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The Gail Bunch . . . Headed for FFA State Convention and a Shot at National FFA Talent Contest

By Sue Jane Mayes

Nashville, Austin, Detroit, LA, and Gail: hubs of the music industry.

Borden County's latest musical talent, the high school's FFA talent entry known as the Gail Bunch, will showcase their efforts this Thursday night at the Reliant Center in Houston.

Texas's FFA delegation—the largest in the United States—is meeting in Houston this week, and the highlight of the convention will be the talent show which will feature the state's 10 area chapters.

For the first time in the school's history, the Area II talent representatives come from BHS, and Ag. teacher/FFA sponsor Buddy Wallace likes their chances.

"Almost all of the contestants perform musically; there will be two or three bands, some singers, and then some who just play the guitar," Wallace said, speaking of the Gail Bunch's competition.

The band qualified first by winning district and then followed that with a first-place performance at area.

The 8-minute time limit allows for two to three songs; the band's selections indicate some appreciation for the past as well as the present.

Don McLean's "American Pie" and contemporary artists Weezer's "The Sweater Song" make up the band's two songs for their show.

Band members have been at work for several months working towards what they hoped would be a first-ever trip to the state talent competition.

In 1993, Guy Will Zant made it to the area round as a solo performer, but the Gail Bunch will be the first to perform at state.

While lead guitarist and back-up vocalist Tyler Wallace is no stranger to the music scene—he grew up listening to his dad's band "Prairie Fire"—the other guys are relative newcomers.

Senior Shane Tarleton, on acoustic guitar, picked up the instrument just six months ago.

"Tyler and my mom have taught me what I know," Tarleton said.

Another senior member and also area officer, Kyle Pinkerton, decided to try his hand at the percussion instruments.

"I'm a self-proclaimed drumming artist," he said.

Typically, the lead singer is a band's designated heartthrob, and the Gail Bunch is no exception as junior Ben Griffin fills that



Tyler Wallace

Shane Tarleton

Garrett Thomas

Kyle Pinkerton

Buddy Wallace

Ben Griffin

role.

Where did he learn to sing?

"In the shower, of course," Griffin said.

The youngest member of the band is sophomore Garrett Thomas, who is, in Mr. Wallace's words, "the rock" because his bass guitar adds just the right mix to the songs.

Thomas also does a great Chuck Berry imitation and lends some background

vocals on "American Pie."

Performing in front of 10,000 FFA delegates, teachers, sponsors, and visitors in the spacious Reliant Center will be a new experience for all five.

The 6 p.m. talent show will conclude the three-day FFA convention.

Other Gail FFA members attending will be Lone Star Degree honorees Shayla Gass, voting delegate Cassidy

Rinehart, district officer J. Ryan Gicklhorn, and FFA sophomore member Brandi Hudson.

2003 BHS graduate Brandy Shafer is also a Lone Star Degree winner but will not attend. (Band member Pinkerton also qualified for the Lone Star Degree.)

Maybe next fall Borden County can host a Battle of the Bands. Get ready, Thriftstore Cowboys!

This past May, Mulkey-Robertson sat down for an interview with Mrs. Mayes and some UIL students who were on their way to Austin for the State Academic Meet. After a 45-minute visit in her office on the Baylor campus, she graciously went to eat with the Borden County group at a local restaurant.

On June 28, Mulkey-Robertson was honored for the Verizon Academic All-America Hall of Fame at ceremonies in Cleveland, Ohio. At her induction, Mulkey-Robertson spoke again of the importance of academics.

"Being inducted into the Verizon Academic All-America Hall of Fame is one of the most special honors in my career. It combines recognition for what I did as an athlete as well as what I achieved in the classroom. A good education will far outlast the fleeting moments on the court or playing field."—www.fansonly.com



Who is She?

What Tom Landry's name is to most Texans is what Kim Mulkey's is to folks in Louisiana.

Sports fans would be hard pressed to find another woman athlete—other than Babe Didrikson—who accomplished what Mulkey has.

As the starting point guard at Hammond High School (1976-1980), Mulkey led her team all four years to state championships. All four years she was named all-district, all-state, and all-America.

There's more.

She also finished as valedictorian with a 4.0 average in a graduating class of 350.

Mulkey then took her game to Louisiana Tech (1980-1984) where she, as the starting point guard, led the Lady Techsters to two national titles, four Final Fours, and graduated in 1984 summa cum laude—3.82 with a business degree.

