

# THE CLARENDON Enterprise

12.28.2023

# Best of 2023 The Year In Review

## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

01.05.2023

### Donley youth prepare for stock show next week

Local 4-H youth are preparing for the annual Donley County Stock Show and Rodeo, which will be held at the Donley County Fairgrounds in Donley, Texas, from Jan. 11-13. The youth are currently working on their projects and preparing for the show.

### Fire leads to outpouring of love

Community rallies around teacher in her time of need

When a fire broke out at the home of a local teacher, the community rallied around her in her time of need. Neighbors and friends came together to help with the cleanup and provide support.

### District court weeks backlog

The District Court in Donley is currently experiencing a significant backlog of cases, which is causing delays in the legal process. The court is working to clear the backlog as quickly as possible.

### Local surveys are underway

Local surveys are currently underway in Donley County to gather feedback from residents on various issues. The surveys will help local officials make informed decisions about community improvements.

### Grand prize winner

A local resident has won the grand prize in a recent contest. The winner is excited about the prize and will be receiving it soon.

## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

01.26.2023

### Headley secretary resigns amid investigation

The Donley County Board of Commissioners has received the resignation of the County Secretary, effective immediately. The resignation comes in the midst of an ongoing investigation.

### Local woman gets five-year prison term

A local woman has been sentenced to a five-year prison term for a crime. The court found her guilty of the charges and imposed the sentence.

### Fun in the snow

Children are enjoying a day of fun in the snow. They are playing in the snow and having a great time.

### Filing now open for local elected offices

The filing period is now open for local elected offices. Citizens are encouraged to file their names for the upcoming election.

## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

02.09.2023

### CCISD adopting new phone numbers

Clarendon County Independent School District (CCISD) is adopting new phone numbers for its various departments. The change is necessary to accommodate the district's growth.

### City focuses on southeast for next street work

The City of Donley is focusing on the southeast area for the next round of street work. The city is planning to improve the infrastructure in that area.

### CCISD planning 2023 February program

CCISD is planning a special February program for students. The program will include various activities and events to celebrate the month.

### Chamber banquet to have 4950s theme

The Chamber of Commerce is planning a banquet with a 1940s theme. The event will be a celebration of the chamber's achievements.

### Local church will welcome new preacher

A local church is welcoming a new preacher. The new preacher will be starting his duties in the coming weeks.

### Jackson seeks to protect ag from foreign interference

Local officials are seeking ways to protect agriculture from foreign interference. They are implementing various measures to ensure the safety of the local food supply.

## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

02.09.2023

### Candidate sign-ups continue

Candidate sign-ups are continuing for the upcoming election. Citizens are encouraged to sign up if they are interested in running for office.

### CVFD responds to two fires Saturday

The Clarendon County Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) responded to two fires on Saturday. The firefighters worked hard to contain the fires and prevent further damage.

### Local church will welcome new preacher

A local church is welcoming a new preacher. The new preacher will be starting his duties in the coming weeks.

### Jackson seeks to protect ag from foreign interference

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## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

02.16.2023

### CJH student facing charges after assault

A student at Clarendon Junior High School is facing charges after an assault. The incident occurred during a school activity.

### Conkin taking AD position at Slaton ISD

Conkin is taking an administrative position at Slaton Independent School District. This move is part of a restructuring within the district.

### City releases two administrator candidates

The City of Donley has released two candidates for an administrator position. The candidates will be interviewed for the role.

### Filing deadline Friday

The filing deadline for local elected offices is Friday. Citizens must file their names by this date.

## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

03.02.2023

### CC spring enrollment down 7.4%

Clarendon County's spring enrollment is down by 7.4% compared to last year. This is a concern for local officials.

### Cartner earns top Chamber honor

Cartner has earned the top honor from the Chamber of Commerce. This is a recognition of his contributions to the community.

### FBI raiding local man guilty of evading

FBI agents raided a local man's home after he was found guilty of evading. The man is facing charges related to the case.

