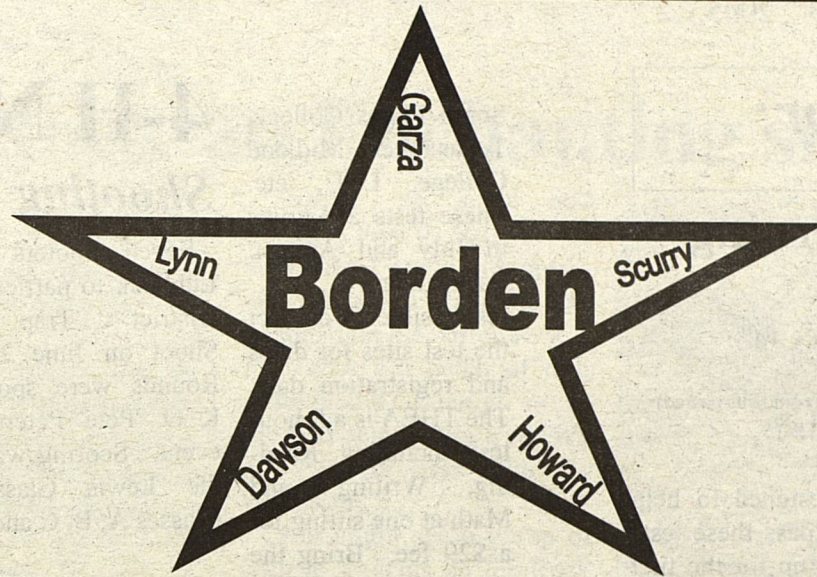


THE

Volume XXXII



STAR

June 29th, 2005

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

America's Independence Day helped spark independence world-wide

By U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness - that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men." This is the best-remembered sentence from the Declaration of Independence.

When I was a child, I loved the Fourth of July because of the picnics, fireworks and the patriotic feelings inspired by the flags and red white and blue decorations. As I grew older, I began to appreciate the deeper significance of the holiday. An avid reader from a young age, I particularly enjoyed history and learned that America's bid for independence came close to failing. We were fighting Great Britain, which was the 18th Century's superpower. It was only through bravery and steadfastness that our forefathers emerged victorious despite numerous setbacks and defeats.

The Declaration of Independence, written so eloquently by Thomas Jefferson, neither began nor ended the American Revolution. By July 1776, the 13 colonies

had already been involved in a shooting war against the British for over a year, and the Continental Congress had appointed George Washington as the commanding general. The untried Continental Army, augmented by local militias, had managed to force the British to leave Boston, but had been defeated on other battlefields. In the beginning, the fight was to assert American rights as British citizens, but the Declaration of Independence clarified the goal of the war, making it a conflict about the fundamental concept of liberty.

This concept was a powerful motivator as George Washington kept the poorly paid and equipped army together during the seven years of war. His strength of character, ability to learn from defeat and shrewdness helped drive the Continental Army, but the glue which held it together was the goal of the mission - liberty for

all. Sometimes Americans forget how revolutionary the idea of freedom was for the world in 1776. There were very few countries which were even vaguely democratic at the time. The Netherlands were a republic. England had its parliament but was ruled by a king. Some of Switzerland's Cantons, and various small city states in Germany and Italy, were republican in structure, but the great nations of Europe, including Spain, France and Sweden, were absolute monarchies. Elsewhere the oppressive autocracies of Imperial Russia, the Turkish Ottoman Empire and Imperial China were the rule.

The idea that a government existed for the benefit of its people and not the reverse was revolutionary. Even within our borders it took a bloody civil war and a bitter civil rights struggle to

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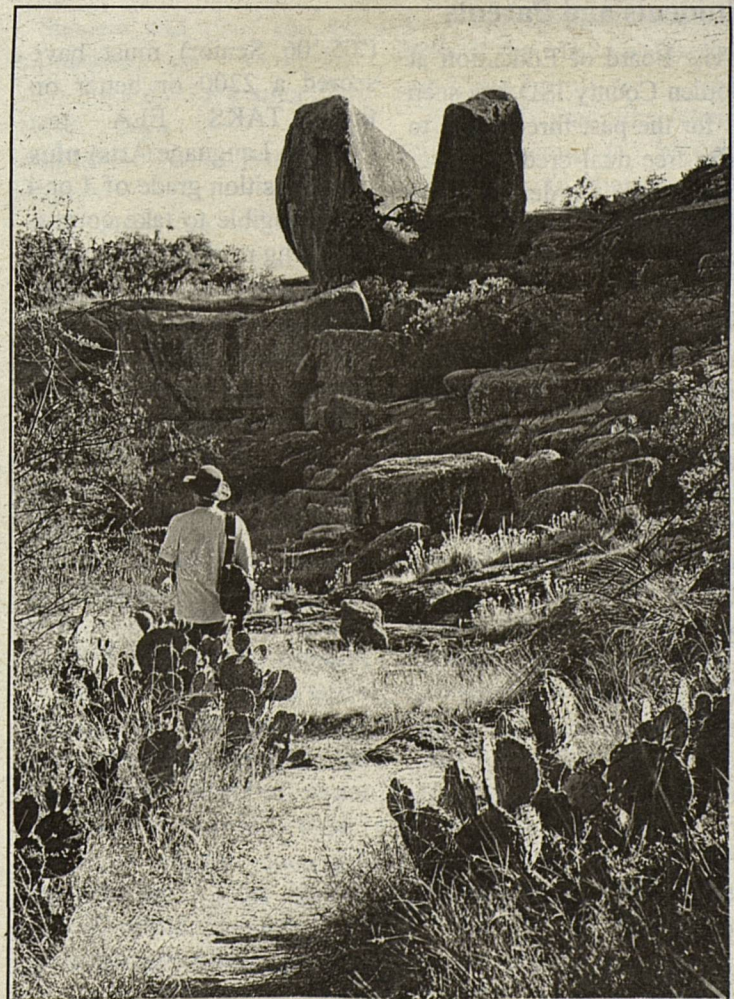
SUMMER SERIES No. 2 Hill Country Rock an Enchanting sight

By Mark K. Campbell
Photos by Paula Campbell

Wow! Check out that one billion year old exfoliation igneous batholith!

