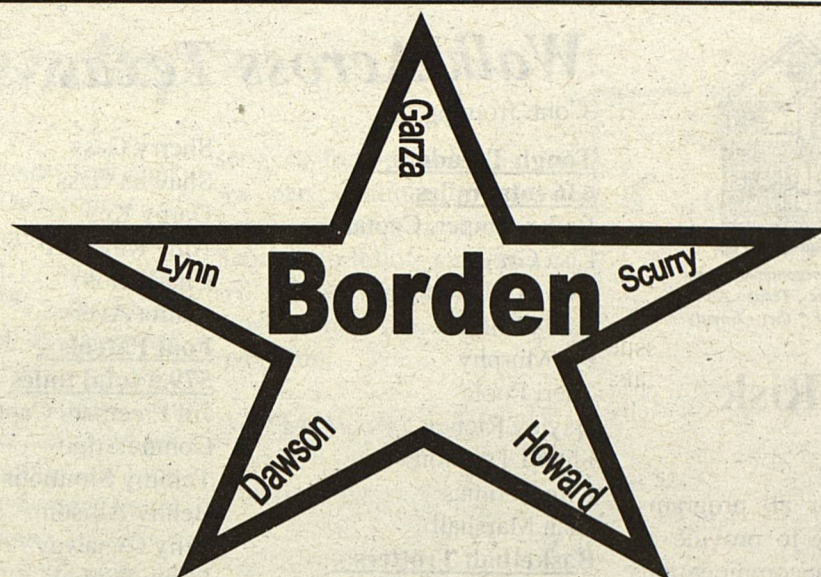


# THE

Volume XXXII



# STAR

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005

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

## Science Shows Us An Energy Plan is Important

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

When I heard the announcement by University of Houston researchers that they have made solar cells out of lunar dust, I was reminded of why it is important for the United States to develop a coherent energy policy and to invest in our space program.

This year, my colleagues and I have set as one of our top goals the passage of a national energy plan. This is crucial for many reasons, including our security. We depend upon foreign supplies for 60 percent of our

petroleum and gas, a higher percentage than in 1973 when our nation reeled from the Arab Oil Embargo of 1973. Continued dependence upon foreign energy supplies puts us at the mercy of other nations, some of which have proven themselves unstable or unfriendly. Their decisions can do huge damage to our economy and the livelihoods of people living and working in our country. We cannot continue to sit back and allow that to happen.

This is particularly true

because we now have a general consensus on what needs to be done. In the previous Congress, we drafted a bill to improve our energy security, but obstructionist tactics were used to block its passage.

The first step toward greater energy independence is boosting domestic production. This includes environmentally-responsible drilling in barren arctic wastelands. Oil exploration in a section of Alaska referred to as the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve could create hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs and generate more than 10 billion barrels of oil – the equivalent of more than two decades of imports from Saudi Arabia.

In a similar vein, I worked last year to improve the tax treatment of low production oil wells, called marginal oil and gas wells. These older wells, which dot much of Texas, have only a modest output, but because there are so many in our nation, they collectively produce almost 1.2 million barrels a day.

The Independent Petroleum Association of America says they account for nearly 20 percent of total oil production in the United States, or the

## Walk Across Texas a Huge Success

By Julie Smith  
Borden County, Extension Agent  
Family & Consumer Sciences

Borden County residents participated in the *Walk Across Texas* program during March, April and May. Together, these individuals walked 3536 miles over the eight week period. What an accomplishment!

This year we had six different teams and there were 53 participants. We are very excited about having so many new teams and participants! Each member received a free pedometer funded by a Texas Cancer Council Grant.

The *Walk Across Texas* program was designed to encourage people to start and

maintain a physical fitness program. A tumbler will be given to each participant. We are very pleased that we walked over three thousand five hundred miles - that is like walking across from Los Angeles to New York City one and a half times!

A special thanks to everyone that participated in the 2005 Walk Across Texas program! Winners of the team divisions are: 10 or more members the Mesquite Roadrunners and 9 or less members the County Cruisers.

Results continued on Page 2

## Avoiding Ticks Best Way to Prevent Diseases They Carry

Warm days and sunny skies draw many people outdoors this time of year. The same environment also brings out the insects, some of which carry diseases.

"It's tick time in Texas," said Glenna Teltow, a medical entomologist with

the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). "Ticks often are found in the same spots people like to visit - wooded, brushy and grassy areas."