### Jury finds local man guilty of evading

A jury has found a local man guilty of evading. The man is facing charges related to the case.

## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

03.03.2023

### CCISD Trustees confirm Wampler as new AD

CCISD Trustees have confirmed Wampler as the new Assistant Director. This appointment is effective immediately.

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## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

03.03.2023

### Bains resigns from Hedley as superintendent

Bains has resigned from his position as superintendent at Hedley. The resignation is effective immediately.

### Lions Jones 5K to be Saturday

The Lions Jones 5K race will be held on Saturday. This is a community event to raise funds for a good cause.

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## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

04.27.2023

### Early voting underway in 3 elections

Early voting is underway for three elections. Citizens are encouraged to vote early to avoid long lines.

### Bond drops county suit

A bond has been dropped in a county suit. This is a development in the ongoing legal case.

### District Champions

The District Champions have been announced. These are the winners of the district-level competition.

### Preserving a Legacy Pratt continues tradition of service at local clinic

Pratt is continuing the tradition of service at a local clinic. This is a testament to his commitment to the community.

## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

05.18.2023

### Memorial services planned for May 29

Memorial services are planned for May 29. This is a time to remember and honor the deceased.

### Volunteers needed for rag week

Volunteers are needed for Rag Week. This is a community event that needs your help.

### Sign-up opens for rag week

Sign-up is now open for Rag Week. Citizens are encouraged to sign up for the event.

### City narrows administrator candidates down to one

The City has narrowed the administrator candidates down to one. This is the final candidate for the position.

## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

05.18.2023

### HCISD names Bell as lone finalist for top administrator

HCISD has named Bell as the lone finalist for the top administrator position. This is a significant achievement.

### Ellis sisters qualify for state rodeo

The Ellis sisters have qualified for the state rodeo. This is a great accomplishment for them.

### Man jailed after theft, car chase

A man has been jailed after a theft and car chase. The man is facing charges related to the incident.

### CHS names Word, Cottrell top students for '23

CHS has named Word and Cottrell as the top students for the year. This is a recognition of their academic achievements.

## THE CLARENDON Enterprise

11.30.2023

### Regional Champions Broncos to play Sunray this Friday

The Regional Champions Broncos will be playing Sunray this Friday. This is a big game for the team.

### Clarendon, Hedley ISDs get top FIRST scores

Clarendon and Hedley Independent School Districts have received top scores on the FIRST assessment. This is a testament to the quality of education in these districts.

### Blackburn, White first to file for 2024

Blackburn and White have filed for the 2024 election. This is a significant development in the local political scene.

### Dorley County Christmas

Donley County is celebrating Christmas. This is a time of joy and celebration for the community.





## ¿Qué Pasa?

Community Calendar

**December 28 & 29**  
Broncos v Canyon Holiday Tournament • TBA • Canyon

**December 29 & 30**  
Migration • 7:30 p.m. • Mulkey Theater

**December 31**  
Migration • 2:00 p.m. • Mulkey Theater

**January 2**  
Owls & Lady Owls v Shamrock • 11:00 a.m. • Away

**January 2**  
Broncos v Bushland • 7:30 p.m. • Away

**January 2**  
Lady Broncos v Palo Duro • 6:00 p.m. • Away

**January 13**  
Donley County Junior • Livestock Show & Sale • Donley County Activity Center • Call for details • 806-874-2141