When you see the Enchanted Rock rise out of the woody Hill Country, chances are you'll just utter the beginning of that

Cont. to pg. 3



Enchanted V Rock - You can walk right up to this V-shaped formation then trapeze straight through it. It's part of a 4-mile loop, but the boulder is near the beginning of the trail (if you go clockwise) so you can just turn around and head for a Dairy Queen if it's just too darn hot. Which it probably will be.



From the Counselor:

By Mary Airhart

Important Notice Concerning TAKS Retests

All four tests included in the State-mandated EXIT LEVEL TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) must be passed before a student can receive a diploma of graduation. Borden County juniors of the past school year, 2004-2005, who did not pass any portion of the EXIT LEVEL TAKS have been notified of the retesting dates established by the State, but we neglected to include a starting time and place. All tests will begin at 8 a.m. in the Borden County Library as follows:

Tuesday, July 12th:

English Language Arts

Wednesday, July 13th

Mathematics

Thursday, July 14th:

Social Studies

(All Borden County students passed)

Friday, July 15th:

Science

Tutorials designed to help the students pass these tests have been set up for the first two weeks in July at Borden County School. ELA and Math are set up on an been notified and are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this assistance for these very important tests.

Students who do not pass this summer retest will be assigned a remediation course for the coming school year until all tests are passed. If you have questions or concerns, contact Mr. McMeans at the school, 806/756-4313 Ext. 229.

To Borden County High School Students and Parents

The Board of Education at Borden County ISD has seen fit for the past three years to offer free dual credit courses to eligible Borden County juniors and seniors on campus through Western Texas College in Snyder. With soaring tuition, fees, and other costs, this constitutes tremendous financial assistance as well as saving time and travel as our students pursue higher education at colleges and universities. However, "a high school student is eligible to enroll in dual credit courses in the 11th and/or 12th grade only if the student demonstrates college readiness by achieving the minimum passing standards on an assessment instrument approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board."

There is still much confusion concerning eligibility for dual credit courses which will be offered on campus here at Borden County ISD in the fall of 2005. An '04-'05 junior

('05-'06 Senior) must have scored a 2200 or better on their TAKS ELA test (English Language Arts) plus a composition grade of 3 or 4 to be eligible to take courses involving reading and writing which includes the English, History, Government and Economics courses taught on campus by Western Texas College personnel. The same is true for last year's sophomores who will become '05-'06 juniors. College Algebra via recorded lessons from a WTC instructor is available only to senior students who scored 2200 or better on the TAKS Math.

The principal must approve any and all college courses taken for Dual Credit.

If '05-'06 juniors or seniors did not attain eligibility through the TAKS, they may gain that eligibility in any one of the following ways:

1. Taking and passing the THEA at any approved test site including WTC, Howard College,

South Plains College, Texas Tech, Midland College, LCU, etc. These tests are given in July and August. Each student is responsible to contact the test sites for dates and registration data. The THEA is a 5-hour test including Reading, Writing, and Math at one sitting for a \$29 fee. Bring the score report to the school to verify eligibility.

2. Taking and passing other approved tests such as Accuplacer, Compass, or Asset. These tests are accepted by Western Texas College for our Dual Credit courses here. No registration is necessary and a student may just go by Howard College in Lamesa or Big Spring to take one of these tests which are on computer. Check ahead with other testing sites. Each test—Writing, Reading, or Math—costs \$10, and a student may take one, two, or all three at one sitting. Bring the score report to the school.

3. On ACT, scoring a 19 or above on both Math and English with a Composite score of at least 23.

4. On SAT, scoring 500 or better on both Verbal and Math with a combined score of at least 1070. (A Writing test has now been included in SAT).

5. Graduated seniors should check with their college or university concerning individual requirements. Do not assume eligibility based on Dual Credit eligibility in high school. Find out early.

4-H News

Shooting Sports Results

Seven shooters traveled to Lubbock to participate in the District 2 Trap and Skeet Shoot on June 24 and 25. Rounds were sponsored by K. O. "Pete" Peterson for this event. Scoring was done on the Lewis Class Format, Classes A, B, C and D.

Trap was shot on Friday with the following results:

Sub Jr (9-12) a total of 72 in this division: Raylea Underwood - 3rd Class A

Jr. (13-14) a total of 57 in this division: Tyrell Massingill - 3rd Class C

Sr. (15-18) a total of 46 in this division: Caden Nowlain - 3rd in Class B and Seth Naumann - 3rd Class C

Skeet was shot on Saturday with the following results:

Sub Jr (9-12) a total of 34 in this division: Raylea Underwood - 6th in Class A

Matthew Roberson - 2nd Place Class C

Jr. (13-14) a total of 34 in this division: Tyrell Massingill - 6th in Class A

Sr. (15-18) a total of 43 in this division: Austin Tarleton - 1st in Class B and Seth Naumann - 6th in Class B

5-Stand was shot on both days with the following results:

Sub Jr. (9-12): Raylea Underwood - 6th place Class A

Jr. (13-14): Tyrell Massingill - 3rd place Class B; and Brendan Tarleton - 5th place Class B

Sr. (14-18): Austin Tarleton - 4th place Class A (after shoot off for 4th); Seth Naumann - 3rd place Class B

Others attending and having a great time were Dean and Tracy Roberson, Kent and Ollie Holmes, Jibber and Cindy Herridge, Bill Tarleton, Tom Ed, Patty Sue Vestal and Hannah Naumann, Roscoe, Cindy, and Kalyn Massingill, and Ray Don and Jana Underwood.

