

The Clarendon & Cl

MERRY MIERRY MISUMS

May peace be your constant companion during this special time of year.



Tobacco sales ban would boost vaping

By Trevor Burrus

At a time when teenage smoking is dropping to unheard-of levels, the federal government this week is likely to raise the legal age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21. The provision is included in a massive spending package that President Donald Trump is expected to soon sign to pass in the coming days to avert a government shutdown. This move is not only unwarranted and unnervingly paternalistic, but it could also result in more dangerous tobacco use by young adults, as the ban would have the perverse effect of pushing them to consume more traditional combustible tobacco rather than comparatively safer vaping products.

We sometimes forget that those over 18 are legally adults. Being 18 means you can vote, die for your country, get married, have children, get a credit card ,and buy a rifle. As with drinking, it is dismaying that there are those who would give a gun to an 18-year-old to kill people in foreign countries, yet they would not let them buy tobacco products.

But even if you don't have an ideological objection to restricting the sale of tobacco products to younger adults, there is a very practical reason to oppose the pending tobacco ban if you care about public health: Raising the legal purchase age for tobacco and vaping products would encourage young adults to consume more cigarettes, because they are more common and therefore would be more accessible under a ban than the relatively new, smaller supply of vaping materials on the market would be. Similarly, use of combustible tobacco that is more cost-effective (such as rolling tobacco) would also likely increase, as it always becomes more popular when cigarettes become more expensive, a common result of scarcity.

A prohibitionist ban would additionally probably result in more teenage vapers using illicit counterfeit vaping products, because that's what people turn to when legal channels are shut off. But these products are much more dangerous than regulated products from reputable companies, as demonstrated by the recent wave of vaping-related illnesses and deaths most of which (though not all) were linked to illegal and off-brand vapes.

Moreover, the unprecedented decline in youth cigarette smoking should be seen as a great public health victory, and vaping should be celebrated as a significant cause of the reduction. Rates of youth smoking have fallen drastically in recent decades. According to the New York Times, in 1997 24.6 percent of 12th-graders reported daily cigarette smoking, but by 2017 that number had dropped to 4.2

That cigarette smoking has declined is a good thing, and the precipitous decrease in youth cigarette smoking is likely in large part due to the prevalence and availability of vaping. In 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that youth cigarette smoking was cut in half in just five years, an astonishing public health victory. At the same time, e-cigarette use increased dramatically.

Despite recent scares, vaping is almost unquestionably safer than using combustible tobacco. Even former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb acknowledges that e-cigarettes " are not nearly as harmful as lighting tobacco on fire and smoking it." While there's still much to learn about the effects of vaping, long-term and otherwise, the CDC acknowledges that "E-cigarettes have the potential to benefit adult smokers who are not pregnant if used as a complete substitute for regular cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products."

And that's a good thing, since, according to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, 87.9 percent of regular high school vapers (vaping 20 to 30 days a month) had previously been smokers, compared to only 12.1 percent of regular vapers who never smoked. Officials in the U.K. have highlighted that 1.2 million Brits have quit smoking by using e-cigarettes.

But that doesn't mean that there's an "epidemic" of vaping. In fact, only 5.7 percent of high schoolers are regular vapers. That means almost all of the teens who are vaping are doing so sporadically. Yet, rather than treat this as a victory, American public health officials have turned their sights on vaping. They vilify vaping as a gateway to smoking (that's not been established), while the health risks are exaggerated.

A zero-tolerance mindset has led many public health officials to declare that "youth use of tobacco products in any form is unsafe," without trying to weigh comparative harms.

Bicycle riding can also be quite dangerous, but rather than ban bicycle riding, we encourage using a helmet. It's certainly safer to never ride a bike than to ride one with a helmet, but we appreciate that the best course is to minimize the risk without outlawing a behavior many enjoy. Yet anti-vapers would adopt the tactic of trying to ban bicycle helmets on the theory that they cause more people to ride bikes. Like riding a bike with a helmet, vaping is a relatively safer way to consume nicotine.

The zero-tolerance mindset and the scare tactics employed by vaping opponents have caused an increasing number of people to believe that vaping is as dangerous as smoking. A Reuters poll in September found that 63 percent of Americans disagreed with the statement that "vaping is healthier than traditional cigarettes." That's up by 16 percent since 2016.

Youthful smoking has long held attractions, and billions of people around the world clearly enjoy using nicotine. While many public health advocates would rather that no one use nicotine — as well as that no one eat fast food, drink soda or do any number of pleasurable, yet risky, activities — that isn't a realistic goal. Instead, over-18 adults should be given the opportunity to make relatively healthier decisions.

Trevor Burrus is a research fellow at the Cato Institute and editor in chief of the Cato Supreme Court Review.

Real life oh, brother, where art thou?