A bite from an infected tick can cause illnesses such as

Cont. to pg. 8

### Revival

First Baptist Church,  
Gail, Texas  
June 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

Dr. David Kimberly, Pastor  
Bro. Jim Hart, Music Minister

Services will begin on Sunday, at 6:00 p.m. with an Ice Cream Fellowship following services.

Mon., Tues. & Wed. services begin at 7:00 p.m. nightly with a Pot Luck Meal following the service on Wednesday night.

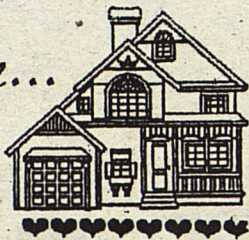
**Come Join Us!**



Cont. to pg. 8

## Heart and home...

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



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

## Lowering Your Cancer Risk Educational Program

Texas Cooperative Extension-Borden County will be offering an educational program on Lowering Your Cancer Risk. This program has been designed to help everyone understand and take action to help prevent cancer and is a part of the Healthy Lifestyles Programming taking place this year. Join us on Monday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gail Community Building to learn about how to lower your cancer risk.

Everyone is welcome to

attend any or all programs. We will seek to provide all reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any of our programs. We request that you contact us at the Extension office as soon as possible to advise us of auxiliary aid that you will require. For more information on any healthy lifestyle topic, or more information on lowering your cancer risk, please feel free to contact the Extension office at (806)756-4336.

## Sure Cures for Kids Nothing-To-Do Blues

Even though school has only been out a little over a week, chances are that your child is starting to say they have nothing-to-do. Even though they're just two little words, "I'm bored," can sound like fingernails scratching a chalkboard. It doesn't matter if there is a college tuition's worth of video games on the shelf, the dog is panting for a game of fetch, the family room is buried in toys and the bicycles are gathering dust in the garage. Kids have selective vision. They can look at it all and still wail that there's "nothing to doooooo."

The trick is to teach them to amuse themselves. Here are a few tips:

1. Remind yourself that boredom can be a good thing. Since it's often during quiet, restless moments that imaginative thoughts gel, you'd think boredom would be considered a positive state.

2. Put a thoughtful limit on high-tech diversions. Youngsters often fill their leisure

hours with television, move is and video/computer games. The consequence of this electronic involvement? When everything is turned off, the unaccustomed silence can be deafening. Have them read books, draw or color, help with meal preparation, etc.

3. Realize what bored kids really want. The TV is turned off and you've pointed to the clouds. The kids still look decidedly less stimulated. Know that children's

## Walk Across Texas

Cont. from pg. 1

**Tough Treaders –**  
**436 total miles**  
Beth Stamper, Captain  
Lisa Gray  
Vivian McMeans  
Paula Miller  
Pat Murphy  
Sheri Poole  
Hayley Richey  
Sheryl Tarleton  
Kim Thomas  
Joan Marshall  
**Basketball Trotters –**  
**452 total miles**  
Bethany Stamper, Cap.  
Stefanie Cooley  
Taylor Richey  
Mattie Turner  
Krista Tarleton  
**Lady Lap Loggers –**  
**548 total miles**  
Cindy Herridge, Captain  
Terri Buchanan  
Tracy Cooley  
Kerri Dean

moans of boredom are often cries for your attention, and there's nothing wrong with that.

4. Help build your child's creativity. Most important, lay a strong foundation by being a good, self-motivated role model. If you are easily bored and don't actively seek ways to challenge yourself, then your child will follow in your footsteps. Work together to plant a flower/vegetable garden, draw with your child, teach them how to cook and or sew, write a fun book together, rearrange your furniture in your home, or do something you both like to do together.

