

THE CLARENDON ★ Enterprise

12.26.2019

M E R R Y

Christmas!

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





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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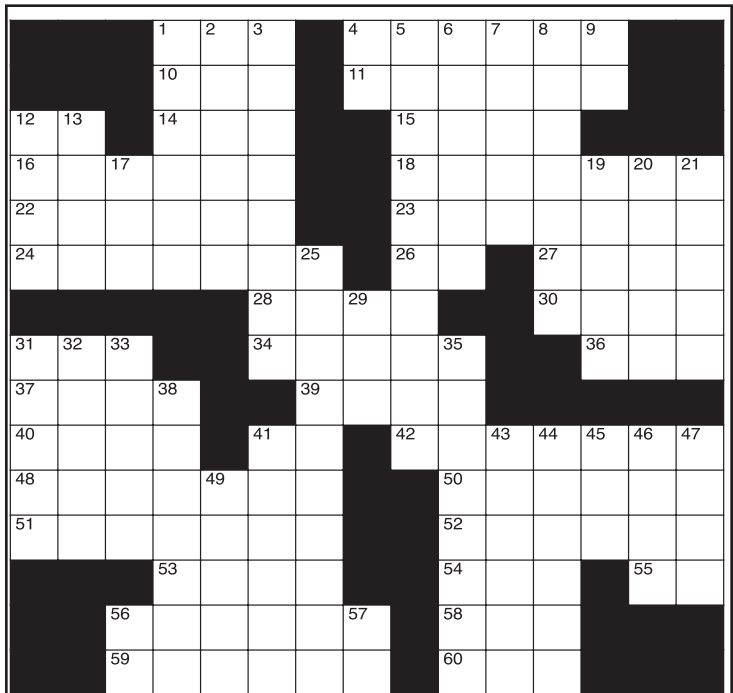
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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Hair care product | 34. Famed Hollywood producer |
| 4. Looped | 36. Yuck! |
| 10. It's present in all living cells | 37. Reject outright and bluntly |
| 11. Choose | 39. ___ 500, car race |
| 12. South Dakota | 40. Small heap or pile |
| 14. Cash machine | 41. Type of degree (abbr.) |
| 15. Of the pia mater | 42. Contagious skin disease |
| 16. Ancient Egyptian documents | 48. Erases from a surface |
| 18. Layers at the back of the eyeballs | 50. In an enthusiastic way |
| 22. Not perceived | 51. Begin again |
| 23. Look over | 52. Intricately produced pattern |
| 24. Improve a tire | 53. It flows NW to the Seine |
| 26. Time zone | 54. Be obliged to repay |
| 27. Main branch of Islam | 55. Southeast |
| 28. Bark of the mulberry tree | 56. Slip in |
| 30. Sea eagles | 58. Leisure time activity |
| 31. Records heart muscle activity (abbr.) | 59. Breastbones |
| | 60. Sun up in New York |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. More cloudy | 31. Outlying suburb of London |
| 2. Main course | 32. Used to cut steak |
| 3. Protect with plastic | 33. Deep inlets |
| 4. Equally | 35. Type of tree |
| 5. Rebukes | 38. Done openly and unashamedly |
| 6. Friend to a salesman | 41. Indigenous person of N. Africa |
| 7. Warm up | 43. Confessed openly |
| 8. Overshadow | 44. A way to separate with an instrument |
| 9. Interior lineman in football | 45. Influential journalist Tarbell |
| 12. San Antonio hoopster | 46. Manning and Roth are two |
| 13. Comedian Cook | 47. One who cares for horses in India |
| 17. Time zone | 49. Something to believe in |
| 19. First PM of India | 56. Form of "to be" |
| 20. Performing perfectly | 57. Atomic #73 |
| 21. A way to hide | |
| 25. Former NBA commissioner | |
| 29. Peter's last name | |

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CHILI

★

¿Qué Pasa?

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
p.m.

