



# THE CLARENDON Enterprise

03.26.2026

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THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

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## THIS WEEK

- 2 Suzanne focuses on the reasons local control matters.
- 3 Retired teachers learn about important medical paperwork.
- 6 Lady Bulldogs head to Lake Charles.
- 8 And local firemen respond to blaze near Claude.

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

## CVFD, EMS to hold fundraiser Saturday

The Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department and the Associated Ambulance Authority will hold their annual breakfast/lunch fundraiser this Saturday, March 28, in conjunction with the Clarendon College Invitational Judging Contest.

The event will be held at the Clarendon Fire Hall at 112 S. Sully with burritos and pancakes being served for breakfast from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. and burgers and french fries being served for lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dine-in and carry-out are both available.

## Pinwheel ceremony to be held Tuesday

The Bridge - Children's Advocacy Center will hold a "pinwheel ceremony" next Tuesday, March 31, at 11 a.m. at the Donley County Courthouse to mark the beginning of Child Abuse Awareness Month in April.

Bridge officials will place about 50 pinwheels on the courthouse lawn - one for each child served in the 100th Judicial District last year.

Later that afternoon, members of the Clarendon Lions Club will also place pinwheels in front of the Lions Hall, which houses the Bridge's regional office.

## Lions extend t-shirt deadline for 5K

The t-shirt deadline for the 14th annual Chance Mark Jones Roar & Run 5K has been extended to March 30. Late registrations will remain open through the day of the event, which will be held April 11 at 8:30 a.m.

The Clarendon Lions Club is hosting the event again in memory of the late Chance Mark Jones to raise awareness of Child Abuse.

Registration is \$30 per person and can be done in person at the Visitor Center. Online registration is available at [ClarendonTX.com](http://ClarendonTX.com). For more information, call 806-662-4689.

## Palm Sunday Service

The Donley County Ministerial Alliance will hold its annual Palm Sunday service on Sunday, March 29, at the Arena of Life Church at 6 p.m. Bobby Ellerbrook will deliver the message. An offering will be taken for the alliance.



## Roadside Blaze

Hedley VFD Captain Dustin Crump sprays the flames of a tractor-trailer fire on US 287 west of Hedley last Thursday, March 19. The brakes of the truck caught fire about 5 a.m. and Hedley and Clarendon firemen along with other first responders arrived quickly to keep the fire from spreading to nearby vegetation.

HVFD PHOTO / CAYLOR MONROE

## FEMA okays Corner Pocket Fire aid

Governor Greg Abbott has announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved a request from the State of Texas for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for the Corner Pocket Fire in Donley County, which threatened homes and infrastructure and forced local evacuations.

"The state of Texas is working swiftly to provide additional funding to local officials and firefighters who battled the Corner Pocket Fire

in Donley County," Abbott said. "This FEMA grant will help offset costs associated with firefighting operations as our brave firefighters battle blazes and protect the citizens of this great state. I encourage Texans to heed the guidance of local officials and take all necessary precautions to keep themselves and their loved ones safe as increased wildfire danger continues."

The Corner Pocket Fire burned an estimated 234 acres on Sunday, March 15, and prompted the evacu-

ation of south of Greenbelt Lake to US 287.

The approval of a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) makes the State of Texas eligible for 75 percent reimbursement from the federal government for eligible costs associated with wildfire suppression. These grants are available to states and local jurisdictions to support the mitigation, management, and control of fires that threaten to become major disasters.

The Texas State Emergency

Operations Center remains activated at Level III (Increased Readiness), and at the Governor's direction state emergency response resources remain deployed by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to support local wildfire response efforts across the state.

Texans can find wildfire resources including safety tips, current fire information, and damage reporting tools in the TDEM Disaster Portal at [disaster.texas.gov](http://disaster.texas.gov).



## Heading to Nationals

Clarendon College President Tex Buckhaults stands with the Lady Bulldogs March 21 as they get ready to hit the road for the program's first appearance at the NJCAA National Tournament this week in Lake Charles, Louisiana. See our story on page six. CC PHOTO

## State to test local warning systems April 2

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) has announced a statewide test of local alerting systems to evaluate effectiveness and functionality of public warning tools.

Donley County residents could receive multiple test messages from different alerting authorities as part of this test, including landline-based emergency notification systems, wireless emergency alerting and Integrated Public Warning systems.

TDEM has begun notifying local partners of the planned drill, which has been scheduled for April

2, 2026. "Regular training and testing of public warning systems builds readiness before disaster strikes and is an important component of community safety," said Texas Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd. "Conducting drills to reaffirm procedures, promote confidence in technological tools, and identify potential shortfalls is key to ensuring these systems operate with precision, accuracy, and timeliness when they are needed the most."

This test of local warning systems is part of TDEM's com-

mitment to working with Texas communities to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the effects of disasters and emergencies throughout the state.

To create consistency and unified coordination across the state, a designated testing window has been established for local jurisdictions to utilize their primary, alternate and contingency systems, allowing for verification of continuity within alerting local processes.

TDEM has requested participation from designated local alerting authorities, along with local

emergency management programs, school districts, primary and secondary education programs, college and universities, councils of government, river authorities, sovereign tribal nations, law enforcement agencies and any other entities with emergency alerting capability.

TDEM has also requested participating organizations share with state emergency management officials an update after completion of the drill with a summary, key takeaways and any relevant details that may provide context about the success of the local system test.

## CC contest to double population Saturday

It will be a busy day in Clarendon this Saturday, March 28, when the annual Clarendon College Invitational Judging Contest more than doubles the city's population with participants from far and wide.

As of Tuesday, 2,444 contestants were registered for the event, which is the biggest single event held each year in the city. The contest regularly attracts high school FFA students and 4-H students from around Texas and nearby states.

The number of registrations doesn't include the hundreds of parents and coaches who accompany the students to the contest, pushing the total attendance for the day close to 3,000. According to the 2020 US Census, Clarendon has a population of 1,877.

Past contests have had huge impacts on the local economy. Restaurants are typically packed for the event, and this year will hopefully be equally successful. The day also features the annual breakfast and lunch fundraiser hosted by the Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department and the Associated Ambulance Authority, which feeds hundreds of contest attendees in addition to local residents.

The event presents an opportunity for Clarendon College to showcase its campus, faculty, and programs for prospective students from a wide area.

## Trustees okay laptop order for CHS kids

The Clarendon CCISD Board of Trustees met in called session Monday, March 23, to approve purchasing new computers for high school students.

Technology Coordinator Butch Noble presented pricing to the board and asked for approval to purchase 125 new laptops to replace ones currently being used by students. Noble said the current computers will be evaluated with the best ones kept and redistributed to younger grades.

He encouraged the district to make the purchase now because the prices for computers are rising with the demands for chips and memory being affected by datacenter and other world market forces.

Interim Superintendent Larry Jeffers said a rural education grant will be used to pay up to about \$30,000 of the cost of the new computers.

Trustees approved a motion to buy 125 new computers for \$53,360.

In other school news, Jeffers informed the board that he had accepted nine resignations for the upcoming school year - Korey Conkin, Terri Luna, Jayson Pigg, Courtney Dunn, Lindsey Baker, Madalyn Hadley, B.J. Owens, Kynna Phillips, and Erin Shaw. The board acknowledged the resignations.

Board President Wayne Hardin reminded the board of an upcoming meeting on April 9 to review applications for superintendent and said there are currently nine applicants for that job.



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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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LETTERS

Letters to the editor are welcome. Views expressed in letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff of The Clarendon Enterprise.

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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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Local control still matters in rural Texas

Governor Greg Abbott made a bold claim this week that should catch the attention of Texans from the plains of the Panhandle to the shores of the Gulf Coast.

For most of our state's history, Texans have believed deeply in the principle of local control - the idea that the government closest to the people governs best.



texas rural reporter by suzanne bellsnyder

Texas has more than 5,000 local government entities - counties, cities, school districts, hospital districts, water districts, and emergency service districts.

That philosophy extends to how our taxing system works. Cities and counties collect property taxes to fund services people rely on every day - police and fire protection, roads, water systems, rural hospitals, and emergency services.