Even novices in US History know that discovery of our part of the world was made by Christopher Columbus in

On a far more personal note, Beverly Hindman – an 82-year-old widow in Burleson, Texas - has collected important "puzzle pieces" this year to greatly clarify her family history. Now, 527 years after Columbus landed, she's made a discovery of her own. After thorough research, she has learned of an older brother, and several other new relatives. Her pilgrimage is at once heartwarming and inspiring. She and her 90-year-old brother, George Shepard, embraced for the first time ever when Bev and daughter Ruthie deplaned in Chicago last August for a week-long

Retired owner of a highly successful Chevrolet dealership, he was an immediate participant in a REUNION worthy of capital letters! They shared enough family history to "tide them over" until they meet again early in 2020 at his winter home in Florida. That's where he and wife Lorraine, 87, spend winters....

Something in them urged "forge on," first and foremost being God's Providence along the way.

They don't know if they had the same father, but they had the same birth mother, Clara Grousd, of Lithuanian origin. She was plagued with both physical and emotional disorders, and said to be incapable of rearing children.

They have no memory of their birth mother, but Beverly remembers a single phone call from her 61 years

ago. Nervous and rambling during the brief conversation, Clara mentioned having a son earlier, but american wouldn't provide a name by don newbury or contact information. It was difficult

Spotty known history suggests that Beverly's Jewish mother had various menial jobs.

believe, so the claim was discounted....

to separate Clara's truth from make-

Soon after Beverly's birth, her mother saw an ad for a babysitter on Chicago's Second Baptist Church's bulletin board. As an infant, she was left at "babysitter" Bertha Reed's home. Beverly's mom didn't show up again for a month. "Either take her or let me adopt her," Bertha understandably demanded. Clara agreed, and that's when Beverly acquired a new last name.

George was reared by a loving couple who wanted to adopt him, but couldn't get his mom's permission. The couple's last name was "Shepard," and that's the name he chose. This explains the dealership name of "Shepard Chevrolet," a firm he and a partner founded. George purchased his partner's interest a year later, and operated the dealership for 36 years....

In a loving family environment, Bev attended the same high school where

George had been eight years earlier. She completed nursing school, marrying Ralph Hindman, another Chicagoan, in 1960. Some 17 years later, the family (including sons Mark and Steve and daughter Ruthie) moved to Fort Worth where Hindman worked in the chemistry field. He died in 1996.

Upon moving to Texas, Beverly

Beverly began her genealogical quest by searching for her birth certificate a decade ago. The trail was long and winding, including tons of correspondence. At the final "stop," a case worker for Illinois' adoption registry provided much official information, including the name of Beverly's brother, as well as contact information. Understandably, her mind is boggled. So is mine, and maybe yours,

Her friends at Burleson First Baptist Church are "abuzz" with news of Beverly's familial discoveries!

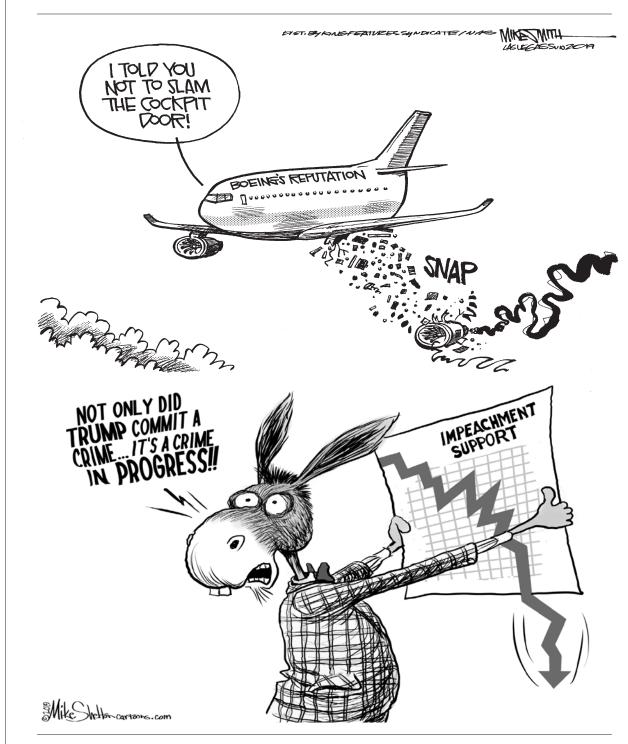
sisters in the family of God. No doubt, Beverly and George will have a Merry Christmas. Hopefully, you will, too!...

Dr. Newbury is a former educator who "commits speeches" round about. Comments or inquiries to: newbury@ speakerdoc.com. Ph.: 817-447-3872. Web:

received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from UT-Arlington in 1980 and 1982, respectively. She dreamed of teaching in the Tarrant County College Nursing Program, and served there for 22 years until her 2011 retirement....

Finally, we all are brothers and

www.speakerdoc.com



Vist with the Panhandle Santa Claus

Rodney Watson of Plainview is an artist who paints Western landscapes. He has also had careers as a museum curator and banker. The bank where he worked always had a huge Christmas event. Santa Claus was there beside a huge lighted and decorated tree. There were refreshments and customers and non-customers went to the bank around Christmastime. It was a social event. "It was hard to conduct any bank business because of the crowd," says Rodney.