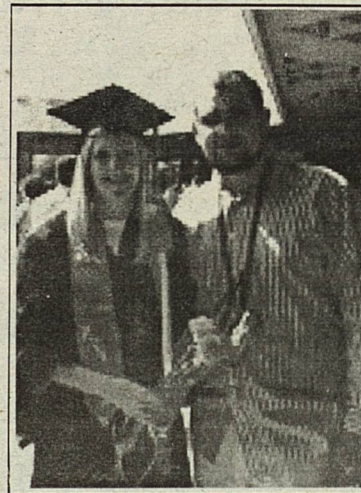
Sherry Gass  
Shawna Gass  
Darby Key  
Amy Rinehart  
Charla Soto  
Lanita Avery  
**Foot Patrols –**  
**579.5 total miles**  
Jill Freeman, Captain  
Connie Stipe  
Tammy Simmons  
Benny Allison  
Billy Ganaway  
Philip Bird  
Amanda Bird  
Jane Jones  
**County Cruisers –**  
**720.7 total miles**  
Julie Smith, Captain

Sharlot Stone  
Jacquie Whalen  
Sarah Sharp  
Jana Underwood  
Gerry Smith  
Diane Price  
Becky Justice  
LeaAnn Hudson  
**Mesquite Roadrunners –**  
**799.5 total miles**  
Judy Kingston, Captain  
Kay Doyle  
Frances Burkett  
Carolyn Stephens  
Stephanie Stephens  
Kimberly Doyle  
Debbie pepper  
Kayla Pepper  
Kara Pepper  
Jim Mac Burkett  
Brandi Brooks

## BHS Graduate Receives Degree From UTPB

Lindsey Shon Schmidt graduated Cum Laude from the University of Texas Permian Basin (UTPB) in Odessa on Saturday, May 7, 2005, with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology.

Lindsey is a 2000 graduate of Borden High School, and is the daughter of Monte and Deidre Smith of Borden County. Lindsey and her husband, Kyle, live in Odessa. They are expecting their first child in July.



## Couple Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The children and grandchildren of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kelley of Lamesa are honoring them with a reception Saturday afternoon, June 18, 2005, in observance of the couples Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Jack Kelly and the former LaDonna Ruth Addison were married at her parents' home at 1010 N. 14<sup>th</sup>. Street on June 17, 1955. They made their home in Lamesa.

The couple have 4 children. Randy Kelley of runaway Bay, Rocky and his wife Jay of Odessa, Dusty and his wife

Melinda of Abilene, and Brandi Brooks and her husband Scott of Borden County.

They have 9 grandchildren, Alexis, Megan and Heather of Borden County, Dustin of Abilene, Taran, Toby, Cody and K.D. of Lamesa, and China and Elkie of Odessa. They also have 3 great-grandchildren. Cameron, Josie and Beau.

Please come and join them in the celebration on June 18, 2005 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Women's Study Club Building, 101 Juniper Drive in Lamesa. No gifts please.

### Color Me Healthy Fun Day

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Borden County Show Barn in Gail

All youth age 4-6 are invited to join the fun!

We will play games, sing songs, make crafts and snacks, and learn all about how to Color Me Healthy!

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact the Extension Office at (806)756-4336.

We will seek to provide all reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any of our programs. We request that you contact us at the Extension office as soon as possible to advise us of auxiliary aid that you will require.



# -- Randy's Roundup --

June 6, 2005

## Congress Succeeded in Not "Messing Things Up" Last Week

There are many people who subscribe to the line of thinking that the less Congress is in session, then the less opportunity it has to mess things up. For those folks, they will be glad to hear that members of Congress were not in Washington last week, but rather back in their districts attending Memorial Day events and meeting with constituents. However, that does not mean that there are not any interesting nuggets of information to report.

## Economy Improves as Jobs Added and Projected Size of Budget Deficit Decreases

Recent news reports show that the economy continues to add jobs and that the projected size of the federal deficit for this year continues to decrease. These bits of good economic news demonstrate that the policy of letting working Americans keep more of their money – instead of sending large portions of their weekly wages to Washington – helps reduce the deficit. A recession and the response to terrorist attacks led the federal government to spend more than I would normally support. However, President Bush has pledged to cut that deficit in half by 2009, and we are well ahead of

schedule in meeting that goal. The U.S. Department of Labor also reported that the unemployment rate has dropped to 5.1% - far below recent historical averages and the lowest it has been since September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. As government has eased the tax burden on individuals and small business owners, more workers are being added to the payrolls. For the past 24 months (since May, 2003), each month has seen an increase in jobs. This long streak of monthly increases has led to the addition of 3.5 million jobs to the U.S. economy, and more Americans are working than ever before.

