



THE CLARENDON Enterprise

03.14.2024

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Established 1878.

THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

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THIS WEEK

- 2 Newspapers help shine the light where the public needs to see.
- 4 The Class of 2025 is honored at HHS in a ring ceremony.
- 6 The Broncos' do well in baseball tournament action.
- 8 And a new alert system helps with wildfire response.

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

Clarendon sales tax up for March

Clarendon's sales tax revenues rose on January sales when Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar distributed monthly allocations to local governments last week.

The city saw its March sales tax revenue increase 13.47 percent from \$33,018.04 one year ago to \$37,467.05 this month. The city's calendar year-to-date total is now up 3.48 percent at \$127,694.33 compared to \$123,270.08 at this point in 2023.

Sales tax revenues in Hedley were up 23.28 percent at \$888.40 compared to \$720.58 last March. Hedley's year-to-date figure is now up 1.77 percent with collections of \$3,441.56, up from \$3,381.55 a year ago.

Howardwick's sales tax revenue fell 19.20 percent, dropping from \$1,890.87 last March to \$1,527.64 this year. Howardwick is now down 21.26 percent on the year. Howardwick's declining revenue can be attributed in large part to that city opting not to renew its street maintenance sales tax, which lowered its overall local sales tax rate from 1.25 percent to 1.0 percent effective October 1, 2023.

Statewide, Hegar delivered \$980.9 million in local sales tax allocations for March, 2.2 percent less than in March 2023.

March sales tax allocations are based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

Lions to host 12th Jones 5K April 27

The 12th annual Chance Mark Jones Roar & Run 5K will be held Saturday, April 27, at the Donley County Courthouse.

The Clarendon Lions Club is hosting the event again in memory of the late Chance Mark Jones to raise awareness of Child Abuse. Jones passed away in January 2011 as a result of abuse.

Those interested in running or walking the 5K (about 3.1 miles) encouraged to sign up before March 29 to be guaranteed the official 5K t-shirt. Registrations are \$30 each.

Race registrations are available at the Clarendon Visitor Center at the Mulkey Theatre or at the Enterprise.



SUNSHINE WEEK
YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW



Essary beats White for commissioner seat

One Donley County precinct will be getting a new commissioner, and another commissioner's seat is headed to a runoff election following last week's party primary elections.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Mark White lost his reelection bid to challenger Del Essary in the Republican Primary, 104-76. Essary, a current Howardwick alderman and former mayor of that city, faces no opposition in the November general election and will take office next January.

In Precinct 3, Commissioner Neil Koetting came in second in a three-person race for the Republican nomination. Greg Wootten received 86 votes, Koetting had 68, and Sis Bond had 45.

Since no candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote, the top two candidates – Wootten and Koetting – will face each other in a runoff election May 28.

In the race for the GOP nomination for the State House District

88 seat, incumbent Rep. Ken King of Canadian vended off a challenge by Karen Post of Plainview, winning 498-130 in Donley County and also by a wide margin throughout the district.

King had been targeted to be "primaried" by some state Republicans who have labeled him as a RINO for not following some of the governor's priorities.

Donley County Republicans followed suit with GOP voters

across the state in backing former president Donald Trump. Locally, Trump received 599 votes; Nikki Haley received 66; Ryan Brinkley, Chris Christie, and Asa Hutchinson received two each; and Ron Desantis got six.

Local Republicans also voted in favor of all 13 non-binding resolutions on the Republican ballot.

On the Republican ballot with no opposition but of local interest were US Rep. Ronny Jackson, Dis-

trict Judge Dale Rabe, Jr., District Attorney Luke Inman, County Attorney Landon Lambert, Sheriff Butch Blackburn, and County Tax Assessor/Collector Kristy Christopher.

Bill Word was also unopposed for the county GOP chairman's position.

In the local Democratic Primary, President Joe Biden received 25 votes and Dean Phillips and Armando "Mando" Perez-Serrato each had two.



Egg crew

Clarendon Lions Club members and helpers stuffed eggs Tuesday for the Pony Parents Community Egg Hunt that will be held next Saturday morning, March 23, on the Courthouse Lawn. Donations of eggs and candy are being accepted by the Lions at the Visitor Center and at the Enterprise.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Rep. King to chair new wildfire committee

Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan announced Tuesday the creation of an Investigative Committee on the Panhandle Wildfires. Representative Ken King of Canadian will serve as the Chair of this committee, which will include Representatives Burrows and Hunter, as well as community members Jason Abraham and Ashley Cash.

"The wildfires that swept across the panhandle have devastated communities and I thank Speaker Phelan for creating this committee to

look into our states response to these disasters," said King. "I look forward to working with the committee to develop suggestions for legislation that will aide the local communities in fighting these fires, increase state response efforts and ensure that when these events occur, we have the resources in place to stop them from turning into the disasters we faced this year."

The Investigative Committee on the Panhandle Wildfires has been tasked with investigating factors that contribute to wildfires, allocation

of resources to and effectiveness of wildfire disaster preparedness and response, and coordination between local, state and federal governmental entities in regard to wildfire prevention, disaster preparedness and response.

"With increasing drought conditions, this matter is more important now than ever," King stated. "It is my sincere belief that through the work of this committee, the 89th Legislature can put tools in place to help our communities prepare and fight against these wildfires."

Helping hands from the AgriLife network

Hanna Conner types a quick message and swipes her cell phone to take a call; it's a donated piece of equipment headed to the wrong location. Before she can complete the call, there's another one – a semi-load of hay is coming in – and it's going directly to either a ranch or the animal supply point.

Conner is the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agriculture and natural resources agent for Hutchinson County. She oversees the Animal Supply Point, which was established after the Smokehouse Creek fire – the largest wildfire ever in Texas – swept through the region.

Her phone has been going off nonstop since that time, as she does what AgriLife Extension is known for – offering a helping hand and working alongside her community members to teach best practices for this wildfire disaster response.

Conner's co-worker Megan Eikner, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent in Potter County who has been helping at the animal supply point, explained that as an agriculture and natural resources county agent, she is there to ultimately help producers "take care of their livestock and their livelihoods."

The Animal Supply Points were established on Feb. 28 in three locations, serving the east, north and west locations hit hardest by the multiple

fires that ravaged the pastureland in six counties. Almost immediately, the donations began rolling in.

"AgriLife Extension is uniquely positioned because we serve all communities of this state, with county offices serving all 254 counties. Our local agents are there; they are a part of the community, so when a disaster like these wildfires happens, we are already embedded and a part of those communities," said Rick Avery, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension director, Bryan-College Station.

"Most importantly, as the communities recover from this incident, we are still going to be there providing services and helping communities heal, both agriculturally and comprehensively as a community," Avery said. "That's what makes us different from all other state agencies. Not only are we relied upon as a legitimate, timely source of information, but we are also a part of the community, and that is how we make a difference in the lives of Texans."

The supply points are rapidly filling with feed, hay, fencing materials and other animal-related supplies. When asked why the AgriLife Extension sites were chosen as the destination of donations and supplies traveling from across the country, Conner and Eikner said, almost simultaneously, "We work for the Texas A&M System, a trusted



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agriculture and natural resources agent Megan Eikner loads bags of feed onto trucks at the Animal Supply Point in Borger.

SAM CRAFT/TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

place," and "We are trusted to provide that oversight."

Sean Semko, who has been on the job for two months as an AgriLife Extension Disaster Assessment and Response, DAR, agent in San Angelo, said some of these ranchers have been building their herds for five generations and others for five months.

However, they all need subject matter experts who can advise them on the next steps to take during the disaster. He explained how they need someone to help them find a safe place for their animals in addition to finding feed to help sustain the livestock until they can get back on their feet.

Semko, like other DAR agents from across the state, was deployed to the Texas Panhandle to help

coordinate and organize the supply point, load and unload hay and supplies, and manage inventory in support of the local county agent.

Richie Griffin, DAR area chief for the East Region, said the network is what makes AgriLife Extension great – no individual has to be an expert in everything.

"If I need an economist or a beef cattle nutritionist, we have that network of experts, and they can help us better understand the needs and wants of the people we are here to serve," Griffin said.

The direct contact each county agent can provide to those affected in their area is unique, and their connections with local and regional businesses allow them to respond quickly. And not just within their individual counties but as a team.

County okays city contract for sheriff

Donley County Commissioners approved new law enforcement agreement with the City of Clarendon during their regular meeting Monday, March 11.

Under the terms of the proposal, the city would pay the county \$170,000 for law enforcement services beginning in fiscal year 2025, which starts in October. The five-year contract would go up two percent each year.

County Judge John Howard said the proposal was brought to the county by the city and drafted by the city's attorney but also said the city council will not vote on the agreement until its regular meeting this Thursday, March 14.

