

# The

# Borden Star

Borden ★ Dawson ★ Garza ★ Howard ★ Lynn ★ Scurry

Volume XXXVI

February 17, 2016



## USDA, Partners to Invest \$720 Million in Large-Scale, Targeted Conservation Projects Across the Nation

*Regional Conservation Partnership Program Pools Together \$220 Million Investment from USDA, up to \$500 Million from Local Partners to Improve Water Quality, Soil Health, Habitat and More*

SAVANNAH, Ga., Feb. 12, 2016 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and partners across the nation together will direct up to \$720 million towards 84 conservation projects that will help communities improve water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability. These projects make up the second round of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) created by the 2014 Farm Bill.

Through the 2015 and 2016 rounds, USDA and partners are investing up to \$1.5 billion in 199 strategic conservation projects. Projects are selected on a competitive basis, and local private partners must be able to at least match the USDA commitment. For this round, USDA received 265 applications requesting nearly

\$900 million, or four times the amount of available federal funding. The 84 projects selected for 2016 include proposed partner matches totaling over \$500 million, more than tripling the federal investment alone.

“The Regional Conservation Partnership Program puts local partners in the driver’s seat to accomplish environmental goals that are most meaningful to that community. Joining together public and private resources also harnesses innovation that neither sector could implement alone,” Vilsack said. “We have seen record enrollment of privately owned lands in USDA’s conservation programs under this Administration, and the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program will be instrumental in building on those numbers and demonstrating that government and private entities can work together for greater impacts on America’s communities.”

RCPP draws on local knowledge and networks to fuel conservation projects. Bringing together a wide variety of new partners including

businesses, universities, non-profits and local and Tribal governments makes it possible to deliver innovative, landscape- and watershed-scale projects that improve water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, soil health and other natural resource concerns on working farms, ranches and forests.

Vilsack announced the launch of the 2016 projects at Fort Stewart in Georgia, where he also highlighted a RCPP partnership led by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities to accelerate and expand forest health conservation practices in longleaf pine forests around six Department of Defense facilities in the Southeast. Through the Southern Sentinel Landscapes Conservation project USDA will invest \$7.5 million, matched by \$10 million from 20 partners, including the U.S. Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps. This project will protect and restore working forest habitats while helping ensure military preparedness by protecting open space for training and

*(Continued to Pg. 8)*

## Texas Stories

A Showcase of the Texas Spirit  
Tumbleweed Smith

### *Caleb’s Telephone and Tennis Adventures*

Twelve-year-old Caleb Lewis of Dallas was walking with his parents when he spotted an iPhone in low bushes by the sidewalk. His parents suggested he leave it there, just in case the owner came looking for it. Caleb insisted he could find the owner.

When the family finished its walk and returned home, Caleb got busy. The phone’s battery was completely discharged, so Caleb connected the phone to a charger. Within minutes there was enough charge to use the phone. Now Caleb is not your ordinary phone and computer user. He knows some shortcuts and figures out things. He is diligent in his efforts to solve technical problems.

He was able to see some calls that had been made from the phone. He started calling those phone numbers and at each one he would ask if they recognized the number he was calling from. After five calls, someone told him the iPhone belonged to a teenage boy. Caleb got the owner’s home number and called it. The owner’s mother answered the phone and was thrilled to know her son’s phone had been found and was being returned. She lived just a few blocks away. She asked Caleb what

his favorite candy bar was and he told her it was a Kit Kat bar.

She showed up at Caleb’s house twenty minutes later with a giant Kit Kat bar and a ten-dollar bill. She gave both items to Caleb after he handed her the phone. Caleb is a generous soul and shared the candy with his parents.

Caleb is our grandson and we took him to England and Scotland during his Christmas break from school. We arrived in Edinburgh early on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December. Since we didn’t sleep much on the plane we went to our hotel and took a nap. Christmas market was going on in Edinburgh and we wanted to see it. Hard rain was falling but it didn’t seem to slow down any of the festivities. Streets were crowded, dozens of booths were set up to sell merchandise and some people rode a Ferris wheel and other carnival rides. The Scots’ favorite saying is “Stay Calm and Carry On.” They did just that on that rainy night in Edinburgh. We bought umbrellas and used them. It was the only time we used them on the trip. We had good weather with lots of sun.

