

The

Borden Star

Borden ★ Dawson ★ Garza ★ Howard ★ Lynn ★ Scurry

Volume XXXVI

January 6, 2016



USDA Removes Farm Program Payments to Managers Not Actively Engaged in Farming

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today finalized a rule to ensure that farm safety-net payments are issued only to active managers of farms that operate as joint ventures or general partnerships, consistent with the direction and authority provided by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill. The action, which exempts family farm operations, closes a loophole where individuals who were not actively part of farm management still received payments.

"The federal farm safety-net programs are designed to protect against unanticipated changes in the marketplace for those who actively share in the risk of that farming operation," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "To ensure that help goes to those who genuinely need it, such as America's farm families, the Farm Bill authorized USDA to close a loophole and limit payments from those not involved on a daily basis in nonfamily farm management."

Since 1987, the broad definition of "actively engaged" resulted in some general partnerships and joint ventures adding managers to the farming operation, qualifying for more payments, that did not substantially contribute to management. The rule applies to operations seeking more than one farm manager, and requires measureable, documented hours and key management activities each year. Some operations of certain sizes and complexity may be allowed up to three qualifying managers under limited conditions. The changes apply to payments for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and Marketing Loan Gains (MLG) realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As required by Congress, the new rule does not apply to family farms, or change regulations related to contributions

of land, capital, equipment, or labor. The changes go into effect for the 2016 crop year for most farms. Farms that have already planted fall crops for 2016 have until the 2017 crop year to comply. For more details, producers are encouraged to consult their local Farm Service Agency office.

Today's announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmland. To learn more about Farm Service Agency, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Texas Stories

A Showcase of the Texas Spirit
Tumbleweed Smith

A Weekend in Mountain Country

I spent a day in Terlingua, the Temple of Chilidom. Got to visit with John Holroyd, the new owner of La Kiva, the well-known watering hole just above Terlingua Creek. He has made some grand improvements to the place, which once used a black pot for a urinal. John hails from Yorkshire, England originally and migrated to Oklahoma 30 or so years ago. He is retired now and has been a frequent visitor to the desert country. He was a friend of the previous owner of La Kiva, Glen Felts, who died last year. La Kiva stayed closed for 6 months and John didn't want to see it turn to dust, so he bought it. He stayed closed another year to do the refurbishing. The bar is open now and the restaurant will open soon with gourmet pizzas, brisket and other menu items. He has a barbecue cooker that can handle 1,000 pounds of meat. All the kitchen equipment is state of the art.

I also interviewed Lauren Stedman who has Menagerie Press in Terlingua. She makes exquisite invitations, business cards and other printed items using old-fashioned letterpress equipment and high-grade papers. She is a graphic design artist and her creations go all over the country.

I also met a genuine DIVA.

Diane Wysocki is a member of Women Outdoors Worldwide, a group of women who shoot guns, slingshots and bows and arrows. They also do fly-fishing. All members are called DIVAs. They promote shooting safety and have worldwide shooting competitions. The organization's headquarters is in Dallas.

The next day I went to Alpine and visited with Dr. Paul Will, chair of the Meat Science department at Sul Ross who teaches a course called Sausage Manufacturing. It's a two-week course beginning January 4. Students of all disciplines flock to the course, where they can earn 4 semester hours credit. "I give them 25 pounds of meat and some seasoning and teach them how to make sausage," he says. "Then they make their own sausage using family recipes or whatever. At the end of the course we have a contest to see who has the best sausage according to a panel of judges."

I visited my friend Jim Glendenning who had just returned from a month long 26,000 mile trip around the world. He knows how to travel. His entire transportation bill was \$1,800. He walked to the train station in Alpine, took an overnight train to Los Angeles

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MEMBER
2016

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Student Congress Qualifiers Prepare to Take on the Capital/Capitol

For the third year in a row, Borden High School is sending state-qualifying students to compete in Austin at the State Congress Meet.

Senior Nathan Souder will be making his second straight trip in this event while Freshman Trent Collins makes his state debut.

In Austin, the two will attend a Monday night prep ses-

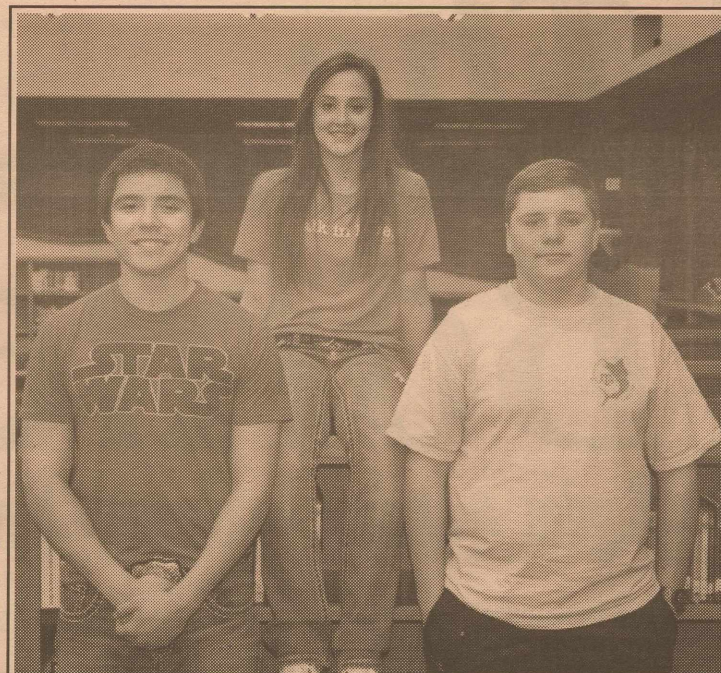
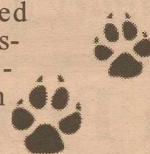
sion followed by two full days of competition. Each morning has a legislative session followed by afternoon debate over different bills and resolutions.