The 5'4" Mulkey was a two-time academic All-American at Louisiana Tech, needless to say.

Adding to her player résumé is an Olympic gold medal she won in 1984 at the Los Angeles Summer Olympics.

Mulkey's plans after graduation were not to coach; she envisioned herself entering the "corporate world."

It didn't happen as Mulkey accepted the offer from her alma mater to be an assistant and eventually an associate head coach for the next 15 years.

The results were much the same as they were when Mulkey played: 15 straight appearances in the NCAA tournament, with two Sweet Sixteen shots, four Elite Eights, seven Final Fours including one championship and three runner-up positions.

So with this incredibly impressive background, why is it that many people outside of sports have never heard of Kim Mulkey-Robertson?

An athlete today with such credentials would be flooded with endorsement opportunities, but Mulkey-Robertson is not about selling herself. She is a quiet, reflective person away from the game, vested in marketing others.

A wife, a mother, a coach, a loyal person. Not exactly marketable, but definitely priceless.

How a Louisiana Methodist Became a Texas Baptist

Even the reason Mulkey-Robertson came to Baylor University in the spring of 2000 revolves around what was best for her family, not just for her.

Family is husband Randy, a former Louisiana Tech quarterback, daughter Makenzie and son Kramer.



"Baylor is the best place for my family," Mulkey-Robertson said after turning down Louisiana Tech's head coaching offer.

As with most big decisions, Mulkey-Robertson reflects on what influenced the move to Waco, leaving the Louisiana

University where she had succeeded as both player and coach.

"Timing is important in everyone's life," she said. "Baylor offered the right incentives while Louisiana Tech would not give me the five-year contract I had asked for."

What Louisiana Tech did offer was a four-year pact, but it was a matter of principle to the longtime player and associate head coach.

After 19 years at LA Tech, Mulkey-Robertson and family crossed the Sabine River and headed for the Brazos — to the world's largest Baptist University and her first head coaching job.

It's a Priority

The responsibility of coaching, especially in a NCAA Division I school, is significant. Throw into the mix the responsibilities that come with family. Mulkey-Robertson accepts both roles with open arms.

"I can't imagine anything else," she said. "Who could ask for a better life?"

Husband Randy is not only her biggest supporter but also a man secure with his own work and willing to lend that helping hand.

Not only does he like to cook, but he's also one of Mulkey-Robertson's fashion advisers.

Because she isn't very patient, her husband—who owns his own public relations firm in Waco—often shops for her.

This year a local Waco paper reported that Internet polls this year chose Mulkey-Robertson as the "most fashionable coach of the Big 12." Go Randy.

Being fashionable does not mean trendy. Mulkey-Robertson's apparel only mimics her character: classy.

That class surfaces even more when she emphasizes the importance of her home life over her coaching career.

"One Coaching Little Lady"

---Texas Tech Lady Raider Assistant Linden Weese

referring to Kim Mulkey-Robertson after this year's Tech/Baylor game in Lubbock

With her distinct Louisiana drawl, she'll tell anyone that "I can always coach after they're gone. When I'm home, I'm all Mom. It's all about priority."



Mulkey-Robertson's instincts as a mother come as naturally as her athletic ability did. She finds opportunities in every day occurrences to help her children know how to handle the spotlight.

When an area football coach's daughter was cited by the media for a misdemeanor, Mulkey-Robertson used the incident as a teaching tool.

She told her children that "you will be looked at differently," and that "you never know who knows you."

Living up to a higher standard may not be fair, but it's inevitable if your mother is the head coach at a major university.

On the lighter side, Makenzie and Kramer enjoy the perks of Mom's job, and Mom enjoys that.

"I've had people tell me that they come to our games just to watch Kramer," she said, talking about Kramer's three-point displays during warm-up periods at Lady Bear games.

The two go through the pre-game routine, running in with the Lady Bears, and delighting the crowd with their ball-handling skills.

Best of all, Makenzie and Kramer know just what Mom needs after a game.

"Win or lose, they are down there hugging me."

Brutal Honesty

She yells a lot, she jumps up and down—"demonstrative" might be an understatement when it comes to describing her coaching style. In one game this year, she got so intense that she threw her jacket off, then tried to put it back on—inside out.