### IN MEMORY

- Gladys Marie Gorder
- George W. Self
- Steven Ray Thornton
- Joyce Yvonne Johnson Jackson
- Bradford Rhea McGuire
- Brent Paul Shields
- Casey James Mills
- John Wayne Stepp
- Blade Cash Barker
- Travis Louis Ruthardt
- Dorothy Joy Martin
- Edna Jewell Durbin
- Jeneda Maurice Gay
- Ted Robert Sawyer
- Doris Faye “MeMa” Salmon
- Richard “Rick” Glenn Benton
- Ann Stepp
- Samara Ann-Christine Johnson Best
- Ray Warner David
- Vera June Whaley Robinson
- Joe Frank Robinson, Jr.
- Allen M. Turner
- Larry Lowell Christopher
- Berkeley Elizabeth “Berk” Alexander
- Danny “Dan” Ray Cummins
- Christopher Ray Liner
- Bertha Anna James
- Brenda Cheryl McConnell
- Ruby Dean Melton
- Ina Mae Blasingame
- Ruth M. Aebischer
- James Edward Potts
- Robert Lee Mills
- Jordon Diego Chavira
- Henry “Peanut” Haire
- Cecil Lee Hook
- Norma Virginia Bruce
- Donald Eugene Stone
- Marvin Leon Elam
- Helen Jo Land
- Lea Tyler
- Ira Jean Chunn
- William Bryan Knowles
- Wesley Arlyn Sharp
- Owen Merle Kramer
- Jimmy Lynn Garland
- Kent Derelle Rattan
- Sam Shelley
- Charles Paul Brown
- Kensity Robyn Morrow
- Billy Cathell Gardner
- Wilma Ruby Lahr Kyle
- Ray Steele
- Connie McAnear Sparks
- Wanda Sibley Root
- Gennia Ann Williams
- Donna Rives
- Michael Edward Mobley

# 2023: HISD hires new super

## APRIL 26, 2023 Donley County 4-H members compete

Donley County 4-H members showcased their talents at the spring District 1 contests last Friday with outstanding results.

In the senior division of horse judging, the team comprising Laney Gates, Brenna Ellis, Maloree Wann, and Bryce Williams secured the first position overall and qualified for the state-level contest.

They also clinched the first position in reasons.

## APRIL 26, 2023 Bond drops county suit over salary

Constable Randy Bond’s legal action against the Donley County Commissioners’ Court ended abruptly last week.

Bond’s attorney, Vincent E. Nowak, filed a Notice of Nonsuit on Friday bringing a close to the cause less than a month after it was filed, according to attorney Landon Lambert.

“Constable Bond’s decision to dismiss his case was a wise one in light of the law,” Lambert said. “The Donley County Commissioners Court, by and through its members, looks forward to attempting to work through these issues without the need for further litigation.”

## MAY 3, 2023 District Lions Clubs convene here

District 2-T1 Lions Clubs gathered in Clarendon April 22 for fun, fellowship, and service during their annual convention.

Activities began that morning at the Bairfield Activity Center before local and area Lions began work on the first of two ramps built that day. The Texas Ramp project provided funding for the ramps for two local residents with Lions providing the labor for installation.

## MAY 3, 2023 CC represented in leadership academy

The Texas Success Center announced Monday the first cohort of the Texas Leadership Academy for Student Success, which will include two Clarendon College representatives.

This leadership development program is designed to provide mid-level community college faculty and staff with the critical skills and knowledge to improve student outcomes. Clarendon College has two representatives to participate in the 2023-2024 Texas Success Center Leadership Academy. Chancey King and Rodney Donahue were selected by Clarendon College President Tex Buckhaults.

## MAY 11, 2023 Sheriff warns about teens’ illegal rides

Donley County Sheriff Butch Blackburn is issuing a warning to parents and teens this week about the use of illegal vehicles on city streets.

The sheriff says with the end of school getting close, he is concerned that the growing problem will get only worse if parents don’t take action.

“Side-by-sides, golf carts, four-wheelers, and dirt bikes are all illegal on city streets,” Blackburn said. “Parents need to find a different place for kids to ride these toys.”

## MAY 11, 2023 Gibson, Word win new seats in votes

New members will be joining the Clarendon school board and the Hedley City Council following last Saturday’s local elections.

Former elementary principal Mike Word will join the Clarendon CISD Board of Trustees after he and incumbent Chrisi Tucek were chosen by voters in a three-person race to fill two positions.