Rodney sported a full red beard when he went to work at the bank, but shaved it off because bank officials frowned on their employees having facial hair. Toward the end of Rodney's ten-year tenure at the bank, the bank president approached him with two tickets to a rock concert Rodney had wanted to attend. The president said, "Take these with my compliments. When you come back from the concert, I have a favor to ask of you."

Rodney says he had trouble enjoying the concert because he kept thinking about what the favor would entail. When he got back, he found out. For several years the bank had a Santa Claus that had done a super job. Rodney says he was fabulous,

looked the part of texas and drove a red by tumbleweed smith Cadillac with

personalized plates that had the word Santa on them. It seems that Santa was retiring and the bank wanted Rodney to assume the role of the bank's Santa

"I'm a big guy," says Rodney. "well over six feet and around 250 pounds. When I found out I was to be Santa I started growing my beard, this time with the bank's blessing. I discovered my red beard had turned white, so much the better. I wear it six months on, six months off. My mother made me a custom Santa suit that I didn't let anyone know about until I wore it out in public for the first time."

Rodney left the bank to pursue

his art, but continued his Santa work. Because of his popularity as the bank's Santa he was asked to act as Santa Claus at holiday events all over the South Plains and Panhandle. He is busy all during the month of December and has a treasure chest of memories he has made during his several years of playing Santa.

"Once this little 4th grade girl was sitting on my lap and I asked her what she wanted for Christmas. All she waned was to talk to her brother. I knew immediately this was going to be one of those heartbreak deals. Her father had left and took her brother. She hadn't seen him or talked to him in 8 months. Me being a big old teddy bear anyway, I listened to her story, gave her a big hug and told her I would say a prayer for her. Next year that same little girl was sitting in my lap and I asked her if she ever got to talk to her brother. She looked at me with the biggest surprise on her face that I would remember her and she said yes she did. We were both in tears and she gave me a dollar bill. I told her to put it in the collection plate at church."

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This paper's first duty is to print all the news that is fit to print, honestly and fairly to all, unbiased by any deration even its own editorial opinion.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing, or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which may occur in the columns of The Clarendon **Enterprise** will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the management.

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Open Display rates are \$5.50 per PASS column inch. Classified Ads are \$10 for the first 15 words and 15¢ per word for each additional word (Boxes or special typography are extra.). Thank You Notes are \$15 for the first 40 words and 15¢ per word for each additional word. Basic engagement, wedding, anniversary, and birth announcements are \$10 each. Expanded wedding announcements are \$20. A one-column announcement picture is \$5, and a two-column announcement picture is \$10. Pictures submitted for publication should be picked up within ten days after publication. Death notices are printed at no charge. Obituaries are published for \$45 or \$50 with a photo.

DEADLINES

News articles and photos are due by Monday at noon. Advertising and Classifieds are due by five o'clock Monday afternoon. Deadlines may be altered for holidays

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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LETTERS

Letters to the editor are welcome. Views expressed in letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff of The Clarendon Enterantee publication. Letters may be edited for grammar, style, or length. All letters must be signed and must include an address and telephone number for verification. To improve your chances of publication, type and double space your letter, stick to one main topic, and keep it brief. No letters will be accepted from candidates for local political offices. Letters submitted to this newspaper become the property of The Enterprise and cannot be returned.

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THE CLARENDON NEWS, established June 1, 1878 with which have merged: The Clarendon Traveler, February 1889: The Clarendon Journal November 1891; The Banner-Stockman, October 1893; The Agitator, February 1899; The Clarendon Times, May 1908; The Donley County Leader, March 12, 1929; The Clarendon Press, May 18, 1972; and The Clarendon Enterprise, March 14, 1996.

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Cobb

Cobb graduates top of ACU class

Caleb Cobb of Clarendon graduated Summa Cum Laude from Abilene Christian University on December 13, 2019.

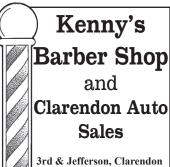
Cobb was the valedictorian, earning his Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science with an emphasis on International Study.

While attending ACU, Cobb was a member of the Wildcats football team and served on the football leadership committee. Cobb was honored with Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Chi Honor Society memberships and served as an ACU Wildcat Ambassador. Cobb is a 2016 graduate of

Clarendon High School and is the son of Casey and Alice Cobb of Clarendon.

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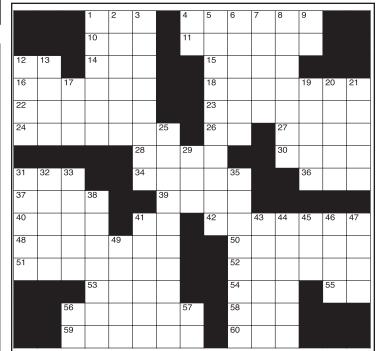
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hair care product
- 4. Looped
- 10. It's present in all living cells
- 11. Choose 12. South Dakota
- 14. Cash machine
- 15. Of the pia mater
- 16. Ancient Egyptian documents 18. Layers at the back of the eyeballs
- 22. Not perceived
- 23. Look over
- 24. Improve a tire
- 26. Time zone
- 27. Main branch of Islam 28. Bark of the mulberry tree
- 31. Records heart muscle activity (abbr.)

