towel for nap time, Baby wipes/wet wipes (2 boxes), 1 box Kleenex, Gym shoes.

First Grade: 2-Boxes of 16 crayons, 5-#2 pencils, Supply box, Scissors (Fiskars for kids), 2 medium-sized bottles Elmer's school glue, 2-glyue sticks, 1-one subject spiral notebook (wide-ruled), large box of baby wipes, 2 boxes Kleenex, Gym shoes



Second Grade: 12-#2 pencils, 2-Red grading pencils, Crayons, Colored pencils, 1 bottle-Elmer's school glue, 2-Glyue sticks, Notebook paper (wide-ruled), Scissors, Eraser, Ruler, Small supply box, 1-Red pocket folder (no brads), 1-Pocket folder of choice (no brads), 1-Wide-ruled spiral notebook, 1 box-Kleenex, Gym shoes

Third Grade: 1-Wide-ruled spiral notebook, 300-3X5 index cards, 1-ruler (metric & standard), 4-Red pens, 1 bottle-Elmer's school glue, 2-Glyue sticks, 2-Pocket folders, Notebook paper (wide-ruled), 24-#2 pencils

(not mechanical), Large eraser, Supply box, Crayons, Colored pencils, Scissors, 1 box-Kleenex, 2 large boxes-baby wipes, Gym shoes, NO NOTEBOOKS PLEASE!

Fourth Grade: Crayons, 1 box-#2 pencils, 3-Red grading pens, 3-Pocket



folders (no brads), Notebook paper (wide-ruled), 1-Ruler (metric & standard), 2-Glyue sticks, 1-Eraser, Scissors, 1 bottle-Elmer's school glue, 1 pkg.-3X5 lined index cards, 2 boxes-Kleenex, 1 large inexpensive box-baby wipes, Gym shoes

Fifth Grade: 1-Red 1 1/2 3-ring notebook, 1 pkg-Dividers (with pockets), 1-Red spiral notebook (wide-ruled), 1-Red folder with pockets, 2 pkgs.-Notebook paper (wide-ruled only), 1 box-#2 pencils, Red grading pens, 1-Large glue sticks, 1-8 oz. bottle of Elmer's school glue, 1 box-36 colored pencils, 1 box-10 crayola markers (broad tip), 1 pkg.- 10 crayola washable markers (super tip), 1-Ruler (metric and standard), Scissors, 1 pkg.-Highlighters (green, blue, yellow, orange, & pink), 2 large boxes-Kleenex, 1-Supply box

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Gail FFA Members Receives State FFA Degree

The Gail FFA Chapter has recently added six of its' members to an elite group of FFA students across the State. Becky Dobyms, Sharelle Gass, Chelsea Minnick, Shelby Roberts, Kate Wallace, and Miller Valentine have joined these ranks as they received their Lone Star State FFA Degree at the State Convention in July.

To receive this prestigious award, a student must maintain outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects and maintain records on these projects for a minimum of three years. The students must earn a specified amount of revenue from these projects and acquire a specified amount of activity points in their records. These are recorded and kept current on the SAEP IMS computer program. The student must also actively participate in numerous FFA events while maintaining an acceptable academic record.

Gail members submitted their record books and applications for the preliminary record check at the Area II Convention this past May. Their material passed the Area Check and advanced to the State FFA Record Check competition during June. The record books and applications were both accepted which was the final level of competition and checking in order for the students to become a Lone Star Member.

The members received their award at a special Lone Star Session that was held at the State Convention in Corpus Christi on July 9th. Congratulations to Becky, Sharelle, Chelsea, Shelby, Kate, and Miller; all hard working members of the Gail FFA Chapter.

Note: The FFA State Lone Star Degree is the highest degree bestowed upon FFA member in Texas. **The Gail FFA Chapter had the most recipients from any one school in Area II for 2007.



Fun in the sun! FFA Members pose for the camera while at the State Convention.

Blue Light Special!

The Gail FFA Chapter still has several meat items left from their 2006-2007 Sale. Prices have now been reduced in order to move items prior to school beginning. Blue light special! Anyone interested in purchasing these items can contact Buddy Wallace at (Home) 806-756-4478 or (School) 756-4313.

