



THE CLARENDON Enterprise

03.01.2018

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THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

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Single Copy \$1.00

THIS WEEK

- 2 Area legislators are being targeted by a radical special interest group.
- 3 Clarendon Elementary students win the district UIL contest.
- 7 Lady Bulldogs win six games in softball last week.
- 8 And the Broncos basketball season comes to a close in Amarillo.

All this and much more as The Enterprise reports in this week's amazing edition!

Hedley ISD approves armed employees

Certain school personnel will be allowed to carry firearms at Hedley ISD following a vote of the school board last week.

Superintendent Terry Stevens said the school's decision came after several months of deliberations and research.

"We're not being cowboys or trying to be Rambo, we just want to protect these kids as best we can," Stevens said.

School officials said more than 170 Texas schools now arm employees to protect students in the wake of shootings across the country, but

Stevens said Hedley isn't making a knee-jerk decision.

"This came up three months ago during a board discussion of security, deadbolt locks, and other issues," Stevens said. "One of the board members asked if we had considered concealed carry. Everyone agreed they wanted to consider it."

Stevens then called other area schools, started discussions with the school's attorneys at the Underwood Law Firm, and met with Donley County Chief Deputy Randy Bond.

"This isn't anything new," Stevens said. "The Legislature has made

this possible. Doing nothing is not going to be good for this school, and the board knows that. These shootings happen in just a few minutes. We're sitting here on US 287, twenty miles from the county seat, and law enforcement isn't always necessarily nearby."

Not all district employees will be allowed to carry weapons, Stevens said. Employees with licenses to carry and who work in critical locations will be identified by the administration and presented to the board for approval. Those approved employees will be tested for psy-

chological fitness and will then have to receive training in the protection of students, interaction with first responders, tactics for dealing with an intruder, and other skills.

Stevens said it will be the fall semester before armed personnel are in place; and while signs will warn potential intruders that they will be met with armed force, the number and identity of those employees will remain secret.

"The board and I will be the only ones who know who is armed," Stevens said. "We're going to have a sufficient number to protect our

school."

Clarendon School Superintendent Mike Norrell says CISD already has a lot of security measures in place but that security is going to be an issue on the board's March agenda.

"People have asked about it, and it seems like this issue [arming school personnel] comes up every time there is a shooting," Norrell said. "I don't know what the answer is."

Norrell said the discussion in March will cover all of CISD's security. **See 'Hedley' on page 6**

St. Mary's Fish Fry to be held Friday

St. Mary's Catholic Church continues its Lent activities this week with another Fish Fry this Friday night, March 2, at the Parish Hall from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Adults eat for \$12, children ages five to 12 eat for \$5, and kids age four and under are free.

CC judges place high in San Antonio

The Clarendon College Livestock Judging Team had a great run at the San Antonio stock show recently.

CC had the High Team Cattle and the fourth high team overall.

Individual results included Taylor Perryman, third overall and second high in cattle. She was also third high individual at Ft. Worth. Sherri Halsted was 10th high overall, and Mason Bishop was fifth in sheep. Cooper Gililand came in 6th in cattle, and Shayna Wright was 5th in cattle.

Other Members of the CC team were Tucker Roberts, Britt Dixon, Jay diehl, Dustyn Hawes, Preston Crenwelge, Zach Vander-vort, and Ty Gaitlin.

Dogs roaming free will be picked up

City Hall is reminding Clarendon residents that dogs are required to be penned or confined to a yard, must have their vaccinations, and must have a city tag.

City Administrator David Dockery says if a dog is found loose, the city has no alternative than to pick it up and take it to the pound. For more information, call City Hall at 874-3438.

Two For The Road to screen at Sandell

A Texas-sized double feature at the Sandell Drive-In this month will put Howardwick's Dusty and Nikki Green up on the big screen with the world premiere of a special episode of their PBS series *Two for the Road*.

Admission will be free for the event on Saturday, March 23, which includes the Greens' adventures in the Big Bend country followed by a special screening of *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*.

Other activities are being planned for the big evening at the Sandell that is sure to be fun for the entire family.

Registration opens for annual 5K race

Registration is now open for the sixth annual Chance Mark Jones Roar & Run 5K, which will be held Saturday, April 14, hosted by the Clarendon Lions Club to coincide with Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Those interested in running or walking the 5K (about 3.1 miles) are encouraged to sign up before April 1 to take advantage of the early bird discount. Registration costs \$25, but those who sign up early save \$5. Signing up by April 1 also guarantees participants the official 5K t-shirt.

Race registrations are available at the Clarendon Visitor Center.



Lighting the path

Webelos Scout Koltyn Shields lights a candle during Cub Scout Pack 437's Arrow of Light ceremony Monday night at the First United Methodist Church. Seven Webelos Scouts received Cub Scoutings highest award and bridged to Boy Scouts during the ceremony. See our complete coverage on page five.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN BIVENS

TxDOT says sign vandalism can be costly

CHILDRESS – Stop and think before you remove or vandalize that traffic sign or intentionally run over a delineator. Someone – maybe someone in your family – might die. Sound harsh? The Texas Department of Transportation says it is.

According to Fu Benavidez, Donley County Maintenance Supervisor, someone in the Donley County area is stealing TxDOT signs.

Vandalizing, tampering with or stealing Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) property such as roadway warning and safety devices cost Texas taxpayers millions of

dollars annually. Most importantly, it can cause serious injury or death to the traveling public.

Signs are put up for a reason. Major consequences can result from stolen or vandalized signs – lives can be cut short or permanently changed. Signs just don't provide road designations. They provide important information to travelers – especially those who are unfamiliar with the area.