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.
Thu: Hamburger steak/gravy,
mashed potatoes, green beans,
wheat roll, orange dream pudding,
iced tea/2% milk.
Fri: Spaghetti/meatballs, garden
salad, mixed vegetables, garlic
toast, strawberries/whipped
cream, iced tea/2% milk.

Hedley Senior Citizens
Mon: Baked chicken breast,
baked potato w/sour cream,
peas, pineapple tidbits, chocolate
pudding, iced tea/2% milk.
Tue: Jambalaya, carrots, black-
eyed peas, cornbread, lazy cake,
iced tea/2% milk.
Wed: Closed
Thu: 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%
milk.

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.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO



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 ALLRED

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DEC. 25, 27 & 28 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, DEC. 29 2:00 P.M.
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Panhandle PBS now live on YouTube TV

Panhandle PBS is now streaming live on YouTube TV starting 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 guide or the PBS schedule here.

“We are thrilled that we can reach more of our audience across the Texas Panhandle via YouTube TV,” said Kyle Arrant, Panhandle PBS director of operations. “It’s just one more way that we can provide the great PBS content our audience they love on more platforms.”

“Every year, more and more households are seeking alternative ways to view their favorite PBS programs,” said PBS Chief Digital and Marketing Officer Ira Rubenstein. “PBS is committed to making trusted

content available to all households across as many platforms as possible. We are pleased that YouTube TV recognizes public television’s unique structure and worked with us to provide our viewers with more ways to watch the programs that they love through their local PBS station.”

“We are excited to partner with PBS on this unique partnership to further our commitment to providing a best-in-class experience for our users,” said Lori Conkling, Global Head of Partnerships at YouTube TV. “PBS and PBS Kids are highly requested channels by our users, and we’re thrilled to be able to add these to the YouTube TV lineup starting today.”

YouTube TV represents Panhandle PBS’s first local livestreaming partnership and includes episodes and on-demand content from locally produced shows and PBS favorites, including American Experience, Antiques Roadshow, Frontline, Great Performances, Masterpiece, Nature and more.

The accompanying PBS Kids 24/7 channel extends the organization’s mission of helping prepare children for success in school and life through trusted, educational media, available anytime and anywhere.

Users can access favorite series, such as Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood, Molly Of Denali, Odd Squad, Pinkalicious & Peterrific, Wild Kratts and Sesame Street. YouTube TV subscribers can also access select content through YouTube TV’s VOD service.

In addition to YouTube TV, Panhandle PBS content is available on all Panhandle PBS-branded PBS 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 Passport.

Southwest Beef Symposium set Jan. 22-23

Southwest Beef Symposium set 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.

The registration fee includes a steak dinner on Jan. 22, lunch on Jan. 23 and refreshments.

Online registration is now open at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Beef>.

“Cattle prices have adjusted downward after some very favor-

able years for cow-calf and stocker producers,” said Bruce Carpenter, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, Ft. Stockton. “Various segments of the industry are looking for opportunities to add value and income with improved marketing and/or production.”

Opening session topics and 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, Colorado; Selling Calves Through Branded Genetics, Justin Kleghorn, Cactus Feeders-Amarillo; From Ranch to Restaurant: Marketing Beef Through the Service Industry, Jason McDonald, Fess Parker Ranch Beef, Hatchita, New Mexico and Los Olivos, California; and Think-

ing About Estate Planning, Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, AgriLife Extension, Amarillo.

A round-table Question and Answer session will wrap up the afternoon, before a dinner sponsored by the Southwest Beef CAP Grant.

Day two topics and speakers 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, NCBA.

For more information, contact Carpenter at 432-336-8585 or bruce.carpenter@ag.tamu.edu.

Drunk driving causes lifetime of heartache

AUSTIN – When Rebecca Grimes sets the table during the holiday season, there’s always a missing piece. Nearly four decades ago in 1982, a drunk driver killed her brother, 18-year-old José “Hector” Martinez, in a head-on crash just before Thanksgiving. The holidays have never been the same since then.