Caleb is a tennis player and is serious about it. One reason

*(Continued to Pg. 7)*

# Coyotes Clinch District Title With Win Over Ira

By Coach Edwards

For the first since 2010, the Borden County basketball team clinched a district championship and earned a first round bye in the state playoffs. The ironic part of the story is the game clinching victory came against an Ira Bulldog team that had won eight straight district championships.

"It's our turn to be on top," Edwards exclaimed. "These guys have worked extremely hard and they have earned the right to be called district champions."

The Coyotes, ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the state 1A poll, put the lever down early on Ira. Borden outscored the Bulldogs 21-6 in the opening quarter led by Trace Richey's 11 points. Freshman, Ben Justice scored six points in the second frame to spark a 23-2 quarter, and led at the half 44-8.

Borden's defense has been a key component to their success on the season and they showed in the third period by not giving up a single point. The Coyotes outscored Ira 32-17 in the second half winning the contest, 76-25.

Richey led all scorers with 15 points. Corbin Sumners and Hunter Jones added 12 points each followed by Justice with nine points. Diego Bernal poured in eights while Easton Edwards and Braxton Barnes contributed six points. Morgan Wilson chipped in four points. Korbin Martinez and Nick Proulx finished with two points.

Later in the week, the Coyotes in their final home game of the season, faced a Highland Hornet team hoping to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Trace Richey and Hunter Jones combined for 16 first quarter points which took away any playoff hope for the Hornets as the Coyotes jumped out to a 22-4 lead. Borden built up a 39-15 halftime lead.

Nick Proulx had a six point third quarter which allowed

Borden to extend the lead after three quarters, 52-22. Senior, Korbin Martinez, in his last home game of his high school career, added six points in the final frame to help the Coyotes secure a 72-32 victory. The win adds to an 11 game win streak for the Coyotes.

Richey led the team in scoring with 20 points and Jones finished with 14 points. Proulx poured in 11 points while Martinez added 10 points. Ben Justice and Diego Bernal chipped in six points. Braxton Barnes and Morgan Wilson contributed two points. Corbin Sumners had one point.

The Coyotes are 18-3 on the season with a 9-0 district record. The Coyotes will travel to Fort Worth on Saturday to play in the Fort Worth Playoff Preview vs #11 Calvert.



The Coyote JV defend the Highland goal in last weeks' game against the Hornets. Pictured are (left) Ryan Willborn and Noah Morales.

THANK  
YOU  
FOR  
READING  
THE  
BORDEN  
STAR

## Coyote JV Defeat Highland Remain Undefeated in District

By Coach Edwards

The Borden Coyote Junior varsity squad traveled to Odessa on Thursday to take on the Midessa Warriors varsity squad in a non-district game. Borden jumped out to 12-11

