



THE CLARENDON Enterprise

THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

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The Texas Panhandle's Oldest Newspaper

THIS WEEK

- 2 A reader appreciates a local business for standing up for the season.
- 3 The Donley County Hospital Board sets the terms of a tax abatement.
- 5 New programs are being developed at Clarendon College.
- 8 And several Lady Bulldogs are named All-Conference.

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

CC offering courses during winter session

Registration is underway for Clarendon College's 2006 Winter Session.

Courses offered during the session will be GOVT 2305 - Federal Government, HIST 1302 - U.S. History from 1877, and PHED 1304 - Healthful and Effective Living.

Registration for the classes must be complete and all fees paid no later than 4:30 p.m. Thursday, December 14. Classes will start December 12 and end January 12.

These courses are only offered online and are subject to a minimum enrollment requirement. No Financial Aid or Scholarships are available for this session.

Contact the Registrar at 874-3571 or 1-800-687-9737 for more information.

FFA Boosters to serve spaghetti December 8

The Clarendon FFA Booster Club will be sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on December 8 at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

The cost is \$5 per plate, and all proceeds go to the scholarship fund. The Broncos and Lady Broncos will play Highland Park that evening.

Santa Claus will visit children at Lowe's

Santa Claus will be visiting children at Lowe's Ace Hardware this Saturday, December 9.

The Jolly Ole Elf will be on hand from 2 to 4 p.m., and all kids are invited to come tell him their wishes for this Christmas season.

Deadline approaching for Letters to Santa

THE CLARENDON ENTERPRISE is getting ready to send its holiday issue to Santa Claus, and the deadline to have your letter turned in is fast approaching.

All letters need to be delivered to the Enterprise office at 105 S. Kearney by 5 p.m. Thursday, December 14, in order to be in the holiday issue that Santa looks for every year.

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

Letters to Santa will be printed in the December 21 edition of THE CLARENDON ENTERPRISE and its digital companion, ENTERPRISE-D.

Friday morning blaze damages garage

An early morning blaze destroyed a garage and cost a Clarendon family two vehicles and countless tools last Friday.

Dispatchers received the report of the fire at 4:35 a.m. at Fourth and Parks, and the tenants of the property learned their garage was on fire when the call went out over the scanner.

"The tones on the scanner woke me up," said Somer Ballard, who had been sleeping until that point.

Ballard said she understood that a passerby on US 287 saw the fire from the highway and made the call to 911.

Twelve firemen with the Clarendon Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment responded, according to First Assistant Chief Jeremy Powell. The department brought the blaze under control after an hour and 15 minutes in weather estimated at 17°F.

Ballard's husband, Tony, is a volunteer fireman and did the best he could to help save the garage, she said.

Powell said Monday that the official cause of the fire is still under investigation, but Ballard said that a wood burning stove in the garage is thought to have been where it started.

The Ballards lost two vehicles in the fire, one of which was very valuable.

"We lost our '99 GMC Sierra pickup that was all decked out to go to (car) shows," she said. "It had everything - the wheels, the stereo, you name it."

The couple was waiting on an insurance adjuster to look at the pickup to see what they might get for it, but the other vehicle in the garage was not insured.

"That was his old Volkswagen Tinker Toy, and I am not sorry to see it go," she said.

Ballard said she is not sure if any of her husband's tools will be salvageable, but she did say the couple did not have renter's insurance for the contents of the garage.



The toasted remains of two automobiles can be seen inside the burned out hull of a garage at Fourth and Parks last Friday.



Winter wonderland

Clarendon College sophomore Ashley McMullen of Watauga buries fellow sophomore Lezlie Lumbreras of San Antonio in the snow last Thursday on Coilege Hill after several inches blanketed the city earlier that morning. Wind blew the snow into high drifts on the college campus and around the area, causing trouble for both pedestrians and drivers.

Ashlee Estlack / CC Public Information

Aldermen okay first reading of freeze

The Clarendon Board of Aldermen took the first step in implementing a tax freeze on elderly and disabled citizens during their regular meeting November 28.

Aldermen discussed and approved the first reading of Ordinance 365, which calls for a limitation on real property ad valorem taxes on the residential homesteads of persons ages 65 and over and of disabled persons. The tax limitation would become effective January 1, 2007, and the ordinance empowers the city government to take all the necessary actions to implement the freeze.

Ordinance 365 also states that the freeze is adopted under the current state laws and any future changes in those laws would not be in effect in the city until they are adopted by future ordinance.

A final reading and a vote on passage of the ordinance will take place during the board's next regular meeting on December 14.

In other city business, aldermen unanimously voted to reappoint Mark White, Janice Knorpp, and Roger Estlack to the board of directors of the Clarendon Economic Development Corporation and also tapped Bill Stavenhagen to be a new member of that board. Stavenhagen takes the place of Will Thompson, who chose not to be reappointed.

Aldermen considered flood insurance for city wells and the city library, and the board asked for the price of such insurance to be broken down so that the county could be asked to pay one-half of the cost for the library. The city and county generally split the operating costs for the library.

Jeannie Molder updated the board on grant applications she is working on to improve City Park and possibly to build a community storm shelter.

Molder said the storm shelter application would have to be delayed until next year because of the complexity of applying for the federal grant and because there was not enough time to consult with an engineer on the building's specifications.

She also said a final determination on whether the park grant is successful or not will not be made until next August.

Late Night jackpot climbs to \$200 this Thursday

Now even more money is at stake as Late Night Shopping enters its second week in Downtown Clarendon this Thursday.

With no big money winner last week, the money has rolled over, and someone could walk away with \$200 after a lucky spin of the wheel this week.

Even though they missed the big prize, five people did go home last Thursday as winners. Those lucky people were Ashley Jack, Mark Egerton, Melissa Ballard, Darrell Durham, and Jerome Martinez.

Several merchants on Kearney Street will be staying open until 8:30 p.m. for your holiday shopping convenience, and prizes from 27 local businesses will be on the wheel in addition to the jackpot money.

The Chamber of Commerce is providing the \$100 in Christmas Cash during each Late Night Shopping through December 21. Five lucky winners will be drawn; and if no one hits the big money, the pot rolls over and will continue to do

so until the final night of Late Night Shopping when someone will win the money.

Shoppers can register from 5 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at any participating Christmas Cash merchant, and the drawing will be held at 8 p.m. You must be 18 years old to register.

That jolly ole elf - St. Nicholas - will be on the loose downtown this Thursday. Kids are encouraged to come tell him all their wishes, and parents are reminded to bring their cameras to get those memorable photos.

The Downtown Ministry Center will also be open from 6 to 8 p.m. and will serve hot chocolate and refreshments.

Late Night Shopping will continue December 14 and 21.

Holiday shopping at home is easy and affordable with all three local banks again teaming up to provide zero-percent interest "Christmas Cash" loans this year. For the 12th year, anyone can make application for a loan up to \$3,000 interest free





Lucky wheel spinner winners last Thursday were Darrell Durham, Melissa Ballard, Mark Egerton, Ashley Jack, and Jerome Martinez.


with Community Bank, the Donley County State Bank, or Herring Bank.