34. Famed Hollywood producer

LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com

- 36. Yuck!
- 37. Reject outright and bluntly
- 39. 500, car race
- 40. Small heap or pile
- 41. Type of degree (abbr.) 42. Contagious skin disease
- 48. Erases from a surface 50. In an enthusiastic way
- 51. Begin again 52. Intricately produced pattern

59. Breastbones

60. Sun up in New York

- 53. It flows NW to the Seine
- 54. Be obliged to repay 55. Southeast
- 56. Slip in 58. Leisure time activity
- 30. Sea eagles

- 1. More cloudy

CLUES DOWN

- 2. Main course 3. Protect with plastic
- 4. Equally 5. Rebukes
- 6. Friend to a salesman
- 7. Warms up
- 8. Overshadow
- 9. Interior lineman in football

- 12. San Antonio hoopster 13. Comedian Cook
- 17. Time zone
- 19. First PM of India
- 20. Performing perfectly
- 21. A way to hide
- 25. Former NBA commissioner
- 29. Peter's last name

- 31. Outlying suburb of London
- 32. Used to cut steak 33. Deep inlets
- 35. Type of tree
- 38. Done openly and unashamedly 41. Indigenous person of N. Africa
- 43. Confessed openly
- 44. A way to separate with an instrument
- 45. Influential journalist Tarbell
- 46. Manning and Roth are two 47. One who cares for horses
- in India 49. Something to believe in
- 56. Form of "to be"
- 57. Atomic #73

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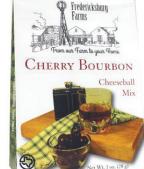
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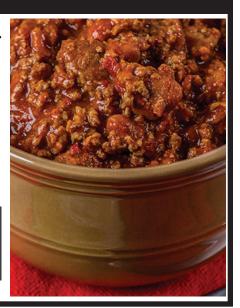
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- Burrito Deluxe
- Or by the bowl

CHIL





Community Calendar

December 30

Broncos & Lady Broncos v Stratford • 6:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. • Away

January 4 & 5

Whistle-Stop Trade Days

January 3

Broncos & Lady Broncos • Farwell • Away • 1:00 p.m.

Owls & Lady Owls • Claude • Away • 6:30 p.m.

January 7

Broncos • Bushland • Away • 6:00

Owls & Lady Owls • Groom • Home • 6:30 p.m.

January 10

Lady Broncos • Wellington • Away • 6:30 p.m.

Broncos • Dalhart • Away • 7:30 p.m.

Owls & Lady Owls • McLean • Away •6:30 p.m.

January 11

Donley County Junior Livestock Show & Sale • Donley County Activity Center

January 14

Lady Broncos • Memphis • Away • 6:30 p.m.

Owls & Lady Owls • Lefors • Home • 6:30 p.m.

Menus

December 30 - January 3

Donley County Senior Citizens Mon: Chicken spaghetti, broccoli, corn, crackers, spice cake, iced

tea/2% milk. Tue: Meatloaf, German potato salad, green beans, cornbread, white cake, iced tea/2% milk. Wed: Closed.

Hamburger steak/gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans. wheat roll, orange dream pudding, iced tea/2% milk.

Fri: Spaghetti/meatballs, garden salad, mixed vegetables, garlic strawberries/whipped toast. cream, iced tea/2% milk.

Hedley Senior Citizens

Mon: Baked chicken breast. potato w/sour cream, peas, pineapple tidbits, chocolate pudding, iced tea/2% milk.

Tue: Jambalaya, carrots, blackeyed peas, cornbread, lazy cake, iced tea/2% milk. Wed: Closed

Vegetable beef stew. cornbread, margarine, tossed salad w/dressing, orange pineapple cup, diet pumpkin custard, iced tea/2% milk.

Fri: Taco salad, refried beans, Spanish rice, broccoli & cauliflower salad, flour tortilla, iced tea/2%

Chamber seeks nominations for annual awards

The Clarendon Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for its annual community awards banquet.

Honorees will be announced during the banquet, which is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2020, at the Bairfield Activity Center.

Nominations are being sought for Man of the Year and Woman of the Year - two individuals who have made a significant contribution to the community in the last year, and the Saints' Roost Award - honoring an individual for a lifetime of service to the community.

Written nominations should specify what award the person is being nominated for and a brief paragraph stating the reason for the nomination. The nominations should be no more than one page in length.

Nominations can be mailed to the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce at PO Box 986, Clarendon, TX 79226, or delivered to the Clarendon Visitor Center inside the Mulkey Theatre at 110 S. Kearney from 10 a.m. noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If the center is closed, nominations may be left in the mailbox on the light pole in front of the office.

Nominations must be received by noon on Thursday, January 23, 2020.



Delivering good cheer

Members of the Clarendon Lions Club delivered more than 30 food baskets to families in the community last Tuesday, December 17. High school and junior high students helped by donating canned goods to the project. Shown here are Ella Estlack, Ben Estlack, Lion Steve Hall, Lion Tex Buckhaults, Lion Jacob Fangman, Trent Smith, Lion David Dockery, Lion Russell Estlack, Boss Lion Scarlet Estlack, Lion George Hubbard, and Sweethearts Mattee Johnson and Kira Weatherton. Not pictured were Lions Bobbie Thornberry, John Howard, Landon Lambert, and Roger Estlack.