Next competition is the District 6 Invitational Shoot in Midland on July 2. Good luck to all participants!

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SUMMER SERIES No. 2

Hill Country Rock an Enchanting sight

Cont. from pg. 1

paragraph, not the latter. Both, however, would be true.

The Enchanted Rock State Natural Area is run by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the place is tremendously popular all the time.

You'll find a hodgepodge of visitors – veteran hiker/backpackers, tourists, school/university groups, day trippers, old people straying from nearby Fredricksburg, toddling children fleeing from corralling parents, sun and universe worshippers.

That's a lot of folks. In fact, sometimes the park reaches capacity and TPW wardens close the place. Things usually let up by 5 p.m., but if you've driven a ways to get there only to be denied, you could be mighty upset.

And that's if you don't drill a deer or a free-ranging cow on the way out there. Many highway stretches are fence-free and cattle just mosey about, sometimes onto the roadway.

If you negotiate the trip, don't come in your RV or pop-up to camp. That's not permitted in the park. Actually you can't sleep overnight in any vehicle. All camping is site-only, walk-in or hike-in. None of the 104 camping spaces – 45 walk-in (\$10 per night), 60 hike-in (\$8 for four campers) – is accessible by vehicle.

The entrance fee is \$5 for 13 and over, \$3 for senior citizens, and free to kids 12 and under.

The main dome

You can't help but notice the bald pink granite rock towering 425 feet above the picnic tables. The entire dome covers 640 acres of the 1,643-acre park.

(By the way, a batholith is an underground rock formation uncovered by erosion – impress your friends!)

Everyone is immediately drawn to the lovely rock and it's impossible to not climb it.

The Summit Trail isn't fancy: It's a worn path straight up the dome. Once there, you're 1,825 feet above sea level.

The Summit Trail isn't too long – .6 miles – but the ascent will require several stops for almost all visitors. There are ample boulders along the way to lean on and, fortunately, as you rise, the wind does, too.

You'll need to take some water especially for summer visits.

Going up

A string of people are always going either up or down the Enchanted Rock. And those people are from every age group.

You *do* have to take care – a slip could send you tumbling and you might not stop until you plow into a German or an Aggie.

Lizards zip about and buzzards love to lazily cruise the thermal drafts. It's amazing how much plant life can be found on the barren rock.

If there's a patch of dirt, something's growing in it. Many species are rare and it's a crime to mess with the vegetation.

You might see a group of college students on the Rock – it's probably Aggies who keep rolling down the dome time and again – as they study this one-of-a-kind geological place.

Tiny flowers take advantage of their extremely limited space. So do a variety of grasses and, amazingly, numerous kinds of trees. Just over the top on the north side of the dome, a peach tree battles to grow.

Along the way, watch for



Enchanted Lizard – Lizards are big fans of the giant granite rock. This one concurred that the dome is one of the best batholiths around.

water that collects in natural indentations in the rock. They are vernal pools and are vital to the fauna and flora of the Enchanted Rock. But don't drink from them. Yuck.

Atop the dome

The peak offers Hill Country vistas that can't be found in many places in Texas.

Sunsets and rises can be impressive and stargazers really love the rock since the nearest town is 17 miles away and there's little light pollution.

It's also fun to watch people trying to scale the height while you make side bets on which people will not make it all the way.

There are other rises to see in the area including Turkey Peak and Freshman Mountain.

Once at the summit, the fun is just beginning for rock hoppers. Crevasses and fissures are jammed with boulders that create a nice series of "caves" that make for a perfect place for beginning spelunkers.

You can find out right quick if you're claustrophobic. If these small spaces freak you out – even with arrows spray painted on rock faces pointing the way – then you'd best avoid, say, firefighting or cave diving as professions.

The wind can whip up

there and the sun won't relent, especially in the summertime.

From the peak, you can spy other trails that run willy-nilly off the dome as well as Moss Lake, a small body of water to the northwest.

A longer hike

More adventurous hikers won't pass up the 4-mile main loop trail that meanders through the major peaks and past Moss Lake.

