



THE CLARENDON Enterprise

12.04.2025

The Texas Panhandle's First Newspaper.
Established 1878.

THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

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THIS WEEK

- 2 John Whitehead says it's time to say 'no thanks' for some things..
- 4 Check out the scenes from the Polar Express.
- 6 The Broncos beat Borger on the hardwood.
- 8 Community Thanksgiving serves 400 meals.

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

CHS troupe to hold fall performance

The Clarendon High School Theatre Department will perform "The One Act Play Disaster" by Don Zolidis on December 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. in the CHS Auditorium.

Baked goods will be available for sale to support the theatre program at CHS.

Friends of Library planning bake sale

The Friends of the Library will hold their Holiday Bake Sale starting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 18, and ending at 4:00 p.m. or earlier if they sell out.

Funds raised go to the Burton Memorial Library for ongoing book purchases and other materials supplied to the community by the Library.

Santa Letters due to Enterprise Dec. 12

The Clarendon Enterprise is getting ready to send its holiday issue to Santa Claus, and the deadline to have your letter turned in is fast approaching.

All letters need to be delivered to the Enterprise office at 105 S. Kearney by 5 p.m. next Wednesday, December 12, in order to be in the holiday issue that Santa looks for every year.

Send your letter to Santa Claus, c/o The Clarendon Enterprise, PO Box 1110, Clarendon, TX 79226, or bring it straight to the office, and we'll make sure the big guy gets it.

Letters to Santa will be printed in the December 25 edition of The Clarendon Enterprise and its digital companion, Enterprise-D.

New deadlines are set for Enterprise

A change in the printing schedule for The Clarendon Enterprise has resulted in new deadlines being set for our newspaper.

All news, photos, ads, and classifieds are now due in the office by noon on Monday for that week's publication.

We appreciate our readers and advertisers working with us to make our press time. There will be no change in the delivery schedule for the Enterprise.



Listening close

Santa leans in to listen to hear what Lainey Shelton wants for Christmas during the Small Town Christmas celebration last week. Lainey was one of many kids to get to visit Santa Claus at the Donley County Courthouse.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Small Town Christmas draws good crowd

Cold, windy weather didn't stop Clarendon's second annual Small Town Christmas from attracting a good turnout for holiday fund and Small Business Saturday savings at local merchants.

Committee Chair Denise Bertrand said thought the event went very well considering how cold it was and said she had received only one complaint.

Bertrand's committee will be meeting in January to discuss things to improve upon for next year's event.

Several merchants reported a busy day Saturday, and Bertrand said food vendors did very well. The Roost had a full house for craft and specialty vendors and was a busy place downtown, and a barrel train kept kids entertained. Santa's Play House also provided crafts

for kids at the Clarendon College Downtown Center.

A scavenger hunt during the day drew three teams with first place and \$75 in Chamber Cash going to the Dream Team – Elizabeth and Deon Cowan; second place and \$50 in Chamber Cash going to the Judge & Jury – Pat and Kelly Hill, Mandi Gay, and Holly White; and Kirsten Bertrand was third and got \$25 in Chamber Cash.

In the Gingerbread House contest, results were as follows: Children's Category – Titus Truex, first place, \$75 in Chamber Cash, Tobias Truex, second place, \$50 in Chamber Cash, and Cavett Dorl, third place and \$25 in Chamber Cash; Adult Division – Lisa Heald, first place and \$75 in Chamber Cash and Emery Truex, second place and \$50 in Chamber Cash.

Tom Thompson was the first place winner of the Ugly Sweater Contest with a \$75 Chamber Cash prize. Annette Osburn got \$50 in Chamber Cash for second place, and Krista Percival got \$25 in Chamber Cash for third place.

Drawings were held throughout the day, and then winners were as follows: Lowe's \$50 Gift Card – Terri Luna, Garrison's \$50 Gift Card – Shonda Lowrie, Clarendon County Club Golf Package – Kirsten Bertrand, Lowe's \$50 Gift Card – Annette Osburn, Quarter Hog from O'Keefe Family – Corita Hopper, Clarendon Country Club Golf Package – Miss Etheridge, and Quarter Hog from O'Keefe Family – Roy Bertrand.

That evening at the courthouse, Lion Club members served about 150 cups of hot chocolate,

and Santa handed out gifts to scores of kids after arriving at the square in a horse-drawn carriage.

The Howardwick choir and Clarendon Elementary students performed Christmas carols, and Randy White read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" before the lights were turned on for the season at the Courthouse.

Also last weekend, a benefit movie on Sunday at the Mulkey Theatre collected more than \$700 in donations for the Donley County Community Fund during a special presentation of "The Polar Express."

This year's Small Town Christmas celebration was generously sponsored by Republic Services and was a organized by a dedicated volunteer committee under the Chamber of Commerce.



Employee of the Month

George Jaramillo of Best Western Plus Red River Inn was named as the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce's December Employee of the Month on Monday. A longtime employee of the local hotel, Jaramillo is known as a dedicated hardworker. Shown here are Chamber representative Roger Estlack, Jaramillo, hotel owner Steve Hall, and Chamber board member Sharlene Bordonaro. To nominate a Chamber member employee for this honor, visit ClarendonTX.com/employeeofthemonth or call the Visitor Center at 806-874-2421.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Chamber Christmas drawings start Friday

The Clarendon Chamber of Commerce will hold its first Small Town Christmas drawing this Friday at noon as holiday shopping promotions continue.

The fourth annual "Shop Small" promotion from the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce will put a grand total of \$550 in Chamber Christmas Cash in the hands of lucky winners who shop with local merchants.

Sign-ups at participating merchants began last weekend, for drawings that will be held for \$100 each Friday on December 5, 12, and 19. To enter, shoppers will fill out an entry at local participating merchants.

Enter as many times as you shop locally, so shop often. Entries stay in the hopper each week, so those who enter will have multiple chances of winning.

