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# THE CLARENDON Enterprise

03.16.2006  
SERIES 3, VOL. XVII, NO. 13  
Established 1878.

THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

www.ClarendonOnline.com

Single Copy Price: 75¢

The Newspaper of Record for the Jewel of the Plains.

## THIS WEEK

- 2 Carrie Helms' spring break plans don't go as smoothly as she had hoped.
- 3 Howardwick voters have candidates, but other boards draw little interest.
- 5 Clarendon science students strut their stuff at an annual competition.
- 8 And the Lady Broncos get rhythm.

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

## Sales tax receipts rise for three local cities

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn announced Friday that state sales tax revenue in February totaled \$1.54 billion, up 15.2 percent compared to February 2005.

All three Donley County cities recorded higher sales tax rebates for this period.

Collections for the City of Clarendon grew 1.49 percent with \$20,252.30, marking the city's fifth straight month of growth and bringing the year-to-date total to \$71,788.75, which is 9.73 percent ahead of the same point last year.

Hedley's economy also grew at a fast clip, nearly doubling its rebate from February of last year. The city's rebate of \$909.68 was up 97.46 percent from one year ago, and the year-to-date figure is also 85.95 percent ahead.

Howardwick gained 7.01 percent for a total of \$917.11, and that city's year-to-date figure is also slightly up with a gain of 2.63 percent.

State sales tax revenue for February, and March payments made to local governments today, represents sales that occurred in January.

## Sloppy Joe fundraiser to benefit ball league

The Clarendon Little League will host a Sloppy Joe fundraiser Friday, March 17, from 4 p.m. until the food runs out.

They will serve a Sloppy Joe, chips, dessert, and tea or lemonade for \$5. Look for the tent at the softball field.

The Lady Bronco softball and Bronco baseball teams will both have games going on so come out and support the teams and the Little League.

## Ag Week celebrates growth of agriculture

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced that March 19 to 25 is National Agriculture Week in Texas - a time to pay tribute to the hardworking men and women whose work in agriculture make Texas a giant in the industry and a model for other states to follow.

Agriculture is the state's second-largest industry and is an economic powerhouse, producing food, horticulture, and fiber for consumers across the world. Texas agriculture employs about one out of every seven working Texans, and 80 percent of the state's land is in agricultural production.

National efforts are underway to educate Americans about how food, fuel, and fiber products are produced and about the role of agriculture in a strong economy. Today's farmers and ranchers have built the industry over the decades with advances in research, technology, production, and marketing.

# Fires take heavy toll

## I-40 fire claims 220k acres

Wildfires scorched the Texas Panhandle this week, destroying lives and property while stretching fire departments to their limits.

The greatest toll for Donley County came from the Interstate 40 fire, which burned ten times the area of the big New Year's Day fire and caused three firemen from Howardwick to be seriously injured.

The fire started in Donley County near the intersection of County Roads B and 6 when a downed power line ignited dangerously dry grass about 11 a.m. Sunday.

Unseasonably warm temperatures and winds gusting up to more than 60 mph fueled the fire.

"The flames jumped I-40 and burned into Gray County," said Clarendon's First Assistant Fire Chief Jeremy Powell. "It burned pretty much down the highway and burned through Alanreed and back into Donley County. One finger went off toward Wheeler, and the main fire headed for McLean."

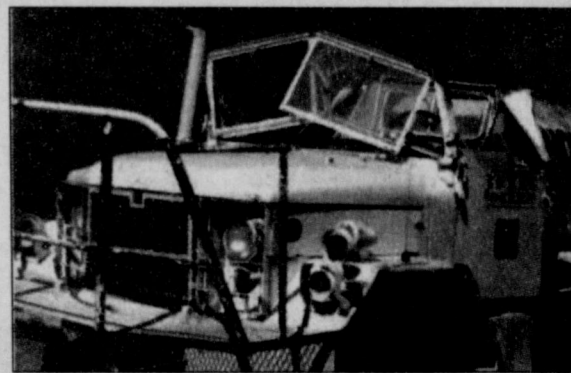
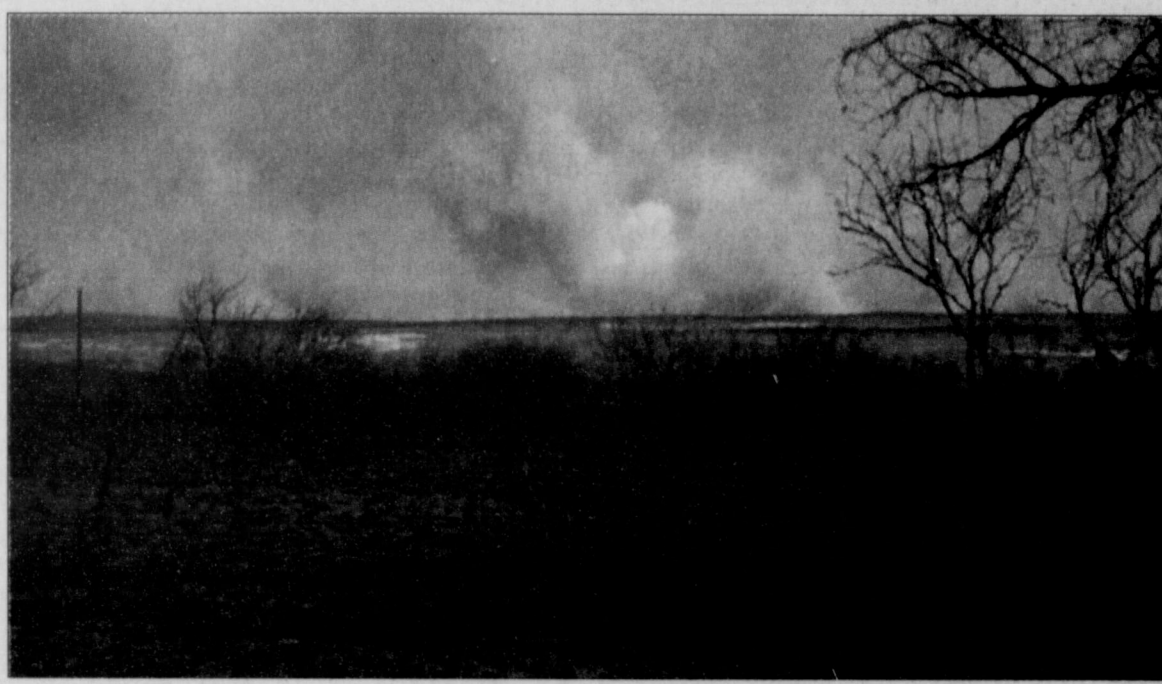
Clarendon volunteer firemen used every resource available to them to help fight the fire, Powell said.

As of Tuesday afternoon, local and area firemen were still battling the fire south of McLean, and Powell was not optimistic that it could be contained before forecasted high winds hit Wednesday.

"I just don't see any way that we're going to be able to stop it today [Tuesday]," Powell said. "I'm afraid it's going to take off again tomorrow [Wednesday]."

Warren Bielenberg with the Texas Forrest Service said his agency was tentatively saying the Interstate 40 fire had burned 220,000 acres in different counties, but he said that number would likely grow.

"We're getting satellite imagery analyzed in College Station, and I



Smoke billows from a wildfire still out control south of McLean Tuesday afternoon (top) while scorched land in Donley County (top and bottom left) testifies to the damage already done. The twisted wreckage of a Howardwick fire truck (bottom right) warns of the dangers local and area firemen face.

Enterprise Photos

think it's going to turn out to be a much bigger number," Bielenberg said.

Bielenberg also said that as of Monday, the Interstate 40 fire had already burned an area 11 miles wide and 30 miles long.

Smoke from the I-40 fire caused one major accident that injured five people and killed six near Groom. DPS Trooper Daniel Hawthorne said fatalities included Susan Louise Schumacher, 49; Lawrence Schumacher, 56; and Alexis Burroughs, 14, all of Grove, Okla., as well as 46-year-old Karen Lachelle DeWeese of Wagoner, Okla.

## The Hutchinson Fire

The I-40 fire was tragic enough, but a fire that started in Hutchinson County will go down as the worst wildfire in Texas history for burning 432,000 acres. That blaze cost seven lives, destroyed several homes, killed livestock by the scores, and caused

the evacuations of several Panhandle communities.

An electrical short reportedly started the Hutchinson County fire, and Bielenberg said it took 45 minutes for their plane to fly the perimeter of the area, which was 45 miles wide and 12 to 15 miles across.

## The Rowe Fire

Smaller fires also kept local departments busy with the first igniting about noon Sunday in the Rowe Cemetery near Hedley. Again the cause was a downed power line, but Hedley City Secretary Randy Shaw said the blaze was cut off when it ran into a plowed field. No estimate was available for the area burned.

## The Crow Hollow Fire

Another downed power line ignited grass near the intersection of County Roads 20 and W west of Hedley and burned to the Crow Hollow Feed Yard.

Hedley, Memphis, and

Clarendon firemen fought the blaze and eventually contained it, but not before it destroyed one abandoned house, threatened several homes, and jumped the eastbound lanes of US 287.

An estimated 1,500 to 2000 acres were destroyed.

## The FM 1260 Fire

And yet another fire started Monday afternoon south of US 287 on FM 1260 where still another power line sparked the grass. Shaw said that blaze was squashed quickly, but it still consumed 40 to 50 acres.

The danger is not yet over and won't be without considerable rainfall. Local officials still urge everybody to be extremely careful and to observe the total fire ban, which is still in effect in Donley County and still includes home barbecue grills.

Even a minor violation of the fire ban carries fines and court costs of more than \$260.

## Perry orders help for Panhandle fires

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry on Tuesday directed additional state resources to fight the deadly Panhandle wildfires, which have burned nearly 750,000 total acres and claimed 11 lives since Sunday. Six fires are currently burning in the region.

