



# THE CLARENDON **Enterprise**

THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

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## THIS WEEK

- 2 Fred Gray urges voters to make their voices heard this Saturday.
- 4 Door-to-door salesmen have to have permits from the city.
- 6 Col. Charles Goodnight's restored home is now open to visitors.
- 7 And the Broncos fall in the playoffs.

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

## City Hall reminds about water rules

The City of Clarendon is reminding everyone that Stage 4 Drought Contingencies are still in place and all outdoor watering restrictions still in force.

Watering is limited to the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. to midnight on all days. Residences with odd street addresses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and residences with even street addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays. Commercial accounts may water on Tuesdays and Fridays.

## Counterfeit bills reported in region

According to press releases, the Amarillo Police Department forgery investigators have reported that two counterfeit \$50 dollar bills have surfaced in Amarillo in the last week.

The serial number of the bills passed so far is JK00322220A. The bills were passed at two different locations.

The printing quality of the bills is not that of genuine bills. If you think someone is trying to present a counterfeit bill, try to avoid returning it to the person that passed it. Delay them and call the Donley County Sheriff's Department through 911 if the suspect is still there, or 874-3533 if the crime is not in progress. Try to note the license plate number of any vehicle involved, and try to avoid handling the bill to preserve fingerprint evidence.

Remember, these bills will pass the common marking pen method used to detect them. There have been no suspects arrested at this time. Investigators have reason to believe that other bills like this may be passed.

## Dodgeball tourney to benefit Burton

The "Dare to Dodge" dodgeball tournament will be held this Saturday, May 11, at 10:30 a.m. at Clarendon High School to benefit a Hedley student with epilepsy.

All donations and funds raised by the tournament will go toward the effort to get a service dog for Kortney Burton.

The games are open to everyone who wants to form a team, and the sign-up deadline is Friday, May 10, at 5 p.m. Teams will play against the Donley County Sheriff's Office, Clarendon Fire Department, Clarendon EMS, and the Texas Highway Patrol.

Six-person teams are \$60 per team. Contact Sonny at 806-440-6616 for more information.

## Trash To Treasures sign-ups start May 3

Mark your calendars for the eighth annual Trash To Treasures garage sale event to be held Saturday, June 1, 2013.

Sign-ups are underway at The Clarendon Enterprise, and registration is \$20 and comes with local and area advertising, a place on the official map, and the exclusive Trash To Treasures Garage Sale Kit.

# CISD adopts tax hike, triggers election

Clarendon ISD Trustees unanimously adopted a tax increase last Tuesday, April 30, and automatically triggered a June 1 election for voters to approve or deny the increase.

The new ad valorem rate of \$1.17 per \$100 valuation represents a 13-cent increase over the current rate of \$1.04, which is the highest the state allows school districts to set without voter approval.

CISD Superintendent Monty Hysinger opened a public hearing prior to the trustees' vote with an in-depth presentation explain-

ing the school's projected \$434,960 budget deficit for the 2013-2014 school year, which he attributed to cuts in state funding and declining enrollment numbers. The school district has an ad on page eight of this week's Enterprise explaining the need for the tax increase.

If approved by voters, the \$1.17 rate is expected to generate \$165,570 in local revenues, triggering an additional \$145,228 in state funds, and ultimately bringing in a total of \$310,798 in new money.

Fifteen citizens attended the

public hearing, and several individuals questioned board members and school administrators on a wide range of issues that focused on both financial concerns and a perceived lack of communication between the school and parents.

Alice Cobb asked about tax rate comparisons between CISD and nearby school districts, called attention to communication issues, and said many people perceive that the school hasn't made cuts or hasn't suffered financially.

School board candidate Linda

Rowland asked how the district would deal with the deficit if the election fails, and Trustee Jim Shelton replied that the board had not looked at specific areas to cut in that case. Board president Wayne Hardin said the worst case scenario would be cuts to popular programs.

Roger Estlack suggested that the school be very specific about what the cuts would have to be, and parents also discussed the costs of the C-SCOPE curriculum, the Accelerated Reader program, and the number of athletic programs offered

by the school.

Tex Buckhaults said he thought passing the tax increase was necessary, and high school teacher Diane Skelton pointed to the number of successful graduates that have come out of CHS as reasons to favor passage of the tax rate to maintain the school's level of success.

All present said they wanted what was best for the school's kids even if that means raising taxes, but several said they wanted to be sure the school was doing everything possible to be financially responsible.



## Smiling artist

Clarendon Kindergartener Maloree Wann beams as she exhibits her artwork during the CISD Gifted & Talented Showcase last Wednesday evening.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO / ROGER ESTLACK

# Voters heading to polls Saturday

## 24 candidates on four ballots

Voters head to the polls this Saturday, May 11, to decide who will lead four local governments in Donley County.

Early balloting for the City of Clarendon, Clarendon ISD, the City of Howardwick, and Hedley ISD closed Tuesday with very high turnouts being reported. As of Tuesday morning, officials reported the following early turnout: City of Howardwick 42, Hedley ISD 36, Clarendon ISD 309, and City of Clarendon 284.

Saturday's elections will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and balloting for the City of Clarendon and Clarendon ISD Board of Trustees will be held at the Donley County Courthouse Annex, the Howardwick city election will be held at Howardwick City Hall, and Hedley ISD voters will cast their ballots at the Hedley Lions Club.

In all 24 candidates are seeking elected offices around Donley County this spring.

Clarendon Mayor Larry Hicks is being challenged for his job by Alderman Tommy Hill, and four people are running for two positions available on the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Debbie Roberts, who was appointed in December, is seeking a full term in office, and she is joined on the ballot by former alderman Janice Knorpp, Sandy Skelton, and Trevor Leeper.

Clarendon ISD has four candidates running for three

positions on the Board of Trustees. Current school board members Robin Ellis and Jim Shelton are seeking re-election and challengers Linda Rowland and Chuck Robertson are also running.

Six candidates are running for two positions on the Hedley School Board. Incumbents Bonnie Walsh Brown and James E. Potts are being challenged by Michele McCann, Kevin Smith, Aaron Harper, and Lana Ritchie.

The City of Howardwick leads the candidate count at eight with David P. Cafferata and former alderman Mike Rowland running for mayor; William R. Jordan, Gail Leathers, and Jim Cockerham running for two vacant full terms on the Board of Aldermen; and Alderman Gene Rogers, Cory Longan, former mayor H.L. "Buster" Baird, and Sandy Sanders vying for two unexpired terms.

A survey of the Donley and Collingsworth appraisal districts conducted Tuesday by the ENTERPRISE found that the households of all candidates running for office except one have paid their property taxes. McCann's husband Tye still owes for 2012, but local officials say they don't consider 2012 taxes delinquent until July.

Election results will be posted on www.ClarendonLive.com as soon as they become available Saturday evening and will be printed in next week's ENTERPRISE.

# Hedley exchange student shines at state

By Fred Gray, Clarendon Enterprise

Last week, Marijke Tiddens, a Dutch foreign exchange student from Germany, became the first Hedley High School athlete to win a medal at the state tennis finals, held in College Station.

On her way to winning the bronze medal for division 1A, awarded for third place, Marijke defeated Hayley Hunter, of Harleton High School (Harleton lies deep in the Piney Woods, just north of Marshall and Longview) 6-2, 6-2, to advance to the semi-finals.

In the semi-finals, Marijke was defeated 0-6, 2-6, by eventual state champion Caitlin Rothe, of Knippa High School (Knippa is located 50 miles due west of San Antonio). Caitlin also won the bronze medal in tennis for 2A last year. Ms. Rothe

defeated her rival in the finals by exactly the same score as she beat Marijke, 6-0, 6-2, so a case could be made that Marijke could just as easily won the silver medal if the draw had been a bit different.

The only other Hedley High School athletic to make it to state in tennis was Holly Davis in 2005.

The blonde 17-year-old native of Holland, who lives with her family in the eastern area of Germany, just north of the Czech Republic and a few miles east of Poland, considers tennis to be her favorite sport. Her aunt, back in Germany, is a tennis coach and taught her the game.

Marijke's father, Peter is a dairy farmer and her mother, Corrie, teaches English. Marijke also has an older brother and sister, who, along with her parents, anxiously await her

return to Germany early in July. She will then repeat her 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade year. She received no extra credit for coming to Hedley and learning about America and Texas, which she really wanted to do. She came because she wanted to experience America.

She grew to love her exchange family and Hedley classmates and will remember them always. Marijke hopes to return to Donley County in a few years and bring her mother with her.

Marijke was coached by Garrett Bains. She smiled when she spoke of him and graciously acknowledged that he was smart enough to give her pointers on what it takes to win, and then getting out of her way. Coach Bains also deserves recognition for preparing her to win, and then allowing her the freedom to do so.



Marijke Tiddens (right) meets her opponent at the net after winning the second set 5-2 at the state meet last week. Photo by Hedley Yearbook

# Sts. Roost Museum to receive Comanche arrow marker

The Quanah Parker Trail will officially come through Clarendon next Friday when an arrow sculpture is installed at the Saints' Roost Museum.

The local marker is one of three coming to the Panhandle next week, courtesy of sculptor and artist Charles A. Smith of New Home, Texas. The Tri-County Tourism Gathering hosted by the Texas Panhandle Tourism Marketing Council (PTMC).

The first arrow will be installed in Panhandle on US Highway 60 at the east end of the Carson County Law Enforcement Center at approximately 9:30 a.m. The second arrow

will be installed in Clarendon at the Saint's Roost Museum at 11:30 a.m., and the third arrow will be installed in Goodnight at the Charles Goodnight House and Visitor's Center at 2:00 p.m.

Smith, assisted by local volunteers, will install the outdoor sculptures to highlight the history and legacy of Comanche presence during the Red River Indian Wars of 1874-1875.

Saints' Roost Museum officials welcome the arrow marker placement to highlight the historic relationship between Quanah Parker and Col. Charles Goodnight, and the Native

American artifacts and Red River Wars exhibits in the Museum as well as memorializing the presence of native people in this area.

The Quanah Parker Trail honors historical landmarks, sites, events and artifacts in museums that link this region to the Native Americans who last roamed the Texas Panhandle Plains. It is named after Quanah Parker to recognize his role as the chief of the Comanche people, who were the most powerful Native American presence in the region.

A metal plate with an arrow number on the tip of the arrow will signify the order of placement in the 52-county Texas Plains Trail

Region. The 340-pound arrows stand 22 feet tall; and 1/4 inch in diameter steel rods, resembling the fletching of feathers, vibrate in the wind. Each arrow is painted in the Comanche colors of red, blue, and gold.

With the blessing of the great grandchildren of Quanah Parker, on May 17 the arrows will rise grandly and sing in the wind in Armstrong, Carson and Donley counties.

For more information, contact Holle Humphries, facilitator for the Quanah Parker Trail project, or Barbara Brannon, executive director, Texas Plains Trail Region, at 806.252.6554 or info@TexasPlainsTrail.com.

guest commentary

## Opposing the Internet Tax Bill

By US Sen. Ted Cruz

Basic tenets of economics dictate that when you tax something, you get less of it. That's why it's incomprehensible that the U.S. Senate is moving to raise taxes on one of the brightest sectors of our struggling economy.