Christmas Cash may be spent like US currency toward new purchases of products and services (excluding Lottery tickets, gasoline, and tobacco products) at all of the participating businesses.

Support your local merchants this holiday season, and watch for their Christmas specials and holiday hours in the pages of the ENTERPRISE.








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Open Display rates are \$4.50 per SAU column inch. Classified Ads are \$7 for the first 15 words and 12¢ per word for each additional word.

DEADLINES

News articles and pictures are due by Monday at noon. Advertising should be submitted by five o'clock Monday afternoon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are available for \$20 for zip codes inside Donley County, \$30 elsewhere in Texas, \$35 out of state, and \$45 in Canada.

LETTERS

Letters to the editor are always 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.

The Texas Panhandle's First Newspaper

THE CLARENDON NEWS, established June 1, 1873 with which have merged: The Clarendon Traveler, February 1899; The Clarendon Journal, November 1891; The Banner-Stockman, October 1893; The Agitator, February 1899; The Clarendon Times, May 1908; The Donley County Leader, March 11, 1929; The Clarendon Press, May 18, 1972; and The Clarendon Enterprise, March 14, 1996.

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guest commentary

Social Security reform not just about solvency

By Michael D. Tanner

Now that the elections are over, Democrats are suggesting a new willingness to address the need for Social Security reform.

"All options are on the table," according to House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., including tax increases, benefit cuts and changes in the retirement age.

Well, maybe not all options. Democrats remain unwilling to even discuss President Bush's plan for allowing younger workers to privately invest a portion of their Social Security taxes through personal accounts.

Baucus and Hoyer should be commended for their willingness to take up the contentious issue of Social Security reform, especially since most Democrats have spent the last two years denying that there was any Social Security crisis.

And they have the honesty to admit that any reform in the absence of private investment is likely to involve either new taxes, benefit cuts or both.

The need for Social Security reform is obvious. Social Security will begin running a deficit in just 11 years.

Of course, in theory, the Social Security Trust Fund will pay benefits until 2040. But the Trust Fund contains no actual assets. The government bonds it holds are simply a form of IOU, a measure of how much money the government owes the system.

Even if Congress can find a way to redeem the bonds, the Trust Fund surplus will be completely exhausted by 2040.

At that point, Social Security will have to rely solely on revenue from the payroll tax, and that revenue will not be sufficient to pay all promised benefits.

According to Social Security's trustees, the system's unfunded liabilities - the amount it has promised beyond what it can actually pay - now total \$15.3 trillion.

Still, while solvency is important, the goal of Social Security reform should be more than just balancing the books.

We should try to provide workers with the best possible retirement options, and that involves giving them more control and ownership of their retirement funds.

Social Security taxes are already so high relative to benefits that Social Security has quite simply become a bad deal for younger workers, providing a low, below-market rate of return. In fact, many young workers will end up paying more in taxes than they receive in benefits.

They will actually lose money under the program. While the tax increases and benefit cuts envisioned by Hoyer and Baucus would restore Social Security to solvency, they would also make Social Security an even worse deal for younger workers, who would end up paying more and receiving less.

But the single most important problem with the current Social Security system remains that workers have no ownership of their benefits.

This means that workers are left totally dependent on the goodwill of 535 politicians to determine what they will receive in retirement.

This lack of property rights also translates to poorer bequests. Since workers do not own the money they pay in Social Security taxes, they are unable to pass their inherited retirement savings on to their heirs.

No matter how much a worker has paid in Social Security taxes, his benefits are reduced at death and then expire with the spouse. The only way to address all of Social Security's problems is to allow workers to own, control, and invest at least a portion of their Social Security taxes.

It is, after all, their money. President Bush should make it clear that he is willing to work with Democrats to achieve a bipartisan deal on Social Security reform, as long as all options are truly on the table.

All options includes personal accounts.

Michael Tanner is director of health and welfare studies at the Cato Institute and editor of Social Security and Its Discontents (2004).



Citizens must step up to prevent fires

By US Sen. John Cornyn

Wildfires are always a concern in rural Texas; but these days, fire threatens life and property throughout our state. While weather-related fires are largely out of our control, there is much that individuals can do to protect themselves, their neighbors, and the Texas landscape.

We have just endured the most damaging and prolific wildfire season in Texas history, and more fire-related deaths have been reported this year than in any other on record: between January 2005 and September 2006, 19 Texans died in a record 31,000 wildfires that burned upwards of 700 homes and 2.2 million acres.

Fires in these last 18 months have cost property owners some \$628 million in damage. The burden of containment usually falls on local firefighters backed by state crews, but recently we've needed outside help. Last year, nearly 4,000 firefighting personnel and 500 pieces of equipment from all 50 states were called on for assistance.

Our situation is so dramatic that The Weather Channel sent a TV crew to Texas last April to document the wildfire epidemic for its program, "Storm Stories: The Worst of Nature - The Best of Man."

The TV crew arrived a month after a wildfire packing 50-foot flames claimed 11 lives and burned an estimated 850,000 acres in the Texas Panhandle. The blaze ignited when electrical lines snapped in wind gusts of 50-60 mph.

Our increasing state population is a central focus as the incidence of wildfires

increases. New housing subdivisions are being developed right next to rural grasslands, and we're using larger areas of fire-prone vegetation, which further contributes to the problem.

For example, residents of Cross Plains last year found themselves in the path of a massive wildfire. The source of the blaze is undetermined, but investigators did establish that it began on the "roadside."

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) at Texas A&M University has identified more than 14,500 communities in every area of the state that are at risk for wildfire damage. In fact, 85 percent of wildfires occur less than two miles from a community.

But the primary reason for the increased incidence of wildfires is likely due to changing weather patterns, and Texas A&M researchers say we're well into a drought that could potentially last two to three decades.

Several years ago, analyzing weather data from the last 100 years, the Forest Service identified a distinctive cycle of wet and dry periods, each lasting some 25-30 years. Three separate drought periods of this duration occurred, with the last ending in the late 1970s.

Then a relatively wet period followed. We entered the current drought period in 1996, and we can expect it to last at least 15 more years, the A&M research indicates. Even with rain, we can expect sustained increases in the number and severity of wildfires over that period.

Public resources devoted to firefight-

ing have not kept up with the increasing threat. State and local authorities need more manpower and more equipment. Forestry authorities will be seeking additional funding in the next state legislative session.

"By making a moderate investment up front - instead of after Texas starts burning - to reduce the factors which cause wildfires, the lives and properties of Texans can be protected and saved from catastrophic loss," says James B. Hull, who doubles as State Forester and director of the TFS.