Those merchants participating are: Amanda's Country Soaps, Broiler's Auto Parts, Clarendon Outpost, Cornell's Country Store, Country Bloomers Flowers, Every Nook & Cranny, Floatin' T, Floyd's Automotive, Henson's, Garrison's, J&W Lumber, Lowe's Family Center, Monroe's Peach Ranch, Mulkey Theatre, Mike's Pharmacy, Ramblin' Ranch Boutique, REFZ Sports Bar & Grill, and Whistle Stop.

The Chamber will also hold a bonus drawing for \$250 in Chamber Christmas Cash on December 19. Sign-up for the bonus drawing will be held starting December 1 at the Clarendon Visitor Center.

Shoppers can bring their receipts and receive one entry for every \$25 spent at the participating merchants.

Shop at home this holiday season and remember the important role your local merchants play in keeping your community strong.

Support the businesses who support your town and show your support for you local community.

PBS program addresses food insecurity in Texas

Panhandle PBS premiered "Broken Bread: Addressing Senior Food Insecurity in the Texas Panhandle" in April of 2025. Now, the project will live on as part of the statewide "Made in Texas" content initiative, airing on all Texas PBS stations in the month of November.

"Made in Texas" is a series from Texas PBS featuring Texas filmmakers that aims to celebrate the storytelling, cultural richness and vibrant film community of our state. Each "Made in Texas" episode airs on all 10 Texas PBS Stations. A special one-hour version of "Broken Bread" will be broadcast as part of "Made in Texas" at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 28 on Panhandle PBS.

"Broken Bread" covers the causes, regional disparities and diverse impacts of food insecurity among older adults and seniors in the Texas Panhandle. As the local population ages, more seniors are struggling to access nutritious food, often facing this crisis without adequate resources or support.

Through personal stories, expert insights and local solutions, this program sheds light on both the challenges and opportunities within our broken food access system.

Food insecurity is a particularly challenging issue in many of the smaller, rural communities in the Texas Panhandle, where grocery stores and assistance programs are many miles away. Despite many complex problems in the fight against food insecurity, local organizations are working to end this issue. From food pantries designed with older adults in mind to community-driven partnerships bridging service gaps, "Broken Bread" highlights the people and organizations working to ensure that no senior in the Texas Panhandle goes to bed hungry.

The full series is available at panhandlePBS.org/BrokenBread, on the Panhandle PBS YouTube channel, YouTube.com/@PanhandlePBS, and the PBS App.



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Hold on to our liberty

“Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands...for if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world.” – Daniel Webster

We find ourselves approaching that time of year when, as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln proclaimed, we’re supposed to give thanks as a nation and as individuals for our safety and our freedoms.

It’s not an easy undertaking. The contrast between George Washington’s first Thanksgiving proclamation and the state of the nation today reveals how far we have drifted – and how low we have fallen – since Washington called upon early Americans (a nation of immigrants) to give thanks for a government that protected their safety and happiness, and for a Constitution designed to safeguard civil and religious liberty.

But how do you give thanks for freedoms that are constantly being eroded? How do you express gratitude for one’s safety when the perils posed by the American police state grow more treacherous by the day? How do you come together as a nation in thanksgiving when the powers-that-be continue to polarize and divide us into warring factions?

To our collective misfortune, we have been saddled with a government that is a far cry from Washington’s vision: governed by wise, just, constitutional laws; faithfully executed by principled public servants; promoting peace, virtue, and liberty; and fostering the prosperity of the nation.

Instead, the U.S. government has become a warring empire: lawless in its ambitions, militarized in its posture, abusive in its policing, and increasingly hostile to conscience, truth, and constitutional limits.

Washington never intended Thanksgiving to be a day of glib platitudes – a moment to be grateful for whatever crumbs the government chooses to bestow upon us. He intended it to be a day of reflection, honesty, and moral accounting, a day when the nation examines its failures, acknowledges its wrongs, and commits to restoring liberty in the year ahead.

Say “no thanks” to oligarchy and self-serving, pay-to-play politics.
Say “no thanks” to an imperial presidency that rules by fiat.
Say “no thanks” to martial law and standing armies used against the American people.
Say “no thanks” to the government’s fear tactics.
Say “no thanks” to endless wars.
Say “no thanks” to everywhere wars.
Say “no thanks” to the transformation of domestic police into extensions of the military.
Say “no thanks” to ICE raids that trample constitutional rights and terrorize communities.
Say “no thanks” to a government mindset that seeks to transform the nation into a prison state.
Say “no thanks” to a surveillance state that has become a fourth branch of government.
Say “no thanks” to a government that punishes the poor.
Say “no thanks” to policies that muzzle dissent.
Say “no thanks” to courts that rubber-stamp government power.
Say “no thanks” to a government that criminalizes the rights enshrined in the Constitution.
Say “no thanks” to government theft disguised as fines, fees, taxes, and forfeitures.

At some point, we’ve got to face up to the uncomfortable truth that freedom is slipping through our fingers, and that the government now poses a greater threat to our safety than any outside force ever could.

We cannot keep pretending that “it can’t happen here” while it is happening all around us. There comes a point at which no people – not even a patient, hopeful, long-suffering people – can continue pretending that the crumbs of liberty left to them constitute freedom.

A free people must do more than count their blessings. We must guard them. We must assert them. We must defend them – even when doing so is dangerous, costly, or unpopular. There is still time to turn back from the brink, but the hour is late.

If we want future generations to enjoy even a measure of the freedom we inherited, then “We the People” must refuse to go quietly into the machinery of the police state.

We must refuse to be governed by fear. We must refuse to surrender our rights for the illusion of safety. And we must refuse to bow to those who insist that conscience is treason and obedience is the highest virtue.

The Founders gave us a constitutional republic on the condition that we fight to keep it. That responsibility cannot be outsourced to politicians, courts, or parties. It rests squarely with the people themselves, with those who refuse to surrender conscience, rights, or truth to the demands of tyrants. As I make clear in my book Battlefield America: The War on the American People and in its fictional counterpart The Erik Blair Diaries, the only force strong enough to restrain government overreach is an informed, engaged, and courageous citizenry that will not trade its birthright for the hollow comforts of authoritarianism. The future of freedom depends not on presidents or parties but on “We the People” – ordinary individuals who refuse to be silent, refuse to be intimidated, and refuse to give up on the promise of America.