Word had 191 votes, Tucek received 166 votes, and Ginnie Siefkas had 20.

## MAY 11, 2023 CHS wins Pantex STEM grant

CHS science teacher receives a STEM grant check from Pantex Education Outreach Specialist Darla Fish.

The sky is the limit for science, technology, engineering, and math educational efforts for Clarendon High School and four other schools in the Texas Panhandle.

Through \$1,000 grants provided by Consolidated Nuclear Security (CNS), the managing and operating contractor for Pantex, the schools will soon be advancing STEM education with projects ranging from robotics to drones. These grants fund STEM activities in the classroom and represent one of the many ways Pantex is investing in the development of the future workforce.

## MAY 11, 2023 Hedley names top grads for 2023

Hedley High School has announced that Savannah Trent and Joshua Booth are the top students for the Class of 2023.

Trent is the valedictorian with a 3.91 GPA. She is the daughter of Johnny Trent.

Booth as a GPA of 3.76 and is the class Salutatorian. He is the son of Janita Booth.

## MAY 17, 2023 CHS names Word, Cottrell top students

Clarendon High School has announced Catherine Word and Britton Cottrell as the top students for the Class of 2023.

Catherine Word is the Valedictorian and has a GPA of 5.9. She is the daughter of William Word and Tanya Word and has attended all four years at Clarendon High School.

Britton Cottrell is the class salutatorian with a GPA of 5.9. He is the son of Zak and Jade Cottrell

## MAY 17, 2023 Man jailed after theft, car chase

A New Mexico man is in the Donley County Jail this week on charges of evading arrest and terroristic threat after he ran from law enforcement last Thursday, May 11.

Daniel Adrian Barraza, age 19, of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, was still being held on 11,500 bond Tuesday morning.

## MAY 17, 2023 HCISD names Bell as lone finalist for super

Tracey Bell has been selected as the lone finalist for the position of Superintendent.

Bell is currently serving as the Junior High Principal at Vega ISD. She graduated from Wellington High School, received her bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from West Texas A&M University, her Master’s degree from Lamar University in School Counseling, and her School Administration Certification from Lamar University.

Bell previously taught at Lakeview ISD, Memphis ISD, and Wellington ISD before obtaining her current position at Vega ISD.

## MAY 22, 2023 Man jailed for shooting woman

A 19-year-old man is in the Donley County Jail after he allegedly shot a 17-year-old woman Sunday night, May 21.

Sheriff Butch Blackburn said Kade Allen Flowers of Amarillo is facing two felony charges – Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Tampering with Evidence – after the shooting. The woman was still in ICU in Amarillo as of noon Monday.

## MAY 24, 2023 Word places in State UIL meet

Clarendon High took three students to Austin, Texas to compete at the UIL Academic State Meet on May 17 and 18. Davin Mays started the first day with Feature Writing while Averie Halsey finished the afternoon in Copy Editing. Cate

Word started day 2 with Ready Writing. Word wrote to a 6th place finish in Class 2A and came home with a medal. CHS is proud of these students and their hard work and dedication to academics.

## MAY 31, 2023 Langford retires as H’wick Fire Chief

Howardwick Fire Chief Susie Langford

City of Howardwick Volunteer Fire Department Chief Susie Langford retired from her position recently.

Langford stepped into the role of chief during a difficult time for the department. She was reluctant to take the leadership role but did accept to the request of the Mayor, Council, and fellow Fire Fighters and committed herself to making the department something to be proud of.

## MAY 31, 2023 Legion recognizes several volunteers

American Legion Post Commander Will Thompson (left) presented certificates honoring those who have helped the post through the years. Shown here are Jimmie Adams of the Hedley Lions Club, Mary Ruth White of the Hedley Lions Club, Gail Hill representing the Rowe Cemetery Association, and Garrett and Tamara Bains with their son Asa for their support through Hedley CISD.