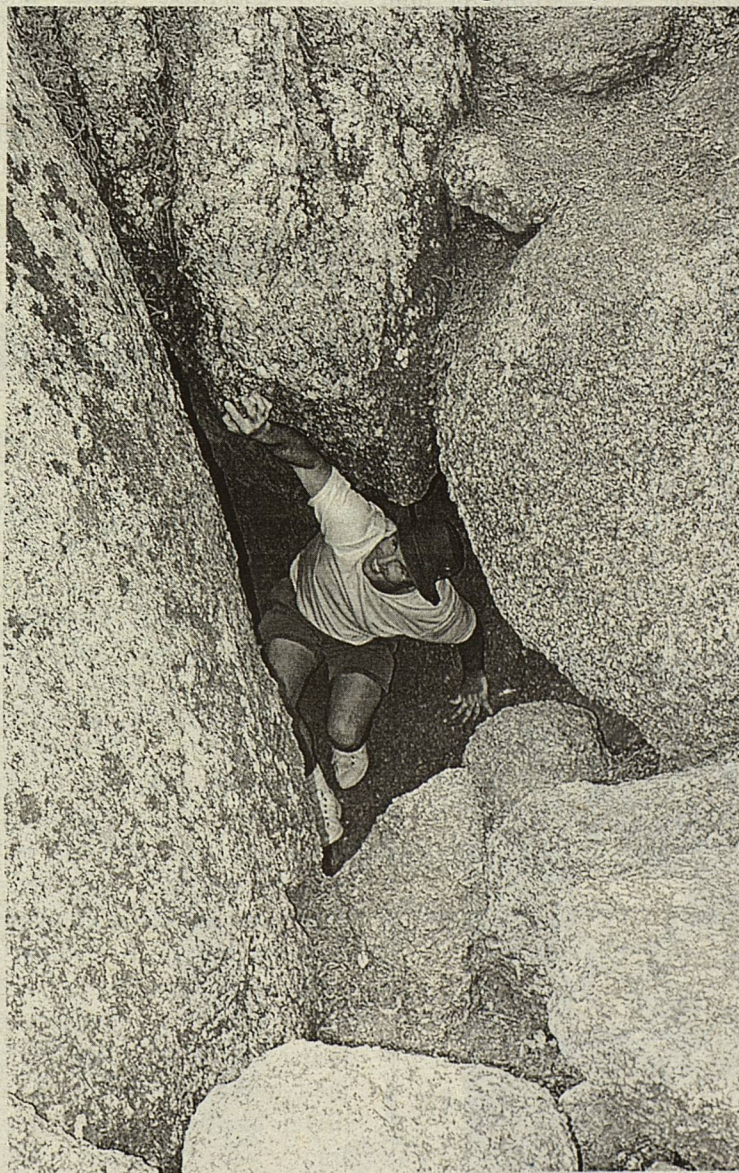
Even if you tire, there always seems to be an unofficial trail that can cut some time and distance off your journey.

An especially impressive natural formation – one that you can walk right between – is a V-shaped rock to the west. And, along the way, you'll be amazed at the gigantic boulders strewn about. Don't worry; you won't be the first person to take a gag photo "pushing" one of the monsters.

Along the trail, expect to see squirrels (quite brazen after years of enjoying campers' freebies), deer, rabbits, and a wide variety of birds.

The Enchanted Rock has been popular for decades – well, hundreds of years if you go back to when the Tonkawa Indians considered the place sacred.

Provided they could get there because of all the free-range cows, of course.



Enchanted cave crawl – Slipping through dark, damp slots is part of the fun at the summit of the Enchanted Rock.

John Harris, Hartley's Music Man

40 years of teaching and the beat goes on . . .

By Rebecca Miller
The Dalhart Texan

When Hartley students were asked to comment on their band director, they said, "He's awesome . . . he helps us . . . he's fun . . . he fixes your instrument . . . he's funny when he's conducting . . . he jokes around and dances."

And fourth grader Jack Clark summed up his expertise, "When it comes to music, he's the man to talk to."

After 40 years of teaching youngsters how to toot their horn, John Harris should know what he's talking about.

Born in Oklahoma City, Harris moved to Dalhart as a teen and graduated from Dalhart High School in 1961.

After gaining a Bachelor's of Music Education from West Texas State University, he earned his Masters of Music from Sul Ross State University, and in 1986 received his Administrative Management Certification.

He has taught in Borden County, Klondike, Lefors, and Royse City. He has been teaching in Hartley since 1996.

"I'm just average," he said of his career. "I've just stuck with it."

"I love working with kids," he said. "They have beautiful ideas. I love to hear them. It's great to see them excel. Teaching is the greatest profession in the world. You won't get rich, but I can't say I'm broke, either."

It's his love for his students that motivates Harris. He's had plenty of success at that. The Hartley music students recently competed in Dumas and Amarillo and achieved all highest ratings.

It was his first year of teaching in Lefors, straight out of college that he met his wife - a junior in his band, named Jackie.

He didn't cause any scandals at the time, and didn't even see Jackie for five years. After she had graduated from college, a friend reintroduced them and the age difference wasn't such a big deal by then.

Besides teaching his wife in school, Harris has taught all of his children, and nearly every niece, nephew, brother - and sister-in-law and now has a cousin's grandchild in school.

He plays the piano for the Hartley Baptist Church and plays for the Coon Memorial Home on occasions.

"I'm not ready for the home yet," he said, "But when I

am, I'll play the piano and have them singing and dancing."

In the meantime, he is very proud of his family. Jackie also teaches at Hartley; they have a daughter, Julie Toland and a son and daughter-in-law John Paul and Deidre, and a son Jade; he has two grandsons and a granddaughter.

Harris enjoys reading especially Max Lucado, and when he gets down, he looks at his scrapbooks that he makes every year of his students.

"I'm not good at math and English, but I've made a success of my life."

He finds his biggest challenge is helping the high school students fit in band between all the courses required for graduation.

He cited studies showing how good music is for the brain, with students experienced in music performance and music appreciation scoring higher on the SAT and that music lays a foundation for success in math and science.

But high school students so often don't have room in their schedule because they are taking so many higher math and science classes.



Texan photo by Rebecca Miller
John Harris, Hartley School Band Director, with his horn. In the background are pictures of various students, the motivator in his life.

He is saddened to see how many small schools are forced to cut their music programs for lack of finances.