The Internet is a thriving ecosystem of entrepreneurial freedom that should be protected and nourished. It has allowed new businesses to compete in the national marketplace in ways that would have been impossible 15 years ago, and it empowers consumer choice. But tax-hungry politicians view the Internet as yet another source of revenue to bail out their big-spending governments.

The misleadingly titled Marketplace Fairness Act is a job-killing tax hike, plain and simple. It is, in effect, a national Internet sales tax, which would hammer the little guy and benefit giant corporations.

Senators who vote for it are voting to impose audits, compliance costs, lost wages, and inefficiency on small businesses in every state. And they are potentially crippling an engine of new job creation at a time of economic struggle. This bill will not create jobs; it will not create new opportunities; and it will not create the economic growth our country needs and our people deserve.

Currently, online sellers collect sales taxes based on their physical location. The MFA, however, would fundamentally change how businesses collect those taxes. Instead, it would require online retailers to charge taxes based on the consumer's location or where the product is ultimately consumed. That's like your grocery store quizzing you on where you're going to eat those apples or Hallmark asking where you're going to send that Christmas card. The compliance burdens associated with charging taxes based on the consumer's location are mind-numbingly complicated.

Consider this: Online and catalogue retailers with gross sales of \$1 million – a level that is mom & pop size in many places – will be forced to collect sales taxes for the country's 9,600 state and local tax jurisdictions. Just as Obamacare punishes small business with taxes and regulations for employing more than 50 people, this legislation would punish small businesses for making more than \$1 million in sales. For many businesses it may be more beneficial to make less money than to keep track of all the different taxes.

Small and medium-size businesses would be subjected to monthly or quarterly tax returns to all 46 states who collect sales tax; in addition, one amendment likely to be added to the bill would also include all 565 federally recognized Indian tribes in the definition of "state," so businesses would need to collect applicable taxes for them, too.

As if that wasn't enough, each of the nearly 10,000 jurisdictions gets to have its own tax rates and sales tax holidays with thresholds and caps. Each state can give sellers their own "tax app" and it's up to the seller to pay for integration into their in-house systems for ordering, fulfillment, and accounting.

Keep in mind, each state still gets to have its own audit, forms, tax base, and definitions. That means every online seller could be subject to dozens – or eventually hundreds – of audits each year.

So, how is this fair? After all, brick and mortar stores aren't subjected to all these rules.

And, how is it fair for a Texas business to collect taxes to support California Gov. Jerry Brown's big spending? Or to underwrite New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's nanny statism or Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's anti-Second Amendment agenda?

Make no mistake: Big business supports this bill because it will drive smaller competitors off the Internet and out of business.

And it wouldn't help small brick-and-mortar retailers, as its proponents claim, because the sales they are losing today are mostly going to big-box stores and giant online retailers – both of whom are already paying sales taxes.

The largest online retailers already have physical business presences in most states. Meaning, they are already collecting and paying the state taxes. Right now, nine of the top 10 Internet retailers collect taxes in every state. Big businesses can afford to hire accountants and attorneys to pay the taxes properly and navigate audits.

Instead, this bill would just impose crushing new costs on small and mid-size Internet retailers.

Enjoy Web-based entertainment such as Netflix and iTunes? Or how about the projected 56 billion apps downloaded in 2013? Well, this bill will open the door to new taxes on every TV show, movie, game, song, or app you download.

Naturally, state and local governments are salivating at the prospect of getting a purported \$23 billion in new revenue from the private economy. Especially when the out-of-state consumers paying those taxes and the out-of-state businesses owners who collect them can't vote them out of office.

Last but not least, this bill doesn't pass constitutional muster. The MFA overturns the fundamental idea that states' taxing authority ends at their borders. The Supreme Court has said that an out-of-state business could subject itself to a state's taxing power if due-process concerns are satisfied, namely that the business purposefully targets its activities in that state. But because pure Internet sales by their nature don't target any one state, this legislation presents a serious constitutional problem.

Raising the tax burden on small businesses in one of the still-thriving sectors of our economy doesn't make sense. And, imposing a national Internet sales tax while the nation is still trying to desperately to create jobs and provide new opportunities for millions of Americans still struggling to find work is economic foolishness.

Ted Cruz is a United States Senator for the State of Texas.

## Make your voice heard this Saturday

As we go to press today, the last day of early voting is coming to a close. If you haven't voted, please plan on taking a few minutes to go vote Saturday, May 11. This may be one of the most important elections we've had in many years. Three specific elections concern me: the Clarendon Board of Aldermen, the Clarendon ISD Board of Trustees, and Hedley ISD Board of Trustees.

Howardwick is no longer a concern. They have stepped up to the plate and have many candidates vying for several positions available. Good for them. Seriously! Good. For. Them. The city made a plea for help and the good folks of Howardwick responded marvelously.

Regarding the Clarendon Board of Aldermen, many concerns still need to be addressed. It is my understanding that the early voting turnout has been excellent. Hopefully, this trend will continue through this weekend and most of our citizens will choose to be heard. If the turnout is good, regardless of the results, Clarendon citizens will reap the benefits of a fully engaged citizenry.

The attitudes of the aldermen have for the most part (excepting a couple of aldermen) become churlish and vituperative as they conduct the city's business. It's sad to see, and sadder still to hear concerned citizens speak of their dysfunction. Hopefully, the voices of the people will result in wise choices.

Hedley ISD is also holding elections, with six candidates vying for two places. The incumbents are James Edward Potts and Bonnie Brown – currently the president of the board. After spending a few months watching the board conduct the business of the Hedley Independent School District, I must admit that I'm more than a bit shocked at the attitudes of the board members. With a couple of exceptions, the board seems to be more concerned with

making sure the administration, particularly superintendent Bill Sanders, bows the line as delineated by the board.

Rather than focusing on the teamwork needed to maximize the learning experience of Hedley's students, the board, again with exceptions, seems to be determined to keep a short leash on Mr. Sanders. For example, in Monday's board meeting, one of the board members (who isn't running for re-election) rather pointedly reminded Mr. Sanders that he is not allowed to spend more than a specific sum of money without their prior written authorization, never mind that he had not spent more than the allowed amount in a single purchase. She had misunderstood that the amount in question concerned several purchases rather than one specific item. My point is that she was more concerned with controlling Mr. Sanders than with doing what is best for the students of Hedley.

A similar question was raised by Bonnie Brown, wondering why purchase requisitions were sometimes dated after the actual purchase date. Again, this was done to micro-manage the administration, rather than spending their valuable time setting policy and exploring ways in which to create synergy between the board and the administration to maximize the benefits to the students.

Mr. Sanders, Mr. O'Dell, and the rest of the administration do an excellent job of professionally educating Hedley's students. Yet, they are continually fighting to overcome silly little obstacles that are artificially raised by members of the board.



the quick, the dead, & fred  
by fred gray

Take for example, the recent trip of Marijke Tiddens, the first Hedley student to win a medal in the state UIL tennis championships.

Prior to the trip, Karen Watt, a board member who isn't up for re-election, required Mr. Sanders to jump through an absurd series of hoops regarding the issue of a properly constituted school concussion team – even as they prepared to travel to College Station. Mrs. Watt even went so far as to remind Mr. Sanders that he would be at fault if Ms. Tiddens was prevented from competing in the championships. Really? Didn't the board hire Mr. Sanders to handle these issues? Geez! Leave him alone and let him do his job.

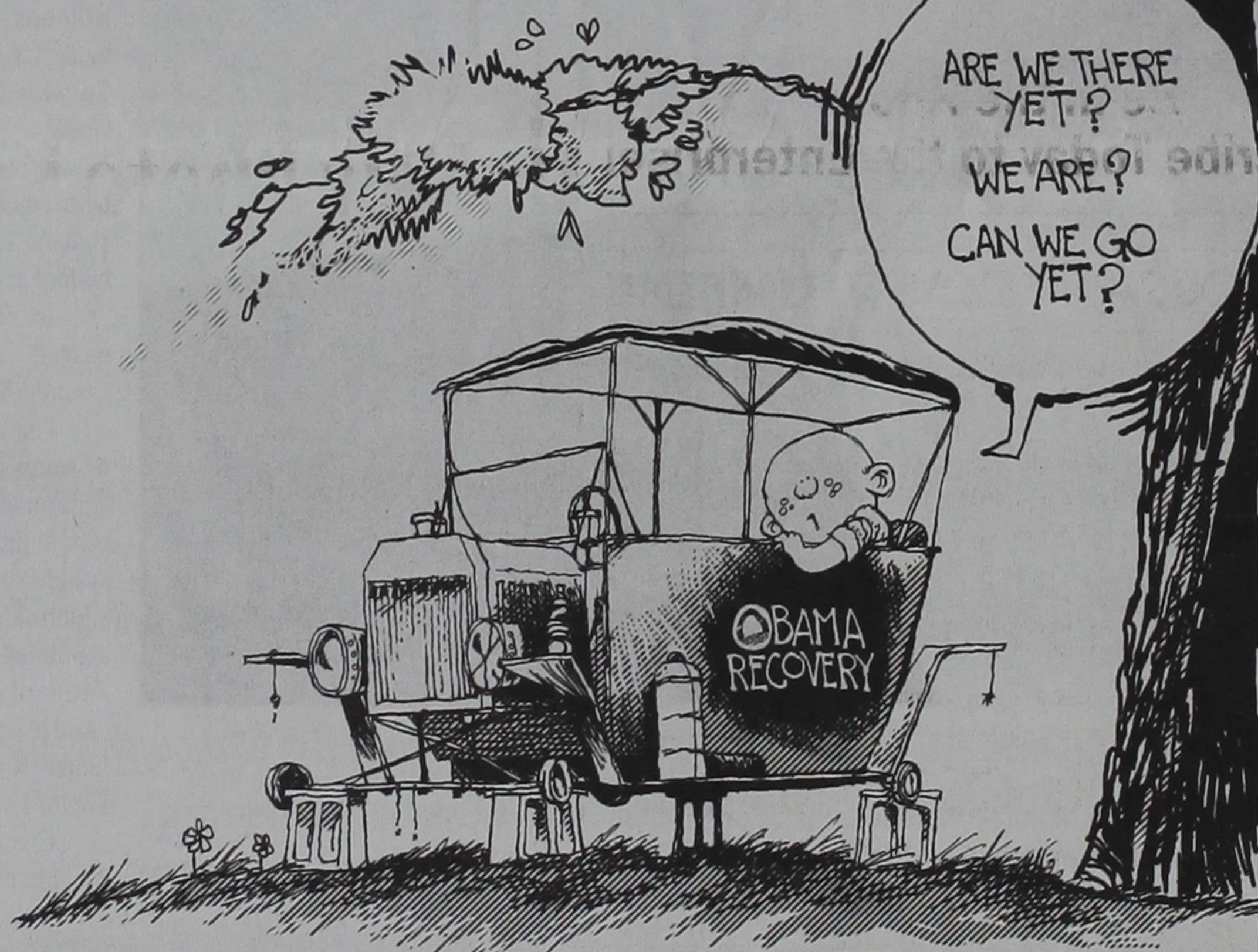
FYI: Ms. Tiddens was allowed to compete, which she did very well, and I'm certain that the totally bogus issue of a properly constituted school concussion team was never raised.