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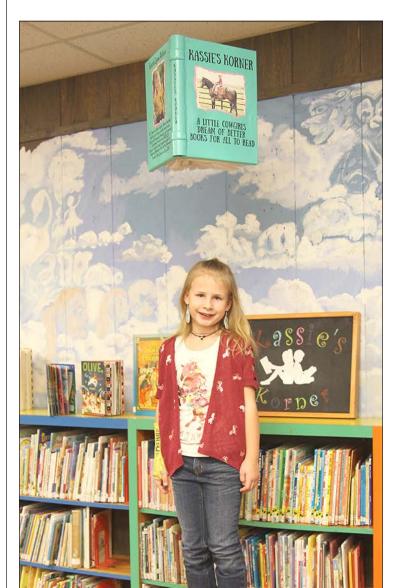
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Kassie's Korner

Kassie Askew stands in a section of the Burton Memorial Library named for her after it was stocked with books purchased by funds raised from her lemonade stand last summer. Kassie's gave the library \$925 and hopes to have another lemonade stand next summer.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO / TARA ALI RED





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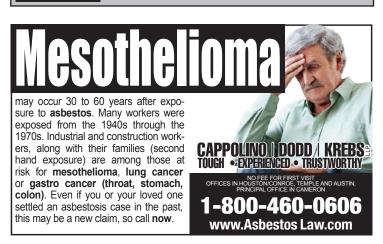
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Panhandle PBS now live on YouTube TV

ing live on YouTube TV starting across as many platforms as possi-Dec. 17.

Dedicated live channels for Panhandle PBS and PBS Kids, as well as on-demand programming, are now available to YouTube TV subscribers, expanding PBS's digital footprint and offering viewers additional ways to stream PBS content.

To access the full line-up available in the Texas Panhandle area, you can visit the YouTube TV live users," said Lori Conkling, Global guide or the PBS schedule here.

the Texas Panhandle via YouTube PBS director of operations. "It's just today." one more way that we can provide they love on more platforms."

"PBS is committed to making trusted terpiece, Nature and more.

Panhandle PBS is now stream- content available to all households ble. We are pleased that YouTube TV recognizes public television's unique children for success in school and structure and worked with us to provide our viewers with more ways to media, available anytime and anywatch the programs that they love through their local PBS station."

PBS on this unique partnership to further our commitment to providing a best-in-class experience for our Kratts and Sesame Street. YouTube Head of Partnerships at YouTube content through YouTube TV's VOD "We are thrilled that we can TV. "PBS and PBS Kids are highly reach more of our audience across requested channels by our users, and we're thrilled to be able to add these Panhandle PBS content is available TV," said Kyle Arrant, Panhandle to the YouTube TV lineup starting on all Panhandle PBS-branded PBS

YouTube TV represents Panthe great PBS content our audience handle PBS's first local livestreaming partnership and includes "Every year, more and more episodes and on-demand content households are seeking alternative from locally produced shows and ways to view their favorite PBS pro- PBS favorites, including American grams," said PBS Chief Digital and Experience, Antiques Roadshow, Marketing Officer Ira Rubenstein. Frontline, Great Performances, Mas-

The accompanying PBS Kids 24/7 channel extends the organization's mission of helping prepare life through trusted, educational

Users can access favorite series, "We are excited to partner with such as Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, Molly Of Denali, Odd Squad, Pinkalicious & Peterrific, Wild TV subscribers can also access select

> In addition to YouTube TV, platforms, including PBS.org and PBSKids.org, as well as the PBS Video app and PBS Kids Video app available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung TV and Chromecast. Panhandle PBS members are also able to view an extended library of quality public television programming via Pass-

Southwest Beef Symposium set Jan. 22-23

Jan. 22-23 in Amarillo

The annual Southwest Beef Symposium, jointly hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, will be Jan. 22-23 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 550 S. Buchanan St., Amarillo.

Exploring Beef Marketing Opportunities is the theme of this year's conference. Registration is \$75 by Jan. 19 and \$85 thereafter and on site.

23 and refreshments.

at https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ Beef.

downward after some very favor- Los Olivos, California; and Think- carpenter@ag.tamu.edu.

Southwest Beef Symposium set able years for cow-calf and stocker ing About Estate Planning, Tiffany producers," said Bruce Carpenter, Dowell Lashmet, AgriLife Exten-AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, Ft. Stockton. "Various segments of the industry are looking for opportunities to add value and income with improved marketing by the Southwest Beef CAP Grant. and/or production."

speakers include: The Future of Food: What's in Store?, Stan Bevers, King Ranch Institute-Kingsville; Making Third Party Verification Systems Work for You, Lee Ann Saunders, IMI Global, Castle Rock, The registration fee includes a Colorado; Selling Calves Through steak dinner on Jan. 22, lunch on Jan. Branded Genetics, Justin Kleghorn, Cactus Feeders-Amarillo; From Online registration is now open Ranch to Restaurant: Marketing Beef Through the Service Industry, Jason McDonald, Fess Parker Ranch "Cattle prices have adjusted Beef, Hatchita, New Mexico and Carpenter at 432-336-8585 or bruce.

sion, Amarillo.