In another matter regarding county law enforcement, commissioners approved an amendment to the current county budget and approved a supplemental budget related to a state grant to bolster the sheriff's department. The \$250,000 grant would provide about \$127,000 for raises in the department – bringing deputies salaries up to \$50,000 per year and dispatcher/jailer salaries up to \$45,000 per year – with the remainder of the grant funds going to help purchase new patrol vehicles.

The commissioners' court also approved trainings for Judge Pat White and Tax Assessor Kristy Christopher, authorized Judges White and Sarah Hatley to sign an interlocal agreement with the Texas DPS to deal with Failure to Appear cases; and voted to get prices to upgrade the lighting in the Courthouse Annex.

A rental lease on county-owned property at 301 W. Third was discussed. The tenant is finding a new place, and then the county will proceed to consider plans for that property.

The court approved purchasing two filter feeders for the Courthouse heating and cooling system.

Chriss Clifford elaborated on design ideas to give a facelift to county-owned buildings in the 300 block of Sully facing the Courthouse, and commissioners also discussed changing the color of the Annex building. Those improvements were all tabled until May, Howard said.

City looking for lifeguards

With summer approaching, the Clarendon Aquatic Center is looking for help this upcoming season.

The city is now accepting applications for Lifeguards, which are seasonal/parttime positions. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and be able to pass a drug/alcohol screen. Successful candidates must pass American Red Cross Lifeguard Training and First Aid, American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer Certification, American Red Cross AED Essentials, American Red Cross Oxygen Administration for the Professional Rescuer.

Must have completed the 10th grade and be a minimum of 16 years old. Applications and a full job description are available at City Hall, 313 S. Sully. Applications will be accepted until noon on March 29.

Newspapers shine light in dark times

It's National Sunshine Week again – a time when civic leaders and journalists try to remind the public of the importance of open government and the public's right to know what their elected officials are up to. While Sunshine Week isn't specifically about newspapers, there can be no doubt that it's our job to shine the light and make sure our readers are not left in the dark about important matters in our communities.

In just the last few months, the Enterprise has done our part to help keep you informed about a number of very important matters that frankly you probably wouldn't know much about if we hadn't reported on them.

Donley County and the City of Clarendon have spent several months wrestling with a new law enforcement agreement. Out of that came a proposal that will see voters in Hedley, Howardwick, and rural residents go to the polls this May to decide about sales tax rates. Who told you about that? We did.

The Clarendon CISD Board of Trustees has been quietly talking for several months about improvements to be funded by bonds. At one point the projects were totaling about \$13 million, until a group of citizens showed up at a series of board meetings to voice their concerns – after the Enterprise reported on it. "I wouldn't know this was even happening if it hadn't been in the paper," one resident told me. Propositions totaling \$11.7 million will be on the May 4 ballot.

We've let you know who's running for office, when and where to vote, and how the elections came out. We've reported on the City of Hedley, on Howardwick, on crime, on downtown revitalization, and the list goes on and on.

This is not to say that the county or the school or the city are purposefully keeping you in the dark. All of their meetings are held in public except for the rare closed sessions. But even when they meet in closed session, they can't take action until they're in the open again. The point though is that people just generally don't go to public meetings or care to find out firsthand what happens at those meetings. That's where your local paper comes in. We go to the meeting, or we go after the meeting and find out what happened, and we report back to you. It's up to you then to decide whether you like what's going on or not.

Newspapers and local journalists shine light in other ways, also. Sometimes it's a fun way – bringing you live updates on social media from basketball play-offs, for example. Other times, it's not fun at all.

Two weeks ago, the Panhandle was ravaged by the worst wildfires in Texas history. Hundreds of homes were lost, thousands of livestock were destroyed, and lives were left in shambles. Two people were killed, and more have lost their personal belongings.

The wildfires didn't get to Donley County, so our coverage was limited. Evacuees came to Clarendon from neighboring communities, and we covered that event online as our citizens opened doors to comfort those who were displaced. Other newspapers had a bigger job to do in covering the fires and trying to help protect their readers while keeping them informed.

One such newspaper was The Eagle Press in Fritch. My friend Tara Huff is the publisher, editor, and head custodian of the Eagle Press. Your editor can relate to that very well. Tara has always been on top of the news in Fritch and not long ago was named the official paper of record for all of Hutchinson County. The reason why is easy to see. It's her commitment to telling the stories that matter. She holds local officials accountable, but she's fair and honest as the day is long.

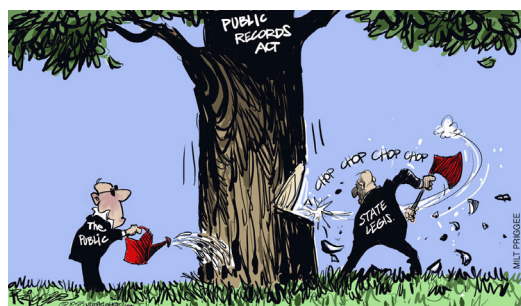
Tara was live on Facebook last week throughout the fires that tore through and around her hometown. She was constantly giving updates on the fire, where people could go, how they could get help, and just overall being a trusted source for information coming out of the heart of the disaster.

Somewhere in the mix of all the hell and turmoil, she got a paper out and again told the story of what had happened, what comes next, and letting her readers know the information they so desperately needed.

When she probably thought that it couldn't get worse, it did. With the wildfires abating somewhat a structure fire broke out. A house, possibly with people inside. Fire Chief Zeb Smith went in to check and never came out. Tara was on the scene as always. And then had to report on the loss of her friend.

Heroes come in all forms. Firefighters certainly are the big heroes in the stories from the last two weeks and they ought to be. But in my book, Tara Huff is a hero also. A hero shining the light to give people the power of information – even in the darkest times.

It's Sunshine Week. Always cherish your right to be informed and the people who help protect that freedom.



Standup to information blackouts

Shining light on our government through public information helps us ask questions of elected officials – and hold them accountable.

Sunshine Week, taking place March 10-16, recognizes the importance of open government and educates Americans about their right to public information. It's not an abstract notion. It's about what's happening in the real world.

You may be checking on the safety of roads and bridges in your community. Or wanting to know how your school board is spending taxpayer money. Perhaps there's concern about pollution or water quality in your neighborhood.

In each of these scenarios, the Texas Public Information Act, one of our state's main government transparency laws, allows us to request government records, get answers and demand action. The act presumes records are open unless there's a specific exemption in the law. This places power in the hands of the people, and rightly so.

What can block the way, though, is a government ignoring or stalling an information request, which defies the law's mandate to provide records "promptly," meaning as soon as possible "without delay."

Government's failure to respond results in an information blackout.

In most cases, a government agency in Texas cannot decide on its own to withhold records and must ask permis-

sion to do so from the attorney general's office, which rules on whether the law allows it.

Unfortunately, it's becoming more common for governments to abuse or overuse the attorney general ruling process; to charge outrageously high prices for producing documents; or to simply flout the public records law.

Since the May 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School, the Uvalde Leader-News has made multiple records requests related to the tragedy. Among other roadblocks it has encountered, the newspaper has yet to receive the total compensation amounts paid to Uvalde school district administrators who were terminated or resigned after the shooting.

Other examples abound. A city in the Rio Grande Valley never replied to repeated requests for city manager applications until The Monitor newspaper reported the non-responsiveness. City officials finally said there weren't any applications. In San Antonio, bird enthusiasts complain they have not received all the city records they requested related to tactics used to remove migratory birds from a local park.

Craig Garnett, the Leader-News



guest column
by kelly shannon

publisher, wrote in one of his columns that government entities have "learned to play word games with open records requests, to assert that they have no such records in their possession or simply lie about what they have turned over." He added: "They do so because there are absolutely no consequences for them to do otherwise."

The Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas and other members of the diverse Texas Sunshine Coalition have urged the state Legislature to close loopholes in the Public Information Act and add enforcement measures to the law.

Although many public officials understand they are the custodians of the people's records and are committed to carrying out the letter and spirit of the Public Information Act, others must be pushed in that direction.

The Texas Public Information Act, now 50 years old, states that the act shall be construed in favor of granting a request for information and that "government is the servant and not the master of the people."

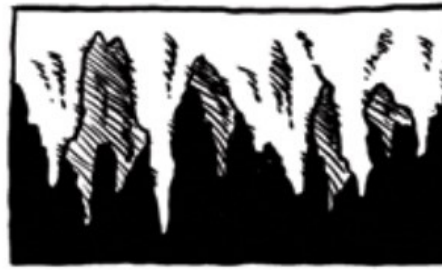
Without the free flow of information, the people are in the dark. We need plenty of sunlight to ensure our government is answerable to us.

Kelley Shannon is executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, a nonprofit organization based in Austin that advocates for open government and free speech.

WHICH GROWS BEST IN THE DARK?



a. mushrooms



b. stalactites



c. government secrecy

JIMMY MARGULIES

All of lifes little ups and downs

To most mortals – mere or otherwise – the thought of jumping rope 30,660,000 times causes hair to stand on end, eyes to cross and regimens to crumble.

