

The Borden Star

Borden ★ Dawson ★ Garza ★ Howard ★ Lynn ★ Scurry

Volume XXXVI

March 18, 2015

USDA Reminds Farmers of 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

The 2014 Farm Bill implements a change that requires farmers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 certification form must be on file with the FSA. The Risk Management Agency (RMA), through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), manages the federal crop insurance program that provides the modern farm safety net for American farmers and ranchers.

Since enactment of the 1985 Farm Bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster, and con-

servation programs has been linked to compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and NRCS. This includes most financial assistance such as the new price and revenue protection programs, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Livestock Disaster Assistance programs and Marketing Assistance Loans and most programs implemented by FSA. It also includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and other conserva-

tion programs implemented by NRCS.

Many FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs already have implemented this requirement and therefore most producers should already have an AD-1026 form on file for their associated lands. If an AD-1026 form has not been filed or is incomplete, then farmers are reminded of the deadline of June 1, 2015.

When a farmer completes and submits the AD-1026 certification form, FSA and NRCS staff will review the associated farm records and outline any additional actions that may be required to meet the required compliance with the conservation compliance provisions.

FSA recently released a revised form AD-1026, which is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov. USDA will publish a rule later this year that will provide details outlining the connection of conservation compliance with crop insurance premium support. Producers can also contact their local USDA Service Center for information. A listing of service center locations is available at offices.usda.gov



Dare to Live Without Limits

By Bryan Golden

Staying Positive

A positive state of mind provides you with many benefits. Contrast this with the fact that a negative outlook not only has no benefits, it carries numerous detriments. In spite of the incontrovertible benefits of a positive attitude, maintaining it can be a challenge.

Each day, you will usually experience more negative influences than positive. Just as the light from a flashlight will become dim over time, your positive energy will be drained by exposure to negative input. Additionally, having to deal with obstacles on a regular basis can be exhausting as well.

In order to keep a flashlight working, it has to be recharged. Your attitude has the same requirement. You have to keep rejuvenating your positive outlook. Otherwise, your attitude will degrade as negative influences seep in.

When leaving your home, you are exposed to many negative people and situations. While home, you can experience negative influences, perhaps from other people in your household.

Even the most positive, motivated, and upbeat individuals must recharge regularly in order to stay positive. Everyone gets worn down and drained by

negative energy. Don't worry if you're in a slump at the end of the day. Just take corrective action with a positive recharge.

Staying positive involves two strategies. First, whenever possible, limit your exposure to the negative. You have more control over this aspect of your day than you might realize. Who you spend your free time with, what you talk about, the things you read, the programs you watch on TV, and the movies you go to see, are up to you.

For example, do you watch the morning news while you are getting ready for work? If you do, you are not alone. The problem with the news is that it's not good news. Regardless of what is happening in the world, the news brings you all that is bad. By the time you leave your home, you mind has been pumped full of all that is wrong with life. So, you are starting your day with your mental battery already partially discharged.

Instead of turning on the news, put on some relaxing music you enjoy. There are plenty of opportunities to stay informed without having to become drained. You might even find the morning a good time to spend some additional time talk-

(Continued to Pg. 4)



MEMBER

2015

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Grady Wildcats Bring Coyotes Basketball Season to End

By Coach Edwards

The Borden County Coyotes basketball season came to an end at the hands of the Grady Wildcats in the regional quarter-final round in Lamesa. Red hot shooting by the Wildcats, including 16 buckets from behind the arc, helped to a 68-41 victory.

The Coyotes had a hard time scoring putting up single digit points in the first and third quarters. The Wildcats outscored Borden 37-22 in the first half. Grady extended its lead in the third period outscoring the Coyotes 15-7. In the fourth quarter, the Wildcats outscored Borden 17-12. Fifteen points were five, three point field goals.

"Those guys came out firing and the bad thing is the ball was going in," Coach Edwards

stated. "I thought we competed hard from buzzer to buzzer. But when a team is knocking down shots that deep from behind the arc, all you do is tap on the back and tell them nice shot."