With the economy on the right track, it is imperative the Congress respond by reducing spending. In recent weeks, while the Senate was plagued by filibuster-itis, the House was moving right along to set next year's budget. The House has voted to hold the line on spending or even reduce spending in areas of government that are inefficient, redundant, or wasteful. At the same time, we have shifted those savings to new priorities, such as border security and medical

services for our veterans. If we can continue to show fiscal restraint, and if the Senate can follow suit, then it will mean good news for those who support deficit reduction.

## On This Week's Agenda...

With 4 of the 11 Appropriations bills taken care of in the House, next up is Agriculture. The House will likely vote on the Agriculture Appropriations bill this Thursday. There are several agricultural programs and research initiatives important to District 19 that are included in the bill. Stay tuned to next week's Roundup where I will detail how the final House version turns out.

--Randy

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## 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo

WHEN: June 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
WHERE: Big Spring Rodeo Bowl  
TIME: Grand Entry Starts at 8 p.m. nightly  
Gates open at 7:00  
DANCES: Friday night Jody Nix & the Texas Cowboys  
Sat. Guy Will Zant & Noel Olivas Band  
Dances start at 9:20 p.m. \$5 Admission  
PARADE: Thurs., June 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 10<sup>th</sup> & Main Street  
Miss Rodeo Texas, Hardin-Simmons  
White Horses, Texas Tech Masked Rider,  
Shriners, Cowboys & Cowgirls and Sheriff  
Posses from surrounding towns.  
TICKET PRICES:  
At Gate: Adult \$8, Children \$6  
Pre-Sale: Adult \$6, Children \$4

## Legal Notice

The Commissioners' Court of Borden County will receive bids on the following until 10:00 a.m. June 13, 2005.

1. Fuel for 2005
  - a. unleaded
  - b. diesel
2. Propane for Courthouse, and Precinct #2 Barns

For specifications and information on the above, contact the office of the County Judge, Borden County Courthouse, 806/756-4391.

Bids should be submitted to the Office of the County Judge, P.O. Box 156, Borden County Courthouse, Gail, Texas 79738.

The right is reserved by the Borden County Commissioners' Court to accept or reject any and all bids.

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Van L. York,  
Borden County Judge

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## Thank you,

I would like to thank everyone for their support in the recent School Trustee Election. I consider it a privilege to serve the people and children of Borden County.

Thank you,  
Joe Harding

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD:

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting of the Appraisal Review Board of the Borden County Appraisal District will convene at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2005 at the meeting room in the county courthouse.

The board will hear and determine taxpayer and taxing unit appeals on all matters permitted by Texas Property Tax Code.

The Appraisal Review Board will be in session on other days, notice for which will be duly posted, until all timely filed appeals are heard and resolved.

This notice is given pursuant to the Open Meeting Act, Chapter 551, Government Code:

Jill Freeman, Chief Appraiser  
Borden County Appraisal District  
PO Box 298  
Gail, TX 79738  
(806)756-4484

## FOR SALE

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or 806-543-0874

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756-4343

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mowing, painting, hoeing  
are just cleaning up  
around the place?  
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at 756-4328

## Avoiding Ticks Best Way to Prevent Diseases They Carry

Cont. from pg. 1

Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia and human ehrlichiosis. With prompt medical attention, these illnesses almost always can be successfully treated with antibiotics. But if people do not recognize the symptoms and seek treatment, the illnesses can be serious, some event fatal, Teltow said.

In Texas, the tick most likely to attach to humans is the lone star tick. "This tick, which is about the size of a watermelon seed, will readily feed on human blood," Teltow said. "The lone star female tick is easily recognized by a single white dot on her back, while the male tick has white markings around the edges of his back."

The most frequently diagnosed tick-borne illness in Texas is Lyme disease, a bacterial infection that can cause skin, joint, heart and nervous system problems. The disease usually begins with a characteristic "Bull's-eye" rash followed by fatigue, headache, fever, stiff neck and joint pain. Symptoms usually appear in 7 to 14 days.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is a serious disease transmitted most commonly by the bite of an infected tick. People who remove ticks also can become infected if they crush ticks between their fingers, allowing the bacteria to penetrate the skin or come in contact with mucous membranes. Initial symptoms, following an incubation period of 3 to 14 days, include sudden onset of high fever, headache, chills, and muscle aches. A rash often appears a few days later. Prompt medical attention is extremely important because Rocky Mountain spotted fever can be fatal without prompt treatment with antibiotics.