Students who advance to Wednesday's championship round will be competing in the State Capitol Building annex. Tuesday's rounds are at the UTC building on the Univer-

sity of Texas campus.

Both Nathan and Trent will compete in a state-qualifying meet in Blanco this Saturday against schools of all classifications.

Freshman Madi Cole is an alternate to the state meet, having finished fourth at the District Congressional Meet in November.



Three students representing Borden County will travel to Austin to compete in the State Congress Meet. Those attending will be (left to right) Nathan Souder, Madi Cole and Trent Collins.

#21 Ranked Coyotes Play Holiday Games

By Coach Edwards

The #21 ranked Borden Coyotes were able to get in a couple of matched games before the new year. The Ropes Eagles hosted the first game of the week. The streets were covered in snow in Ropesville, but their gym was heating up.

Ropes jumped out to an early 17-11 lead. The Eagles extended the lead in the second period and led 30-22 at the half. The Coyotes chipped away in the third quarter outscoring the Eagles 20-15. Ropes hit their 8th and 9th three point bucket in the fourth to extend its lead back to eight points. But the Coyotes pressure defense and clutch free throw shooting cut the lead to one. With :15 seconds remaining, Easton Edwards nailed a shot from behind the arc to give Borden a 62-60 lead. Corbin Sumners came up with a steal to secure the victory.

Trace Richey led the Coyotes with 20 points and nine steals. Hunter Jones added 10 points followed by Easton Edwards with nine points. Korbin Martinez chipped in eight points and

Diego Bernal with six points. Corbin Sumners finished with threes points while Ben Justice, Nick Proulx, and Braxton Barnes all had two points.

The very next day, Borden hosted class 3A, Colorado Wolves. The Wolves came into the contest with quality wins over 4A teams, Sweetwater and Snyder.

Colorado jumped out to a 31-16 halftime lead. However, the Coyotes managed to fight back in the second half. Borden trailed as many as 17 points in the second half. Midway through the fourth period, the Coyotes cut the lead to nine points. But a couple of second chance buckets for the Wolves helped them to a 53-40 victory.

Braxton Barnes led the Coyotes in scoring with 12 points followed by Trace Richey with 11 points. Hunter Jones added seven points while Morgan Wilson chipped in three points. Corbin Sumners, Ben Justice, and Easton Edwards knocked in two points. Nick Proulx finished with a point.

The Coyotes are 7-2 on the season.