Harris said it was his goal from the beginning to teach for 40-years. Now that he's achieved that, he's decided to stay on for two more years, then substitute teach and drive the school bus.

"I don't fish; I don't golf, what would I do?"

He would like to write his memories of four decades of

"wonderful people, lasting friendships with colleagues and students," he said. "But I'm no good with English."

[Editor Note: John taught band at Borden County from 1987 to 1996. His daughter Julie graduated from BHS in 1990 and son John Paul graduated in 1994. Jackie also worked at Borden County School. Jade graduated from Hartley ISD in 2002. He is now in the Army Reserves and is awaiting deployment shortly.]

America's Independence Day

Cont. from pg. 1

broaden the concept to include Americans of all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

The idea of freedom is still unsettling in many parts of the globe, from the dictatorships of Zimbabwe and North Korea to Cuba. Communist China still cracks down on democratic forces and is imposing strict controls on the freewheeling internet. The young people of Iran are rejecting the sham elections approved by the clerics who run that country. Resistance to our liberation of Iraq from the tyrant Saddam Hussein is driven by the fear that a free Iraq can threaten the strongmen who currently oppress so many who live in the Middle East.

Though the present

struggles in Iraq and Afghanistan are difficult, I am confident that the power of freedom will help remake this region of the world, just as it remade Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany after the end of World War II. Though there will always be setbacks, history seems to be moving toward greater acceptance of democracy and free markets in South America, Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East. This will make the world more peaceful and far more prosperous.

This is why our Fourth of July is so important. It was a declaration of independence for 13 small colonies, over two centuries ago, which has become a clarion call for freedom that is still being heard today.



Texan photo by Rebecca Miller
John Harris, Hartley School Band Director, has been teaching music students for 40 years.

Summer Fun at the Pool

Part 2

In large groups or at parties, name a designated watcher to keep an eye on the children. Other safety suggestions:

- Don't depend on inflatable arm bands or rings to keep children safe in water. Small air filled swimming aids slip off children's arms or over their heads and are not intended to be used to prevent drowning.
- Take CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and first-aid training.
- If you do not know how to swim; do yourself and your children a favor - take swimming lessons. And have your children take lessons as well. But continue to watch children closely, even if they have had swimming lessons.
- Don't use a swimming pool as a babysitter. Be sure your children understand that they are not allowed in or near a pool without a responsible adult present.
- Obey lifeguards. They are there to prevent a drowning.

"Safety equipment at public pools is required for a reason," Moore said. "The ring buoy and the shepherd's crook are to be used only as rescue devices. Be sure not one plays with the ring buoys in the pool or removes them from the pool area. These devices can save lives."

Prevent children from having direct access to a home swimming pool.

"Install a four-sided, isolation fence with self-closing and self-latching gates around the pool," Moore said. The fence should be a least 4 feet tall and should completely separate the pool from

the house and yard or play area.

"Keep tables and chairs away from the pool fence to prevent children from climbing into the pool area," she said. "And remove steps to above-ground pools when not in use. Equip the pool with lifesaving devices including a shepherd's crook or light-weight pole and a float with an attached line."

"Don't depend on chlorination alone to protect health," Moore said. "Sanitation precautions also are important."

Teach youngsters to practice good hygiene. Shower before swimming. Take children on bathroom breaks or change diapers often. Wash your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers. And teach children to keep pool water out of their mouths.

"Consistently taking simply precautions will greatly increase the chances that parents and children will enjoy a fun, safe time at the pool," Moore said.

DSHS establishes rules covering minimum standards for public swimming pools and spas including those in public recreation areas as well as at hotels, motels, apartments, condominiums, mobile home parks, clubs, schools and those operated by property owners associations.



Texas Stories
A showcase of the Texas Spirit

Tumbleweed Smith
Part owner of Texas



Saying Things You Wish You Hadn't

I recently spent six days in Dallas attending a training class for a computer program I use. The instructor was an audio engineer who has produced some award winning albums for well-known singers like Faith Hill and the Dixie Chicks.

He told anecdote after anecdote about his experiences working on music row in Nashville. His hometown is a small town in Mississippi. When he was presented a platinum record for work he did for the Dixie Chicks, the newspaper in his hometown ran a story about his recognition. He, of course, was extremely proud of his plaque.

Now it was about this time (March 2003) that one of the Dixie chicks made some harsh remarks while performing in London. Natalie Maines got political and criticized President Bush for planning a war in Iraq. She said she was "ashamed the President of the United States is from Texas."

I'm sure she wishes she had counted to ten before making that statement. Reaction was

almost immediate. People called the Chicks unpatriotic. Country stations pulled the Chicks from their playlists. Several stations had "Chicken Tosses" and invited listeners to throw their

Chicks CD's in trash dumps. The news story about my instructor's platinum award made statewide news in Mississippi and even crossed the border into Alabama.