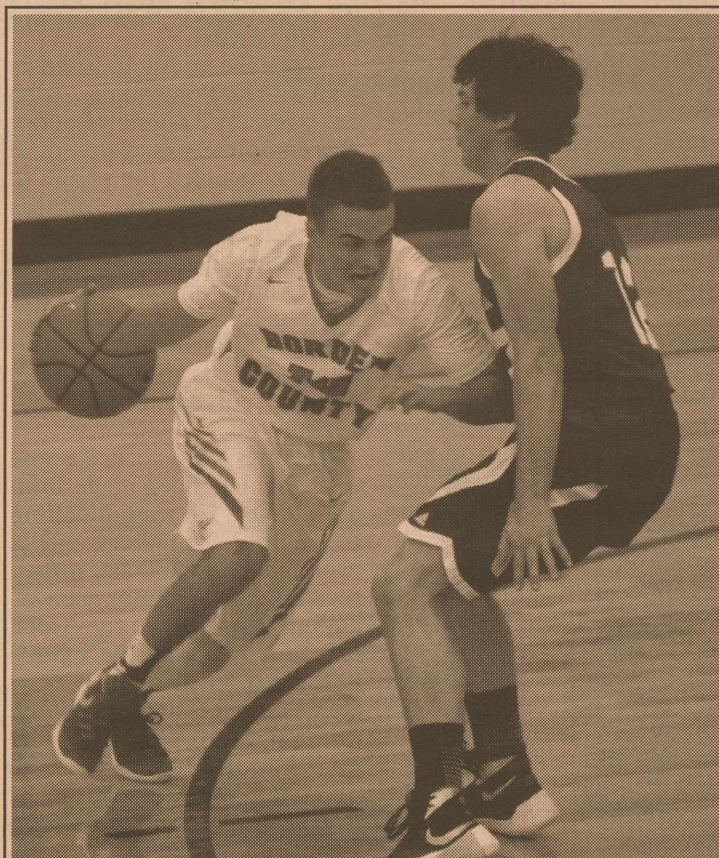
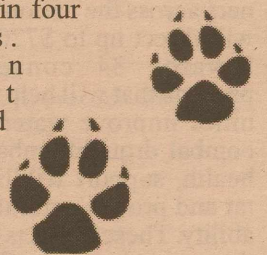
first quarter lead, but the Coyotes struggled offensively in the second period scoring only seven points and trailed 23-19 at the half. The Coyotes defense stayed tough in the second half allowing only 10 points. However, their offensive woes continued scoring only eight points in the half and dropping a close one, 33-27, to the Warriors.

Ryan Willborn led all scorers with 10 points followed by Kale Yarbro with six points. Noah Morales added four points and Riley Lewis with three points. Payton Merket and Trent Collins chipped in two points.

The Coyotes continued action the following day with a district game versus the Highland Hornets J.V. squad.

Borden jumped out to a 10-4 first quarter lead and never looked back. The Coyotes outscored Highland 32-7 over the next three quarters to win the district contest, 42-11. The Coyotes remain undefeated in district play and improve their season record to 10-6.

Kale Yarbro was the leading scorer with 16 points. Riley Lewis added seven points followed by Trent Collins with six points. Ryan Willborn and Noah Morales chipped in four points. Payton Merket finished with three points.



Coyote senior, KMart Martinez drives through the Highland defense.

COYOTE  
&  
LADY  
COYOTE  
BASKETBALL

# Coyote Pups Finish Season 13-0

By Coach Edwards

The Coyotes finished their season with a 36-28 victory over the Ira Bulldogs to finish the season, 13-0. In the past four years, the Coyote Junior High teams are a combined 53-0.

Borden started the game with some great defense allowing only two points in the first period and six points in the second to take an 18-8 lead at the half. Trey Edwards scored all 10 of his points in the first half.

Will Yarbro found the hot hand in the second half as he dominated the paint. Willborn scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half. The Bulldogs made a push late in the fourth but it was not quite enough, and the Coyotes won the district title.

Yarbro led the team in scoring with 16 points followed by Trey Edwards with 10 points. Cam Edwards added six points and Mason Cole with four points.

The Borden Red squad fell short in the season finale 26-23 to the Bulldogs.

Borden trailed 16-14 after a half of play. Ira pushed the lead to 20-15 after three quarters of play. Borden closed the gap to two a couple of times in the final frame. Borden had a couple of late shots to tie the game, but could not get the ball to fall.

Blaine Justice led all scorers with 19 points. Trent Lewis and Quentin Freeman both finished with two points.

The Borden red team finished the season with a record of 7-6.

## Coyote Camp



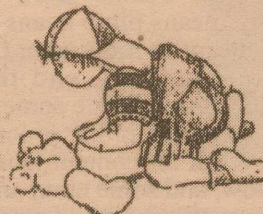
Members of the Coyotes Camp perform for the fans at the Coyotes last home game against the Highland Hornets. The camp allows the athletes to learn ball handling, dribbling and shooting among skills. (Above) Several young Coyotes show off their dribbling skills. (Right) Kenzie White "double" dribbles during the performance.



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## School Lunch Menu

Feb. 22 - 26, 2016  
 Menu subject to change

**Monday** - Breakfast: Pancake Wrap & Yogurt, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Beef & Bean Burrito w/Salsa, Corn, Veggie Cup, Mandarin Oranges and Milk.