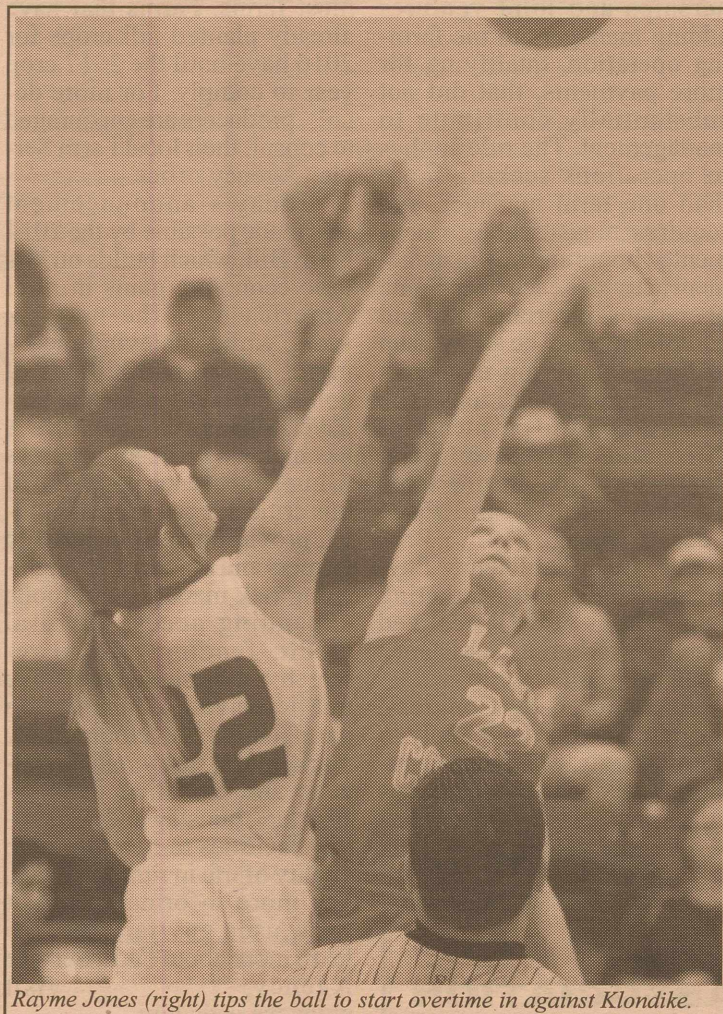
Lady Coyotes Defeat Klondike

By Coach Skelton

The Lady Coyotes travelled to Klondike for the second

year in a row to take on the Lady Cougars heading into the Christmas break. Right from the beginning, the girls knuckled down on the defensive end of the floor, and held the Lady Cougars to just five points in the first quarter. Unfortunately, Klondike defense forced us to have some missteps ourselves and at the end of the quarter we only managed five points. The second quarter was still a defense battle as Klondike took a two point led into the locker room at the half.

The Lady Coyotes came out for the third, and still was struggling offensively, but our defense was playing great. The game was back and forth the entire way, and with time running down the Lady Coyote defense down two points stole an pass in the press and Sophomore Preslea Hall found Freshmen Emma Key along the base line as she drain the ten footer to send the game into overtime. The defense, still leading the way, forced another turnover late in the overtime and a missed shot was gathered up by Senior Kylee Dean and she was fouled on the put back. Kylee proceeded to hit both free



Rayme Jones (right) tips the ball to start overtime in against Klondike.

(Continued to Pg. 3)

Lady Coyotes Defeat #24 Paducah Dragons

By Coach Skelton

The Lady Coyotes played host to the #24 team in the state last Thursday night. The Lady Coyotes managed to take an early two point lead after the first quarter thanks to Freshmen Emma Key and Rayme Jones who scored half our eight points. The second quarter was nothing but three point shots and free throws for the Lady Coyotes as they scored fourteen points, but the ranked Lady Dragons had also found their gear and outscored us by three to take a one point lead into the locker room.

The Lady Coyotes struggled coming out of the lock room and was outscored 13-6 to find themselves down eight heading into the final quarter. Then team leading scorers Preslea Hall and Tatum Richey found their stroke that had been absent the previous quarter. They combined for sixteen of the Lady Coyotes twenty points down the stretch, while Kylee Dean anchored things down on the defensive end gathering four rebounds and two steals. The Lady Coyotes who press had helped them get back into the game, finally took the lead with roughly forty seconds to go in the game when Tatum Richey hit a twelve footer to

go up one. Paducah called a timeout. We discussed things on the bench even though our press had helped us get to the point that we were, I felt it had taken a lot out of us, and hated to see Paducah get an easy bucket if they got by us. At that point, we agreed we would play great defense and if they managed to get off a shot that it would be contested and we would block out to secure the ball. It didn't come that. Emma Key applying great ball pressure forced a bad pass which allowed Preslea to step in front and steal the ball, but she was immediately tied up with the possession arrow favoring the Lady Coyotes. We got the ball in and as time was running down, Paducah was forced to foul with six seconds. With this, Tatum knocked down both free throws. Paducah called timeout to set up a last second full court prayer that we were able to steal to win the ball game.

Stats for the game are as follows: Tatum Richey scored 13 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals and 3 assists; Kylee Dean scored 5 points, 10 rebounds and 3 steals; Zoie Key scored 5

(Continued to Pg. 7)

Ladies Tame the Lady Cougars...

(Continued from Pg. 2)

throws and the Lady Coyotes tied the game yet again. However, this time Klondike had time for a good look on their offensive end. Hall managed to pick off a long pass from the backside of the defense and go

coast to coast for the winning lay-up. Final score Lady Coyotes 40 Lady Cougars 38.

Stats for the game are as follows: Zoie Key scored 10 points, 2 rebounds and 5 steals; Kylee Dean scored 6 points, 5 rebounds and 2 steals; Tatum Richey scored 3 points, 5 rebounds, 7 steals and 1 assist; Braylee Walker had 1 rebound, 1 steal and 1 assist; Preslea Hall scored 7 points, 10 rebounds, 5 steals and 4 assists; Rayme Jones scored 9 points, 11 rebounds and 2 steals and Emma Key scored 5 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals and 1 assist.

The Borden Star (USPS or PUBLICATION No. 895-520) is published weekly except Christmas and New Year's week for \$12.00 per year by the Borden Star, PO Box 137, Gail, Texas, POSTMASTER: Send Change of Address to the Borden Star, PO box 137, Gail, Texas 79738.

Borden County Junior Livestock Association Schedule

2016 is just around the corner and the Borden County Jr. Livestock Show is scheduled for January 7-9, 2016. Here is the schedule of events:

December 16 - County stock show set up at 9:00 am

December 30 - Entry deadline for county show

January 7 - 1:00 pm - Weigh in and classify animals

January 8 - 8:00 am - Steer show, followed by Lamb Show, Goat Show and Swine Show (Each will begin 30 minutes after previous show.)