Individuals play a major role. Remember "Only you can prevent forest fires"? It's not that different with wildfires in Texas. The Forest Service recommends:

Watch for burn bans in your county. Updated lists may be found at the Texas Wildfire Information page found at the website http://tfsnews.tamu.edu;

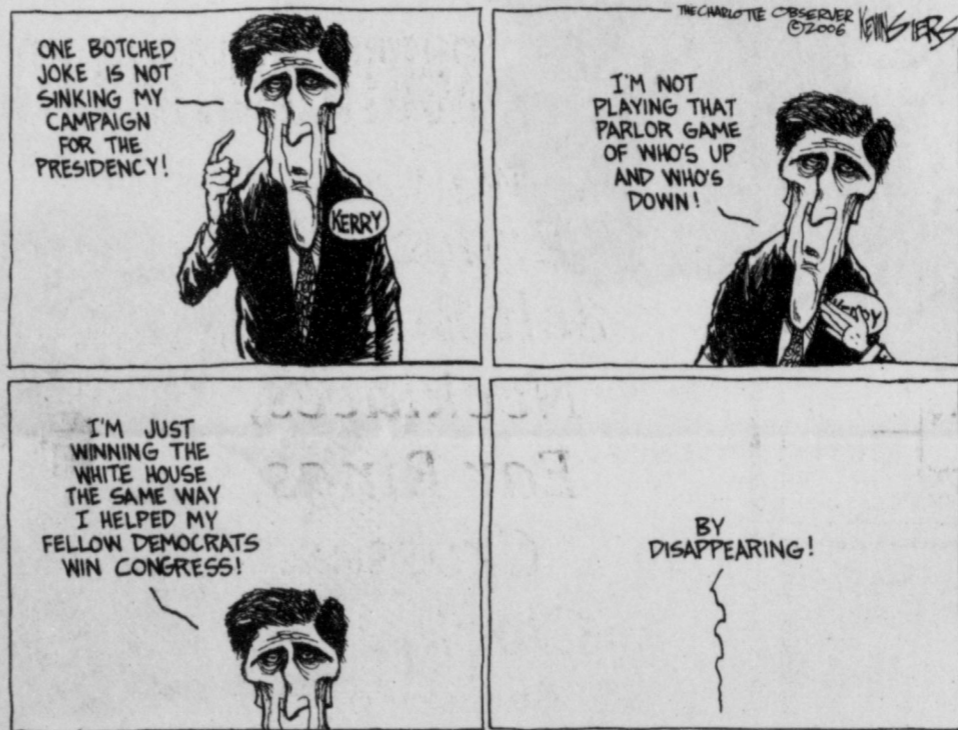
Don't throw cigarettes out of your car windows;

Avoid parking or driving where dry grass and weeds can come into contact with the hot pollution control equipment under your vehicle;

Before burning household trash, brush piles or other debris, establish firebreaks down to bare soil around the intended fire site, including burn barrels; and

Keep fires small and extinguish them cold to the touch before leaving them unattended.

Experts say that with care, and proper planning, some 90 percent of wildfires can be prevented. We should all do our part to protect the beauty, the property, and - most importantly - the lives of those in Texas.



Medicare Part D saves money and lives

A government program that exceeds customer expectations while generating cost savings is rare indeed. The Medicare prescription drug benefit, or Part D, is one of those programs. Last January, Medicare began offering a prescription drug insurance program, and over 22 million seniors, including over two million Texans, have enrolled in Medicare Part D.

Private research and development by the pharmaceutical industry is revolutionizing medical care, as ailments are increasingly treated with medications instead of operations. By investing millions of dollars in the development of new medicines and therapies, manufacturers continue to introduce breakthrough treatments. Competing market forces keep the costs of these products down, and consequently, millions of Americans benefit from disease prevention and reduced recovery periods.

It is imperative for those who rely on Medicare to have access to affordable prescription drugs. When Congress first passed the law creating the drug benefit, estimates projected that seniors would pay an average monthly premium of \$37. Instead, the average premium is \$24, and there is no expected change for 2007. Statistics show enrollees have saved an average of \$1,200 this year on their prescription drug costs. Not surprisingly, a

survey of current enrollees revealed that more than 80 percent are satisfied with their plans.

The program is also costing the government much less than originally estimated. Medicare recently reported a \$200 billion reduction in projected outlays over the next decade. Allowing insurance companies that offer prescription drug plans to negotiate with drug manufacturers provides significant savings - nearly \$7 billion this year alone. Lower-than-expected drug price growth has resulted in an additional \$3.7 billion in savings. With lower prices for consumers, the program is an example of a successful partnership between the public and private sector.

Currently, Medicare Part D has a window for enrolling in or changing plans this year. Open enrollment is available until December 31, which provides an opportunity for new Medicare beneficiaries to take advantage of this valuable benefit and avoid paying a penalty in the future, or for current beneficiaries to change to a new plan to fit their needs. Those satisfied with their coverage do not have to do anything to maintain their current plan. Everyone with Medicare is eligible for this coverage, regardless of income and resources, health status, or current prescription expenses.



capitol comment

by sen. kay bailey hutchison

Competition among private insurers also leads to comprehensive prescription drug plans for beneficiaries. For those looking to switch plans, there are additional choices for coverage in 2007. In Texas, Medicare recipients can now choose from 60 prescription drug plans, up from 47 in 2006. More plans are also offering coverage for the period between a drug plan's standard level of coverage and the catastrophic coverage level, also known as the doughnut hole. In 2006 most seniors participating in Part D had the opportunity to choose from six plans offering full or partial coverage of the gap. The number of plans offering gap coverage in 2007 has increased to 17.

Prices for prescription drugs are also declining - especially for generics. Several retail chains have recently introduced \$4 monthly generic prescriptions for over 300 drugs in their pharmacies across the United States.

I will continue working with my colleagues in the Senate to improve the Medicare program for all seniors and, most importantly, educating them on how to utilize the benefits it offers. With lower prices for brand-name drugs, proliferation of generic drugs, and more competition between private drug plans, benefits are enjoyed by both customers and taxpayers.

Please consult the website www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE for more information about the program.

Reader recognizes local store for breaking trend

I would like to express my thanks to Lowe's Ace Hardware for displaying the large "Merry Christmas" sign on the outside of their store.

It is good to know that not everyone

is giving in to the pressure to take "Christ" out of everything we say and do. This country was founded on Christian values, and I think it is time more of us made our opinions known before we lose the right to

express them. So once again, thank you, Ace Hardware; and merry Christmas to all.

Cheryl Phillips, Clarendon

TxDOT to replace culverts on US 287

CHILDRESS - The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) held a pre-construction meeting on Wednesday, November 29, at the Donley County Maintenance Office near Clarendon to discuss a project to install new safety end treatments (culverts) on US 287 from Hedley to the Armstrong County line.

The contractor for this \$1.1 million project is J. Lee Milligan of Amarillo, TX. The length of this project is 27.3 miles long with 168 working days scheduled with weather permitting.

The contractor will install safety end treatments along the route - replacing the upright concrete headwalls with sloping headwalls and covering the openings with steel pipe runners that allow water to run

freely, but enable a vehicle to cross the opening without plunging into the mouth of the culvert.

"Drivers who run off the road and live to tell the story may owe their lives to safety features like this", said Tracy Cain, Wellington Area Engineer. "Safety is our primary concern, and this feature will be much safer in run off the road accidents."

The project superintendent for J. Lee Milligan is Lester Shaver, and Darl Eigenmann is the chief inspector for TxDOT.

There will be no lane closures during the duration of this project.

"The contractor will need to cone off the shoulders in a few places. Otherwise this project will not affect the traveling public," Cain said.

For more information, call Barbara Seal at (940) 937-7145.