"Right now we are focused on containing the blazes, with heavy dozer crews on the ground and heavy air tankers dropping fire retardant," Perry said. "We are also pre-positioning assets in preparation for the next 48 hours by bringing manpower and equipment from less threatened areas to high threat areas."

"We are using the largest air tankers available in the nation in this effort, and I have activated available air assets from the Texas Army National Guard - two CH-47 Chinook helicopters and two UH-60 helicopters - to fight these wildfires."

In the past 24 hours, the state has responded to 227 new fires which burned more than 191,000 acres,

destroyed an estimated 15 homes and forced the evacuation of 45 people. The state has 26 aircraft, 55 bulldozer crews, 13 heavy fire engines and more than 350 personnel directly engaged in fighting the Panhandle blazes.

Monday night the bodies of four fire victims were found in a vehicle in Roberts County. The fires have also claimed the lives of three persons in Hutchinson County and four in Gray County. Three volunteer fire fighters from the city of Howardwick Volunteer Department in Donley County have been critically injured and are being treated at the Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo; two are in the critical care unit.

"Anita and I mourn the 11 lives lost as a result of these wildfires, and we extend prayers of comfort to the victims' families," Perry said. "We also send our prayers and best wishes to the injured volunteer firefighters. I thank them for the gift of service they have given to Texas, and I pray for their speedy and full recovery."



Traffic backs up on US 287 entering Clarendon from the west.

## Fires, smoke snarl traffic

The wildfires that caused so much misery in Donley County Sunday afternoon also gave headaches to motorists on I-40 and US 287... and even town folk just trying to go the supermarket.

State officials shut down Interstate 40 because of the danger of the fire and the smoke and diverted westbound traffic down SH 70 to Clarendon, according to DPS Trooper Chris Ward. Meanwhile, eastbound traffic was diverted at Amarillo down US 287 toward Clarendon also.

Things were moving fairly well until the fire near Crow

Hollow Feed Yard broke out and caused officials to shut down US 287 between Lelia Lake and Hedley at about 4:30 p.m., diverting eastbound traffic down SH 70 to Brice and then to Memphis.

At one point, an estimated 700 vehicles were backed up in Clarendon.

The Donley County Sheriff's Office said cars were backed up to the Salt Fork Red River on SH 70, to Martin west of Clarendon and to FM 1260 east of Clarendon.

No accidents were reported, and US 287 was reopened some time after 7 p.m.

## Wreck injures H-wick firemen

Three Howardwick firemen were seriously injured, and one fire truck was lost during the fight to contain the Interstate-40 wildfire this past weekend.

Jeff Cook, Joey Garcia, and James McMorries were all still in Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo Tuesday morning.

Howardwick Mayor Pro-tem Marvin Elam said the firemen were fighting the fire north of the south safety rest area on I-40. The truck was moving along a ravine ledge on a fresh cut firebreak when the ledge gave way about 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

The grassfire truck was full of water and was therefore top heavy, Elam said. It overturned with Garcia on the front and McMorries and Cook in the cab.

"It rolled maybe twice and ended up on its wheels," Elam said. "I don't know what kept it from going all the way to the bottom."

McMorries and Cook are reported to be suffering from the most critical injuries, and both men were in the CCU at press time.

McMorries suffered a torn aorta, and Cook sustained a broken neck and other injuries.

Garcia, who was able to jump from the truck, had some very bad burns and also broke one leg very badly. He had come through surgery and was in a room at NWTX Tuesday morning, Elam said.

In addition to three firemen being injured, the accident meant the loss of one of the city's two grassfire trucks.

Donations for the Howardwick department are being taken at the Howardwick City Hall, 245 Rick Husband Blvd., Howardwick, TX 79226-8207. Community Bank in Clarendon has also started a fire truck fund to help replace the lost truck.

## Rural citizens urged to help cut fire risks

Clarendon First Assistant Jeremy Powell is urging all rural residents to take steps now to protect their homes and property from wildfires.

"The houses that were saved [this weekend] were the ones where people had taken care of their property," Powell said. "Trees were trimmed, woodpiles were away from the house, and grass and brush were cleared."

Previously local fire officials had urged residents to clear a 100-foot radius around their homes, now Powell says people need to go even further.

"Folks in rural areas need to think about having someone cut or mow a firebreak around their property," he said. "We're being over-taxed when these big fires break out, and we might not get there in time."

Powell also says people should never drive through the smoke of a grass fire when you can't see in front of you.

"That will cost you your life," he said.

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DEADLINES

News articles and pictures are due by Monday at noon. Advertising should be submitted by five o'clock Monday afternoon. Deadlines may be altered for holidays or special issues.

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. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: The Clarendon Enterprise, PO Box 1110, Clarendon, TX 79226-1110. Digital Subscriptions are \$9.95 per year.

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The Texas Panhandle's First Newspaper

The CLARENDON NEWS, established June 1, 1878 with which have merged: The Clarendon Traveler, February 1889; The Clarendon Journal, November 1891; The Banner-Stockman, October 1893; The Agitator, February 1899; The Clarendon Times, May 1908; The Donley County Leader, March 12, 1929; The Clarendon Press, May 18, 1972; and The Clarendon Enterprise, March 14, 1996.

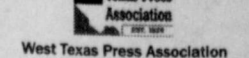
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guest commentary

Cartoon Jihad: Free Speech in the Balance

By Christian Beenfeldt and Onkar Ghate

A battle for Western freedom is being fought overseas. The specific object of the battle is merely a handful of cartoons. The outcome of the struggle, however, will reverberate for years.

The conflict began when the leading Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten printed twelve cartoons of Mohammed to expose and challenge the country's existing climate of fear of criticizing Islam. Confirming the newspaper's nightmares, the response was the deluge of Islamic rage, death threats and violence now sweeping the world.

The issue at stake is the right to speak one's mind. Recognizing this, many European newspapers reprinted the cartoons. Echoing the story of the defiant slaves, who, when the Romans came for Spartacus, the leader of their rebellion, each proclaimed "I am Spartacus" - this was a clear show of support for the Danish paper and a symbolic affirmation of the right to free speech.

In the United States, however, fear of Muslim anger has suppressed a similar show of support. Indeed, the Bush administration and the mainstream media have generally sided with the raging religionists; while dutifully paying lip service to the First Amendment, their main concern has been for the "hurt feelings" of Muslims. Bush cautioned that we have "a responsibility to be thoughtful about others." Offering similar reasons, major U.S. newspapers like the New York Times refuse to print the cartoons. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the world "of course freedom of speech is never absolute."

Well, is freedom of speech absolute?

Absolutely.

The right to free speech means the right to express one's ideas without danger of coercion, of physical suppression or interference, by anyone. This freedom includes the right to make movies, write books, draw pictures, voice political opinions - and satirize religion. This right flows from the right to think: the right to observe, to follow the evidence, to reach the conclusions you judge the facts warrant - and then to convey your thoughts to others.

To demand special status for any idea or ideology - to declare Judaism or Christianity or Marxism or Islam off-limits, above public criticism - is to negate these rights. No rational mind can function under the order: Follow the evidence wherever you think it leads, but don't you dare come to a negative conclusion about the philosophy of Marxism or the religion of Islam.

The consequence of making submission to authority and not thought - faith, not reason - the sacred value of a society can be observed throughout the Middle East, where censorship, state propaganda, intellectual stagnation, forced compliance with religious edicts and medieval punishments for religious offences are part of everyday life.

Unlike the Muslims now raging across the world, however, many Americans do cherish free speech - yet may be wondering, when so many other Muslims appear to be offended, is this really the issue on which to make an intransigent stand? The answer to this question is unequivocally yes.

Even if it were true that many Muslims are angered by the specific nature of the cartoons, not by the mere fact that Islam was criticized, their anger is irrelevant. Is a Jew to be silenced because Christians find it offensive that he refuses to accept the divinity of Jesus? Or are the Christians to be silenced, because the Jew finds the Trinity offensive? Is the atheist to be silenced, because Jew, Christian and Muslim alike find his ideas offensive? Maybe all the scientific heirs to Galileo should be silenced, as Galileo himself was by the Church, since those who take the Bible literally are angered by the claim that the earth moves?

If we allow anyone's feelings to reign, we destroy freedom of thought and speech.

In a free society, anyone angered by someone else's ideas has a simple and powerful recourse: don't buy his books, watch his movies, read his newspapers. If one judges his ideas dangerous, argue against them. The purveyor of evil ideas is no threat to those who remain free to counter them with rational ones.

(Note that many European nations have laws limiting free speech, all of which should be repealed; to protest these, however, one does not demand "equal censorship.")

The moment someone decides to answer those he finds offensive with a gun, not an argument - as many Muslims have by demanding that European governments censor the newspapers or by issuing calls for beheadings and other violence against Europeans - he removes himself from civilized society and any rational consideration.

And against this kind of threat to free speech, every free man must stand up. We must vociferously condemn the attempt by religionists to impose censorship in the West. We must extol - without apology or qualifications - the indispensable pillar of a free society: freedom of thought and speech.

The U.S. press should do so by immediately publishing the cartoons, declaring that "I, too, am Spartacus."

Dr. Onkar Ghate, PhD in philosophy, is a senior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute (http://www.aynrainstitute.org) in Irvine, CA. Christian Beenfeldt, MA in philosophy, lives in Denmark and is a guest writer for the Ayn Rand Institute.

Spring Break '06 not going as planned

Spring Break: God's little gift to beaches, ski resorts, MTV, and makers of fine sunscreen products.

Spring Break is the thing to live for from January to March. It is the thing that makes you go to work. It is the thing that makes you eat healthier. It is the thing that drives your t-shirt making creativity to its highest potential. It is the thing that makes you dream bigger than ever.

Last year, I took a road trip with two other girls to Phoenix, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, and, quite by accident, Pie Town, New Mexico. We budgeted, made t-shirts, made grandiose plans of living on a dime.

And we succeeded. That trip was the most fun I've ever had. I bonded with these girls over budgeted brownie time and urinating on the side of the road. It made me a little over confident about spring break this year.