Yet, these outrageous interferences by the board continue ad nauseam, and by several different board members. Hopefully, the citizens of Hedley will see the light and elect board members who will be committed to setting policy, and seeking ways to build the teamwork and synergy needed to give the students of Hedley a first class education, which they deserve.

Which brings me to the Clarendon ISD Board of Trustee election? While reading the names of the students who made the "A Honor Roll" I noticed that there was a substantial drop off after the second grade, then there was a drastic drop off after the eighth grade. In high school, we only had five students make the "A Honor Roll". In the "AB Honor Roll", there is a steady drop off as the students progressed towards graduation. Perhaps we need to ask our candidates why our students' achievements seem to decline as they progress through school.

Let's all go vote Saturday, May 11.

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## Reader: Vote for change at HISD

I am a proud of graduate of Hedley ISD, Class of '97. I also am the mother of four students who are currently enrolled in this school. We've just recently moved back to the area, living in Memphis, and my kids ride the bus to Hedley. We have come from a very bad school situation for three years. Knowing how great of an education that I got when I was there, there was no doubt about where we would send our kids. My kids love it there, they are happy, and the "negative" has stopped coming home with them since beginning school at Hedley.

However I am greatly saddened by the turmoil that is basically erupting from the school board. I am keeping up with it through your paper. It saddens me because this is a good school with great kids and teachers and administrators. It always has been. With all that is coming from the meetings, I have to wonder, "What in the world is this doing for the kids?" They are the important ones. We adults should know this and let it guide our decisions and our decision making.

I am truly regretting not being able to vote in the upcoming election. Since I live in Memphis, I am not able to vote. I wish I could, because I would vote for the people who have the best interests of the kids at heart. It seems to me that the majority of this board is only out to self-serve and to see what they can get out of it and how many people they can

make unhappy or uncomfortable. And most importantly, the majority seems to simply smother everyone else with what they want.

It is not your fault that these articles have nothing to do with how can we improve the kids' school environment, the safety of the kids in light of all the school shootings, or what kind of breakthrough curriculum there is that we should use or what kind of support can we give to our educators and support staff such as better training and workshops. It is simply the fault of some immature adults who want their way. They don't like each other or the administrators or some of the teachers, and they seem to be working overtime to make those people miserable. My fear is that our school is going to lose some awesome teachers who can't or won't deal with the drama, undue stress and ridiculousness that the board is dishing out.

The school could even lose some kids. Kids don't like going to school where they don't feel important. And parents don't like the turmoil and don't like the lack of support from the board to the school and administrators.

Reading this last article makes me wonder why in the world did this board hire the superintendent if they don't like him? I've only known him a short time, but I'm super confused about why they don't like him.

I want to take this opportunity to please encourage the citizens of Hedley school district to please get out and vote. Vote for change! Don't just vote for the same old people just because they have the name, or because they've always been on the board, or because you don't like change or stepping out of your comfort zone. Vote for the kids. They should come first. It's a school. This is an institution of higher learning.

I think if the board wants to throw dirt at each other or the administration, then they should go play in a sandbox and not try to govern a school board. I don't like getting involved in all of this political stuff, but enough is enough. Our kids deserve better. They should also start thinking about the image of the school and the town and the kids.

Due to their constant bickering and immaturity, the only press the school is getting is bad press. Our portion of the newspaper should only be filled with the kids, their achievements, new and outstanding goings on at the school, and the teachers' outstanding abilities.

This might not make me the popular parent and it could possibly affect the approval of my children's transfer from Memphis to Hedley, but I can't stand the 'mess' that's encompassing the school and town.

Cindy Lambert,  
Memphis

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### DEADLINES

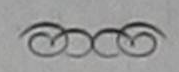
News articles and photos are due by Monday at noon. Advertising and Classifieds are due by five o'clock Monday afternoon. Deadlines may be altered for holidays or special issues.

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### LETTERS

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



### 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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## Final call for 2012 Census of Agriculture

WASHINGTON - With the window to respond to the 2012 Census of Agriculture officially closing on May 31, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is urging farmers and ranchers not to miss this opportunity to be counted and help determine the future of farming in America. USDA has already received more than 2 million completed Census forms.

"Our nation needs your help to ensure that decisions about U.S. agriculture accurately represent you, your communities, and your industry," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"For every 158 people in America there is one farm. I urge you to take action today and respond to the Census - your country is counting on the information to help ensure a continued supply of food, fiber and fuel for generations to come."

The Census of Agriculture, conducted only once every five years, is the only source of consistent

and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. It looks at farms, value of land, market value of agricultural production, farm practices, expenditures, and other factors that affect the way farmers and ranchers do business. The information is used by agribusinesses, town planners, local governments, and policy makers, as well as farmers, ranchers, growers and others to shape farm programs, boost rural services and grow the future of farming.

"Agriculture in America is an industry built on tradition, honor and pride," said Vilsack. "We have heard this from the farmers and ranchers who completed their Census of Agriculture form. It's not too late for those who have not yet responded to join the generations of producers who participated in the Agriculture Census since it was first conducted in 1840. Only you can continue to provide the facts straight from the farm."

The 2012 Census will provide a

complete picture of agriculture that will be used to shape the future of agriculture, rural America, and the lives of those USDA serves for years to come. The deadline to respond to the Census of Agriculture is only a few weeks away on May 31. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) may contact producers by phone or in person to collect Census information since time is running out.

Farmers and ranchers can also return their forms by mail or online by visiting a secure website, [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). Federal law requires a response from everyone who receives the Census form and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential.

For more information about the Census, including helpful tips on completing your Census form, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

## Century Tournament nets thirty-six teams

By Sandy Anderberg

Thirty-six two-person teams participated in the annual Century Tournament at the Clarendon Country Club last weekend.

The teams competed in six different flights according to their combined ages. The winner of the 100-109 flight was the team of Doug and Dennis McCain and they came in at 136 for the 36-hole event and second was won by Steve Gray and Kevin Roberson at 138. Three teams tied for third place with a total of 139. They were the teams of P.J. Lemons and Mark Morris, Clint and Mack Grange, and Carroll and Jeff Duncan.

Mike Santos and Jesse Lincycumb won the 110-119 flight with a 134. F.G. Crofford and Jason

Floyd finished second at 136, and Todd Curry and Steve Paschall won third with a 138. Dale Wilkes and Don Bridges won the 120-129 flight with a 135, and George and Gail Leathers finished second with a 141.

It was the team of James McNeil and Tommy Lyles that won the 130-139 flight with a 131, which was the low score of the day. Jo Jackson and Rick McLemore finished second with a 132, and John Goodwin and Jerry Baker and Redell and Sherol Johnston tied for third place with a 140.

Aldin Danner and Felix Segura won the 140-149 flight with a 135, and Jack Petty and Robert Mills and Kenny Maddox and Kelly Boykin tied for second place with a total of 138. The winner of the 150 and

over flight was the team of Jerry and Ouida Gage with a 143, and second place was won by Charlie Davis and Steve Jernigan with a 147.

The longest putt on number nine was won by Don Bridges at 14'7". Mike Santos won the closest to the pin on number eight at 4'6" and also on number 15 at 7'6".

Three teams participated in the nine-hole scramble on Friday night and the winner was the team of Norm Hagood, Buck, and Sherol Johnston at four under par. The other two teams came in at three under. The nine-hole scrambles are played each Friday evening at 6:00 pm with entries being taken until 5:00 pm that night. There will be an 18-hole Memorial Day scramble on Monday, May 27.

## PPHM begins summer hours Memorial Day

CANYON - Now is the best time of year to visit the PPHM and let history surprise you at every exhibit. May 27, Memorial Day, PPHM begins its summer hours and will be open on Mondays. The museum will also close one hour later at 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum hours are: June-August, Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and September-May, Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The museum is closed Sundays.

Located on the campus of West Texas A&M University, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is the largest history museum in Texas, with more than 285,000 square feet—and over two million artifacts—dedicated to preserving this area's past.

PPHM offers visitors a chance to step into panhandle history with special exhibits, a permanent collection, Pioneer Town, cell phone tours, educational tours and special events. For more information about PPHM please visit [www.panhandleplains.org](http://www.panhandleplains.org).

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**OUTPOST DELI THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL**  
**Bring Mom to Lunch Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**  
The lunch special will be:  
Pork steak stuffed with broccoli and cheese • mushroom green chili gravy

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Early voting April 29 - May 7.  
Election Day May 11.  
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★  
**¿Qué Pasa?**  
Community Calendar

- May 11**  
Mother's Day Brunch • Donley County Senior Citizens' Center • 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. • Clarendon
- May 12**  
Mother's Day
- May 25**  
Mulkey Block Party • 5 p.m. • call Clarendon Visitor Center for more information
- May 30**  
Memorial Day
- Clarendon CISD Graduation • TBA
- June 1**  
Hedley ISD Graduation • 10 a.m. • Hedley Gym
- Trash to Treasures Garage Sale Event • Clarendon • All Day
- June 14**  
Flag Day
- June 16**  
Father's Day
- July 4**  
Independence Day

★  
**Menus**  
May 13 - May 17

**Donley County Senior Citizens**  
Mon: Baked ham/pineapple, lima beans, chuckwagon corn, wheat bread, choc chip cookies, iced tea/2% milk.  
Tue: Swedish meatballs, parsley noodles, mixed vegetables, whole wheat roll, strawberry jello, iced tea/2% milk.  
Wed: Roast beef, baked potato, buttered carrots, whole wheat roll, chocolate pudding, iced tea/2% milk.  
Thu: BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, garden salad, cornbread, baked apples, iced tea/2% milk.  
Fri: King ranch casserole, Spanish rice, pinto beans, tortilla, brownie, iced tea/2% milk.

**Hedley Senior Citizens**  
Mon: Oven fried chicken, buttered pasta, green beans, broccoli/raisin salad, fruit cocktail, iced tea/2% milk.  
Tue: Taco salad w/corn chips, seasonal corn, watermelon, peach cobbler, iced tea/2% milk.  
Wed: Roast beef & gravy, baked potato, buttered carrots, whole wheat roll, apricots, iced tea/2% milk.  
Thu: Sloppy Joe, country potato salad, zucchini/tomatoes, creamy fruit squares, whole wheat bun, iced tea/2% milk.  
Fri: Turkey & dressing, candied sweet potato, green beans, whole wheat roll, pineapple tidbits, iced tea/2% milk.

**Clarendon ISD**  
Breakfast  
Mon: Cereal, toast, fruit, milk.  
Tue: Sausage, biscuit, gravy, fruit, milk.  
Wed: Pancakes, juice, milk.  
Thu: Egg, toast, fruit, milk.  
Fri: Cinnamon roll, juice, milk.  
Lunch  
Mon: Pizza dippers w/spaghetti sauce, garden salad, baby carrots, apple slices, milk.  
Tue: Taco salad w/tortilla chips, salsa, corn, snowball salad, milk.  
Wed: Steak fingers, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, apple-pineapple D'Lite, milk.  
Thu: BBQ on a bun, baby carrots, salsa, orange smiles, milk.  
Fri: Hamburger, garden salad, veggie cup, mixed fruit, milk.