But here's what Austin doesn't want you to hear. In the areas where we rely on state funding, there is a growing disconnect between what Texans value and what actually gets funded.

And now state leaders are pushing to eliminate property taxes completely. That may sound appealing politically, but property taxes are the primary funding source for local government.

Large urban regions, powerful industries, and well-funded advocacy groups all compete for state resources. Rural Texas doesn't have armies of lobbyists or billion-dollar donors fighting for our communities.

As Texas becomes more urban, rural political power naturally shrinks. Local control has been the one place where rural communities could still call their own shots.

That is why the comments about Corpus Christi matter far beyond one city's water challenges. Communities like Spearman, Stratford, Dublin, Whitesboro - and towns like Crockett in East Texas or Devine in South Texas - rely on local leadership to solve problems that Austin may never fully understand.

Local government is not perfect. No level of government is. But it remains the most directly accountable level of government we have.

Now many communities are beginning to ask a simple question: If Austin doesn't trust our communities to govern ourselves, who exactly does it believe should be in charge of rural Texas?

Because once decisions move farther away from the people who live with them, local control is no longer a principle. It's just a slogan.

Suzanne Bellsnyder is the publisher of the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman. After 20 years of experience in the Texas Capitol, she returned to the Texas Panhandle to return to her rural roots.



Why Iran stands alone in Middle East

As the United States' aerial war with Iran enters its third week, it's worth examining the geopolitics of the region, how it has evolved over time, and even the differences with the Persian Gulf War in the 1990s.

An important factor to understand about Iran and the broader Middle East is that Iranians are Persian, while the majority of the region is Arab. Although they are all Muslim, the Persian Empire has a long and storied history and has existed in its current form since 1501.

A more significant distinction between Iran and much of the Middle East lies in the split between Shia and Sunni Islam. This ancient division dates back to the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632.

The disagreement centered on who should succeed him; Sunnis believed leadership should be chosen by the Muslim community, leading to Abu Bakr becoming the first caliph, while Shias insisted that leadership remain within Muhammad's family, starting with his cousin and son-in-law Ali.

The first major regional power dynamics emerged after the end of colonialism in the 1940s and 1950s. Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser sought to unify Arab constitutional nations, like Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, under the banner of Arab nationalism, challenging the influence of the royal kingdoms of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Iran that were ruled by the Pahlavi shahs.



historically speaking by dr. james fink

Religious differences mattered less to the royal kingdoms, whose leaders were pro-Western, particularly pro-American, and part of OPEC. The shahs sought to make Iran a secular state, downplaying religious divisions.

This balance shifted with the fall of constitutional governments to totalitarian regimes and the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Iran became an Islamic republic under the Shia ayatollahs, dividing the Middle East along religious lines.

concern over Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Iraq presented the opposite situation, its majority population is Shia, but its leader Hussein was Sunni. Fearing that Iran's revolution might inspire unrest in Iraq, Hussein used a border dispute to attack Iran and weaken its government, igniting an eight-year bloody war from 1980 that killed between one and two million people.

Iran's position in Syria has weakened with the fall of Bashar al-Assad, leaving its influence limited to groups like Hezbollah. Beyond this, Iran is largely friendless in the Middle East.

This combination of religious and ethnic isolation for Iran has made the current conflict look very different from the Gulf War. During that war, the U.S. urged Israel not to retaliate against Iraqi missile attacks to avoid alienating Arab allies.

James Fink is a professor of American history at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. He can be reached at james.fink@svoknews.com. This article first appeared in the Lawton Constitution.



Reader encourages voting Republican

Saturday evening I was watching a political communicator, Mark Stein. He was talking about President Abe Lincoln back in the 1860s. Abe Lincoln was trying to free the slaves.

President Donald Trump has been doing great things, not only for we the people, but look at war issues in this world - seems like Trump has affected the outcome of six wars.

J. Trump's positive actions. Where are the positive suggestions from the Democrats. They don't have any. As it is said, they are dead in the water.

Tom Stauder, Clarendon

# Obituaries

## Lindsey

Doran Micah Lindsey, Jr., 28, of Clarendon passed away Saturday, March 21, 2026, in Abilene, Texas.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Arena of Life Cowboy Church in Clarendon, with Pastor Bunk Skelton officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the care of Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.



Lindsey

Doran was born on April 15, 1997, in Amarillo to Rachel Purviance and Doran Lindsey, Sr. He was a lifelong resident of Clarendon and a proud graduate of Clarendon High School, Class of 2015.

Doran was a dedicated and

hardworking lineman who worked for several electric companies and was in the process of establishing his own LLC to start a power company. He approached his work with determination and pride, always striving to build something meaningful for his future and his family.

Outside of his work, Doran found joy in the outdoors. He was an accomplished roper, loved cooking, fishing, and spending time in nature. Known for his playful spirit, he was a prankster who brought laughter to those around him. Above all, Doran loved his family and friends deeply and fiercely. He was a loyal protector, always standing up for those he cared about and offering unwavering support. He was known as Uncle D to his nieces and nephews.

He was a member of Arena of Life Cowboy Church in Clarendon.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Rex Purviance; his brother, Dusty Keith; and his uncle, Sean Purviance.

He is survived by his father, Doran Lindsey, Sr. and bonus mom, Tonya of Clarendon; his mother,

Rachel Hardy and bonus dad, Jerry of Amarillo; his beloved children, Tucker Lane Lindsey of Amarillo and Addelyn Lindsey of Levelland; his siblings, Austin Lindsey of Amarillo, Toby Lindsey and wife Stormy of Amarillo, and Tanner Keith of Clarendon, Jonni Keith and wife Vanessa of Indiana, and Piper McMahan of Pampa; his paternal grandmother, Jan Hamilton of Clarendon; and his maternal grandmother, Colleen Purviance of Amarillo. He is also survived by numerous stepbrothers and stepsisters, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews who will cherish his memory.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Line Brother's Keeper in Doran's honor. You may donate at <https://www.linebrotherskeeper.org>

Doran will be remembered for his strength, his laughter, and the fierce love he gave so freely to those around him. His presence will be deeply missed and forever carried in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

## Retired School Personnel met

The Donley County Retired School Personnel Association held its bi-monthly meeting on Monday, March 23, at noon in the Donley County Senior Citizens Center.

President Carlton Turvaville called the meeting to order. San Thompson said the invocation, and John Tom Morrow led the group in the pledge to the flag. There were thirteen members and six guests present.

The program speaker was Dr. Pratt. He spoke to the group about the necessity of having a Medical Power of Attorney, Living Will, DNR, and DNI (Do Not Intubate) in place and signed by your doctor. Dr. Pratt also encouraged everyone to keep their medications current and to keep this information readily available. This information can also be placed in an app on one's phone. He also emphasized listing those you wish to be contacted in an emergency. He suggested checking all these documents often and making changes as necessary.

After the old and new businesses were discussed, the meeting was dismissed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, at noon in the Donley County Senior Citizens Center.