I was going to New York. Three of my very close friends had just moved there. At the time, I was thinking of going to NYU or Sarah Lawrence to get my masters in Directing. I could go up there, see the city, see my friends, and check out the grad schools.

Then my best friend who just moved to Dallas calls me up. She wants to go to New York, too. We agreed that the greatest thing about going to New York is that at no time on this trip will we have to wear a bathing suit. That means no tanning, no self-tanning stains on my towels,

no crunches, and no salad.

I was getting myself all psyched up. I have a chance to bond in a new way with my best friend and see my old friends in their new habitat. All I need is a ticket.

I looked up flights online.

I knew they were going to be expensive. I'm flying across the country twice. That's not cheap. I was not prepared, however, for an \$800 price tag. That's four times what I spent driving to Vegas.

I'm a waitress. Not only that, I'm a slacker waitress who only works week-ends. I can't afford that plus theatre tickets and food.

But I was going to. I was determined. I went so far as to tell my sister that if she scheduled a wedding shower or any bridesmaid activities for that week, she could just count me out. I'd bring her an Empire State Building paperweight.

One day in February, I was shopping for sensible New York shoes when my traveling partner called. "I'm broke," she says. "If I go to New York, chances are I'll either starve or be homeless or both."

Hopes and dreams dashed, yada, yada, yada. "Let's go to the lake instead," she says.

The lake. A place where you wear a



life's lessons by carrie helms



Texas organization encourages reading

When you teach children to read, you give them one of life's greatest gifts. Children who unlock the world of the written word gain access to unlimited opportunities for learning and discovery.

Sadly, many children do not have access to books at an early age. Millions of children are growing up without books because their families have limited means or do not have ready access to appropriate children's books. Some parents, themselves, were not read to as children and find it difficult to start the habit with their own kids. Unfortunately, getting a late start in reading can contribute to continuing the cycle of poverty.

Teaching children to read at an early age helps break that cycle. Early readers enter school ready to succeed academically. When children love reading, they do better in school, and they enjoy their courses more. Reading is the foundation for learning, and excellent reading comprehension facilitates studies in other subjects, such as math and science.

Many children dislike going to the doctor because they relate a visit to the doctor with being sick or getting a shot, but a national literacy program is changing that. Since doctors have regular contact

with young children and their parents, these visits are valuable opportunities to share information about reading.

Reach Out and Read is a non-profit organization that trains pediatricians to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud to children. It also gives new books to children at pediatric checkups from the age of six months to five years.

If there is one thing children love, it is getting gifts. There is always a look of joy on a child's face when opening presents at a birthday party or during the holidays. Associating this same feeling with reading is invaluable. Now, instead of dreading a trip to the doctor, a child can look forward to acquiring a new book.

Founded in 1989, Reach Out and Read serves more than 2.1 million children each year and distributes over 3.4 million books annually. There are over 2,500 Reach Out and Read programs in hospitals and health centers across the country and 28,000 pediatricians, nurses and other clinicians have



capitol comment by sen. kay bailey hutchison

Southern hospitality lives in Clarendon

To a Commendable Citizen of Clarendon: My name is Kim Lozano. I live in Denver, Colo., currently, but I am originally from Mabank, Texas (about 60 miles east of Dallas). I just want to personally thank someone in Clarendon for a wonderful act of kindness (and what I call "southern hospitality").

Towards the end of January my husband, son, and I made a quick trip from Denver to Mabank and back over a weekend because I was purchasing a new car. Our travels took us directly through your town going and coming. On the return trip, my family stopped at your Dairy Queen for lunch (and to let my three-year-old run and play). After leaving, we drove to Amarillo where we then stopped for gas. It was here where I quickly noticed that my wallet was missing. My "wallet" was actually a

student ID holder, and inside was every ID that I owned (student ID, driver's license, military ID) and some debit/credit cards plus \$5.

After a quick flash of panic, I knew that it had to be not only in Clarendon but also in or closely around the Dairy Queen. I began calling the DQ and the sheriff's department, but no one had yet found or turned in my "wallet."

I told my husband that I was slightly relieved because I had lost my wallet in a small Texas town and had faith in good 'ol Southern hospitality! Even though, I did call and cancel all my cards within about 1.5 hours of leaving Clarendon and got a new driver's license upon returning to Denver.

Then on about the fourth day after returning home, I checked the mail on my

swimsuit. Just what I wanted.

And now here I am, on the very precipice of spring break.

I have stained my towels with tan-in-a-can. I have done my crunches and eaten my salad. I have paid my rent. In short, I have done all the things that going to New York could have prevented.

As I write this, I am staring at my empty bag, just one hour from departure for Lake Whitney.

I suppose that soon I shall get up, stuff my ratty old swimsuit and baggy boys' cargo shorts into a backpack with some sunscreen and Cheetos. I will also pack away the broken fragment of one really big dream.

Half of me is so disappointed. I can never stand to see such a grand plan going to pieces. It makes me think twice about my other grand plans. I have to think sensibly about my big dreams - think of them in terms of dollars and cents. Somehow, that makes them smaller.

The other half is so excited just to get out of town and spend some time recharging my batteries. I will still get to bond with my best friend whom I have missed so dearly this semester.

I'm also pretty psyched about some poker and Star Wars Monopoly. And those Cheetos.

Happy Spring Break. Stay safe. Wear sunscreen, and keep dreaming big. Someday you'll get it all done.

Kim Lozano Lakewood, Colo.



The Clarendon High School Junior Historians

### CHS students compete at history meet

The Texas History Day Regional Meet was held in Canyon February 25, and four individuals and four groups from Clarendon High School participated in the contest along with 33 other students from across the Panhandle.

The Clarendon students placed as follows: Group Documentary: Todd Thompson and Haley Carter- 1st; Amelia Taylor and Niki Roberts- 3rd;

Group Performance- Jeremy Jeffers, Jake Miser, and Katie Askew- 1st; Jessi Howard and Sarah Scrivner- 3rd; Individual Performance- Paul Goetze- 1st; Regan Lemley- 3rd; Historical Paper- Erin Holland- 2nd; Amanda Mendez- 3rd.

Those who placed first or second will be going on to Austin for the state meet, which will be held on April 28 and 29.

### Children's Medicaid, CHIP programs good deal for those without insurance

AUSTIN - Good deals are hard to come by. If you're raising children who don't have health insurance, Children's Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) may be one of those good deals you've been looking for.

"These programs are designed to meet the needs of low-income Texas families who cannot afford health insurance for their children," says Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Albert Hawkins. "Parents want their children to have access to quality medical care. Children's Medicaid and CHIP make that goal a reality for many families struggling to make ends meet."

The two programs provide coverage for children in families who earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. That's \$38,700 a year for a family of four.

A family's enrollment fees for CHIP are based on income and range from no fee to \$50 every six months.

That's quite the bargain when the average cost of private health insurance for Texas families exceeds \$900 per month.

Children's Medicaid and CHIP currently provide coverage to one out of every three children in Texas, cover pre-existing conditions and offer a choice of doctors. Services include doctor visits, immunizations, hospital care, surgery, X-rays, physical, speech and occupational therapies, prescription drugs, vision services, emergency services and transplants.

Families don't need to determine which program they may qualify for. Once an application is submitted, the state will review the information to see if the family qualifies for either CHIP or Children's Medicaid.

To start an application or get more information on Children's Medicaid or CHIP, call 800-647-6558.

Assistance is available in English and Spanish from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time Monday through Friday.

## Howardwick draws several candidates for public office

Of the seven local governments scheduled to hold elections this year, only the City of Howardwick has contested candidates for office.

Six citizens are vying for three positions on the Board of Aldermen. Incumbents Lee Ann Cook and Sam Grider will be joined on the ballot by challengers Susie Langford, H.L. "Buster" Baird, Stanley Couch, and Milton Brown.

A horse race also developed to see who will serve out the term of former mayor Nancy Davis. Paul Bartlett and James McMorries have both filed for that office.

Other local entities reported only as many candidates as they had positions available.

The Clarendon College Board

of Regents will see two new faces.

John Howard filed for the unexpired term of Jimmy Blackerby, and Jerry Woodard will also be a new member. They join incumbents Doug Lowe and Delbert Robertson, who both filed for office again. Longtime member Mike Butts will not seek reelection.

Clarendon Aldermen Janice Knorpp, Mark White, and Tommy Hill file to return to their offices.

Hedley Mayor Janie Hill is seeking another term, and Aldermen Ricki Baker and Leon Ward have filed for their positions again. They are joined by Alderman Jim Lollar, who is serving out the unexpired term of Pamela Casteel and is seeking to continue that office.

The Clarendon ISD Board of Trustees has Joe Lemley and Wayne Hardin both running for reelection.

Offices at Hedley ISD were not open this week because of Spring Break, but at last report only incumbents Cary Don Neeley, Troy Monroe, and Blane Burton had filed for reelection.

Incumbents will also return to the Donley County Hospital Board with Gene Hommel in Place 4, Carolyn Moffett in Place 5, Onita Thomas in Place 6, and Bright Newhouse in Place 7.

Boards without contested races will likely cancel their elections after March 20.

Howardwick will hold its election on Saturday, May 13.

### weather report

Day	Date	High	Low	Prec.
Mon	6	77°	34°	
Tues	7	84°	38°	
Wed	8	88°	58°	
Thur	9	75°	39°	
Fri	10	68°	41°	
Sat	11	74°	40°	
Sun	12	75°	38°	

Total precipitation this month: 0.00"  
Total precipitation to date: 0.25"  
Total precipitation in March last year: 1.85"  
Total YTD last year: 3.99"

### weekend forecast

Friday, March 17  
Increasing Clouds  
54°/27°

Saturday, March 18  
Isolated Showers  
57°/35°

Sunday, March 19  
Partly Cloudy  
61°/35°

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

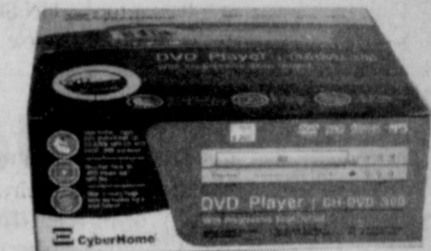
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## ¿Qué Pasa?

