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THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

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THIS WEEK

2 A descendant of an Alamo hero takes a stand on plans for the Texas landmark.

4 An annual conservation planning meeting is set for next week.

5 A local family holds its annual reunion.

8 And the Hedley Owls hit the field for practice.

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

CC Regents vote on tuition, fees, taxes

Clarendon College remains an incredibly affordable option for those seeking higher education even after the Board of Regents voted to increase tuition Monday.

During a called meeting, the board raised tuition prices across the board by \$4 per semester hour. CC President Robert Riza said it was the first tuition increase at the school in four years.

Regent Jack Moreman said Clarendon College "is still the best deal around."

College officials said the cost to attend CC is still below the cost to attend other regional community colleges, specifically Amarillo College, Frank Phillips College, and Vernon College.

The board also approve modest increases to student fees and voted to propose maintaining the college district's current tax rate of \$0.251149 per \$100 valuation, which, with updated property values, will levy an additional \$3.39 next year on the average residence in Donley County.

CC will hold public hearings on the proposed tax rate on August 16 and August 23.

Chamber social to be held Thursday

The Clarendon Chamber of Commerce will hold its next Business After Hours at the Donley County Senior Citizens Center this Thursday, August 9.

The come-and-go event will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will provide Chamber members and prospective members an opportunity to learn more about what's happening in the local business community. Visitors are welcome to arrive at any time during the event and may feel free to leave early if they need to get to other appointments.

Refreshments will be served.

CHS Fish Camp to be held August 13

Clarendon High School's Fish Camp will be held Monday, August 13, at 7 p.m.

All incoming freshmen and new students are asked to meet at the CHS Auditorium for this event.

Methodists to host back to school bash

The First United Methodist Church of Clarendon is hosting a Back to School Bash for elementary students this Sunday, August 12, from 6:45 to 8 p.m.

Elementary students are invited to enjoy sack races, water guns, ping pong, and an ice cream sundae bar.



Game on

Josiah Howard gets ready to pass the ball as the Clarendon Broncos opened their first practice of the season Monday morning. The Broncos will have their first scrimmage August 17 in Shamrock.

COURTESY PHOTO / ADELITA ELAM

Seven men leave local facility for offenders

By Roger Estlack, Clarendon Enterprise

Seven registered sex offenders who had recently arrived in Clarendon all packed up and left town this week, but an "alternative housing" facility for similar offenders is still in operation.

Donley Count Sheriff Butch Blackburn said the men arrived here in the last two weeks, but they departed Tuesday morning for Houston and El Paso after parole officials discovered a "technical error."

Blackburn said he didn't know what the "error" was, but he believed an outcry from the public and citizens' calls to state officials concerning the men's presence in this community had something to do with their removal.

"I think that helped more than anything," Blackburn said. "Putting pressure on the state is the only way to stop this."

State Sen. Kel Seliger said his office received a call concerned about the facility in Clarendon. His office then notified the state agency of the concern, and the agency took it from there. Seliger said there is a definite need for such facilities in the state but also said he understands the concerns.

"These get located in big towns and small towns," the senator said.

Seliger said his office often helps make the connection between constituents with concerns and the appropriate agency.

"That's what we do," Seliger said. "The people of Donley County are always welcome to call our office."

Sheriff Blackburn said six of the seven men who left town were among the seven whose names were published in public notices in last week's Enterprise. The seventh man who left this week just arrived last Thursday. Another man, who has served the entirety of his sentence, will be moving here this week.

"Just because we lost seven doesn't mean we won't gain that many more back," the sheriff said.

Blackburn said his office has received several calls about what is commonly referred to as halfway house operating in the city.

"These facilities are by no means supported by the Donley County Sheriff's Office or wanted by the sheriff's office," Blackburn said. "This was something the state allowed without consideration of the well-being of Donley County or its citizens. We already had plenty of homegrown sex offenders without bringing more in."

The sheriff says people should be careful about hiring people they don't know and should keep watch on their kids.

"I'm warning the citizens that we will likely continue to be flooded with these types of people as long as we have this facility operating," he said.

Blackburn said registered sex offenders have to notify his office within 48 hours of moving to Donley County, and then his office runs a printed notice in the Enterprise as soon as possible. A state-run website listing sex offenders lags up to three weeks in being updated.