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute.



speak truth to power
by john whitehead

Times when ignorances is truly bliss

Since when do I feel the freedom to “lump” more kinfolks into the bin already spilling over with “we-should-have-known-better” contents? Regrettably, we must make room for one more – my wife’s cousin.

Paula Ward – wedded to Jason Ward of Christchurch, New Zealand, 13 years ago – is a native Texan. The couple resides in his homeland, almost halfway around the globe where he’s an independent paint contractor. With dual citizenship, she arranges trips periodically to visit relatives in Texas.

Arrangements aren’t so difficult. Timing for the 9,000-mile journey is. Paula isn’t – and never claimed to be – an international travel expert. Such would have helped this time....

Having experienced Texas’ 100-plus temperatures in August, 2022, the pair agreed: “Never again.” November, she suggested, should be great. Paula failed to realize that the selected travel dates – November 21 and November 30 – are the two busiest this year for USA air travel. (On the Friday prior to Thanksgiving, the 3,000,000 figure is reached, and on the Sunday following, exceeded.) She booked travel on those very days. They experienced delays, other annoyances and even less-than-courteous treatment. They were ensnared at a rental car counter, where it appeared that three agents were in place to serve a long line of customers. One “worker,” however, was endlessly attached to his iPhone, perhaps chatting with a friend – as if poolside on a cruise ship deck – instead of serving customers. Earlier, it had taken two hours to clear customs,

and afterwards, two more to escape Houston traffic.

Their next visit to Texas will NOT be during Thanksgiving, a holiday unobserved in New Zealand.

If Jason decides to accompany her, he’ll urge her to look further than calendar dates, perhaps checking out holidays, whether federal funding is keeping air traffic controllers at work, and assorted other other miscellaneous mitigations that might lead to travel trauma.

Luckily, kinfolks have been understanding. This includes her Kerrville cousins – Steve and Alma Rice – who had hoped the Wards would arrive in time for 6 p.m. dinner, one that was cold at their midnight arrival. But, since more than 31 hours had elapsed since leaving their home, Jason and Paula likely would have eagerly welcomed food in any condition.....

Sometimes, the “fickle finger of fate” wiggles wildly. I’m talkin’ about “whatever-can-go-wrong-will-go-wrong” eventualities, the kind we remember from Rowan and Martin’s TV Show, “Laugh In,” an American favorite from 1968-1973. That’s when their “sock-it-to-me” phrase seemed to “fit” the vignettes. Seriously, the Wards are wonderful Christians – blessings by all measures. And, we enjoy Jason’s accent, seemingly blended from those of England and Australia.....



the idle american
by don newbury

One unexpected rental car experience is worth relating. I arrived at the Amarillo Airport, the nearest one to Pampa, my speaking destination. At the counter, I wondered how I’d pass time in Pampa, a mere hour’s drive away.

I was next in line, and the frantic woman in front of me was crying, pleading between sobs that she needed to drive to Lubbock. The agent was patient, but repeatedly said that there were no cars available. He was near tears, too, “caught up” in her emergency.

I interrupted to say, “Give her my car,” only to hear his response: “If I do, there’ll be none for you.” I was determined to help, figuring I could ride a bus or even hitch-hike, if necessary. Numerous possibilities flooded my mind.....

Her “smile-light” shined broadly, and the agent grinned, too. I left the building, then immediately returned, requesting a vehicle rental.

“You know we don’t have any,” the agent whimpered. I reminded him that he’d said “cars,” not necessarily all types of vehicles.

He chuckled, remembering an old truck out back; he didn’t know why the company had it, or if it would even start. It did. He drew up the papers, charging me the cheapest sub-compact rate. If I’d come across a funeral procession headed toward Pampa, I could have helped them to deliver graveside flowers....

Dr. Newbury, a speaker in the Metroplex, may be reached at 817-447-3872; email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Column audio version at www.speakerdoc.com.



INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN VENEZUELAN

Time for government involvement?

Normally I don’t think government and sports should mix, but in the current college playoff system, including mostly public schools, it may be time.

College football has always been controversial in the way it chooses its national champion. Because teams don’t all play each other it has depended on the eye test. Which school does a committee or coaches think would win if they played.

As that system left no one satisfied, several tweaks have been made to determine a national champion on the field. It started with the top two teams playing each other, but there were complaints about who the top two were. To fix the issue the NCAA went to a four-team playoff which still left everyone fighting about the fifth team. Finally, it was decided to go to a 12-team playoff.

But here we are again, still relying on the eye test. Currently sitting right outside the playoffs is BYU, a one loss Big 12 school. In front of it are three two loss teams. Why are the three two loss

teams ahead of a one loss team, the eye test.

The committee has determined that if BYU played those teams the two loss teams would win. The committee feels that the fifth place team with two losses is more deserving than a second Big 12 School.

Is that true? We can’t know. That is why there is a playoff. I am the first to say the SEC is a stronger conference than the Big 12, but I will not agree that the fifth place SEC team is automatically better than a one loss Big 12 team (whose only loss was to the number five ranked team).

As for government, if this is just about a championship then I would say stay out, but its much bigger than that. It’s about money.



historically speaking
by dr. james fink

Last year each team that made the playoff received \$4 million just for the first round. They received another \$4 million for the next round then \$6 million for the next two rounds. The conferences received \$300,000 for each team.

If the playoffs happened right now, the SEC would receive \$1,500,000, the Big 10 \$900,000 while the ACC and Big 12 only \$300,000. Notre Dame, a two-loss team and the only private college, would receive \$700,000 because they are independent.

In 1890 congress passed The Sherman Antitrust Act. The law was created to curb monopolies, ensure a fair market and promote free and fair competition. When a committee decides that one power conference receives \$1,200,000 more than another because it values its two loss teams more, it may be time for the courts to get involved.

I know this could all change before the end of the season. But if it does not, Sherman may need to be applied.