Not so to a preacher man named Van Minter, whose morning routine is vital to each day.

He has kept this commitment for almost 12,800 days, having begun his 36th year on "leap year," February 29. He made the pledge to himself upon completing his collegiate basketball career in 1989....

"I remember the time and place clearly," he said. "After my final game, I realized that I needed a plan to stay in shape without playing basketball."

Those who know him best have long regarded him to be "the man with a plan."

Thus his routine of jumping rope 2,400 times daily – mostly in his garage, but sometimes on hotel rooftops and in parking garages – began, and he hasn't missed a single day....

Claiming that he never feels quite right until after his 30-minute workout, Rev. Minter brushes his teeth, dons his size 14 training shoes and amps up his favorite 80s music for his "ups and downs."

His eyes are focused on 24 signs painted on his garage wall, numbered one through twenty-four. Silently, he counts to 100 while staring at each sign, mentally counting jumps he makes at 150-170 spins per minute. Over the years, his wife, Leslie, and three daughters – Holli, Halee and Hattie – have "let him be" during his workout. Only emer-

gency messages interrupt.

"When

I began, prayed to be able to jump rope daily for at least 40 years, and by God's grace, I'm getting close," said the pastor whose intent in college and seminary was to train to be a youth minister, a post he held for 22 years. Associated with Lake Ridge Bible Church in Mesquite for almost 21 years, he is a lead pastor there now, commonly preaching twice on Sundays....

His wife is likewise committed to fitness and has reached admirable heights with Optavia, a wellness program.

"Van has jumped rope through college, our honeymoon and helping guide three daughters through life, so why should he stop jumping now? It has worked so far," Leslie laughed.

Point taken....

Van has heard all the jokes and bromides about his height. He towers to 6'8", weighing around 250 pounds since college.

From his youth in Saudi Arabia, during his Blinn Jr. College/HPU days and since, he's dealt with all the "how's-the-weather-up-there" questions.

I am reminded of a "seven-footer-plus" encountered at a vacation spot in Arizona. Dressed in western attire, he, too, was good-natured about constant height references. "When folks ask me if

I play basketball, I ask them if they play miniature golf," he joked....

Rev. Minter has "tips" for anyone with questions about Christianity and rope-jumping.

He identifies with country music artist Roy Clark's sentiments in his song "Thank God and Greyhound You're Gone." He, too, is thankful to God, but his sadness concerns Nike's decision to leave the custom jump rope market. Early on, Van's ordinary ropes were reduced to shreds in about three weeks. Thankfully, his "Nikes" – used for some three decades – have held up for about 18 months each.

"Luckily, I've got eight of 'em stashed away," he says....

His health is excellent, and most hospital visits are made to see members of his flock.

He has landed there as a patient three times, however, always for kidney stones that have troubled him 30 times to date. "My hospital stays have been over-nights," he remarked, "So I have been able to get home in time to jump rope."

His resolve is remarkable, and his integrity and commitment have been evident since I met him during my presidency at Howard Payne upon his arrival there in 1988. He was a "class act" student, always focused on Christian service. That he is beloved by his church and all who know him is no surprise. Surely his name should appear in the Guinness World Records....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, author and speaker, writes weekly. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.



the idle american
by don newbury

Reader: Give us facts, just the facts

This past Saturday afternoon, I heard that the US Supreme Court ruled that a State could not disallow a candidate for a ballot. I remember about a year ago I heard a well-known Democrat talk about Democracy in her

comment. There are several states currently attempting the same. So much for democracy.

Question? Did you see anything about the US Supreme Court decision on any of the local channels? Fox News

covered it very well. My feeling is that if you want to watch the true news, get it on Fox News.

Tom Stauder,
Donley County homeowner
since 2000

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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 or special issues.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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LETTERS

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The Texas Panhandle's First Newspaper

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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2022

Obituaries

Keen

Sterling Jeffery (Jeff) Keen, 60, of Clarendon passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at his home.

Memorial services are scheduled for Friday March 22, 2024, 1:00 p.m. at Crosier-Pearson Cleburne funeral home, 512 N Ridge-way Dr Cleburne, Texas 76033

Cremation is under the direction of Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Jeff was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 4, 1963, to Robert Keen and Laverne (Grant) West-Cozine. He grew up in Fort Worth until his teenage years when his family moved to Amarillo. Jeff attended High School in Amarillo and later moved to Cleburne, where he owned and operated his own automotive shop, Auto Body Repair, for many years. He met and married the love of his life, Zandria Edwards, in October of 1982.

Jeff loved spending time outdoors and was an avid fisherman. He enjoyed boating, camping, and could be found poolside all summer long. His favorite place was the Texas coast. He also enjoyed throwing horseshoes and shooting pool. He frequently participated in pool tournaments. Jeff loved everyone and they were always welcome at his home. He enjoyed having his family and friends over to spend time with them.

He is preceded in death by his father, Robert Keen and brother James Keen

He is survived by his wife, Zandria Keen of Clarendon; mother, Laverne West-Cozine of Midlothian, TX; two sons, Andrew Keen of Clarendon, and Joseph Keen of Cleburne, TX; three daughters, Krisgina

Keen of Cleburne, Deedra Sparks of Clarendon, and Tiffany Morrow of Ennis, TX; several brothers and sisters; numerous grandchildren; a couple great-grandchildren; and multiple nieces and nephews.

Clifford

James Frederick (Fred) Clifford of Clarendon, passed from this Earth on March 10, 2024, at the age of 87 in his home with his daughters by his side.

Services will be held Friday, March 15, at 11:00 at the First Baptist Church of Clarendon with Reverend Lance Wood officiating. Graveside service will follow in Citizens Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Thursday, March 14th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Fred was born in Clarendon, in 1936, to Walter and Dewey Clifford. He graduated from Clarendon High School in 1954, and then went on to attend Clarendon College, Panhandle State, where he played football, Texas Tech University, and West Texas State University. In 1959, he was drafted into the United States Army and served three years as Artillery Fire Control. He was stationed at Fort Carson, Oregon, and Ft. Polk, Louisiana. On November 10, 1961, Fred married the love of his life, Connie Ruth Thurk, his wife of 60 years.

As a young man, Fred and his brother Jack worked at Clifford's Grocery Store delivering groceries to just about every elderly widowed lady in town. Not only did Fred deliver groceries, but he would also help the ladies on his route by doing small chores for them. He would help anyone in need. Jack and

Fred sold Clifford Grocery in 1979. In 1980, Fred began selling cars for Chamberlain Motor Company. He also was head of Citizens Cemetery in Clarendon for 26 years. He spent countless hours making sure the cemetery was well maintained. He worked as a realtor for Joe Lovell Real Estate until his retirement.

In 2010, Fred received the coveted Saints' Roost Award given by the Chamber of Commerce for his lifetime of service to the community. He also served on the CISD school board. Fred was a lifetime member First Baptist Church, Clarendon.

Fred was respected by all who knew him. His warm, endearing smile and hearty laughter will be missed by many. He was a true servant, always doing for others.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, wife Connie in 2021, brothers and sister in laws, Jack, Shirley, Bob and Wilma.

He is survived by two loving daughters, Gayla (Chris) Reynolds of Pleasanton, Texas, and Trish Clifford (Lorena) of Pflugerville, Texas. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Megan Pope, Shelby Pope (Mavrick Jewell), Ruthie Bell, James Reynolds and Will Reynolds, and two great-grandchildren, Rowan and Lana Ruth Jewell. He is survived by his niece Virginia (Brit) Patten, his niece, Cathy Clifford, nephews John Clifford and Ben Clifford, great nieces Abby (Cole) Llewellyn and Annie (Barrett) Coon, great nephews John Ray Clifford and Robert James Clifford, great-great nephews Brecken and Bray Coon, great-nieces Whitley Coon and Alaina Llewellyn; cousins, William & Walt Thompson.

A special thanks to caretakers, Nancy Owens, Danielle Sandefur, Paulette Kidd Arnold and special little helper, Oakleigh Douglass; and dear friends, Mary Neal Risley and Elmonette Bivens.

Flowers or donations are requested to be sent to the church of your choice, the Clarendon Senior Citizens (PO Drawer B), or Citizens Cemetery (P O Box 983) in Clarendon, Texas.

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WITH EVERY NEW OR RENEWED SUBSCRIPTION!

