

Jerrod Citizen

"Where cotton is king"

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Cotton Belt Train Derailed

At press time Tuesday, officials of Texas Western and Cotton Belt Rail Line were close-mouthed about a derailment of one of their trains Monday near Fulton Switch.

The incident occurred about 8:00 AM Monday as the ten-car train was being moved onto a siding at the Fulton Coop elevator. No railroad employees or elevator workers were injured. All the cars were empty.

An employee of the elevator told the *Citizen* he "heard this huge crash and then a bunch of screeching noises." He said he



The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating a Cotton Belt derailment east of Fulton Switch Oct. 14 (Citizen photo)

counted nine grain hopper cars off the tracks.

F.W. Lafferty, spokesman for the Ft. Worth-based rail line had no comment when contacted by the *Citizen*. He referred all enquiries to the National Transportation

Safety Board's Houston office. The NTSB investigates all railroad accidents.

There have been persistent rumors over the last year that the TW&CB is in financial difficulties and considering abandoning the 80-year-old spur west of Ft. Worth through Jerrod to Sweetwater.



There's a STAAR on the horizon

Jerrod ISD schools have been in session little more than six weeks, and students in grades 3-12 are already gearing up for the much-feared STAAR tests next spring.

The State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness tests measure students' understanding of basic principals in reading, writing, math, science, social studies. The students have begun to work on the materials that will be covered in the test and—as importantly, how to take the tests.

The test is critical for the 22 JHS Seniors. If they don't pass, they don't graduate.

"We're trying to help the students feel comfortable with the testing process as well as the material covered," eighth-grade history teacher Mariel Ascencio said. She and Jenny McTague, who teaches English, are coordinators for the JISD testing process.

"There is some anxiety about test-taking, always," McTague said, "but it's a state requirement that helps measure the overall performance of schools. We hope parents will encourage their children to do well. We're proud of our school and we want them to be, too," She said.

The STAAR process has its detractors. Veteran educators

have expressed concerns about having to "teach to the test" rather than taking a more traditional approach.



86th Cotton Carnival Parade

October 26

Entry deadline - Oct. 20

Contact any Lions Club member for information

Jerrod
CITY LIMIT
POP. 3434

MONDAY MORNING, I SAW **Tomas Ascencio** and his delightful daughter **Beatrice** at the post office. She introduced herself, told me she is five years old, and shook my hand. Impressive . . .Deputy **Marv Harter** hosing down the back seat of his cruiser.

No, I didn't ask why . . funeral director **Jim Logan**, muttering about his geraniums . . .Strikers head football coach **Jamey Massey**, carrying —you guessed it—a football. . .**Dan Baker**, with an armload of flyers and catalogues, headed for the trash can outside his store . . . **Scotty McTague** looking for his jack so he could help **Ernie Thrasher** change a tire, that was only flat on one side.