148th Year, Series 3, Vol. XXXV, No. 49
The Clarendon Enterprise (USPS 947040, ISSN 1088-9698) is published each Thursday by Roger A. Estlack at 105 S. Kearney Street, Clarendon, Texas 79226-1110. Periodicals postage paid at Clarendon, Texas 79226-1110. Copyright © 2025. All rights reserved.

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

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

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ADVERTISING

Open Display rates are \$6.00 per PASS column inch. Classified Ads are \$15 for the first 20 words and 15¢ per word for each additional word (Boxes or special typography are extra.). Thank You Notes are \$20 for the first 40 words and 15¢ per word for each additional word. Basic engagement, wedding, anniversary, and birth announcements are \$20 each. Expanded wedding announcements are \$30. A one-column announcement picture is \$10, and a two-column announcement picture is \$15. Pictures submitted for publication should be picked up within ten days after publication. Death notices are printed at no charge. Obituaries are published for \$45 or \$50 with a photo.

DEADLINES

News articles and photos are due by Monday at noon. **Advertising and Classifieds** are also due by noon Monday. Deadlines may be altered for holidays or special issues.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are available for \$25 digitally or \$50 for print plus digital. **POSTMASTER:** Send all address changes to: **The Clarendon Enterprise**, PO Box 1110, Clarendon, TX 79226-1110.

LETTERS

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

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The 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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NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

On October 14, 2025, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or Company) filed a Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates (the Petition) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or the Commission) in Docket No. 58819, and with those municipal authorities in its Texas service territory that have original jurisdiction over SWEPCO’s electric rates. This notice is being published in accordance with Section 36.103 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act and Commission Procedural Rule 16 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) § 22.51(a)(1).

SWEPCO has approximately 191,000 Texas retail customers. All such customers and all classes of customers will be affected by the relief requested in SWEPCO’s Petition.

SWEPCO’s request to change its rates is based on the financial results for a 12-month test year ending on March 31, 2025. SWEPCO’s Petition requests approval for a total Texas retail base rate revenue requirement of \$641,516,844 and a base rate increase of \$163,896,434, an increase of 41.67 % over adjusted Texas retail Test Year base rate revenues exclusive of fuel and rider revenues. The proposed increase in Texas retail revenues will be offset by setting SWEPCO’s current TCRF, DCRF, Advanced Metering System (AMS) surcharge, and a portion of Net Operating Loss Carryforward (NOLC) surcharge to zero, a reduction of \$68,960,435. Thus, the net proposed increase is \$94,935,998. The overall impact of the proposed revenue requirement, considering both fuel and non-fuel revenues, is a 13.48% increase. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice, as shown in the table below. In addition, SWEPCO is seeking recovery of the reasonable rate-case expenses, including expenses paid to reimburse intervening municipalities, that it incurs in this case and those rate-case expenses incurred in three prior dockets that have yet to be recovered.

A Residential Service customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per month will see an increase in their total bill (including fuel costs and rate riders) of \$16.43 per month, an increase of approximately 12.15%.

The following table presents the percentage annual revenue increases, by type of service, under the proposed rates in this proceeding:

Major Rate Class	Base Revenue Change	Base Percent Increase	Total % Change @ Proposed
Residential	\$ 65,986,839	41.26%	12.90%
General Service	\$ 7,941,672	29.84%	4.33%
Light & Power	\$ 42,089,946	29.84%	7.39%
Cotton Gin	\$ 175,099	83.33%	17.46%
Total Commercial	\$ 50,206,717	29.91%	6.96%
Industrial	\$ 41,899,554	78.73%	30.66%
Total Commercial & Industrial	\$ 92,106,271	41.66%	13.72%
Municipal	\$ 2,421,140	62.58%	20.06%
Municipal Lighting	\$ 1,689,786	62.29%	25.52%
Total Municipal	\$ 4,110,926	62.46%	21.95%
Lighting	\$ 1,691,431	29.45%	7.30%

SWEPCO has proposed that its requested rate change become effective 35 days after the filing of the Petition and Statement of Intent. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission and other regulatory authorities.

SWEPCO also seeks to reconcile its Advanced Metering System (AMS) deployment costs through March 31, 2025. SWEPCO is requesting to (1) implement new base rates reflecting its ongoing costs to provide AMS and (2) reconcile AMS costs with AMS surcharge revenues under 16 TAC § 25.130. At the conclusion of this proceeding, with the implementation of new base rates, SWEPCO proposes to eliminate the AMS surcharge and roll AMS capital expenditures and AMS operations and maintenance costs into base rates.

SWEPCO is proposing various revisions to most tariffs and schedules. In addition, in order to facilitate future TCRF, DCRF, and Generation Cost Recovery Rider (GCRR) filings pursuant to 16 TAC §§ 25.239, 25.243, and 25.248, respectively, SWEPCO requests that the Commission: (1) set the Company’s current TCRF and DCRF to zero; and (2) establish in this docket the baseline values consisting of the inputs to the calculations that will be used to calculate SWEPCO’s TCRF, DCRF, and GCRR in future dockets. Persons with questions or who want more information on this Petition may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the Petition and related filings is available for inspection at the address listed in the previous sentence.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals may contact the Commission through Relay Texas at (800) 735-2989. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the Commission, unless otherwise provided by order of the presiding officer. A request for intervention or request for further information should refer to Docket No. 58819.



¿Qué Pasa?
Community Calendar
December 4, 5, & 6
Clarendon Broncos @ White Deer Tournament • Times TBA

December 4, 5, & 6
Clarendon Lady Broncos @ Naz Tournament • Times TBA

December 5 & 6
Mulkey Theatre • Five Nights at Freddy's 2 • 7:30 p.m.

December 7
Mulkey Theatre • Five Nights at Freddy's 2 • 7:30 p.m.

December 4, 5, & 6
Clarendon Lady Broncos v. Seminole • LCU • 6:30 p.m.

December 11, 12, & 13
Clarendon Broncos @ Childress Tournament • Times TBA

December 12
Clarendon Lady Broncos v. Perryton • Home • 6:30 p.m.