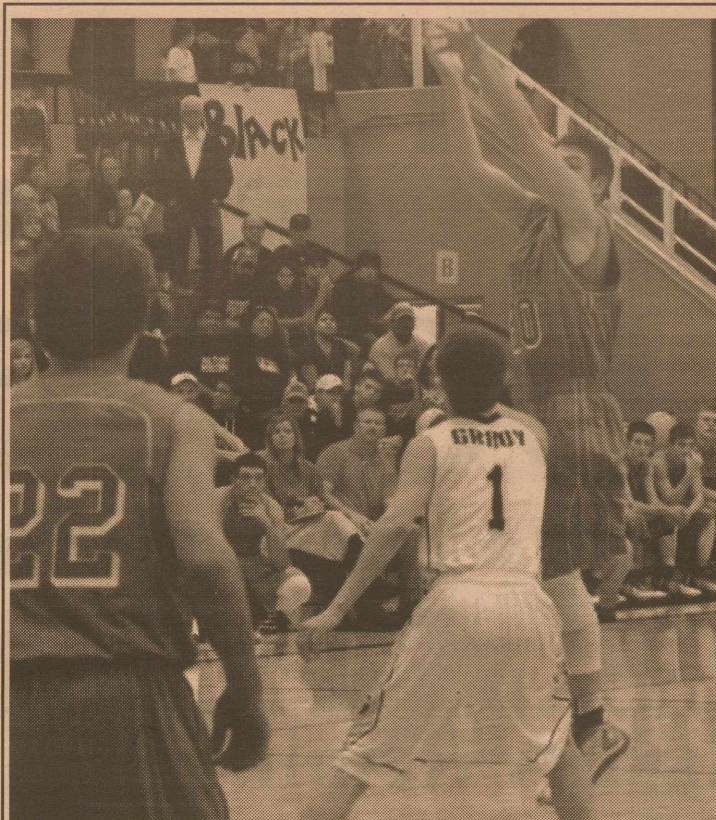
Grady went on the win the regional tournament defeating Jayton and Menard. The Wildcats beat Calvert in the state semi-finals before bowing out to Texline in the state championship game.

"We got beat by the state runner-up in the third round of the playoffs," stated Coach Edwards. "We had a wonderful season. We definitely have something to build on. I'm very proud of our team."

Trace Richey finished the night with 11 points followed by Hunter Jones with 10

points. Sean Tucker contributed seven points while Corbin Summers knocked in five points. Riley Herridge chipped in four points and Diego Bernal scored two points. Korbin Martinez and Noah Morales finished with a point.

Borden finished the season as Area Champions with a 22-9 overall record.



Borden Coyote, Trace Richey manages to make a shot and score for the Coyotes despite heavy defense from the Grady Wildcats. The game ended the Coyotes basketball season with Grady defeating Borden County 68-41. Great season Coyotes!

TPA MEMBER 2015

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

No Break for the Coyotes as Baseball Season Begins

By Coach Edwards

Dust off the glove, take a few swings, ready or not baseball is here. The Borden Coyotes literally ran off the basketball court and onto the baseball diamond with little practice to be had. And they have already played a tournament and a district game.

The Coyotes defeated Valley 20-1, defeated Idalou JV 8-0, lost to O'Donnell 4-2, and won the 2015 Borden County Baseball Tournament. Borden, Idalou JV, and O'Donnell all finished with a 2-1 record, but the Coyotes earned the championship with a point differentiation tie breaker.