Tularemia is a bacterial disease affecting animals and humans. It can be spread through a tick bite or through

contact with blood or tissue from infected animals, especially wild rabbits, or by handling or eating undercooked meat from infected animals. Symptoms include fever, an ulcerative skin sore at the site of the tick bite and painful swollen lymph glands. If the organism is ingested, the person may have a throat infection, abdominal pain, diarrhea and vomiting.

In Texas, human ehrlichiosis is a rare disease with fewer than 10 cases reported each year. Most infections cause a sudden onset of illness with fever, chills and headache, usually beginning about 12 days after the tick bite.

"Avoiding ticks is always the best prevention for any of these diseases," Teltow said. "Keep ticks off pets and discourage unwanted animals such as rats, mice and stray dogs and cats around the home." Other suggestions for DSHS:

- If you are in an area with ticks, check your body carefully for them every few hours. Ticks are small and can be hard to see, and they can attach to any part of the body.
- Stay on trails, avoiding areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses.
- Wear light-colored clothes so that ticks are more easily spotted. Protect skin from ticks by wearing a hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants tucked into boots or socks.

- Use insect repellent containing DEET applied to the skin or permethrin applied to clothing. Follow label directions.
- Check pets frequently and remove ticks from the immediately.

To remove an attached tick, use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick at the skin surface. If tweezers are not available, use a tissue or paper towel to protect your fingers from possible exposure to the tick's body fluids. With a steady motion, gently pull the tick straight out. Do not twist, jerk or crush the tick's body. After removal, clean site and hands with soap and water.

Only ticks that were attached to humans may be submitted to DSHS for identification and testing. They should be put in a small container or vial with a lead-proof lid. Ticks may be submitted live or preserved in 70 percent ethyl or isopropyl alcohol. Never mail ticks loose in an envelope. A tick submission form should be completed for each tick.

A copy of the tick submission form can be found online at: <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/zoonosis/forms>. Place the tick container in a padded envelope or mailing tube and mail to: Texas Department of State Health Services, Health Service Region 8, ATTN: Zoonosis Control, 2408 S. 37th St. Temple, TX 76504. There is no testing charge.

## Science Shows Us An Energy Plan is Important

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Cont. from pg. 1

amount equal to our imports from Saudi Arabia. Until we restored beneficial tax treatment of these wells, many were being shut down to the detriment of Texas and our national energy security.

It is a mistake to assume that the energy bill is devoted solely to fossil fuels. The bill promotes renewable fuel sources, such as ethanol, which is mixed with gasoline to create clean-burning gasohol which can be used in some of today's cars. Texas, with its growing corn and sorghum production, is well-positioned to tap into the growing ethanol production market.

The energy plan includes incentives for other renewable energy, such as wind and solar power. Texas, as we all know, has plenty of sunshine, but its winds are also a remarkable energy resource. Scientists estimate Texas winds alone have the potential to provide one-tenth of America's electricity energy needs. Texas Tech University is a major research center for generating energy from the wind.

The energy bill will emphasize clean-burning coal technology as well as nuclear energy. The United States and many other nations currently operate nuclear power plants, which produce no carbon dioxide and are exceptionally clean. Despite these advantages, we haven't

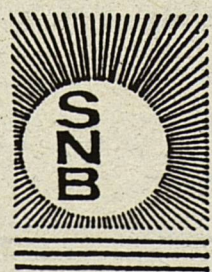
built a new nuclear power plant in this country in the last 25 years.

The discovery of techniques for building solar cells on the moon out of lunar surface material is also exciting because of the possibility of beaming electricity to Earth from space. With no atmosphere to cut down on sunlight, the moon offers almost unlimited amounts of energy.

Dr. Alex Freundlich and his colleagues at the University of Houston came up with the idea of building small wheeled lunar robots to rove the surface of the moon, making solar cells out of the combination of silicon, carbon, oxygen, aluminum and iron that compose the surface dust. Their experiments showed it is possible to make the cells out of these materials. The lower efficiency of the experimental cells compared to standard solar cells is compensated by the fact they can be made on-site and save millions of dollars in transportation.

This technique could help provide energy for the moon base envisaged by President George W. Bush. It could even, possibly, provide low-cost electricity to the Earth. It already proves the power of Texas ingenuity. We need to tap these kinds of ideas and pass a comprehensive energy plan to reduce our dependence on foreign energy supplies, cut pollution and improve our energy security.

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