Your guide to "what's happening" around Donley County.

### March 13 - 17

CISD, HISD, CC Spring Break

### March 17

Saint Patrick's Day

### March 20

Breast Cancer Screening Clinic • Associated Ambulance Building • 356-1905.

### March 30

Donley County Health Fair • Bairfield Activity Center • 9 a.m.

### April 1

Clarendon College Invitational Judging Contest

### April 21

San Jacinto Day

### April 22

Clarendon College Ex-Students Reunion • Bairfield Activity Center

### July 4

Saints Roost Celebration • Details TBA

## Community Menus

March 20-24  
Clarendon Schools

#### Breakfast

Mon: Cereal, toast, fruit, milk  
Tues: Oatmeal, toast, fruit, milk  
Wed: Pancakes, juice, milk  
Thur: Eggs, toast, fruit, milk  
Fri: Cinnamon rolls, juice, milk  
Lunch

Mon: Chicken nuggets, fries, salad, fruit mix, milk  
Tues: Chicken stir fry, oriental vegetables, crackers, peaches, milk  
Wed: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, applesauce, milk  
Thur: Dunkers with meat sauce, salad, corn, fruit mix, milk  
Fri: Chicken sandwich, fries, lettuce, pickles, fruit, milk

#### Donley County Senior Citizens

Mon: Oven Fried Chicken, potatoes with white sauce, California blend, stewed tomatoes, cookies/ice cream, bread, coffee, tea, lowfat milk  
Tues: Mexican Pile One, rice, pinto beans, tossed salad, Hershey cake, chips, coffee, tea, lowfat milk  
Wed: BLT, tater tots, English peas, peaches, oatmeal raisin cookies, coffee, tea, lowfat milk  
Thur: Chicken Fried Steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn casserole, broccoli salad, chocolate pudding, biscuits, coffee, tea, lowfat milk  
Fri: Turkey and dressing, yam patties, green beans, fruit salad, pecan pie, rolls, coffee, tea, lowfat milk

#### Hedley Senior Citizens

Mon: Pork loin chops and gravy, mashed potatoes, Harvard beets, tossed salad, baked apples, rolls, coffee, tea, milk  
Tues: Beef stew with potatoes, carrots, onions, tomatoes, potato wedges, macaroni salad, sliced peaches, cornbread, coffee, tea, milk  
Wed: Roast beef and gravy, mashed potato, corn, Jell-O salad, cake, roll, coffee, tea, milk  
Thur: Beef enchiladas, Spanish rice, beans, tossed salad, cookies, chips and crackers, coffee, tea, milk  
Fri: Steak and gravy, baked potato, German cabbage, pickled beets, bread pudding, roll, coffee, tea, milk

## 4-H Spotlight

By Ashlyn Tubbs

This week's 4-H spotlight is on Colt Stevenson.

Stevenson is 9 years old and has been in 4-H for two years. He showed goats and pigs at the Donley County Livestock Show.



Stevenson

He got fourth place this year in the goat show.

"My favorite 4-H activity is showing goats and pigs and coming to the meetings," Stevenson says.

Stevenson's hobbies and interests include helping his mom cook. He enjoys riding his horses, Duck and Lucky, and playing with his brother, Cedar.

Stevenson attends the Church of Christ. He studies his Bible at the ranch with his family.

He also plays baseball. Stevenson is home-schooled.

The 4-H Club members enjoy having Colt in their Club. We hope that he will continue to come to all the 4-H Meetings and participate in all the activities we have to offer!

Stay tuned next week for our next 4-H Spotlight!

## Community requests prayers for firemen

Several columns this spring have focused on our volunteer firemen and the efforts taken to improve our safety with successful recruiting, new equipment, and training. Then tragedy strikes.

Sunday, March 12, 2006, will be one of those days people in the Panhandle will remember the remainder of their lives, as the headline of the AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS said, "The Day the Panhandle Burned."

That Sunday morning at 11:45, the first call for help fighting a grass fire along I-40 came into Howardwick with 15 responding. With sustained winds from the west-northwest in excess of 25 mph and gusts over 50 mph, this was a fast moving, very dangerous fire with thick, dense smoke obscuring everything in its

path. Our fire truck #15 with James McMorries, Jeff Cook, and Joey Garcia aboard rolled down an embankment with all three seriously injured and admitted to N.W.H. At press time, Jeff and James remain in ICU, but Joey has improved and been transferred from ICU to a room. The families all request our prayers, so put these men on the top of your long list.

Truck #17 was a total loss, leaving one grass-fighting truck to keep the community safe but unable to respond to other fires outside Howardwick. After all, that is the main goal.

Our fire department has used all their money. They have scraped the bottom of the cookie jar, so they are

asking help from everyone with a fund set up at City Hall for donations. You may mail donations to: Howardwick Volunteer Fire Department, 245 Rick Husband Blvd., Howardwick, TX 79226-8207.



### 'wick picks

by Peggy Cockerham  
Howardwick • 874-2886

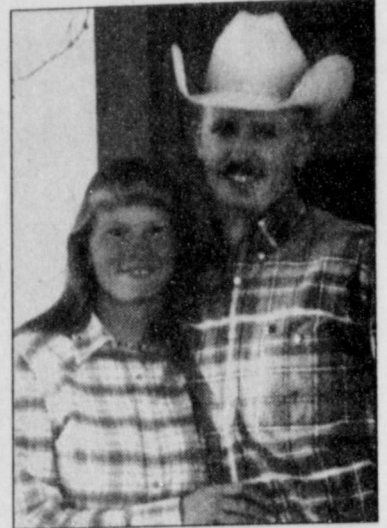
The Community Bank in Clarendon also has started a fire truck fund to help replace the truck lost, and donations to that fund may be sent to: Howardwick Fire Truck Fund, Community Bank, PO Box 985, Clarendon, TX 79226.

In other news, our condolences

go to the family of Jim Baird, who died March 10 after a long illness. Jim and Marietta have been residents here about 10 years, and he will be missed especially by his brother, Buster.

Friday, March 17, is the date for the Friendship Club with Audrey Jones entertaining with gospel and country songs. Come to City Hall at 6:30, bring your favorite dish, and enjoy the dinner while listening to Audrey.

In closing, how can we thank all the volunteers who helped with these fires? I don't know. I know without them the destruction would have been much greater, and I just hope they continue to volunteer. One thing we can do to make the job easier is PRAY FOR RAIN!



Amanda DeGroot and Dale Askew

## DeGroot, Askew plan to be wed

Roger and Delene DeGroot of Hanover, Colo., are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda, to Dale Askew, the son of Danny and Terry Askew of Clarendon.

Amanda is a 2003 graduate of Elliott High School, and she also graduated from Northeastern Junior College in 2005 with a degree in Equine Management. She is employed by Johnny and Janet Cooper of Clarendon.

Dale graduated from Clarendon High School in 2001 and from the Clarendon College Ranch and Feedlot Operations program in 2002. He will graduate in August from West Texas A&M University with a degree in Agriculture Science. He is employed by the Clarendon Veterinary Hospital.

The couple plans a July 15 wedding and will make their home in Clarendon.

## Check you pantries, prepare for disasters

By MaryRuth Bishop, County FCS Agent

Here are some guidelines to help you know how often to rotate foods out of your emergency supply. One good way to avoid waste is to always place new foods at the back so you use the older foods in the front.

Use within six months: powdered milk (boxed), dried fruit (metal container), dry, crisp crackers (metal containers), and potatoes.

Use within a year: canned condensed meat and vegetable soups, canned fruits, fruit juices and vegetables, ready-to-eat cereals and uncooked instant cereals (metal

containers), peanut butter, jelly, hard candy, canned nuts, and vitamin C.

Can be stored indefinitely: wheat, vegetable oils, dried corn, baking powder, soybeans, instant coffee, tea, cocoa, salt, non-carbonated soft drinks, white rice, bouillon products, dry pasta, and powdered milk (nitrogen-packed cans).

**What to Do If Disaster Strikes**

When disaster strikes, try to remain calm and to be patient. Now is the time to put your plans into action.

Check for injuries. Administer first aid and try to get help if injury

is serious. Retrieve your disaster supplies kit. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.

Check your home for damage using a flashlight. Never use matches or turn lights on until you are sure it is safe.

Check for a gas leak starting at the hot water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, get everyone outside quickly, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, turn off all appliances, and shut off all utilities.

Check for fires, fire hazards, and other household hazards. Clean up spilled medicines, cleaners, gasoline,

and other flammable liquids immediately and safely.

Confine or secure pets to protect them.

Listen to your battery-powered radio for news and instructions. Evacuate if so advised. Check on your neighbors, especially elderly and disabled persons.

Call your family contact - do not use the telephone again unless it is an emergency. This will leave lines free for others to make necessary calls.

For more information, contact the Donley County Extension office at 874-2141.

## Health, wealth fair to be held this month

The Donley County Extension is hosting its annual Good Health, Much Wealth, Your Choice, Health Fair in Clarendon on Thursday, March 30, at the Bairfield Activity Center at Clarendon College.

This is the eighth year for this event. Last year, it was determined that over \$50,000 was saved by the public in health and financial services that were offered.

Each year health conditions needing immediate medical attention are brought to the attention of fairgoers as a result of the health screens.

New vendors for this year's fair include Accolade Home Care, Potter House Assisted Living, Panhandle

Independent Living Center, Shepards Crook Nursing Agency, and Outreach Health Services.

Coffee Memorial Blood Bank will conduct a blood drive during the fair hours for individuals wishing to make much needed blood donations.

The Harrington Cancer Center's mammogram van will be on site. An appointment is needed to have a mammogram. Please call 1-800-377-4673 to set up an appointment.