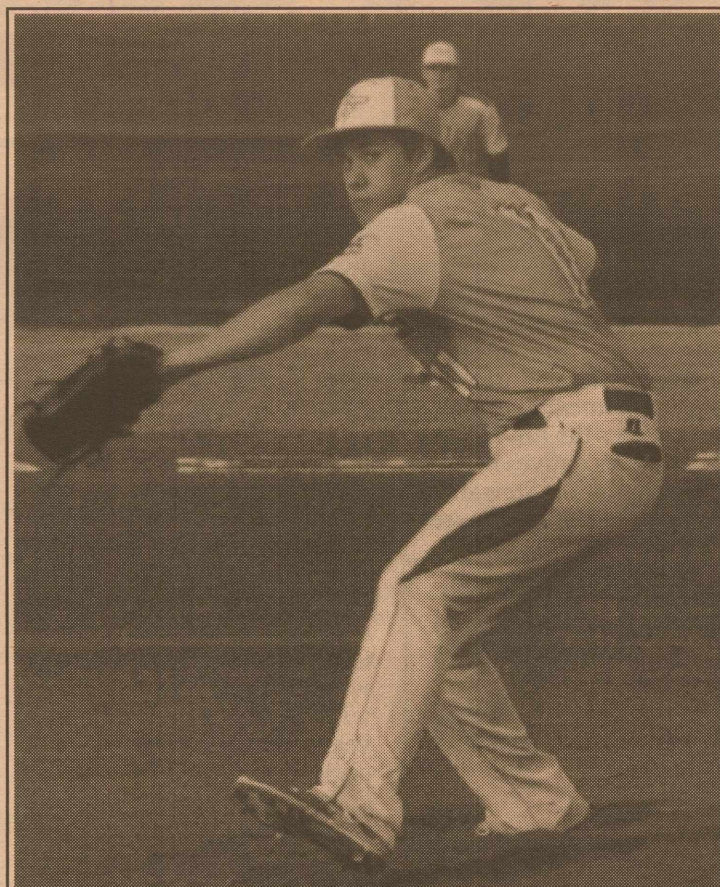
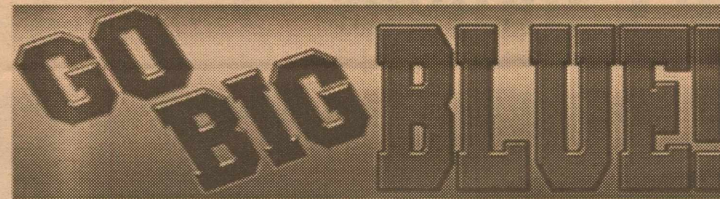
At the end of spring break, Borden hosted the Forsan Buffaloes in district 6-A action. The Coyotes led 2-1 through the first three innings, but the Buffaloes got rolling in the fourth scoring 6 runs on a couple of Borden errors. Forsan scored two runs in the

sixth and two more in the seventh to win the contest, 11-2.

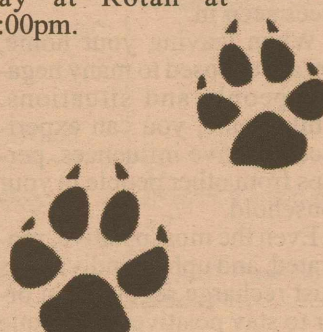
Hunter Jones pitched 3 1/3 innings striking out two and walking four. Jones was tabbed with the loss. Mason Coor pitched 3 2/3 innings striking out five and walking 1.

Coor had a double and a run scored. Jones had a double, a run scored, and a rbi. Braxton Coor had a single.

The Coyotes will host Post in a non-district game on Tuesday and resume district on Friday at Rotan at 5:00pm.



Hurrikane Richter pitches to a Forsan batter during their match against the Buffaloes.



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Thought for the Day

Without God, we have the ability to manufacture character, but it's counterfeit and cheap. We can produce love, but it's conditional; happiness, but it's temporary; peace, but it's circumstantial.

-Jeff Kinley

Borden County ISD Board Meeting

Regular Board Meeting - February 12, 2015

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, Mike Valentine, Randy Hensley, Carol Lewis, and Dennis Poole. Billy Collins, Bart McMeans, DeAnn Brady and Debi Parks were also in attendance.

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

2. There was community input from DeAnn Brady and Debi Parks.

3. A motion was made by Carol Lewis and seconded by Joel Dennis to approve the minutes of the January 6th, 2015, January 13th, 2015, January 14th, 2015, and January 21st, 2015 board meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

4. A motion was made by Mike Valentine and seconded by Randy Hensley to approve the January 2015, and February 2015 bills. The motion carried unanimously.

5. A motion was made by Joel Dennis and seconded by Carol Lewis to employ Billy Collins as superintendent of Borden County ISD. Copy of contract agreement is attached to minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. A motion was made by Mike Valentine and seconded by Randy Hensley to employ Jimmy Thomas as consultant for BCISD at a rate of \$3000/month. Voting for the motion were Joel Dennis, Mike Valentine, Randy Hensley and John Anderson. Voting against the motion were Dennis Poole, Carol Lewis and Todd Holbrooks.

7. A motion was made by Joel Dennis and seconded by Todd Holbrooks to set the next regular board meeting for March 23rd, at 7:00 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.

8. A motion was made by Carol Lewis and seconded by Mike Valentine to approve the Legal Services Retainer Agreement with Walsh, Anderson,

Brown, Gallegos, and Green, P.C. The motion carried unanimously.