Hospital board sets Sonic abatement terms

The Donley County Hospital Board set the terms of a tax abatement for Clarendon's Sonic Drive-In during a called meeting December 1.

After considering what abatements the hospital district had given in the past, the board unanimously approved a motion to grant a five-year abatement at 50 percent for three years and 25 percent for two

years.

The board previously approved granting the abatement by a 4-3 vote during their November 21 meeting.

Also at last Friday's meeting, the board considered bids for certificates of deposit and voted to purchase two CDs in the amounts of \$100,000 and \$35,000 from Herring Bank at a rate of 5.15 percent.

Clarendon EDC Board elects new officers

The Clarendon Economic Development Corporation Board elected new officers during its regular meeting December 4 in City Hall.

Myles Shelton was named as the board's new president, and Steve Hall was selected for the position of vice president. Roger Estlack and Sherol Johnston were re-elected to their positions as the board's secretary and

treasurer.

In other CEDC business, the board approved sponsoring the Greenbelt Holiday Classic tournament and received an update on tax abatement applications. The board also discussed a letter to be sent to the publisher of the book *Romancing the Panhandle*, concerning the CEDC's sponsorship of the book.

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Spaghetti Dinner
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FFA Booster Club
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December 8 at 5 p.m.
\$5.00 Per Plate
 All Proceeds Go
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weather report

Day	Date	High	Low	Prec.
Mon	27	61°	45°	-
Tues	28	70°	40°	.02"
Wed	29	69°	31°	-
Thur	30	39°	19°	.14"
Fri	1	28°	9°	-
Sat	2	45°	18°	-
Sun	3	42°	20°	-

Total precipitation this month: .00"
 Total precipitation to date: 18.11"
 Total precipitation in Dec. last year: .08
 Total YTD last year: 17.37"

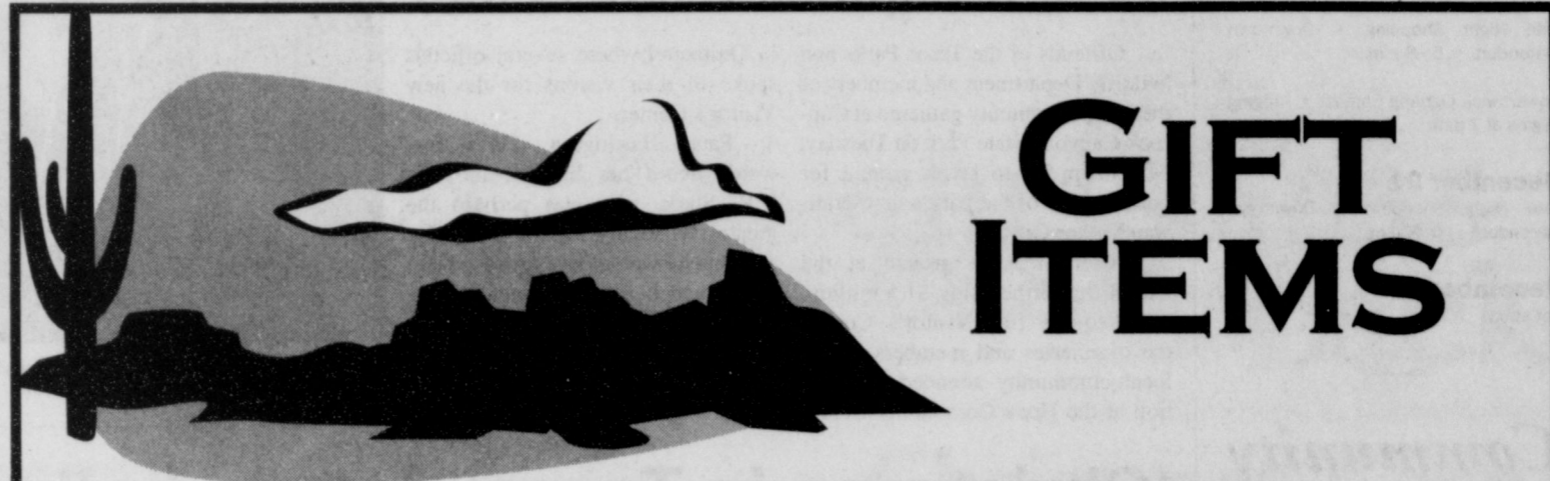
weekend forecast

Friday, Dec. 8
 Mostly Sunny
 53°/27°

Saturday, Dec. 9
 Partly Cloudy
 52°/30°

Sunday, Dec. 10
 Partly Cloudy
 50°/31°

Information provided by: Tommie C. Saxe
 50 yr. Cooperative Observer, National Weather Service



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¿Qué Pasa?
Your guide to "what's happening" around Donley County.

December 7
Late Night Shopping • Downtown Clarendon • 5-8 p.m.

December 8
FFA Boosters Spaghetti Supper • Clarendon School Cafeteria • 5 p.m.

CC Nursing Graduation • Harned Sisters Fine Arts Auditorium • 7 p.m.

December 8-9
CHS Play "Dearly Departed" • CHS Auditorium • 7:30 p.m.

December 9
Area Red Hatters Meeting • Clarendon Country Club • 11:30 a.m.

December 10
CHS Play "Dearly Departed" • CHS Auditorium • 3 p.m.

December 14
Santa Letters Deadline • 5 p.m.

Late Night Shopping • Downtown Clarendon • 5-8 p.m.

Howardwick Lighting Contest • Judging begins at 7 p.m.

December 21
Late Night Shopping • Downtown Clarendon • 5-8 p.m.

December 25
Christmas

Community Menus
December 11-15

Donley County Senior Citizens
Mon: BBQ chicken, baked beans, onion rings, potato salad, cherry pie, bread, coffee, tea, lowfat milk
Tue: Mexican pile-on, rice, pinto beans, tossed salad, banana pudding, chips & salsa, coffee, tea, lowfat milk
Wed: Chicken stew, cheese sticks, macaroni salad, cranberry bread, crackers, coffee, tea, lowfat milk
Thu: Steakfingers/gravy, au gratin potatoes, green beans, mixed fruit, oat milk cake, biscuits, coffee, tea, lowfat milk
Fri: Roast beef/brown gravy, carrots, potatoes, onions, apricot salad, cookies, rolls, coffee, tea, lowfat milk

Hedley Senior Citizens
Mon: Spaghetti & meat sauce, fried okra, tossed salad, brownie, garlic bread
Tue: Steak and gravy, mashed potatoes, steamed broccoli, Waldorf salad, bread pudding, roll
Wed: Chicken pot pie, fried okra, pickled beets, banana pudding, corn bread
Thu: Mexican pile-on, Spanish rice, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, apple, chips and crackers
Fri: Turkey and dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, pumpkin pie, roll

Clarendon ISD
Breakfast
Mon: Cereal, toast, fruit mix, milk
Tue: Sausage, biscuit, peaches, milk
Wed: Pancakes, juice, milk
Thu: Eggs, toast, fruit, milk
Fri: Homemade cinnamon rolls, juice, milk
Lunch
Mon: Chicken nuggets, beans, salad, fruit milk
Tue: Spaghetti, corn, salad, pears, milk
Wed: Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, fruit, milk
Thu: Enchiladas casserole, pinto beans, salad, pineapple, milk
Fri: Hotdogs, fries, salad, banana, milk