Items available are as follows:

- Tailgate Party Pack-\$11.00
- Smoked Sausage Kolaches-\$12.00
- Peppered Bacon-\$10.00
- Smoked Turkey Breast-\$12.00
- Golden chicken Tenders-\$15.00
- Pork Tamales-\$11.00
- Chicken Fajita-\$9.00
- Beef Fajita-\$9.00
- Cajun Meat Pies-\$10.00
- Smoked Turkey-\$15.00

The Gail FFA Chapter wishes to thank everyone for their fund-raiser support.

Plans for Taste of Scurry County and Auction Underway

The Scurry County Museum is finalizing plans for the Eleventh Annual Taste of Scurry County. The event will take place on Thursday, August 23, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Snyder. The theme of this year's event will be "Gettin' Here." Taste of Scurry County is the Museum's annual fundraiser and helps support the general operations of the Museum.

The Museum provides smoked briskets and beans, and local cooks prepare salads, breads, and desserts. Anyone who would like to prepare a favorite salad, bread or dessert is welcome to contact Ann Smartt or Virginia Clark, Food Committee Co-Chairs.

Tickets to the evening's activities are available at

Bullard's Computer Solutions, the Snyder Chamber of Commerce, and the Scurry County Museum. The suggested donation is \$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children between 5 and 12 years of age, and free admission for children under 5.

Grady Morris will conduct a live auction beginning at 7:15 p.m. The auction this year will be centered about themed baskets. The individual themes for the baskets will be announced later.

A raffle will be drawn on a 50" Widescreen Samsung HDTV. Cost per raffle ticket is \$5.00. The TV is on display in Museum foyer for preview. Raffle tickets can be purchased at Bullard's Computer Solutions, Snyder Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, and the Scurry County Museum. There will also be a special sale on August 11, 2007 at the Snyder United Supermarket from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The raffle drawing will take place after the auction.

The Scurry County Museum is located on the Western Texas College campus, 6200 College Avenue, Snyder. For more information about the Taste of Scurry County and the auction, call the Museum at (325)573-6107.



Borden County Back to School Swimming Party

Post Public Pool
August 11th, 2007
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Free to all Borden County students
ages PK - 12th grade

Bring snacks and drinks
Hosted by T.J., Tye,
and Thadd Basquez
Come join in the fun!!

Call 806/495-1066 for information.

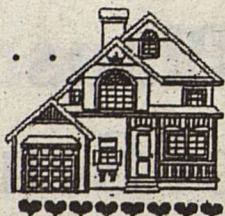


What should you do
to stop a friend from
driving drunk?
Whatever you
have to!
**Friends don't let
friends drive drunk.**

Heart & Home . . .

By Julie Smith

Borden County Extension Agent
Family & 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 Court of Texas Cooperating.

Choosing the Correct Backpack for Your Child

It's that time of year again—back-to-school time! Many parents and children prepare for that first day of school by doing some back-to-school shopping, which often involves buying new clothing, pens, pencils, paper, markers, etc. However, backpacks are one of the biggest necessities for both college-aged and younger students, and it's important to choose wisely.

There are so many backpacks to choose from, and choosing the right one for your child is not always easy. Backpacks come in all sizes, colors, fabrics, and shapes—all of which help kids express their own sense of style. As practical as backpacks are for those who use them, backpacks can cause strained muscles and joints and back pain when worn incorrectly.

The human spine is made up of 33 bones called vertebrae, and between the vertebrae are discs that act as shock absorbers. When something heavy—such as a backpack filled with books—is incorrectly placed on your child's shoulders, the force of that extra weight can pull your child backwards. To compensate, your child may bend forward at the hips or arch his or her back, which can cause your child's spine to compress unnaturally. Because of the heavy weight he or she is carrying, your child might begin to develop shoulder,

neck, and back pain. What can we do about this? The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that before you purchase a backpack, look for the following five criteria:

- Choose a lightweight backpack that doesn't add a lot of weight to your child's load. For example, although leather backpacks look cool, they weigh more than traditional canvas backpacks.
- Choose a backpack with two wide, padded shoulder straps. Straps that are too narrow can dig into shoulders.
- Choose a backpack that has a padded back, which provided increased comfort and protects that wearer from being poked by sharp edges (such as pencils, rulers, notebooks, etc.) inside the backpack.
- Choose a backpack that has a waist belt, which helps distribute the weight more evenly across the body.
- Choose a backpack that has multiple compartments, which also helps distribute weight more evenly.