9. A motion was made by Randy Hensley and seconded by Joel Dennis for Approve the 2014-2015 BCISD District Improvement Plan and Academic Excellence Indicator Report.


10. A motion was made by Mike Valentine and seconded by Todd Holbrooks to extend a new two-year contract to Bart McMeans with an increase in salary of \$300/month.

11. A motion was made by Carol Lewis and seconded by Todd Holbrooks to approve the 2015-2016 textbook adoptions.

12. A motion was made by Dennis Poole and seconded by Joel Dennis to approve the superintendent's report: Enrollment Report, Financial Report, Student Failure and Honor Roll Report. The motion carried unanimously.

13. A motion was made by Carol Lewis and seconded by Randy Hensley to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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**Annual Booster Club
Egg Hunt**

Friday, April 03, 2015
11:00am at the Pavilion
Ages 5 and under

**Bring your baskets and
come hunt eggs with the
Easter Bunny**
Refreshments to follow

School Lunch Menu

Mar. 16-20, 2015

**Menu subject to
change**

Monday - Breakfast:
Pancake Pup & Yogurt,
Fruit Juice, Fruit and Milk.
Lunch: Pizza, Baby Carrots
w/Ranch, Fruit and Milk.

Tuesday - Breakfast:
French Toast & Bacon,
Fruit Juice, Fruit, Milk.
Lunch: Philly Chees Steak
Sandwich, Potato Rounds,
Veggie Cup, Fresh Fruit,
Carnival Cookie (9-12
grade only) and Milk.

Wednesday - Breakfast:
Chicken & Biscuit, Fruit
Juice, Fruit and Milk.
Lunch: Chicken Nuggets,
Mac & Cheese, Garden
Salad, Green Beans, Apple
Slices, Crispy Cereal Treat
and Milk.

Thursday - Breakfast:
Early Bird Sandwich, Fruit
Juice, Fruit and Milk.
Lunch: Texas Combo Bas-
ket, Charro Beans, Garden
Salad, Fruit and Milk.

Friday - Breakfast: Muf-
fin & Sausage, Fruit Juice,
Fruit and Milk. **Lunch:**
Chicken Fajita Salad, Span-
ish Rice (9-12 grade only),
Seasoned Corn, Baby Car-
rots, Peaches and Milk.

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lished weekly except Christmas and
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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION Heart and Home... 

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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Caring and Storing Out of Season Clothing

Now that Winter is winding down, we are thinking about cleaning and storing our Winter coats and clothing. Of course, in West Texas, we might need them in the middle of May, but we won't be needing them daily anymore. As we all know, a warm, cozy coat is a major item in a winter wardrobe budget. So, it makes good sense to keep this fashion investment looking good for as long as possible. The Soap and Detergent Association says that the key is proper care. Start by reading the care labels. It is a wise idea to do this before making a purchase. That way, one can be sure that care requirements and lifestyle are compatible. Once the purchase is made, read and follow the care label instructions. Treat stains immediately to keep them from setting in. Dry cleaning or washing washable Fall and Winter clothes before storing them during Summer months may eliminate the need to replace them next Fall. Seemingly clean clothes can have stains that set and darken with age. Once a stain has set, it usually is difficult – or impossible – to remove. Stains also can be an invitation to insects like silverfish, crickets, and roaches that will eat the fiber of the fabric to get to the food stain. Such insects may not eat all of the way through the garment like moths do, but the damage can be significant enough to make a garment unwearable. Insects also are attracted to starch used on some garments, including men's dress shirts and some jeans.

To protect clothing during the "off" season, follow these tips:

- Follow directions on clothing care labels; dry clean or wash and dry out-of-season clothing before storing.

- Remove clothing from

plastic dry-cleaning bags and transfer it to a garment bag or box that can breathe.

- Allow room between more than one item of clothing that is stored in the same garment bag or box. Crowding clothes can undo a professional press and increase the risk of insect damage if insects should damage nearby clothing.

- Newer vinyl or plastic boxes that have air holes for ventilation can be used to store clean sweaters, blouses, shirts and other items, such as winter gloves and scarves.

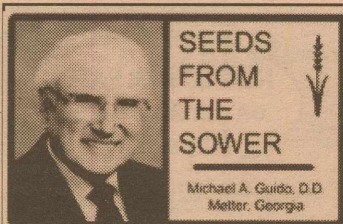
- Re-sealable, air-tight plastic containers are not recommended. Condensation within the containers may result in mold and mildew damage to contents or leave clothes with a musty odor.