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

**Wednesday** - Breakfast: French Toast & Sausage, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Country Pot Pie, Garden Salad, Fruity Gelatin and Milk.

**Thursday**-Breakfast: Breakfast Pocket, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Pizza, Baby Carrots w/Ranch, Broccoli Salad, Fresh Grapes, Cookie and Milk.

**Friday**-Breakfast: Dutch Waffle & Bacon, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Corn Dog, Baked Beans, Broccoli, Apple-Pineapple D'Lite and Milk.

\*\*\*\*\*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

Heart and Home...



Julie Mumme Smith

Borden County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences  
P.O. Box 155 or 140 East Wilbourn, Gail, TX 79738 (806)756-4336  
julie.smith@agnet.tamu.edu http://borden.agrilife.org

Facebook: Borden County Extension and 4-H

Blog: <http://agrilifeextensionbordenfcs.wordpress.com>

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## Eating Well With Canned Goods

Canned food can be very convenient to have on hand for quick, low cost meals. Research has found that **nutritionally speaking, canned food is comparable to its cooked fresh and frozen counterparts** (Bruhn, C. 2007. *A Nutritional Comparison of Canned, Fresh and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables*. Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture).

**To get the most from your food budget, stock up on canned fruits vegetables and soups when they are on sale.** Buy cans that are in good shape and free of dents. Bulging cans are a sign of possible spoilage or contamination. Be sure to practice the rule, **FIRST IN, FIRST OUT**. This means you use the oldest products first. A good practice in the home is to place the newly purchased cans in back of the same products already on the shelf. The best temperature for storing canned foods is between 50 °F and 70 °F. Avoid storing canned foods in a warm place near hot pipes, a range or furnace, or in direct sunlight. Keep canned goods dry to prevent cans or metal lids from rusting, which may cause cans to leak and food to spoil (Schutz, P.H. and E. H. Hoyle, 1999. *Safe Handling of Canned Goods*. Clemson University).

Many canned foods now have a "for best quality use by" date stamped on the top or bottom of the can. If in doubt over how old a food is, call the company's toll-free number (if listed on the can) or write to the address on the can.

**Healthier varieties of your favorite canned foods are being offered in many stores.** Read labels carefully and choose fruits packed in natural juices or water, without added sugar. Good choices include pineapple in natural juice and unsweetened applesauce. Products with heavy or even light syrup have added sugar, which means more calories. Select

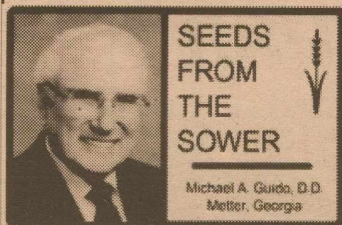
'no salt added' canned foods to reduce your sodium intake. If you are unable to find 'no salt added' canned foods in your store, consider rinsing and draining higher sodium foods, such as tuna, salmon, beans and vegetables to eliminate some salt.

### Top Picks for Canned Goods

**Salmon:** Each 3-ounce serving provides almost 2 grams of omega-3 fatty acids. According to numerous studies, these fats reduce inflammation and help prevent risk factors associated with chronic diseases such as heart disease, Alzheimer's, cancer, and arthritis. A serving of salmon also contains about 35 percent of the Daily Value for protein, along with a good amount of calcium. Use canned salmon as you would tuna—as a sandwich filling or mixed into salads and casseroles. ([nutritiondata.com](http://nutritiondata.com) and [alaskaseafood.org](http://alaskaseafood.org))

**Pumpkin:** Canned pumpkin packs 20 times the beta-carotene (which is converted to vitamin A in the body) as fresh because of its lower water content ([mealtime.org](http://mealtime.org)). A half-cup serving of canned pumpkin supplies a staggering 300 percent of the Daily Value for vitamin A from beta-carotene. Carotenoids such as beta-carotene act as antioxidants that protect you from cancer, heart disease, and other age-related conditions. Use canned pumpkin in pies, muffins, quick breads, or puddings. For a quick and tasty dessert, you can top it with a drizzle of honey and sprinkle of cinnamon then heat in the microwave for a minute.