December 12 & 13
Mulkey Theatre • Five Nights at Freddy's 2 • 7:30 p.m.

December 14
Mulkey Theatre • Five Nights at Freddy's 2 • 7:30 p.m.

Menus
December 8 - 12
Donley County Senior Citizens
Mon: Cheeseburgers, potato wedges, melon or fresh fruit, sugar cookie iced, iced tea/2% milk.
Tues: Chicken enchilada, pinto beans, garden salad, chocolate cupcake, iced tea/2% milk.
Wed: Stuffed baked potato, shredded pork, steamed broccoli, hot roll, pineapple cake, iced tea/2% milk.
Thurs: BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, whole wheat roll, fruit cobbler, iced tea/2% milk.
Fri: Ham & pinto beans, sweet potatoes, cucumbers & onions, cornbread, sliced pears, iced tea/2% milk

Hedley Senior Citizens
Mon: Spaghetti & meat sauce, garden salad, garlic bread, brownie, iced tea/2% milk.
Tues: Sliced ham, ranch potatoes, green beans, whole wheat roll, coconut cake, iced tea/2% milk.
Wed: Chicken fried steak w/ country gravy, broccoli, mashed potatoes, whole wheat roll, fruit crisp, iced tea/2% milk.
Thurs: Mexican pile on, tortilla chips, pinto beans, Spanish rice, garden salad, sliced peaches w/ whipped topping, iced tea/2% milk.
Fri: Chicken strips, gravy, potato wedges, garden salad, whole wheat roll, brownie, iced tea/2% milk

Clarendon CISD
Breakfast
Mon: Breakfast pizza, fruit, fruit juice, milk.
Tues: Dutch waffle, sausage, fruit, fruit juice, milk.
Wed: Biscuit, gravy, eggs, bacon, fruit, fruit juice, milk.
Thu: Pancake wrap, yogurt, fruit, fruit juice, milk.
Fri: Cinnamon roll, sausage, fruit, fruit juice, milk.

Lunch
Mon: Pizza, carrots, green beans, dessert, fruit, milk.
Tues: Quesadilla, salsa, beans, cucumbers, ice cream, fruit, milk.
Wed: Spaghetti bowl, breadstick, veggie cup, salad, fruit, milk.
Thu: Salisbury steak, gravy, roll, brownie, corn, fruit, milk.
Fri: Corn dog, potatoes, tomato cup, fruit, milk.

Hedley ISD
Breakfast
Mon: Breakfast pizza, mixed fruit, fruit juice, milk.
Tues: French toast, sausage, fruit, fruit juice, milk.
Wed: Sunrise sandwich, fruit, fruit juice, milk.
Thu: Pancake wrap, yogurt, fruit, fruit juice, milk.
Fri: No School

Lunch
Mon: Cheeseburger, macaroni, roll, carrots, green beans, apple, brownie, fruit, milk.
Tues: Quesadilla, tomato cup, zesty cucumbers, apricots, ice cream, fruit, milk.
Wed: French bread pizza, broccoli, corn, fruit, milk.
Thu: Hamburger, tater tots, baked beans, fruit, milk.
Fri: No School



Serving up cheer
The Clarendon Lions Club served hot chocolate to those attending the Courthouse Lighting Ceremony last Saturday evening. Shown here are Boss Lion Brian Barboza, Lion Ashlee Estlack, and Lions Mary and Richard Green.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO



Young believers Mac Wann and Raleigh Wann (top photo) receive sleighbells from Santa Claus following last Sunday's Polar Express event at the Mulkey Theatre. More than 75 people attended the event, which raised over \$700 for the Donley County Community Fund. The themed event featured a kids getting their train tickets punched by a conductor and elves serving hot chocolate and cookies during the movie before St. Nick made his debut as the final credits rolled. Helping with the event (bottom photo) were Jacob Fangman, Shauna Herbert, Marianne Roberson, Mandi Gay, Scarlet Estlack, Russell Estlack, Roger Estlack, Ashlee Estlack, Sherrol Johnson, and Ella Estlack.

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Small Town Christmas Gingerbread House Contest winners were Titus Truex in the children’s division, and Lisa Heald (not pictured) in the adult division.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Tom Thompson was the first place winner of the Small Town Christmas Ugly Sweater Contest last Saturday.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Small Town Christmas Scavenger Hunt winning teams last weekend were: First Place - The Dream Team – Elizabeth and Deon Cowan; second place - The Judge & Jury – Pat and Kelly Hill, Mandi Gay, and Holly White; and third place - Kirsten Bertrand.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Obituaries

Graham
William Doyce Graham, Jr., 86, died on Sunday, November 2, 2025, in Clemson, South Carolina.

A celebration of life was held November 26, 2025, at the Clemson United Methodist Church in Clemson, South Carolina.

Born on February 22, 1939, in Clarendon, Doyce was the eldest son of the late William Doyce Graham, Sr., and Viola Fay Barker Graham.

He received his early education in Clarendon, graduating from Clarendon High School and Clarendon College before earning a B.S. in Agronomy from Texas Tech in 1962. His academic pursuits led him to Purdue University, where he earned a master’s and a PhD in Agronomy.

In 1966, Doyce began a career at Clemson University, serving as a professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics until his retirement in 2003. His research on small grains took place at Experiment Stations around South Carolina. In a testament to his contributions, Clemson University released the “Graham” oat in 2012, and the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station released “Doyce,” a type of hullless winter barley, in 2003.