- Store out-of-season clothing in an unused or little-used closet or on a shelf. Try not to stack storage boxes; items stored in the bottom box typically sustain the most damage. Storing out-of-season clothing in a basement can subject it to damage from mold and mildew. Attic heat also can "cook" clothing to the point where fibers become brittle and break.

- Mothballs are not recommended for several reasons. To prevent damage to clothing and other textiles, mothballs should be used in a sealed environment. Few of us can create such an environment in our homes. Also, mothballs are toxic to children and pets and their odor can be an issue for people with asthma or breathing sensitivities.

- A cedar chest or closet isn't 100 percent effective for avoiding pest damage, either.

While it's true that insects don't like the scent of cedar, clothing with food-based stains that is stored within cedar chest or closet still will attract insects. The natural oil in the wood that repels insects will



A father hurried to the church to drive his son home. Seeing a man at the door, he asked, "Is the sermon done yet?"

"No," he answered, "not yet."

How true - for we listen better than we live. The world's greatest misfortune isn't the lack of preaching, but of practicing.

There are three kinds of people. First, those who make no profession of Christianity.

Second, those who profess it but don't practice it.

Third, those who profess it, and practice it.

Into which class are you?

No, the sermon isn't done until you translate the Bible into your behavior. Start doing it now, won't you?

stain clothing or other textile items – such as quilts and pillowcases – that come in contact with it. To maintain the effectiveness of a cedar chest or closet, the wood also needs to be sanded lightly periodically to keep the oil active.

Household items like mattress pads, blankets, and comforters also should be cleaned before storage. Following manufacturers' directions is advisable, especially when it comes to electric blankets, which generally cannot be dry cleaned or washed.

Whether it is long term or daily storage, avoid hanging a coat by its neck on a hook or coat rack. Use a padded hanger.

Quilts and other vintage textiles can require special care. For more information on caring for textiles and clothing, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Borden County office.

Source: *The Soap and Detergent Association's Cleanliness Facts Newsletter* and *Kansas State Research and Extension*

Dare to Live...

(Continued from Pg. 1)

ing with your family.

Your commute to and from work provides an excellent opportunity to recharge. If you drive, listen to recorded motivational books or inspirational biographies. If you take mass transit or walk, you can use a portable device to listen to the same type of material. You can also listen to educational material to learn new skills or broaden your existing knowledge.

Lunch with coworkers can be draining whenever the time is used to complain. Listening to other people gripe about their problems certainly won't make you feel good. You may be friends with the people you work with, but you don't have to listen to their whining. Excuse yourself and do something else more pleasant. Read, go for a walk, or even

go out to your car and listen to music or an audio book.

In the evening, as in the morning, avoid immersing yourself in the day's news. If you end your day filling your mind with distressing input, how do you think you will feel as you go to sleep?


It's worth the effort to stay positive. Be aware of what you are exposing your mind to. Replace negative influences with positive ones. Recharging is not something to be done occasionally, you must do it daily.

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



Borden County ISD and Community Welcomes New Superintendent



Billy Collins (left), new Borden County ISD Superintendent, is welcomed to the community by Chad Beavers of Fluvanna. A Meet and Greet was held Tuesday evening for the Collins family. Mr. Collins and wife, Christi have two children, Trent an eighth grader and Kassi a fourth grader.



AgriLIFE EXTENSION
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Borden County 4-H News


Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Robotics Project

We will meet Monday, March 23rd from 12:30-2:00 and Wednesday, March 25th from 3:45-5:00 in the Extension Office.

Photography Project

County entries for Junior and Intermediate ages are due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23rd. Categories and more information about photos can be found at: <http://d24-h.tamu.edu/events/photography/> Please bring a quality 4X6 print of the photo(s) you wish to enter and a completed label for each entry (<http://2vr21m27yxhl1qzezqvn4z8l.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/files/2010/06/2015-Photography-Label-User-Friendly.pdf>). You do NOT have to mount your photos – we will do that for those advancing to District.