**Refried beans:** "Refried" simply means pinto beans (or black beans in some cases) are cooked, mashed, and then cooked again. While some fat may be added in the process, the overall fat content is usually low, and some companies are now offering low fat or fat



There was a man in a mental institution who was a brakeman on a freight train. One cold night his train stopped, but he didn't go out and swing his lantern as a warning. Another train came along and hit the train. Three men were killed.

He escaped, but his mistake made him go insane. He cries constantly, "If only I had."

A king sinned. His shameful deeds haunted him day and night. He said, "I will confess them to the Lord." Then he testified, "You forgave me. All my guilt is gone."

Care to be free from your guilt and grief? Confess your sins to God, won't you?

Visit us at: [www.TheSower.com](http://www.TheSower.com)

## Thought for the Day

*Cheerfulness and content are great beautifiers, and are famous preservers of good looks.*

*-Charles Dickens*

free varieties as well. Each half-cup serving provides more than 25 percent of the Daily Value for fiber along with a good dose of protein and iron. Spoon refried beans into burritos, or make Mexican lasagna by layering beans with whole-grain corn tortillas, diced chilies or peppers, and top it all off with low-fat cheese (USDA Fact Sheet and [nutritiondata.com](http://nutritiondata.com)).

## 4-H Adopt-A-Highway



Borden County 4-H'ers worked together to clean up the Adopt-a-Highway section on FM 669 (1 mile North and 1 mile South of US 180). The 4-H club adopted the highway section in the Fall of 2015 and will pick up trash quarterly. (Above) Erin Nix, Maggie Miller, Kennedy Tucker, Tres Spencer, Ashlyn Tucker and Kassi Collins group together before beginning the day.



(Above) Jenna Holbrooks, Callie Edwards, Kassi Collins and Dallie Miller help to clean up our highway. (Below) Ben Nix and Tres Spencer assist Borden County agent, Cody Hill with picking up trash.



**MACRH 1, 2016  
REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**

**Election DAY Polling Places for REPUBLICAN**

PRECINCT	LOCATION
1A	GAIL BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
1B	PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTER
2A&2B (CONSOLIDATED)	BORDEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE DISTRICT COURTROOM
3A&3B (CONSOLIDATED)	PRECINCT 3B VOTING HOUSE FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY
4	BORDEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM

**Election DAY Polling Places - DEMOCRATIC**

PRECINCT	LOCATION
ALL PRECINCTS	BORDEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

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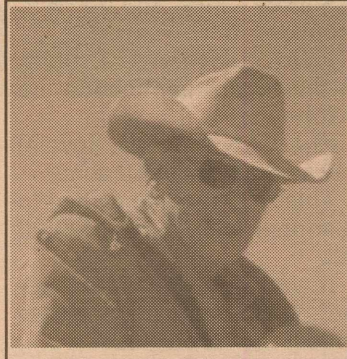
Call: 806/756-4313 ext. 275 or Send a check to  
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872-8336

*3rd & 4th generations still serving this area.*

**Obituary**



**Arlan Youngblood  
1927- 2016**

Funeral services for Arlan Youngblood, 88, of Lamesa

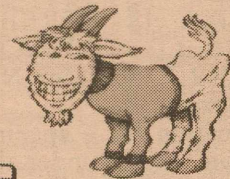
were held Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church with Randy Hardman officiating. Interment followed in Lamesa Memorial Park under the direction of Branon Funeral Home in Lamesa.

Arlan passed away Friday, February 12, 2016 at his residence. He was born September 20, 1927 in Dawson County to Alton and Vera (Mixon) Youngblood. He married Avis (Burkett) Youngblood January 25, 1948 at her parent's home near Midway. They were married one day short of 67 years. Arlan is

survived by his children, Kent Youngblood and wife, Tammy of Lamesa, and Kelli Merritt of Lamesa; grandchildren, Kati Riggins and husband, Jeremiah of Ackerly, Ky Riggins and husband, Lee of Lamesa, Colt Youngblood, and Madison Youngblood both of Lamesa; and 4 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Avis Youngblood and his parents. The family suggests memorials to Hospice of Lubbock, 3702 21st Lubbock, TX, 79410. To send condolences online, please visit [www.branonfuneralhome.com](http://www.branonfuneralhome.com).