Delineators are not designed to be run over. If a delineator is intentional hit or run over, most of the time it has to be replaced and can result in the same charges as tam-

pering or vandalizing state property.

Tampering with any TxDOT property is a Class B Misdemeanor and carries a penalty or fine not to exceed \$2,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days or both such fine and confinement.

However, much stiffer penalties can be handed down in cases where vandalism has resulted in serious injury or death.

If someone is killed as a result of a sign being stolen or tampered with, the charge will most likely be manslaughter. This is a 2nd degree felony. If an individual is judged guilty of a felony of the second

degree the punishment will be imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for any term of not more than 20 years or less than 2 years.

In addition to imprisonment, an individual judged guilty of a felony of the second degree may be punished by a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

TxDOT says safety is its top priority and the basis for planning, building, and maintaining the state's transportation systems. The department asks everyone to work together to make sure highways are safe for the traveling public.

Entire council up for vote in Howardwick

Howardwick will have an opportunity to elect its entire five-member city council this May following action by the Donley County Commissioners' Court last Friday, February 23.

Acting on a petition from Howardwick voters, Commissioners called a special election on May 5, 2018, to fill vacancies created by the resignations of Alderman Eric Riddle on February 13 and Alderman Shelly Williamson in December. The terms will expire in 2019.

In addition, County Judge John Howard said the Texas Secretary of State's office confirmed that Howardwick can proceed with its regularly scheduled May election to fill three expiring aldermen's seats. The state's determination is that the elections can happen at the same time on the same ballot even though Howardwick failed to call its regular election before a state deadline last month.

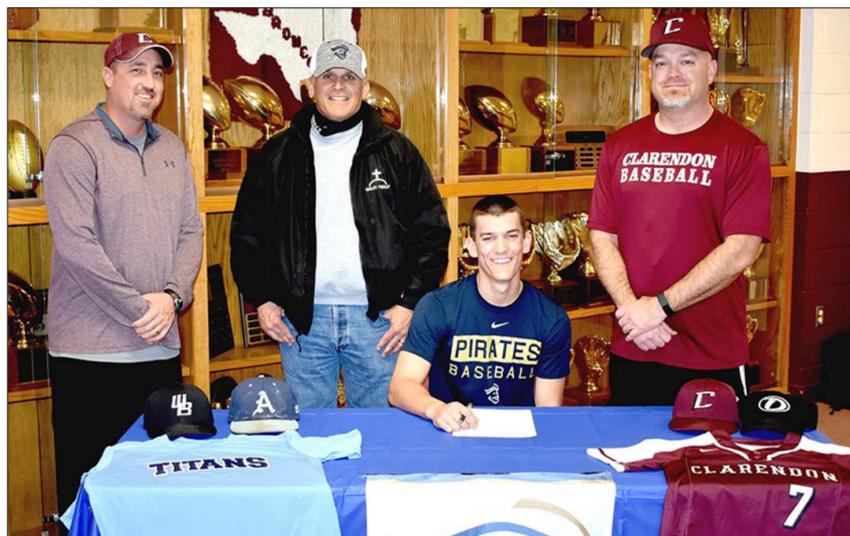
Howardwick Mayor Greta Byars is keeping City Hall open this week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., including through noon, and says things are moving along there now after city government came to a halt two weeks ago following multiple resignations on the city council and the resignation of the city secretary.

Donley County Judge John Howard said the aldermen who have resigned at Howardwick legally still hold their offices until their successors are in place. Byars said that Riddle has agreed to attend a called meeting this Thursday so the city can pay bills and appoint election judges.

"It just seems like things are going great now," Byars said. "Eric coming back for this one meeting is a tremendous help."

Four candidates filed before the February 16 deadline to run three council seats expiring this year. Alderman Doc Holladay will be joined on the ballot by Marietta

See 'Howardwick' on page 6



Signing day

Clarendon senior Joshua Cobb (seated) is surrounded by Athletic Director Clint Conkin, his father Casey Cobb, and CHS baseball coach Brad Elam after he signed his letter of intent to play baseball for Independence Community College in Independence, Kan., last Wednesday, February 28. Cobb also received the Presidential Scholarship for academic excellence and will start the 2018-2019 academic year as an ICC Pirate.

PHOTO BY ALICE COBB

Republicans to decide two local races Tuesday

Donley County voters will decide two locally contested races when they go to the polls next Tuesday, March 6, for the Republican and Democratic primaries.

In Precinct 2, County Commissioner Daniel Ford is being challenged in the Republican Primary by Donley County Chief Deputy Randy Bond.

Precinct 3&4 Republican voters will have the choice between Justice of the Peace Denise Bertrand and challenger Pat White.

Also running on the Republican ticket but facing no opposition are County Judge John Howard, Treasurer Wanda Smith, Precinct 1&2 Justice of the Peace Pam Mason, Precinct 4 Commissioner Dan Sawyer, and Bobby Woodard, who is seeking the county/district clerk's position.

County/District Clerk Fay

Vargas is the only local candidate in the Democratic Primary.

Republican voters in Precincts 101, 201, 301, and 401 will all vote at the Donley County Courthouse. Republicans in 102 will vote at Howardwick City Hall, and Precinct 303 Republicans will cast ballots at the Fellowship Hall of the Hedley First Baptist Church.

Precinct 303 Democrats will vote at the Hedley Lions Club Hall, and all other county Democrats will be voting at the Courthouse Annex.

Polling locations on Election Day will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Check your voter's registration card for your voting precinct to determine your polling place.

Early voting by personal appearance continues at the Donley County Courthouse Annex through this Friday, March 2.