Although most backpacks

come with two shoulder straps, this doesn't mean that your kids will use both straps! Many kids wear their backpacks over just one shoulder, which is the wrong thing to do. This makes the person lean to one side to offset the extra weight, and they might develop lower and upper back pain and strain their shoulders and neck. Wearing the backpack incorrectly can also lead to poor posture. So, make sure your children wear the backpack using both straps. It's also a good idea to tighten the straps enough for the backpack to fit close to the body, and it should sit 2 inches above the waist.

Girls and younger children may be especially at risk for backpack-related injuries because they're smaller and may carry loads that are heavier in proportion to their body weight. Doctors recommend that people—especially children—carry backpacks that are no more than 10-15 percent of their body weight. For example, if a child weighs 80 pounds, 15 percent of his or her body weight is 12 pounds. So, for an 80 pound child, the backpack and its contents should not weigh more than 12 pounds—but remember, lighter is always better.

Lifting and Positioning Backpacks

Children also need to know how to lift and position their backpack. Improper lifting can cause damage. Teach your children these four simple steps to safely lift their backpacks:

1. Face the backpack before you lift it.
2. Bend at the knees.
3. Using both hands, check the weight of the backpack.
4. Lift with your legs, not your back.
5. Carefully put one shoulder strap on at a time; never sling the backpack onto

one shoulder.

Another Option

Another option to consider when purchasing backpacks is to look for a backpack on wheels. However, these types of backpacks may be less practical than traditional backpacks because they're difficult to pull up stairs. If you're thinking about purchasing a rolling backpack for your child. Contact the child's school first to be sure that they are allowed. Many schools don't allow rolling backpacks because they pose a tripping hazard in the hallways.

By following these guidelines, your child will start off this school year with a healthy back! For more information contact your local county Extension agent.

Prepared by Courtney J. Schoessow, M.P.H., Extension Program Specialist—Health, Texas Cooperative Extension, August 2005.

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Lamesa, Tx,**

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.
—Michelangelo

TAE4-HA

FOOD & CLOTHING TOUR

August 9, 2007
Lubbock, Texas

Food Tour

REQUIRED:
Long sleeve shirts & closed toe shoes!

9:15 A.M.:
- Pedro's Tamales, 82nd & US 87
(Lubbock, Cochran, Bailey, Castro, Crosby/Lynn & Parmer counties)

- United Food Service & Bakery, 98th & Quaker (Hale, Hockley, Swisher, Borden & Garza counties)

10:15 A.M.: SWAP locations

11:00 A.M. - Lunch at Market Street
(Lunch on your own, bring \$5-\$10.)

Clothing Tour

TOUR DESTINATIONS:

1. International Textile Center
1001 East Loop 289
2. Dancing Fibers
7423 82nd Street
3. Goodwill
Location to be announced.

TOURS WILL START ON THE HOUR AT 1:00 P.M., 2:00 P.M., AND 3:00 P.M.

TOUR ORDER:
Lubbock, Cochran & Bailey:
ITC, Dancing Fibers, Goodwill
Hale, Castro, Crosby/Lynn & Parmer:
Dancing Fibers, Goodwill, ITC
Hockley, Swisher, Borden & Garza:
Goodwill, ITC, Dancing Fibers

CALL YOUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE TO SIGN UP BY MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2007.

SPONSORED BY:
District Two TAE4-HA

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South Plains District 2 4-H Officer Training
sponsored by District 2 TAE4-HA



Come join us for a fun-filled, action-packed, leadership-building afternoon!

WHEN: Monday, August 13th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Texas Tech University Animal Science Building

THE DETAILS:

- ★ All 4-H'ers are invited, even if you do not currently hold a club or county office!
- ★ There is no charge for this event!
- ★ Sessions include: Officer Training, Leadership Games, 4-H Olympics and MUCH more! Refreshments will be provided.
- ★ Please RSVP to your County Extension Office by Monday, August 6th.



We will seek to provide all reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any Extension program. We request that you contact your Texas Cooperative Extension office as soon as possible to advise of auxiliary aid that you will require.



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

4-H News Achievement Picnic

The 2006-07 4-H Achievement Picnic will be held on Monday, August 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Show Barn. (Please note that this is a change from the original date sent in the July Newsletter.) All 4-H families and community members are invited to attend.

4-H'ers that have met their achievement points will also be presented with their certificate for ordering their 4-H jacket at the picnic.

For more information, please contact the Extension Office.