**Hedley ISD**  
Mon: Beef and cheese chalupa, garden salad, refried beans, tortilla chips, salsa, milk.  
Tue: Country fried steak, whipped potatoes w/gravy, savory green beans, roll, strawberry cup, milk.  
Wed: Chicken fajitas, charro beans, seasoned corn, tortilla chips, salsa, milk.  
Thu: Chicken spaghetti, garden salad, apple slices, breadstick, baby carrots, milk.  
Fri: Hot dog, potato rounds, fresh veggie cup, fresh seasoned fruit, chocolate chip cookie, milk.

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**Door-to-door peddlers require city permits**

As the weather warms up, the Donley County Sheriff's Department may see an increase in calls about door-to-door sales activity. Remember a permit that was issued to an employer rather than to him/her personally will not work. Municipal Ordinance requires that each solicitor register for his or her permit. This means that each solicitor or individual salesman must make application at the City of Clarendon before engaging in the activity and have the permit with them.

A Sheriff's officer or a resident contacted by a salesman can ask the solicitor to show his registration and government-issued identification used for the registration. If you live outside of Clarendon City Limits contact the Donley County Sheriff's Office to have the solicitor checked out. Beware of door to door sales persons especially magazine salesmen, termite salesmen, driveway repairmen, painters and anybody else that attempts to sell you anything. We have some local people that may go door to door, and

they are probably OK but should be checked out.

**Shred It. Forget it. Protect Your Identity**

Identity theft is an enormous problem, but there are a number of steps you can take to secure your personal information. According to the Federal Trade Commission, over 370,000 identity theft complaints were reported in the U.S. in 2011 – the single largest category of complaints. Thousands of other victims fail to realize their identities had been compromised until it was too late. The crime of identity theft also accounts for millions of dollars in losses to individuals and businesses each year. To help protect consumers, BBB advises not to throw away documents that contain personal information.

"One of the simplest ways you can protect yourself is by being careful what you put in the trash," said Janna Kiehl, BBB CEO.

**How to Protect Yourself After a Hacking Attack**

Recently, the daily deals

service LivingSocial announced that its database had been hacked, granting the cyber intruder access to the e-mail addresses, encrypted passwords and birth dates of more than 50 million users worldwide. This is only the latest of many recent hacks. With customer data breaches becoming increasingly common, what should you do to protect yourself? Start with our tips below:

Protecting Yourself from Hacking: The best way to safeguard your personal information is by creating strong passwords and using a unique password for each website. What to Do After a Hack: It happens. Even the most conscientious businesses get hacked. If a company with which you've done business suffered a security breach, follow the

tips below to protect yourself.

Change your password on the affected website – and anywhere else you use it. Many web users have a rotation of passwords they use, so be sure to change yours on all appropriate websites. Be extra suspicious of any emails coming from the business that was hacked – especially ones containing links or attachments. Scammers often use the personal information they've obtained along with the hacked business' name to trick customers into sharing credit card or banking info. However, affected business do often communicate with customers after the hack. Be sure these emails are real by hovering over the links in the message. When you do this, the link destination should appear in a pop up box or in the lower left hand corner of your browser. Keep a close eye on your credit card and bank accounts. If hackers have access to your personal data, identity theft is a risk. Call your bank or credit card company immediately if you see any unexpected activity.



**bob's whittlin'**  
by bob watson

**weather report**

| Day  | Date | High | Low | Prec. |
|------|------|------|-----|-------|
| Mon  | 29   | 88°  | 56° | -     |
| Tues | 30   | 91°  | 58° | -     |
| Wed  | 31   | 92°  | 52° | -     |
| Thur | 1    | 58°  | 34° | -     |
| Fri  | 2    | 50°  | 26° | -     |
| Sat  | 3    | 69°  | 28° | -     |
| Sun  | 4    | 70°  | 35° | -     |

Total precipitation this month: .11"  
Total precipitation to date: 4.13"

**weekend forecast**

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Fri., May 10<br>Isolated T-Storms<br>74°/ 48° |
|  | Sat., May 11<br>Partly Cloudy<br>75°/ 46°     |
|  | Sun., May 12<br>Partly Cloudy<br>78°/ 49°     |

Information provided by:  
Lori Howard  
National Weather Service

**Don't forget Elections and Mother's Day**

What a busy weekend we have coming! Election Day on May 11 and Mother's Day on May 12.

Mother's Day holds so many memories for me – giving my Mother something special and later receiving special gifts. As any nurse knows, you miss many celebrations, but my memories are of coming home on Mother's Day with a special dinner prepared, probably a bouquet of wild flowers as a center piece and some gifts, all made with love.

My oldest daughter told of making a brooch from cardboard, gluing a safety pin to the back, covering it with glitter and giving it to me as a first grade gift. She described it as so beautiful and how proud she was to give it but the best part was, I

wore it. That was many moves ago but I wish I could find that special brooch and wear it again.

My Mother has been gone ten years and in her treasures to keep included a vase in the shape of a lamb and written on the bottom was "Mother's Day, 1943, from Peggy." I hope everyone makes some memories next Sunday and don't neglect her.

Hopefully, we have seen the last freeze for the season and can finally get some seeds planted for a garden.



**'wick picks**  
by peggy cockerham  
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**Hedley ISD sets important dates**

Hedley ISD announced several important upcoming dates this week beginning with visitation days for prospective Kindergarteners and Pre-K students.

Kindergarten and Pre-K visiting day will be held on Friday, May 17, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Lunch will be included. For Kindergarten, your child must be five years old before September 1, and for Pre-K, four years old before September 1st.

If you wish to register your child that day, you will need to bring their Birth Certificate, shot record, and Social Security card. It will be a fun day. If you have any questions, feel free to call Hedley School at 806-856-5323.

Hedley K-8 graduation will be Friday, May 31, at 7:00 p.m., and Hedley High School graduation will be Saturday, June 1, at 10:00 a.m.

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**Hedley to clean Rowe Cemetery May 18**

May 18 is "Cemetery Clean-Up Day" at Rowe Cemetery. The Hedley Lions Club will furnish dinner. We need mostly weed eaters.

Contact Jean Taylor for any information. May 19 the Hedley Senior Citizens will host a "Fried Chicken" dinner on Sunday after Church. Come on down and eat with us. May 26 the Hedley Methodist Church will host a dinner for the Hedley 8th. Grade class to send them off to high school.

Scalloped Potatoes with Ham and Bacon: 1(16 ounce) package bacon, 2/3 cup milk.

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, 10 potatoes, peeled and sliced, 2onions, sliced, 3 pounds cubed

fully cooked ham, 2 (16 ounce) packages shredded Cheddar cheese, 2 tablespoons salt, 2 tablespoons ground black pepper. Place the bacon in a large skillet and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally,

until slices begin to brown, about 5 minutes. Drain the bacon slices on a paper towel-lined plate. Transfer partially cooked bacon to the bottom of a large roasting pan. Preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk



**chatty kathy**  
by kathy spier  
Hedley • 856-5302

milk and flour together in a bowl; set aside. Layer about one-third of the potatoes over the bacon, followed by half the onion and half the ham. Scatter one-fourth of the Cheddar cheese atop the ham. Pour one-third of the milk mixture over the cheese and season with salt and black pepper. Repeat the layers of potato, onion, ham, Cheddar Cheese, milk mixture, salt, and black pepper. Arrange the final third of potatoes in the roasting pan; pour remaining milk mixture on top. Scatter the remaining Cheddar cheese over the potato mixture. Cover roasting pan with aluminum foil. Bake in the preheated oven until potatoes are tender, about 2 hours.

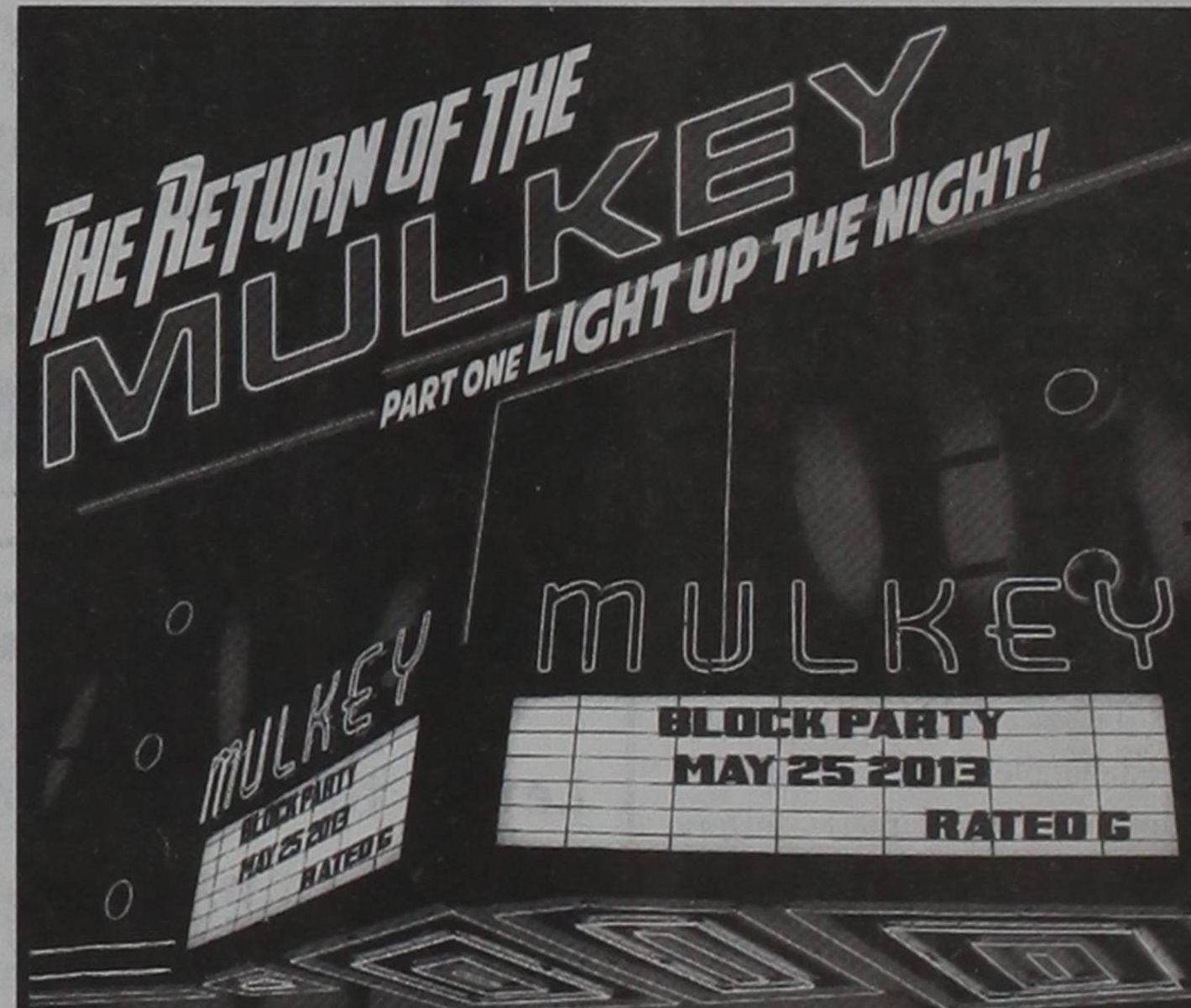


Five generations of the Lamberson family gathered in Hedley several months ago. Shown here are Ssgt Mark Willis, Jr. (23), Isabella Willis (14 months), Helen Lamberson (96), Lisa Toi Willis (49), and J.T. Lamberson, Jr. (77). And in the second photo there is shown Nikki Willis (24), J.J. Smith, Jr. (3), Helen Lamberson (96), Lisa Willis (49), and J.T. Lamberson, Jr. (77). COURTESY PHOTOS / LISA WILLIS

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## Canadian River Music Festival

The music is coming back to the river city on May 11<sup>th</sup>! The Canadian River Music Festival is going on its fourth year, and it's better than ever! The light at Jones Pavilion will shine bright on some of the industry's hottest acts for a full day packed with awesome music, delicious food, and family fun.