January 8 - Clean up by All Exhibitors and Parents following the Swine Show

January 9 - 9:00 am - Awards Ceremony
10:00 am - Brunch
10:30 am - Premium Sale



Senior Lady Coyote, Zoie Key scores a 3 pointer against the Lady Cougars.

School Lunch Menu

Jan. 11-15, 2016

Menu subject to change

Monday - Breakfast: Pancakes & Bacon, Fruit Juice, Fruit and Milk. Lunch: Chicken Sandwich, Oven Fries, Veggie Cup, Mandarin Oranges and Milk.

Tuesday - Breakfast: Sunrise Sandwich, Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk. Lunch: Nachos Grande w/Salsa, Refried Beans, Tomato Cup w/Ranch, Salad, Pears, Lime Sherbet Cup and Milk.

Wednesday - Breakfast: Biscuit, Gravy & Eggs, Fruit, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Salisbury Steak w/Brown Gravy & Biscuit, Roasted Potatoes, Salad, Fruity Gelatin and Milk.


Thursday - Breakfast: Strudel & Yogurt, Fruit Juice, Fruit and Milk. Lunch: Pizza, Baby Carrots w/Ranch, Broccoli Salad, fresh Grapes, Cookie and Milk.

Friday - Breakfast: Mini Breakfast Burrito, Fruit Juice, Fruit and Milk. Lunch: Corn Dog, Baked Beans, Broccoli, Apple-Pineapple D'Lite and Milk.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Heart and Home... 

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Wishing You a Healthy H-A-P-P-Y N-E-W Y-E-A-R

H - ealth "The first wealth is health." (Source: Ralph Waldo Emerson) Make health a priority this year. Health should be more than the absence of disease - read on for ideas.

A - ttitude "Health and cheerfulness naturally beget each other." (Source: Joseph Addison) A positive attitude may not cure a disease. However, thinking positive can help you deal with misfortune, make the most of your situation and enjoy life more.

P - hysical activity "A man's health can be judged by which he takes two at a time - pills or stairs." (Source: Joan Welsh) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommends for adults: "Most health benefits occur with at least 150 minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes) a week of moderate intensity physical activity, such as brisk walking. Additional benefits occur with more physical activity. Both aerobic (endurance) and muscle-strengthening (resistance) physical activity are beneficial." For more information and for guidelines for children: <http://www.health.gov/paguidelines/guidelines/default.aspx>

P - eople "Love cures people - both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it..." (Source: Dr. Karl Menninger) Numerous studies indicate social networks, whether formal (such as a church or social club) or informal (such as meeting with friends), make people less vulnerable to ill health and premature death. Be wary, however, of social support that drains you through people being too demanding or encouraging you to engage in harmful behaviors.

Y - our body "Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live." (Source: Jim

Rohn) Schedule physical checkups as needed: eyes, teeth, mammogram, colonoscopy, general physical, etc.

N - O! "Half of the troubles of this life can be traced to saying yes too quickly and not saying no soon enough." (Source: Josh Billings) Rather than adding "take a time management class" to your "to do" list, consider starting a "don't do" list. You may discover doing LESS can bring MORE enjoyment to your life. Especially if doing less allows you to spend time doing more to contribute to your health and happiness and that of family and friends!

E - at healthy "Rich, fatty foods are like destiny: they too, shape our ends." (Source: Author Unknown) MyPlate recommends: "To move to a healthier weight, you need to make smart choices from every food group. Smart choices are the foods with the lowest amounts of solid fats or added sugars: for example, fat-free (skim) milk instead of whole milk and unsweetened rather than sweetened applesauce. Also, consider how the food was prepared. For example, choose skinless baked chicken instead of fried chicken and choose fresh fruit instead of a fruit pastry." For more information on planning healthy menus, visit <http://www.choosemyplate.gov>

W - isdom "A wise man makes his own decisions, an ignorant man follows public opinion." (Source: Chinese Proverb) Take time to listen to your own body. Rather than set your goals based on how fast other people walk or jog, how little sleep others can get by on or how much someone else eats, concentrate on what makes YOU healthy.

Y - our hands "Keeping hands clean is one of the most important ways to prevent the

spread of infection and illness." (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Here's how to wash your hands from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

When washing your hands with soap and water:

- * Wet your hands with clean running water and apply soap. Use warm water if it is available.

- * Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub all surfaces.

- * Continue rubbing hands for 15-20 seconds. Need a timer? Imagine singing "Happy Birthday" twice through to a friend.

- * Rinse hands well under running water.

- * Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer. If possible, use your paper towel to turn off the faucet.

E - nough sleep "A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor's book." (Source: Irish Proverb) According to the 2008 "Sleep in America" poll by the National Sleep Foundation (NSF), "Working too much and sleeping too little takes a serious toll on people's professional and personal lives." Some of the findings of the poll included:

- * 29 percent of those polled fell asleep or became very sleepy at work in the past month;

- * 36 percent have nodded off or fallen asleep while driving

- * 14 percent missed family events, work functions and leisure activities the past month due to sleepiness.