Making The Grade

Clarendon

'A' Honor Roll
1st Grade: Stetson Duncan, Case Jones, Penelope Roberson, James Shelton, Cambrie Wright
2nd Grade: Rebekah Bains, Bennett Chesser, Kody Christopher, Cohen Farris, Cutter Gaither, Juliet Guerra, Shaylee Hall, Clarah Lewis, Landree Martinez, Madilyn Oliver, Eidyann Whetstone, Kinze Zongker
3rd Grade: Presley Lockhart, Eliseo Olivas, Elliott Robertson
4th Grade: Asa Bains, Jase Conway, Ainslie Lewis, Jax Vanden Boogaard
5th Grade: Cotton Halsey
6th Grade: Kassie Askew, Emma Christopher, Kennadi Gaither, Kase Zongker
7th Grade: Rustin Wade
8th Grade: Kennedy Halsey, Addison Haven, Justus McAnear, Flint Pittman
9th Grade: Shaun Childers, Zane Cruse, Elaina Estlack, Kendon Hanes, Parker Haynes, George Howard, Dahlia Neall
10th Grade: Tyler Bell, Madilyn Benson, Rowdy Bebout, Ayden Bordonaro, Shelby Christopher, Kashlyn Conkin, Ranger Drenth, Gracie Ellis, Elliot Frausto, Kenidee Hayes, Kaleb Mays, Millie Mcanear, Berkley Moore, Sarah Shaw, Presley Smith
11th Grade: Joshua Allred, Emily Clark, Shelbi Coles, Kennadie Cummins, Tandie Cummins, Hayden Elam, Hunter Emerson, Benjamin Estlack, Grant Haynes, Mariana Mercado-Vazquez, Malore Wann, Bryce Williams, Chelsea Wright
12th Grade: Jasmyn Bordonaro, Anthony Cenicerros, Courtney Conkin, Easton Frausto, Levi Gates, Avery Halsey, Harrison Howard, Toby Leeper,

Jaxan Mcanear, Jacob Murillo, Cutter Seay, Wes Shaw, William Warren

'AB' Honor Roll
1st Grade: Weston Burrow, Azaylah Jaramillo, August Moffett, Ryker Schwertner, Rose Stone
2nd Grade: McCarty Brownlee, Macien Donald, Jett Hodge, Mia Jaramillo, Alix Roberts, Kasie Shields, Roman Vaquera
3rd Grade: Cutter Ashbrook, Strattan Burton, Kelton Herndon, A'Laiza Moore, Eliseo Olivas, Weslynn Shields, Addelay Snure, Zachary Taylor, Peyton Warren, Ian Weatherhead
4th Grade: Payden Artis, Brogan Baccus, Jazmyn Ballard, Eli Berry, Blake Christopher, Abby Jaramillo, Jensyn Lewis, A'Jaishawn Moore, Kinzlee Paris, Slaid Pittman, Kensler Roberts, Ryker Thomas
5th Grade: Ajax Caudle, Jovanni Guerra, Adlee Martinez, Henry Robertson, Zayden Shadle
6th Grade: Teagan Chesser, Laityn Hanks, Trigg Harper, Colton Madsen
7th Grade: Brance Bell, Brilynn Bruce, Karli Jones, Charli Neal
8th Grade: Hadley Bebout, Max Caudle, Madden Emerson, Jesslynn Guerra, Hudson Howard, Dakotah Jameson, Landry King, Josie Murillo, Makynna Williams, Skylar Williams
9th Grade: Hunter Caison, Kortni Davis, Emily Dzamko, Kinslee Hatley, Caleb Herbert, Braelin Huchton, Karly Keen, Marelli Mercado-Vazquez, Zakary Roberts, Brice Wagner, Jayla Woodard
10th Grade: Joshua Blais, Nolan Burrow, Tanner Cavanaugh, Tyler Cavanaugh, Heston Seay, Megan Weatherhead
11th Grade: John Anderson, Kaleb

Bolin, Lauren Cenicerros, James Coles, Daniel Estlack, Ian Grant, Riley Jantz, Zackery Lockhart-Mckinney, Koltyn Shields, Mason Sims, Gracie Wilkins
12th Grade: Colton Benson, Waite Dushay, Warren Mays, Jared Musick, Emmalyne Roys, Laney Rummel, Cambrinn Smith, Lyric Smith, Reagan Wade, Riley Wade

Perfect Attendance
Elementary: La'miyah Crain, Kreed Paris, Raegan Weldie, Jazmyn Ballard, Braxton Bruce, Strattan Burton, Ajax Caudle, Bennett Chesser, Camree Dean, Macien Donald, Rylee Ewers, Kreedence Gaither, Cotton Halsey, Emma Howard, Mia Jaramillo, Owen King, Wylie Kirby, A'laiza Moore, Madilyn Oliver, Zuri Roark, Henry Robertson, William Robertson, Marley Robinson, Choice Shadle, James Shelton, Kasie Shields, Sadie Shields, Addelay Snure, Rose Stone, Cameron Taylor, Jax Vanden Boogaard, Zava Walker, Hunter Wann, McCoy Wann, Jakayden Weatherthorn, Brantley White, Ian Word
6th Grade: Colton Madsen, Rylan Taylor
7th Grade: Brance Bell, Zachariah Morris
8th Grade: Madden Emerson, Dakotah Jameson, Jaxson Robertson, Makynna Williams
9th Grade: Shaun Childers
10th Grade: Joshua Blais
11th Grade: Lauren Cenicerros, Ian Grant
12th Grade: Waite Dushay

We salute these kids for striving to be the best in our schools.
 Congratulations and keep studying!

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6			8	3				
4	1		2					3
							1	
	7		6	5			8	
5					6			
				3	2			
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	9	3						

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2	6	3	8	7	9	5	4	1
4	1	5	2	6	8	9	7	3
7	3	6	4	2	8	1	9	5
4	4	9	5	1	7	2	8	3
1	5	3	9	7	2	8	4	6
4	8	1	2	5	7	6	3	9
3	9	7	6	2	1	4	8	5
6	9	4	3	1	5	7	2	8
8	5	1	7	6	4	2	3	9

ANSWER:

¿Qué Pasa?

- Community Calendar**
- March 15**
Lady Broncos v Gruver • 1:00 p.m. • Home
- March 15**
Lady Broncos v Gruver • 1:00 p.m. • Home
- March 15 & 16**
Kung Fu Panda 4 • 7:30 p.m. • Mulkey Theater
- March 17**
Kung Fu Panda 4 • 2:00 p.m. • Mulkey Theater
- March 22**
Broncos v Kress • 4:30 p.m. • Away
- March 22 & 23**
Kung Fu Panda 4 • 7:30 p.m. • Mulkey Theater
- March 24**
Kung Fu Panda 4 • 2:00 p.m. • Mulkey Theater

Menus

March 18 - 22

Donley County Senior Citizens
Mon: Chicken strips, gravy, macaroni & cheese, potato wedges, garden salad, whole wheat roll, sliced peaches w/whipped topping, iced tea/2% milk.
Tue: Polish sausage, cabbage, mashed potatoes, whole wheat roll, black forest parfait, iced tea/2% milk.
Wed: Salisbury steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, whole wheat roll, apple cobbler, iced tea/2% milk.
Thurs: Pot roast, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, whole wheat roll, apple cobbler, iced tea/2% milk.
Fri: Pollock, Brussel sprouts, French fries, hushpuppies, fruit cocktail, sugar cookie, iced tea/2% milk.

Hedley Senior Citizens
Mon: Brown sugar pork chops w/garlic & herbs, au gratin potatoes, green beans, banana bread, whole wheat roll, iced tea/2% milk.
Tue: Homemade lasagna, roasted red potatoes, buttered carrots, cranberry white chip oatmeal cookies, garlic whole wheat Texas toast, iced tea/2% milk.
Wed: Chicken fried steak, country gravy, homemade mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, raspberry peach crumble, whole wheat buttermilk biscuit, iced tea/2% milk.
Thurs: Baked chicken w/onion gravy, homemade macaroni & cheese, broccoli, coconut macaroons, iced tea/2% milk.
Fri: Grilled ham & cheese on wheat, tomato soup, deviled eggs, mixed green salad, no bake cookies, iced tea/2% milk.

Clarendon CISD
Breakfast
Mon: Breakfast pizza, fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Tues: French toast, sausage, fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Wed: Breakfast sandwich, fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Thu: Pancake wrap, yogurt, fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Fri: Muffin, yogurt, fruit juice, fruit, milk.

Lunch
Mon: Corn dog, potatoes, tomato cup, fruit, milk.
Tues: Quesadilla, beans, cucumbers, salsa, ice cream, fruit, milk.
Wed: Crispy chicken sandwich, veggie cup, salad, fruit, milk.
Thu: Tex-Mex stack, broccoli, corn, fruit, milk.
Fri: Pizza, carrots, green beans, dessert, fruit, milk.

Hedley ISD
Breakfast
Mon: Pancake, bacon, fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Tues: Croissant ham & cheese sandwich, fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Wed: Donut holes, sausage, fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Thu: Big bites sandwich, fruit juice, fruit, milk.
Fri: Waffles, sausage, fruit juice, fruit, milk.