Hedley ISD
Mon: Baked potatoes, sliced ham & cheese, salad, fruit, Texas toast, milk
Tue: Steak fingers, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli and cheese, salad, fruit, rolls, milk, juice
Wed: Burrito or corn dog, corn, fruit, salad, juice, milk
Thu: Cowboy nachos w/rice and beans, salsa & salad, fruit, milk, juice
Fri: Chicken on a bun, tater tots, salad, fruit, milk

Red Hatters to invade Howardwick Dec. 9

The weather was crisp and cold Sunday evening for the lighting in the park, but Bro. Dave Stout kept his promise and the program was short. After reading the Christmas story, a song led by Dianna Knight, and the lights turned on by Jim Cockerham, everyone came to City Hall to enjoy hot cocoa and cookies. Dianna Knight led in singing Christmas carols, and everyone seemed in a festive mood. We welcomed new residents Rob and Brenda Donaldson and Steve and Heidi Phelps and hope to see them again soon. We invite everyone to come to Howardwick and see our park display again this year.

As a member of the Twilight Red Hatters, I feel I should warn residents

of Howardwick we are being invaded Saturday as 80 Red Hatters come to the Country Club for a Christmas party. They are coming from Canadian, Wheeler, Mobeetie, Wellington, Memphis, Pampa, Groom, and Fritch as well as both clubs in Clarendon; so be on the watch for Red Hats and give them a friendly hello.

Our condolences to Patrick and Rachel Green on the loss of their daughter, Laura Ann, who died November 27. She leaves behind two brothers, David and Robert, who are students in Clarendon schools.

Also to the family of Shin Maxey who passed away Sunday in Amarillo. Shin and Lena Maxey moved to Amarillo from Howardwick a year or so ago because of failing health.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Howardwick Baptist Church. Please keep both families on the prayer list.

When you hear the phrase "Remember Pearl Harbor," what do you think about? I was four years old, living on the ranch at Antelope Flats; and the nearest neighbor was five miles away. We had a radio, but I don't remember my parents discussing the event at the time. I just remember how it changed my life.



'wick picks
by Peggy Cockerham
Howardwick • 874-2886

We had fewer cowboys. The army confiscated some of the horses, and then came the rationing and the victory gardens.

We later moved closer to civilization outside Estelline but still on the ranch; and with that move, the realization of the war began to sink in.

On December 7, reflect on the phrase and decide what it means to you. Is it simply remembering the people that were killed that day or is the meaning deeper: Beware of danger and deceit. Our country is at a turning point, and I hope we don't have another "Remember" day.

You have another week or so to get your lights up for the contest December 14.

CHS actors to perform comedy this weekend
Clarendon High School will present its fall production, "Dearly Departed" December 8 and 9, at 7:30 p.m. and December 10 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Come out and support the CHS Drama Department by attending the rip roaring comedy, "Dearly Departed".

Museum officials name party jackpot winners
The annual Saints' Roost Museum Christmas Party was split five ways Saturday. The \$5,000 jackpot was divided between Roger and Ashlee Estlack, Monty and Melody Hysinger, Sherrie Rippetoe, Faylon and Nancy Watson, and Don Hinton/Tammy Johnston.

TPWD officials break ground for new Caprock visitor center

Officials of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and members of the local community gathered at Caprock Canyons State Park on Tuesday, November 28, to break ground for construction of the park's new Trailway Visitor Center.

After breaking ground at the site of the forthcoming \$1.5 million, 4,400-square foot Visitor's Center, the dignitaries and members of the local community attended a reception at the Hope Community Center

in Quitaque, where several officials spoke of their visions for the new Visitor's Center.

Patsy Harrington said a few words about her brother, the late O.R. Stark, who was perhaps the greatest visionary for the park. She said that he would have loved to be in attendance, but that she knew he was there "in spirit."

The Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway Visitor Center is slated for opening in the fall of 2007.



Caprock Canyons State Park dignitaries break ground for a new visitors center last week.

Angel Tree angels ready to be selected at PCS
Local residents can choose an angel from the Panhandle Community Services Angel Tree Project now through December 15.

Get a gift for an angel, or donations will also be accepted to help with the purchase of gifts.

Immunization clinic set
The Texas Department of State Health Services will hold an immunization clinic December 12 in Clarendon from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. and from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the TDSHS office at 5 Medical Drive.

'Christmas in Texas' details holiday's Lone Star history

Is Christmas a relatively new Texas celebration? According to Elizabeth Silverthorne's *Christmas In Texas*, Texas Indians were introduced to Christmas pageantry as early as 1599.

During the 1800's, Anglo-Americans' main concern was survival. However, when possible, they held Christmas religious observances followed by community parties. "These newcomers gave Texas geography a Yuletide touch." Seven towns were named Bethlehem. New Year Creek in Washington County, Christmas Mountain in Big Bend area, Egg Nog Stream in San Augustine County, and Christmas Creek in Limestone County also reflect early-unknown travelers' Christmas awareness.

Protestant churches could not be

organized in Texas under Mexican law. Therefore, Christmas celebrations followed Catholic tradition. By 1836, Texas' Independence year, citizens were free to celebrate the holiday season with any kind of religious or secular ceremony desired. Festivities lasted from Christmas Eve through New Year's Day with turkey shoots, exuberant dinners, dances, and parties. Few German immigrants had Christmas trees in their homes. Santa and reindeer were not yet well known. The Christmas tree was introduced in to the White House by President Franklin Pierce in 1856. By 1880, trees were the "rage".

As Texas developed, so did Christmas traditions. Different cultures contributed aspects of food, parades, decorations, fashions, and

cooking. The wealthy displayed elaborate decorations, giving their children china dolls and fancy rocking horses. The less wealthy decorated with berries, moss, cotton, colored cloth, popcorn, and red pepper garlands. Dolls of rags and corn shucks, handmade toy wagons, willow whistles, socks with nuts and fruit, and sometimes, a dime in the toe provided more gifts.

"By 1864, homemade clothing, food, drink, and gifts were essential. Gold was \$5,000 a pound; flour \$600 a barrel; sugar \$2 an ounce; butter



check it out
by Mary Beth Nelson

\$40 a pound; firecrackers \$5 a pack; and real tea \$100 a pound. Merchants had little of anything to sell. For what they did have, they refused to accept worthless confederate money, insisting on gold or silver."

The Civil War ended before the 1865 holiday season. Merchants advertised supplies of "candy, raisins, whiskey, tobacco, coffee, and dry goods in time for Christmas. A sad postscript to the horrors of war were advertisements for "metallic artificial legs for \$100 to \$125, cheaper and more lasting than wooden legs."

With the coming of the railroad, 1871 provided more available goods. Newspaper advertisements categorized Christmas celebrations under titles, "List of Church Activities" and "Christmas Doings in Saloons."

German, Jewish, Italian, Poles, and French in Texas celebrated their own traditional rituals. Traditions of other heritages brought to Texas by Scandinavians, British, Czechs, African-American, and Wendish will also interest readers.

