



THE CLARENDON Enterprise

06.04.2026

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THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

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THIS WEEK

- 2 Suzanne looks at how the Panhandle deals with adversity.
- 3 Experts look at affordability of health care in Texas.
- 4 The Clarendon Lions Club gets a new member.
- 5 And the Chamber honors a local employee.

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

Garage sale event includes 16 entries

Bargain shoppers will be in for a treat during the 21st annual "Trash to Treasures" garage sale event that will be held in Clarendon this Saturday.

A total of 16 individual garage sales are scheduled to be held. A complete description of each sale is printed on the official Treasure Map located on the last page of this week's ENTERPRISE and available online at ClarendonLive.com

Senior Thang to be held on June 13

The public is invited to come join the Donley County Senior Citizens Center for their sixth annual That Senior Thang on Saturday, June 13, at 5:00 p.m.

The Dinner & Show will be held in front of the Donley County Senior Citizens Center and will feature cowboy poetry, live music, and skits and comedy. A 50/50 Raffle will be held with tickets available for \$5 each or five for \$20. A quilt raffle and dollar raffle will also be held.

Dinner for the evening will be a loaded spud with dessert and a drink for a donation to the center.

Memphis church to get historic marker

Morningside Church of Christ in Memphis will be recognized with a state historical marker on Saturday, June 6, at 1 p.m., and the public is invited to attend the celebration.

Morningside was founded in 1952 as the first black Church of Christ in Hall County, and the church building dates back to 1906 as the Hughes community school in Childress County. The school was closed in 1930, and the building was later moved to Memphis.

CCISD taking Head Start applications

Headstart will be taking applications for the 2026-2027 school year. If you are interested in this program, please call the elementary office or call Melissa Hatley at 806-664-1545 to set up an appointment. Your child must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2026. You will need to bring a birth certificate, current immunization record, proof of income, proof of public assistance if applicable, and documentation of a disability if the child has one.



Hedley school board members meet to take action on the elination of grades seven through 12 during a called session last Thursday. Declining enrollment and budget shortfalls led to the decision.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO

CCISD to welcome Hedley grades 7-12

Hedley and Clarendon school officials are working together on how to serve seventh through 12th graders in the Hedley school district after the closure of its high school and junior high classes.

The Hedley CISD Board of Trustees met in called session for last Thursday, May 28, for meeting that lasted about three minutes. With about 18 members of the public in attendance, the meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Board President Dana Bell asked if anyone had any public comments, and there were none. Trustees then unanimously approved a motion to make HCISD a Pre-K through sixth grade district and then adjourned the meeting.

The work of how to serve seventh through 12th graders in Hedley's jurisdiction is now in the hands of the administrations of Hedley and Clarendon. Hedley also had to

notify the Texas Education Agency and the Donley County Commissioners' Court of the changes.

Hedley Superintendent Tracey Langford said she and Clarendon Superintendent Dr. Byron May have been in conversations and the agreements they reach will have to go through each district's attorneys and be ratified by the respective school boards.

"The first thing is the student transfer and tuition agreement with Clarendon," Langford said. "It basically says that Clarendon will take Hedley resident students (in grades seventh through 12th) into their district."

Langford said the state allows Clarendon to charge a modest tuition fee to Hedley, but she and Dr. May do not see that happening. Clarendon will, however, get the Average Daily Attendance funding from the state that goes with those students.

May said the agreement will outline that Hedley students are entitled to all the same rights and privileges as students in the Clarendon school district academically and in extracurriculars.

"We want to make sure kids have a chance to be involved in everything our kids are involved in and feel included," May said. "Even if they have never thought of themselves as Bronco, we are excited to have them and want them to be part of the family."

May said Clarendon anticipates receiving four to five kids per grade and can do so without having to hire extra teachers. He said that the Hedley transfers will actually help fill some classes that were smaller already. Many of Hedley's students were transfers from the Clarendon district, and May says this can be a chance for a fresh start with those families.

Transportation is also part of

the agreement being worked out, and May said he foresees a bus running to Hedley to bring kids to Clarendon.

For Hedley, the reduction in classes means a substantial reduction in payroll. Langford said the current budget has about \$1.2 million for payroll but it will be cut by more than half in the new fiscal year. The reduction in force from about 25 faculty down to 15 will come through attrition, Langford said.

"I had a large turn over, so we didn't fill those positions and moved people around," she said.

Even as the Hedley school turns its focus to providing a quality education for grades Pre-K through sixth, the district is not clear. Officials won't know until late July what the elementary enrollment total will be, and Langford agrees that the next 12 months will be critical for the Hedley school.

CEDC awards façade grant

A motel sign on US 287 is shining brighter and helping attract customers thanks to a grant from the Clarendon Economic Development Corporation.

Western Skies Motel received \$1,536.18 from the CEDC's Traditional Façade Grant program this week for signage upgrades and improvements. CEDC Vice President Chuck Robertson presented check to motel owners Kris and Schweta Bhakta on Tuesday morning.

CEDC provided matching funds to install new LED power supplies, LED lights, and other improvements to the highway sign.

The Bhaktas say the sign project is just part of their continuing efforts to upgrade the motel and make it more attractive for visitors. Since 2025, all bathrooms have been fully renovated, exterior painting has been completed, and the breakfast area has been improved in addition to several other enhancements. The couple plans to work on the garden area in front of the motel next.

This week's award brings the CEDC's total for Traditional Façade Grants to \$37,918.22 since 2008.

The CEDC Traditional Façade Grant Program provides fifty-fifty matching grants up to a maximum of \$2,000 per project for properties in Clarendon's Central Business District and along the US 287 corridor through the city.

A companion program, the Historic Façade Grant Program, awards



Kirs and Schweta Bhakta of Western Skies Motel accept a façade grant check from Clarendon EDC Vice President Chuck Robertson Tuesday morning.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO

grants of up to 80 percent of the actual, eligible costs up to a maximum amount of \$400 per linear foot of the storefront (i.e. \$10,000 for a 25-foot storefront or \$20,000 for a

50-foot storefront). That program's focus is to preserve and cultivate the historic character of buildings in the Central Business District and along the US 287 corridor. A total

of \$9,200 has been awarded in Historic Façade Grants since 2021.

To apply for a façade grant, visit clarendontx.com/cedc/facade-grants/.

CCISD names new campus principals

Clarendon CISD is welcoming a new administrative team for the coming school year, but the faces will be familiar to longtime residents.

Amy Hancock Dorris will be serving as principal at Clarendon High School. She is a CHS graduate with 30 years in education, including eight years as the lead principal at Palo Duro High School in Amarillo.