Lunch
Mon: Breaded drumstick, biscuit, garden salad, tomatoes, apples, milk.
Tues: Frito pie, beans, veggie cup, pineapple, cookie, milk.
Wed: Pizza, broccoli, marinara sauce, cinnamon, applesauce, milk.
Thu: Boneless chicken wings, chips, celery, carrots, mixed fruit, sherbet, milk.
Fri: Steak fingers, gravy, roll, green beans, corn, peaches, milk.

CRP program sign-ups underway

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin signing up for the general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starting March 4 and running through March 29, 2024. This conservation opportunity gives producers tools to conserve wildlife habitat while achieving other conservation benefits, including sequestering carbon and improving water quality and soil health.

"The USDA has a long track record of fostering and supporting the vital relationship between agriculture and conservation, and the Conservation Reserve Program helps our producers be good stewards of their lands and boost wildlife populations at the same time," said Kelly Adkins, FSA State Executive Director in Texas. "These efforts demonstrate the power of USDA's Farm Bill conservation programs to conserve wildlife habitat, protect clean water and address climate change in partnership with farmers, ranchers, forest owners and conservation organizations across the country."

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through Sept. 30, 2024. This extension

allows authorized programs, including CRP, to continue operating.

As one of the largest private lands conservation programs in the United States, CRP offers a range of conservation options to farmers, ranchers, and landowners. It has been an especially strong opportunity for farmers with less productive or marginal cropland, helping them re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat.

Producers and landowners enrolled about 926,000 acres in General CRP in 2023, bringing the total of enrolled acres in General CRP to 7.78 million. This, combined with all other acres in CRP through other enrollment opportunities, such as Grassland and Continuous CRP, bring the current total of enrolled acres to 24.8 million.

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Additionally, General CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to help increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.

General CRP is one of several ways agricultural producers and private landowners can participate in the program.

This past January FSA began accepting applications for the Continuous CRP sign-up. Under this enrollment, producers and landowners can enroll in CRP throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

The USDA also offers financial assistance to producers and landowners enrolled in CRP to improve the health of their forests through the Forest Management Incentive (FMI), which can help participants with forest management practices, such as brush management and prescribed burning.

FSA will announce the dates for Grassland CRP sign-up in the near future.

Producers with expiring CRP acres can use the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land. Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before their deadlines.



The Clarendon Lions Club held its regular Tuesday noon meeting March 12, 2024, with Boss Lion David Dockery in charge.

We had 12 members in person, two members attending virtually, Sweetheart Emma Roys, and five guests this week – Jaxon Robertson, guest of Lion Chuck Robertson; Monroe and Matthew Newhouse, guests of Lion Anndria Newhouse; and Ella Estlack, guest of Lion Roger Estlack.

The Boss Lion recognized Lions who were honored at the Chamber banquet recently. Lion Machiel Covey, Woman of the Year; Lion Ted Shaller, Saints' Roost Award winner; and Lions Lindy Craft and Robin Sell, representing Donley County State Bank as the Business of the Year.

After a quick update on the upcoming 5K – registration forms are available at the Visitor Center and online registration is available at ClarendonTX.com, we spent the remainder of our lunch hour stuffing plastic eggs with candy for the Pony Parents' community egg hunt coming up on March 23. If anyone would like to donate candy and/or eggs, they can be dropped off at the Enterprise or the Visitor Center, and the Lions will deliver to the Pony Parents.

There being no further business, we were adjourned to spread joy and Lionism throughout our fair county.

Spring break activities set at discovery center

The Don Harrington Discovery Center in Amarillo is hosting their annual Spring Break Spectacular from March 9-17. Included in general admission and DHDC membership, the public is invited to visit the DHDC during operating hours to enjoy their exhibits, watch mind-blowing demos, and explore the five senses this week.

DHDC will be offering mind-blowing experiences every day of the week, with sensational demos covering all five senses on both weekends. During the week, they will be offering special demos specific to each of the five senses on themed days.

DHDC's annual Spring Break Spectacular is included in regular admission or DHDC membership. No reservations or tickets are required!

This is not a camp or drop-off event. All children must be accompanied by an adult. If you are a caregiver needing a childcare option, please visit dhdc.org to look into our Spring Break Camp and other day camps we provide during school holidays.



Hedley High Schools class of 2025 received their class rings last week.

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Texas wildfires impacting ranchers but not overall cattle and beef prices

Wildfires in the Texas Panhandle caused significant cattle losses for individual ranchers, but should not impact beef cattle markets or consumers, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist in the Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics, Bryan-College Station, said it may be weeks before there are estimates for lost cattle, but he expects the impact of the wildfire to be localized. The Smokehouse Creek Fire that started in Hutchinson County has burned more than 1 million acres across the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma. The size and scope of the fire along with reports about the Panhandle being home to 85 percent of the state's beef cattle herd has led to inferences about large-scale cattle losses.

Much of the state's cattle herd does move through the Panhandle because the region is a major hub for feedlots where beef cattle are fed grain before being processed. However, beef cow populations are spread throughout the state.

For instance, in 2023 the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service county-by-county inventory reports showed 17,000 beef cattle in Hemphill County, which was hard hit by the fires. By comparison, at the same time Gonzalez County, east of San Antonio, was home to 54,000 beef cattle.

"I've been getting a lot of questions about whether this fire would impact cattle prices and consumers, but the short answer is, no," Anderson said. "I think some people were under the impression there could be a significant percentage of the Texas herd lost, but that is not the case. It's devastating if your ranch and your herd is in the disaster area, but it won't really impact cattle or beef prices because of the numbers and scale of the entire market."

Anderson said individual losses

could mount very quickly for producers in the fire's path, especially considering cattle values and the cost of infrastructure like fencing.

Cattle prices continue to trend upward and set all-time records. Anderson expects that trend will continue into 2025 because the U.S. and Texas herd has shrunk over the past two years due to drought.

Cattle values range based on factors like age and class, he said. Cull cows, which are cows aging out of calf production, and typically weigh around 1,200 pounds, were selling for \$1 per pound last week. On the other end, a 500-600 pound calf was selling for more than \$3 per pound.

Calf prices continue to set records. Calves in the 500-600-pound range were averaging \$2.35 per pound this time last year compared to \$3.14 per pound last week.

Spring calving season is underway, which means the wildfire could have erased the value of a productive cow and future value of any calf lost, Anderson said.

"This was a year to make up for a heck of a lot of drought, and the cost of holding on through drought," he said. "I think there was some optimism with conditions improving and record high prices. It's just terrible for producers who lost productive cows and potential record prices for spring calves."

Infrastructure losses will vary for individual producers as well, Anderson said. Damage can range considerably when considering structures, hay stocks, fences and equipment. Fencing alone costs about \$3 per foot to replace.

"How many miles of fence are in those 1 million acres that burned?" he asked. "It's going to be a big number. Then you have the loss of hay and grass for grazing. The impacts of the fires are going to be felt for a while." Anderson noted that producers across Texas and in nearby states are shipping hay and other needed supplies to help pro-

ducers impacted by the fires. AgriLife Extension's Disaster Assessment Recovery, DAR, unit is coordinating recovery efforts, including intake of material and feed donations in the area. General information about donations or relief efforts can be obtained by calling 806-354-5800. Several Animal Supply Points have been set up where those with hay, feed or fencing materials or with equipment to haul hay can help.

Anderson said he hopes producers impacted by the wildfire receive the assistance they need to recover. Rebuilding a herd amid record-high cattle prices will make it difficult.

The beef cattle herd in Texas is the smallest - 4.1 million head - since 2014. The Texas herd started to recover from the 2011-2012 drought after that low point.

The nation's beef cow herd fell 2 percent since last year to 28.2 million head, according to the USDA cattle inventory report. Anderson said the report estimate is the lowest number of U.S. beef cows since 1961.

The Texas herd expanded rapidly after the 2011-2012 drought, and prices spiked in 2015. But that may not be the case this time because of high prices and lingering drought conditions.

Anderson said he has still not seen definitive signs that producers have begun holding back replacement heifers at rates that suggest widespread rebuilding of the Texas or U.S. herds. Expansion of the state and national herd can take years.

Heifers born this spring would begin producing calves in two years. Calves born to those newly productive cows would not start impacting U.S. beef production until two years after that, or 2028.

"Restocking is difficult when prices are high, and so far we're looking at slower expansion of the Texas herd," he said. "Losing animals at a time like this is a terrible blow, but we're still expecting even higher prices in 2025 and beyond."

Jameson wins 110m hurdles for Colts

Clarendon Junior High's Dakota Jameson was tough in the hurdles at the Groom track meet last week.

Jameson won the 110m hurdles with a time of 20.9 and finished 2nd in the 300m hurdles at 51.0, just seven-tenths behind the first-place finisher.

Hudson Howard ran in third place in the 2400m for the Colts run with a time of 9:50.30, and Max Caudle was third in the shot put with a throw of 34'4".