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**EXHIBIT A**

HEDLEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Distrito Escolar Independiente de Hedley*

GENERAL TRUSTEE ELECTION  
*Elección generales de fideicomisario*

DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS FOR EARLY VOTING FOR VOTERS RESIDING IN DONLEY COUNTY  
*(Fechas, horas y lugares para la votación adelantada para los electors que residen condado de Donley)*

Early Voting Polling Place <small>(Centro electoral principal para la votación adelantada)</small>	Dates and Hours of Early Voting <small>(Fecha y Horario para la votación adelantada)</small>
Hedley ISD Administration Office <small>Oficina de administración de Hedley ISD</small> 301 Jones Street Hedley, TX 79237	April 20-24, 2026 (M-F) / 8:00 am – 5:00 pm <i>Del 20 al 24 de abril 2026 (lunes-viernes) de 8:00 a at 5:00 pm</i> April 27-28, 2026 (M-Tu) / 8:00 am – 5:00 pm <i>Del 27 y 28 de abril 2026 (lunes-martes) de 8:00 am a 5:00 pm</i> Closed Saturday and Sunday <i>Cerrado sábados y domingos</i> Closed on April 21, 2026 for San Jacinto Day

DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS FOR EARLY VOTING FOR VOTERS RESIDING IN COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY  
*(Fechas, horas y lugares para la votación adelantada para los electors que residen condado de Collingsworth)*

Early Voting Polling Place <small>(Centro electoral principal para la votación adelantada)</small>	Dates and Hours of Early Voting <small>(Fecha y Horario para la votación adelantada)</small>
Hedley ISD Administration Office <small>Oficina de administración de Hedley ISD</small> 301 Jones Street Hedley, TX 79237	April 20-24, 2026 (M-F) / 8:00 am – 5:00 pm <i>Del 20 al 24 de abril 2026 (lunes-viernes) de 8:00 a at 5:00 pm</i> April 27-28, 2026 (M-Tu) / 8:00 am – 5:00 pm <i>Del 27 y 28 de abril 2026 (lunes-martes) de 8:00 am a 5:00 pm</i> Closed Saturday and Sunday <i>Cerrado sábados y domingos</i> Closed on April 21, 2026 for San Jacinto Day

**EXHIBIT B**

HEDLEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Distrito Escolar Independiente de Hedley*

SPECIAL TRUSTEE ELECTION  
*Elección especiales de fideicomisario*

MAY 2, 2026  
*2 de mayo de 2026*

Voting for the Hedley Independent School District's **Special Trustee Election** shall be between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on May 2, 2026, at the following designated precincts and polling places:  
*(La votación para las elecciones de fideicomisario generales del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Hedley tendrá lugar desde las 7:00 de la mañana hasta las 7:00 de la tarde el día 2 de mayo de 2026, en los siguientes centros electorales.)*

**On Election Day, voters must vote in their precinct where registered to vote, unless the countywide polling place program is being used in the election:**  
*(El día de las elecciones, los votantes deben votar en el precinto en el que están registrados para votar, a menos que en la elección se utilice el programa de lugares de votación del condado.)*

ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES  
FOR VOTERS RESIDING IN DONLEY COUNTY  
*(Lugares de votación el día de las elecciones para los votantes que residen en el condado de Donley)*

Precinct No.(s) <small>(Número de precinto)</small>	Election Day Polling Locations/Addresses <small>(Lugares/Direcciones de Votación el Día de las Elecciones)</small>	Address <small>(Dirección)</small>
3, 4, 5, & 6	Hedley ISD Administration Office	301 Jones Street Hedley, TX 79237

ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES  
FOR VOTERS RESIDING IN COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY  
*(Lugares de votación el día de las elecciones para los votantes que residen en el condado de Collingsworth)*

Precinct No.(s) <small>(Número de precinto)</small>	Election Day Polling Locations/Addresses <small>(Lugares/Direcciones de Votación el Día de las Elecciones)</small>	Address <small>(Dirección)</small>
3, 4, 5, & 6	Hedley ISD Administration Office	301 Jones Street Hedley, TX 79237



**CLARENDON LIONS CLUB PRESENTS**



**14TH ANNUAL CHANCE MARK JONES ROAR & RUN 5K**

**APR. 11 @ 8:30 AM**  
DONLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CLARENDON, TEXAS

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**REGISTRATION: \$30**  
REGISTER BY 5 PM ON MARCH 26 TO GET THE T-SHIRT!  
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF THE CLARENDON LIONS CLUB.

PICK UP A REGISTRATION FORM AT THE CLARENDON VISITOR CENTER.

## ¿Qué Pasa?

Community Calendar

**March 27 & 28**  
Mulkey Theatre • Project Hail Mary  
• 7:30 p.m.

**March 29**  
Mulkey Theatre • Project Hail Mary  
• 2:00 p.m.

**March 27**  
Clarendon Lady Broncos Softball v  
Floydada • 5:00 p.m. • Home

**March 27**  
Clarendon Broncos Baseball v Mem-  
phis • 4:00 p.m. • Home

**March 31**  
Clarendon Broncos Baseball v Floy-  
dada • 4:00 p.m. • Home

**April 3**  
Clarendon Lady Broncos Softball v  
Quannah • 5:00 p.m. • Away

**April 3**  
Clarendon Broncos Baseball v Wel-  
lington • 5:00 p.m. • Away

**April 7**  
Clarendon Lady Broncos Softball v  
Lockney • 5:00 p.m. • Home

**April 7**  
Clarendon Broncos Baseball v  
Quannah • 5:00 p.m. • Home

**April 10**  
Clarendon Broncos Baseball v Lock-  
new • 4:00 p.m. • Home

**April 11**  
Chance Mark Jones Roar & Run 5K  
• 8:30 a.m. • Donley County Court  
House • Register online or at The  
Clarendon Visitor Center

## Menus

**March 30 - April 3**  
**Donley County Senior Citizens**  
Mon: Beef stew, garden salad,  
cornbread, fruit crisp, iced  
tea/2% milk.  
Tues: Pork roast, pinto beans,  
macaroni & tomatoes, corn-  
bread, peanut butter cookies,  
iced tea/2% milk.  
Wed: Spaghetti/meatballs,  
garden salad, garlic toast, sliced  
peaches w/whipped topping,  
iced tea/2% milk.  
Thurs: Pork Roast, English peas,  
whole wheat roll, banana pud-  
ding, iced tea/2% milk.  
Fri: Closed

**Hedley Senior Citizens**  
Mon: Beef stew, garden salad,  
cornbread, apple crisp, iced  
tea/2% milk.  
Tues: Mushroom steak, baked  
potatoes, green beans, whole  
wheat roll, fruit cup/mandarin  
oranges, iced tea/2%

**Clarendon CISD**  
Breakfast  
Mon: Waffle, bacon, fruit, fruit  
juice, milk.  
Tues: Breakfast combo, fruit,  
fruit juice, milk.  
Wed: Breakfast pizza, fruit, fruit  
juice, milk.  
Thu: Breakfast cookie, yogurt,  
fruit, fruit juice, milk.  
Fri: No School

Lunch  
Mon: Hot dog, potatoes, tomato  
cup, fruit, milk.  
Tues: Sloppy Joe sandwich,  
salad, green beans, fruit, milk.  
Wed: Chicken alfredo, bread-  
stick, salad, California veggies,  
fruit, milk.  
Thu: Popcorn chicken, roll, corn.  
Broccoli, salad, dessert, fruit,  
milk.  
Fri: No School

**Hedley ISD**  
Breakfast  
Mon: Waffles, bacon, orange,  
fruit juice, milk.  
Tues: Donut, sausage, apple,  
fruit juice, milk.  
Wed: Scrambled eggs, hash-  
browns, biscuits, bacon, gravy,  
applesauce, fruit juice, milk.  
Thu: Morning griddle sandwich,  
banana, fruit juice, milk.  
Fri: No School

Lunch  
Mon: French bread pizza, salad,  
zesty cucumbers, fruit cup, milk.  
Tues: Chicken sandwich, baked  
beans, carrots, cinnamon apples,  
sherbet, milk.  
Wed: Chicken alfredo, bread-  
stick, green beans, corn, grapes,  
milk.  
Thu: Steak fingers, Texas toast,  
mashed potatoes, tomato cup,  
strawberries, milk.  
Fri: No School

## Homeschoolers to collect can tabs

The Donley County Homeschool Co-Op has taken over the local collection of can tabs to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Amarillo. The next collection date has been set for April 1.

If you have any tabs to donate you can drop them off at the Stocking Ice Cream Parlor or by contacting Taylee at (806) 672-5054 or Anndria at (806) 663-1465 for local pickup.

## Pondering the origin of the ‘Wick’s meaning

He Says – You know, I keep going back to the great volunteer firemen we have working for us and I think that job must be horribly hard because of the way their lives are filled with interruptions! A fire call might come in at any time, like when they are eating, watching tv, trying to sleep in the middle of the night, any time!

She Says – I know what brought this on—that call from Medicare when you were watching the Tech basketball game!

He Says – No! but, maybe. Our lives are full of interruptions; we have unwanted phone calls, water line breaks, power outages, accidents and just unexpected “stuff” popping up every day.