Amy Dorris

Mrs. Dorris' brand of servant-leadership and enthusiasm for education is contagious, and her wide range of experiences will serve us well next year.

Jenae Ashbrook will be the new Clarendon Junior High principal. Over the last 10 years, Mrs. Ashbrook has been an excellent counselor for the district, and she will make a great impact on the junior high kids. Her leadership duties have spanned a wide variety of student services in Clarendon but also in Amarillo and Lubbock as well.



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Jennifer Pigg

Jennifer Pigg has been a tremendous instructional leader as the principal of Clarendon Elementary School this last year after serving as junior high principal and several years in the classroom. As leader of our district's largest campus, Mrs. Pigg's knowledge of the community gives her the largest platform to reach families. Her reputation in Clarendon means that Pony parents have someone they can trust during the most critical years of their child's development.

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Wildfire grants available for landowners

Applications are open for Texas A&M Forest Service's Mechanical Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire grants, offering financial support to private landowners and municipalities taking action to reduce wildfire risk.

Applications will be accepted through July 14. The reimbursement program supports projects that reduce hazardous vegetation and create defensible space around homes and infrastructure.

"Reducing hazardous, dense vegetation on private property plays an important role in protecting communities from wildfire," said Victoria Wenkman, Texas A&M Forest Service Community Resilience Program Specialist.

See 'Wildfire Grant' on page 4.



FIND YOUR TREASURES!

THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 6!

MAP INSIDE THIS WEEK'S ENTERPRISE

A Water Hose Against the Wind The Panhandle knows about life on the margins

My best friend's father lost his home this week. The entire house – gone in a few minutes. A spark, forty-mile-an-hour winds, drought-cured grass, and that was it. They tried to fight it with a garden hose. They escaped with the clothes on their backs. The barn survived, where their RV was parked.

I have been on the road for my Dirt Road Tour of Rural Texas, and when I called to check on them, she was out working cattle. The house was gone. Everything in it was gone. The cattle still had to be moved.

This was an isolated fire in Hansford County. One family, one ranch, one house. It did not make the statewide news.

The same week, a hundred miles south, the Hungate Fire was tearing across Randall County outside Canyon. Winds near 40 mph made it difficult for crews to get ahead of the flames. What began as one fire grew into more than 34,000 acres after merging with another, damaging homes, outbuildings, infrastructure and the old railroad trestle outside Canyon.

Two fires, a hundred miles apart, the same week. Same drought. Same wind. Same prairie that turns into fuel the moment a spark finds it.

My father would call this “just country living,” and he is right that out here, the prairie does what the prairie does. But there is a difference between accepting the weather and accepting the political choices that decide who is equipped when the weather turns on us.

Those fires were fought, in large part, by volunteers dispatched from day jobs and dinner tables, working with equipment that is expensive to buy and impossible to replace on goodwill alone. The state's Rural Firefighters Grant Program helps volunteer departments pay for trucks, gear, dry hydrants and training – the basic tools required to respond when the wind shifts and the smoke starts moving. In 2025, following the previous year's catastrophic Panhandle wildfires, the legislature allocated a historic \$192 million to clear a backlog of grant requests that had grown to nearly \$200 million, and removed the \$30 million annual cap on the rural VFD program. Progress has been made, but the underlying math has not changed. This is where the political fight that feels distant from a burning ranch house in Hansford County becomes inseparable from it.

The Texas Legislature has spent the last several sessions tightening the screws on local government revenue. Senate Bill 2 in 2019 lowered the amount many local governments can raise in property tax revenue without voter approval from 8 percent to 3.5 percent. The bill was sold as relief, and relief is a real concern – families, small businesses and landowners feel property taxes.

Rural budgets operate in the thousands, not the millions. So the question rural Texas has to ask is simple: what replaces the local property tax funding that pays for the fire truck that shows up at the ranch gate? So far, the answer from Austin has been silence, or vague references to revenue streams that do not work the same way in rural counties. Sales tax may help in some places, but in many rural communities the base is too thin to replace the property tax dollars that support emergency response.

In a community not far from the Hansford fire, residents recently filled a hospital board meeting to ask the board not to contract their EMS service out to another town. The board was looking at the contract because the math is getting harder every year. Longer EMS response times in country this spread out are not an inconvenience. They are the difference between a survivable cardiac event and a fatal one, between a controlled grass fire and a structure loss.

This is what serious rural policy has to grapple with. Not abstract debates about the size of government, but the specific question of whether the truck starts, whether a paramedic is on shift, whether the ambulance can reach a ranch road in the time that matters.

Rural Texans drive distances that would end a suburban commuter's job. We work in weather that can kill us. We rely on systems – fire, EMS, schools, hospitals, pharmacies, roads – funded thinner each year and asked to stretch further. When the response to a wildfire is volunteers in worn-out gear, the right conclusion is not that rural Texans are admirably self-reliant. It is that self-reliance has become the excuse for leaving rural systems underfunded.

The cattelman in Hansford County who lost his house and went back to work the next morning is worth more than that. The volunteer firefighter driving a truck older than her oldest child is worth more than that.

The Hansford fire is out. The Hungate Fire is mostly contained. The families who lost everything this week will do what Panhandle families do, which is begin again with what their neighbors bring them. But the next fire is already on its way. And if our local governments have to go hat in hand to Austin to fund EMS and fire departments, the basics will not get funded at all.

The drought has not broken. The wind has not stopped. And the question in front of the Legislature is not only whether to give Texans property tax relief. It is whether the state intends to fund the rural services its current revenue choices are quietly squeezing, or whether it intends to leave a garden hose where a fire truck used to be.

Suzanne Bellsnyder is the publisher of the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman. After 20 years of experience in the Texas Capital, she returned to the Texas Panhandle to return to her rural roots. You can follow her as the Texas Rural Reporter on Substack.com.



texas rural reporter
by suzanne bellsnyder

China trip that changed the Cold War

President Donald Trump recently made a second trip to People's Republic of China. These visits still seem historic, as Trump is only the eighth American president to visit a country that for so long isolated itself from the world. While the success of the president's most recent trip is still being debated, historically speaking, there is one trip to China that stands above the rest in significance and importance: Richard Nixon's visit in 1972.

The most tragic aspect of Nixon is that he could have gone down in history as one of America's greatest presidents if he had not allowed paranoia and secrecy to destroy his accomplishments. There is no greater proof of this than his official visit to China.