Headlining the big day is one of Texas' favorite native sons, Pat Green! Heating things up before Pat Green hits the stage will be another of today's great singer/songwriter, Ray Wylie Hubbard. Another fan-favorite that will bring some country, some rock, and a whole lot of Southern is Alabama-native, Adam Hood. Next up in the lineup is West Texan, K. Phillips and the Concho Pearls. For the lovers of all things rockabilly, bring your dancing shoes and get a load of Rosie Flores rip it up on her turquoise guitar! For more of the roots-y Americana sound, you won't want to miss Shannon Whitworth, hailing from North Carolina.

Everyone in attendance will be privy to some outstanding bands and delicious food from local vendors and non-profit organizations. Coolers are allowed, but no glass, and make sure to bring a lawn chair for the come-and-go events. Kids will once again be entertained by a variety of toys. All kids' activities are free with admission. Festival t-shirts, caps, and cozies will also be available for purchase.

For more information about the bands, music festival radio, a preview video gallery, the schedule and directions to the festival, and lodging information, check out CRMF's website ([www.canadianmusicfestival.com](http://www.canadianmusicfestival.com)). Advance all-day access tickets can be purchased for \$25 through the website starting April 1 through May 10 at noon. Wristbands will be available for \$30 at the gate of the festival for cash only. Kids under 12 are free.

For more information about the festival, sponsorship, or vendor licenses, contact Canadian Chamber of Commerce (806-323-6234). The festival committee members are Olivia Sims, Lonnie and Sue Cox, Tiffany Carpenter, Wes Avent, Mike McKinney, Rob Tally, Charlie Mann, and Kate Estrada.



### Battle plan

CHS student Sarah Luttrell exhibits her Gifted & Talented Showcase on the Battle of Adobe Walls last week at Clarendon ISD.

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Before After

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— Janice Knorpp, Candidate for Clarendon Alderman

Please rank the following in order of what you consider the most important issues facing the City of Clarendon with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important.

- Paving of city streets
- Removal of junk vehicles from residential lots
- Enforcement of city ordinances
- Enforcement of zoning restrictions
- Owner maintenance of lots (occupied or vacant)
- Attracting new businesses
- Improving city water system
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\*Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Required for your survey to be considered.

Please return your completed survey to Alderman Janice Knorpp, PO Drawer A, Clarendon, TX 79226 by May 10, 2013.

Or share your thoughts online at [www.facebook.com/janiceknorppforalderman](http://www.facebook.com/janiceknorppforalderman)

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A buffalo sculpture stands in front of the restored home of Col. Charles Goonight.

## Goodnight Historical Center open for tours

The Charles Goodnight Historical Center is now open for tours after seven years of work by the Armstrong County Museum of Claude and its many partners. Saturday, April 13, was the opening day.

More than 400 visitors, some from as far away as Florida, flowed through the historical exhibits in the new J. Evetts Haley Visitor & Education Center. Then visitors toured the 1887 restored home and grounds of Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight, early pioneer ranchers who helped settle Armstrong County and the Texas Panhandle. Some visitors enjoyed chuck wagon hamburgers and hotdogs provided by Bar H Dude Ranch of Clarendon.

Regular hours are 10-5, Tuesday - Saturday weekly. Tour group arrangements are available. The Goodnight Center is located near the junction of US Highway 287 and County Road 25, between Claude and Clarendon. For information, call 806-944-5591 or toll free 855-880-6499.

A ribbon cutting ceremony began the festivities at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13. J. Evetts Haley, Jr. cut the ribbon. The Visitor and Education Center is named after his father, J. Evetts Haley, Sr., who wrote the well-known biography of Goodnight from interviews and time spent with him during 1925-1929. The biography, *Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman*, was published in 1936.

Other special guests at the ribbon-cutting included Hugh Reed, Armstrong Co. Judge and Jim

Hubbard, Claude Mayor. A grant from Texas Department of Transportation helped build the Visitor Center. TxDOT was represented by Susan Stockett. Texas Historical Foundation was recognized for their significant contributions to the Goodnight project over the years. Texas Historical Commission (THC) in collaboration with Texas Plains Trail Region provided a heritage partnership grant to help with exhibits. THC was represented by Susan Shore, Heritage Partnership Grant administrator. Texas Plains Trail was represented by Regional Director, Dr. Barbara Brannon. Hardin-Simmons University of Abilene was instrumental in helping plan and create the educational exhibits. Professors, Dr. Tim Chandler and Dr. Randy Armstrong, were there with six of the numerous college students in communications, marketing, arts, and other fields who have been part of the effort to market and assist the Goodnight project. Amarillo Area Foundation's VP, Charlotte Rhodes, was recognized for their valuable guidance and help in fundraising, event planning and execution, and much more to aid the Goodnight project over the years.

As guests toured, they enjoyed seeing the bronze life-sized sculpture of Mary Ann feeding an orphaned buffalo calf by distant relative, Veryl Goodnight. Mary Ann was instrumental in Goodnight's decision to develop his own buffalo herd. Visitors saw pureblood descendants of the Goodnight buffalo herd roaming in pastures adjacent to the house. These buffalo

are on loan from Caprock Canyon State Park where this unique Texas herd resides. Cecil Miskin, Buffalo Gold owner, cares for this small herd of buffalo that range on his land just west of the Goodnight home. Several baby buffalo calves have been born recently and can often be seen frolicking. The Miskin's buffalo product store is the green building at the corner of US 287 and County Road 25. Visitors are amazed at the number and quality of buffalo items they produce.

Visitors also saw a life-sized buffalo sculpture with an artful montage of the Goodnight legacy painted on it. The artwork was designed and painted by Marjeanne McGowan Rutt, retired art teacher and artist from Austin, who grew up in Claude and is the daughter of a founding member of the Armstrong County Museum. The life-sized buffalo sculpture was originally given to the Goodnight project over five years ago by the City of Midland in celebration of this preservation project. Marjeanne has re-energized the buffalo sculpture with her colorful art.

Visitors to the Goodnight Center are welcomed Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The grounds are wheelchair accessible. For more information or to arrange tours, call 806-944-5591 or toll free 855-880-6499. Armstrong County Museum, 121 N. Trice St. in Claude, also welcomes visitors Tuesday - Saturday, Noon-4 p.m. Call 806-226-2187 for information on current art exhibits and monthly live theatre shows.



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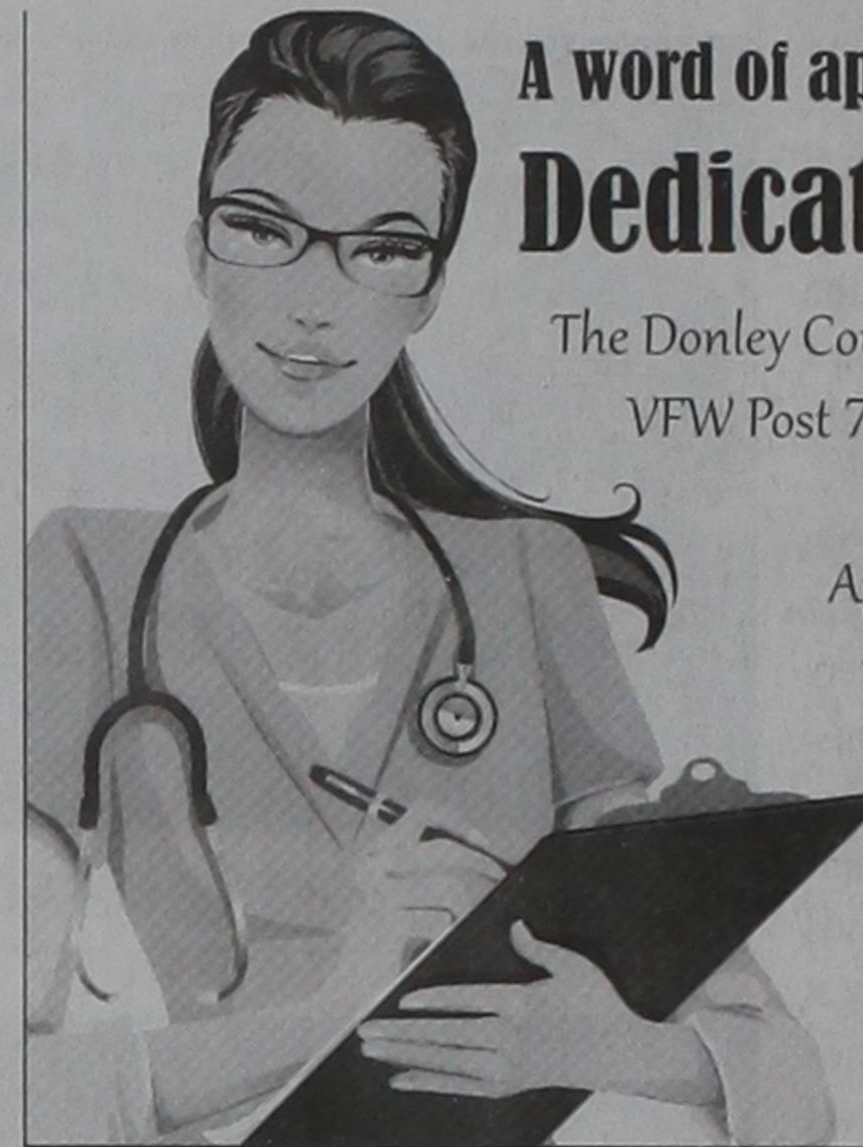
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## Broncos stumble in playoffs

By Sandy Anderberg

It was a disappointing end to a fairly good season as the Clarendon Broncos succumbed to the Lockney Longhorns in two games last weekend. The Broncos lost the first game 4-12 and the second 9-12.

They played the first game on Lockney's home field and according to head coach Brad Elam, could not find a rhythm in the game.