Beyond his professional life, Doyce had a passion for reading, particularly mysteries and military and aviation history. Upon retirement, he fulfilled a lifelong dream by earning his pilot’s license. He and his wife purchased a small experimental plane, enjoying trips to visit family, friends, and new destinations.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Linda Updike Graham; his daughters, Amanda Graham (Thomas Gaeng) and Carmen Graham Garland (Wilson Garland); his granddaughters, Caroline Garland and Alison Garland; his great-grandson, Graham Wilson Garland; and his brother, Michael Clark Graham. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, James Carl Graham.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Doyce’s memory can be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					13
14							15		16
	18						19		20
				21	22		23		
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46							47	48	
49			50	51			52	53	54
	56				57		58		59
			60			61			
								63	

CLUES ACROSS

- Dough made from corn flour
- Rise
- Gratitude
- A low wall
- Kidnap
- A cup golfers want to win
- Outgoing
- “Partner” to flow
- Former Michigan coach Brady
- Proverb
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Helps a body recover
- Baseball Cy Young winner
- Very fast airplane
- Offensive baseball stat
- Body of water
- Record of one’s heartbeat
- Sign a contract
- Atomic #24
- Bind securely
- French Jesuit theologian
- Fragrant brown balsam
- Post office box
- Sells tickets at inflated prices
- Places to hang coats
- Jewish salutation
- Yellow fruits
- Poorly educated
- Microorganism
- Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

- A way to plan
- Three-banded armadillo
- Mobile
- Romanian city
- Making sour
- Take a seat
- “The Golden State”
- When you hope to arrive
- Pointed ends of pens
- Extinct flightless bird
- Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- Not all
- Problems (Spanish slang)
- Narrow carpet
- To avoid the risk of
- Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- Equally
- Traditional cars still need it
- Eligible voters
- Greek alphabet letter
- Body part
- Referee-declared outcome
- Means to moving money
- Popular footwear brand
- Cockatoo
- NFL’s big game
- Botswana currencies
- News-reporting organization
- Batman villain
- Urgent request
- Not all
- Hallmark’s specialty
- Knot in a tree
- Satisfy
- Notable space station
- Baby’s dining accessory
- Stitch clothing
- __ and behold

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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.

RISE UP KINGDOM MINISTRIES:
501 S. MCCLELLAND • PASTOR: JOSY SHADLE
SUNDAY DISCIPLESHIP CLASS: 9:30 A.M.
SUN.: 10:00 A.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
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FR. BALA POLLISETTI
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.: 11 A.M. & 6 P.M.
WED.: 7 P.M.

HOWARDWICK
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
235 RICK HUSBAND BLVD. • 874-3326 • REV. JIM FOX
SUN. SCHOOL: 8:45 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 10:00 A.M.
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 smash the Borger Bulldogs, 66-45

By Sandy Anderberg

The Clarendon Broncos are beginning to mesh as a team and were able to get by the Borger Bulldogs at home last week 66-45.

The win is the boost the Broncos needed to continue to strengthen their teamwork as they play through their pre-district season.

The 21-point win was led by Michael Randall and Braxton Gribble who finished with 20 and 19 points respectively. Randall racked up a double-double adding 12 rebounds to his 20 points. Randall also had four assists, five steals, and two blocks. He was four of six from the bonus line and hit four of 16 attempts from the arc. Gribble added three rebounds, seven assists and one steal to his point total while converting free throws at 38 percent.

The Broncos were able to contain the Bulldogs under the basket and the 11 steals as a team gave the Broncos the momentum they needed to shut down Borger's offense.

Aiden Morris put six points on the board while Kendon Hanes added five. Tyler Cavanaugh added four and Kreed Robinson finished with three. Overall, the Broncos grabbed 31 rebounds in the game and racked up 22 assists.

The Broncos will play in the White Deer tournament December 4-6 and travel to Highland Park December 9.

Lady Broncos defeated by the PD Lady Dons

By Sandy Anderberg

The Lady Broncos hosted the Palo Duro Lady Dons last week and fell short 42-56.

The ladies were able to compete with the 5A school but were not able to make good on the three-ball like they normally do. Senior Madi Benson hit the only three-pointer for the Lady Broncos.

A slow start hindered the Lady Broncos as they fell behind 11 points in the opening eight minutes and trailed by 14 at the break. They also struggled somewhat at the bonus line hitting only six of 10 free shots in the game. But it was not in the Lady Broncos to give up as they were able to work their way back by outscoring the Lady Dons in the closing quarter to shrink PD's lead before the buzzer.

Kenidee Hayes played solid for the Lady Broncos and put in 17 points that include hitting three of five from the bonus line and Benson and Gracie Ellis added seven each in the loss. Preslee Smith had five, Berkley Moore put in four, and Millie McAnear helped with two.

Lady Colts bested by Wheeler Colts

By Sandy Anderberg

Both Clarendon Junior High Lady Colt teams fell short against strong Wheeler teams at home last Monday night.

The Lady Colt B-team worked hard but struggled to put points on the board and were defeated 5-38. The ladies went scoreless in the first half of play, while the Wheeler team led the way at the half 0-26. Kree Gaither was able to hit a big three pointer in the final quarter of play while Preslee English scored the first two points for the Lady Colts in the third six minutes. English added another two points in the final quarter to finish with five for the game.

The A-team played hard as well, and had several good scoring runs down the court. But the Wheeler Lady Colts outlasted them and took the win over Clarendon at 21-37.

Wheeler led by only three at the break but rallied in the third quarter of play to lead by 10 points. Clarendon never gave up and stayed strong until the buzzer.

Journee Morris handled the ball well and finished with 10 points that included converting 75 percent of her free throw shots. Haven King had a three pointer and one two pointer for five points, and Adleigh Moore helped with four. Emma Howard helped with two points for the Lady Colts.

The Lady Colts will take on Wellington at home December 8.

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

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

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Dec. 4-6 • TBA @ AWAY

Lady Broncos @ Naz Tournament
Dec. 4-6 • TBA @ AWAY

Lady Broncos v Seminole
Dec. 9 • 6:30 p.m. @ LCU

Broncos @ Childress Tournament
Dec. 11-13 • TBA @ AWAY

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MEETINGS

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

Clarendon Lions Club Regular meeting each Tuesday at noon. Brian Barboza, 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.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE - Family Reunions, Receptions, Business Meetings, Club Functions, and more. Clarendon Lions Hall, 111 W. Fourth. Call 874-2259 for rental information.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Call 874-2746.