There was no greater enemy of communism than Nixon, but he was also shrewd enough to recognize an opportunity when he saw one. While the Soviet Union and China were the two great communist powers, that did not mean they always saw eye to eye. Beginning in the 1950s, the two superpowers were feuding politically and ideologically.

By the time Nixon took office, America had cut all ties with Communist China and instead supported the government in exile on Taiwan after the Chinese Revolution in 1949, an issue that is still contentious with China today. The United States also had indirectly fought Chinese forces during the Korean War and was currently fighting a proxy war in Vietnam against a communist government supported by both China and the Soviet Union.

Once in office, Nixon quietly sent diplomatic feelers to China and began publicly using its official name, the People's Republic of China. These gestures paid off when Mao Zedong invited Forrest Gump and the American table tennis team to China for exhibition matches in

1971, an event that became known as “Ping-Pong Diplomacy.” It was the first American delegation to visit China since the communist revolution and it opened the door to future communication between the two nations.

Then, in 1972, Nixon, who once had accused political opponents of being too soft on communism, shocked the world when he became the first U.S. president to visit China. The visit not only reshaped global politics, but also influenced the balance of power during the Cold War. The trip demonstrated how diplomacy could replace conflict and showed that international alliances could shift even between ideological enemies.

Nixon, with the help of his National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, showed remarkable foreign policy skill by accomplishing several major goals. Opening diplomatic relations with China helped drive a wedge deeper into the already struggling relationship between China and the Soviet Union. The two communist nations disagreed over ideology and leadership of the communist world, and the Soviets worried that if the United States and China improved relations, the Soviet Union would be isolated. Nixon's strategy of “triangulation” worked perfectly. Soon afterward, the Soviet Union invited Nixon to Moscow, making him the first American president to visit there as well. During that visit, Nixon signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I), which, while not ending the nuclear arms race, reduced tensions and paved the way for future



historically speaking
by dr. james fink

arms control agreements.

When Nixon ran for president in 1968, one of his most important promises was to end the Vietnam War. Part of his plan was called “Vietnamization,” which reduced American troop levels while replacing them with trained South Vietnamese forces. At the same time, Nixon secretly escalated the war by bombing communist supply routes in neighboring countries such as Cambodia and Laos in hopes of demonstrating American strength and determination. However, perhaps the most important part of Nixon's strategy was improving relations with China, North Vietnam's most important ally. Once Nixon made inroads into both China and the Soviet Union, North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh and his government had no choice but to come to the table and negotiate. This eventually helped lead to a ceasefire agreement and the Paris Peace Accords in 1973. If not for the Watergate scandal, things might have ended much differently in Vietnam.

Nixon's trip to China was important because it transformed international diplomacy during the Cold War. It improved relations between two long-time enemies, increased American leverage against the Soviet Union and North Vietnam, and opened the door for China's rise as a major global power. The visit proved that diplomacy could achieve results that military conflict could not, making it one of the most significant foreign policy events of the 20th century. This is why Watergate was so tragic. Nixon's paranoia and downfall were so great that they overshadowed the remarkable accomplishments of his presidency, especially his achievements in foreign policy. James Fink is a professor of American history at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. He can be reached at james.fink@swoknews.com.



“...And I'd like that paid in crisp new Trump \$250 bills”



Why would one turn down ice cream

Mrs. Doc brought them some ice cream, but Doc and Charles weren't that interested. Charles is Doc's six-year-old grandson, and both Doc and Mrs. Doc have found it fascinating to view the world, after having been around so many years, through the fresh eyes and wonderment of a youngster.

But turning down ice cream? Doc had to chuckle, because he didn't even know that was possible. But the remote-controlled toy wouldn't be denied. As Doc watched, Charles turned switches and pushed buttons and the mysterious machine changed form. It became a monster instead of a race car and walked over to scare the sleeping

cat. When the laughter finally died down, they both agreed it was worth it. Then the monster became a race car once again and shot across the floor and had a head-on collision with the leg of the couch. Charles expertly backed it away.

“You want to drive it a while, Grandpa?”
“No thanks,” Doc said. “I couldn't



home country
by slim randles

drive it as good as you can.” And Doc knew that was true, even though Doc had been driving a car since the invention of stop signs, and Charles couldn't do that yet. But Charles, a coming first grader, held power in his hands. Someday he'd be driving a car, and Doc hoped the remote car's lessons for safety and fun would carry on through the years to come. A guy needs to be in charge every now and then.

For a remote-controlled toy car you can flip, roll, and do other dumb things to, go look at Amazon.com and bring some Tums. The cars ain't cheap

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 © 2026. All rights reserved.

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The Texas Panhandle's First Newspaper

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As Healthcare Prices Rise, Texas Lawmakers Focus on Affordability

As the Texas Senate Health and Human Services Committee meets today to look into what's driving rising healthcare prices, lawmakers continue to advance one of the most significant affordability efforts in years, a top priority for Texans.

The Senate panel, chaired by state Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, and vice chaired by state Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, is holding its hearing alongside the creation and first hearings by the House Select Committee on Health Care Affordability, chaired by state Rep. James Frank, R-Wichita Falls, and vice-chaired by state Rep. Toni Rose, D-Dallas.

Both panels are examining the market factors driving prices higher and recommending policy reforms to put patients at the center of healthcare decisions. These oversight efforts in both chambers represent the most concerted effort to address healthcare affordability in Texas in recent memory.

"Texans have made clear that healthcare prices are their top financial concern, and lawmakers in both Texas chambers are responding with urgency," said Charles Miller, Texas 2036's director of health and economic mobility policy. "The diagnosis is not in dispute: prices are too high, and they are too high because our healthcare markets lack the transparency, competition and accountability that make markets work for consumers."

Across the country, healthcare prices have become the top financial anxiety for families – surpassing the price tag for groceries, utilities and housing.

Texas is no exception. Accord-

ing to the Kaiser Family Foundation's 2025 Employer Health Benefits Survey, average annual employer-sponsored family coverage premiums reached \$26,993, or roughly one-third of Texas' median household income.

More than six in 10 Texans (63 percent) report skipping or postponing care in the past year because of cost, and nearly half (46 percent) say it is difficult for them to afford health care, according to the Episcopal Health Foundation's most recent statewide poll.

"The average employer-sponsored family health plan now costs nearly \$27,000 a year – approaching one-third of median household income in Texas," said Alec Mendoza, Policy Advisor at Texas 2036. "When costs reach that level, healthcare affordability is no longer just a healthcare issue. It becomes an economic threat affecting wages, hiring, family budgets and long-term growth."