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Living Well

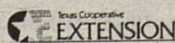
Summer Educational Programs

Join us for educational programming that will help improve your lifestyle and overall well-being to begin "Living Well in 2007."

Please note yet another DATE CHANGE, and a location change!!
We have had to reschedule several events due to conflicts, please bare with us!

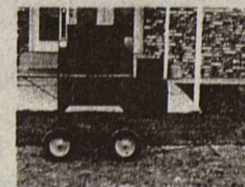
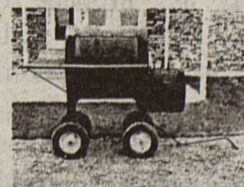
Saving the Fruits of Summer Thursday, August 23rd @ 6:00 p.m. in the Extension Office Mtg Room
Have you always wanted to "put up" a few vegetables from your garden or the farmer's market? Now is the perfect opportunity to learn about up-to-date canning, freezing and drying techniques through this hands-on opportunity. Join us as we preserve some of the fruits of the summer garden. There will be a cost of \$10 per person to cover supplies (participants will get to take home the items that they preserve). The favor of a reply is requested to help plan for materials and supplies.

Sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension-Borden County
P.O. Box 155 Gail, TX 79738 Phone (806)756-4336 Fax (806)756-4486
jm-smith@tam.u.edu http://borden-tx.tamu.edu



Buy your chance to win a... B-B-Q Pit with Smoker

custom made by Roscoe Massingill



**Proceeds to benefit:
Borden County Jr.
Livestock Association**

Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20

Please see any BCJLA Director for tickets.

**Drawing to be held at the Coyote Opry
on Saturday, September 22, 2007
at the Borden County Show Barn in Gail.
You do not have to be present to win!**

Notice of Public Hearing On Borden County Appraisal District 2008 Budget

The Borden County Appraisal District Board of Directors will conduct its annual public hearing for the Borden County Appraisal District Year 2008 Budget at 8:00 a.m., on Tuesday, August 14, 2007. This meeting will be held in the Borden County Community Center at 116 E. Wilbourn, Gail, Texas

A summary of the appraisal district budget is as follows:
Total amount of proposed budget \$73,089.00
Total amount of current budget \$71,189.00
Total difference between budgets (increase of) \$1,900.00

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect on the 1st day of January, 2008.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the appraisal district office.

JILL FREEMAN
Chief Appraiser

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 2007-2008 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 Thursday, August 16, 2007. 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 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

High Plains Crop On track Despite Below Average Temperature Trend in 2007

With the month of August newly arrived, the 2007 High Plains cotton crop continues to look good in the field and is supporting a cautiously optimistic outlook among producers.

A number of factors have played pivotal roles in the development of the 2007 crop, which is generally regarded as being in good shape but not quite where growers would prefer it to be.

After planting in the neighborhood of 3.1 million acres to cotton, farmers across the High Plains are still seeing a lot of potential in the crop. In order for all

that potential to be realized however the area still needs a little extra boost from Mother Nature when September and October roll around.

Following the above normal rainfall pattern that lingered in the area early in the season, July's open weather was a welcome change. July temperatures were marginally below normal, but still helped the crop make up some of the ground it lost early on.

Another positive factor is that this year's crop has been relatively stress free thanks to the above average rainfall and below normal temperatures. This allowed growers to save a considerable amount of money on irrigation expenses and many didn't feel the need to turn

on wells until just recently.

This year's early August snapshot indicates things are looking good, even though most crop watchers would likely admit to expecting far less cotton than usual to be ready for harvest aid treatments in late-September and early-October.

The success or failure of the 2007 crop will not hinge how the crop has pulled through the challenges presented up to this point. As always the High Plains will rest its fortunes on what happens from this point forward.

Summing up what the crop needs is fairly simple. A few period of above average temperatures and sunny days after Labor Day would be a welcome finale to another challenging High Plains cotton production season.

Traffic Signs

Cont. from pg. 1

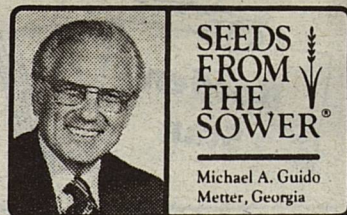
People are reminded that in Texas it is against the law to possess sign without a permit, and the state does not sell signs or issue permits to possess them. The penalty for stealing or vandalizing a state sign ranges from a Class B Misdemeanor for a single sign to a state jail felony if the total to repair or replace the sign exceeds \$1,500.