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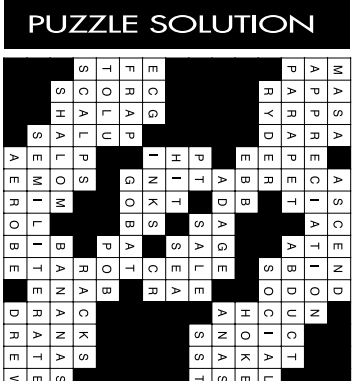
CLARENDON ISD IS REQUESTING bids for Erate eligible Category One and Category Two goods/services. Additional information is available at www.crwconsulting.com/ifcb. Bids will be opened January 8, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Clarendon CISD Administration Building.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS HEDLEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating Hedley ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:30 pm, December 15, 2025, in the Board Conference Room, Hedley Independent School District, 301 Jones Street, Hedley, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Hedley ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

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December Birthdays

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December Days

December is a month with many special days. Fill in the names of the special days of December in the spaces provided. (Note: Special days are listed by month and day.)

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Public Auction — Puryear Ranch, Sat. Dec. 6, 2025 @ 9:43a.m., 8128 CR 22 Wheeler, TX. 2017 F-350 XLT Crew/Dew-Eze 29K miles, CAT 140H Grader 4,825Hrs., CAT D6D, 2004 Jeep Wrangler 32K miles, farm & livestock equip., stock/utility/fuel trailers, welders, hunting, outdoor cooking, Micro Rain, yard equip., pipe & metal, shop tools & more! Full listing & pictures on AuctionZip.com. Facebook: Cole Wilson Auctioneers. Cole Wilson (Lic. #17319), (806) 662-5796.

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EVENTS

Holiday Festivities in Seguin — Holiday Stroll Parade: Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m., Central Park. Sip 'n Stroll: Dec. 5, 6-9 p.m., Central Park. Jingle Bell Run: Dec. 6, 8:30 a.m., Central Park. North Pole Stroll: Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Central Park. Yulefest: Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Seguin Coliseum. Holiday Heritage Tour of Homes: Dec. 13, 1-5 p.m., Heritage Village. VisitSeguin.com, 830-401-5000.

Pleasanton — Merry on Main, Dec. 5 & 6. Pleasanton River Park. Santa Claus, lighted parade, kids zone, live performances, winter wonderland, fireworks. Sat. night line up: Payton Howie, Luke Prater.

Palacios — Seaside Holiday, Dec. 5-6. Music, shopping, vendors, cook-off, kids crafts, Jingle Jog 5K Run, lighted parade, photos with Santa, Palacios, TX.

ENERGY

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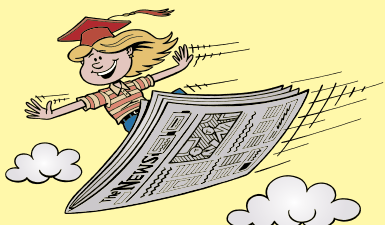
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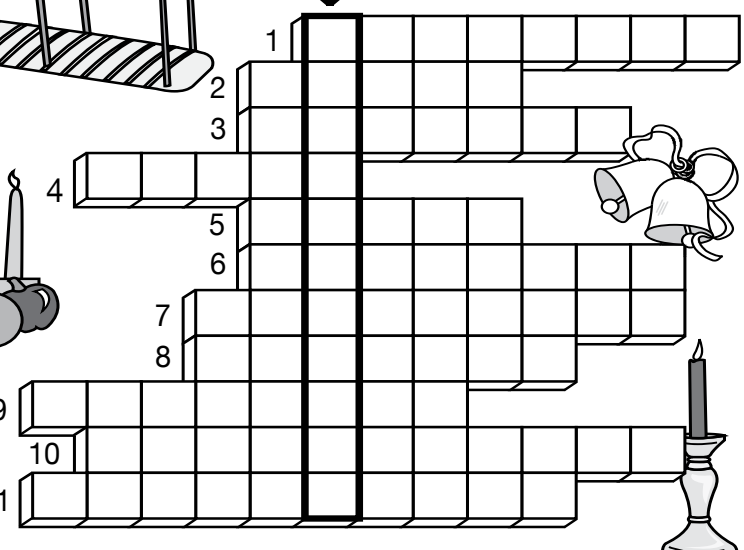

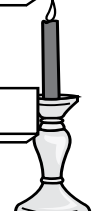


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Share your customs with your friends.

Kids: color stuff in!

December Days

December is one of our favorite months. It is a month with many holidays, special anniversaries and birthdays. Our friends celebrate our holidays with us and we celebrate our friends' holidays too. It is a good way to learn about other families' cultures and traditions. The puzzle below is about the special days of December. **When you fill in this puzzle, the last day of December will appear!**



The last day of December is:

HEART	THIRTEENTH	PARTY	HANUKKAH
PEARL	NICHOLAS	BROTHERS	
KWANZAA	POSADAS	ANNIVERSARY	CHRISTMAS

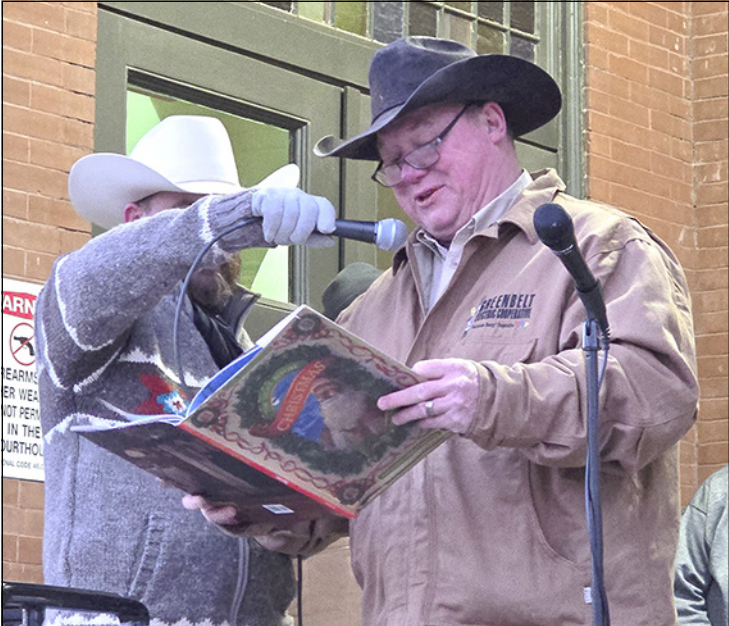
- St. _____ Day – celebration of Bishop of Myra of the 4th century, known for his charity, gift-giving
- First _____ Transplant – (1967) Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the first successful transplantation at Cape Town, South Africa
- _____ – a celebration of family and community, heritage and roots in Africa
- Boston Tea _____ – people angry about taxes boarded a British ship in Boston Harbor to dump tea chests overboard
- _____ Harbor Day – in 1941 the Japanese attacked U.S. naval forces in Hawaii, drawing the U.S. into WWII
- _____ – Jewish Festival of Lights – eight-day celebration of the ancient Jews' victory over the Syrians and the return of their Holy Temple
- _____ Day – a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth
- Las _____ – nine-day celebration in Mexico; processions of people knock on doors, asking for shelter the way Mary and Joseph did in Bethlehem
- Wright _____ Day – in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright, who achieved the first controlled, heavier-than-air flight
- Pilgrim Landing _____ – in Governor William Bradford's writings, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts on Dec. 21, 1620
- _____ Amendment – added to the U.S. Constitution, outlawing slavery in the U.S.



Community Thanksgiving
The 2025 Community Thanksgiving served almost 400 meals this year, a new record for the event. About 200 of those meals were delivered, and the rest were served in the Clarendon School Cafeteria with a team of 29 volunteers doing all the work again. Thanks to everyone who helped make this great service a reality and for Clarendon CISD for the use of their facilities.

COURTESY PHOTO

Scenes from Small Town Christmas



ENTERPRISE PHOTOS

Comptroller's office releases Small Business Economic Impact Report

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock last week released the agency's inaugural Small Business is Big Business in Texas (PDF) report, a new resource highlighting the scale, strength and economic impact of Texas' small businesses.

"Whether it's a family-owned shop on Main Street or a fast-growing startup, small businesses power our state's economic engine, create opportunity and strengthen the character of every Texas community," Hancock said. "This first-of-its-kind report shows what Texans already know: When small businesses thrive, families thrive."

According to the report, Texas is home to approximately 3.5 million small businesses, representing 99.8 percent of all businesses in the state.

These firms employ more than 5.1 million Texans – 44.4 percent of the state's workforce – and accounted for 84 percent of Texas' annual job growth in 2024.

Between 2017 and 2022, the number of small businesses grew by 24 percent while small-business revenue grew by 54.5 percent. An economic impact study included in the report estimates that small businesses generate 40.1 percent of Texas' private non-farm GDP.

The report's release falls just ahead of Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, landmark shopping dates for retailers, including small businesses. The Small Business is Big Business in Texas (PDF) report is available on the Comptroller's website.



The Clarendon Lions Club held its regular Tuesday noon meeting December 2, 2025, with Boss Lion Brian Barboza in charge.

We had nine members present, two attending virtually, Sweetheart Millie McAnear, and one guest this week – Butch Brown, who presented our program.

Mr. Brown discussed the finer points of etiquette, which he has learned through many experiences as a former city manager and referee.

The Boss Lion reported on the hot chocolate service the club provided at the Courthouse Lighting, and Lion Chris Reuter updated the club on food drive efforts going into the holiday season. Canned good donations are being taken at the school through December 12.

Sweetheart Millie updated the club on school activities.

Toy drive donations are continuing at the Visitor Center and at Lowe's Family Center.

There being no further business, we were adjourned.

DPS offers cyber shopping tips

As Texans prepare for the busy online shopping season, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds everyone to take extra precautions to protect their personal and financial information from cyber criminals.

Here are some Cyber Safety Tips DPS encourages everyone to follow when making purchases online:

Shop from trusted sources only. Use well-known retailers and avoid clicking on links from unsolicited emails, text messages or social media ads.

Consider digital wallets when possible (like Apple Pay or Google Pay) or virtual card numbers if available — these help mask your real credit card details.

Look for secure website: Always check for "https:///" in the browser address bar before entering payment information.

Use strong, unique passwords. Create complex passwords for each account and consider using a password manager.

Avoid public Wi-Fi when shopping. Public networks can be easily compromised — wait until you're on a secure, private connection before entering credit card information.

Monitor bank accounts and credit cards regularly. Review statements for unauthorized charges, report suspicious activity to your banking institution immediately and take advantage of real time charge alerts if offered by your institution.

Scrutinize emails or texts claiming to have shipping/delivery updates. Fake "package tracking" messages are a common holiday scam tactic. Be on the lookout for subtle spelling errors and odd formatting in messages, as it may be an indicator of a scam.

Don't trust unsolicited links. If a link appears suspicious or you did not expect to receive it, visit the website directly instead of clicking the link.

Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA). This extra layer of security helps keep accounts safe, even if your password is compromised.

Beware of deals that seem too good to be true. Scammers often use fake websites or ads that mimic popular retailers to steal your personal data.

DPS is committed to protecting Texans both on and offline.

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Clarendon Visitors Center

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FOR MORE INFO, CALL LION ASHLEE ESTLACK AT 806.662.4687.

SHOP & WIN!

Small Town CHRISTMAS



\$100 Chamber Cash Giveaways

December 5, 12, & 19

Sign up at participating merchants!

\$250 Chamber Cash Bonus Drawing

December 19

Sign up at the Visitor Center. Bring your receipts from participating merchants, and get one entry for every \$25 spent!

Participating Merchants

Amanda's Country Soaps	Floatin' T	Monroe's Peach Ranch
Broiller's Auto Parts	Floyd's Automotive	Mulkey Theatre
Clarendon Outpost	Henson's	Mike's Pharmancy
Cornell's Country Store	Garrison's	Ramblin' Ranch Boutique
Country Bloomers Flowers	J&W Lumber	REFZ Sports Bar & Grill
Every Nook & Cranny	Lowe's Family Center	Whistle Stop