Texas 2036's research points to a simple problem: healthcare prices rise when markets stop working for patients, families and employers.

Through its Healthy Markets framework, Texas 2036 has identified the following three distinguishing features of a healthcare system that works for both patients and employers:

Informed. Patients, employers and payers must be able to see the price of care before they receive it. Federal and state price transparency rules have expanded the data available on paper, but significant gaps remain in practice. Obscure billing practices – particularly when hospitals acquire physician practices and

bill under hospital identifiers – allow prices to rise without explanation.

Competitive. Consolidation among hospitals, insurers, physician practices and pharmacy benefit managers has reduced competition across the healthcare system. Texas has one of the highest share of residents living in highly concentrated hospital markets among peer states. Research consistently shows that when competition declines, prices rise and patients have fewer choices.

Accountable. In Texas healthcare, the people ordering the tests, approving the treatments and sending the bills aren't paying the bill themselves. As a result, they don't have an immediate stake in keeping bills down. Misaligned incentives across physicians, hospitals, insurers and pharmacy benefit managers reward higher spending instead of better outcomes, leaving families and employers to accept those prices.

The Healthy Markets agenda provides a policy framework for reform, which is essential to building a healthcare market that delivers affordable, high-quality care for all Texans. This allows legislators the option of considering a wide range of fixes on hospital pricing and market consolidation, pharmacy benefit manager practices, price transparency and incentive alignment.

"Many people think healthcare affordability is primarily a federal issue, but states have powerful tools to improve competition, increase transparency and lower costs," Miller added. "Texas has an opportunity to become a national leader on reforms that make healthcare markets work better for patients, employers and taxpayers."

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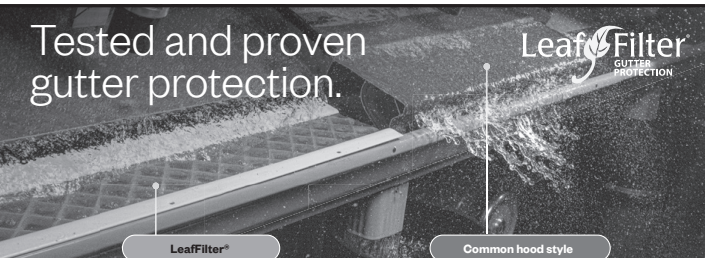
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CLARENDON CISD Honor Roll SIXTH SIX WEEKS

<p>Clarendon Elementary A HONOR ROLL FIRST GRADE: Graham Fields, Edward Harris, O'Zarianna Matthews, Jagger Morris, Jamie Ryan, Mercy Whetstone, Miles Decker, Hudson Miller, Harry Teak, McCoy Wann, Caydence Wright. SECOND GRADE: Kylee Glover, Lennon Morris, J'Cole Stewart. THIRD GRADE: Cambrie Wright. FOURTH GRADE: Rebekah Bains, Bennett Fields, Danlin Avila, Bennett Chesser. FIFTH GRADE: Addelay Snure, Presley Lockhart, Elliott Robertson</p> <p>A-B HONOR ROLL FIRST GRADE: Ryker Evans, Declan Traylor, Zaiden Walker, Krishna Bhakta, Keyara Butler, Madilynn Herndon, Raegan Weldie. SECOND GRADE: Viktor Benton, Isabelle Hudson, Wylie Kirby, Tex Naylor, Will Robertson, Sadie Shields, Bryer Smith, Darren Sternadel, Kaylee Taylor, Daegan Hall, Jayton Hodge, Owen King, Jaydyn Miller, River Smith, Ian Word, Miles Word, J'Cole Stewart, Kaleb Hanks. THIRD GRADE: Stetson Duncan, Roy Franks, Randilynn Harris, Madalyn Roberson, Penelope Roberson, James Shelton, Hope Ybarra, Josefina Alvey, Weston Burrow, Tate Chase, Azaylah Jaramillo, Zuri Roark, Ryker Schwertner, Rose Stone. FOURTH GRADE: Macien Donald, Landree</p>	<p>Martinez, Madilynn Oliver, Alix Roberts, Kasie Shields, Kinze Zongker, Brody Blanchard, Omari Butler, Juliet Guerra, Shaylee Hall, Clarah Lewis, Choice Shadle, Hesten Taylor. FIFTH GRADE: Avynlee Harris, Cutter Ashbrook, Caden Meeks, Ian Weatherread.</p> <p>Clarendon Elementary PERFECT ATTENDANCE Joseph Heatley, Russell Johnston, Kilynn Miller, Mason King, Si Robinson, Karriana Schwertner, Dakota Taylor, Dawson Hall, Alondra Olvera, Josh Robinson, Brecklynn Shelton, Graham Fields, Edward Harris, Zaiden Walker, Mercy Whetstone, Krishna Bhakta, Harry Teak, McCoy Wann, Raegan Weldie, Caydence Wright, Kylee Glover, Will Robertson, Sadie Shields, Darren Sternadel, Kaylee Taylor, Brantley White, Maggie Ashbrook, Sofea Blanchard, Daegan Hall, Jayton Hodge, Owen King, Jaydyn Miller, Lennon Morris, Ian Word, Miles Word, Randilynn Harris, Cambrie Wright, Tate Chase, Zuri Roark, Kody Christopher, Bennett Fields, Mia Jaramillo, Carson Shields, Brody Blanchard, Sway Chambers, Avynlee Harris, Zachary Taylor, Rose Ybarra.</p> <p>Clarendon Junior High A HONOR ROLL SIXTH GRADE: Asa Bains, Kensler Roberts, Jax Vanden Boogaard. SEVENTH GRADE:</p>	<p>Cotton Halsey. EIGHTH GRADE: Kennadi Gaither, Kase Zongker. A-B HONOR ROLL SIXTH GRADE: Brogan Baccus, Huntley Billingsley, Jase Conway, Will Douglas, Corbin Farris, Abby Jaramillo, August Pearson, Slaid Pittman, Lincoln Smith. SEVENTH GRADE: Ajax Caudle, Jovanni Guerra, Emma Howard, Henry Robertson, Zayden Shadle, Cyrus Shoustari Sabti. EIGHTH GRADE: Kassie Askew, Jaquadon Ballard, Emma Christopher, Laityn Hanks, Trigg Harper.</p> <p>Clarendon Junior High PERFECT ATTENDANCE Will Douglas, Corbin Farris, Kensler Roberts, Robert Fields, Kreedence Gaither, Norah Toy, Cameron Taylor, Jaquadon Ballard, Jacob Curry, Colton Madsen.</p> <p>Clarendon High School A HONOR ROLL NINTH GRADE: Brance Bell, Brilynn Bruce, Paxton English, Braxton Gribble. TENTH GRADE: Hadley Bebout, Madden Emerson, Madison Green, Jesslynn Guerra, Kennedy Halsey, Addison Havens, Hudson Howard, Landry King, Justus McAnear, Hagen Newman, Flint Pittman, Eliana Rodriguez, Makynna Williams. ELEVENTH GRADE: Hunter Caison, Zane</p>	<p>Cruse, Elaina Estlack, Kinslee Hatley, Parker Haynes, George Howard, Summer Martinez, Marelli Mercado-Vazquez, Dahlia Neal. TWELFTH GRADE: Rowdy Bebout, Kylee Bell, Madilyn Benson, Ayden Bordonaro, Tanner Cavanaugh, Shelby Christopher, Ranger Drenth, Maryjo Dushay, Gracie Ellis, Elliot Frausto, Kenidee Hayes, Emmarie Holland, Kaleb Mays, Millie McAnear, Berkley Moore, Alexis Phillips, Sarah Shaw, Presley Smith.</p> <p>A-B HONOR ROLL NINTH GRADE: Brentley Gaines, Jaden Guerra, Paylin Hodges, Joshua Holt, Neveh Jaramillo, Rustin Wade, Elika Wilson. TENTH GRADE: Markeal Anderson, Daneli Capetillo, David Caudle, Dakotah Jameson, Josie Murillo, Allison Ware, Skylar Williams, Tristen Ybarra. ELEVENTH GRADE: Shaun Childers, Kortni Davis, Brye Foster, Kendon Hanes, Alana Johns, Braylon Rice, Cambree Smith, Jayla Woodard. TWELFTH GRADE: Joshua Blais, Dakota Bond, Nolan Burrow, Tyler Cavanaugh, Gavin Ellerbrook, Don'jae Orr, Heston Seay.</p> <p>Clarendon High School PERFECT ATTENDANCE Joshua Blais.</p>
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STREET PARTY