Cutting back on other activities rather than cutting back on sleep may be more effective in enhancing the quality of your life.

A - void portion distortion "Never eat more than you can lift." (Source: Miss Piggy, muppet character) Rather than worry so much about "what" you eat, consider "how much" you eat. Downsize your portion sizes. Serve food on smaller plates. Eat from plates and bowls rather than packages and bags, so you see how much you're eating.

R - eading materials "Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint." (Source: Mark Twain) Consider the source before starting a new drastic diet or exercise plan. Beware of plans that:

- * Promise quick, dramatic results

- * Charge large fees for consultations, equipment, supplements, etc.

- * Rely solely on testimonials and statements from "professionals" with unusual-

sounding degrees.

Source: Ann Henneman, MS, RD; University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Service Nutrition Specialist

Texas Stories

A Showcase of the Texas Spirit
Tumbleweed Smith

(Continued from Pg. 1)

where he boarded a plane for London. On his circle of the globe he made five stops along the way, then took the train back to Alpine and walked home.

The new managers at the Holland Hotel are Marcus and Nicole Van Winden, who met on a Holland-America cruise ship. He was a chef; she was cruise director. He is from Holland. It was only natural that they end up managing the

Holland Hotel.

I went to Marfa and visited with Mayor Dan Dunlap. He told me about the new 4-story hotel being built downtown and a new 5 million dollar art installation due next year at Chinati. Lots of stuff going on in the mountain country along the border.

Tumbleweed Smith loves to hear stories. Contact: ts@tumbleweedsmith.com

Allison Seeks Re-Election as Sheriff/Tax Assessor

I, Benny Allison, am announcing my candidacy for re-election as Borden County Sheriff/Tax Assessor-Collector. I am a candidate in the Republican Primary.

I moved to Borden County in 2003 after completing the Concho Valley Council of Governments Law Enforcement Academy. While attending the Academy, I was employed as a 911 Dispatcher for Sterling County and a Corrections Officer with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Prior to being elected Sheriff/Tax Assessor-Collector, I served for 8 years as a Deputy Sheriff with the Borden County Sheriff's Office.

I have a Master's Peace Officer certification and a Special Investigator certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. I am a graduate of Wayland Baptist University where I earned a Bachelor of Applied Science in Justice Administration.

Over the past 12 years I have been honored to serve the people of Borden County and would like the privilege of continuing to serve as your Sheriff/Tax Assessor-Collector.

Your vote and support will be greatly appreciated.

Benny Allison

Paid Political Advertisement
Benny Ray Allison, Treasurer

 MEMBER 2016
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



Dare to Live Without Limits

By Bryan Golden

Luck

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it."

- Thomas Jefferson

Everyone wants good luck. Who would object to that all desirable lucky break? Unfortunately, too many people wait passively for luck to find them. They are hopeful their ship will come in. In their mind is the prospect that at some point their luck has to change.

Luck is much more than winning the lottery or hitting the big score at a casino. Of course people win jackpots, but they are few and far between. For every big winner there are millions more who lose money. The odds of winning the typical state lottery are 18 million to one. The odds of getting hit by lightning are approximately 3 million to 1. So you have a much better chance of getting hit by lightning than winning a lottery.

Looking at luck in these terms is rather discouraging. Yet, to lots of people, this is their perception of luck. No wonder they get disheartened by the notion that luck seems to happen only to other people.

Luck regularly occurs when attitude and preparation meet opportunity. It doesn't matter how often opportunity knocks at your door if you don't recognize it, don't believe it, or are not ready to take advantage of it. People who have the most luck are those who are proactive participants in their lives.

Gambling aside, lucky people aren't just lucky. Lucky people share similar character traits. They have a very positive attitude, believe good things will happen, are always on the lookout for opportunity, are hard workers, always look for, and find, solutions, and tend to be happy.

Successful people are often thought of as being lucky. However, since successful people only get noticed once they have succeeded, most people aren't aware of all the hard work and preparation that had to take place first.

Lucky people are ready, willing, and able to adjust their

thinking as needed. They don't get stuck in a mental rut. What others may see as adversity, lucky people view as opportunity. A surprising number of products that are an integral part of daily life were discovered by accident. They are perfect examples of what happens when attitude and preparation meet opportunity.

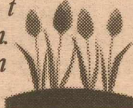
All of the following were accidental discoveries: the popsicle, velcro, superglue, post-it notes, scotchguard, safety glass, cellophane, vulcanized rubber, penicillin, teflon, and microwaves. You have to wonder how many potential breakthroughs might have been missed because of bad attitudes or a lack of preparation.

As these discoveries illustrate, whether luck is good or bad depends on one's outlook. Something that may initially appear to be misfortune may actually be a gift. So, if you walk around telling yourself you never have any good luck, you won't. Instead, change your perspective to recognize that things often happen for a reason. The challenge is to discover what that reason is.

