

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019 **VOLUME 130, NUMBER 11**

CHS Students Win Big in Academic Practice Meet

group of Claude Sigh School students, led by Mindi Price, travelled to Canyon on Saturday, March 2nd, for an Academic practice meet. This meet was an excellent opportunity for the CHS students to prepare for upcoming contest and see how they stackup against their potential competition.

According to Mrs. Price, the CHS students rose to the occassion and excelled in their areas of competition. "We competed in the small school division which was 1-3A," said Price. Approximately seven other schools and a large number of students competed in the small school division in this competition, but CHS brought home many accolades. "Get ready the results are long!" said Price. Here's how the CHS students represented their school and their community:

> Number Sense **Luke Stockett** 3rd overall

1st sophomore

Jacey Weinheimer 6th overall 1st freshman

Aubrie Brannon

3rd sophomore

Aiden White 2nd freshman

The Team took 2nd place.

Current Events Alyssa Higgs 1st

Mattie Kate Lovell 2nd

Carsen Roberts 3rd

Logan Campbell 4th

The Team took 1st place.

Ready Writing Raelynn Fletcher 5th

Calculator Applications

Luke Stockett

3rd overall 1st sophomore

Ryley Denson 1st freshman

Copy Editing Sydney Knox 1st

Aubrie Brannon 2nd

Accounting Katie Eichelmann 4th

Feature Writing Mattie Kate Lovell



At the end of a long day of competition, Claude High School claimed the 2nd place Team Trophy in the academic practice meet-small schools division hosted by Canyon ISD. (I to r) Raelynn Fletcher, Ryley Denson, Alyssa Higgs, Mattie Kate Lovell, Sydney Knox, and Jacey Weinheimer. photo courtesy of Mindi Price

Editorial Writing Sydney Knox

1st

Alyssa Higgs 2nd

Social Studies Mattie Kate Lovell 3rd

Headline Writing Raelynn Fletcher 5th

Ryley Denson 6th

Mathematics Alyssa Higgs 1st overall 1st junior

Jacey Weinheimer

3rd overall 1st freshman

Aubrie Brannon 4th overall 1st sophomore

The Team took 1st place.

Literary Criticism Sydney Knox

The Journalism Team took 1st place and received a plaque.

The Claude High School students placed 2nd overall as a Team received a trophy.

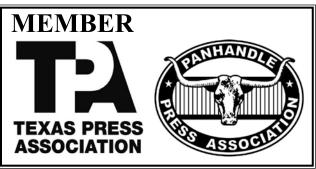
"I am so proud of all

these students! I'm lucky to be here in Claude and get to teach and love all of them!" said Mindi Price.

Claude High School will once again represent our community in academic competition on March 26th when the students compete in Districts at Clarendon College in Clarendon, Texas.



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ARMSTRONG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PHONE: (806) 553-6933 FAX: (806)553-2998 P.O.BOX 531 CLAUDE, TEXAS 79019

Case No: 2019-027

On the 28th day of January, the Armstrong County Sheriff's Office impounded the following Estrays noted below.

The cattle were located on a property owned by: Bill Woods Located near the Mulberry Creek on property off of 2889

Removed and turned over to the Sheriff Office by: Randy Falkenberg Box 107; Edmonson, TX 79032

Cattle are bering held at the American Legion Rodeo Grounds located on Cambell St. in Claude, Texas.

Kind of Animal: 3 Head of Cattle

Head #1 - Adult Cow Breed: Black Baldie

Color: Black Body
white Face; Black
Circles around eyes;
White Patch on Chest
Sex: Female
Age: N/A
Brand, Marks,
Identifying
Characteristics: No
tags or Brand on Body

Head #2 - Bull Calf Breed: Black Baldie

Color: Black Body white Face; Black Circles around eyes; Sex: Male Age: N/A Brand, Marks, Identifying Characteristics: No tags or Brand on Body

Head #3 - Adult Breed: Hereford

Color: Red, Tow
Horns, White Face,
White Patch on
Chest, Whiste on
Legs
Sex: Female
Age: N/A
Brand, Marks,
Identifying
Characteristics: No
tags or Brand on Body

On March 1, 2019, a public notice was placed on the Armstrong County Social Media Page and on March 1, 2019, a notice was placed into the Claude News Paper.