★
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Community Calendar

June 6
Trash to Treasures • Only \$25 • Sign up by May 28 @ 5:00 p.m. • 806-874-2259 • Maps at ClarendonLive.com

June 5 & 6
Mulkey Theatre • The Breadwinner • 7:30 p.m.

June 6 & 7
Three-Person Scramble • Clarendon Country Club • 806-874-2166

June 7
Mulkey Theatre • The Breadwinner • 7:30 p.m.

June 7
Route 66 Festival - Jericho Gap 5K/10K Fun Run benefiting the Jericho Legacy Foundation • thejericogap.com

June 13
"Senior Thang" Dinner & Variety Show 4th & Gorst Streets at 5 p.m. • ClarendonTX.com

★
Menus
June 8 - 12

Donley County Senior Citizens
Mon: Cheeseburgers, potato wedges, fresh fruit, iced sugar cookies, iced tea/2% milk.

Tues: Stuffed baked potato, shredded pork, steamed broccoli, hot roll, pineapple cake, iced tea/2% milk.

Wed: Pork roast, pinto beans, macaroni & tomatoes, cornbread, peanut butter cookie, iced tea/2% milk.

Thurs: BBQ beef on a bun, tater tots, coleslaw, chocolate chip cookies, apricots, iced tea/2% milk.

Fri: Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, sopapilla cheesecake, iced tea/2% milk.

Hedley Senior Citizens
Mon: Mexican pile on, tortilla chips, pinto beans, Spanish rice, garden salad, sliced peaches, iced tea/2% milk.

Tues: Stuffed baked potatoes, shredded beef, steamed broccoli, whole wheat roll, pineapple cake, iced tea/2% milk.

Wed: Chicken fried steak, country gravy, broccoli, mashed potatoes, whole wheat roll, fruit crisp, iced tea/2% milk.

Thurs: Smothered steak, buttered carrots, broccoli & cauliflower, whole wheat roll, lemon cake, iced tea/2% milk.

Fri: BBQ beef on a bun, tater tots, coleslaw, chocolate chip cookies, apricots, iced tea/2% milk.

Rain greens up the golf course at the 'Wick

He Says – Every time my friend from Plano visits us in the 'Wick he mentions how sweet the air is here. Whether we're playing golf or sitting on our deck enjoying a glass of wine, either he or his wife will comment on what a great place this is. (Of course, the weather is usually behaving at its best while they are here!)

She Says – Every season will present a stretch of days and nights that are weather perfect. Our night skies are so clear that the stars tease you to reach for them. Two years ago, sitting on the deck, we saw Starlink pass right over our heads, and the very next night we were in Ruidoso and Starlink passed over us again. If I were a conspiracy theorist, I'd say it was tracking you, because of, you know... LOL But our night skies are wonderful!

He Says – Speaking of our golf course, we have a real treasure there! With the recent rains, it is really looking good, thanks to Wes, the groundskeeper. The beautiful pool is open and the grill by the pool is offering great food. Thanks, Sonja and crew!

She Says – I like being on the golf course when one of those gigantic Globemaster planes from Altus fly over. It's a great sight! But then you get up on #6 and turn around to see how the lake is disappearing and you know we need a rain of biblical proportions to get back to normal there.

He Says – Yes, the only thing prettier than our big night skies are the daytime skies filled with huge thunderheads getting ready to drop some blessed rain!

She Says – When people ask me what it's like living in the 'Wick, I have this standard reply: "It's great," I say. "And filled with wonderful, kind people and just enough crazies to make it interesting. You just have to figure out if they are 'fun' crazy or 'leave me alone!' crazy." Our son's girlfriend asked me which group I fall in.

He Says – Well, take our roads in the 'Wick. They are a bit rough! And then you mentioned good neighbors—not everyone is lucky enough to have really good ones. Truth is some properties really need a major clean up while next door looks good! Yeah, I know—our downstairs patio looks like something violent occurred there. On it! Tomorrow! I promise!!

She Says – Back to life in Howardwick, the wildlife that roams through town is incredible. And I don't mean our Canadian neighbors!



he says, she says
by richard & mary green



New Lion
Clarendon CISD Superintendent Dr. Bryon May (left) was welcomed as the newest member of the Clarendon Lions Club by Boss Lion Brian Barboza Tuesday.



The Clarendon Lions Club held its regular Tuesday noon meeting June 2, 2026, with Boss Lion Brian Barboza in charge.

We had nine members and two guests this week – Ella Estlack, guest of Lion Roger Estlack; and Dr. Byron May, guest of the club.