Associated Ambulance Authority and Clarendon Family Medical Center staff will be drawing blood for blood sugar, cholesterol levels, and PSA for men.

Those businesses providing financial information and services

this year include Edward Jones Investments, Community Bank, Internal Revenue Services, and Herring Bank.

Educational exhibits will be provided by the Roadrunner Home Care, Texas Department of Transportation, Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network, Home Sleep Diagnostics, LTD, RSVP, National MS Society, BSA Home Care and Hospice, Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership, Outreach Health Services, American Red Cross Eastern Texas Panhandle, Med-Link Services, National Weather Service, Craig Methodist Retirement Community, American Cancer Society, Mannatech, Genesis House, Odyssey Healthcare, Department

of State Health Services, Donley County Extension Service, Donley County Child Welfare Board, Friends of the Library Literacy Council, and Panhandle Regional Planning Commission.

Patrick Robertson of KEFH 99.3 FM will provide music at the health and wealth fair; and as the day progresses, door prizes donated by exhibitors will be awarded and announced.

Booth space for vendors is still available. If your business would like to register for a booth or if you need more information about the fair, call MaryRuth Bishop at the Donley County Extension Office at 874-2141.

## 4-H Club holds regular meeting

By Ashlyn Tubbs

The March 4-H Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7 at the Functional Living Center (FLC).

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by President, Paul Goetze. Cole Ward read the inspiration. Skyler White and Secretary, Danielle Ford, led the US Pledge and 4-H Motto and Pledge.

Mat Thomas conducted roll call. There were around 30 members present.

Ford read the minutes from the February meeting. Mary Ruth Bishop, County Agent, gave reports over 4-H Camp this summer. It was decided to have a garage sale to help cover camp costs. Bishop read off lots of activities for the 4-H members to do over Spring Break and this

summer. The 4-H members were invited to put together a team for the Relay for Life on June 16.

Goetze introduced the night's program, which were Kelly Hill and his dog, Lika. Hill gave a demonstration of how Lika could find drugs that were hidden in the FLC. He talked about the dangers of drugs.

Thomas drew for the door prizes. Thomas won a 4-H cup, and Zach Sergeant won a 4-H shirt. The meeting was adjourned to a game led by Austin Adams. Each 4-H member got to make an animal from a balloon. After the game was over, we ate snacks provided by Ford and Lee Tolbert.

Next month's meeting will be on April 4. We hope to see you there!



Kelly Hill, Deputy for the Donley County Sheriff's Department, and "Lika" demonstrated some drug finding techniques to the Donley County 4-H Club recently as part of a program at the club's regular meeting. Hill also spoke about the dangers of drugs to the group.

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Tubbs.

## 'TEXAS' returning to Pioneer Amphitheatre this year

After a three-year absence, *TEXAS*, the outdoor musical drama produced from 1966 through 2002, is returning to its magnificent stage in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. This classic story of the settling of the Texas Panhandle is back thanks to popular demand, with preview performances on June 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 and the season debut on June 9.

"We are very excited to have this icon of the Texas Panhandle return. I can't think of a better way to spend a cool, star-filled evening in Palo Duro Canyon than watching this production, which is an official play of the State of Texas," Jerry Holt, Vice President of the Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council, says.

"It became very obvious that our customers were clamoring for the

return of *TEXAS*. This timeless story about the determination of the people who settled in the *TEXAS* Panhandle still delivers a lot of entertainment punch. Now, we get to introduce a new generation to this saga," Joe Groves, Executive Director of *TEXAS*, says.

And the play returns to the Pioneer Amphitheatre in Palo Duro Canyon State Park, one of the most magnificent settings ever created for the theater. The play sprawls across a 600 foot cliff behind the stage, adding some very special effects that enhance the play's entertainment value. More than 3 million visitors enjoyed *TEXAS* in its previous 37-year run, when the outdoor musical drama was regularly listed as one of the top 100 events by the American

Bus Association.

All the favorite characters will be back: cattle rancher Uncle Henry and his wife Aunt Anna; star-crossed sodbuster Calvin Armstrong; Henry and Anna's beautiful niece Elsie McLean; drifting gold prospector and crowd favorite Tucker Yeldell; sassy and bold former entertainer Kate Lucas; straight-shooting and hard-working ranch foreman Dave Newberry, and prissy Panhandle girl Parmalee Flynn. They will be joined by a cast of singers and dancers and a band of top-notch musicians.

Former *TEXAS* cast member and longtime *TEXAS* enthusiast David Yirak, drama teacher at Canyon H.S., will be artistic director of the classic show.

This season of *TEXAS*, the 41st

season of musical drama in Palo Duro Canyon State Park, will run from June 2 through August 19. *TEXAS* will be performed Tuesday through Saturday nights. Reservations can be made by phone (806-655-2181), on-line ([www.heritageent.com](http://www.heritageent.com)) or through the mail (1514 5th Ave., Canyon, TX, 79015).

Ticket prices will range from \$7-25, depending on the seat location and age of the visitor. Tickets during preview week (June 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8) will be discounted 25%. A barbecue dinner is available nightly from 6-8 p.m. for \$8.50 per person (\$7 for children 11 and under). A special family pack, including dinner and the show for a family of four, will be offered for \$99 and for a family of six at \$139.



Trent Mooring and Pati Ceniceros

## Ceniceros, Mooring to wed this summer

Pati Denise Ceniceros and William Trent Mooring have announced their engagement and upcoming wedding.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Anna Gay Leeper of Clovis, New Mexico, and Jose P. Ceniceros of Grand Prairie. The prospective groom is the son of Diane Brown of Amarillo and David Mooring of Richmond.

The couple will exchange vows June 10, 2006, at 7 p.m. at the Paramount Terrace Christian Church in Amarillo and will afterwards reside in Arlington.

## Quail Baptists plan 'Spiritual Explosion'

The Quail Baptist Church in Quail wants to invite everyone to their "Spiritual Explosion" to be held March 24 and 25.

The spiritual music on March 24 will be performed by Payton Kane and the Hedley Family Choir with Bruce Howard, and the message will be given by Quail minister Kade Wilcox. The activities start at 7 p.m.

The explosion continues March 25 at 6 p.m. with Donna Lewis performing along with the returning Hedley Family Choir with Bruce Howard, and Wilcox will deliver the message again.

Members want everyone to know that these two evenings of spiritual music and God's word will be exciting, and they invite everyone to come. Cookies and refreshments will be furnished after the services.

## Friendship Club to meet

The Howardwick Friendship Club will meet this Friday evening at 6:30 in the Howardwick City Hall.

Audrey Jones will be singing country and gospel music.

Bring a dish and come enjoy the entertainment.



**Science Bowlers**

The Clarendon High School Science Bowl team participated in the 2006 Pantex Science Bowl on February 18 and competed against other area schools of all sizes to answer college-level questions about biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, mathematics, and more. CHS competitors were divided into Maroon and White teams with the Maroon team placing seventh out of 35 teams. Shown here are (White team, back row) Brett Strobel, Kristen McAfee, Jake Miser, Amelia Taylor, and (Maroon team) Carmen Hamilton, Samantha Myatt, and Todd Thompson. Not pictured are Maroon members Regan Lemley and Cody Scribner.

Enterprise Photo / Roger Estlack

**Obituaries**

**McCord**

Lloyd McCord, age 96, died Sunday, March 12, 2006, at Anson, Texas.

Services with firefighter honors were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, in the First Baptist Church in Clarendon with Norman Rushing, Baptist minister from Childress, officiating. Burial was in Citizens Cemetery in Clarendon with arrangements by Robertson Funeral Directors, Inc.

McCord was born March 16, 1909, in Howe, Texas, and was a Clarendon resident for more than 66 years. He married Frances Marie Hearn on August 13, 1939, in Groom. He had been a farmer and rancher, worked at a local service station, ran a milk delivery route, and managed a local lumberyard at various times throughout his life before his retirement.

He was a devoted member of the Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department for more than 60 years, having held several offices and was in charge of many projects throughout his membership. He was a former member of the city council and a former member of the Elks Lodge. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, where he had served in various capacities including church treasurer.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Frances, on January 18, 1997.

He is survived by two daughters, Mary Louise Morrow, and husband, John Tom, of Littlefield, and Sue Hardy of Canyon; one son, Lloyd Lynn McCord, and wife, Jessica, of Hawley, Texas; six grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were T.W. McAnear, Jiggs Mann, Jim Roberts, Ray Pinkerton, Buddy Wootten, and Burl Hollar. Honorary bearers were the Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department firefighters.

The family requests that memorials be made to the Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 364, Clarendon, Texas 79226-0346.

**Wilson**

Shanique Monique Nicole Wilson, age 6, died Friday, March 3, 2006 in Amarillo.

Services were held Saturday, March 11, 2006, at 11 a.m. in the True Church of God in Christ in Clarendon with Elder Jeff Riles, Pastor, officiating. Burial was in Citizens Cemetery in Clarendon with arrangements by Robertson Funeral Directors, Inc.

Wilson was born December 15, 1999, to LeNettie Wilson in Amarillo, Texas. She departed this life March 3, 2006. She attended Clarendon schools and was a kindergarten student at Hamlet Elementary School at the time of her death.

She was preceded in death by her great grandmother, Stella Alexander; one uncle, Terrance Wilson; and one aunt, Stephanie Wilson.

She leaves to cherish her memory her mother, LeNettie Wilson of Amarillo; two brothers, Terrance Wilson of Clarendon and Christopher Wilson of Amarillo; one sister, TaShana Wilson of Amarillo; her grandmother, Gloria Wilson of Clarendon; her grandfather, Andrew Turner; her great grandfather, Clifford Alexander of Memphis; numerous aunts and uncles; and a host of other relatives and friends.

**PPHM to showcase Palo Duro Canyon**

"Palo Duro Canyon: The Grand Canyon of Texas" opened at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon on March 11 and continues through July 16, 2006, spotlighting natural history, Indian occupation, ranching, and more.