Here is how you can improve your luck. Decide what your goals are. Believe that you will attract all that you need and want. Understand that you are surrounded by opportunity. Recognize that there is a solution for every problem. Be willing to alter your perspective in order to discover hidden opportunities. Always keep learning. Acquire as much knowledge as possible about how to attain your goals. Take action. Adjust your course as needed.

Regardless of where you are now, you can turn your luck around. Luck is not something that happens to you. It's something you create.

Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com. © 2007 Bryan Golden



Scholarships Opportunities Available Through Big Country Electric Coop

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR

You're a Texas high school student. You're smart; you have big dreams. Maybe you've never been out of the state, and maybe you've never flown on a plane, but you want to travel—experience a big city, visit historic landmarks and meet people, and not just fellow high schoolers but influential public figures, like U.S. representatives. If that describes you, then you're a candidate to apply for a slot on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, sponsored by Big Country Electric Cooperative (BCEC) and organized by Texas Electric Cooperatives.

Open to all area Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors, Youth Tour is an action-packed trip to the U.S. capitol with about 125 of your peers and chaperones from across Texas. You'll visit the Washington National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Institution, memorials and more. Activities include learning about rural electrification, seeing a performance at the Kennedy Center, going on a boat cruise with dinner and dancing, and meeting elected officials. You could be part of this legacy shared by the more than 3,800 past Texas Youth Tour students who have participated since 1965.

To enter, contestants must submit a 2-4 page essay on the topic "How would your life change if electricity no longer existed?" by 5:30 pm January 28, 2016. Six finalists will be selected from the submitted essays. Finalists will deliver their essay as a presentation Monday, February 15, 2016 at 6:30 pm at BCEC's Roby office. Three winners will be selected to win an all-expense paid 10-day trip to Washington, D.C. on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour in June 8-17, 2016. You do not have to be a BCEC member to compete and win! Each winner and one runner-up will also receive

\$1,500 scholarships. Essays due January 28, 2016 for a chance to win a ticket for this adventure, which has been called the trip of a lifetime. You may complete the entry form and submit your essay online!

BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP – Two (2) scholarships of \$4,000 each (\$500 per semester for 8 semesters or 4

years) will be awarded. Applicant must reside with a parent or guardian who is a member of BCEC and must be a current year graduating senior. Applications due January 29, 2016.

TREWA (Texas Rural Electric Women's Association) SCHOLARSHIP – Fifteen (15) TREWA scholarships, of \$1,500 each, will be awarded

(Continued to Pg. 8)

Brian Fullbright Announces Candidacy for Sheriff/Tax Assessor



I, Brian Fullbright, am announcing my candidacy for election as Borden County Sheriff/Tax Assessor-Collector. My wife, Beronica and I with our two children Brisen and Olivia moved to Borden County in 2015 from Burleson, TX. I attended the Police Academy at Weatherford College in Weatherford, TX in 2003 and began my Law Enforcement career with the Venus Police Department. I then became a Patrol Deputy with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, where I became certified

as a Field Training Officer (FTO), a certified Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer (License & Weight) and an Instructor for Mobile Video Systems. At Johnson County I obtained 120 hours of Active Shooter Training (School settings) and have certification in Criminal Investigations. I have my Advanced Peace Officer License issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

If elected as Sheriff/Tax Assessor-Collector of Borden County, I promise that you will see a Proactive Office, which with being Proactive will keep Crime to a minimum and keep your family safe. I'm currently serving as Deputy Sheriff/Emergency Management Coordinator for Borden County and would be honored to be your Sheriff/Tax Assessor-Collector for Borden County. I'm running on the Republican Ballot.

Thank you for your support and vote.

Brian Fullbright

Pol. Ad paid for by Brian Fullbright

Commissioners Court

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BORDEN
WHEREAS, on this the 8th day of December, 2015, the Commissioners' Court of Borden County, Texas, convened in Regular Session in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Courthouse in Gail, Texas the following members of the Court being present to-wit:

ROSS D. SHARP,
COUNTY JUDGE, PRESID-
ING; MONTY SMITH, COM-
MISSIONER, PRECINCT
NO. 1; RANDY ADCOCK,
COMMISSIONER, PRE-
CINCT NO. 2; ERNEST
REYES, COMMISSIONER,
PRECINCT NO. 3; JOE
BELEW, COMMIS-
SIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4;
JANA UNDERWOOD,
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-
OFFICIO OF THE COMMIS-
SIONERS COURT constitut-
ing a quorum, when the follow-
ing business and other pro-
ceedings were had, in accord-
ance with the posted agenda:

Other officers present:
Marlo Holbrooks, County At-
torney; Benny Allison, Sheriff
and Tax Collector; and Shawna
Gass, County Treasurer.

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Sharp called the De-
cember 8, 2015, regular ses-
sion of the Commissioners
Court to order at 8:35 A.M.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Adcock
made a motion to approve the
minutes of November 24,
2015. Commissioner Reyes
seconded the motion. Motion

carried.