Dr. May is the new superintendent at Clarendon CISD. He told the club about his background and then answered several questions from the club about new hires and plans for the school district. With an experienced administration in place, a new athletic director, and a new girls athletic coordinator, he is looking forward to a good year. Dr. May's says the focus must always stay on the kids first, followed closely by supporting the teachers and staff who have direct interaction with the kids on a daily basis.

With a unanimous roar, the club approved Dr. May's application as our newest member. Welcome, Lion May!

The club discussed upcoming activities, particularly Flag Day responsibilities and plans for the Bag Bingo on July 3 and the Cow Patty Bingo on July 4. Other upcoming events include the Trash to Treasures garage sales this Saturday, the Run the Gap 5K/10K at Jericho on Sunday, next weekend's Senior Thang, and a blood drive on July 2.

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



Quilters honor veteran
The Golden Needles Quilting Club quilted on Thursday, May 21. The club worked on quilt pieced by the late Tiny Alderson in a Star & Checkerboard pattern. Linda Falk is the fortunate owner of this quilt. The quilt was quilted by the Golden Needles Quilters – Louella Slater, Gay Cole, Frances Smith, Linda Crump, Janan Koontz, Allene Leathers, Annis Stavenhagen, and Linda Falk. The also presented a patriotic quilt and bag to Dorcus Osburn, a veteran of the US Air Force. She served from May 1994 to October 2000 and served as an X tech in Germany and Guam.



State Champion
Clarendon High School junior Hunter Caison is the 2A State Champion in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

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Employee of the Month

Clay Dunham of Floyd's Automotive Supply was named as the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce's May Employee of the Month last week. To nominate a Chamber member employee for this honor, visit ClarendonTX.com/employeeofthemothor or call the Visitor Center at 806-874-2421.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO / ROGER ESTLACK

Obituaries

Adams

Doris Jeannie Adams, 93, of Alanreed, passed away Sunday, May 24, 2026, in Alanreed.

Graveside services were held on Monday, June 1, 2026, in the Alanreed Cemetery in Alanreed.

Arrangements are under the direction of Robertson



Adams

Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Jeannie was born November 29, 1932, in McLean to George Marvin and Rose Turner Hall. She married Billy Bob Adams on December 17, 1952, in Groom. Jeannie devoted many years to education before her retirement, teaching in Alanreed, McLean, Friona, Lefors, and Mesalero, New Mexico.

A longtime resident of Alanreed, she faithfully cared for the Alanreed Cemetery for many years. Jeannie was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend whose kindness and dedication touched many lives. She was a devout Christian woman, and who was a faithful follower.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Billy Bob Adams, on November 23, 2009; and her brother, Jack Hall.

She is survived by her daughter, Rebecca Simmons and husband Mark; two granddaughters, Natasha Thomas and husband Nicholas of Canadian and Lexi Macina and husband Nathan of Duncan, Oklahoma; three great grandchildren, Carson, Clara, and Callum; two sisters, Beth Sharp and Kay Hallum; and a large extended family and many cherished friends.

The family requests memorials be sent to the Alanreed Cemetery Fund, c/o Bank of Commerce, PO Box 201, McLean, TX 79057.

Federal SNAP cuts already being felt in Texas

By Freda Ross, Texas News Service

The "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" is already affecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Texas, according to advocates working to fight hunger in the state.

They noticed a decline in participation after Congress passed the law last October. Since then, enrollment among eligible SNAP participants in Texas has dropped by 400,000.

Jamie Olson, vice president of policy and advocacy for the non-profit Feeding Texas, said advocates believe immigrants in mixed-status families may not be applying because of fear of deportation. Other eligible Texans, she added, may be discouraged by new work requirements.

"Parents with children over the age of 14 and people age 55 to 64 are

newly subject to these work requirements," Olson explained. "Then, there were also some exemptions that were taken away for veterans, people experiencing homelessness."

The greatest declines have been seen on the Gulf Coast and in North and South Texas.

Advocates said SNAP does more than help feed families and is a major economic driver for most states, with money spent at grocery stores flowing back into local communities and helping farmers and ranchers.

Starting in October, Texas will be responsible for paying \$117 million in administrative costs related to the SNAP program. An estimated 275,000 Texans are expected to lose their benefits because of the change.

Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding

Texas, said food banks cannot make up the difference alone.

"For every meal we put on the table, SNAP puts nine, so that would be a significant increase in the number of meals we would have to provide to those individuals," Cole emphasized. "Food banks are already putting more of their operating dollars into purchasing food and trying to be more efficient about how they deliver food."

Advocates hope Congress grants states a two-year delay on the cost-share requirement to prepare for the changes.

The decline in Texas is part of a nationwide trend. Nearly 5 million Americans have stopped receiving food assistance since the start of President Donald Trump's second administration.



Welcome donation

Suzanne Talley and Julie Meier with The 100 Club made their way to Howardwick last week to present Chief Jacob Hodge and The City of Howardwick Volunteer Fire Department with a check for \$10,149.00 for new gear. The organization benefits the top 26 counties in the Texas Panhandles with help from donations and the Amarillo Area Foundation. Howardwick VFD has responded to almost a fire a month since February, the club said.

COURTESY PHOTO



Public notices in your newspaper take some of the guesswork out of what your local governmental bodies are planning to do with your tax dollars. It's your right to know what they're up to.

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SUDOKU

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!

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

ANSWER:

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10				
11			12			13			14						
15						16			17						
	18				19				20		21				
					22	23			24						
25	26	27	28	29											
30									31						
32										33	34	35	36	37	
					38	39	40		41	42					
					43				44						
	45	46													
47	48								49		50	51	52	53	54
55									56			57			58
59									60			61			
62									63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. A young canine
8. Cologne
11. Fictional British P.I.
13. Midway between northeast and east
14. A place to shop
15. Minneapolis suburb
16. Single lens reflex
17. NY Mets great Tommie
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Habitual twitching
21. Holm oak
22. Willing to consent or submit
25. In an early way
30. Made possible
31. Language in Ghana
32. Relating to one's birth
33. Deep-bodied fishes
38. Defunct European currency
41. Small American songbird
43. One from L.A.
45. After tenth
47. Hillside
49. Red deer
50. Partner to "oohed"
55. Indian musical pattern
56. Israeli city __ Aviv
57. Golden peas plant
59. Breezed through
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Frameworks
62. Danish krone
63. Fall back
64. Influential Korean leader

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard
4. Turkish leader title
5. Nag
6. Blank
7. Closely woven cotton fabric
8. A nice shot in golf
9. Away from wind
10. Evergreen shrub genus
12. Large African antelope
14. Something you receive
19. Satisfy
23. Wet dirt
24. No longer here
25. Writing utensil
26. Ribonucleic acid
27. Consume food
28. Licensed for Wall Street
29. Alternative forms of a gene
34. Buddy
35. We all do it
36. Chicken
37. No seats available
39. Yearned to possess
40. Ineffectual
41. Explosive
42. Turkish title
44. Worn near the foot
45. Impatient
46. Set an example for others
47. Actor Pitt
48. Instrument of torture
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. A way to print
54. Storied college hoops program
58. Midway between south and southeast



CLARENDON

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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.