The Clovis and Folsom people, who hunted large herds of mammoth and giant bison, were attracted to the Canyon's warmer temperatures, the springs feeding Palo Duro Creek, and

the abundant game. Later, Apaches, Comanches, and Kiowas took advantage of the Canyon's protection.

Captain Randolph B. Marcy led the first United States expedition into the Canyon in 1852, but Euro-Americans did not occupy Palo Duro Canyon until Charles Goodnight established the JA Ranch in 1876. Several other ranches later were established in Palo Duro. Some, including the JA, still operate today.



**the lion's tale**  
by allen estlack

The Clarendon Lions Club held their regular Tuesday noon meeting March 14, 2006, with Boss Lion Mark C. White in charge.

We had 13 members and three guests: Ashlee Estlack, guest of Lion Roger Estlack, and Scarlet and Nathan Estlack, guests of Lion Russell Estlack.

Lion Richard Sheppard assisted Lion Debbie Hamilton in leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

The club discussed the wildfires, and Lion Jimmy Johnson said none of the citations for violating the burn ban had yet been forgiven and that fines and court costs for even small fires were more than \$260 each.

There being no further business, we were adjourned.

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**Positive or Negative?**

By Mary Beth Nelson

*You gotta accentuate the positive. Eliminate the negative. Latch on to the affirmative. And don't mess with Mr. In-Between.*

Unless you are almost as old as I am and a fan of songwriter Johnny Mercer's musical hits of the 1940s, you may not recognize those four lines of lyrics from one of his most popular songs. I still like the song and its rhythm, but I seriously doubt that I always followed its advice during the time of its popularity.

None of us like negative occurrences. It is often easier to become upset without even giving much thought to why everything doesn't work out the way we think it should.

Humans are not guaranteed perfection. There are always going to be difficult times. Our attitude in the way we accept obstacles determines their severity in our lives. Our Creator supplies enough resources to counteract many negative situations. The Scriptures are full of His devoted guidance to bring more positiveness into the attitude of our daily living. Just to name a few - Ephesians 4:25-32; Philippians 4:4-9; I Thessalonians 4:11-12 and 5:12-24; and Galatians 5:19-23.

We often think we can't forget negative circumstances which might be facing us. With God's help in maintaining faithful awareness of His awesome mercy and loving promises, why shouldn't we try to "eliminate the negative and latch on to the affirmative"?

Read the brief song lyrics again. What do you think?

Bible thought: "...I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.... I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)

Mary Beth is an inspirational writer that has been published in numerous books and publications.

*"Thank You"*  
to Linda Hill for the  
cake she made me for my  
birthday and for helping  
to give me a special day.  
- Cennet Rhode

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**TIME FOR A CHANGE**  
Concerned Citizens of Donley County

There will be a meeting  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at 7 p.m.**  
at the Lions Hall  
west of the Clarendon Post Office.

We will have petitions to be signed asking for an election on:

- 1) Abolishing Personal Property Tax
- 2) To Freeze or Cap Ad Valorem Property Tax on the Homesteads of Elderly (age 65 and older) and Disabled Persons at the Current Dollar Amount
- 3) Abolishing the Hospital District Tax.

Information concerning issues important to Donley County will also be available.

**Everyone is invited. Please come!**  
**Bring your voter's registration.**

Ad paid for by Wanda Nichols, PO Box 963, Clarendon, TX 79226 and Verna Teague, 1021 S. Faker St., Clarendon, TX 79226.

**Sandell Drive-In**  
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## Livestock untold story of wildfires

Livestock caught in the path of Sunday's 50-mile-an-hour wind swept fires in the Panhandle could suffer death and severe damage from burns as well as smoke inhalation.

An estimated 700,000 acres burned in 14 different grass fires, taking out as many as 25 structures and causing seven fatalities. But the untold number is the amount of livestock injured and dead in the wake of the fire.

As many as 25,000 cattle are estimated to have been on the burned rangeland, said Dr. Steve Amosson, Texas Cooperative Extension economist. Included in the damage is the loss of pasture, which was at a minimum already due to the drought, and the burned fences that can cost as much as \$10,000 per mile to replace.

"Find them, get them adequate nutrition, and then consult your veterinarian," said Dr. Robert Sprowls, assistant agency director of the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory Sprowls.

"If they can be moved to unburned ground, it is best," Sprowls said. "Get them to fresh water and then rotate their feeding area to prevent the build-up of pathogens."

The most important thing is to get livestock to high-quality forage with a protein and mineral supplement and good water, Sprowls said.

If the livestock don't get adequate nutrition and water immediately, their health can deteriorate rapidly.

The fires came at a very inopportune time for ranchers who are beginning the calving season, said Dr. Ted McCollum, Extension livestock specialist. Not only will there be damage to the animals, but the dry soil profile doesn't promise any recovery of those rangelands anytime soon unless significant rain falls.

"We probably had a lot of calves that were laying out susceptible to the fire, as fast as it was moving across there," McCollum said. "They had no place to go. Also there will be a lot of mothers with potentially scorched udders. The calves that survived won't be able to suckle the mothers who have sore udders."

Analyzing injuries to cattle following a wildfire is important to minimize losses, said Dr. Floron "Buddy" Faries of Texas A&M University in College Station, Extension program leader for veterinary medicine.

"It might look like they've made it and there was no visible physical damage," Faries said. "However, it's important to have them looked at by a veterinarian as soon as possible because there could be secondary problems that lead to infections and further problems."

Health disorders, such as burned eyes, feet, udders, sheaths and testicles, as well as smoke inhalation with lung inflammation and edema, are the most common problems, he said.

"One of the problems we've run into in the past is with the feet," said Ron Gill, Extension livestock specialist in Stephenville. "It may take 10 days to two weeks for the damage to start showing. The cattle will start sloughing the hoof wall and become crippled."

Extension and veterinarians are working on determining major symptoms to look for and what actions to take if lameness begins to appear.

"To assure the welfare of the affected animals, veterinarians need to be consulted," Faries said. "If, in the event the animal is not going to be able to be treated, decisions concerning sending them to market need to be made immediately, before secondary complications develop."

Faries advised having an animal evacuation and rescue plan in place and implementing it ahead of a wildfire. The plans should include ways of moving livestock out of the fire danger zone and preventing any damages. This may include hauling the livestock out in trailers, or opening gates or cutting fences and releasing the livestock, allowing them to move to a safer place, including plowed

ground or wheat pasture, he said.

A fire danger zone is where the livestock risk inhaling smoke, he said, and will change according to the wind direction. Smoke can move for miles, and cattle that are not near the flames or heat could suffer some damage, Faries said.

Contact with burning grass, weeds, and brush causes immediate burns, he said. The severity of the burns will be determined by the degree of heat. However, inhalation of smoke causes immediate irritation to the lining of the respiratory system, including nasal passages, trachea and lungs, Faries said. This can lead to inflammation, edema, and emphysema with the severity determined by the duration of inhaled smoke.

In addition, the lining of the eyelids and eyeballs can be irritated and lead to secondary infections which can be fatal, Faries said. Once the fire has passed, immediately consult a veterinarian for any animals with severe burns or direct smoke exposure. Other livestock should also be evaluated for possible health disorders and treatment or determining if the animal can be salvaged, or for humane reasons, should be slaughtered or euthanized, he said.

The prognosis of mild cases may be good with treatment and will be cost-effective, Faries said.

## Emergency loans available for producers

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by severe drought conditions, above normal temperatures, and an extremely high number of wildfires on April 1, 2005, and continuing are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located at 321 S. Sully in Clarendon.

Donley County is one of 117 counties the Secretary of Agriculture recently named as eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from the drought,

temperatures, and wildfires.

FSA Farm Loan Manager Larry Goetze said farmers may be eligible for loans up to 100 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agriculture business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 3.75 percent.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered a least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Goetze said.

Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

"Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until September 18, 2006, but farmers should apply as soon as possible," Goetze said. "Delays in applying could create a backlog in processing with possible delays into the new farming season."

FSA is a credit agency of the US Department of Agriculture. It is

authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who meet US citizenship requirements and to farming partnerships, corporations, or cooperatives in which US citizenship requirements are met by individuals holding a majority interest.

The FSA office in Clarendon is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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## Holland, Thornberry named doubles' champs

By Sandy Anderberg

The March 7 tennis meet at the Amarillo Tennis Center was good to sophomore Erin Holland and freshman Cortnee Thornberry. The duo teamed up to take the top spot at the tennis meet in the B division.

Holland and Thornberry took on Childress in the first round, defeating them 9-8 and bested Canadian 8-4. They took on Palo Duro High

in the third round and got by them 8-5 to set up the championship match with Groom. Great play and determination allowed the team to defeat Groom 8-4 and take the championship.

Also playing doubles was the team of Jessi Howard and Haley Carter. They lost to Canadian in the first round 4-8 but came back to defeat Dimmitt 8-2 in the next round

before losing to Nazareth 4-8 in the third round. The boys' doubles team of Zach Rattan and Billy Cenicerio lost to Canadian 4-8 in the first round, bested Dimmitt 9-7 in the second round, and then lost to Groom 3-8 in the last round.

Todd Thompson was the lone singles player and soundly defeated Spearman 8-1 in the first round before falling to the eventual cham-

pion from Boys Ranch 4-8.

Overall, Coach Wade Callaway was very pleased with the results.

"We got some good experience, and I think some confidence (from the meet), especially Erin (Holland) and Cortnee (Thornberry)," Callaway said. "Todd (Thompson) had the toughest draw and is going to break out at any moment. The kids played hard and acted great."

## CHS track, field team competes in Tulia meet

By Sandy Anderberg

Several Broncos and Lady Broncos competed in the Tulia track meet Saturday, March 11. The Bronco varsity boys finished with 20 points in the meet.