She Says—You are so negative! Lighten Up! There are good interruptions, too!

You love phone calls from family and friends, neighbors who drop by—especially five-year old

Conley! I remember when the new baby was late in arriving and he came over on one of his candy jar raids, you asked him if he had a baby brother yet, and he put his hands on his hips and declared, “No! He won’t come out!”

He Says – Yeah, you’re right. We have some really good neighbors here in the ‘Wick. Some weird ones, too. Where did HowardWICK come from anyway? That’s what I want to know!

She Says – Well, I’ve heard different stories about how, after the tornado of 1970, it was re-named for a benefactor named Howard, but I don’t know about the “wick.”

He Says – Well, what about the Howard?

She Says – AI says the name Howard generally refers to a specific person, or in Norse history, a guardian or watchman. I think about our friend, Judge Howard. He’s the avuncular guardian of the “Wick” and surrounding communities!

He Says – Don’t use words like that. You scare people.

March 28 – Six MAN Skins Game CCC

April 1 – Little Red Hen Opens!!

April 11 – IRS Invitational – It’s Not The Masters! CCC

April 20-25 Men’s Week LOL

I looked it up and in Norse it comes from “vik,” meaning a village or community near water and in Anglo-Saxon times it meant an inlet on the water.

So, that works for Howardwick. I don’t know for how long we’ll be near water, but it works.

He Says – Well, what about the Howard?

She Says – AI says the name Howard generally refers to a specific person, or in Norse history, a guardian or watchman. I think about our friend, Judge Howard. He’s the avuncular guardian of the “Wick” and surrounding communities!

He Says – Don’t use words like that. You scare people.

March 28 – Six MAN Skins Game CCC

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April 20-25 Men’s Week LOL

## Livestock producers urged to prepare for NWS

Livestock producers need to take steps now to prepare as the New World screwworm (NWS) approaches the Texas-Mexico border, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service livestock specialists.

Necessary action now breaks down to three areas: plan, prepare and monitor the situation and livestock, said AgriLife Extension livestock specialists Ron Gill, Ph.D., professor, Chico, and Karl Harborth, Ph.D., assistant professor, Corpus Christi, both in the Department of Animal Science.

With the latest report of New World screwworm in Mexico, only 149 miles from the Texas border, Harborth said the threat is more imminent to South Texas producers. While some progressive ranchers have already made changes in their operations, he said many producers still need to develop plans for the pest’s arrival.

“I don’t think a lot of us thought it would be an issue in our lifetime,” Harborth said. “There are still people who don’t know what screwworm is and the possibilities it brings.”

Gill and Harborth said producers’ questions at New World screwworm-related meetings have been focused on treatment.

There is no magic cure or fool-proof treatment, so preparation and management should be No. 1 on the list, they said.

“Producers need to be thinking about the management side of things first,” Gill said. “Treating external parasites is a constant challenge for many producers, but it will be one of several management practices that will help producers reduce the impact of the screwworm.”

Develop a plan for external parasite control, as fly and tick wounds create a place for the screwworm fly to lay eggs.

Look for options to help reduce the impact of external parasites throughout the fly season. This may include well-timed topical fly and tick control using sprays, pour-ons, dips, and ear tags.

Set up game cameras to monitor livestock at water sources.

If feasible, consider using technologies such as drones or tracking collars to enhance remote monitoring and animal location.

Establish a relationship with a veterinarian now and develop a treat-

ment protocol.

Access to several approved products requires a veterinarian’s authorization. Time is of the essence for animal treatments should an infestation be discovered.

All employees should be trained and ready to access products suggested for treatment.

All employees need to understand how to identify infestations, clean wounds, collect larvae, submit samples, treat current wounds and provide post-treatment care.

“Preparation is the best thing right now,” Gill said. “Stay aggressive until the sterile flies can eliminate the issue.”

Producers need to visually inspect their livestock up close and individually for signs of screwworm infestation, Gill said.

“Being able to identify and treat is going to be key. This shouldn’t just be a drive-by window look, get close enough to look the whole animal over,” Harborth said. “An infected wound will manifest within 72 hours, and the animal could be lost in seven days.”

Consider using cubes or some “hand-fed” supplement in the warm-season feeding routine to allow close viewing to identify wounds. Pretrain your animals for these inspections.

Prepare corrals and chutes to capture animals suspected of infestations, and be able to treat and monitor them to ensure wounds heal and don’t reinfest or cause additional injury sites.

Inspect working facilities. Fix jagged edges or nails sticking out that could cause injury or invite a screwworm infestation.

Producers with multiple pastures will need a set of panels to gather, identify, and, if needed, treat, or consider partnering with neighbors on a portable panel system to share.

If calving will occur during the fly season, consider placing expectant mothers in pastures with easier access or working facilities to allow for their monitoring and treatment before turning them out with the rest of the herd.

“We can’t 100% prevent injuries and open wounds that could attract New World screwworm, but we can take care of things that are under our control,” Gill said. “Look into alternatives that work for your

operation. Develop a plan and be ready to act.”

Gill and Harborth said producers should consider moving the birthing season and wound-inducing processing operations to the cooler months, when flies are less active or inactive, depending on the part of the state.

Ear tagging, castrating, dehorning, shearing and branding need to be done as early in the spring as possible or late in the fall after the fly season.

Avoid births after April until temperatures cool in late October or November. Ramp up treatment of the umbilical cord.

“The No. 1 route of infestation and cause of death in South American livestock due to screwworm is the entrance through the umbilicus of a newborn animal,” Harborth said. “If we can get that treated and dried up or healed faster, the fly won’t have the opportunity to make that entrance.”

Wildlife and game cameras could be important tools for livestock producers. The deer population is very susceptible to screwworms, so cameras are a good monitoring tool for the cattle operations, the specialists said.

Remember that horses, dogs and other mammals are also susceptible, so keep an eye on everything.

“If you see something, say something,” Gill said. “Some may be hesitant to report, but that’s the only way you will get sterile fly support to target issues. Don’t try to hide anything because it is more beneficial to help.”

This fly readily moves from one property to the neighbors, and an important step in eradicating it is knowing it is active in an area, which is best done by those who work with the animals. The sooner an infestation is discovered, the quicker it can be eliminated by releasing sterile flies in the reported area.

Animal movement restrictions and protocols will likely be a component in the battle against this fly, but these are essential to stopping the widespread populations experienced in the 1960’s and 1970’s.

“As the new fly production facilities come online, we will re-eradicate this fly,” he said. “But due diligence by producers will be key to protecting our livestock and economic livelihood until that day

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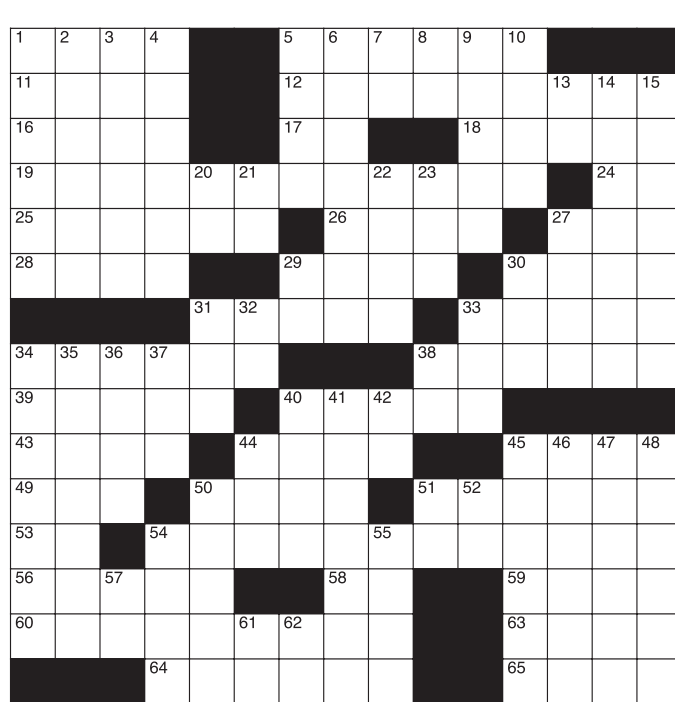
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. “Bird of Paradise” constellation
5. Red Sox WS winner Bronson
11. Whirl
12. The State Dept. has a notable one
16. Energy, style and enthusiasm
17. Part of the mind
18. Mountainous country
19. Type of beverage
24. Atomic #109
25. Opposite of falsities
26. Female sheep
27. Rocky peak
28. Sensitive information sharing environment
29. Ethnic group of Thailand
30. Patron saint of Rome Philip
31. Psychedelics
33. Japanese pine
34. Have an impact on
38. Violent disorder
39. A French river
40. Early Mesoamerican civilization
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. Musician Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Valley
51. A way to unwind
53. Atomic #93
54. Recommending
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly’s pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to songbirds
65. A way to assign