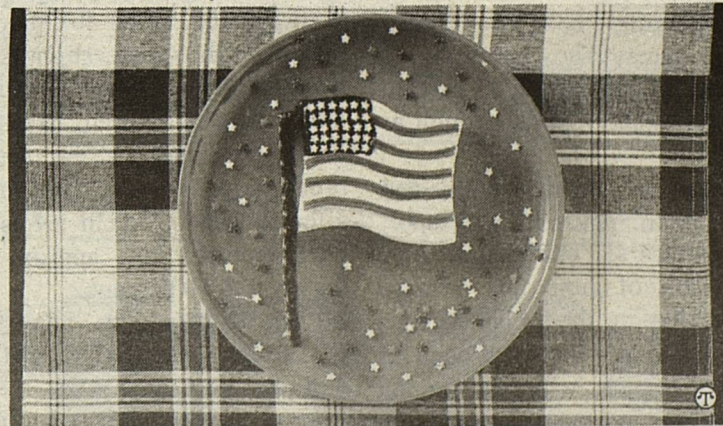
In the midst of all the unfavorable publicity about the Dixie Chicks, a Birmingham radio station called my instructor (I'll call him Bruce) and actually wanted him to donate his plaque for a Dixie chick bashing. It seems the radio station wanted to make a target of the platinum award and let people shoot at it. The station had already started

Cont. to pg. 8

Your Just Desserts

Star-Spangled Fun With Easy-Bake Flag Cake

(NAPS)—On Independence Day, nothing quite captures the spirited celebration more than the American flag. Why not make sparks fly this July 4 with a star-spangled twist on dessert—an Easy-Bake Flag Cake. A cake that would make Uncle Sam proud, this tasty treat salutes the red, white and blue with sprinkles, candy and frosting. For backyard barbecues, patriotic picnics in the park or as a holiday treat for the family, this easy-to-make cake can be a fun and delicious way to celebrate the nation's birthday.



FLAG CAKE

Ingredients:


- 1 EASY-BAKE cake mix
- ½ cup of white frosting
- Shoelace licorice (red and black)
- Blue food coloring
- White star-shaped sprinkles
- Red, white and blue sprinkles

Directions:

1. Bake and cool cake according to package instructions.
2. Set aside some frosting and stir in 1-2 drops of food coloring.
3. Frost entire cake with white frosting. Frost the upper left-hand corner with a square of blue frosting.
4. Cut red licorice pieces and arrange lengthwise on cake, in rows of two.
5. Arrange star-shaped sprinkles on the blue square.
6. Cut a piece of black licorice to create flagpole.
7. Decorate plate with red, white and blue sprinkles.

This is the first in a series of holiday-themed treats. To see what's cooking, visit www.easybake.com. For further information on Easy-Bake, call 1-800-255-5516.

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Wheat Harvest Nearing an End

Lauri M. Vaughn,
Communications Director

Texas wheat harvest is coming to a close in the Panhandle of Texas, which is the last part of the state to harvest. The final loads of wheat will be harvested over the Fourth of July weekend.

Texas Cooperative Extension reports the harvest is 55 percent complete; however, Panhandle elevators report harvest is closer to 85 or 90 percent complete. Yields in this area vary, with some producers reporting as low as 10 bushels per acre (bu/ac) and some as high as 60 on dryland. Irrigated farms range from 40 to 90 bu/ac. Overall crop conditions for the Panhandle are excellent, other than some yield reductions due to rust and hail. Test weights for the Panhandle are averaging 60 lbs and protein is averaging 10 to 12 percent. Producers in the Dumas area who grew white wheat this year report slightly higher test weights, averaging 63 lbs. These producers also report higher protein, averaging 13 percent with some reports as high as 17.

The Wichita Falls and Vernon areas of Texas report harvest's completion the week of June 20. Average yields in the Wichita Falls area were reported around 25 to 30 bu/ac, while the Vernon area fared a little better with averages around 40 bu/ac. Average test weights in both areas were between 60 and 61 lbs and protein was reported as good. The Vernon area reported some loss due to hail.

"The Texas Wheat Producers Board [TWPB] has heard from many farmers who ended up with a better crop than they expected," said David Moore, TWPB chairman and Dumas wheat farmer. "We are pleased that rust and hail didn't completely devastate the 2005 crop."

The first load of wheat harvested in Texas was delivered to Interstate Grain

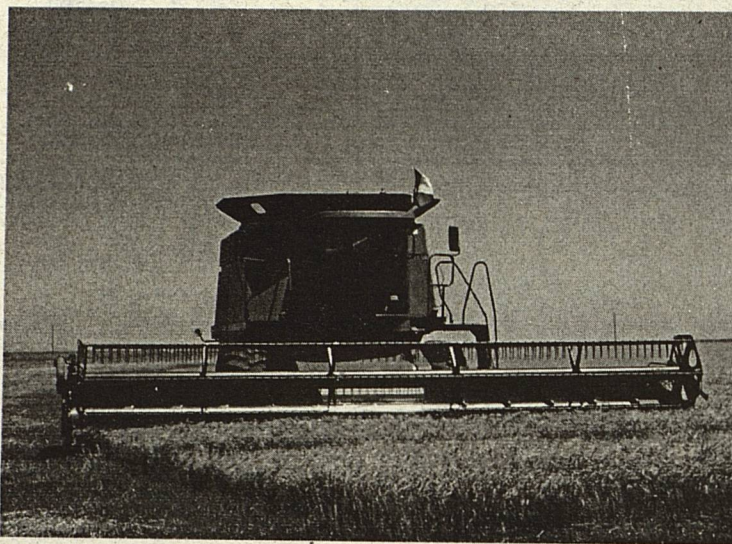
in Corpus Christi the week of April 18. Harvest was off to a slow start with only five truck loads by April 28 from the Premont and Harlingen areas. By May 16, harvest was in full swing in the southern part of Texas with Interstate Grain taking in 60-80 truck loads per day. The quality of wheat harvested in South Texas was good with strong test weights averaging 61 lbs. Protein in this area was down slightly, with an average of 12 percent instead of the usual 13 percent.