In the process her arms got all tangled up over her head. The picture a photographer took of the moment is one of her favorites.

The coach who displays that serious face on the sidelines, though, is also the one who knows what her players need—and sometimes that means a taking a break.

She won't tie up an entire summer with camps because both she and her players "need some time off."

Her players' comments in the Baylor media guide indicate not only their loyalty but also their love for their coach.

"She's fired up, there's never a dull moment, she pushes you until you can't go anymore," current Baylor players said. "She cares for her players more than people know."

But she is also the coach who won't shy away from doing what must be done to teach life's most important lessons.

Before a crucial game with Oklahoma this season, she made the decision not to play her starting post, her lone experienced player in the paint.

Baylor lost the game—a loss that proved crucial down the stretch when it came time for NCAA tournament bids (which did not come in 2003)—but Mulkey-Robertson knows that some important academic rules set for her team had won respect.

"I will never allow winning to keep me from teaching right and wrong," the fourth-year Baylor coach said.

When it comes to her style of coaching, "brutal honesty" sums it up. When it comes to life, Mulkey-Robertson incorporates the same mantra.

The remarkable part about her is that she can be brutally honest and yet so likable. Call it passion with compassion.

In a League—and a Class—of Her Own

I had never heard of Kim Mulkey-Robertson before she was hired at Baylor. The first time I saw her coach was memorable. She got tossed.

She was pacing the sidelines, giving the officials her take on a call, and the next thing I knew, the lady in the nice green pant suit was given the "T" gesture—not once, but twice.

Mulkey-Robertson was gone. I did not give it much thought other than I had never actually seen a college coach, much less a woman college coach, get kicked out of a game so early. There were still plenty of minutes left in the first half.

After the contest, she was "released" to attend the customary post-game press conference.

What followed in that short five-minute interview—and what would come the next year when she visited with the Lubbock press once again—won me over.

With her characteristic humor, wry smile, and frankness, this coach handled the reporters with the down-to-earth manner for which she has come to be known.

There is no façade to Kim Mulkey-Robertson.

The fact that she's made almost every athletic Hall of Fame attainable to women athletes is secondary. The fact that she's smart as a whip is icing on the cake.

Kim Mulkey-Robertson may not be a household name in these parts of West Texas, but the next time Baylor comes to Lubbock, take note.

She's a great coach, but she's an even better person.

Senior Jessica Stratton summed it up when asked what the best thing she liked about playing for Coach Mulkey.

"Her amazing dedication to the game as well as to her family. She balances those two things in great fashion."

For that, she makes my Hall of Fame.

By Sue Jane Mayes

photos appear with permission from Kim Mulkey-Robertson, courtesy of the Baylor Women's 2002-2003 Media Guide



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BORDEN COUNTY 4-H NEWS
 Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Trap and Skeet shoot in San Antonio Texas the end of this month.

Shooting Sports Results

Midland County was the site of the 2003 District IV 4-H Open Trap and Skeet Shoot. Three of the Borden County 4-H Shooting Sports participants competed in Trap, Skeet and 5- Stand.

Tyrell Massingill and Raylea Underwood participated in the Sub Jr. Division in Trap and placed 3rd as a Two Man Team. They competed against 21 other Sub Jr. Trap Shooters.

Raylea also participated in skeet. Raylea placed 2nd High Overall Individual in the Sub Jr. Ladies Division. John Cowart participated in the Jr. Division Trap and shot a 45 out of 50 targets. He also participated in the Jr. Division 5-Stand. Congratulations to these shooters on a job well done.

Good luck to the participants preparing for the State 4-H



Austin Tarleton, BHS sophomore, firing from one of the five stand positions at a Lubbock shoot.



Borden County 4-H shooter Raylea Underwood preparing for her target at a Lubbock shoot earlier in the summer.

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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 2003-2004 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 PM on Friday, July 18, 2003**. 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@esc17.net; or by calling 806/756-4313. Transmissions by fax may be sent to 806/756-4310.

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 Joe Harding, Secretary

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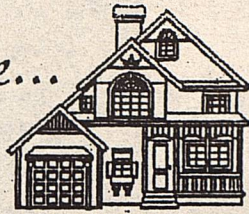
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Heart and home...