Meet results: 100m: Kreed Robinson 5th 13.20, Brance Bell

26th 15.0; Brentley Gaines 31st 15.60; 200m: Paxton English 10th 30.0; Gaines 23rd 33.7; Justus McAneer 30th 38.8; 400m: Aiden Burnam 5th 1:06.6; Flint Pitman 24th 1:28.2; McAneer 26th 1:32.6; 800m: Rustin Wade, Madden Emerson, Kelel Morrow competed, but did not place 1200m: Christian Martinez, Wade, Braxton Gribble competed, but did not place; 2400m Howard 3rd, Emerson and Morrow ran but did not place; 4x100 relay: 5th 53.96-Robinson, Gribble, English, Caudle; 4x200 relay: 6th 1:56.6-Burnam, English,

Gribble, Caudle; 4x400 relay: 6th 4:46.40-Jameson, Burnam, Howard, Caudle; shot put: Caudle 3rd, Pitman 13th 26'3 3/4", McAneer 22nd 22', Bell 26th 20'7 3/4", Martinez 27th 19'4 1/2"; discuss: Caudle 8th 79'3", Martinez 25th 56'10", McAneer 26th 52'9", Bell 27th 49'11", Emerson 32nd 47'8 1/2"; high jump: Robinson and Gaines jumped, but did not place; long jump: Robinson 8th 14'3", Gribble 22nd 12'3 3/4", English also jumped, but did not place; triple jump: Gribble and Wade jumped, but did not place.

Havens wins 800m for Clarendon Jr High

CJH eighth grader Addy Havens won the 800m run and was second 400m in the Groom Relays last week in the track season opener.

Havens' time of 2:43.65 for the win was four seconds ahead of the runner who finished in second place. Seventh grader Karli Jones found her legs in the 200m dash and placed third with a time of 30.2. The 400m

relay placed second at 58.1 and was run by Sequoia Weatherton, Havens, Brilynn Bruce, and Jones.

Meet results: 100m: Jones 6th 14.6, Bruce 8th 14.9, Weatherton 13th 15.3; 200m: Jones 3rd, Joanna McElroy 14th 34.0; 400m: Havens 2nd 1:08.7, Weatherton 10th 1:18.3, Landry King 11th 1:19.3; 800m: Havens 1st, King 13th 3:15.50;

1200m: King, Eli Rodriguez, Hadley Bebout ran, but did not place; 2400m: Rodriguez 8th 12:22.87, Bebout 9th 12:39.06; shot put: Lexi Xantj 11th 20'2.5", Josie Murillo 14th 19'10"; discuss: Murillo 18th 44'3.5", Jantz 28th 33'5"; long jump: Havens 3rd 13'3.25", Jones 7th 12'4", Weatherton and Bruce also jumped, but did not place.

Producers face March 15 deadline for safety net

Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2024 crop year have until March 15, 2024, to revise elections and sign contracts.

Both safety net programs, delivered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provide vital income support to farmers who experience substantial declines in crop prices or revenues for the 2024 crop year. In Texas, producers have completed 24,610 contracts to date, representing 28 percent of the more than 88,000 expected contracts.

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual, which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2024 are optional, producers must enroll, with a signed contract, each year. If a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm, the contract will continue for 2024 unless an election change is made.

If producers do not submit

their election revision by the March 15, 2024, deadline, the election remains the same as their 2023 election for eligible commodities on the farm. Also, producers who do not complete enrollment and sign their contract by the deadline will not be enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2024 year and will not receive a payment if one is triggered. Farm owners can only enroll in these programs if they have a share interest in the commodity.

Producers are eligible to enroll farms with base acres for the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Many universities, including Texas A&M University, offer web-based decision tools to help producers make informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations.

Producers are encouraged to use the tool of their choice to support their ARC and PLC elections.

Producers are reminded that enrolling in ARC or PLC programs can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products offered by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA). Unlike SCO, RMA's Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by participating in ARC for the same crop, on the same acres. You may elect ECO regardless of your farm program election.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan, or STAX, on their planted cotton acres. For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit the ARC and PLC webpage or contact their local USDA Service Center. Producers can also prepare maps for acreage reporting as well as manage farm loans, view other farm records data and customer information by logging into their farmers.gov account. If you don't have an account, sign up today.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Helps little firms
4. Political action committee
7. Allowed
12. Olivia Colman played one
15. Open
16. He had a notable lamp
18. Promotional material
19. Domesticated animal
20. Larry and Curly's buddy
21. The best ever
24. TV network
27. Checked for
30. Dry or withered
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Dash
34. Fifth note of a major scale
35. A secret clique
37. Partner to cheese
39. ___ school: where to learn healing
41. City in ancient Syria
42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
44. Established practice
47. Thanksgiving side dish
48. District in Peru
49. It's becoming more prevalent
50. State in India
52. Measure of illumination
53. Raised platform
56. Japanese warrior
61. R.L. Stevenson novel
63. Transitory
64. Advanced degree
65. Fiddler crabs

CLUES DOWN

1. Prevent from seeing
2. Czech city
3. ___ and Andy, TV show
4. A young pig
5. Removed surgically
6. Covered with
7. Chest muscle (slang)
8. Nigerian City
9. Midway between south and east
10. A way to shut
11. Stop playing
12. Marshy places
13. Takes apart
14. Ten cents
17. A gesture of assent
22. Scent
23. Teletypewriter
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Hillside
26. Taxi driver
28. Semitic Sun god
29. Town in India
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on the ___
38. Type of dance
40. Two letters, one sound
43. Having a strong, pleasant taste
44. Golf score
45. Mayhem
46. Drenched
51. River in northeastern Asia
54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
55. Part-time employee
56. A very large body of water
57. Aboriginal people of Japan
58. Millisecond
59. Forearm bone
60. Subway dweller
62. Royal Mail

Worship DIRECTORY
CLARENDON
ARENA OF LIFE COWBOY CHURCH
 FOURTH & PARKS • PASTORS: BUNK & AMY SKELTON
 SUN. SERVICE: 10:30 A.M. • WED. BIBLE STUDY: 7 P.M.
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 US 287 E • 874-3156 • REV. SETH SHIPMAN
 SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 10:30 A.M.
 SUN. EVENING: 7 P.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
 300 S. CARHART • 874-2495
 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: DR. KEN MCINTOSH
 SUNDAY SERVICE: 5 P.M.
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 4TH ST. & HWY. 70 SOUTH • PASTOR: JASON HOUSTON
 SUN. SCHOOL: 9:30 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 10:40 A.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.
CLARENDON METHODIST CHURCH
 420 S. JEFFERSON • 874-3667 • BRO. RYAN QUIST
 SUN. SCHOOL: 9:45 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
 SUN. YOUTH: 6:00 P.M. • WED. BIBLE STUDY 6:30 P.M.
JESUS NAME APOSTOLIC CHURCH
 720 E. MONTGOMERY • 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 • 874-2007
 SUN. BREAKFAST 9:30 A.M. • SUN. PRAISE & WORSHIP 10 A.M.
 SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:30 A.M. • WED.: 5 P.M.
KINGDOM HALL JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
 12120 US 287 (JUST WEST OF CLARENDON) • 874-5020
 PUBLIC MEETING & WATCHTOWER STUDY: SUN. 10 A.M.
 BIBLE STUDY: CONGREGATIONAL THEOCRATIC MINISTRY
 SCHOOL & SERVICE MEETING • TUES.: 7 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. BALA POLLISSETTI
 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.
THE GATHERING
 623 W. FOURTH • PHYLLIS COCKERHAM
 SUNDAY: 10 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 COSBY
 SUN. SERVICE: 11:00 A.M.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 210 N. MAIN ST. • 856-5980 • PASTOR: BRUCE HOWARD
 SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M. & 6 P.M.
 WED.: 7 P.M.
HOWARDWICK
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 235 RICK HUSBAND BLVD. • 874-3326 • REV. JIM FOX
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 SUN. EVENING: 5 P.M. • WED.: 6 P.M.
MARTIN
MARTIN BAPTIST CHURCH
 US 287 W
 SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
 SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.
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Broncos compete well in Borger tournament

By Sandy Anderberg

Bronco baseball is midway through their 2024 season with some great wins under their belt. They went up against good teams in the West Texas tournament in Borger last week.

The Broncos opened up against a tough Friona team and finished the game in a seven-seven tie. Senior Jared Musick was on the mound allowing eight hits, seven runs and posting six strikeouts.

The Broncos started out slowly but were only down one run after the first two innings. Down by three after three innings, the Broncos crawled back in the top of the fourth to close the gap to one when Harrison Howard singled and scored Easton

Frausto and Levi Gates popped out allowing Musick to cross the plate for a run.