Junior LaDez Captain jumped 40'2" in the triple jump, which was good enough for third place. Brad Sell cleared 13'0" in the pole vault and earned a second place finish. Captain ran the 400-meter dash in a time of 57.7. Sell took a third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.38, and Captain ran a personal best of

25.24 in the 200-meter. Katie Askew competed for the Lady Broncos and finished third in the discus with a throw of 89'3". She was also third in the shot put with a distance of 31'4 3/4".

Competing for the junior varsity was Danzel Wilson who was fourth in the discus with a throw of 100'8". Steven Fowler was sixth in that event at 98'2", and Derrick Shelton had a personal best throw of 78'. Stephen Fowler took fifth in the shot put with a distance of 36'2", which was a personal best and Wilson had a personal

best of 33'10". Scott Fowler also competed in the shot put.

Alton Gaines jumped 5'2" in the high jump for fifth place, and Johnny Ballard cleared 5'0". Gaines went 16'11 1/2" in the long jump. Shelton posted personal best times in the 100 and 200-meter dashes, and Gaines was fifth with a time of 25.39 in the 200-meter dash. Wes Christopher qualified for the finals with a personal best of 56.9 in the 400-meter dash and earned a fourth place finish in the finals with a time of 59.40. Gaines qualified with a time of 59.44

and placed third with a time of 58.74 in the 400-meter finals.

Keifer Burton competed in the 1600-meter run and turned in a time of 6:09.19. The 800-meter relay ran a season best time of 1:46.71, and members of the relay are Gaines, Ballard, Christopher, and Shelton.

"I was very proud of all the young men and women that went and competed (in the meet)," coach Johnny Nino said. "The times and distances are improving."

The next meet for CHS will be March 25 at Sanford-Fritch.

## Abdullah twins making mark on community college tennis

LIBERAL, KAN. — The Seward County Community College women's tennis team was perfect in their matches against Hutchinson and Kansas Newman University last week. The Lady Saints won every match where they had a player competing, but they suffered two losses in each competition due to disqualification. The Lady Saints defeated both Hutchinson and Kansas Newman 7-2. Seward County improves to 4-1 this season with a 30-15 match record against their opponents.

Seward County opened their Jayhawk West Conference schedule with a 7-2 defeat over the Lady Blue Dragons. With the Lady Saints only having five players available, they were forced to forfeit the No.

6 singles match and also the No. 3 doubles match.

Every Lady Saints tennis player won their match in straight sets including No. 2 singles player, Amina Abdullah (6-1, 6-0) and No. 3 singles player, Uthala Abdullah (6-1, 6-0), both of Clarendon.

In the Lady Saints match-up with Kansas Newman, SCCC dominated the four-year institution defeating them 7-2, with both losses due to disqualification. U. Abdullah continued her perfect singles record with a 6-0, 6-1, victory in No. 3 singles to Malory Alexander. U. Abdullah is now 5-0 in singles play this season.

The Lady Saints next match will be on the road at Seminole State College, in Seminole on March 30.

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# Lady Broncos find rhythm in double wins

By Sandy Anderberg

The Lady Broncos are settling down and playing good softball as they inch closer to their district season.

They defeated two solid teams last week in their quest to put together a winning Lady Bronco team this softball season.

Their first win came Tuesday night as they traveled to 2A Fritch and defeated them 15-10. Senior Haley Shelton was on the mound, throwing eight strike outs to help lead her team to the win. Jessi Howard was behind the plate for Shelton.

According to Coach Gary Jack, the Lady Broncos are making great strides.

"It was a much better hitting game for us," Jack said. "We could have played better defense, but our

offense was good, and we scored in every inning. We had several starters gone for various reasons, and others stepped up and did a great job of filling in. It was a good game for us. Haley pitched decent, and our defense woke up and started playing about the third inning. Our bats definitely kept us in the game."

Hits: Kaitlyn Howard 1 db, 2 sing; Shelton 3 sing, 1 trip; Kristen White 1 dbl, 1 sing; Sarah Scrivner 2 sing; Macy Shadle 1 trip, 1 sing; Jill Cornell 3 sing; Holly Cornell 1 sing; Janae White 3 sing; Abbie Massingill 1 sing.

The Lady Broncos also defeated Fritch 6-2 in the second game. Sarah Scrivner was on the mound; and according to Jack, she really shut their opponent down.

"They all played well in the second game," Jack said. "The

younger kids played well. They are all playing hard."

March 10 the ladies hosted River Road and defeated the Lady Cats 8-3 in a very exciting game. Once again Shelton was on the mound and recorded 11 strikeouts in the game.

"Haley had good control in the game," Jack said. "It was a good pitching game for her."

It took the Lady Broncos a couple of innings to get going, but they came on strong when it really counted.

"It was an overall team effort," Jack said. "We kept the pressure on them. I am encouraged by the improvement we are seeing. The girls are showing a lot of confidence in what they are doing."

Jill Cornell made a great catch in the 7th inning with two Lady Cats

on base that might have gone to the fence had Cornell not made the play. Amanda Mendez also showed great poise at her spot at third base and played a great defensive game.

Hits: Zan Burks 1 dbl, 1 sing; K. White 3 sing, RBI's; Howard 1 sing; Scrivner 1 sing; Holland 1 dbl, 1 sing; Shadle 2 sing.

The Lady Broncos also won the second game 10-0 with Scrivner and Janae White sharing duties on the mound and racking up several strikeouts.

The Lady Broncos plan to host a three-team round-robin tournament Friday, March 17, which will include Clarendon, River Road, and Booker. Games will begin at noon.

After spring break the Lady Broncos will begin their district schedule as they travel to Quanah March 21.

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## Broncos split two at Dumas

By Sandy Anderberg

The Bronco baseball team traveled to Dumas Monday, March 6, to take on the Dumas freshman. The first game went to the Broncos at 11-9, with Dumas winning the second game 9-10.

According to head baseball coach Brad Elam, the Broncos struggled from the mound in both games.

"Devin Noble was able to come into the games and settle us down," Elam said. "We played a good game defensively and had some big hits on the night."

Sophomore Dalton Askew had an inside the park homerun in the first game and drove in four runs, and Quentin West doubled, driving in four runs. Stephen Fowler also had some big hits and drove in four runs for the night, according to Elam.

"Brad Hagood had a good night with an inside the park homerun during the second game," Elam said. "He also stole six bases on the night, and Derrick Shelton hit a triple to the wall. Nathan Gribble pitched a good first inning and had a big hit, driving in two runs."

Friday the Broncos traveled to Boys Ranch and annihilated the Rough Riders 15-1 in five innings.

"We played a complete game," Elam said. "All phases of the game looked great, pitching, hitting, fielding and base running. Offensively, we had several players excel."

Quentin West was on the mound and only allowed two hits and struck out seven. Jon McGlaun went one for three with two runs scored and two stolen bases. West was four for four with two doubles and 5 RBIs, and Hagood was two for three with one run scored and a stolen base.

"Dalton Askew provided much of the firepower, going three for three with two long homeruns and four runs scored along with six RBIs," Elam said. "He also played well defensively, blocking pitches in the dirt."

The Broncos will host Shamrock March 17 to begin district play and will take on Sanford Fritch at home March 18. The Shamrock game will begin at 4:30 p.m., and Saturday's game will begin at noon.

### Santos, Crofford claim top positions at CCC

By Sandy Anderberg

Mike Santos bested a field of 12 men in the weekly men's game with his scratch score of 64 for 18 rounds. Bobby Dodson's net of 66 was second, and Wendol Miller turned in a net of 70 for third place. Jesse Lincycumb was fourth with a net score of 72.

Bonnie Crofford turned in a 65 for first out of a field of eight players, while Dorothy Breedlove's 69 was good enough for second. Gail Leathers turned in a net of 70 to take third.

The spring six-man Skin's game will be held Sunday, April 2, at 1:00 p.m. at a cost of \$300 per team plus the price of a cart. Entries have been coming in at record pace, so space is limited. Call your entry in to the Pro Shop at 874-2166 if you are interested in entering this tournament.

## CHS Bronco golf team claims title

By Sandy Anderberg

Five CHS golfers combined to take the top team honors at the Clarendon Golf Tournament held at the Clarendon Country Club March 6.

McLean was second, and Ft. Elliott finished third.

Senior Jeremy Utsey was second with a 79 behind White Deer's Sworb, who shot a 78. Booze from Miami was third with an 88. Members of the Bronco

team are Utsey, Quentin West, Andy Roberts, Ty White, and Will Betts.

The winning girls' team was McLean, with Miami second, and Ft. Elliott third. The girls' champion was Chapman from Wheeler with an 86, Watts from Hedley was second with an 88, and Miami's Menard was third with a 99.

The Broncos will take part in the Roaring Springs Tournament that will be held March 23.