By Julie D. Mumme
Borden County Extension Agent
Family and Consumer Sciences



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

The Scoop on the No Call Lists

There has been much hype in the news lately about the beginning of the "National Do Not Call Registry" by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to help limit unsolicited calls from telemarketers. It is also important to note that the State of Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC) also offers two "No Call Lists" for residents with a Texas phone number: one list for telemarketers and one list for electric companies. While these two programs aim for the same goal - reduction in the number of telemarketing calls - there are some things you should know about each.

The PUC offers two lists for Texas residents. The first is a statewide "no call" list to help limit telemarketing calls to residential customers only. For a fee of \$2.25, you may have your name added to a list for 3 years that will help reduce the number of

unsolicited phone calls to your home. Also available from the PUC is the Texas "electric no call." This option is available to both residential and business customers but only limit phone calls from electric companies trying to get you to switch service. This list is available for a \$2.55 fee that covers 5 years. Subscriptions are available to both lists at a cost of \$4.80 for 5 years. One note on the "electric" list: not all areas offer a choice in electric service yet and, as such, a subscription to that list may not be necessary. From the date of registration, it will take approximately 60 days for the calls to stop.

The nation-wide list operated by the FCC and FTC operates much the same way only anyone can register, not just Texas residents. The federal program is free of charge and will enroll you on their registry for 5 years you may register up to three phone numbers on the national "no call" list. This program also estimates about 60 days from registration for the calls to stop. Though the basic elements of both programs are the same, the Texas program is slightly more strict and comprehensive with regard to phone calls and will therefore still be offered.

Will all the calls stop? No. Companies with whom you have an established business relationship will still be able to contact you as well as non-profit, religious, and political organizations. Also, if you request contact from a company, they will be able to call you. Again, this program is not meant to eliminate the calls entirely but to limit

them.

Fraud via the telephone is a multi-million dollar scam each year. Through programs such as the "Texas No Call List" and the "National do Not Call Registry" initiative is being taken to reduce crime.

For more information about the Texas list, call 1-866-896-6225 or

<http://www.texasnocall.com>.

For the national program, you may go to

<http://www.donotcall.gov> or

call 1-888-382-1222. You may also contact your County Extension Agent for more information.

O'Donnell Rodeo July 10th, 11th & 12th


This year's O'Donnell Rodeo is scheduled for July 10th, 11th, and 12th beginning at 8:30 p.m. each night. The rodeo parade begins at 6:30 pm Saturday, July 12th.

Trophies will be given to riding clubs in the parade and grand entry.

The specialty act will be the Six White Horses from Hardin Simmons University in Abilene. They will be performing Saturday, at the parade and rodeo.

This year's event will also include recognition of active military participants.

The rodeo will include the following events: wild mare race, barrels, junior barrels, for age 15 and under, bull riding, novice bull riding, novice saddle bronc, ranch saddle bronc, novice bare back, steer wrestling, saddle bronc, bare back bronc, calf roping, team roping, bread-away roping, bounty bull, and goat sacking for kids age 10 and under.



Let Me Get My Hat!

By Dennis Poole,
Borden County CEA-Ag.

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4-H Sponsored Community Wide Garage Sale

Are you trying to figure out what to do with all those things you and your family don't need anymore? Well,

Borden County 4-H will be sponsoring a community-wide garage sale on Saturday, July 26 at the show barn in Gail. We will take care of the advertising, all you need to do is rent a space, set it up and sell your stuff! 4-H will also sponsor a drink concession stand throughout the day.

We will be renting spaces now through Tuesday, July 22nd. The cost of the spaces will be \$15 for a 10 foot by 10 foot area, or \$25 for a 20 foot by 20 foot area. Your booth space rental is all it will cost you! You get to keep 100% of the profits from the items you sell. We will allow you to come in on Friday, July 25th to set up your booth. Tables will be first come first serve. We will lock the barn overnight, but please note that 4-H will not be responsible for your merchandise. The sale will begin at 8:00 a.m. and run through 2:00 p.m. Following the sale, you will be responsible for removing anything you have left. We hope to be out of the barn by 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Extension office at (806)756-4336. Please complete the form below and send in to the Extension office by the 22nd.

American Spirit Arts & Craft Show

The 13th annual American Spirit Arts and Crafts Show will be held July 12th and 13th in the Midland Center. Exhibitors from throughout the Southwest will fill the exhibit hall with original art, limited edition prints and handcrafted items. Hours for the festival are Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. There is no admission.

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