## JUNE 8, 2023 Enterprise completes Google tech lab class

The Clarendon Enterprise successfully completed an exclusive training program leading up to its 145th anniversary last week with the purpose of positioning the Texas Panhandle’s oldest newspaper to continue to serve Donley County into the future.

The Google News Initiative Foundations Lab, which began in October 2022 and wrapped up on May 23, 2023, was designed to build digital capabilities and technology infrastructure within small to medium-sized news organizations. The program was launched in English in the United States and Canada and was conducted in Spanish in Latin America.

The Enterprise was one of only two newspapers in Texas selected to participate in the program, and there were only 14 publishers selected in the United States and just 34 organizations in all of North, Central, and South America.

## JUNE 8, 2023 Enterprise wins TPA sweepstakes award

For the second year in a row, The Clarendon Enterprise was recognized as the best small paper in the state by the Texas Press Association Saturday, June 3, during the TPA Summer Convention in Round Rock.

The Enterprise earned the Sweepstakes Award in Division 10 of the 2022 Better Newspaper Contest, winning four first place plaques and placing in ten other categories to gather enough points to win the overall division.

## JUNE 8, 2023 Man uninjured in tractor v. truck wreck

Emergency personnel look over the aftermath of a tractor versus semi accident east of Clarendon about 1.5 miles last Wednesday, May 31.

DPS Trooper Lynn Mays said 17-year-old Riley Wade of Clarendon was driving a John Deere tractor eastbound on US 287 partially on the shoulder when he was struck by a semi-tractor trailer rig driven by Roberto Lowrie, 45, of Harlingen. Mays said driver inattention on the part of the trucker for is to blame for the accident.

Mays said the truck tried to turn to the left as it struck the tractor in the left rear tire, sending the tractor into the south ditch. The truck turned on its side as plowed down two trees in the center median before coming to rest.

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# 2023: New security officer hired for Clarendon schools

**AUGUST 30, 2023**

## Proposal would fund police services

Sales tax funds could be used to support emergency services in Donley County under a system of County Assistance Districts currently being discussed by local officials.

Donley County Judge John Howard presented information on the subject at the Clarendon Lions Club meeting Tuesday at noon and said the idea would present an equitable way of helping fund law enforcement as possibly other emergency services.

Currently the Donley County Sheriff's Office is funded primarily by the county, which derives about half of its operating income from property taxes, Howard said. Fifteen percent of the sheriff's budget in the coming fiscal year will be paid through a contract agreement with the City of Clarendon in the amount of \$140,000.

Clarendon's support of the sheriff's office by contract dates back to 1981 when the city dissolved its municipal police department resulting in local law enforcement resources and responsibilities being concentrated at the county level.

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

## Enrollment up 6.8 percent for fall at CC

Enrollment is up at Clarendon College this fall as the school celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Total headcount following the 12th class day last week was reported at 1,373, an increase of 6.8 percent over last year's fall enrollment of 1,285.

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

## Hill to start as CCISD security officer

An armed safety officer will soon be working at Clarendon CISD as the school complies with a new state requirement.

State Trooper Kelly Hill will be retiring from his current position and taking on the new role through cooperation with the Donley County Sheriff's office.

Superintendent Jarod Bellar said the new position is an unfunded mandate from the Legislature.

"House Bill 3 requires that we have a license peace officer on each campus effective September 1," Bellar said.

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

## Donley jury convicts 'sovereign citizen'

A two-day district court jury trial of a self-styled "sovereign citizen" ended with a conviction at the Donley County Courthouse last Wednesday, August 30.

John Edward Hopper was found guilty for the third degree felony offense of evading arrest in a motor vehicle with a deadly weapon.

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

## State okays new funding system for CC

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) approved emergency rules at a special-called board meeting last week that will govern Texas' new funding system for Clarendon College and other community colleges, effective September 1.

House Bill 8 (HB 8), passed by the Texas Legislature during its 88th session and signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott in June, codified the new, dynamic model that will fund community colleges in Texas. The model moves to an outcomes-based approach and rewards colleges for awarding degrees, certificates, and other "credentials of value."