A diligent search is currently underway for the owner of such cattle.

Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of said Estray Cattle is not determined by the 18th Day of the first posting, said Estrays will become the property of the Armstrong County Sheriff's Office and will be disposed of in compliance with the Texas Agriculture Code Section 142.013.

Witness my hand on this 1st Day of March 2019.

Fleta Barnett, Sheriff Armstrong County, Texas State of Texas County of Armstrong



CARSON COUNTY GIN, LP

PO BOX 277 2290 HIGHWAY 60 WEST WHITE DEER TX 79097

KEITH MIXON, MANAGER 806-883-2535 PHONE 806-883-2031 FAX 806-683-3080 CELL http://www.carsoncountygin.com

School anch MENU

MON., MARCH 18TH

Breakfast: Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit Juice, Fruit, & Milk

Lunch: Corn Dog*, Tater Tots, Baked Beans, Pineapple, Lime Sherbet, & Milk

TUES., MARCH 19TH

Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito, Hash Browns, Fruit Juice, Fruit, & Milk

Lunch: Nachos Grande, Refried Beans, Salsa, Cucumber, Tomato Cup, Peaches, & Milk

WED., MARCH 20TH

Breakfast: Biscuit, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Fruit Juice, Fruit, & Milk

Lunch: Chicken Sandwich, Oven Fries, Veggie Cup, Fruit, & Milk

THUR., MARCH 21ST

Breakfast: Muffin, Yogurt, Fruit Juice, Fruit, & Milk

Lunch: Asian Bowl, Egg Roll, Rice, Salad, Mandarin Oranges, & Milk

FRI., MARCH 22ND

Breakfast: Egg & Cheese Sandwich, Fruit Juice, Fruit, & Milk

> Lunch: Pizza, Baby Carrots, Broccoli, Apple, Brownie, & Milk

*Substitute Item will be Served to PreK

Dual Credit Opportunities from a Student's **Point of View**

BY MATTIE KATE LOVELL STUDENT REPORTER

Claude ISD has made dual credit classes available for juniors and seniors for the past several years. These courses allow students to obtain high school credits and college hours simultaneously, provides a plethora of advantages.

"I have taken dual credit for the past two years," high school senior Sydney Knox said. "Getting a head start on my college courses and saving money is a huge stress reliever for my parents and me."

Clarendon College, Claude ISD's dual credit class provider, offers basic courses such as U.S. History, Psychology, Government, Biology, College Algebra, and more for much lower rates than the larger colleges that Claude graduates often attend.

Along with the finan-

March 16th

Tyler Cornett

M/M Dustin Sanders

March 17th

James Horn

March 18th

Alissa Evans

Zackry Owens

Joleen Westbrook

M/M Shawn Johnson

March 19th

Scarlett Ferguson

Kevin Kowaleski

cial advantages, dual credit classes also allow students to avoid taking basic classes at large universities that are often engineered to "weed students out". When taking dual credit classes in high school, students have access to help from teachers who truly care about their academic future and are willing to

Personally, I have had nothing but positive experiences with dual credit classes. I have learned a great deal, experienced what it is like to deal with college professors and their more rigorous courses, and perhaps most importantly, I have learned how to manage my time

All of these advantages of dual credit allow for the high achieving students of Claude ISD to fly even higher and go even further in both their high school and college careers.

March 20th

Michelle Holt

Joean Smith

M/M Lendon Ray

March 21st

Dillon Morrow

M/M Michael L.

Stavenhagen

M/M Kevin Pepper

March 22nd

Tammy St. Pierre

Jeff Godfrey M/M Jonathan Clubb

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Start Sorting Now! Citywide Garage Sale is May 4th

Mark your calendar! Citywide Garage Sale is on Saturday, May 4, 2019. For many years, the Citywide Garage Sale has been held on Mother's Day weekend. However, the Claude Chamber of Commerce recently proposed moving the garage sale to the first week of May. "The idea was to capitalize on all of the traffic heading through Claude on its way to Whistle Stop," said Chamber of Commerce President, Tessa Waddell.

So make sure to start prepping now because you have one week less to get ready this year. Oh! And write it down because the date is different.