Typical Christmas cards and wonderful recipes from various cultures contribute additional interest to this outstanding book. Why not include a delicious dish from another culture with your own traditional Panhandle holiday dinner?

Christmas In Texas offers historical insight to integrated cultures, which have contributed to our state's greatness. Why not check it out?

At this time, Burton Memorial Library extends best wishes for a continued happy holiday season.

Obituaries

Monroe
Lila Kate Monroe, 19 months, died Friday, December 1, 2006, in Amarillo.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2006, in the First United Methodist Church in Clarendon with Rev. Tom Garmon, Pastor, officiating. Burial was in Rowe Cemetery in Hedley. Services were under the direction of Robertson Funeral Directors, Inc., of Clarendon.

Lila Kate was born April 11, 2005 in Childress to Troy and Katherine Hoobler Monroe. She had been a resident of Hedley since birth. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Clarendon.



Monroe

Survivors include her parents, Troy and Katherine Monroe of Hedley; maternal grandparents, Tom and Lila Hoobler of Childress; paternal grandparents, Edgar W. and Sandra Monroe of Hedley; Maternal great-grandmother, Flossie Holman of Childress; two sisters, Devon Monroe of Mangum, OK, and Kylie Monroe of Hedley; and four brothers, Paul Monroe, William Monroe, Caylor Monroe, and Collin Monroe all of Hedley; several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The family requests memorials be made to Lila Kate's Fund for Children's Ministries / c/o First United Methodist Church / PO Box 157 / Clarendon, Texas 79226-0157, or to the Donley County State Bank, Clarendon.

Grady
Ralph Burk Grady Jr., 87, died Sunday, December 3, 2006, in Memphis.

Graveside services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, in Citizens Cemetery with Rev. Eddie Helms, Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Wellington, and Rev. Bill Hodges, Pastor of the Clarendon Church of the Nazarene, officiating. Services were under the direction of Robertson Funeral Directors, Inc., of Clarendon.

Mr. Grady was born February 18, 1919, in Donley County to Ralph Burk Grady Sr. and Roberta Eldridge Grady. He had lived in Hall County most of his life before moving to Clarendon in 2001. He married Jo Ann Ritter on January 17, 1954, at Clovis, New Mexico. She preceded him in death on January 26, 1992. He then married Dorothy Irene Boswell Helms on January 3, 1993 at Clarendon. He was a US Army veteran of World War II and a member of the VFW. He had been a farmer and rancher most of his life. He was a member of the Clarendon Church of the Nazarene.

Mr. Grady was preceded in death by his first wife, his parents, 5 sisters, and 1 brother.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Grady of Clarendon; 2 daughters, Connie Pitts of Grandview, TX, Missy Kidd of Clarendon; 2 sons, Mickey Joe Grady and Ike O'Neal both of Clarendon; 9 grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren.

Green
Laura Ann Green, 13, died Monday, November 27, 2006, in Amarillo.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, December 4, 2006, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum Chapel in Amarillo with Daniel Shaeffer officiating. Burial

was in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Amarillo. Services were under the direction of Blackburn-Shaw Memorial Chapel, 5th and Pierce.

Laura was born in Amarillo and had lived here all of her life. She was a "Gift from God". The family wishes to express their special thanks to the medical staff at Northwest Texas Hospital and to Dr. Veggeberg for the special care given to our special Angel and to Blackburn-Shaw for their gracious help with Laura's funeral.

Survivors include her parents, Patrick and Rachel Green of Howardwick; two brothers, David and Robert Green of Howardwick; grandparents, Lonney and Diana Castleberry of Amarillo; Benjamin Reed; aunts, uncles, and many other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations to defray the funeral cost be made to Blackburn-Shaw Memorial Chapel, P.O. Box 2247, Amarillo, Texas 79105.



Green

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Clarendon slams Hedley Owls, 79-49

By Sandy Anderberg

The Broncos played great basketball to get a big win from cross-county rival Hedley on the road Tuesday, November 28.

After a fairly close first quarter, the Broncos opened up the scoring in the next three to take a huge lead and get the win. Nine Broncos broke into the scoring column with four of them in double figures.

"We keep getting better, but we must improve on defense," Coach Colby Waldrop said.

Scoring for Clarendon: T.J. Brown 21, Danzel Wilson 12, LaDez Captain 11, Alton Gaines 10, Dalton Askew 6, Brad Sell 5, David Gordon

4, Aaron Gordon 3, Nathan Gribble 2, and Derrick Shelton 2 points plus 5 rebounds.

Scoring for Hedley: Andy Alston 14, Will Verstuyft 12, Brandon Montgomery 6, Dustin Thomas 6, Isaias Ramirez 5, Peter Howard 4, and Tyler Pepper 2.

The Broncos also participated in the Nazareth Tournament and finished with one win and two losses. On Friday, December 1, the Broncos took on Dalhart and lost a close game at 52-58.

Scoring: Brown 17, Captain 8, Gaines 8, Sell 4, D. Gordon 4, Wilson 4, A. Gordon 3, Gribble 2, and Shelton 2.

The Broncos played Dimmitt next and turned in a great game as they won 59-53. The guys stayed strong the first half but broke the game open in the last half of the game. They outplayed their opponent and it showed on the scoreboard. Senior LaDez Captain turned in a great double-double with 27 points and 22 rebounds.

"It was a great second half. We held Dimmitt to 19 second half points, and we scored 32."

Scoring: Captain 27 and 22 rebounds, Wilson 9, Brown 7, Gribble 5, Gaines 4, A. Gordon 2, D. Gordon 2, Shelton 2 and Sell 1.

The Broncos had to return to the

tournament at 8:30 the next morning to go up against Lipan. Despite playing hard, the Broncos came up short at 36-50. The Broncos only posted two points in the second period of play which proved to be detrimental in their quest to defeat Lipan.

"A slow start hurt us in this game," Waldrop said. "The competition is great and will only make us better."

Scoring: Captain 14, Brown 10, Sell 4, Gaines 4, and Wilson 4.

The Broncos will play Highland Park December 8 at home at 8:00 p.m. and will travel to Wellington December 12. They will play at home December 15 against River Road.

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SEAL THAT CHIP BEFORE IT SPLITS!

Lady Broncos beat Hedley

By Sandy Anderberg

The Lady Broncos stayed with it and finally gained the slight advantage over the Hedley Lady Owls in their 53-52 win on the road last Tuesday night.

The back and forth game ended in the favor of the Lady Broncos, who were glad for the win. Clarendon held a four-point advantage in the first period of play, and that was the biggest gap of the evening in the tightly contested match up. Two players were in double figures, and the team finished at 65 percent from the free throw line.

Scoring for Clarendon: Jessi Howard 17, Macy Shadle 14, Haley Carter 9, Sade Cobb 6, and Regan Lemley 5.

Scoring for Hedley: Haley Hall 19, Jaci Copelin 14, Ruth Howard 7, Kelby Shields 5, Katie Gregory 3, Elizabeth Garcia 2, Julie Woodard 2.

On Friday and Saturday the ladies participated in the Nazareth Tournament and drew Sunray in the first round. The game went down to the wire, and in the end the Lady Broncos lost by one point at 41-42.