**NATIONAL FFA WEEK  
GAIL FFA  
KISS A GOAT CONTEST**



In the second annual Gail FFA Kiss a Goat Contest, each teacher that would like to participate, will have their name on a jar in the foyer in front of Mr. McMeans office. Over the course of a week your jar will be filling up with money from students, faculty, and parents for their shot to Kiss a Goat!!! If your jar has the most money at the end of the contest, during tutorials on Thursday February 25<sup>th</sup>, one elementary and one high school teacher will in front of the entire school, indeed kiss a goat!!! The money collected over the course of the week (starting Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup>) will be gifted to the Baby Keira Adkinson Fund (Daughter of Carolyn Adkinson and Granddaughter of Tom and Carol Lewis). This is a great cause and will be fun for the kids!



**Bring your CHANGE!!!!**

Starts Feb 17<sup>th</sup>

Ends Feb 25<sup>th</sup>



Baby Kiera and her mother, Carolyn Adkinson.



Last year's winners:

Mrs. Herridge

&

Mrs. Stansell



## Legal Notice

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
OIL AND GAS DIVISION  
DISTRICT 8A Rule 37  
Case No. 0299597

DATE OF ISSUANCE: Feb 8, 2016 Status/Permit No. 812313

NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Mar 14, 2016

Address: Railroad Commission of Texas

ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit  
P. O. Box 12967

Austin, Texas 78711-2967

Fax: (512) 463-6780

E m a i l :  
SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the O'BENCO, INC., [RRC Operator No. 617512] has made

application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission

Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the

DISTANCE BETWEEN WELLS requirement for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 518, Bk. 97, H&TC RR

CO / JONES, D A Survey, A-1172, FLUVANNA Field, BORDEN County, being 3 miles NW direction

from FLUVANNA, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may

be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the

deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons

include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and

tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a

hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A

Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear

at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the

application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of

evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing

procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848.

If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth

in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37

(512)463-6751.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST

BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR

E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Mar 14, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED

WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE

**GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.**

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: FLUVANNA

Lease/Unit Name :  
FLUVANNA (MISSISSIPPIAN) UNIT

Lease/Unit Well No. : 108H  
Lease/Unit Acres : 1320.0

Nearest Lease Line (ft) :  
660.0

Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :  
1107.0

Lease Lines : 620.0 F S L,  
509.0 F W L

Survey Lines : 620.0 F S L,  
509.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Rule 37 Case No. 0299597  
(Dist. 8A) Page 1

Lateral: TH1  
Penetration Point Location

Lease Lines: 860.0 F W L  
660.0 F S L

Terminus Location  
BH County: BORDEN

Section: 535 Block: 97 Abstract: 945

Survey: H&TC RR CO / JONES, D A

Lease Lines: 860.0 F W L  
660.0 F N L

Survey Lines: 860.0 F W L  
660.0 F N L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

FLUVANNA : OIL Special Rules 660/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 8200 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's

representative, Heather Haynes, at (318)8658568, x118.

The  
Borden  
Star

### TIMES AND DATES FOR EARLY VOTING FOR THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

EARLY VOTING COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

BORDEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

117 E. Wasson, Gail, TX 79738

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16 – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2016**

**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM AND 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2016 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2016**

**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM AND 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

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



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## Borden County ISD Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting  
Minutes – January 18, 2016

The Board of Trustees of the Borden County Independent School District of Gail, Texas, met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Borden County I.S.D. Board members present were John Anderson, Joel Dennis, Todd Holbrooks, Carol Lewis, Randy Hensley and Mike Valentine. Billy Collins, Superintendent, Bart McMeans, Principal, and Dale Newberry of Newberry Leonard Horton and Barrington were also present.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by John Anderson.

2. There was no community input.

3. A motion was made by Joel Dennis and seconded by Randy Hensley to approve the 2014-2015 Audit Report presented by Dale Newberry. The motion passed unanimously.

4. A motion was made by Joel Dennis and seconded by Todd Holbrooks to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2015 board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

5. A motion was made by Mike Valentine and seconded by Carol Lewis to approve the January 2016 bills. The motion carried unanimously.