### CLUES DOWN

1. Some are “secret”
2. Intestinal openings
3. Distant planet
4. Assembly possessing high legislative powers
5. Genus of typical owls
6. One with distinctively colored hair
7. Red cross
8. An alternative
9. Abominable snowmen
10. About ear
13. The opening letters
14. Feeling of regret
15. Atomic #39
20. Luteinizing hormone
21. Atomic #55
22. Carries a debt
23. Albanian monetary unit
27. Semitic abjad letter
29. Yes
30. Negative
31. Earn a perfect score
32. Connecticut
33. Partner to cheese
34. Snack nuts
35. Quadruped’s body part
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. “\_ , myself and I”
40. Utah city northwest of Provo
41. Football players in the trenches
42. One who runs the show
44. Wood
45. Performing artists
46. Slang for a cut
47. More breathable
48. Most crafty
50. Provokes into action
51. University of Dayton
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. \_ and behold
61. Sports highlight show
62. “The Great Lakes State”

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THE CLARENDON Enterprise

THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

## Help protect vulnerable road users

Spring brings out walkers, cyclists and drivers to enjoy the beauty across the state. No matter how you explore Texas, we can help each other stay safe on the road.

Texans take care of their neighbors, but far too often people forget to do that when they are behind the wheel. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is urging everyone to always follow the law and drive like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe.

"We continue to see an increase in the number of crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists each year," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "All of us share a responsibility to watch out for each other, but people on foot or riding a bike are most at risk for serious injury or worse in a crash with a car, which means drivers must be extra vigilant."

Crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians are preventable if everyone follows the rules of the road. That didn't happen for 26-year-old Bryan Kight in 2024. He was struck in an Austin bike lane by a driver turning left. He needed major reconstructive surgeries and several

months of recuperation to regain mobility. Kight is joining TxDOT this spring urging Texans to come together, follow traffic laws and prevent these senseless tragedies.

In 2024, 852 cyclists and pedestrians were killed in crashes on Texas roads, accounting for more than 20 percent of all traffic fatalities. There were 6,095 crashes involving pedestrians and 2,761 crashes involving bicyclists.

In early 2025, there were 1,372 traffic crashes involving pedestrians in Texas and 527 traffic crashes involving bicyclists. In these crashes, 186 people were killed.

TxDOT's Drive like a Texan traffic safety initiative will remind Texans to Be Safe. Drive Smart. by providing safety tips to protect vulnerable road users.

If you're driving: Stop and yield for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users in crosswalks. Give bikes space and pass at a safe distance.

Yield when turning and always look twice for pedestrians and cyclists. Follow the posted speed limit and adjust your speed to conditions.

If you're walking: Cross the street only at crosswalks and intersections. Stick to sidewalks, but if none exists, walk facing traffic on the left side unless it is obstructed or unsafe.

If you're biking: Stop at red lights and stop signs. Ride in the same direction as traffic and use bike lanes or ride as near as possible to the right-hand curb. Use hand signals for turns or stops. Equip your bike with lights at night, using a white light on the front and a red light or reflector on the back.

At events across the state, the campaign will leverage an interactive virtual reality experience to give participants firsthand experience navigating traffic scenarios that can be dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists.

This Be Safe. Drive Smart. campaign is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at DriveLikeATexan.com.

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

## St. Mary's BBQ to be April 12

Clarendon's St. Mary's Day BBQ Fundraiser will be held Sunday, April 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 510 E. Montgomery.

Barbecue beef and pork ribs by the plate with sides or by the pound will be available along with homemade desserts, hand-crafted items, and homemade bread.

Plates are \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids, and free for kids 12 and under.

All proceeds go towards finishing the new church building.

## Groom Cross plans special services

Good Friday and Easter Sunrise services will be held April 3 and 5 at The Cross in Groom, and organizers invite everyone to attend and reflect on the passion and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Services will start on Good Friday at 1 p.m. with Scriptural Rosary by Bobby Thomas of Pampa followed at 2 p.m. by Stations of the Cross by Rev. Raj of Groom assisted by Mary Lane of Pampa, and closing at 3 p.m. with Prayers of Divine Mercy by Kay Britten of Groom.

Easter Sunrise Service at the Cross begins at 7:15 a.m. Reverend Dr. Jerry Lane of Panhandle.



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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. CARRHART • 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**  
MONTGOMERY & MCCLELLAND  
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.

### BRICE

**BRICE DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE**  
PASTOR: LOUIS BENNETT  
SUNDAY: 9:45 A.M. • SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • WED.: 6 P.M.

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For corrections or additions, call the Enterprise at:

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# CC Lady Bulldogs head to national tournament

The Clarendon College Lady Bulldogs will make their first appearance in the NJCAA national tournament this week in Lake Charles, Louisiana, at the Townsley Law Arena.

The CC women are set to take the court Friday at 2:30 p.m., and local fans can follow the action on the ESPN+ streaming service. The Lady Bulldogs have a bye in the first round of the tournament and will be playing the winner of Wednesday's Three Rivers College of Missouri versus Monroe Community College of New York game.

Clarendon advanced to the national tournament after winning the NJCAA Region V title March 14 in Odessa by defeating Grayson College, 65-55.

The season has earned Athletic Director and Head Lady Bulldog Coach Mark James the WJAC Coach of the Year title, and four Lady Bulldogs have received conference and regional honors.

Armanda Sindalawa, Zainab Olalekan, Núria Muongo, and Valentina Chinhamawere named to the 2025-2026 WJAC All-Conference Team with Sindalawa earning that honor for the second year in a row. Additionally, Sindalawa and Olalekan were named to the NJCAA All-Region V Team.

Going into the Division I national tournament, the Lady Bulldogs have an overall record of 31-2 this season.



The Clarendon College Lady Bulldogs arrived in Lake Charles this week to start warming up for the NJCAA tournament. They will play their first game of the tournament this Friday at 2:30 p.m. The game will be streamed on ESPN+.

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The Clarendon Lions Club held its regular Tuesday noon meeting March 24, 2026, with Boss Lion Brian Barboza ringing the bell.

We had nine Lions present and one attending virtually this week.

Plans were discussed for the upcoming Chance Mark Jones Roar & Run 5K on April 11. Members discussed sponsorships, and Lions volunteered for different tasks the day of the event.