The sheriff said currently anyone convicted of a sex crime is

See 'Offenders' on page 5.

Authentically Southern

Donley County native's book examines Southern identity

By Roger Estlack, Clarendon Enterprise

Is your mama's cooking really Southern just because you grew up in Texas? And what exactly makes her cooking Southern anyway?

A new book by a Donley County native Carrie Helms Tippen, PhD., examines Southernness as it relates to cooking and more specifically as it's expressed through cookbooks.

Tippen, a 2002 graduate of Clarendon High School, delves into those issues in her first book, *Inventing Authenticity: How Cookbook Writers Redefine Southern Identity*.

Tippen, who is now an Assistant Professor of English at Chatham University in Pittsburg, Penn., developed an interest in what it means to be Southern and what exactly is "the South" geographically and began to question her own identity. Her native Texas Panhandle is a vastly different experience compared to life in Louisiana or Georgia.

"Some people don't actually consider Texas as the South, and that had never occurred to me," Tippen said.

With its basis in Tippen's doctoral dissertation from Texas Christian University, *Inventing Authenticity* evolved out of the author's questions about her own Southernness and desire to reconnect to a rich heritage of culinary culture that she once eschewed growing up.

"I tried really hard not to learn how to cook," Tippen told the Enterprise. "My Mom will back that up; I would just disappear and not be a part of that activity."

In her introductory chapter, Tippen discusses a time when she was living far from home after the passing of her maternal grandparents. As Thanksgiving approached, all she wanted was her family's angel biscuits... a buttermilk biscuit recipe handed down through generations. She soon was on the

phone with her mother, writing down all the recipes for a traditional Thanksgiving meal, which she and her husband later enjoyed.

In her research, Tippen began to look at the headnotes of cookbooks written since 1990 and specifically at the ways the authors tried to "prove" they were authentically Southern.

Inventing Authenticity then looks at four basic ways cookbooks verify or confirm their Southern credentials, and Dr. Tippen devotes a chapter to each of those methods.

The first way is through historical narratives which focus on the inventions of the dishes as being authentically Southern in their origins. The second way is through citations.

"They try to convince people that the reason a recipe is authentic is that they got it from their grandma, and their grandma was authentic."

A third chapter is devoted to Southern cooks who aren't necessarily from the South and how these "adopted Southerners" establish their authenticity, and the final chapter deals with other ways of establishing authenticity, such as pictures of Mason jars and other images that evoke the proper regional appeal.

Tippen said she worked on the book for four years before it finally went to print. It was a journey of collecting recipes and getting relatives and acquaintances to bring out "The Goods" — old family cookbooks with handwritten notes about favorite dishes.

Inventing Authenticity also discusses the act of cooking as a way to perform, thereby reinforcing the identity associated with a recipe. The book deals with the unpleasant issues of race in terms of "authorship" of Southern dishes and also talks about how some recipes change over time so much so that the origi-



Dr. Carrie Helms Tippen

nal dish is almost lost.

Inventing Authenticity: How Cookbook Writers Redefine Southern Identity is available in print through the University of Arkansas Press and as an e-book for 25 percent off through Amazon.com.

Tippen says she hopes to write a second work about cookbooks in the future that will deal with broader issues of how the genre is written like and can be read like novels and how cookbooks are viewed from the fields of anthropology and sociology and what they can tell us about technology, culture, and the economy.

Tippen was recently awarded a \$13,000 grant for a project that links undergraduates with seniors around food and stories. The project is one of a select group chosen by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) to receive a grant to implement a CIC/AARP Foundation Intergenerational Connections:

Students Serving Older Adults project, Food Story/Food Secure: Building Community Through Food-Centered Partnerships.

Dr. Tippen will serve as the Principal Investigator for this grant, which will be used to enhance connections between undergraduate students and older adults in the community. CIC launched this initiative with support from the AARP Foundation in 2017 to encourage colleges to create or extend programs in which students help low-income older adults (ages 50 and older) address their key needs. Chatham students will receive training in oral history techniques as they interact with seniors to share meals and conversation and gather stories about foods that are important to individual identity and culture. Students will record stories, collect recipes, and work together to create a community

See 'Tippen' on page 5.

Fall Semester

CLASSES START AUGUST 28

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