

2008 Big Bend Scholarship Winners

Jessica Casper is a senior at Connell High School. She is a member of FFA, Honor Society, FBLA and Spirit Club. She played four years of basketball, the last two for the state tournament 1A Connell girls' basketball team. She is on the track team, where she excels as a hurdler. During her school career, Jessica has placed at state five times in two events. She was a member of the distance medley relay team that set a school record.

She participated in soccer for one year, cross country for one year and cheer for two years.

Jessica was a 2007 North Franklin Junior Miss finalist and Junior Miss court representative. She has been on the superintendent's and principal's lists as an outstanding student.

She raised grand champion swine in her years with 4-H, selling 19 hogs she raised and trained. She has been a 4-H Club president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. She is an associated student body leader and a member of the Sweetheart's Dance Committee.

She has been Laurels 2nd counselor and MiaMaid president at her church.

Jessica worked for Northwest Tart Cherry and for C&H Custom Harvesting during the summer as a tractor driver. She has a 3.75 grade point average and plans to study nursing at Brigham Young University, Idaho.

She is the daughter of Brad and Sanette Casper.



From left, Erika Rattray, Erik D. Hille and Jessica Casper.

Erika Rattray is a senior at Othello High School. She is a member of Honor Society, FFA, the Barracuda Swim Team, Way-Out 4-H Club—serving as president and vice president—and the Othello Presbyterian Youth Group.

Her main 4-H and FFA project was raising swine. She has raised grand champion market, and fitting and showing hogs.

She is a four-year participant on the soccer and golf teams.

Erika received the Masonic Junior Academic Achievement award and was Academic State Golf Champion and earned the Academic Achievement Award for 2007.

She is treasurer for the Class of 2008 and Honor Society, and has been captain of the girls' varsity golf team since 2006.

Erika worked as a lifeguard at the Othello Community Pool and the Moses Lake Aquatic Center. She was a vacation Bible school teacher, and worked on the family farm as a peach packer, box washer and tractor driver, among other tasks.

Erika plans to earn a business degree from Washington State University and own her own busi-

ness. She earned a 3.82 grade point average. She is the daughter of George and Kristy Rattray.

Erik D. Hille is a senior at Ritzville High School. He is a member of the Red 'R' Club, Honor Society, FFA, band and the Knowledge Bowl team. He was a team captain for the Bronco football team and is on the track and field team. Last year, he placed

in the top four in both discus and shotput at state.

He is project coordinator for "Make a Splash For Kids," raising money for swim passes and lessons for disadvantaged youth. He is project coordinator for Boxtops for Education, which aids the K-8 music department.

Last year, Erik represented Big Bend at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. He is a 2007 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards distinguished finalist, the Ritzville Area Chamber of Commerce Male Student of the Year and Coca-Cola Scholars Program 2007-08 semifinalist.

Erik has worked on a cereal/grain production FFA project during high school. He worked for Quad H and Greater Ralston Inc. as a farm hand and harvest truck driver. He was a lifeguard at Ritzville Water Park.

He has earned a 4.0 grade point average and plans to attain an advanced degree in mechanical engineering, with a goal of a career in automotive design.

Erik is the son of Dan and Bobbie Sue Hille. ■