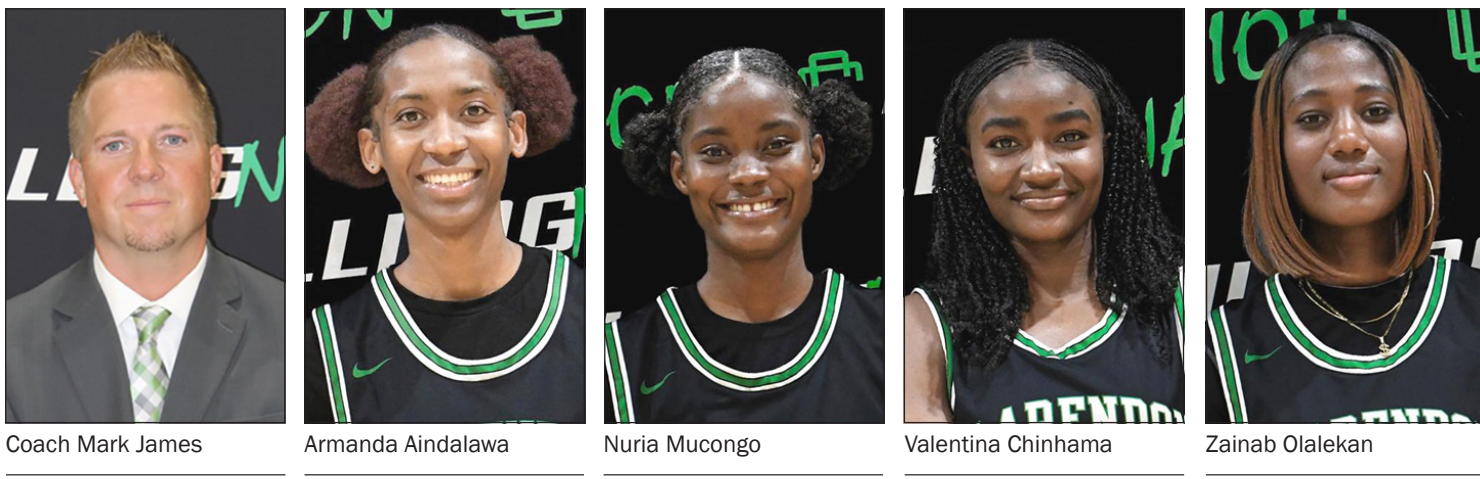
Lion Roger Estlack reported The Bridge will set pinwheels on the courthouse lawn on March 31 for Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention month, and the club will set pinwheels in front of the Lions Hall the same day.

A \$1,000 check was presented this week to the Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department for expenses related to the Eight Ball Fire thanks to a grant from the Texas Lions Foundation. Another check will be presented soon to the City of Howardwick Volunteer Fire Department.

Lion Larry Capranica reminded everyone about the Community Palm Sunday Service coming up on March 29 at 6 p.m. at the Community Fellowship Church, and Lion Anndria Newhouse said a community blood drive will be held on April 14 from 1:00 to 5:05 p.m.

The City of Clarendon will have a Free Clean-up Day on April 25 from 9:30 a.m. until the containers are full. City residents will be able to dump residential trash that day at no charge.

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



Coach Mark James

Armanda Aindalawa

Nuria Muongo

Valentina Chinhama

Zainab Olalekan

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**Lady Broncos v. Floydada**  
Fri., March 27 @ 5:00 PM AT HOME

**Lady Broncos v. Quanah**  
Fri., April 3 @ 5:00 PM AWAY

**Broncos v. Memphis**  
Fri., March 27 @ 4:00 PM HOME

**Broncos v. Floydada**  
Tues., March 31 @ 4:00 PM HOME

Call 806.874.2259 for your family or business to sponsor the Broncos!

ClarendonLIVE.com

**FAN ZONE**

MIKE'S PHARMACY

SHELTON & SHELTON Law Offices

GREENBELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

J&W Best Lumber

Robertson FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Greenbelt

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58 The Donley County State Bank

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## SELL ★ BUY ★ NOTICE

Covering Donley, Childress, Collingsworth, & Hall Counties!

CLARENDON: 806.874.2259 CHILDRESS: 940.226.4303  
 Deadline: Monday @ 5 p.m.  
 CASH, CREDIT CARDS, & VENMO ACCEPTED.

### MEETINGS

#### CLARENDON



**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.  
 Corey Blais - W.M., Russell Estlack - Secretary, 2 B 1, ASK 1



**CLARENDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
 Regular Board of Directors meeting third Tuesday each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Clarendon Visitor Center, 110 S. Kearney.



**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.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Saints' Roost Museum**  
 610 East Harrington, Clarendon  
**Tuesday - Saturday**  
**10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
 Open for appointments.  
 Call 806-874-2746.

### SERVICES

**GENERAC GENERATOR INSTALLATION** by Licensed Technicians, electrical, natural gas or propane, starting at \$13,500 (includes Generac generator) AND Remodeling. Call 806-204-2422.

### THANK YOU

#### CLARENDON

**WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THANKS** to all those for their visits, flowers, and food during our time of grief. Also, a special thanks to Josey Shadle and family as well as Joe Shadle and family for a wonderful service for Sharon Cannon. Ricky Cannon and family

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### MEMPHIS

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Greenbelt Mini Storage, which is located at 415 N 7th in Memphis, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will start at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday April 7, 2026. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property must be removed immediately, and space cleaned. TENANT NAME as shown on rental agreement: Keith Staggall (M50), Jacksonville NC 28546. Household items.

#### COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mildred Fern Emanuel, Deceased, were issued on March 3, 2026, in Cause No. 3178, pending in County Court of Collingsworth County, Texas, to: Darvin Nix. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. co: G. Keith Davis, Attorney at Law Wellington, Texas 79095 DATED the 3rd day of March 2026. [s] G. Keith Davis, Attorney for Darvin Nix State Bar No.: 05572900 PO Box 446, 802 East Avenue Wellington, TX 79095 Telephone: (806) 447-2518 Fax: (806) 447-2519 Email: keithdavislaw@gmail.com

#### CLARENDON

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE** for Greenbelt Municipal and Industrial Water Authority's North Groundwater Well Field and Supply Water Line Project

A public meeting is being held on April 7, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Greenbelt Municipal and Industrial Water Treatment Plant, at 461 o State Highway 70, Clarendon, Texas 79226 to discuss the Greenbelt Municipal and Industrial Water Authority (GMIWA) proposed groundwater well field and supply water line project. This project involves construction of three groundwater wells and the construction of a distribution line to the existing water treatment plant (4610 State Highway 70, Clarendon, Texas 79226). One of the purposes of this meeting is to discuss the potential environmental impacts of the project. The total estimated cost of the project is \$17,900,000. The estimated monthly bill for a typical resident is currently \$65/month. A user rate increase will not be required to finance this project. An Environmental Information Document for the project has been prepared which will be available for public review at the Greenbelt Municipal and Industrial Water Treatment Plant, at 461 O State Highway 70, Clarendon, Texas 79226 during workdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for 30 days following the date of this notice. Written comments on the proposed project may be sent to GMIWA at P.O. Box 665, Clarendon, Texas 79226 or to the Texas Water Development Board.

#### MESQUITE GCD

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON MESQUITE GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED RULES**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, The Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District ("District") will conduct a public hearing concerning the District's intent to repeal its existing Rules ("Current Rules") and to adopt a revised set of Rules ("Proposed Rules"). The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested members of the public the opportunity to appear and provide oral or written comments to the District related to the adoption of the District's Proposed Rules. Date, Time, and Place of Public Hearing. The date, time and place of the public hearing are as follows: Date: April 23, 2026 Time: 6:00 p.m. Central Standard Time Location: Memphis Public Library 303 N. 8th Street, Memphis, Texas 79245 EXPLANATION OF THE RULEMAKING HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RULES OF MESQUITE GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT The District has proposed revisions to its Rule to include reducing the density of wells allowable on a given area of land. Procedures for Submitting Public Comments on Proposed Rules A. Oral Comments: Any person may appear in person, or by authorized representative, at the public hearing on the adoption of the Proposed Rules and the repeal of

### PUBLIC NOTICE

the Current Rules. Any person making an appearance must indicate his or her desire to make oral comments on the registration form provided by the District at the public hearing. A person must disclose any affiliation on the registration form and if applicable, the legal authority to speak for a person represented. Any other person attending the public hearing will be considered by the District to be an observer not desiring to make comment on the adoption of the Proposed Rules and the repeal of the Current Rules. The District will not consider any comments of an observer in its rulemaking proceedings. The presiding officer will establish the order of oral comments of persons at the hearing. As appropriate, the presiding officer may limit: 1. the number of times a person may speak; 2. the time period for oral comments; 3. cumulative, irrelevant, or unduly repetitious comments; 4. general comments that are so vague, undeveloped, or immaterial as to be impracticable for the District to ascertain the intent or purpose of the person making the general oral comments and that are otherwise unhelpful to the District in analyzing the Proposed Rule; 5. the time period for asking or responding to questions; and 6. other matters that come to the attention of the presiding officer as requiring limitation.