Individuals, businesses, and non-profits wishing to register for the

Citywide Garage Sale may do so starting this week. The registration fee is \$25 which gets you on the map which is distributed in the newspaper, online, and at various locations in Claude as well as at Whistle Stop in Clarendon. The registration fee also goes to advertising online and in local papers in White Deer, Clarendon, Panhandle, Groom, McClean, LeFors, Amarillo, and more! So please make sure to register as it will benefit everyone to have more money for promotion.

To register, please call The Claude News Office at 226-4500 or stop by Mondays or Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and we will be happy to help!

A Country Church of Second Chances Invites You to Have Fellowship with Us! Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.



Great Plains Western Church

Hwy 287, between Claude & Washburn



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ARMSTRONG COUNTY MUSEUM (ACM) AND THE CHARLES GOODNIGHT HISTOR-ICAL CENTER (GHC) WELCOME VISITORS.

ACM is open Tues.-Sat., 12-4pm. GHC is open Tues.-Sat., 10-5pm and is located at 4989 Co. Rd. 25 in Goodnight, TX, just south off of Hwy 287. For more information, call 806-944-5591 or 806-226-2187 or see the website www.CharlesGoodnight.org.

TEXAS COMMUNITY FUTURES FORUM -Mar. 28th, 6 p.m. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension SPRING DAISIES GUIDED PAINTING CLASS FOR ADULTS - Sat. Mar. 30th, 6:00 pm., The Claude News Office, Hosted by Let's Paint!, Cost \$25 /per person. Call 816-489-3919 to Register.

COMMUNITY MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST -Sat. Apr. 6th, hosted by

COMMISSIONERS COURT - Mon. Apr. 8th, 9:00 a.m., Armstrong County Courthouse

CLAUDE CITY COUNCIL - Mon. Apr. 8th, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

CISD EARLY DISMISSAL - Thurs. Apr. 18th, Claude Independent School District, Don't forget to pickup your kids!

CISD NO SCHOOL - Fri. Apr. 19th, ALL DAY, Claude Independent School District, *Unless we have a snow day

EASTER - Sun. Apr. 21st, ALL DAY

WOODEN CENTERPIECE BOX PAINTING CLASS FOR ADULTS - Sat. Apr. 27th, 6:00 pm., The Claude News Office, Hosted by Let's Paint!, Cost \$35 (box only) or \$45 (w/ 3 Mason Jars) /per person. Call 816-489-3919 to Register.

PANHANDLE SINGING WOMEN CONCERT -Sun. Apr. 28th, 6:00 p.m., First Baptist Church

CLAUDE CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE - Sat. May 4th, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Maps will be located around town

MOTHER'S DAY - Sun. May 12th, ALL DAY, Let mom know how much you love and appreciate her! WEE SCHOOL GRADUATION - Wed. May 22nd, 6:00 p.m., First Baptist Church. Come and celebrate our students' achievements this year!

CISD EARLY DISMISSAL - Thurs. May 23rd, Claude Independent School District, Don't forget to pickup your kids!

CHS GRADUATION - Fri. May 24th, Claude Independent School District

CAPROCK ROUNDUP WEEKEND - Fri. & Sat. July 19th, Event times and locations TBA



Lewis Whitaker, Broker Lee Whitaker, Broker

Office 806.356.6100 806.356.6517 4600 I-40 West Suite 101 Amarillo, Texas 79106

www.whitakerrealestate.com





Sudoku

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generated by http://www.opensky.ca/sudoku

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

Last Week's Solution



On the Square (Goodnight & 287) 806.402.1129

Church of Christ

Welcomes You & Your Family!

Sunday: Bible Class - 10:00 a.m. A.M. Worship - 11:00 a.m. P.M. Worship - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Classes - 7:00 p.m.

We invite you to watch: In Search Of The Lord's Way

- KAMR-4 Sunday 7:30 a.m.
- KVII-7.2 Sunday 6:30 a.m.

Getting To Know Your Bible

- DirecTV Ch. 377—Mon-Fri 3:30 a.m. & 9 p.m.
- DirecTV Ch. 376—Mon. Wed & Thur. 8:30 p.m.

Keys to the Kingdom

KAMR-4 Sunday 12:00 a.m.