6. A motion was made by Randy Hensley and seconded by Joel Dennis to set the February board meeting on Mon-

day, February 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

7. A motion was made by Mike Valentine and seconded by Todd Holbrooks to approve the 2015-2016 District Improvement Plan and Academic Excellence Indicator Report. The motion carried unanimously.

8. No action was taken regarding the 2016 senior trip.

9. The board entered closed session under Section 551.074 of the Texas Education Code to discuss "Professional Personnel – Superintendent & Superintendent's Contract" at 8:47 and returned to open session at 8:55 P.M. A motion was made by Randy Hensley and seconded by Carol Lewis to extend the superintendent contract of Billy Collins for an additional year. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Mr. Collins gave a year to date financial report and enrollment of 246. Several maintenance items regarding facilities repair were discussed. A motion was made by Todd Holbrooks and seconded by Randy Hensley to approve the superintendent's report. The motion carried unanimously.

11. A motion was made by Mike Valentine and seconded by Todd Holbrooks to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

## Texas Stories

A Showcase of the Texas Spirit  
Tumbleweed Smith

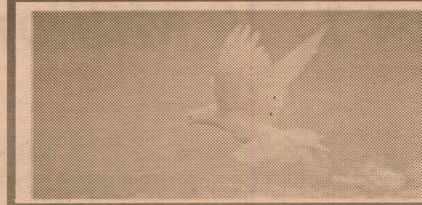
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he wanted to go to Britain was to visit Wimbledon. The closer we got to the place, the more Caleb's disposition changed. He seemed to be in a trance. We saw the many grass courts, some under artificial sunlight to encourage growth. Sometimes the sun doesn't shine in England. Caleb borrowed my camera and took pictures all over the complex.

At the museum in Wimbledon, Caleb stared at the

trophies. One held the previous year's trophy with the winner's name on it. Caleb stood at that trophy case for sometime and we noticed his finger was moving across it. He spelled out Caleb Lewis 2030.

*Tumbleweed Smith is never desperate for an interview, but he's always looking for a good story. Contact him at [ts@tumbleweedsmith.com](mailto:ts@tumbleweedsmith.com).*



## Dare to Live Without Limits

By Bryan Golden

### One Day At A Time

"The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time." — Abraham Lincoln

"One day at a time- this is enough. Do not look back and grieve over the past, for it is gone; and do not be troubled about the future, for it has not yet come. Live in the present, and make it so beautiful that it will be worth remembering." — Ida Scott Taylor

You are upset with something that happened yesterday. You're worried about the future. You feel overwhelmed with how much you have to do. There are problems you don't know how to handle. You have to make some decisions and you are not sure what to do.

All of these situations have a cumulative effect, resulting in lots of anxiety. So what can you do? Is there a way for you to make life more manageable, especially when things seem to be spiraling out of control?

When you feel overloaded, you are trying to deal with too much at once. Things are much more manageable when you break them down into separate components. When you try to handle everything at once, you often don't know what to do first and so you can wind up doing nothing at all.

It's as if you are attempting to lift a large basket filled with bricks. It is just too heavy. You will exhaust yourself trying to move it. Lifting one brick at a time however is easily manageable. Using this approach, you can easily move all the bricks.

So, now let's remove some bricks from your basket. Begin with the bricks that contain any issues from the past. The past is over. It cannot be changed. You can learn from the past but you can't alter it. The past is a seminar you have taken. Make note of what worked and what didn't. You don't want to repeat the same mistakes. You do want to replicate successes.

The next bricks to eliminate are those that involve worries about the future. Worry is a complete waste of time and

energy. You will never achieve anything by worrying. To make matters worse, any time spent worrying takes away from the time you have available for dealing with today.

Once you have removed the bricks of the past and the bricks of the future, your load will be substantially lightened. Now you can concentrate on the bricks for today. You can divide the remaining bricks into two categories: those issues you have no control over and those things you can have an impact on. Remove all of the bricks that you have no control over.