COUNTY OFFICER MONTHLY REPORTS

Commissioner Smith made
a motion to approve submitted
reports. Commissioner Adcock
seconded the motion. Motion
carried.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES HEALTH AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS POOL

Commissioner Belew made
a motion to accept a \$25.00 do-
nation from TAC Health and
Employee Benefits Pool and
designated amount to go into
the General Fund. Commis-
sioner Smith seconded the mo-
tion. Motion carried.

PRIVATE ROAD CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE

No Applications

SOIL CONSERVATION WORK

No Applications

CURRENT ACCOUNTS

Commissioner Reyes made
a motion to approve and pay
said accounts. Commissioner
Smith seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURN

Commissioner Adcock
made a motion to adjourn.
Commissioner Belew sec-
onded the motion and was ap-
proved unanimously.

Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

(Gail)—New and updated property tax information has just been compiled by Borden County Appraisal District and is available now to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and is of value to select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons who are age 65 or older.

"Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or a taxpayer, it's important you know your rights concerning the property tax laws," said Tracy Cooley, Assistant Chief Appraiser of the Borden County Appraisal District. "You can contact us about any property tax issues with full confidence that we will provide you the most complete, accurate and up-to-date available information to assist you."

This includes information about the following programs:

- **Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** – The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, spouses and survivors of deceased disabled veterans. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost to the disabled veterans. The amount of exemption is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouse, beginning in 2009, and for surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed in action.

- **Property Tax Exemptions** – Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their county appraisal district by a specific date. Businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the "Freeport" exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control; own and operate energy storage systems; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.

- **Rendering Taxable Property** – If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local county appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.

- **Appraisal Notices** – If a taxpayer's property value increased in the last year, the Texas taxpayer will receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local county appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.

- **Property Taxpayer Remedies** – This comptroller publication explains in detail how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option of taking a taxpayer's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.

- **Homestead Exemptions** – A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the appraised value of the home, and as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local county appraisal district.

- **Productivity Appraisal** - Property owners who use land for timber land production, agricultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local county appraisal district for an agricultural appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on how much the taxpayer produces, versus what the land would sell for in the open market.

- **Residence Homestead Tax Deferral** – Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local county appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105% of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed but not cancelled, with interest accruing at 8% per year.

- **Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older or Disabled Homeowners** – Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue on unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.

- **Notice of Availability of Electronic Communication** – In appraisal districts located in counties with more than 200,000 populations or that have authorized electronic communications, and that have implemented a system that allows such communications, chief appraisers and ARBs may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically in place of mailing.

- **Protesting Property Appraisal Values** – Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's ARB.

For more information about these programs, contact Borden County Appraisal District at 806-756-4484 or come by our office at 120 E. Wilbourn, Gail, Texas. Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.

Vote

Brian Fullbright

for

Borden County Sheriff Tax Assessor/Collector

Republican Candidate

Your vote would be greatly appreciated.

Vote

Political advert. paid for by Brian Fullbright

Vote

MARCH 1, 2016 PRIMARY ELECTION CALENDAR

First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (NEW LAW: first day of calendar year for ABBM* and FPCA**)	Friday, January 1, 2016*
*ABBM – ANNUAL BALLOT BY MAIL **FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION	
Last Day to Register to Vote	Monday, February 1, 2016
First Day of Early Voting	Tuesday, February 16, 2016* <i>*First business day after Presidents' Day</i>
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Friday, February 19, 2016 (NEW LAW: 11th day before election day; ABBM and FPCA)
Last Day of Early Voting	Friday, February 26, 2016
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, March 1, 2016 (election day) at 7:00 p.m. (unless overseas deadline applies)

For more information check our website at

www.co.borden.tx.us, click on County Offices, select

County Clerk, select Elections Notices, then select the appropriate election

If you wish to apply for a ballot by mail you can send application

to bordenco@poka.com

Booster Club Plans January 21 Meeting

The Borden County Booster Club will have a meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 5:00pm in the Coyote Room. This will be a very important meeting, some of the items that will be discussed are the out-

come of the Fall Festival, Teacher Appreciation, Easter Egg Hunt and Family Fun Night. Mark your calendars and let's make 2016 a great year. Go Coyotes!

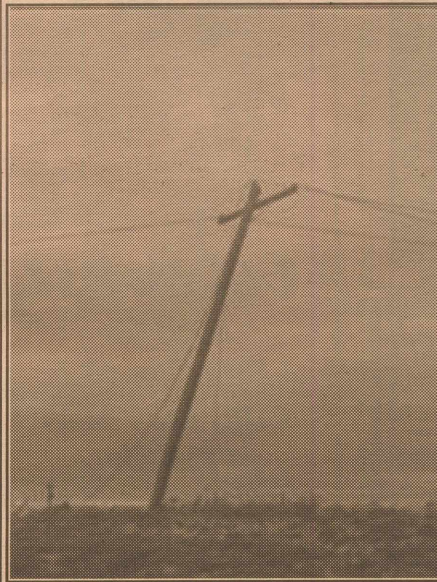
Lady Coyotes Defeat #24 Paducah Dragons

(Continued from Pg. 3)

points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals and 1 assist; Braylee Walker scored 1 point, 5 rebounds, 3 steals and 1 assist; Preslea Hall scored 11 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals and 3 assists; Harley

Merrill scored 2 points, 1 rebound and 1 assist; Rayme Jones scored 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal and 1 assist and Emma Key scored 9 points, 6 rebounds, 1 steal and 1 assist.