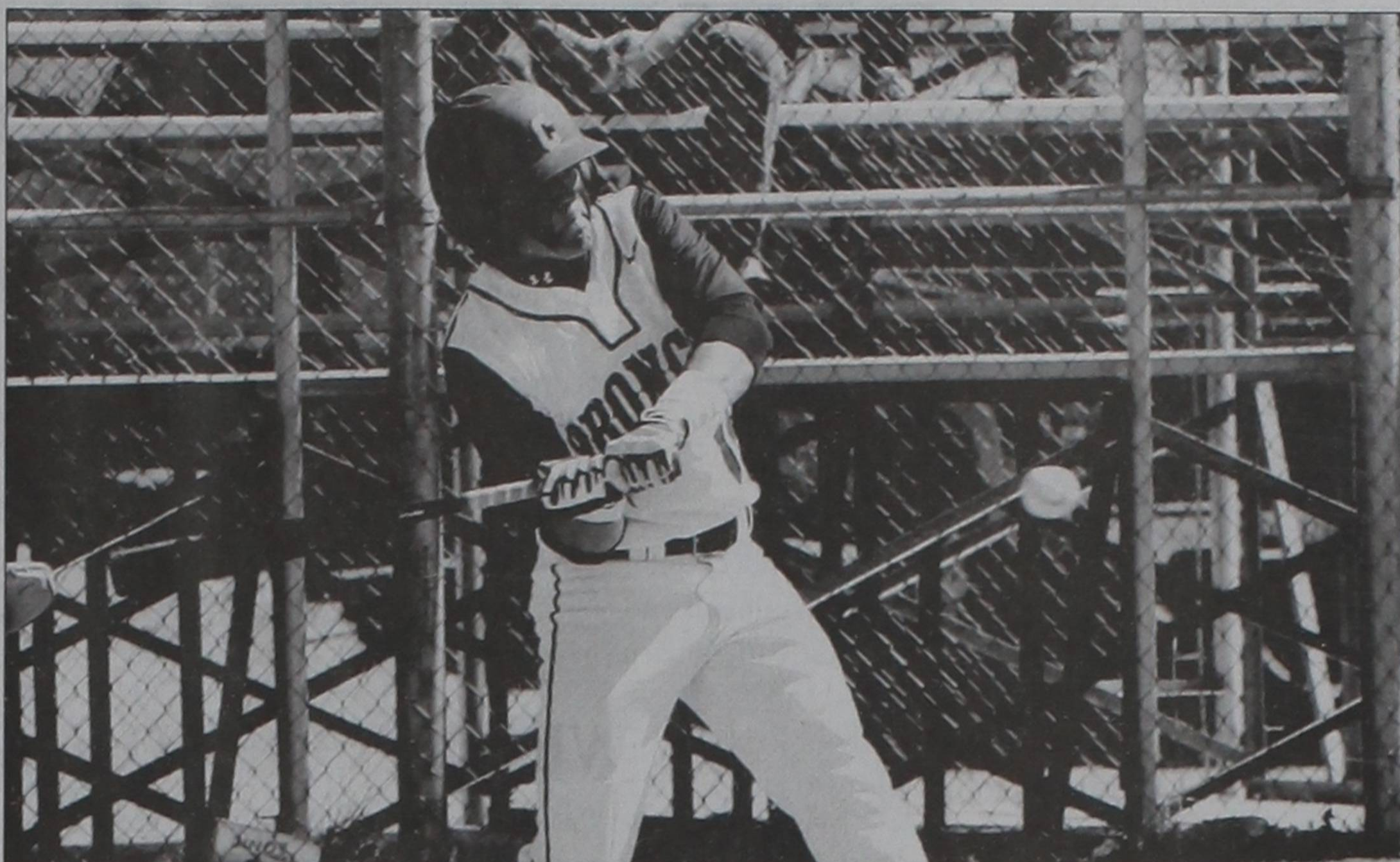
"We didn't really ever get going," Elam said. "All phases of the game struggled. We were able to get a little rally going late, but not much else." Elam gave credit to Trevor Cobb for having three hits, Cody Wood for one hit and two walks, and Cole Ward for reaching base three times and scoring two runs.

The Broncos played the second game of the series at home on Saturday and once again, the win escaped them.

"We struggled again, but were able to get more runners on base and mount a challenge," Elam said. "We did hold a late lead (6-5) going into the last inning but were unable to hold it. We had another last inning rally but fell short. We walked or were hit 11 times and we just didn't have enough hits to drive them in to go with it."

Mitchell Parry and Dusty Rice reached base three times and Cobb, Adam Topper and Parry all had good hits according to Elam.

The Broncos end their season 11-8 on the year.



Junior, Chance McAnear slams the ball during the Lockney playoff game at home. Although Chance had a great hit, the Broncos were not able to pull out a win.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO / KARI LINDSEY



Cody Wood on first base leading off for second during the Bronco's playoff game against the Lockney Longhorn.

COURTESY PHOTO / ALICE COBB

## Lady Broncos' season ends

By Sandy Anderberg

The Lady Broncos ended their softball season with a heartbreaking loss to Ralls last week at 2-12 ending their season tied for second place in the district race. According to head coach Gary Jack, the Lady Broncos gave it their all.

"We ended our season last week with a Bi-District playoff loss to Ralls," Jack said. "Our girls played hard but just came up short to a very good team. This was a very short season; only eight weeks long

including the playoffs. That makes it very difficult to be consistent with all the other sports and events going on in the spring. I was proud of our girls that they never gave up."

Jack was complimentary of the senior leadership on the team.

"Our seniors had a good run for four years," Jack said. "Jency Burton, Maci White, Jentry Shadle, Audrey Shelton, and Amanda Powell are our seniors and they will be missed. Regardless, it was still a fun and successful season."

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## Several Lady Broncos named to All-District

Clarendon High School's Jency Burton, Maci White, and Jentry Shadle have been named to the All-District First Softball Team, according to head coach Gary Jack.

Audrey Shelton, Haley Ferguson, and Skyler White were named to the Second All-District Team and Savannah Topper, Taylor Gaines, and Sterling King received Honorable Mentions.

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Saturday, May 4th - HOME - 7:05 pm - Abilene - LOS VENOM/Ladies Night - FREE T-shirts  
Saturday, May 11th - at Laredo - 7:05  
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Monday, May 27th at Abilene - 7:05  
Saturday, June 1 - HOME - 7:05 - Laredo - Salute to the REAL SUPERHERO - ALL Military/Law Enforcement - FREE BACKPACKS  
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### Eggs-citing development

Donley County AgriLife Extension Agent Leonard Haynes took eggs and an incubator to the local nursing home recently where the chicks will hatch in about 21 days. Haynes also did this for first grade classes in Clarendon and Hedley schools for the Egg to Chick program.

COURTESY PHOTO



Students from 88 FFA Chapters from 1A to 5A schools arrived on Saturday, May 4th, to participate in the Texas A&M State Livestock Judging Contest held in College Station. Hedley FFA members Austin Adams, Kati Adams, Kassie O'Dell, and Caden Farris placed 33rd overall. Congratulations to these FFA members on a great judging season.

COURTESY PHOTO / NICKI ADAMS

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## Clarendon CISD Tax Ratification Election

ON JUNE 1, 2013, the Clarendon Consolidated Independent School District will hold a local election in an effort to maximize state funding to the district by proposing an increase in taxes.

CCISD has always been dedicated to providing its students with the highest quality education and extracurricular opportunities possible. We pride ourselves in having phenomenal teachers who work hard to prepare our students for academic success both while in school and after graduation. Due to drastic cuts in state funding and declining enrollment, the CCISD school board has voted unanimously to hold a tax ratification election.

Currently, citizens pay \$1.04 per \$100 of taxable value. Under

the proposed increase, taxes would raise by 13 cents to \$1.17 per \$100 of taxable value.

Recently, the CCISD school board held a special public hearing to discuss the proposed increase and to answer questions and concerns that voters may have had.

Although turnout for the meeting was lower than hoped, the attending voters raised important questions that other members of the community may have as well.

It is the intention of CCISD to address several concerns that were raised and to provide accurate information to the community in regard to the school's need to increase the local tax rate.

### Why does CCISD need the tax ratification?

In order to answer this question, it is first important to understand that state funding to public schools flows through a very complicated funding method. In each Legislative Session, this funding method is adjusted at the discretion of the Texas Legislature. At times, this has been advantageous yet at other times very detrimental to Clarendon CISD.

Clarendon CISD receives approximately \$9,000 for each student counted in Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Certain programs and students generate additional state revenues to create an additional funding element called Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA). Revenue from ADA & WADA is combined with the revenue that the school receives from local taxes. It is through this process of enrollment numbers and complicated state funding formulas that schools receive their funding.

During the 2009-2010 school year, the average daily attendance of CCISD was 483 students. We are predicting the ADA to be at 418

for the 2013-2014 school year. This represents a reduction of 65 students or 13.5% over a four-year period.

Such a drastic drop in ADA greatly affects the number of dollars CCISD receives in funding each year. While the reasons for decrease in enrollment vary, lack of employment opportunities in the area, widespread drought, and smaller class sizes entering CCISD are among the main reasons for the change.

In addition to the drop in funding due to decrease in enrollment, legislative state funding for public schools has been significantly cut as well. During the 2009-2010 school year, CCISD received \$3,864,903 in state funding. Next year, 2013-2014 CCISD will only receive \$2,647,875 in state funding. This equates to a reduction of \$1,217,028 or 31.48% over the last 4 years.

As it stands now, with CCISD making no further cuts (discussed below), and receiving no further funding, the school would be forced to adopt a deficit budget of -\$434,960.

### What has CISD done to help with the deficit budget?

As soon as budget cuts came down from the state legislature in 2011, CCISD began the work of cutting its own budget by absorbing any possible positions through attrition, as well as by many other cuts.

Since 2010, CCISD has absorbed 8 Full Time Positions and 1 Half Time Position, reducing expenditures by approximately \$400,000.

In addition since 2011, cuts in Instruction, Curriculum & Staff Development, Transportation, Extracurricular, Incentive Stipend,

Plan Maintenance & Utilities, Debt Service (Extra Bond Payment), and Professional Services reduced the budget by another \$401,317.

When taking both absorbed positions and cuts in other budget areas, CCISD has cut over \$800,000 from the school budget.

Even with CCISD trimming over three-quarters of \$1 million dollars from the school's overall budget, the school's projected deficit for 2013-2014 will still be approximately -\$434,960 without the 13 cent tax ratification election.

### What if the Tax Ratification Fails?

The School Board will be forced to look for other ways to increase revenue and to make even further expenditure cuts that will continue to adversely affect programs, personnel, services, and initiatives for our students.

Methods to increase revenue for a public school district are very limited. Several possible options include reinstating personal property taxation and the elimination of the early tax payment discount options. Both of these measures do not require a vote by the local public.

Expenditures would have to be further addressed. Clarendon CISD would continue to look at programs, personnel and initiatives

that are not required by law or state statute. Personnel expenditures generally make up close to 80% of a school district's total budget. Further cuts to personnel expenditures will make it very difficult to attract and retain highly-qualified employees.

The School Board and superintendent believe that further cuts will erode the district's ability to compete with other communities/school districts in providing a total quality educational program. Clarendon CISD has an outstanding reputation for its ability to provide numerous programs, initiatives and learning opportunities for our students that rival districts across the state of Texas. We would like to continue that reputation.

### Why are other area schools not in the same situation?

As with all school funding issues, the answer to this question is complicated as well. When looking at schools around our area, the taxable values can vary greatly from district to district. In regards to CCISD, the majority of taxable value comes from real property (ranch land, dry land farms, irrigated farms, and homes).

Many other surrounding communities have seen a recent increase in taxable value due to economic growth through oil fields, wind farms, and other taxable businesses. As a result, these employment opportunities have increased student enrollment. This increase

in taxable value and student enrollment equates to increases in state and local funding for these surrounding schools.

In addition to these economic variables, many communities in our region are currently operating at a higher total local tax rate.