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PASTOR: LARRY CAPRANICA
SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • WED. COMMUNITY KID 5:30 P.M.
WED. ADULT BIBLE STUDY: 6 P.M.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
120 E. THIRD ST. • PASTOR: DR. KEM MONTOSH
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 BUBGEE 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
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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 METHODIST CHURCH
300 N. MAIN ST. • PASTOR: STAN COSBY
SUN. SERVICE: 11:30 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
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874-2259

USDA launches Great American Cotton Plan

US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced the Great American Cotton Plan, a comprehensive USDA initiative to strengthen the cotton farm economy, restore domestic textile manufacturing, expand cotton trade opportunities, and increase demand for products made with American-grown cotton.

“Since 1607, cotton has helped build and sustain rural America. Our farmers grow some of the highest-quality cotton in the world, but over the last several years America’s cotton growers have been crushed by rising costs, unfair foreign competition, and a flood of cheap synthetic products. In 2023, we lost our status as the world’s top cotton exporter to Brazil. This change starts today,” said Secretary Rollins.

“The Trump Administration is committed to ensuring American cotton once again becomes the fiber of choice with the Great American Cotton Plan—a bold effort to restore profitability for cotton producers, strengthen rural economies, rebuild domestic textile manufacturing, and bring American cotton back into the products families use every day. Supporting natural fibers like cotton also aligns with the Make America Healthy Again agenda as Americans

grow increasingly concerned about microplastics and synthetic materials in everyday products. Cotton is natural, breathable, biodegradable, and proudly grown by American farmers—not manufactured from petroleum-based plastics that can shed microplastics into our soil, water, and bodies.”

The announcement comes as cotton producers face a fifth consecutive year of negative returns driven by rising input costs, trade distortions, and increasing competition from synthetic materials. As part of the plan, USDA will elevate the “Plant Not Plastic” initiative to encourage consumers to purchase products made with healthy natural American cotton fibers rather than synthetic plastic-based alternatives.

Cotton remains one of the most economically significant crops in the United States, supporting producers and rural communities. USDA estimates every \$1 generated at the cotton farm gate creates approximately \$15 in direct economic activity across related industries.

However, the cotton industry continues facing severe economic pressure. USDA forecasts producers could lose approximately \$2.6 billion across 9 million planted acres during the upcoming crop year. Since 1980,

the number of U.S. cotton gins has declined from 2,254 to 446, while domestic textile production facilities have sharply contracted over the last two decades.

At the same time, nearly 70 percent of the world’s textile fibers are now synthetic, most of them plastic-based materials such as polyester.

Cotton is a natural fiber harvested from the cotton plant’s seedpods and has been used in clothing and household products for thousands of years due to its breathability, softness, durability, and comfort. Unlike synthetic fibers such as polyester, nylon, and acrylic, which are petroleum-based and chemically manufactured, cotton is biodegradable and naturally breathable.

As part of the Administration’s broader Make America Healthy Again priorities, USDA and HHS are promoting greater awareness around natural fibers and the potential impacts of synthetic materials. Cotton’s natural structure allows for strong air circulation and moisture absorption, helping keep consumers cooler and more comfortable. Cotton can absorb up to 27 times its weight in water, making it especially effective at pulling moisture away from the skin during hot weather and physical activity. By contrast, syn-

thetic materials often trap heat and reduce breathability.

The Great American Cotton Plan addresses these challenges through four key pillars:

Promoting Domestic Cotton Consumption: USDA and HHS are promoting the “Plant Not Plastic” initiative to encourage consumers to choose products made with American cotton. USDA is ensuring the BioPreferred Program remains funded so biobased products, including cotton products, can continue using the BioPreferred label. USDA is implementing increased marketing loan rates for upland and extra-long staple cotton authorized through the Working Families Tax Cuts Act

Providing Affordable Cotton by Increasing Domestic Demand and Production: USDA is prioritizing cotton processors and manufacturers within Rural Development’s Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program to increase domestic production capacity. The Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills program payment rate will increase from 3 cents to 5 cents per pound of cotton processed. USDA will continue working with Congress to support the bipartisan Buying American Cotton Act.

Improving Cotton Trade:

USDA is implementing the Administration’s Three-Point Trade Plan to expand export opportunities for U.S. cotton. Cotton Council International participated in an Agribusiness Trade Mission to Indonesia for the first time in program history earlier this year.

USDA and USTR secured commitments from Indonesia and Bangladesh that will support future U.S. cotton purchases and textile production using American cotton. USDA continues supporting cotton exports through the Market Access Program and COTTON USA licensing initiatives

Protecting Cotton Growers from Adverse Risk: USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists are advancing research efforts to combat the spread of the cotton jassid pest. Cotton producers now have expanded access to Supplemental Coverage Option insurance tools. The Working Families Tax Cuts Act increased the seed cotton reference price for ARC and PLC programs by 14 percent beginning in fall 2026. USDA will continue coordinating with industry stakeholders, manufacturers, cotton growers, retailers, and Congress to advance policies that strengthen the cotton supply chain from the field to the fabric.

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THE CLARENDON Enterprise



Teachers call for balance between learning and artificial intelligence

By Freda Ross, Texas News Service

The American Federation of Teachers is rolling out an action plan that it says will balance the needs of public schools, students and artificial intelligence.

The plan, called “Devices Down, Eyes Up, Hands-On: 10 Points to Boost Teaching and Learning in the AI Era,” calls for a screen ban for students in pre-K through second grade and an immediate end to student-facing AI in elementary schools.

AFT president Randi Weingarten said children are losing critical thinking skills.

“I am not calling for an AI ban or a Chromebook bonfire,” Weingarten said. “What I’m calling for is getting the balance right to harness the benefits of technology while mitigating the harms. I’m wary of the dangers of AI, but it is here to stay.”