B. Written Comments: 1. Written comments concerning the adoption of the Proposed Rule must be filed with the District electronically by email at manager@mesquitegcd.gov, or by mail or hand-delivery at the District's office at 802 9th St, Wellington, Texas 79095. All written comments must be filed with the District and date-stamped no later than Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 4:00 PM Central Standard Time 2. Written, mailed or hand-delivered, comments must be filed on 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper and be typed or legibly written. C. Response to Comments: In its deliberations, the District Board will consider all oral and written comments submitted to the District. However, the District staff may not prepare written responses on these comments for review and consideration by the District Board of Directors. Procedure for Obtaining the Proposed Rules. Copies of the Proposed Rules may be obtained from the District by: 1. telephoning the District at (844) 445-2800. 2. e-mailing a request to the District at manager@mesquitegcd.gov. 3. visiting the offices of the District at 802 9th St, Wellington, Texas 79095; or, 4. visiting the District's website at mesquitegcd.gov

Opportunity to Attend the Board Meeting at which the Proposed Rules will be Adopted. The meeting of the District's Board of Directors to consider the repeal of the Current Rules and the adoption of the Proposed Rules will be held at 7:00 PM following the public hearing on April 23, 2026. Issued this 17th day of March, 2026. /s/ Whitney Wiebe, General Manager

#### CHILDRESS

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL**

PERMIT NO. WQ0010076005 APPLICATION. City of Childress P.O. Box 1087, Childress, Texas 79201, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010076005 (EPA I.D. No. TX0136905) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 495,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located approximately 1.0 mile southeast of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 2530 and U.S. Highway 287, in the city of Childress, in Childress County, Texas 79201. The discharge route is from the plant site to North Groesbeck Creek, thence to Groesbeck Creek, thence to Red River Above Peace River. TCEQ received this application on February 10, 2026. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Childress City Hall, front desk, 315 Commerce Street, Childress, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=100.177777,34.413333&level=18>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the countywide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments. PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed is-

### PUBLIC NOTICE

sues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "I/we request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose. Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met. MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice. AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. Further information may also be obtained from City of Childress at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Kevin Hodges, City Manager, at 940-937-3684. Issuance Date: March 16, 2026

week including most weekends. Part-time considered (must include weekends). Please apply in person. **CLARENDON ISD IS HIRING** FOR a full-time Maintenance Director. Please visit [www.clarendonisd.net](http://www.clarendonisd.net) for more details. Applications can be picked up from the CISD Administration Office or printed from the Clarendon ISD website (support staff application), and completed applications can be returned to the CISD Administration Office. Fingerprinting and the clearance of a nationwide criminal history check are required. If you have any questions, please call 310-7220, Mon-Fri, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. **CLARENDON ISD IS HIRING** FOR a full-time Custodian. Please visit [www.clarendonisd.net](http://www.clarendonisd.net) for more details. Applications can be picked up from the CISD Administration Office or printed from the Clarendon ISD website (support staff application), and completed applications can be returned to the CISD Administration Office. Fingerprinting and the clearance of a nationwide criminal history check are required. If you have any questions, please call 310-7220, Mon-Fri, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

**CHILDRESS**  
**CHILDRESS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT IS** accepting applications for the positions of Chief Appraiser, Deputy/Assistant Chief Appraiser, and Administrative Assistant/Clerk. Requirements for any of the three positions: RPA and RTA certifications are preferred but not required. Uncertified applicants must be willing to become certified; salaries are contingent upon qualifications and experience. Application forms are available on the CAD website, [www.childresscad.org](http://www.childresscad.org), or by contacting the CAD office at 940-937-6062 or through email to [childresscad@childress.tx.us](mailto:childresscad@childress.tx.us). Applicants must submit a completed application form and submit it, along with a resume if available. Submit applications and resumes to: Childress County Appraisal District, ATTN: Twila Butler, 1710 Avenue F NW, Childress, TX 79201. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Childress CAD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**WELLINGTON**  
**BRIX BAR & EATERY IS** now hiring servers. GREAT WAGES, applicants must be friendly, reliable, detail oriented, and drug free. Pick up an application at BRIX or call 541-531-5422.

**COLLINGSWORTH GENERAL HOSPITAL** is now accepting applications for a Part-Time Medical Laboratory Technician or a Lab Medical Technologist. Please contact Bryce Dillman, HR Director, at 806-447-2521 or [edillman@cghtx.com](mailto:edillman@cghtx.com). Applications are available online at [www.collingsworthgeneral.net](http://www.collingsworthgeneral.net).

**COLLINGSWORTH GENERAL HOSPITAL** in Wellington, Texas, is now accepting applications for a full-time RN. Benefits include: state rate + % experience, night/weekend differential, paid CEU, and health, dental, vision insurance and 401K. Contact Bryce Dillman, HR Director, at 806-447-2521 ext. 348 if you have any questions or complete an application online at [www.collingsworthgeneral.net](http://www.collingsworthgeneral.net).

**PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME DISPATCHER/JAILER** positions open at Collingsworth County Sheriff's Office. Applicants must be 18 years or older and have a high school diploma or GED. PART-TIME pay is \$19.24/hour. FULL-TIME benefits include \$40,000 salary, health and life insurance, retirement, paid training and vacation days. Contact Jail Administrator Joyce Hamby for an application, 806-447-2588, or come by 810 Belton. (TFN)

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:** All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is a violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dealings of advertisement in this newspaper are on an equal opportunity basis. If a complaint of discrimination is received, call 800 toll free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number of the hearing reported is 800-921-9272.

### HELP WANTED

#### CLARENDON

**BEST WESTERN PLUS RED RIVER INN** in Clarendon, TX is taking applications for a House-keeping Attendant. The ideal candidate will be dependable and have a positive attitude. Starting pay is \$12 per hour. Raises (up to \$15 per hour) will be based on performance and reliability. Uniforms provided. Paid vacation. Pool and fitness center privileges. Pleasant environment. The hours are generally 8am to 3pm five days a

### SHERIFF SALE

#### COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE  
 THE STATE OF TEXAS  
 COUNTY OF COLLINGSWORTH  
 By virtue of Orders of Sale issued out of the Judicial District Court of COLLINGSWORTH County in the following cases to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at 10:00 A.M. on the 7TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026, which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the OFFICIAL door of the Courthouse of said COLLINGSWORTH County, in the City of Wellington, Texas, the following described property located in COLLINGSWORTH County, to-wit:  
**Cause No. 7459, COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY vs. GATTY, JOHN FOSTER**  
 Tract 1: GEO: 0501620  
 RI: 0006044 IN THE NEWKIRK #2 LEASE, RRC# 26203 IN DISTRICT 10, LOCATED IN SEC 82 BLK 16 H & GN SURVEY, COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY, TEXAS  
**Cause No. 8309, COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY vs. SEALE, BETTY**  
 Tract 1: GEO: 0003950  
 All of Lots Nos. 13, 14 and 15, in Block 32 of the Original Town of Wellington, Collingsworth County, Texas **ALL BIDDERS MUST REGISTER WITH THE APPRAISAL DISTRICT PRIOR TO SHERIFF'S SALE.**  
 Leveled on the 6th day of March 2026 as the property of said Defendants to satisfy the judgments rendered in the above styled and numbered causes, plus all taxes, penalties, interest, and attorney fees accrued to the date of sale and all costs recoverable by law in favor of each jurisdiction.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 6th DAY OF March 2026.  
 KENT RILEY  
 Sheriff, COLLINGSWORTH County, Texas

### HELP WANTED



#### NOW HIRING – CHILDRESS DQ

**\$60K/YR + BONUS**  
 Seeking career-minded candidates for **District Manager Trainee & GM Positions**

Competitive salary, monthly bonus, PTO, free meals & flexible schedules.  
 No late nights or early mornings. We will train motivated candidates!

**TEAM MEMBERS – Up to \$17/HR**  
 PTO, meal discounts & flexible schedules.  
 No early mornings or late nights.

Apply Online Today:  
[www.richesondq.com](http://www.richesondq.com)

Be part of a fun, fast-paced team where your smile makes all the difference!