Clarendon College President Tex Buckhaults said the state's community colleges cooperated on building the new funding model.

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

## School lockdown was appropriate, Sheriff

School officials and the Donley County Sheriff's Office are reviewing what worked well and what needs improvement after a false alarm caused Clarendon CISD campuses to go on lockdown for about

half an hour last Thursday, September 15.

Sheriff Butch Blackburn said the school acted appropriately even though ultimately it was determined there was no threat to the school or the students.

"In my opinion, they did exactly what that should have done with the information they had to start with," Blackburn said.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**

## Tennessee team wins chuckwagon cookoff

The Camp Cookie wagon team from Germantown, Tennessee, claimed the championship of the Col. Charles Goodnight Chuckwagon Cookoff last Saturday, September 23, beating out 11 other teams.

Competing in the Saints' Roost Museum's 28th annual cookoff, Camp Cookie placed first in Overall Cooking and first in Beans, Meats, and Desserts as well as second in Bread to win the title of best Overall Wagon & Cooking.

The Shadow Peak Chuckwagon from Weatherford, Texas., placed first in Wagon & Camp this year in its first appearance at the Clarendon cookoff.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**

## New pastor at Hedley First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Hedley has called Braden Montgomery as their new pastor.

Montgomery's first Sunday will be October 1. He grew up in the Panhandle of Texas, going to school in Hedley and graduating from White Deer High School. He has college experience from Wayland Baptist University and has eight years of ministry experience as a youth and music minister. This will be his first pastorate.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**

## Sheriff nabs Dallas

## murder suspect here

A Dallas murder suspect was apprehended west of Clarendon by the Donley County and Hall County sheriffs' departments Monday evening.

Jeremiah Earl Morrow, a 27-year-old black male, was wanted out of Dallas County for allegedly shooting four people Monday afternoon, killing one of them, and also shooting up a carwash in that community.

Donley County Sheriff Butch Blackburn said his office received a "be on the lookout" alert after a Hall County deputy tailed Morrow into Donley County.

The Hall County deputy followed the suspect, who was driving a burgundy Chevrolet Lumina, until Blackburn could catch up to them and back him up about about eight miles west of Clarendon on US 287.

Blackburn then pulled Morrow over, detained him, and placed him under arrest.

**OCTOBER 4, 2023**

## City welcomes new administrator

Clarendon's new city administrator started work Monday and has been making the rounds meeting people and getting more familiar with the community.

Brian Barboza has about three years of experience as a city administrator but is no stranger to his new city, having attended Clarendon College here.

"It felt like home when I was here in 2012," Barboza said. "I'm definitely a Panhandle boy."

**OCTOBER 6, 2023**

## Abbott appoints Rabe District Judge

Governor Greg Abbott appointed Dale Rabe, Jr., on October 6 to the 100th Judicial District Court in Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley, and Hall counties for a term

set to expire on December 31, 2024, or until his successor shall be duly elected and qualified.

Rabe succeeds former district Judge Stuart Messer, who retired September 30.

**OCTOBER 12, 2023**

## CHS senior earns academic honor

Clarendon High School Principal John Moffett announced recently that senior Toby Leeper has been named a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

A letter of commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation was printed to the student at a Bronco Pep Rally.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2024 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2024 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

**OCTOBER 12, 2023**

## Hernandez arrested last week for assault

A Clarendon businessman and former city council member is out on bail this week, facing a charge of assaulting a 13-year-old girl.

Donley County Sheriff Butch Blackburn said Jesus Hernandez was arrested Monday, October 2, and charged with Indecent Assault, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Blackburn said the alleged assault occurred on September 23, and Hernandez was arrested following an investigation into the report.

**OCTOBER 19, 2023**

## City appoints CDC members at meeting

The Clarendon City Council voted on several routine agenda items to start the new fiscal year during its regular meeting last Thursday, October 12.