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Obituary

Donna Simer-Miller

1933 - 2015

Donna Ellen Simer-Miller (Nonni), 58, passed away at 8:30 pm on March 5, 2015 in Abilene, TX, surrounded by her family after a lengthy hospital stay. She was born on August 22, 1956 to Eddie and Pearl Ellen Simer in Big Spring, Tx.

Donna grew up in Borden County and attended Gail High School. She was the recipient of many accolades, including homecoming queen, most beautiful, and head cheerleader. Throughout the years, she has maintained many close relationships with her classmates.

Donna wore many hats. She was very talented and creative. She managed C&G Quickstop, owned and operated Forsan Cafe for many years, and worked with her brother, Gary, at Ponderosa Nursery. Her superior work ethic and dedication to others guided her in both her professional and personal life. She will always be remembered by her smile and infectious laughter.

Donna met Paul Miller in 1988. They later married and built a life together in Big Spring. They loved taking family vacations, spending time with friends and family, enjoying their variety of pets, and loving on their grandchildren. Donna had many interests. She was a master gardener, loved to bake, travel, and go fishing. Making her famous Christmas candy is a skill she passed down to those she loved. While her interests kept her busy, she lived for time spent with her family. Her pride and joy were her children, grandchildren, brothers and sister, nieces and nephews, and cousins. She always looked forward to family vacations and her yearly trips to Vegas with her sister-in-law.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents Marion Edward and Pearl Ellen Simer. She is survived by her husband Paul Miller of Big Spring; her son Rodney Robertson and wife Michele of Abilene; her son Gary Simer and wife Julie of Abilene; brother Gary Simer and wife

Judy of Big Spring; her brother Larry Simer and wife Patsy of Stanton; and sister Becky Overby and partner Ami of Denton. Additionally, her 7 grandchildren: Candyce, Mica, Dalton, Avery, Braydon, Grace, and Brevynn all of Abilene and numerous nieces and nephews.

Donna's memorial service was on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 4pm at First Christian Church of Big Spring.



MEMBER 2015
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Town Hall Meeting for Rep. Burrows

A town hall meeting for Rep. Dustin Burrows will be held on Saturday, March 21st from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Worsham High School Auditorium in Snyder located at 3801 Austin.

The purpose for the meeting is for Rep. Burrows to give

a legislative update on issues that will be debated and voted on this session, to have face time with the people in the district and have a question and answer time for those who have issues and concerns that need to be addressed.



Got News?

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Comptroller's Office Encourages Homeowners to Take Advantage of Homestead Exemptions

One of the easiest ways a homeowner can lower his or her property tax bill in 2015 is to file a homestead exemption. A homestead is generally the house and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year.

Homestead exemptions reduce the appraised value of your home and, as a result, lower your property taxes. To apply for an exemption on your residence homestead, contact the Borden County Appraisal District.

Available homestead exemptions include:

• **School taxes:** All homeowners may receive a \$15,000 homestead exemption for school taxes.

• **County taxes:** If a county collects a special tax for farm-to-market roads or flood control, a homeowner may receive a \$3,000 homestead exemption for this tax.

• **Age and disability exemptions:** Individuals 65 or older or disabled as defined by law may qualify for a \$10,000 homestead exemption for school taxes, in addition to the \$15,000 exemption available to all homeowners. Also, any taxing unit may offer a local optional exemption of at least \$3,000 for taxpayer's age 65 or older and/or disabled. Older or disabled homeowners do not need to own their homes on Jan. 1 to qualify for the \$10,000 homestead exemption. They qualify as soon as they turn 65 or become disabled.

• **Local option exemption:** Taxing units may offer a local option exemption based on a percentage of a home's appraised value. Any taxing unit can exempt up to 20 percent of the value of each qualified homestead. No matter what percentage of value the taxing unit adopts, the dollar value of the exemption must be at least \$5,000.

• **Partial exemption for**

disabled veterans: Texas 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 the percentage of service-connected disability.

• **100 Percent Residence Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans:** A disabled veteran who receives from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (1) 100 percent disability compensation due to a service-connected disability; and (2) a rating of 100 percent disabled or of individual unemployment is entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. Surviving spouses are also eligible upon the

veteran's death with certain restrictions. The residence homestead application must be filed if this exemption is claimed.

• **Surviving Spouses of Members of the U.S. Armed Services Killed in Action:** The surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. armed services who is killed in action is allowed a total (100 percent) property tax exemption on his or her residence homestead if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the armed services member.