A round-table Ouestion and Answer session will wrap up the afternoon, before a dinner sponsored

Day two topics and speakers Opening session topics and include: Breed Type Comparisons of Foraging Behaviors, Andres Cibils, Ph.D., New Mexico State University; Fitting Cattle Genetics to the Environment, Jason Smith, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension, Amarillo; Meeting the Sustainability Expectations of Consumers, Sarah Place, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Denver, Colorado; and National Beef Quality Audit, Chase DeCoit,

For more information, contact

Drunk driving causes lifetime of heartache Driving under the influence of

AUSTIN - When Rebecca ing piece. Nearly four decades ago this holiday season," Grimes said. in 1982, a drunk driver killed her have never been the same since then.

"Even 30 years since Hector's crash, we still feel that one empty drive can turn the joy and revelry chair at the table during the holi- of the season into tragedy, causing days," Rebecca Grimes said. "Drunk unimaginable heartache for years to component of #EndTheStreakTX, a drivers affect so many people beyond come," TxDOT Executive Director just those who are in the crash. They James Bass said. "There's no excuse: have a domino effect - crushing multiple families – and the impact lingers for years, decades beyond the campaign will tour the state featurcrash."

part of TxDOT's "Plan While You related to drinking and driving dem-Can" campaign which urges drivers onstrating the consequences of getto make a plan for a sober ride this ting behind the wheel through an holiday season.

"Just don't drink and drive,

In 2018, there were 2,370 DUIbrother, 18-year-old José "Hector" alcohol related crashes in Texas their driver's license. Instead of get-Martinez, in a head-on crash just during the holiday season.* Those ting behind the wheel, here are some before Thanksgiving. The holidays crashes killed 75 people and seri- alternative options: Designating a ously injured another 199.

plan ahead and be responsible."

The "Plan While You Can" ing the "Plan to Win" virtual reality Grimes is sharing her story as game. The game poses questions immersive experience.

Grimes sets the table during the holiand don't risk putting your family alcohol not only risks death or seriday season, there's always a miss- or someone else's through heartache ous injuries, but it can also be costly. Drivers can face up to \$17,000 in fines and fees, jail time and loss of sober driver or calling someone for "The bad decision to drink and a ride home. Calling a cab or rideshare service. Spending the night.

> "Plan While You Can" is a key broader social media and word-ofmouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, like wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit and never driving after drinking or doing drugs. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

2020 High Plains Crop Profitability Analyzer available

Extension Service has released an updated 2020 High Plains Crop Profitability Analyzer budgeting tool just in time to help Texas High Plains producers plan for the new Amarillo.

"This decision aid assists producers in making management decitheir land," Benavidez said.

DeDe Jones, AgriLife Extension risk management specialist said the tool originated in 2016 and was created by a team of AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Research specialists, along with a producer advisory committee.

Jones said while the tool employs High Plains' budgets, the program's flexibility makes it usable in other areas of the country as well.

The irrigated crops available for analysis are alfalfa, canola, corn, corn silage, cotton, peanuts, sorghum, sorghum seed, sorghum section, a sensitivity analysis is per- tamu.edu/.

canola, cotton, sorghum, sorghum and total costs for each of the crops." Sudan grass, sunflowers and wheat.

year, said Justin Benavidez, Ph.D., tool that can assist producers in pocket and total costs for each of the AgriLife Extension economist in evaluating their cropping choices crops, he said. The irrigation section year," Benavidez said.

He said the budget cost estisions on the optimal crop mix for mates are averages and producers and any water-use restrictions that using it can and will need to modify the prices, input costs and yields to fit their operations.

> sections where analysis is per- for each of the crops and presented formed: enterprise budgets that require user input, breakeven price Benavidez said. estimates, comparative returns and optimal irrigation analysis.

> only provide a measure of crop ysis to only crops you are interested profitability but also allow for evaluating the landowner/tenant shares of a crop-share lease agreement," Benavidez said. "In the break-even

The Texas A&M AgriLife silage, sorghum Sudan grass, soy- formed that varies yield and calcubeans, sunflowers, triticale and lates the various prices that would wheat. Dryland crops include be required to cover out-of-pocket

> The comparative section pro-"This is an extremely flexible vides the expected revenue, out-ofand water use for the upcoming allows a producer to identify their optimal crop mix by taking into consideration the water available

"Based on all that information and the crop budgets, the amount of The spreadsheet contains four land and profitability is calculated both numerically and graphically,"

"Another interesting feature is that you can 'toggle on' or 'toggle "The enterprise budgets not off' crops, so you can limit the analin growing," Jones said.

The 2020 High Plains Crop Profitability Analyzer can be downloaded for free at: http://amarillo.

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TRUE CHURCH OF GOD & CHRIST 301 N. JEFFERSON • ST. PASTOR: JEFF RILES SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11:15 A.M. WED.: 7 P.M.