The Bronco defense came alive in Friona's next at bat to go three up, three down and then the offense took over to end the fifth at 7-6 when Mason Sims finds home plate and Easton Frausto takes it home on a Gates ground ball. A couple of errors in the final inning allowed the Chiefs to gain one more run to tie the game at seven all.

Howard had two hits, one run, stole two bases and Gates collected one hit, two RBIs and one stolen base. Grant Haynes posted one double and a stolen base and Musick, Sims, and Hagood all recorded one extra base.

The Broncos played another game on Thursday against Borger and stomped the Bulldogs 12-2.

Sims got the call on the mound and allowed one run and two strike-outs. Braylon Rice came in as relief and allowed one run and two strike-outs as well.

The Broncos scored once in the first inning when Musick singled to allow Frausto to score the Broncos' first run. The Bronco defense held Borger scoreless in their first time at the plate.

A huge second inning ensued for the Broncos as they scored four runs in the inning. After Sims scored one, Howard doubled up on a fly ball to center that score Haynes and Frausto. Musick then stole home

and Howard came in to score during Gates' turn at the plate.

Defensively, the highlight of the game was a double play in the bottom of the third. Musick grabbed the ball at third base and threw to Gates at first to get the first out. Gates then threw it right back to Musick to nab the runner to turn the double play.

Overall, the Broncos had nine hits in the game. Howard slammed two doubles, added one run, and four RBIs, while Frausto posted two hits, a run, two stolen bases, and one RBI. Haynes added one run and hit, and one RBI, while Frausto posted three runs, two hits and an RBI. Musick, Gates, and Hagood all had one run and one hit with Musick and Hagood

adding an RBI. Mason Allred, Sims, Parker Haynes, and Heston Seay all added one hit in the game.

The third matchup for the Broncos was Fritch on Friday. The Broncos fought hard and won 3-0. Frausto earned the win in the two-inning game allowing one hit and posting four strikeouts. The Broncos were able to get their bats moving and scored all three runs in the first inning of play. They were able to end the game in the second inning only seeing four batters to end the game with the win.

The Broncos will play Tues., March at Shamrock at 4:30 and then travel to Kress on Sat. March 23, to play at noon. Thurs. March 26, the Broncos will travel to Wellington.



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Lady Broncos rack up many wins in tourney play

By Sandy Anderberg

The Lady Broncos softball team had a busy two weeks as they played several games in the Childress and Randall tournaments.

On March 1, the ladies defeated Caprock JV 13-3, clobbered Hereford JV 20-1, and put away Palo Duro JV 20-0. On the second, they won 15-0 over River Road JV and breezed by Amarillo JV at 13-1. They suffered a close loss to Sunray on the fifth at 4-5 and defeated Amarillo JV 9-3 on March 7. Also on the seventh, the ladies shut out Bowie JV 23-0.

Kennadie Cummins went the distance on the mound and allowed only four hits, three runs, and had 10 strikeouts to get the win. The team had 17 hits in the game with Bayleigh Bruce, Elliot Frausto, and K. Cummins adding three hits apiece. Frausto slammed a homerun and nabbed six stolen bases.

The Lady Broncos annihilated Hereford JV in their next game with a huge third inning where they put 12 runs on the board to end the game in three. Tandie Cummins went start to finish on the mound throwing 29 strikes out of 41 pitches. She only allowed three hits and one run in the game and connected with the ball for a grand-slam homerun to center field in the top of the third scoring Laney Rummel, K. Cummins, and Gracie Wilkins. The Lady Broncos made good use of their bats at the plate and finished with 13 RBIs.

Four innings is all it took for the ladies to shut out the Palo Duro JV on Friday. They had 13 hits and zero errors in the win. Shelbi Coles took over the duties on the mound and earned the win. Coles was on her game and threw 36 strikes in her 45 pitches and made good on seven strikeouts.

Offensively, their bats were hot

with T. Cummins hitting a single and two doubles and Maloree Wann with two singles. Shelby Christopher had a single and a double and Cambree Smith had singles in the game. Wann and Riley Jantz had one stolen base each.

The River Road game was almost identical to the Palo Duro game with the ladies scoring five runs in each of the three innings. T. Cummins and Coles shared the duties on the mound with nine total strikeouts. T. Cummins earned another homerun along with a triple and three RBIs and Elyza Rodriguez and Coles added a triple and two RBIs each in the win.

Graci Smith went three for three from the plate in the win over Amarillo JV, posting two doubles, one homerun, and five RBIs. T. Cummins and K. Cummins had a homerun apiece and accounted for three more RBIs and five runs.

The Lady Broncos held a one-run lead over the Sunray Lady Cats going into the fourth but struggled to connect with the ball until the seventh inning. Errors also plagued the team as they finished with seven mistakes in the game. K. Cummins took the loss on the mound, allowing five runs on six hits, while striking out 13 batters.

Offensively, the ladies had two singles, two doubles, and three triples in the game, but left too many runners on the bases.

The ladies were able to rebound nicely in the win over Amarillo High JV with T. Cummins on the mound for six innings. Cummins allowed six hits and three runs and had 11 strikeouts in the win.

The Cummins duo posted a homerun each and accounted for five hits, four RBIs, and five runs. Fausto had two hits, and two RBIs and Wilkins had two hits, one run,

and two RBIs. Rodriguez had two hits, one RBI, and two runs. Overall, the Lady Broncos posted four stolen bases.

Solid hitting was the name of the game in the shut out over Bowie JV with 12 total hits, 18 RBIs, and 23 runs in the game. Wilkins had a single, double, and triple, accounting for two RBIs and three runs. Bruce's bat was strong with a double and triple and five RBIs with five runs. Rodriguez had four RBIs and three runs and a base on balls. K. Cummins and Coles split time on the mound and together three 26 strikes in 31 pitches with six strikeouts. The Lady Broncos will play Gruver at home on Friday, March 15 at 1:00 and travel to Randall on the 16th also beginning at 1:00. On Tuesday, March 19, the ladies will play at Stinnett against West Texas with the first pitch at 4:00.

Bronco relay team victorious in Groom

By Sandy Anderberg

The Bronco 400 relay made four quick trips around the track to win at the Groom Relays track meet on Saturday. Kaleb Bolin, Kaleb Mays, Shane Hagood, and Brice Wagner ran for the Broncos and finished in an impressive time of 3:38.90 for first place.

Senior Lyric Smith placed first in the long jump with a leap of 19'8". Bryce Williams earned a second place in the 1600m run with a time of 5:23.90, and Brice Wagner ran second in the 220m dash with a time of 24.3. Kaleb Bolin was second in the 400m dash at 53.8.

Meet results: 100m dash: Mays 3rd 11.6, Wagner 4th 11.7, Smith 6th 11.8, Hagood 8th 12.0; 200m dash: Wagner 2nd 24.3, Smith 3rd, 24.7, Hagood 3rd 25.0; 400m dash: Bolin 2nd 53.8, Riley Wade 8th 58.2; 800m run: Williams 4th 2:12.72; 1600m run: Williams 2nd 5:23.90; 3200m run: Williams 3rd 11:10; shot put: Nolan Burrow 8th 32'8", Rowdy Bebout 17th 21'7", Dylan Chest 18th 20'11.5"; discus: Burrow 10th 67'7", Chest 15th 48'10", Bebout 16th 42'10"; high jump Smith 5th 5'10"; long jump: Smith 1st, Wagner 4th 18'7.5"; triple jump: Kyler Bell 11th 31'3".

The Broncos will participate in the Gruver track meet March 21.

Benson claims three wins in Groom Relays

By Sandy Anderberg

Clarendon High School Sophomore Madi Benson is in great running shape as she claimed three first-place finishes in Groom last week.

Benson won first in the 400m dash with a time of 1:03.6, first in the 800m dash with a time of 2:27.91 and first in the 1600m run at 6:01.78, which was 23 seconds in front of the second-place finisher.

Sophomore Kate Shaw also claimed a first place in the meet. Shaw's distance of 30'8" put her in first by .5" in front of the second-place finisher.

Meet results: 100m dash: Lexi Phillips 11th 14.4; 200m dash: Diamond Lenz 13th 32.0, 400m: Benson 1st, Lenz 13th 1:17.1; discus: Shaw 8th 61'8"; long jump: Lenz 11th 12'8".

The Lady Broncos will compete in Gruver on March 21.