#### EXAMPLE TAX RATES PER \$100 TAXABLE VALUATION:

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Panhandle ISD \$1.48 | Groom ISD \$1.402      |
| Pampa ISD \$1.3091   | Claude ISD \$1.20      |
| McLean ISD \$1.122   | Childress ISD \$1.1265 |

### Why not just reinstate personal property tax?

When the CCISD school board voted to eliminate personal property tax (i.e., vehicles, boats, campers, etc.) in 2008, the state funding formula at that time actually increased the state revenue portion of our budget, helping to greatly offset the revenue obtained from taxing personal property. This decision provided taxpayers immediate relief with little impact on the school district's overall funding.

When the legislature met in 2011, they implemented a series of state funding cuts that have negatively affected local school districts. This is especially true for low wealth school districts like Clarendon CISD.

Many local taxpayers may think reinstating personal property tax would allow the tax to be spread out more evenly throughout the city's population. There are many reasons why CCISD feels it would be of greater benefit to the school and community to raise taxes by 13 cents rather than reinstate personal property tax.

To begin, most taxpayers will end up paying less if the proposed increase of 13 cents goes into effect as opposed to reinstating personal property tax.

For example, under the proposed 13 cent increase, a person whose real property is valued at \$18,742 (the average property value in Clarendon) would only see an increase in taxes of approximately

\$24.36.

Under personal property tax, if another person owns a car valued at the same \$18,742, his/her taxes would increase by \$194.92.

In addition to the difference in costs for most local citizens, there is a significant difference regarding the return on investment for the school district as well. The state legislature rewards school districts with an increase in funding, resulting in maximum additional revenue if that district gets voter approval to increase taxes.

For example, if the 13 cent increase was passed, CCISD would bring in approximately \$165,570 in local funding. The state would give CCISD additional funding of approximately \$145,228 resulting in \$310,798 restored to the CCISD budget. This amount represents an 87.71% return on investment for Clarendon CISD taxpayers.

The state reduces the amount in funding for CCISD if we impose personal property tax on its citizens.

For example, if personal property tax were reinstated, CCISD would only net \$59,220 in additional new revenue.

The difference in revenue brought into the school from 13 cents versus personal property tax is a total amount of \$251,578. This results in a significant difference in revenue for the school, while being a much less expensive tax than personal property tax on most taxpayers.

### What percent of the population are over 65 and exempt?

Only 7.5% of the district's total taxable value is subject to the over 65 tax freeze. For citizens over the age of 65, they will not

receive an increase in taxes on their homestead.

### Conclusion

The Clarendon CISD school board can no longer sit back and wait for the Texas Legislature to save public education. The Legislature has shown time and time again that it does not intend to correct the inequities in the funding system and has no plans to fully restore the funding cuts enacted in the 2011 legislative session.

As a TEAM of Eight (Board & Superintendent), we must do what we can locally to address funding issues so that we do not

continue to reduce programs, personnel and initiatives. We will always do everything we can to be good stewards of our resources and protect the investments each of you has made to the benefit of CCISD.

By implementing a tax increase of 13 cents, Clarendon CISD can reduce the dramatic impact of declining enrollment and state budget cuts while at the same time maximize the state contribution to our local district funding.

A message paid for by the Clarendon Consolidated Independent School District.





**Out!**  
Clarendon Bronco Zack Laroe catches a Lockney Longhorn sliding into second during their playoff game last weekend. The Broncos lost the first game 4-12 and the second 9-12. The Broncos end their season 11-8.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO / KARI LINDESEY

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Political ad paid for by Tommy Hill, PO Box 1315, Clarendon, TX 79226.

**Drugs in the News**  
**Vaccination Recommendations for Whooping Cough**  
A recent rise in whooping cough outbreaks has led the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to release new vaccination recommendations. Currently, a tetanus combination vaccine named "Tdap" provides protection against pertussis, the bacteria that causes whooping cough. The CDC now recommends that all adults over the age of 19 receive one additional "Tdap" vaccination. In addition, pregnant women should receive a "Tdap" vaccination in the third trimester of each pregnancy. Previous vaccinations as an adult with the tetanus vaccine called "Td" does not count since it did not protect against pertussis.  
Whooping cough is a respiratory tract infection characterized by a strong cough followed by a high-pitched "whoop". It is highly contagious, and the best way to prevent its spread is vaccination. Since whooping cough is potentially fatal in infants less than 12 months, it is especially recommended that any family members or caregivers who come into contact frequently with an infant receive this adult "Tdap" vaccination.  
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**Hedley Trustees take no action on superintendent**

Hedley School Trustees met in called session Monday to consider several items

The board was in closed session for about one hour with the school's attorney in deliberations about the contract of Superintendent Bill Sanders. No action was taken on the contract when the board reconvened in open session.

The board approved check number 26934 which had been tabled for additional consideration during a previous meeting's financial report, but took no action on check number 26833 because it was listed incorrectly on the agenda.

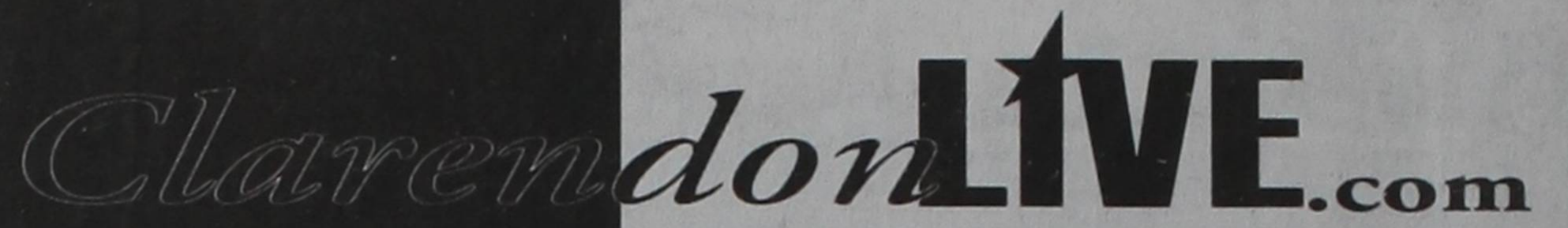
Trustees approved using state prisoners for summer maintenance work.

The board also reviewed the concussion training certificate for the superintendent, which was completed on April 26.



Kortney Burton and Sierra Wheatly draw the lucky winner on half a processed hog last week. Aaron Shahan of Hedley was the winner. Donations to Team Kortney are still being accepted. There is a benefit dodge ball tournament planned for this Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Clarendon High School.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO / KARI LINDSEY



**NOTICE OF TAX RATIFICATION ELECTION**

To the Registered Voters of Clarendon Independent School District:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of Clarendon Independent School District has ordered an election to be held on June 1, 2013, for the purpose of conducting a tax rate ratification (rollback) election. Specifically, the following proposition will be on the ballot:

**PROPOSITION**

- 6 FOR ) APPROVING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE OF \$1.17 PER \$100 VALUATION IN CLARENDON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, A RATE THAT IS \$0.13 HIGHER PER \$100 VALUATION THAN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ROLLBACK TAX RATE
- 0 AGAINST )

Voting on election day will take place at the polling place listed below, which will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on June 1, 2013.

Election Day Polling Place: Clarendon ISD Administration Building  
416 S. Allen  
Clarendon, Texas 79226

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Clarendon ISD, Administrative Offices, 416 S. Allen, Clarendon, Texas 79226, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, and ending Tuesday, May 28, 2013. Early voting by personal appearance will not take place on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal state holidays.

Applications for ballots by mail shall be mailed to: Clarendon ISD  
Attn: Mary White  
Early Voting Clerk  
PO Box 610  
Clarendon, Texas 79226

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on Friday, May 24, 2013.

Issued this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

By: [Signature]  
Clarendon ISD Board of Trustees

**AVISO DE ELECCIONES PARA RATIFICAR IMPUESTOS**

A los votantes registrados del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clarendon:

Mediante el presente aviso se comunica que el Consejo de administración del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clarendon ha ordenado la convocatoria de elecciones para el día 1 de junio de 2013, con el fin de ratificar la tasa impositiva conocida como rollback. Específicamente, la siguiente proposición aparecerá en la boleta:

**PROPOSICIÓN**

- 6 A FAVOR ) APROBAR LA TASA IMPOSITIVA AD VALOREM DE \$1.17 POR CADA \$100 DE VALORACIÓN EN EL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE CLARENDON PARA EL AÑO EN CURSO, UNA TASA QUE ES \$0.13 SUPERIOR POR CADA \$100 DE VALORACIÓN QUE LA TASA IMPOSITIVA ANTERIOR (ROLLBACK) DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR.
- 0 EN CONTRA )

La votación el día de las elecciones tendrá lugar en el centro electoral indicado a continuación, el cual estará abierto desde las 7:00 de la mañana hasta las 7:00 de la tarde el 1 de junio de 2013.

Centro electoral el día de las elecciones: Clarendon ISD Administration Building  
(Edificio de Administración del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clarendon)  
416 S. Allen  
Clarendon, Texas 79226

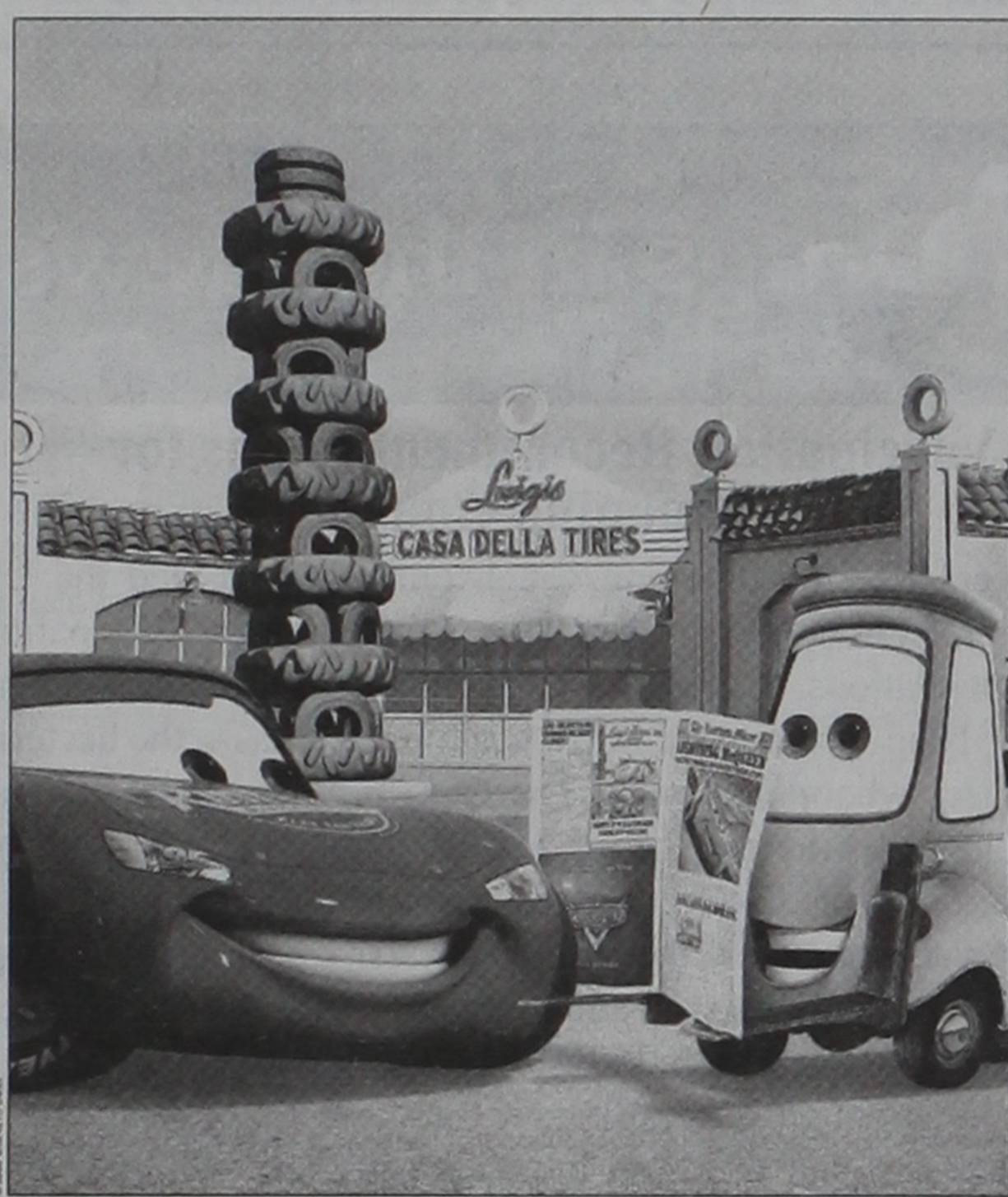
La votación adelantada en persona tendrá lugar diariamente en la Oficina de Administración del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clarendon, ubicada en 416 S. Allen, Clarendon, Texas 79226, desde las 8:30 de la mañana hasta las 4:30 de la tarde, a partir del miércoles 15 de mayo de 2013 y finalizando el martes 28 de mayo de 2013. La votación adelantada en persona no tendrá lugar los sábados, domingos y días feriados legales estatales.