“Even 30 years since Hector’s crash, we still feel that one empty chair at the table during the holidays,” Rebecca Grimes said. “Drunk drivers affect so many people beyond just those who are in the crash. They have a domino effect – crushing multiple families – and the impact lingers for years, decades beyond the crash.”

Grimes is sharing her story as part of TxDOT’s “Plan While You Can” campaign which urges drivers to make a plan for a sober ride this holiday season.

“Just don’t drink and drive, and don’t risk putting your family or someone else’s through heartache this holiday season,” Grimes said.

In 2018, there were 2,370 DUI-alcohol related crashes in Texas during the holiday season.* Those crashes killed 75 people and seriously injured another 199.

“The bad decision to drink and drive can turn the joy and revelry of the season into tragedy, causing unimaginable heartache for years to come,” TxDOT Executive Director James Bass said. “There’s no excuse: plan ahead and be responsible.”

The “Plan While You Can” campaign will tour the state featuring the “Plan to Win” virtual reality game. The game poses questions related to drinking and driving demonstrating the consequences of getting behind the wheel through an immersive experience.

Driving under the influence of alcohol not only risks death or serious injuries, but it can also be costly. Drivers can face up to \$17,000 in fines and fees, jail time and loss of their driver’s license. Instead of getting behind the wheel, here are some alternative options: Designating a sober driver or calling someone for a ride home. Calling a cab or ride-share service. Spending the night.

“Plan While You Can” is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth 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

The Texas A&M AgriLife 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 year, said Justin Benavidez, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist in Amarillo.

“This decision aid assists producers in making management decisions on the optimal crop mix for their 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

silage, sorghum Sudan grass, soybeans, sunflowers, triticale and wheat. Dryland crops include canola, cotton, sorghum, sorghum Sudan grass, sunflowers and wheat.

“This is an extremely flexible tool that can assist producers in evaluating their cropping choices and water use for the upcoming year,” Benavidez said.

He said the budget cost estimates are averages and producers using it can and will need to modify the prices, input costs and yields to fit their operations.

The spreadsheet contains four sections where analysis is performed: enterprise budgets that require user input, breakeven price estimates, comparative returns and optimal irrigation analysis.

“The enterprise budgets not only provide a measure of crop profitability but also allow for evaluating the landowner/tenant shares of a crop-share lease agreement,” Benavidez said. “In the break-even section, a sensitivity analysis is per-

formed that varies yield and calculates the various prices that would be required to cover out-of-pocket and total costs for each of the crops.”

The comparative section provides the expected revenue, out-of-pocket and total costs for each of the crops, he said. The irrigation section allows a producer to identify their optimal crop mix by taking into consideration the water available and any water-use restrictions that apply.

“Based on all that information and the crop budgets, the amount of land and profitability is calculated for each of the crops and presented both numerically and graphically,” Benavidez said.

“Another interesting feature is that you can ‘toggle on’ or ‘toggle off’ crops, so you can limit the analysis to only crops you are interested in growing,” Jones said.

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

I would like to announce my candidacy for re-election.

Andy WHEATLY

DONLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRCT. 3

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SUN. SERVICE: 10:30 A.M. • THURS. BIBLE STUDY: 7 P.M.

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SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
SUN. EVENING: 7 P.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
300 S. CARHART • 874-2495 • MINISTER: CHRIS MOORE
SUN. BIBLE CLASS 9:30 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 10:30 A.M.
SUN. 6 P.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.