### HELP WANTED

week including most weekends. Part-time considered (must include weekends). Please apply in person.

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### WANTED

**HUNTING LEASE WANTED.** Very responsible men. Contact Bruce, 800-641-8348, email [rhm@longhornimports.com](mailto:rhm@longhornimports.com).

#### COTTLE COUNTY

**HUNTING LEASE FOR ONE** gun and no other hunters on the lease. Prefer ranch or farm with alfalfa hay crop. Please contact John David Ruhl via text at 972-989-9699 or email at [ruhl.john@yahoo.com](mailto:ruhl.john@yahoo.com).

### FOR RENT

#### MEMPHIS

**THE MEMPHIS HOUSING AUTHORITY** has apartments for rent. One-, two- and three-bed-

### FOR RENT

room units are available at this time. Interested persons should visit the Housing Authority office at 216 South 6th St. to pick up an application. For more information, call 806-205-6303, fax 806-205-6318 or email [director@memphisthousing.com](mailto:director@memphisthousing.com).

### FOR SALE

#### QUANAH

Quanah Lodge For Sale: Two story, 4K sq. ft. 7 bedrooms, 3 baths, .4 ac lot, water well, large paved parking area, 2 HVAC units (downstairs unit 4 yrs old), bedrooms ready to rent, furniture stays. Call Janice at 940-503-8490 for info. Must have appt. to see.

### FOR RENT & REAL ESTATE

**Wellington 1 & Wellington 2 Apartments**  
 Two bedroom with heat & air  
 Washer & dryer hookups  
 Rent based on income  
 Manager: Cheryl Tarver  
 Call 806-447-5064  
 WELLINGTON, TEXAS  
 TDD# 1-800-735-2988  
 THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER.

**Hollis Golden Age Apartments**  
 Low income housing for 62 years of age or older, Handicapped-disabled regardless of age  
 \*1 and 2 Bed Units  
 \*Community Building and Activities  
 Call:580-688-9444,  
 TDD#711  
 701 E. County Line Road  
 Hollis, OK 73550  
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.  
 Rare Vacancy

**JF Jim Freeman Real Estate**  
**FOR SALE**  
 Kirkland  
 Block 111, Mc Cart  
 Addition 12 lots.  
**COMMERCIAL**  
 203 N. Main St. • Childress  
 Downtown, on the bricks  
 301 Ave. F NE • Childress  
 Classic, highway property  
 Paige Freeman  
 Associate Broker  
 Cell: 713-504-0542  
 1800 Ave. G NW • Childress  
 Office: 940-585-6038  
 View Listings At:  
[www.jimfreemanrealestate.com](http://www.jimfreemanrealestate.com)

**Wellington Housing Authority**  
**1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apts.**  
 Central heat & air  
 Utilities furnished  
 Housing Authority  
 Office Hours:  
 8 a.m. to noon  
 1 - 4 p.m.  
 Monday - Friday  
 1305 Haskell ~ Wellington  
 806-447-2772

**COLDWELL BANKER COMMERCIAL**  
**FIRST EQUITY**  
**New Listing**  
 Collingsworth County - New to Market  
 180+/- acres Northwest of Quail.  
 Currently in the CRP program. Farms to the east and north are being irrigated.  
 Possibly qualified for organic farming.  
[richardhefley.landsoftexas.com](http://richardhefley.landsoftexas.com)  
[cbcamarillo.com](http://cbcamarillo.com) [landbrokersmls.com](http://landbrokersmls.com)

**Fairview Manor Apartments**  
 915 18th Street NW • (940) 937-0450 • TDD (800) 760-1997  
 Childress  
 Energy Efficient  
 Central Heat/Air  
 Off Street Parking  
 Water Paid  
 Fully Equipped Laundry  
**ONE AND TWO BEDROOMS**  
**RENT BASED ON INCOME FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS**  
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Greenview Apartments**  
 1002 18th St. NW • (940) 937-6942 • TDD (800) 760-1997  
 Energy Efficient  
 Central Heat/Air  
 Off Street Parking  
 Water Paid  
 Fully Equipped Laundry  
**ONE AND TWO BEDROOMS**  
**RENT BASED ON INCOME FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS**  
**\$300 OFF FOR THOSE THAT QUALIFY**  
 62 years of age and older, handicap/disabled, regardless of age.  
 Childress  
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



### Bright Lights Fire

Howardwick and Clarendon volunteer firemen provided mutual aid to the Bright Lights Fire near Claude on March 18, helping with the initial attack until the Texas A&M Forest Service and other neighboring departments could provide more help. CITY OF HOWARDWICK VFD PHOTO

## AgriLife experts share snake safety tips

As temperatures warm across Texas this spring, you may start seeing more snakes around your home and outdoor areas.

These reptiles become more active as they emerge from brumation — a state similar to hibernation in mammals. While encounters may increase this time of year, understanding snake behavior and following a few simple safety tips can help reduce fear and lower the risk of a bite.

Experts from the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences share five essential tips to help you stay safe while enjoying the outdoors.

**Tip 1:** Stay aware of your surroundings. In Texas, snakes often begin appearing in search of food and shelter in February and March as temperatures warm.

“The best way to avoid snake bites is to be aware of your surroundings and recognize the scenarios that lead to them,” said Toby Hibbitts, Ph.D., instructional assistant professor in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology. “If you spot one, the best thing to do is leave it alone and let it go its way.”

Hibbitts, also a research sci-

entist with the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, NRI, said snakes are ectothermic, or cold-blooded, meaning they rely on outside temperatures to regulate their body heat. Early in spring, they are commonly seen sunning on rocks and logs, but as temperatures rise, they become more active at night or in the twilight hours.

He recommends wearing closed-toe shoes and carrying a flashlight when walking outside at night to avoid surprising a snake and reduce the risk of getting bitten.

**Tip 2:** Learn how to identify snakes in your area. Texas is home to roughly 75 snake species, but only about a dozen are venomous.

“If you know which of these snakes live in your area, then it may ease your fears and increase appreciation for your ecosystem,” said Danielle Walkup, Ph.D., NRI research assistant professor in the Texas A&M Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

Common nonvenomous species found in Texas include: Garter snakes, often referred to as garden snakes. Rat snakes, also known as chicken snakes. Bull snakes.

Common venomous snakes in

Texas include: Copperheads. Cottonmouths, also known as water moccasins. Coral snakes. Several rattlesnake species, including western diamondback and timber rattlesnakes. Many Texas rattlesnake species are in the Trans-Pecos region, in the far western part of the state.

**Tip 3:** Make the area around your home less inviting to snakes. Hibbitts said no chemical repellants have been proven to deter snakes. However, you can make your yard less attractive to snakes with simple maintenance.

To discourage snakes from visiting your yard: Keep grass short and trim overgrown vegetation. Remove woodpiles, debris and clutter where they could hide. Control rodents and insects, which attract snakes looking for food. Some species, like rat snakes, seek food in chicken coops, barns or outdoor sheds. Securing these structures can help keep snakes out.

**Tip 4:** Ignore the myths and appreciate snake benefits. Walkup said snakes are not naturally aggressive and prefer to avoid humans.

“You may periodically hear stories about a snake ‘chasing’ some-

one, but in reality it is most likely trying to flee,” Walkup said. “The person may just be standing in the way of its closest cover.”

Snakes also play an important role in nature by helping control insects and small mammals. Understanding these benefits can help reduce fear and encourage people to leave them alone.

**Tip 5:** Understand snake habitats and behaviors to protect you and your pets. Hibbitts noted that learning where venomous snakes typically live can help you watch out for them to prevent close encounters.

Examples of where venomous snakes are commonly found: Copperheads often blend into leaf litter and can be found in woodlands and grasslands. Cottonmouths are usually found near water, such as creeks, ponds and springs.

Pet owners should also take precautions to reduce the chance of pets encountering a snake, such as keeping them on a leash during walks. Snakes typically bite only as a last resort when they feel threatened. Even when venomous snakes bite people, about half of those venomous bites are “dry,” according to state officials.

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