Harvest continued to move slowly north because of rains and high humidity. The Hillsboro and Ennis areas began harvest the week of May 23. Overall bushels were down in this area, roughly 50 percent of what was harvested in 2004. This was because of excessive moisture during planting. Quality reports for this area were good with test weights averaging 62 to 63 lbs, but yields were down slightly, averaging 50 bu/ac. These areas, as well as many areas of the state, had a stripe rust problem this year which affected yield. Protein levels were reported low, approximately 9 to 10 percent.

The 2005 Texas winter wheat crop is forecast at 105 million bushels, down 3 percent from 2004, but 9 percent higher than 2003. This forecast is unchanged from the May forecast.

According to a June 1 survey conducted by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS), statewide yield is expected to average 30 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year, but up 2 bushels from two years ago. Harvested acreage for grain, at 3.5 million acres, is identical to 2004.

"The Upper Panhandle is producing a much larger percentage of this year's crop. Conditions have been very good, however, an emerging rust problem will have to be closely moni-



bushels, up 6 percent from 2004. Yield is expected to average 45.4 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels more than a year ago. Acreage to be harvested for grain is expected to total 35.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last season.

"The Texas Wheat Producers Board would like to remind farmers to visit its Web site (www.texaswheat.org) to view the results of variety trials conducted around the state," said Moore. "These trials were funded by producers' check-off dollars and will be available before planting for the 2006 crop."

tored", reported TASS State Director Robin Roark.

Production on the Northern High Plains is forecast at 57.0 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. Winter wheat production on the Low Plains is forecast at 23.7 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year. The Blacklands' production is estimated at 8.5 million bushels, down 45 percent from last year. Production on the Edwards Plateau is forecast at 6.4 million bushels, 40 percent higher than 2004.

United States winter wheat production for 2005 is forecast at 1.59 billion

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Caution:
School's Out
Watch for
Children

Message brought to you by this newspaper and the Texas Highway Patrol Association

-- Randy's Roundup --

June 28, 2005

Fact Finding Trip to Canada

Over the weekend, I traveled to Canada along with the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee Bob Goodlatte and other House members to meet with Canadian officials and representatives from the Canadian beef industry.

From what I observed on my trip, closing off our border to Canadian live cattle is hurting America's ranchers. Over the past several years, Canada has made great strides in building its beef processing infrastructure. In the process, they have become less and less reliant on U.S. feedlots and meatpacking plants. The result has been the loss of thousands of American jobs and increased costs for American cattle producers.

As we move toward a solution, it is my hope that we make all decisions based on science and that the situation can be remedied as soon as possible for the benefit of Texas cattle producers.

Flag Protection Amendment

A constitutional amendment that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag garnered the necessary two-thirds majority approval in the House of Representatives last week. It is fitting that the House has acted to protect Old Glory on the eve of our nation's Independence Day, and as our troops rally behind the flag on battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are several hurdles remaining, however, until the amendment becomes part of the Constitution. If the amendment musters the support of two-thirds (or 67) of U.S. Senators - which will be no easy task - it will then need to be ratified by three-fourths (or 37) of state legislatures.

There is nationwide support for the amendment. Currently, all 50 states have passed resolutions calling on Congress to pass the amendment. And before the Supreme Court ruled that flag protection laws were unconstitutional in 1989, 48 states had made flag desecration a crime (all except Alaska and Wyoming).

A Win for Fiscal Responsibility

I authored a piece of fiscally responsible legislation that was approved last week by the House. My legislation ends further funding of two research grants whose focus fell outside the mission of the National Institute of Mental Health, whose goal is to find cures and better treatments for serious mental health disorders. One of the studies has been ongoing for nearly 15 years and has received more than \$1.5 million to study "Perceptual Bases of Visual Concepts." This study examines how pigeons can classify lifelike visual stimuli into natural and artificial categories. Now on its fifth year, a second study has spent more than \$745,000 to determine how the self-

esteem of newlyweds affects their marriage.

Whatever scientific merits these research projects may have or positive outcomes they may produce, they are not related to serious mental health disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease and autism.

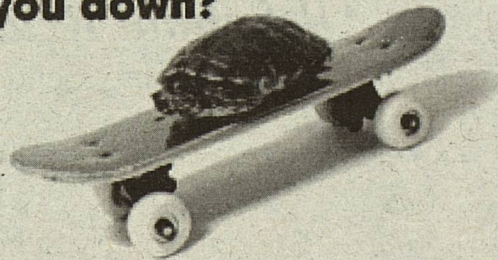
It is the role of Congress to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and to make sure the money is going where it is intended. With so many individuals and their families struggling to battle these diseases, it is imperative that we direct limited resources where they are needed most.

On This Week's Agenda...

The House will be wrapping up work on its final two (out of 11 total) appropriations bills. Once our work is complete, I will be heading back to the 19th district to celebrate our Independence Day. I plan on attending several July 4th celebrations, including parades in Lubbock and Muleshoe, and a laser show in Hereford.

--Randy

Is your dial-up connection slowing you down?

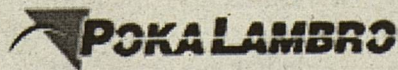


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Children's Health Alert

Helmets: What children are wearing this summer

Dr. John Hellerstedt, MD, FAAP

The next time your child wants to ride his or her bike this summer, don't let them leave the house without a helmet. In 1998, 138,000 children suffered head injuries from bike crashes. These kinds of injuries do permanent damage to your child's brain and could be prevented by simply wearing a helmet.

A good helmet should fit snugly and cover your child's forehead and the chin strap should fit comfortably around his or her ears, allowing a finger's width between the chin and strap.

When shopping for a bike helmet, look for the ANSI (American National Standards Institute), ASTM (formerly the American Society for Testing Materials), or Snell (Snell Memorial Foundation) sticker of approval.