HEDLEY **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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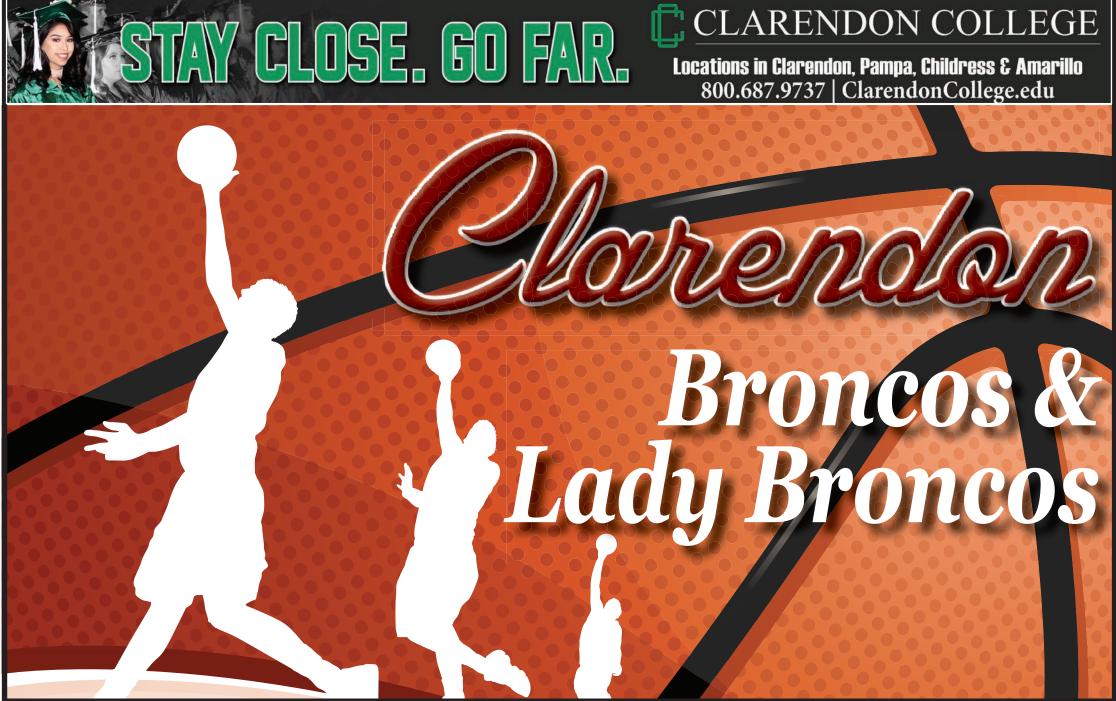
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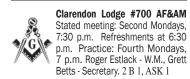
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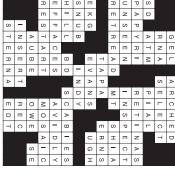


Clarendon Lions Club Regular meeting each Tuesday at noon. Scarlet Estlack, Boss Lion. Roger Estlack, Secretary

Clarendon Chamber of Commerce Regular meeting 1st Thursday each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Clarendon Visitor Center.

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THE CITY OF HOWARDWICK will be accepting sealed bids for all current properties being held in trust by all taxing entities starting December 30, 2019. Sealed bids must be turned into City Hall by 12:00pm, Monday, January 28, 2020. Bidding will be open to current residents and property owners in Howardwick, Texas. No bidder who currently owes delinquent taxes will be eligible to place a bid.

Please place bid for each property in separate sealed envelopes. No money will be due at the time of placing your bid(s). On the front of the envelope(s) put your name and property you are bidding on. Submit bid to Howardwick City Hall, 245 Rick Husband Blvd, Howardwick Texas 79226. The highest bidders will be notified by 5pm on January 28, 2020. If you are the highest bidder you will need two separate money orders or cashiers checks. A \$90.00 fee will be due for the deed/recording and the amount of the bid made out to the The City of Howardwick. Your will have 10 days to provide payment. If payment is not received by February 6, 2020 at 5pm you will be disqualified from obtaining the property in this cycle.

You may request a form from the City Secretary along with a list of properties. A map showing each property available is posted at City Hall. Any properties not bid on or sold will be open to the public to bid online at www.texascg.com on February 7, 2020.

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Policy may end access for some to food stamps

By Stacy Fernández, Texas Tribune

Vanessa Wilson's white Chevy SUV has sat untouched on the patch of land outside her family's trailer in Austin for months. It'll be there for a while.

Drenched with water three months ago after she accidentally left the sunroof open, the car's electrical system is shot, along with Wilson's two-year Lyft gig, which she relied on to pay the bills.

Wilson is the sole breadwinner for her two children, including Najaia "Jaja" Free, her 10-year-old daughter, whose Type 1 diabetes requires constant supervision and a diet of healthy foods. As Wilson tries to secure the thousands of dollars to fix her car, she's set up a not-quiteyet lucrative business from home and is relying on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, implement countrywide standards. after not needing it for years.