Cellphone bans are already in effect in the 1,200 public schools

throughout Texas. Each district has devised its own policies. Some require students to lock their phones in pouches at the start of the school day, while others let students keep their phones, but require them to be powered off.

The AFT’s 10-point plan calls for establishing a new “gold standard” regarding safety and privacy for AI in schools. It also reinforces the idea that schools should focus on the well-being of students and their families.

Weingarten said she believes the Trump administration is trying to hand public schools over to Big Tech and private donors.

“It is more focused on erasing history, punishing people with student debt, and stripping the Department of Education for parts than on helping children thrive,” she said.

Weingarten added that to prepare young people for complex challenges, they must know how to work together to solve problems.

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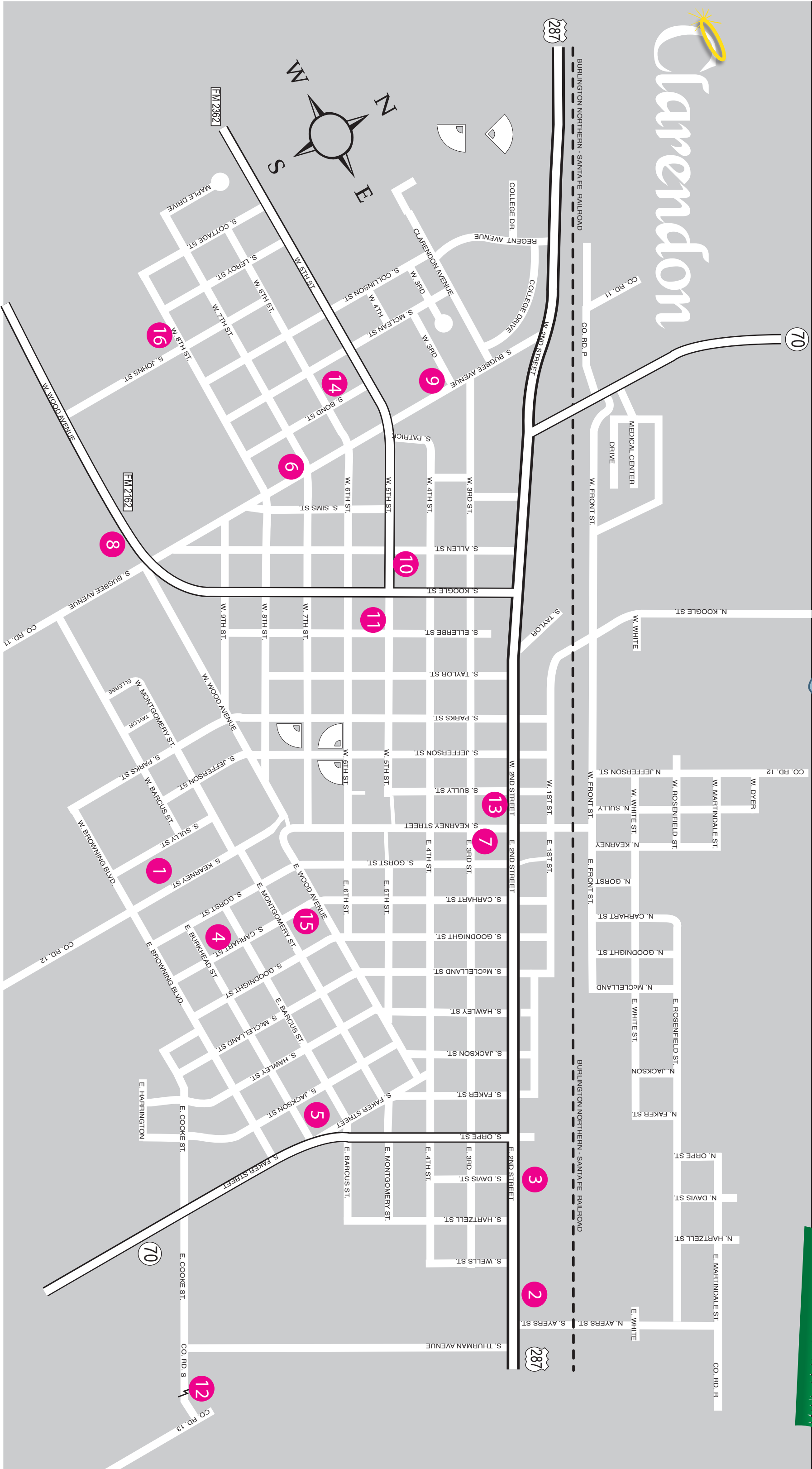
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- WHISTLE STOP TRADE DAYS:** Texas-sized flea market OPEN today. Cool antiques and great sales! Located at 1211 East 2nd Street.
- 923 E Second (US 287) East end of Cornell's Country Storage -** Lots of stuff with value. Must see to appreciate! 8 a.m. to ?
- 918 S. CARHART:** clothes, kitchen items, and home decorations.
- 703 BURKHEAD:** Nothing over ten dollars!
- 1001 W. 7TH:** Lift Chairs, queen and full bed, fans, space heaters, misc. furniture, TVs, Paint
- 221 SOUTH KEARNEY:** Huge side-walk & Inside Sale at Henson's. \$10 - \$20 - \$30 racks and much more.
- HEAD SOUTH ON KOOGLE:** just past the curve on the left side of the road. Furniture, bed frames, lawnmower, tables, housewares, clarinet books, puzzles, cookbooks, Christmas tree and decorations, desk, board games, and lots of misc.
- 302 S. BUGBEE:** Clothing adult & children's ages 6-7, toys, tools, and shelves. All in good condition! Willing to negotiate on prices!
- 720 W. 5TH ST:** Some vintage items and some old tools. A couple furniture items. Come early to look if you want. We will open at 8:00.
- 605 W. 5TH ST:** Multi family. Furniture, household items, clothing (men's, women's, kid's), and shoes. Lots of miscellaneous.
- 803 E. COOKE:** Cleaning out house of Jacquetta (Name) Owens - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Southeast corner of Clarendon at city limits. Turn east off of HWY 70 or turn south off of HWY 287.
- BURGERS!** Join us at First Assembly of God. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come enjoy a delicious burger lunch while you shop. Everyone's welcome!
- 518 S. BOND:** Household items and little girl items.
- 701 S. CARHART:** 4x4, New Maxi and Sundresses, Paparazzi Jewelry, Father's Day Resin creations. Lots of New and used items. 9am-6pm.
- YARD SALE:** Misc. Items. 1401 W. 8th Street. Low Prices!