Thank You



2015 will go down in history as a year that began – and ended – with treacherous winter storms. Big Country Electric Cooperative would like to thank our members for their patience and understanding during the recent appropriately-named winter storm “Goliath”. Ice, wind, and mud created miserable conditions for everyone, and we appreciate the kind words of support and encouragement from our members and community friends that came on Facebook, over the phone, and even in person. We would also like to thank Primary Utility Services, our contractor, who goes above and beyond providing

assistance and is truly part of the co-op family. We would also like to thank first responders who, as in many other instances, endured harsh conditions to meet the needs of others. Our entire team – linemen and office staff alike – fought the elements to achieve restoration of power and for that, we recognize their dedication.

Many people offered tractors and bulldozers

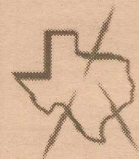
to help pull our crews to locations that were almost unreachable: That cooperative spirit – neighbor helping neighbor, coming together in the worst of times – is the best thing about living in West Texas!

Thank you from Big Country Electric Cooperative!

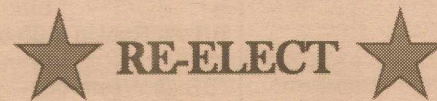
Roby • Snyder • Stamford

bigcountry.coop

Photo credit: Pete Anders, BCEC Substation Technician – Stamford office



Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc.



RE-ELECT

BENNY RAY ALLISON

BORDEN COUNTY

SHERIFF/TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE

Your vote and support will be greatly appreciated

Paid Political Advertisement
Benny Ray Allison, Treasurer

Robby's Welding

Robby Willborn
434 W. Wasson
Gail, Tx 79738

Cell 806-441-5491
Home 806-756-4345

PHILLIPS 66 **CONOCO**

LAMESA BUTANE CO.
ARLEN MORRIS, Mgr.

Long Distance 1-800-772-5201
Local 806/872-5200
806/872-5356
P.O. Box 382 • 501 South Lynn • Lamesa, Texas 79331

Got News?

Mail to:
P.O. Box 137
Gail, Tx. 79738

Email:
kdean@bcisd.net
or call
806/756-4313
ext. 275

Big County Electric Coop Scholarships Available...

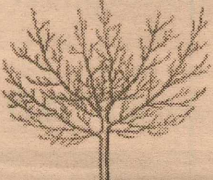

(Continued from Pg. 5)

to TREWA members and their children. Applicants must also be a current member or an employee of a Texas electric cooperative (such as BCEC). Applications must be post-marked by March 13, 2016.

GOLDEN SPREAD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE DIRECTORS' MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - \$2,000 payable \$500 for each of four semesters through the sophomore year. The scholarship is available to an entering freshman college or university student who is a member, or

spouse or child of a member, or child whose guardian is a member of a rural electric cooperative (BCEC), which is an owner (member) of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative. Applications due March 15, 2016.

More detailed information and applications are available at bigcountry.coop - click on the Scholarships link. Please contact Sarah McLen with any questions: smclen@bigcountry.coop or (325) 776-3803.

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">JANUARY 2016</h1>  <p style="text-align: center;">* Denotes District Basketball Game</p>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Christmas Holidays						
3	4 Beginning of 4 th Six Weeks JH BB vs. Highland 4:00 OAP Practice-6:30	5 Girls V BB vs. Frenship JV-6:30 BB vs. Lubbock Titans-4:00 Bb	6	7 Early Release-12:30	8 HOLIDAY BB @ Coahoma-5:00 bB *BB vs. Highland-5:00 gG	9 Speech/Debate Tournament
Borden County Jr. Livestock Show						
10	11 JH BB vs. Westbrook 5:00 OAP Practice-6:30	12 State UIL Congress-Austin BB vs. Rankin-4:00 bB *BB @ Westbrook-5:00, gG	13 State UIL Congress-Austin	14 State UIL Congress-Austin	15 Speech/Debate-Pampa	16 Speech/Debate-Pampa *BB @ Hermleigh-4:00, All
17	18 JH BB @ Hermleigh, 5:00 OAP Practice 6:30	19 *BB @ Loraine-5:00 bB	20	21	22 PROGRESS REPORTS *BB vs. Ira 4:00, All	23 Speech/Debate Tournament JH Sands Tournament
24	25 JH BB vs. Knox City @ Roby-6:00	26 *BB @ Highland-4:00 All	27	28 District CX Debate-Highland	29 *BB vs. Westbrook-4:00, All	30 BC JH BB Tournament
31	OAP Practice-6:30				Speech/Debate-Odessa High	Speech/Debate-Odessa High