Helmet prices can range from \$10 to \$250, but a well-ventilated, lightweight and comfortable helmet should cost about \$35.

If your child's helmet ever sustains a substantial hit, replace it. After a serious blow, bike helmets lose their capacity to absorb shock and become useless as a means of protecting your child.

It is your responsibility as a parent to make sure your child is safe every time he or she rides a bike. Don't let them get on a bike without a helmet.

The Children's Health Alert is presented as a public service by this newspaper and TexCare Partnership: connecting Texas families with children's health insurance for \$18 a month or less.

Call 1-800-647-6558 for information or to apply.

Dr. John Hellerstedt is the Medical Director of the Children's Health Insurance Program.



SLOW DOWN! - Watch Out for the Children!



Have a Safe and Happy of July

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"Mailbag"

America's Newspapers Help Keep Us Free

In the early days of our country, the Founding Fathers recognized that a viable democracy required an informed citizenry. One of the first agencies created by the Continental Congress was the Post Office Department, and one of the most important reasons was to create a means for delivering the news.

Freedom of the press is a cornerstone of our democracy and an important reason why the United States is a beacon of freedom to the world. The Postal Service proud to be a part in helping America's newspapers deliver the word.

Today's community newspapers can proudly trace their heritage to Benjamin Franklin's *The Pennsylvania Gazette* and other colonial newspapers. Today, as then, these publications provide information on a wide range of local issues that are important to all of us.

In 1879, Congress formalized this service and created a new class of mail - now called "Periodicals" to disseminate news and educational

information across the nation and "bind the nation together."

Originally, Congress authorized the carrying of newspapers and periodical publications in the mail at *no charge*. Today with nearly 10 billion newspapers, magazines and other publications delivered each year, we no longer can provide free delivery. However, postage rates for Periodicals are generally the lowest offered by the Postal Service and rank among the lowest in the industrialized world.

After all these years, the Postal Service and America's community newspapers still strive to "bind the nation together" by delivering news, opinions and information that keep us informed - and help to keep us free.



The largest living bird is the ostrich, which can weigh 330 pounds.

BORDEN COUNTY ISD PUBLIC NOTICE

The Superintendent's Office, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Borden County Independent School will receive bids and/or quotes for propane, diesel, and gasoline for the 2005-2006 school year.

Proposals shall be addressed to Jimmy Thomas; Borden County Independent School District; Box 95; Gail, Texas 79738, and shall be delivered in a sealed envelope marked appropriately as "Propane Bid" and/or "Gasoline/Diesel Bid". Proposals will be received up to but no later than **12:00 noon on Friday, July 15, 2005**. Bids will be opened and read as they are received. Proposals will be tabulated, researched, and selected by the Board of Trustees or its designee as appropriate. Bids received after the specified date will not be considered.

The Borden County I.S.D. Board of Trustees or its designee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposed bids, to waive any and all technicalities, and to accept the proposal that will best serve the needs of the District.

Questions regarding additional information shall be directed to Jimmy Thomas by writing the above address; by e-mail to jthomas@bcisd.net; 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



SEEDS FROM THE SOWER

Michael A. Guido
Metter, Georgia

For the tenth time he stood before the judge and pled guilty to the charge of burglary.

"What's your trouble?" asked the judge.

"Sir," answered the man, "I was born wrong."

Weren't we all! That's why our Lord said, "You must be born again."

When you're born the first time, you become a member of the human family. When you're born the second time, you become a member of the divine family.

When you're born the first time, you make no decision. When you're born the second time, you alone make the decision.

Wouldn't you like to begin life all over again, with a pardon for the past and a power for the present to live a beautiful, happy, victorious life?

Then receive Jesus now, won't you?

Tumbleweed Smith

Saying Things You Wish You Hadn't

Cont. from pg. 4
announcing details of the shoot. For ten dollars, they would let people shoot at the platinum record with a pellet gun. For twenty dollars, they could use a .22. For fifty dollars they could use a .38 caliber pistol. For two thousand dollars they could use a 12-gauge shotgun. The radio station person told Bruce the promotion already had 50 thousand dollars pledged. He was shocked at the station's request and told the person calling that the platinum record he received was for work he did on the session and it meant a lot to him and of course he would not donate it to the station. He did tell the station the place where the plaques were

available for sale.

When the comments were made in London, the Chicks had the number one country album, "Home," and the number one single, "Travelin' Soldier." Bruce said at the Sony studio in Nashville where the Chicks recorded, the flower bed in front of the building was full of Dixie Chick CD's people had thrown away. He also said the Chicks went from performing in packed houses of 25,000 to barely filling up a venue with 5,000 seats. I haven't heard much about the chicks lately, but I understand they're coming out with a Spanish Polka Album. Chances are it'll be non-political.

Got News:

Mail to:
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BORDEN CO
806/759-5111



All-School Reunion Information

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

When: August 5th & 6th, 2005 (Friday night & Saturday)

Where: Borden County School; Gail, Texas

Friday, August 5th - 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Early registration and visiting in cafeteria with light refreshments

Saturday, August 6th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Registration and visiting in School Cafeteria

Pictures of classes, friends, families & individuals

Tours of the school available

Catered Lunch served in County Show Barn

Lunch Reservations Necessary: Please call VP as soon as possible.

Cost: Adults - \$10; Children below 2 yrs. - \$7.00

Please make checks payable to Borden County ISD Exes, and mail to:

Judy Kingston
751 Borden Co. Rd. 130
O'Donnell, Texas 79351