CHURCH OF NAZARENE
209 S. HAWLEY • 874-2321 • PASTOR: ALLEN POSEY
SUN. SCHOOL: 9:30 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
• WED.: 7 P.M.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
12148 FM 2162 • 874-0963
PASTOR: LARRY CAPRANICA
SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • WED. COMMUNITY KIDZ 5:30 P.M.
WED. ADULT BIBLE STUDY: 6 P.M.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
120 E. THIRD ST. • PASTOR: DARRELL BURTON
SUNDAY SERVICE: 5 P.M.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
4TH ST. & HWY. 70 SOUTH • PASTOR: JOSHUA LOWRANCE
SUN. SCHOOL: 9:30 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 10:40 A.M.
SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • SUN. YOUTH: 5:00 P.M.
WED. BIBLE STUDY: 6:30 P.M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
300 BUGBEE AVE. • 874-3833 • REV. LANCE WOOD
SUN. SCHOOL: 9:45 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 10:55 A.M.
SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • KID’S ACTIVITIES: WED. 6 P.M.
YOUTH STUDY: WED. 7 P.M.
COLLEGE MINISTRY: WED. 9 P.M.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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FELLOWSHIP: 10:30 A.M.
SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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SUN. SERVICE: 11:00 A.M. • SUN. SCHOOL: 9:45 A.M. • YOUTH PROGRAM: 6:00 P.M.

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720 E. MONTGOMERY • 205-1149 • REV. 874-2078 REV. CALVIN BURROW
SUN. SERVICES: 3 P.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.

BODY OF CHRIST MINISTRIES:
501 S. MCCLELLAND • PASTOR: R.W. ELLERBROOK
SATURDAY: 6 P.M. • SUNDAY DISCIPLESHIP CLASS: 9:30 A.M. SUN.: 10:30 A.M. • SUN. LIFE GROUP: 4:30 P.M. WED.: 6:30 P.M.

CHRIST’S KIDS OUTREACH MINISTRY:
416 S. KEARNEY • JANET CARTER • 874-2007 SUN. BREAKFAST 9:30 A.M. • SUN. PRAISE & WORSHIP 10 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:30 A.M. • WED.: 5 P.M.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
301 S. PARKS ST. • 874-2511 • REV. JIM AVENI SECOND SUNDAY SERVICE: 11 A.M.

ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
MONTGOMERY & MCCLELLAND
FR. AROKIA RAJ SAMALA
SUN. MASS 11 A.M.

ST. STEPHENS BAPTIST CHURCH
300 N. JEFFERSON ST. • PASTOR: ROY WILLIAMS
SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11:15 A.M. WED.: 7 P.M. (WEATHER PERMITTING)

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
110 E. SECOND ST. • MINISTER: STEWART MESSER
SUN. BIBLE CLASS: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • WED.: 7:30 P.M.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 N. MAIN ST. • PASTOR: STAN CROSBY
SUN. SERVICE: 11:00 A.M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN.: 11 A.M. & 6 P.M. WED.: 7 P.M.

HOWARDWICK

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DEADLINES

News & Photos Monday @ noon

Ads & Classifieds Monday @ 5 p.m.



Holiday music
Clarendon third graders sing during the annual elementary Christmas program last Monday, December 16, at the Clarendon College Harned Sisters Fine Arts Center.

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Broncos v Stratford
Mon., Dec. 30 AWAY @ 1:30 PM

Lady Broncos v Stratford
Mon., Dec. 30 AWAY @ 12:00 PM

Broncos v San Jacinto
Tues., Dec. 31 HOME @ STARTING AT 10 AM

Lady Broncos v San Jacinto
Tues., Dec. 31 HOME @ STARTING AT 10 AM

FAN ZONE

<p>Clarendon Family Medical Center</p>	<p>MORROW Drilling</p>	<p>NORPP Insurance Agency The Donley County State Bank MEMBER FDIC</p>
<p>SECURITY ABSTRACT CO.</p>	<p>GREENBELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative</p>	<p>Greenbelt WATER AUTHORITY</p>
<p>J&W Lumber</p>	<p>MIKE'S PHARMACY</p>	<p>SHELTON & SHELTON Law Offices</p>
<p>ClarendonLIVE.com</p>	<p>THE CLARENDON Enterprise</p>	

big E classifieds

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MEETINGS



Clarendon Lodge #700 AF&AM
Stated meeting: Second Mondays,
7:30 p.m. Refreshments at 6:30
p.m. Practice: Fourth Mondays,
7 p.m. Roger Estlack - W.M., Grett
Betts - Secretary, 2 B 1, ASK 1