Next, are there any problems that you can't resolve today? If so, take them out of the basket. Are there any decisions that don't have to be made today? Again, if yes, remove them from your basket. The only bricks left in your basket are those that you can deal with today.

Now your load has been drastically reduced and is much more manageable. You should feel better already. All

of your efforts can be focused on those items that require immediate attention today. Only give your attention to those bricks that remain. Your main objective is to get through today.

The way you respond to the remaining bricks is by making decisions and taking action. Worrying about today is just as pointless as worrying about the future. Remember, either take action or let it go.

Get into the habit of dealing with one day at a time. You will be less stressed, a better problem solver, and more productive. Each day is a new beginning with unlimited possibilities.

**NOW AVAILABLE:** "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit [www.BryanGolden.com](http://www.BryanGolden.com) or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at [bryan@columnist.com](mailto:bryan@columnist.com) or write him c/o this paper. © 2008 Bryan Golden

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# USDA, Partners to Invest \$720 Million Conservation Projects...

(Continued from Pg. 1)

reducing regulatory pressure on the bases by improving habitat for at-risk species on private lands.

Later today, Vilsack plans to travel to Moncks Corner, S.C., to announce the launch of the African American Forest Restoration and Retention project, also led by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. For this project, USDA is investing \$1.6 million, to be matched by around \$2 million from six partners. The project will support landowners through direct provision of forestry, land tenure and technical services as well as the brokering of services from other private and government providers including forestry commissions, consulting foresters, extension services and conservation organizations.

"We put out a call for innovative and results-focused projects that will deliver the most conservation impact," Vilsack said. "Our partners answered with creative, locally-led approaches to help producers support their ongoing business operations and address natural resource challenges in their communities and across the nation."

Water quality and drought are dominant themes in this year's RCPP project list with 45 of the 84 projects focusing on water resource concerns.

"From the harmful impact of algal bloom in the Great Lakes region to the devastating effects of persistent drought in California, RCPP helps private landowners and producers develop solutions that work for them and meet the needs of their communities and local wildlife," Vilsack said. "It's encouraging to see so much interest in the program."

USDA is committed to invest \$1.2 billion in RCPP partnerships over the life of the 2014 Farm Bill. Today's announcement brings the current USDA commitment to almost \$600 million invested in 199 partner-led projects, leveraging an additional \$900 million for conservation activities in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.


USDA invested \$370 million in 115 high impact RCPP projects during 2015. In New Mexico, a RCPP project with the Interstate Stream Commission and an acequia—a local communal irrigation system—has addressed long-standing infrastructure failures to significantly reduce water needs by improving irrigation efficiency. In Oregon, removal of

encroaching juniper was part of the West-wide private lands conservation effort that helped obviate the need to list the Greater sage-grouse on the endangered species list.

See the full list of 2016 projects.

Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working

with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect over 400 million acres nationwide, boosting soil and air quality, cleaning and conserving water and enhancing wildlife habitat. For an interactive look at USDA's work in conservation and forestry over the course of this Administration, visit <http://medium.com/usda-results>.



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# FEBRUARY 2016

## National FFA Week 22-26

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 JH BB @ Ira-4:00  OAP Practice-6:30	2 BB vs. Hermleigh-5:00	3	4 Borden County JV BB Tournament  OAP Practice-6:30	5 Boys BB vs. Loraine-5:00	6 Borden County JV BB Tournament
7	8 OAP Practice-6:30	9 BB @ Ira-5:00	10	11 JV Boys BB @ Midessa-6:00  OAP Practice-6:30	12 Boys BB vs. Highland-5:00	13 UIL Practice Meet @ Idalou
14 	15 Holiday  OAP Practice-6:30	16 Boys BB @ Westbrook-5:00	17	18 District Speech Tournament @ TTU  Computer Science Contest @ Wink OAP Practice-6:30	19 End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Six Weeks  District Speech Tournament @ TTU	20 District Speech Tournament @ TTU  Freshman UIL Practice Meet @ Wink
21	22 Beginning of 5 <sup>th</sup> Six Weeks OAP Practice-6:30	23	24	25 OAP Practice-6:30	26	27 UIL Speech Tournament @ Lubbock Cooper
28	29 OAP Festival @ WTC					