"Food stamps have enabled us to be able to eke by while we're figuring out what we're going to do next," Wilson said.

But earlier this month, the Trump administration approved the first in a series of proposed changes to restrict access to the federal food safety net. Wilson is among thousands of SNAP recipients who, if cut from the program, don't know how they'd be able to afford their groceries.

As of November, Texas distributed more than \$4.2 billion in federal money to an average of 1.5 million households — about \$261 per household.

The rule that passed this month won't affect Texans in the short term, but a second rule coming down the pipeline could kick as many as 390,000 Texans off SNAP.

The most recent rule change, which goes into effect in April 2020, is estimated to cut benefits for a roughly 700,000 Americans. The change would make it harder for states to waive the federal program's work requirements in areas of high unemployment. Under current law, those unable to work 30 hours a between, 'I have a car worth this week can only receive SNAP benefits for three months out of every three said.

years. States that use the waiver can forego that three-month limitation, according to food policy experts.

Texas hasn't used the waiver for at least six years. In an effort to limit usage, state officials decided an area's unemployment rate has to be at 10% or higher to use the waiver, a threshold that doesn't currently apply to any Texas counties, said Rachel Cooper, a senior policy analyst with the Austin-based Center for Public Policy Priorities, a leftleaning think tank.

The rule Texas experts are most worried about — because it could impact about 390,000 Texans — is still under review. Although SNAP is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it's up to states to determine eligibility — like income level and car value — and distribute aid as needed. This change would

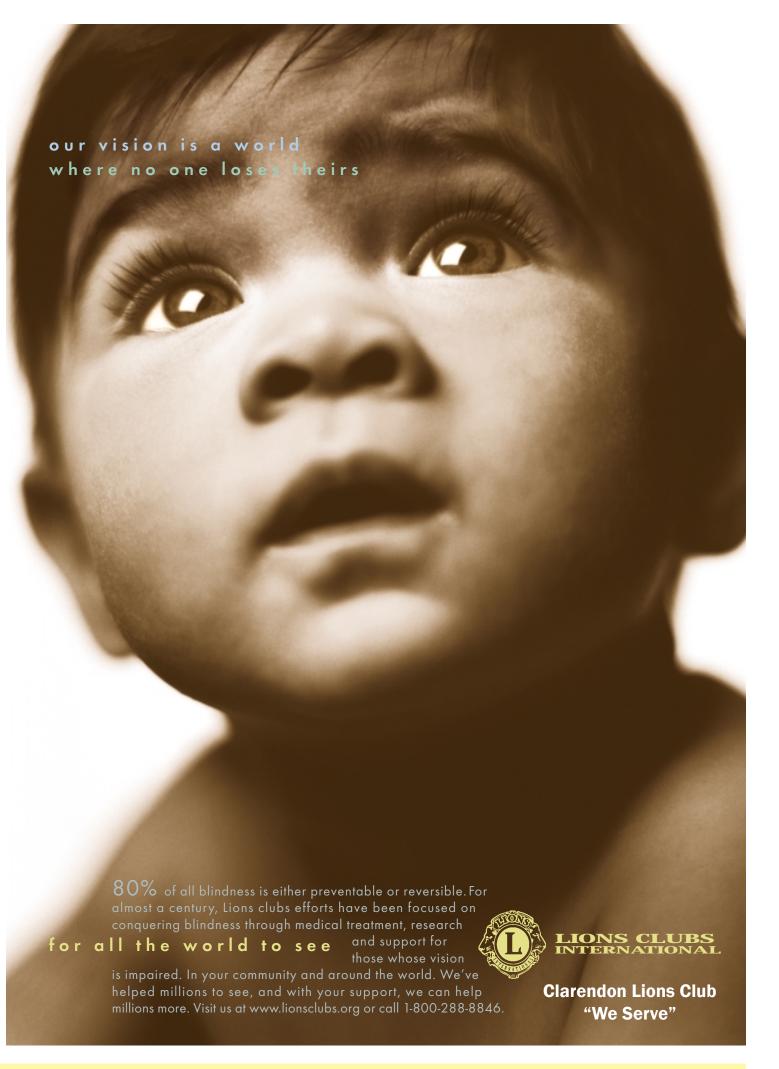
Since 2001, Texas has required applicants to make no more than 165% of the federal poverty level about \$42,000 for a family of four to be considered for SNAP benefits. Under the new rule, that number would fall to 130% of the federal poverty line — about \$33,000 for a family of four.

Assets like cars are also taken into account when determining eligibility. Under Texas law, SNAP participants cannot own a car that is valued at more than \$15,000. If the proposed rule change goes into effect, that number would drop to \$4,650.

Trinity McKeaver, a SNAP recipient in Houston, drives a 2006 Jeep to her day care job every day.

Without her car, McKeaver said she wouldn't be able to keep her job. The bus line isn't as accessible in the outskirts of Houston, she said. At least \$20 each way, Ubers are too expensive. The only jobs she could walk to would be at local fast food joints. McKeaver doesn't think having a more reliable vehicle should be the reason she can't afford

groceries. "I don't see the correlation much and I need food," McKeaver



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