For more details on homestead exemptions, contact the Borden County Appraisal District at PO BOX 298 Gail, TX 79738 or 806-756-4484. The homestead exemption application is available online at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/50-114.pdf>.

THANK
YOU
FOR
READING
THE
BORDEN
STAR

If you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income, you must file a rendition with the Borden County Appraisal District by April 15, 2015.

A rendition is a report that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year. 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.

"The appraisal district may use the information submitted in the rendition to set property values," said Tracy Cooley.

You can also file a report of decreased value to notify the

Public Notice

Notice of Drinking Water Fluoride Violation

The Texas Commission On Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the Borden County Water System that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for FLUORIDE. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL FLUORIDE at 4.0 mg/L, and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for FLUORIDE indicates a compliance value in quarter four, 2014 of 5.09 mg/L for EP001.

This is not an emergency. However, some people who drink water containing FLUORIDE in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis,

may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

An alternate source of water should be provided to the affected population, which consists of children less than nine years old. The alternate water should be used for drinking and cooking only. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue: water vouchers are available to families with children 14 years of age or younger, also we are working to correct the problem by investigating the possibility of connecting to another system.

For further information contact the County Judge's Office, Borden County Courthouse, 117 E. Wasson, Gail, Texas 79738, phone 806/756-4391

Ross D. Sharp, County Judge
Public Water System ID # 0170010
P.O. Box 156
Gail, Texas 79738

Borden County Appraisal District Reminds Businesses to Render Their Taxable Property by April 15

appraisal district of significant depreciation of your property. "For example, if your property was damaged by a storm, flood or fire last year, you should file a report of decreased value. The appraisal district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2015," said Cooley

The last day to file a rendition or report of decreased value is April 15, 2015. If a rendition is filed late, incomplete or not at all; a 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed. Property owners who need more time to file their renditions may file a written request with the chief appraiser on or before April 15 to receive an automatic extension to May 15 or the next

business day. The chief appraiser may also grant an additional 15 days after the postponed deadline, if necessary.

For more information about rendering property, deadline extensions, penalties and rendition forms, taxpayers may contact the Borden County Appraisal District at PO Box 298 Gail, TX 79738 or 806-756-4484. Information is also available from the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.



Texas Stories

A Showcase of the Texas Spirit
Tumbleweed Smith

The Little Creamery in Brenham

oe Robertson has been with Blue Bell Creameries in Brenham twenty-nine years. He started out as a driver-salesman in Dallas. "I drove a Blue Bell truck for seven years and just moved on up," he says. Joe now manages the company's advertising and public relations. He knows Blue Bell.

"We have between fifty and sixty flavors out at any given time and every year we put out five to six new flavors. We get those ideas from all kinds of places. Our consumers of course have ideas for us and they send those to us. They catch our drivers in the stores and say, 'I've got an idea for you.' Employees of course have ideas. Then you have a research and development department. So we'll get two of three hundred ideas and give them to R & D. They work thru it and get about fifteen to twenty samples that we pass out internally, decide on five or six and those are the ones that will be out next year."

I asked Joe if there are any volunteer testers. He said most of them are employees. "But everyone who visits ask for an application to be a tester."

Joe's assistant, Jenny Van Dorf, likes the newest Blue Bell flavors that came out last year for the holidays. "We actually have five of them," she says. "Returning from years past are Peppermint, Christmas Cookies, Spiced Pumpkin Pecan and Fudge Divinity. The new one is Peppermint Bark. Our Peppermint has peppermint candies in it and has more of the candy mint taste. The Peppermint Bark has dark and white chocolate chunks with crushed peppermint in it. I really like it. I can't stop eating

that one."

They have a saying around Blue Bell: "We eat all we can and sell the rest." The lunchroom has a freezer box filled with ice cream. "We're welcome to eat out of that from the time we arrive until the time we leave."

Of all Blue Bell's sixty flavors, the best seller is Homemade Vanilla. "That was created in 1969," says Jenny. "We wanted to capture that homemade, hand-cranked taste."

Blue Bell gets nearly a quarter of a million visitors every year from all over the world. "A lot of people will be in Houston wanting to know what to see, where to go and they'll send them to Brenham," says Joe. "They can see how we make the ice cream and enjoy some in our parlor where we keep more than thirty flavors on hand for visitors." The parlor is next to the gift shop.