Las solicitudes de boleta para votar por correo se deben enviar a: Clarendon ISD  
Attn: Mary White  
Early Voting Clerk  
PO Box 610  
Clarendon, Texas 79226

Las solicitudes de boleta para votar por correo se deberán recibir antes del cierre del horario de oficinas el viernes 24 de mayo de 2013.

Hecho público este día 30 de abril de 2013.

Por: [Signature]  
Consejo de administración del Distrito escolar independiente de Clarendon



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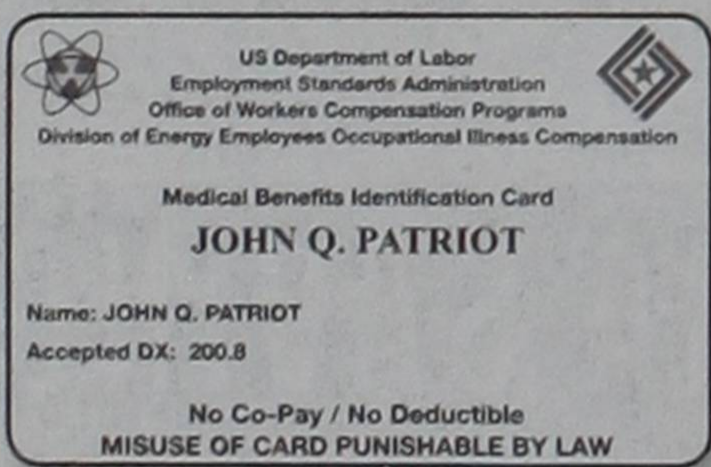
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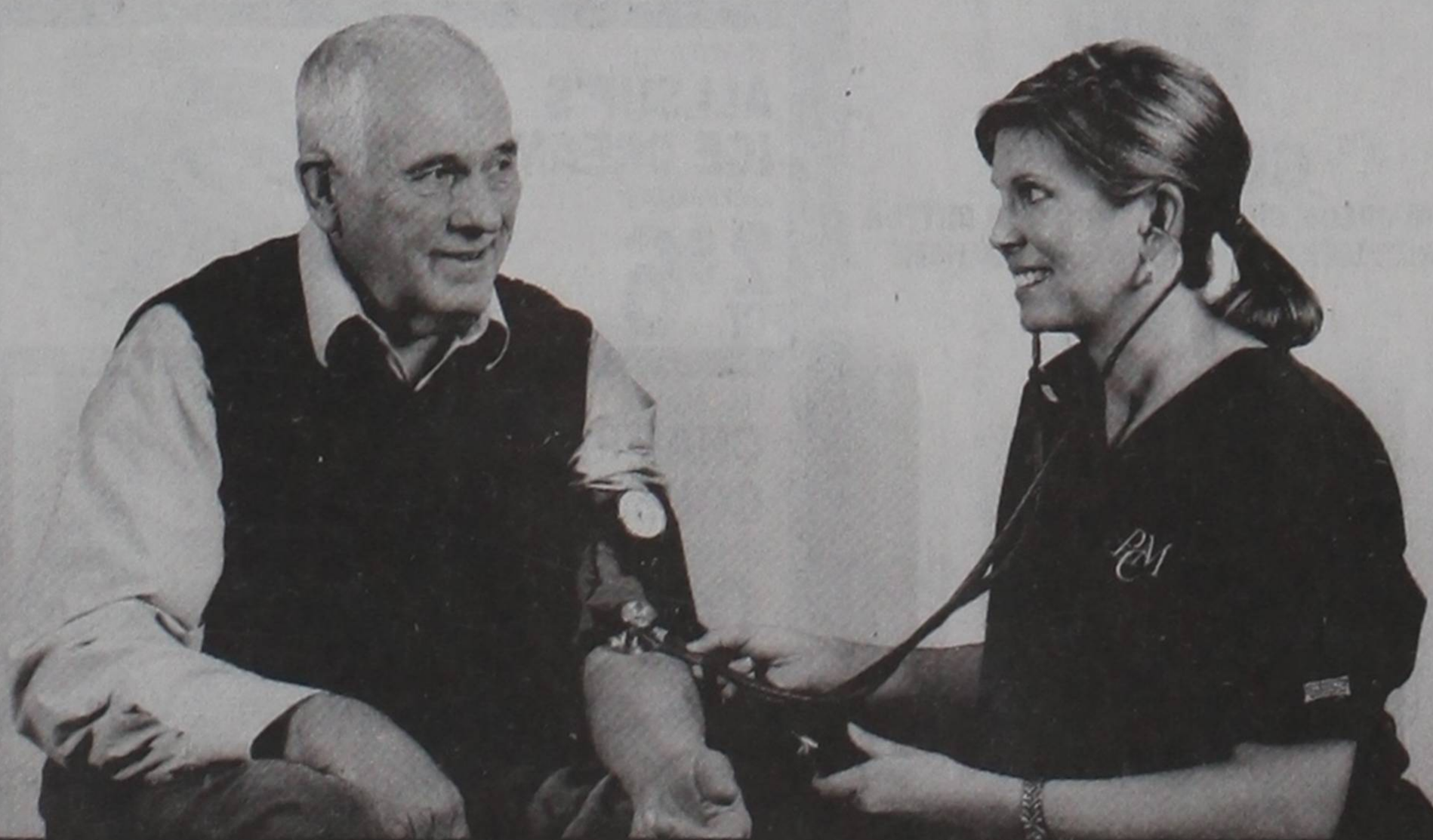
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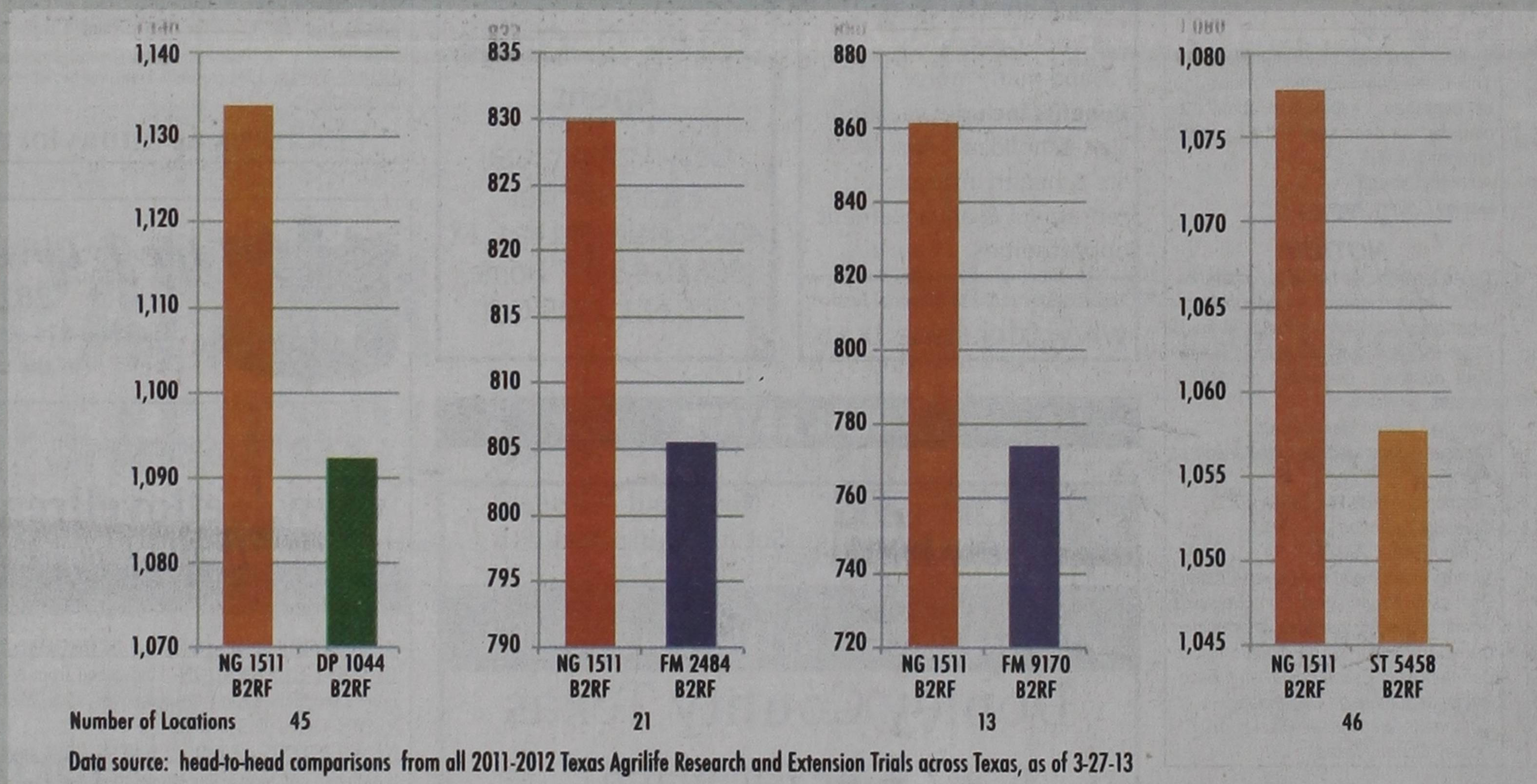


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