Scoring: Cobb 13, Howard 8, Lemley 6, Shadle 5, Carter 4, Jill Cornell 3, and Abbie Massingill 2.

The Lady Broncos faced Dimmitt in the next round; and after an overtime battle, Clarendon defeated them 73-70. The Lady Broncos led by three points at the end of the third period, but Dimmitt was able to close the gap to send the game into OT. The girls stepped up their game and grabbed the win.

Senior standout Jessi Howard put in 33 points with Lemley and Shadle in double figures as well.

Scoring: Howard 33, Lemley 17, Shadle 11, Cornell 6, and Cobb 6.

Clarendon battled Abernathy in the next round and took the 51-60 loss despite playing hard. The Lady Broncos led after the first period but were outscored in the second quarter. They could never make up the difference and took the nine-point loss.

Scoring: Lemley 19, Howard 13, Carter 9, Shadle 7, Massingill 2, and Cobb 1.

The Lady Broncos will play Highland Park at home December 8 and travel to Wellington December 12. Both games will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Broncos receive all-district honors

By Sandy Anderberg

Athletic Director Gary Jack has announced the selections to the 1-3A All-District Football Team for 2006.

Senior Brad Sell was on the offensive team as a running back and to the defensive team as a linebacker. Senior David Gordon was named offensively as a tight end and defensively as a defensive back; and John Vaught, senior, was named to the offensive line and as a defensive end. Also named as a defensive lineman was Devin Noble.

On the second team offense were Derrick Shelton as a lineman, Aaron Gordon as a wide receiver, and Devin Noble as a punter. Shelton was also named to the second team defense as a defensive end.

Honorable mentions went to offensive players Wes Christopher, Nathan Gribble, Alton Gaines, Lance Ford, Devin Noble, and Scott Fowler. Honorable mentions defensively were Wes Christopher, Nathan Gribble, Alton Gaines, and Tyler Drackley.

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Bronco & Lady Bronco Basketball

Lady Broncos

10 Jessi Howard	Sr.
11 Jill Cornell	Jr.
12 Shelby Watson	Sr.
20 Abbie Massingill	Soph.
23 Reagan Lemley	Sr.
24 Sade Cobb	Jr.
25 Macy Shadle	Soph.
33 Haley Carter	Sr.
50 Katie Askew	Sr.

Head Coach: Steve Myatt
Assistants: Kasey Bell & Alton Gains
Managers: Jeremy Jeffers, Casey Phillips, and Mariah Benavidez

The Bronco roster was not available for press this week.

Friday, December 8
Lady Broncos V. Highland Park in Clarendon, 5:00 p.m.
Broncos v. Highland Park in Clarendon, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 12
Lady Broncos V. Wellington in Wellington, 5:00 p.m.
Broncos v. Wellington in Wellington, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, December 15
Broncos v. River Road in Clarendon, 7:30 p.m.

These businesses proudly support the Broncos on their way to victory.

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All-Conference team includes names of several Lady Bulldogs

By Sandy Anderberg

Several Lady Bulldog volleyball players were named to the Western Junior College Athletic Conference All-Conference Volleyball Team, according to head coach Jonea Rima.

First Team All-Conference honors went to Thonya Joseph, a freshman from Bridgetown, Barbados, and Roni Mendoza a freshman from Odessa.

Honorable mention selections went to Ashley McMullen, a sopho-

more from Watauga, and to Keila Ah Mow, a freshman from Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Region V Selections were Thonya Joseph and Roni Mendoza. Also named to the Region V All-Tournament Team was Thonya Joseph.

The Region V Tournament was held at Clarendon College and hosted by the Lady Bulldogs November 10.

Congratulations to all of those named to the All-Conference and All-Region teams!

Lady Bronco JV wins title

The Lady Bronco junior varsity pushed easily through three games to take the top spot at the Highland Park JV Tournament in Amarillo. They defeated Claude, River Road, and Bushland to earn the title.

The final score of the Claude game was 32-25. The Ladies began the game with a slight edge, but let the Lady Mustangs back into the game before the break to trail by two points. A great offensive third and fourth quarter allowed the Lady Broncos to re-take control and get the win.

Scoring: Erin Holland 8, Janae White 8, Abby Patten 5, Deidre Lewis 5, Haleigh Lewis 3, Bailey Starnes 2, and Jenci White 1.

The Lady Broncos also faced off against River Road and handily defeated them 39-14. Clarendon jumped out to take a six-point lead in the first quarter and shut the Lady Cats down in the second period to go up by 16 points. Offensively, the ladies dominated the game and took care of their opponent defensively by holding them to under 15 points.

Scoring: H. Lewis 10, Starnes 7, Holland 6, Patten 6, D. Lewis 6, Janae White 2, Hysinger 1, and Cortnee Thornberry 1.

The ladies matched up against Bushland in the final game and easily defeated them 45-33. A great second half surge gave the ladies the spark they needed after battling in the first half of play.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Broncos cleaned up on Hedley 27-13 on the road. The Lady Broncos held the Lady Owls scoreless in the first quarter and took a commanding 18-9 lead at the break. Patten turned in nine points, and Starnes had six to help the Lady Broncos get the win.

Scoring for Clarendon: Patten 9, Starnes 6, Janae White 4, Deidre Lewis 4, Haleigh Lewis 2, and Hysinger 2.

Scoring for Hedley: Betty Cruz 9, Marlee Sargent 3, and Kailee Burton 1.

The Lady Broncos will participate in the White Deer Tournament December 7 and 9 and play Highland Park at home Friday, December 8 beginning at 5:00 pm. They will travel to Wellington December 12.

Bronco JV stops Owls

The Bronco junior varsity cleaned up at Hedley Tuesday, November 28, with a 10-point win at 32-22.

The Owls hit quickly and held a slight advantage at the end of the first period, but the Broncos persevered and came back to even the score at 17 all before the break.

The Broncos outplayed their opponent to go up by six with only one quarter remaining. They continued to build on that difference and earned the win.

Scoring for Clarendon: Tré Brown 12, Stephino McCampbell 6, Chris Herndon 5, Johny Ballard 4, Ryan Hill 3, Glen Weatheron 1, and Dustin Ford 1.

Scoring for Hedley: Archie Sharp 13, Seth Altman 2, and Dustin Watson 7.

The Broncos also participated in the Highland Park Tournament held in Amarillo December 1-2. They went up against Claude in the first round and were defeated 15-29.

Scoring: McCampbell 5, Ballard 4, Ford 4, and Herndon 2.

The Broncos took on the Claude Freshman in the next round and finished

with better results as they defeated them 56-17. Great offensive hustle was the key in their win.

Scoring: Ballard 14, Ford 11, Billy Ceniceros 11, McCampbell 9, Keifer Burton 6, Hill 3, and Herndon 2.

The last game of the tournament was against a very good Bushland team, and the Broncos lost 11-66. They struggled throughout the game and just could not find the momentum.

Scoring: McCampbell 6, Ceniceros 3, and Herndon 2.

The JV will play in the White Deer Tournament December 7 and 9 and will play Highland Park at home December 8 at 5:00 p.m. They will travel to Wellington December 12 to play at 5:00 p.m.