Blue Bell is the third largest ice cream maker in the US and uses milk from sixty thousand cows every day. Blue Bell holds a sixty percent share of ice cream sales in Texas supermarkets. The Brenham Creamery Company opened in 1907 to make butter. The first ice cream was produced in 1911. The name was changed to Blue Bell Creameries in 1930. Blue Bell is a native Texas wildflower that grows around Brenham. The Kruse family has managed the business since 1919.

When Tumbleweed Smith isn't driving down some country lane in Texas looking for interesting, fun people to interview, he stays with his wife Susan in Big Spring. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com



Got News?

Mail to:

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Gail, Tx. 79738

Email:

kdean@bcisd.net

or call

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ext. 275



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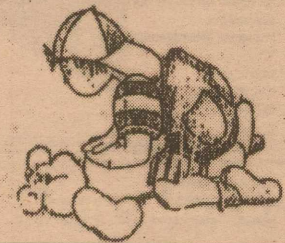
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SPRING

TEXAS A&M
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into Simple...

You are invited to join us on **Tuesday, March 24th** at 6:00 p.m. in the Borden County Event Center for a Spring program focusing on **simplifying** your life through meal planning, budgeting and home organization.

Enjoy a sampling of a few simple recipes and make an easy take-home project (for even the least creative people).

Cost is \$15 per person (will cover supplies and recipe/idea booklet).

Please **RSVP by noon on Monday, March 23rd** (to allow for enough supplies) to (806)756-4336, via Facebook or julie.smith@agnet.tamu.edu



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service—Borden County

140 East Wilbourn or P.O. Box 155 Gail, TX 79738

Phone: 806-756-4336 Fax: 806-756-4486

<http://borden.agrilife.org>

julie.smith@agnet.tamu.edu

Facebook page: Borden County Extension and 4-H

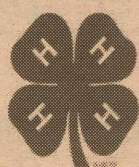
We will seek to provide all reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any Extension program. We request that you contact your Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office as soon as possible to advise if you require auxiliary aid.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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Borden Star



Borden County 4-H

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31	Houston Livestock Show: March 10-21				

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Borden County

140 East Wilbourn (brown bldg behind courthouse)
P.O. Box 155
Call, TX 79738

Phone: 806-756-4336
Fax: 806-756-4486

http://borden.agrilife.org

Facebook: Borden County Extension and 4-H
Instagram: @bordencounty4h

Text updates:
text @bordens4h
to (409)2774596

County Extension Agents

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EC - Event Center
EO - Extension Office
CH - Courthouse
AF - Ag Farm
S - School

3:45-5:00 Clothing Project (EO)

3:45-5:00 Robotics Project (EO)

4:00-5:00 Photography Project (EO)

12:00-1:00 4-H Council meeting during lunch (S)

3:45-5:00 Clothing Project (EO)

3:45-5:00 Robotics Project (EO)

6:00 Spring into Simple program (EC)

6:00 Photography entries due by 5

6:00 Spring into Simple program (EC)

3:45-5:00 Robotics Project (EO)

6:00 County Fashion Show (EC)

6:00-7:30 4-H Meeting (EC)



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MARCH 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Boys BB Regional Quarterfinal Game vs. Grady @ Lamesa-6:30	4	5 BC Baseball Tourney	6 Wind Energy HS Relays @ Hermleigh	7 BC Baseball Tourney
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins	9 OAP Practice-6:00	10 OAP Festival @ Ropes	11	12 Wind Energy JH Relays @ Hermleigh	13 Early Release-12:30 Progress Reports	14 UIL Meet @ Plains
SPRING BREAK						
15	16 OAP Practice-6:00	17 Baseball vs. Post-5:00	18	19 Lions JH Relays @ Roby	20 Lions HS Relays @ Roby	21 *Baseball @ Rotan-12:00
22	23 Early Release-12:00 HS District UIL @ BC OAP Practice-6:00	24 *Baseball vs. Westbrook-3:00	25 Rolling Plains JH Relays @ Jayton	26 District OAP @ Westbrook	27 Rolling Plains HS Relays @ Jayton	28 *Baseball @ Roby-5:00
29	30 STAAR Writing grades 4,7 EOC-English I *Baseball vs. Ira-5:00 OAP Practice-6:00	31 STAAR Writing grades 4,7 STAAR Reading grades 5,8				