Herridge asks motorists to write down the license plate number of anyone they see tampering with traffic sign and contact their local law enforcement official. He also asks that persons witnessing the destruction of a traffic sign to call him at 806-756-4491 so his section can have the sign replaced hopefully before it becomes a safety concern.

Tax Holiday Moves to Aug. 17-19

The annual sales tax holiday has been moved to the third weekend in August this year, Aug. 17-19, to better coincide with back-to-school shopping.

Items included in the tax holiday are clothing and footwear under \$100. A new addition this year are backpacks under \$100. They may have rollers, but they must be able to be worn on your back.



A neighbor said to a boy, "My home's like yours. Why don't you come and visit me?"

"I'm happier here," he answered.

"Why?" she asked.

"I guess it's Mom," he said.

Mom's not a physician, but she heals the sick.


She's not a banker, but we deposit our hurts and hopes with her.

She's not a gardener, but she plants the seeds of faith, truth and love that develop into flowers of character, godliness and happiness.

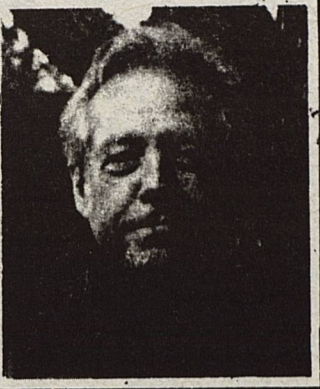
She's not a preacher, but she teaches her children what's true and helps them do what's right.

She's not a contractor, but she's a builder of civilization.

No wonder the Bible says, "Honor your mother!"



Texas Stories
A showcase of the Texas Spirit



Tumbleweed Smith
Part owner of Texas

Birds of a Feather

"They made a big mess on my patio and side yard. So when she would blow her whistle and hit her big pan, they'd fly across the house and land over here. Then I'd blow my whistle and bang on my pan and they'd fly over to where she was."

They kept up the noise for about an hour and a half.

"My husband came home and noticed all the racket and he asked me if I was crazy. I told him I wasn't, that I just wanted to run these birds off. He told me he could get out there and shoot them and I told him no, I didn't want him out there shooting them."

The birds then rose up together and flew away from Birdie's house. They never came back.

"In just a little while after the birds left, my sister called and asked me if I knew where all the blackbirds went. I told her no. Then she told me they were at her house. She has lots of trees over there."

Birdie's sister told Birdie she knew of a sure way to get rid of the birds. It involved a shotgun.

Birdie is her real name. She was named for her grandmother's nickname.

Birdie Slack of Pecos loves birds. Up to a point.

"We've had birds out here that have been troublesome," says Birdie. "I remember one time there was just a huge cloud of blackbirds that

landed in one of my trees. You could not put your foot down without stepping on some bird poop. And they chattered all the time. They were a real nuisance."

The birds were becoming a big problem, but she did not want her husband to get out his shotgun and start shooting the birds.

"I asked the lady who works for me if she could come out one evening to help me run the birds off. She was kind enough to say she would. She wanted to know how we were going to do it. I told her I had a special plan."

Birdie, an ex-teacher, had two whistles she once used to call school kids in from recess.

"I took one and I gave her one. Then I gave her a big pan and a big spoon to bang on it. I took a whistle, a big pan and a big spoon. I told her to stay in the front yard and I went around to the back. Then we started banging on those things and blowing the whistles."

The birds were always in a flock. They were either in trees in the back of the house or in trees in the front. It was just a cloud of birds when they would fly from one place to another, messing up the place.

To do the useful thing, to say the courageous thing, to contemplate the beautiful thing: that is enough for one man's life.
—T.S. Eliot



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



Keeping Our Promises to America's Heroes

Abraham Lincoln best described our everlasting commitment to our soldiers when, on behalf of a grateful nation, he pledged, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." Today, caring for the health of those who have fought to defend freedom continues to be one of the federal government's most enduring responsibilities.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates America's largest health care system, consisting of nearly 700 medical centers, clinics and residential facilities. Texas is home to several of these facilities. But we must expand the VA's reach to meet the needs of Texas' growing population of veterans, already one the largest in the country, as well as address the changing needs of our newest veterans from the Global War on Terror. And there is also much we can do to improve care at the national level. We must emphasize research in areas such as mental health and modern prosthesis technology, and encourage the study of poorly understood conditions such as Gulf War Syndrome and traumatic brain injury.