Colts dominate Claude

Both seventh and eighth grade teams shut down Claude in a district contest in the Bronco Gym Monday, November 27. The seventh grade defeated their opponent 26-19.

The Colts earned the early momentum in the first half of play as they were up by six at the break. They were able to maintain that margin throughout the game to get the big win. Scoring: Charleston Harris 7, Jacob Pigg 5, Jayson Pigg 4, Chris Blackburn 4, Jordan Luna 2, Samuel Wolfe 2, and Devonte Hardaway 2.

The eighth grade Colts left no doubt as they routed the Claude Colts 48-17. After jumping out to a 14-2 first period, the Colts breezed to the win and held their opponent to less than 20 points for the game.

Scoring: Johnny Gaines 24, Chris Crump 11, David Roberts 6, Clayton Shields 5, Bradley Watson 1, and Brayden Phillips 1.

The Colts will play at home against Wheeler Monday, December 11, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Lady Colts split games

The seventh and eighth grade Lady Colts went on the road to face off against Claude Monday, November 27 and had mixed results. The seventh grade Ladies defeated Claude 31-19, and the eighth grade fell short 36-39.

The seventh grade fell behind early in their game and trailed their opponent by three points at the break. But they came back strong in the third period to take a five-point lead before the last six minutes began. They stayed strong in the last quarter holding Claude to only three points and scoring 10 to seal the victory.

Scoring: Trevela Dronzek 14, Brooklyn Bailey 11, Brittany Hargrove 2, Cheyenne Kosehata 2, and Marqueda Gaines 2.

The eighth grade Lady Colts fought hard the entire game but were unable to overcome Claude to get the win despite having two players in double figures. They did however, jump out to the early lead, but let their opponent back in the game in right before the break. The Lady Colts had a huge fourth quarter as they trailed their opponent by 10 points after the third period of play. But the clock was against them, and they were defeated by three points.

Scoring: Annessa Williams 14, Danielle Ford 12, Vanessa Williams 6, Meagan Hysinger 2, and Holly Phillips 2.

Both Lady Colts teams will travel to Wheeler Monday, December 11 and will begin at 5:00 pm.



Gimme that!

Hedley's Will Monroe (#35) and Clarendon's Stephino McCampbell struggle for the ball during the junior varsity match between the two schools last week.

Enterprise Photo / Kari Lindsey

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Drugs in the News

Tylenol Not Included in Recent Acetaminophen Recall

Last month, a major manufacturer of acetaminophen 500 mg caplets recalled the product. The company makes generic (store-brand) acetaminophen products for more than 100 major retail outlets. Metal fragments were discovered in some of the caplets. During an evaluation, actual fragments were found by the company in 200 out of 70 million caplets accessed as caplets passed through a metal detector. According to early reports there were no injuries from anyone who may have taken the metal-contaminated product. Even so, some retail stores announced that they would stop selling generic 500 mg acetaminophen caplets.

The FDA referred to the potential health impact on consumers who took contaminated product as remote because the percentage of metal in each caplet and the potential adverse effect from ingesting such caplets was considered small. Acetaminophen is widely sold as a fever and pain medicine and is considered safe and effective when taken as recommended. The best known brand of acetaminophen, Tylenol, was not included in this recent recall.



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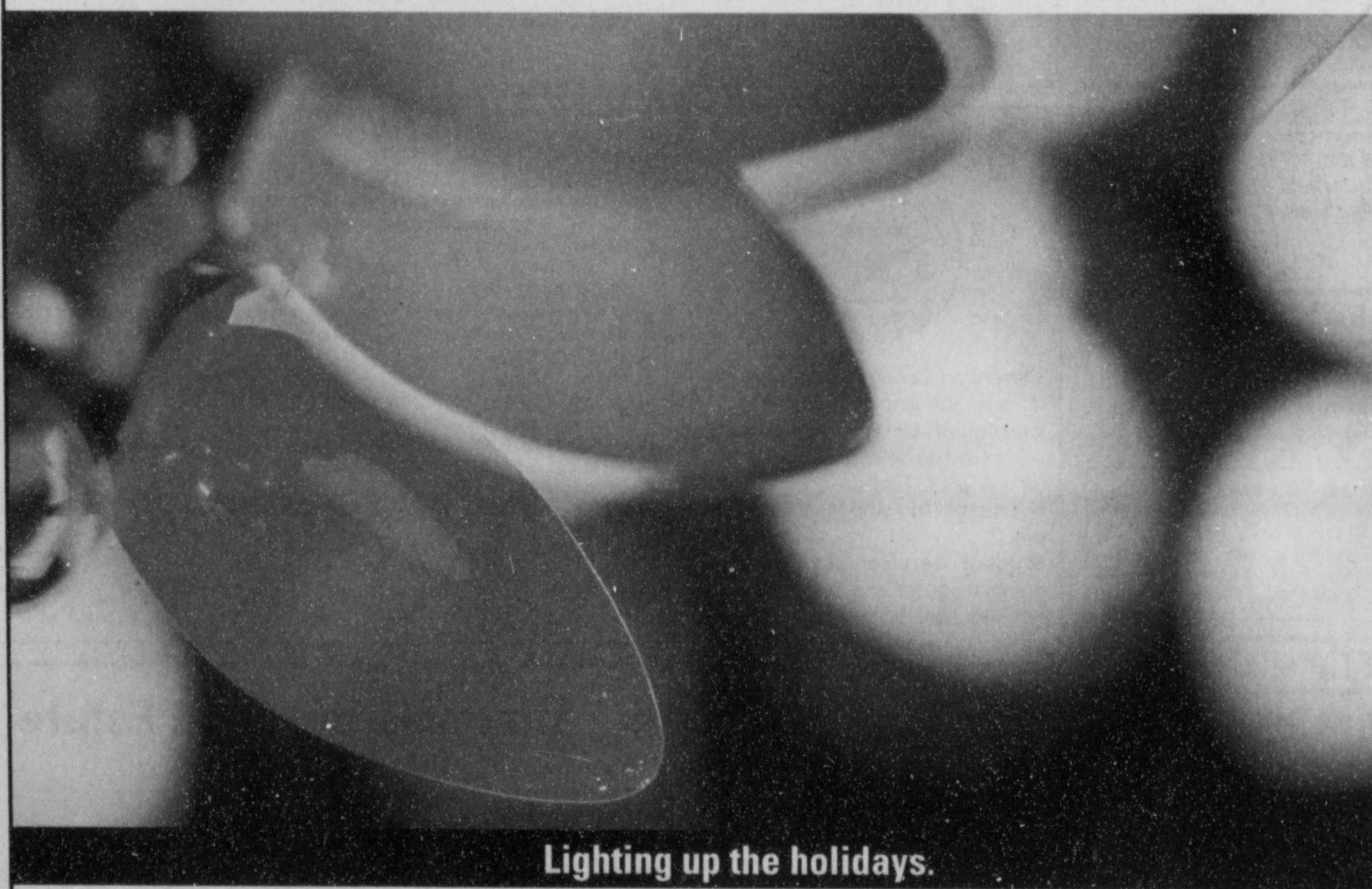
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