The annual contract with the Donley County Appraisal District was approved as presented with a price tag of \$19,486.

The district assesses and collects property taxes for the city. The council also voted to nominate Mayor Jacob Fangman for the appraisal district board. Fangman currently serves as the president of that board.

The Clarendon Enterprise was named the city's official newspaper for fiscal year 2024 and will continue to be the city's vehicle for the publishing of public notices.

The council considered expiring terms on the Clarendon Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors and voted to reappoint Brandon Frausto, Taylor Shelton, Steve Hall, and Jarod Bellar to their seats on the board.

**OCTOBER 19, 2023**

## Burton Library to celebrate centennial

Two authors will be holding a book signing as the Burton Memorial Library celebrates 100 years of service to Donley County this month.

A reception will be held October 20 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and will include the announcement of the library's Patron of the Year and the signings by two authors – Tenise Cooke, who wrote Belly of the Whale, a local history; and Diane Smithwick Braden, who wrote the Wilbarger County Series.

**OCTOBER 19, 2023**

## City man dies after train strikes car

A Clarendon man lost his life Wednesday, October 18, when the car he was riding in went around railroad cross arms and was struck by a Burlington Northern Santa Fe

freight train.

Donley County Deputy Kelly Hill said the train conductor and engineer separately said two vehicles went around the cross arms traveling north at the Kearney Street crossing at about 3:00 p.m. The first car made it through, but the second car, driven by 70-year-old Naomi Tolbert of Clarendon, was struck by the west-bound BNSF train. The accident was also captured on the railroad's video, Hill said.

Tolbert's brother, 58-year-old Blade Barker, also of Clarendon, was thrown from the car and was later pronounced dead at the scene by Justice of the Peace Pat White.

**OCTOBER 26, 2023**

## REFZ to open downtown Nov. 1

A new downtown restaurant will hold its grand opening next week after several months of construction and remodeling.

REFZ Sports Bar & Grill, located at US 287 and Kearney Street, will open its doors to the public on Wednesday, November 1, and owner Ricardo Santillan is just as ready as the community is.

"It's been hard and definitely a lot of work," Santillan said, "but it's also been very exciting watching the process of taking a building where there was nothing and what it has turned into."

The process of bringing a restaurant to downtown has been a long one. The Clarendon Economic Development Corporation first purchased the building in 2015 after it was heavily damaged by an automobile and has made significant investments in the building since that time to make it attractive as a potential restaurant. Discussions with Santillan began in November 2022 with an agreement reached in February 2023 and construction starting the following month.

"It's been great working with the CEDC," Santillan said. "Those

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*Broncos @ Bushland*  
*Jan. 2 • 7:30 p.m. @ AWAY*

*Lady Broncos v Palo Duro*  
*Dec. 2 • 7:30 p.m. @ AWAY*

*Owls & Lady Owls*  
**UPCOMING GAMES:**  
*Owls & Lady Owls v Shamrock*  
*Jan. 2 • 11:00 a.m. @ AWAY*

*Lady Owls v Shamrock*  
*Jan. 2 • 11:00 a.m. @ AWAY*

**25 Years' Experience** **Locally Owned** **HH & R ROOFING** L L C **LET'S GO, BRONCOS!**  
**THE FULL SERVICE COMPANY** **Tim Herbert** **806-881-4997**  
HEDELY, TEXAS

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J&W Lumber | SHELTON & SHELTON Law Offices | THE CLARENDON Enterprise | CLARENDON FAMILY MEDICINE





# Happy new year 2024

*As we usher in 2024, we would like to extend our best wishes to everyone who helped make us so successful.*

*We appreciate your patronage, and we look forward to serving you in the years to come.*

*From everyone at Herring Bank, we wish a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year to all!*



**HERRING BANK**

Member  
**FDIC** 

We will close at 3:00 p.m. on December 29, 2023, and be closed January 1, 2024