The Waco VA hospital, one of our state's premier facilities, is a national leader in psychiatric care and research. Despite its stellar reputation, federal budget cuts threaten to close the hospital in 2003. As Chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations

Subcommittee in the U.S. Senate, I invited the VA Secretary to visit Waco with me and observe firsthand the exceptional care and research at Waco's VA hospital.

Seeing that the VA was prepared to close a mental health facility convinced me that we were going in exactly the wrong direction. We should be increasing, not decreasing, our commitment to mental health. So in 2005 I helped author legislation that designated the Waco veteran's facility and two facilities in other states Centers of Excellence for mental health research, expanding the scope of treatment to include areas such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression and substance abuse. As a result of these efforts and tireless community support, the VA has decided to keep this renowned facility open to serve thousands of veterans throughout the

example, are forced to endure 500 mile, six-hour roundtrip treks to the San Antonio VA hospital for even basic procedures and routine check-ups. Last year, I personally asked VA Secretary Jim Nicholson to conduct a study of veterans' needs in South Texas and to determine the best way to deliver the quality care they deserve.

Our nation's veterans answered the call to serve, and we must honor our promise to care for their needs after they leave the battlefield. I will continue to work in the Senate on behalf of America's heroes, in recognition of the sacrifices they have made to safeguard liberty at home and throughout the world. central United States. The Big Spring VA Medical Center was also kept open to serve veterans across west Texas, and inpatient care and other services there were expanded.

Other challenges remain. In Houston, after recent reports of extensive and, I believe, unacceptable delays in processing the disability claims of thousands of area veterans the VA sent a management team to the local office to end this backlog.

And we must do more. South Texas veterans, for

How hard it is to escape from places. However carefully one goes they hold you—you leave little bits of yourself fluttering on the fences—like rage and shreds of your very life.

—Katherine Mansfield

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Summer Fun Recipes

Finger Paint

Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 ½ cup cold water
- 1 cup hot water
- Food coloring or powdered tempera paint

Directions:

Mix salt and flour in a saucepan. Beat in cold water until smooth.

Add hot water and boil over medium heat until paint is glossy.

Beat in a few drops of food coloring until smooth.

Granola

Fruit Kabobs

- 1 cup granola
- 1 med. Apple, cut into chunks
- 1 small banana, cut into chunks

- ½ cup fresh pineapple chunks
- ½ cup fruit flavored yogurt

Directions:

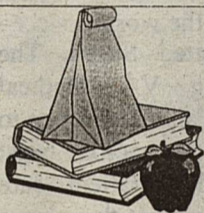
Place granola in shallow bowl. Toss fruit with a small amount of lemon juice to deter browning. Insert toothpicks into each piece of fruit. To serve, dip fruit in yogurt, coat all sides.

Roll in granola. When bringing these kabobs to a picnic, pack the granola, yogurt and fruit separately in tightly covered plastic containers. Keep cold in a cooler until ready to serve.

When identify the different types of flowers blooming on your street. Kids love word games, brain teasers, math puzzles and much more. Take advantage of your knowledge and share it with them.



The rainiest spot in the U.S. is Mount Waialeale, Hawaii, with an average annual rainfall of 460 inches.



August 2007

(Updated)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Physicals (6 th – 12 th) – Depart Gail 8:00 a.m.
5	6 Two-A-Days start 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. (future schedule will be discussed)	7	8 4-H Fun Day 1:00-4:00 @ Show Barn (K-3 rd)	9 4-H Food and Clothing Tours in Lubbock	10 ACT registration deadline for September 15 th administration	11
12	13 4-H Officer Training in Lubbock from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.	14 CPR Training	15 Registration 9:00-5:00	16 Registration 9:00-5:00	17 Registration 9:00-5:00	18 Varsity Football Scrimmage @ Ropes 10:00 a.m.
19	20 4-H Achievement Picnic @ 7:00 p.m. Show Barn	21	22 Staff Development	23 Staff Development "Saving the Fruits of Summer Program" 6:00-8:00 p.m. @ Comm. Room Varsity Football Scrimmage @ Trent 6:00 p.m.	24 Work Day	25
26	27 First Day of School Issue books No schedule changes	28 Teacher request for textbooks due to Principal	29	30	31 New Home Varsity Here 7:30 Staff return paperwork to Superintendent's office	