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MEETINGS

Clarendon Lodge #700 AF&M Stated meeting: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Practice: Fourth Mondays, 7 p.m. Chris Wilson - W.M., Russell Estlack - Secretary, 2 B I, ASK 1

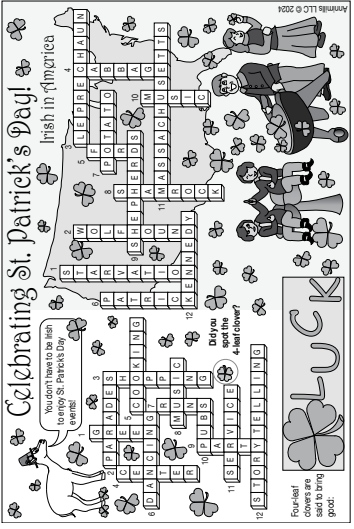
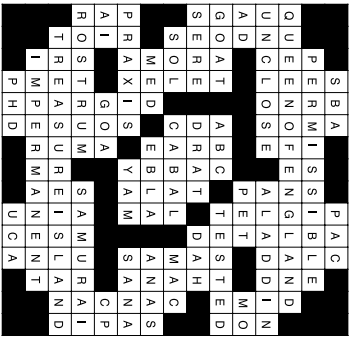
Clarendon Lions Club Regular meeting each Tuesday at noon. David Dockery, Boss Lion. Roger Estlack, Secretary

Clarendon Alcoholics Anonymous Group 806-661-1015, 806-671-9766, 806-205-1840, 24 hour hotline 877-421-4334. Mon. & Sat. 7 p.m. 416 S Kearney St.

Clarendon Chamber of Commerce Regular Board of Directors meeting third Tuesday each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Clarendon Visitor Center.

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Duties include general office activities supporting FSA programs administered at the field level. Successful applicants must be reliable, have a professional attitude and enjoy working with the public. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please share this information with them. Here is the direct link to the position with information on how to apply: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/779287500#> Applications must be completed through USAJOBS no later than close of business March 18, 2024.

Contact Joe Dan Ledbetter at (806) 259-3579 at the Memphis office if you have specific questions regarding the position. Contact Any Hackler at (940) 937-8624 at the Childress office if you have any specific questions regarding the position. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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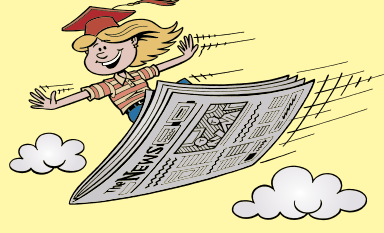
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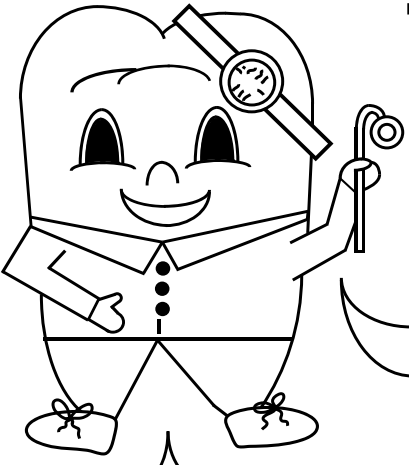
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By the way, those guys down there are the **plaque pests**, STICKY and DULL. They will be all over your teeth if you do not brush!

Treat Your Teeth Well!

Do you know how to take good care of your teeth? Regular visits to your dentist and daily care will help your teeth last a lifetime! Sometimes you might get tired of brushing or want to "take a vacation" from flossing. But, keeping your teeth clean, healthy and shining brightly is an everyday responsibility.

- Remember to:**
- brush before breakfast and before bed
 - floss daily
 - go to your dentist for regular cleanings
 - try not to eat too many sugary or sticky foods

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

1. to take pictures of the inside of your teeth to see if they are healthy
2. material dentist uses to replace decayed part of tooth
3. dentist with special training to straighten crooked teeth
4. when a tooth is eaten away by chemical action
5. thin thread used daily for cleaning between your teeth
6. person trained to clean teeth is a dental _____
7. four top and four bottom front teeth used for biting
8. number of first or "baby" teeth
9. thin, sticky layer of bacteria that forms on teeth
10. chemical in teeth and bones
11. hole in tooth from decay
12. hard substance left on teeth if plaque is not removed

Keep up the good work!

Remember to brush your teeth at least **twice** a day to keep those plaque pests away!

Remember to floss too!

What Is This?
You use this product when you brush your teeth. It usually has fluoride in it. Fluoride strengthens tooth enamel. It helps stop bacteria in plaque from causing cavities.

To answer the **What Is This?** and **Words of Wisdom** puzzles, look at each letter given, then write the letter that comes before it in the alphabet.

U P P U I Q B T U F

Wildfire alert system tested during Texas Panhandle fires

Thousands across the Texas Panhandle received wireless emergency alerts Feb. 26 and 27, warning of an eminent, dangerous wildfire on the landscape with the potential to expand.

These notifications utilized a first-of-its-kind process, benefiting from major advancements in fire and weather prediction technology and a foundation in strong inter-agency relationships.

The Feb. 26 and 27 announcements, requested by local emergency management officials and Texas A&M Forest Service and issued by the NOAA National Weather Service, are among the first multi-notification processes that have been used for a large-scale wildfire in Texas.

Built on the expertise of fire behavior and prediction knowledge, the Integrated Team Fire Warning Paradigm Process was initially demonstrated in Oklahoma in 2022 and 2023, in response to the devastating 2018 Camp Fire in California. The new process serves as an improved coordinated method for wildfire detection, notification and action. The process was designed by members of the Southern Great Plains Wildfire Outbreak Working Group, including Texas A&M Forest Service, Oklahoma Forestry Services, National Weather Service and Kansas Forest Service personnel.

"This has been a long-standing work in progress," said Todd Lindley, National Weather Service Science and Operations Officer. "Brad Smith [Texas A&M Forest Service] and Drew Daily [Oklahoma Forestry Services] worked with us to work through retrospective simulations of fire disasters in the Southern Plains, using the combined knowledge of environmental conditions and technology from the satellites, to depict fire behavior that is particularly dangerous."

In the creation of this new process, Texas A&M Forest Service brought forth a new perspective for the other agencies in combining fire prediction and weather with knowledge of fire history and behavior. Brad Smith served as a catalyst in the expansion of prediction resources and technology for the state, implementing more than 150 new weather stations statewide that are used for fire potential monitoring.

The satellite hotspot detection process of the multi-agency warning system is initiated when a red flag fire day is in effect. A red flag warning is issued by the National Weather Service when the combination of weather conditions and composite fuel moisture support extreme fire danger.

On these days, the National Weather Service and emergency management services within the warned area will repeatedly assess fire conditions.

Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services utilizes additional tools to monitor fire potential by measuring the fire environment including fuel and weather. These factors, paired with an extensive knowledge of fire behavior history in the area, can be used by Texas A&M Forest Service to inform the National Weather Service or local communities on emergency management decisions.

The National Weather Service is able to monitor conditions on red flag days using infrared channels of the new GOES-16 and GOES-17 sat-

ellites. "We use these channels of the satellites to detect heat," said Doug Weber, National Weather Service Senior Forecaster and Fire Program Coordinator. "When a fire hits, it heats up really quick. We're able to see the flicker on the satellite immediately, and it jumps out on the map."

Following the initial detection and assessment of a fire through satellite imagery, National Weather Service members notify local emergency management teams and state fire and forestry officials of the fire. More than 350 Texas Panhandle officials and emergency management personnel are currently subscribed to the initial alert system and receive wildfire threat notifications.

Once notified, local officials have the opportunity to assess the threat of the fire to determine whether a wildfire notification for community members is appropriate. Factors such as fire location, fuels the fire is burning and weather are used by state and local officials to determine the fire's rate of spread and potential impact, which will help determine if a fire warning notification is appropriate.

Within minutes, local officials can request a wildfire or evacuation notification from the National Weather Service to community members within a specified perimeter, similar to other natural disaster alerts issued by the National Weather Service.

Throughout the notification process, the interest of local emergency management teams is paramount to the issuing of the notifications by the National Weather Service. The improved notification process emboldens local emergency management teams to make critical decisions that will affect community members, with the help and support of state officials and neighboring communities.

"It's highly encouraged that local emergency management officials initiate the fire warning," said Luke Kanclerz, Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services Department Head. "A majority of the fire warnings issued February 26 and 27, were issued by the local and county emergency management officials in the Panhandle."

Lindley noted that the development of new technology and strong inter-agency relationships have aided in the timeliness of the new notification process.

"This entire process has been accomplished in nine minutes on average, ranging from three minutes to 15 minutes," said Lindley. "What is significant about that is that previously, we were only authorized to send notifications to the public at the request of local emergency managers, which took 80 minutes in some cases."

We have cut that process down significantly so that we can be more forward leaning and proactive on getting these alerts to the public."

Kanclerz expressed his hopes that this new warning process will provide timelier notification of wildfires, more accurate fire behavior imaging and a safer environment for community members and first responders.

"With a fire season ahead, these alerts are a quick and efficient way to notify community members of a dangerous fire," said Kanclerz. "We have worked on this process in the hopes of improving public safety."

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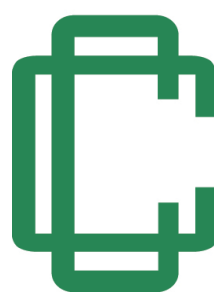
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