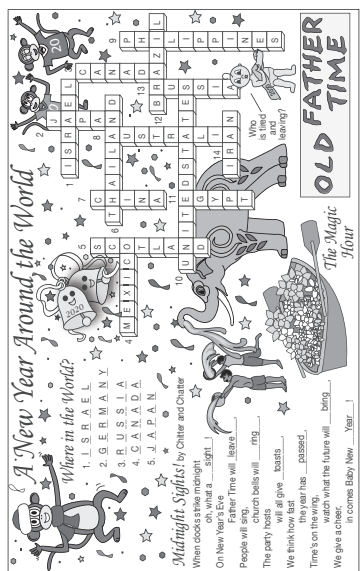
Donley County Memorial Post
7782 Veterans of Foreign Wars.
Meets first Tuesday at 7 p.m.
822-VETS.



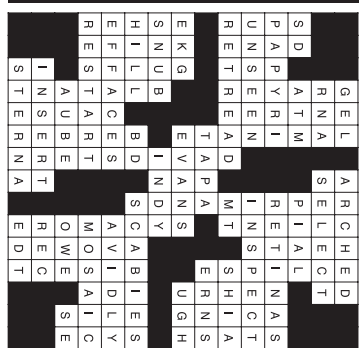
Clarendon Lions Club Regular
meeting each Tuesday at noon.
Scarlett Estlack, Boss Lion. Roger
Estlack, Secretary

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FACILITIES AVAILABLE - Family Reunions,
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system, reading meters, and all other related
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the Authority's Administrative Office at 3000
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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 not-
ified 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 Febru-
ary 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
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familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make any
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THE CLARENDON
Enterprise

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-quite-yet lucrative business from home and is relying on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, 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 week can only receive SNAP benefits for three months out of every three

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 left-leaning 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 implement countrywide standards.

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 between, ‘I have a car worth this much and I need food,’” McKeaver said.

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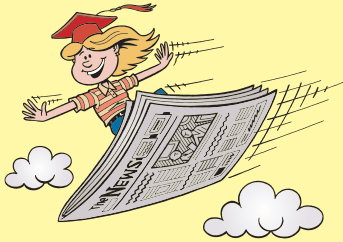
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...improve upon during the new year!



Kids: color stuff in!





Many people all over the world ring in the New Year on the 31st of December at midnight. Some ring in their new year in a different season. Read my clues to learn about new year celebrations. Fill in the puzzle!

A New Year Around the World



1. In _____ it is a time to pray, think about the old year and forgive (in the fall).

2. People in _____ hang straw rope on their doors to ward off evil spirits; eat tasty rice cakes.

3. In _____, schools are closed. People use New Year’s Day to rest from the parties and fireworks they went to the night before!

4. In _____, people decorate with colors: yellow for happiness, red for love, white for health!

5. In _____, the “first footer” – the first person to come through your door in the new year – brings good luck!

6. In _____, during the festival of Songkran, people splash water on each other for fun. Some even use elephants to spray water (April).

7. In _____, parades are held with fireworks and dancing “dragons.”

8. In _____, people celebrate for 6 days with parties, fireworks and dancing.

9. In the _____, people wear polka dots and eat round fruits for good luck; streets are lined with bright lanterns.

10. In the _____ people watch a giant crystal ball drop at the stroke of midnight. People promise to better themselves in the new year.

11. In _____, heads of households go door to door to wish neighbors well. Kids get sweets wrapped in colorful paper.

12. In _____, people release a flower-filled boat for the ocean goddess, Lemanjá.

13. In _____, the President addresses the country; people make toasts; exchange gifts.

14. In _____ it is a joyful time, lasting about 12 days. There is a reading of the Koran at home. There are lighted candles. A leaf for each family member shows life and growth (March).