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Broncos		
1	Devin Noble	Fr
2	Alton Gaines	Fr
3	Nathan Gribble	Fr
6	Trevor Leeper	So
7	JT Christopher	Fr
8	Billy Ceniceros	Fr
9	Derrick Shelton	Fr
10	Austin Howard	So
12	Dalton Askew	So
13	Stephen Fowler	So
14	Jon McGlaun	Jr
15	Quentin West	Sr
17	LaDez Captain	Jr
21	Stephen Ford	Sr
23	Brad Hagood	Jr
24	Zach Rattan	Fr
25	Clint Watson	Jr
45	Joel Horn	Jr
48	Keifer Burton	So
50	Chris Herndon	So
65	Cody Scrivner	Sr
Coach: Brad Elam		
Manager: Anndria Kidd		

### Broncos

Clarendon v. Shamrock  
Fri., March 17, at 4:30 p.m.  
Double Header in Clarendon  
(FIRST DISTRICT GAME)

Clarendon v. Sanford Fritch  
Sat., March 18 at 12:00 p.m.  
at Clarendon

### Lady Broncos

Clarendon Tournament  
Fri., March 17 at noon

Clarendon v. Quanah  
Tues., March 21, at 4:30 p.m.  
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(FIRST DISTRICT GAME)

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1	Holly Cornell Sr
2	Jessi Howard Jr
3	Kaitlyn Howard Sr
4	Erin Holland So
5	Abby Patten So
6	Erica Depew Jr
7	Jenci White Fr
8	Macy Shadle Fr
9	Britenie Saitta Fr
10	Abbie Massingill Fr
11	Haley Shelton Sr
12	Janae White Fr
13	Haleigh Lewis Fr
14	Kristen White Sr
15	Niki Roberts Fr
16	Sarah Scrivner Jr
19	Courtney Judd Jr
21	Amanda Mendez So
22	Casey Phillips So
23	Sade Fass-Cobb So
24	Jill Cornell So
25	Zan Burks So
Head Coach: Gary Jack	
Asst. Coach: Kasey Bell	
Stats: Shelby Watson and Trisha Hewett	





**Sheriff's Report:**

**Calls of all varieties give deputies busy week**

**March 6**  
 8:36 a.m. - Motorcycle accident. Hwy. 287 W.  
 9:30 a.m. - Out at courthouse for docket call.  
 10:00 a.m. - With pedestrian. Hwy. 287 E.  
 7:38 p.m. - Assist EMS at station.  
 7:48 p.m. - Disturbance. 500 block E. Second. Loud music.  
 8:47 p.m. - Check stranded motorist. Hwy. 70 N.  
 10:01 p.m. - Possible trespass. CHS field house.  
 11:48 p.m. - Assist motorist. Hwy. 70 N. Transport to town.

**March 7**  
 10:39 a.m. - Out at annex.  
 2:57 p.m. - To jail with one male in custody. MTA robbery.  
 4:42 p.m. - Attempt to serve arrest warrant. North Clarendon.  
 4:47 p.m. - To second location.  
 7:12 p.m. - 700 block Collinson.  
 7:49 p.m. - Check area. Hwy. 287 at

Goodnight.  
 9:01 p.m. - 1500 block W. 5th. Family dispute.

**March 8**  
 7:46 a.m. - Check stranded motorist. Hwy. 287 at Kearney.  
 9:10 a.m. - See complainant. Hwy. 287 at Jefferson. Vehicle backed over pole.  
 11:32 a.m. - Two vehicle accident. Clarendon College.

**March 9**  
 12:00 a.m. - Respond to business alarm. 400 block W. Second.  
 5:56 a.m. - See complainant. 900 block W. Second.  
 4:09 p.m. - Out at annex.  
 4:32 p.m. - Out at Clarendon College BAC.

**March 10**  
 5:59 a.m. - Break-in. Clarendon College cafeteria.  
 7:57 a.m. - Out at residence. Blair St.

**March 11**  
 6:05 a.m. - See caller. Hwy. 287 at S. Koogle.  
 10:23 a.m. - Campfire. North side of dam.  
 12:20 p.m. - Funeral escort.  
 8:25 p.m. - Check fire.  
 8:57 p.m. - Check residence. 600 block S. Kearney.  
 10:48 p.m. - Kids throwing rocks at residence.

**March 12**  
 3:09 a.m. - EMS assist. 800 block S. Johns.

Hedley.  
 8:13 a.m. - To jail with two males in custody. Burglary of building.  
 9:10 a.m. - Disturbance. 100 block E. Fourth St.  
 9:20 a.m. - Dispatched to Clarendon College.  
 1:35 p.m. - Out at annex.  
 10:46 p.m. - Business alarm. 100 block Circle Dr.

11:22 a.m. - Fire north of Howardwick.  
 12:15 p.m. - All deputies dispatched to numerous fire locations. Numerous calls next several hours related to fires throughout Donley Co. Clarendon, Howardwick, Hedley Fire Departments, EMS units all out.

**Donley County has lost thousands of acres to fires. Burn ban is still in effect. Please consider what carelessness with fire can do.**

Summary  
 EMS: 12  
 Fire Department: 3  
 Arrests: 5

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**USDA provides farm loans to socially disadvantaged**

The US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency allocates a portion of its farm loan program funds specifically for socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) including minority and women producers.

"FSA farm loans are available to all qualified applicants, but by setting aside funds specifically for minorities and women, the agency ensures members of these specific groups can receive a portion of available funds - assuming they meet FSA loan eligibility requirements," said Larry J. Goetze, Farm Loan Manager for Donley, Wheeler, Gray, Hall, and Motley Counties FSA.

By FSA definition, an applicant is considered socially disadvantaged if he or she is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice, without regard to individual qualities. FSA has identified socially disadvantaged groups as women, blacks, American Indians, Alaskan natives, Hispanics, Asians, and Pacific islanders.

FSA offers both direct and guaranteed farm loans. Farm loan funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock, and equipment. They may also be used to operate a farm, build

or repair service buildings, pay for soil and water conservation practices, and, in some cases, refinance debt.

For direct loans made by FSA to purchase a farm, the terms may extend to 40 years with a current interest rate of 5.25 percent. Direct operating loans may be made for one to seven years with a current interest rate of 4.875 percent, which is subject to change.

"Applicants requesting direct real estate loans should be aware that funding for this program is limited and may require a waiting period before funds are available and applications approved," Goetze said.

FSA guaranteed loans are made by banks or other commercial lenders and are guaranteed by FSA for up to 90 percent of any loss. The guaranteed loan program includes both operating and real estate loan programs. If a loan applicant is able to obtain financing from a private lender equal to 50 percent or more of the total funds needed to jointly finance the purchase of the farm, the interest rate on the FSA direct loan would be fixed at five percent.

For more information, contact the Donley or Hall County FSA offices at 874-3561 or 259-3579.

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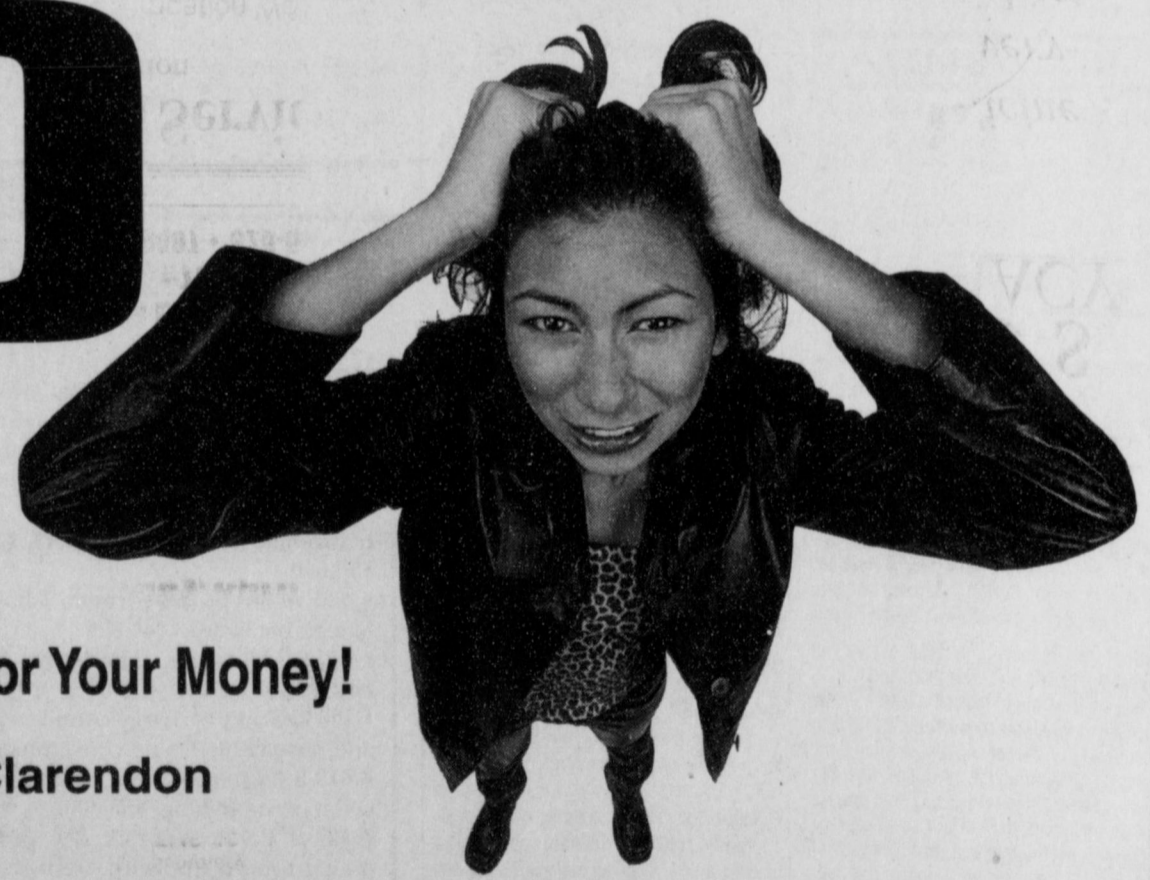
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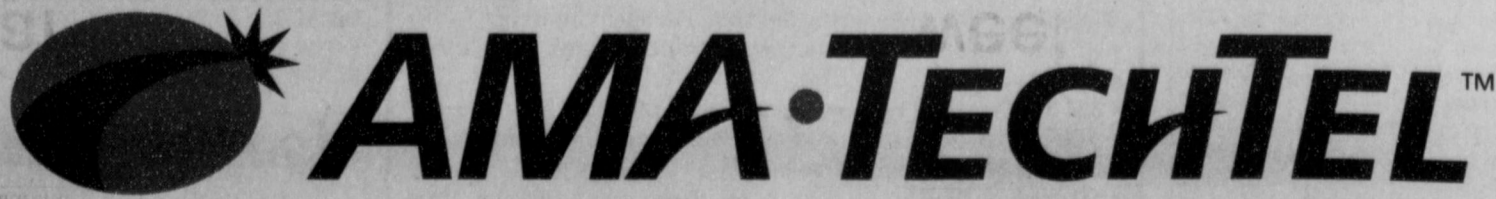
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