3rd & Hawkins, Claude, TX 226-4761

Honoring the Achievements of Women in the Military

(StatePoint) words "veteran," "hero" "patriot" usually evoke images of men. Many people are not aware that some 3 million women are currently serving or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces beginning with the American Revolution. Their stories are largely unknown.

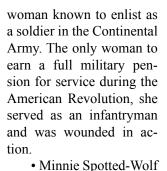
"Women have served alongside men to gain and preserve liberty, from the American Revolution to today's Global War on Terror," says retired Army Major General Dee Ann McWilliams, president of the Women In Service For America Memorial Foundation.

The Foundation aims to bridge the gap in the public's understanding of women's military service and encourages everyone to help in the following ways:

Learn Their History

Women's History Month, celebrated in March, is a great time to learn about trailblazing military women. Here are five you should know about:

 In 1782, Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man to become the first



- enlisted in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve in 1943, making her the first known Native American woman to do so. Skilled at breaking horses, she described Marine boot camp as "hard but not too hard."
- · Capt. Sunita Williams, an astronaut who served 322 days as commander of the International Space Station, at one point



Courtesy of Donna Parry

held the record for the most cumulative hours of spacewalking. During her early Navy career, she flew helicopters in Operation Desert Shield.

- · Overcoming childhood adversity, in 2010 Lt. La'Shanda Holmes became the first African-American female helicopter pilot in the history of the Coast Guard. She played a vital role in the Global War on Terror.
- During her three deployments to Afghanistan, Air Force Senior Airman Vanessa Velez drove a loaded Humvee into enemy territory on more than 120 missions.

Pay a Visit

Located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, the Women In Military Service For America Memorial (Women's Memorial) is the only memorial dedicated to honoring the 3 million women who have served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Preserving the details of their achievements, from clerk typist to fighter pilot, the Memorial aims to integrate military women into the public's image of courage. When visiting the nation's capital, consider adding this educational and inspiring institution to your itinerary.

Share Your Story

Military women, past and present, can register their service with the Women's Memorial and become part of the world's largest register of U.S. servicewomen and women veterans, which now totals nearly 267,000 members. By sharing your story future generations will come to know the valuable contributions of America's military women. To register and learn more, visit womensmemorial.org/register-now.

At a time when the Department of Veterans' Affairs reports that women veterans are the fastest-growing veteran population, recognizing the collective service of women is more important than

"No matter what you did during your service, it's an important part of history," says General McWilliams. "Without your story our history will never be complete."

CLAUDE FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC

Improved Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine Available!

This vaccine protects against 4 different strains of the flu.

We accept Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid & most Major Commercial Insurance. Must bring your insurance card.
Uninsured? No problem!

Flu Shots are only \$30.00

Pay with cash, debit/credit card or check Walk-ins welcome

201 PARKS ST., CLAUDE, TX 79019 806-226-5611

M & Th: 8:30a-5:30p; Tu & W: 8:30a-4:30p F: 8:30a-Noon

WEE School Students Send Their Love



The First Baptist Church WEE School students mailed very special Valentine's Day cards to their families during their recent field trip to the Claude Post Office. photo by Christiana Mustion

There are very few ily. In the end, things in life better than getting a letter in the mail from someone you love. The First Baptist Church WEE School students designed handcrafted Valentine's Day cards for their loved ones this year, and they took them to the post office on Wednesday, February 13th.

During their trip to the post office, Post Master Kathy Foster taught them all about the United State Postal Services process for sending and receiving letters. The students started by choosing and purchasing stamps. Then, they walked their letters through the post office from mail slot, to "killing the stamp", and in they end, they each placed their valentine into their respective post office box or route slot.

Foster also treated the students to a special reading of Can I Be Your Dog? by Troy Cummings. The story told the story of a neighborhood dog who wrote letters to different individuals on his street hoping to find his new famhe received a special very letter—but we won't spoil the ending. The students enjoyed learning about the postal routes from a dog's point of view and gave the story their hearty approv-

The last step in the WEE School students' field trip to the post office was to send all the moms and dads to go check their post office boxes for their special letters. Everyone was very pleased. The students walked back to school in high spirits ready for their Valentine's Day class party.



Josiah Holt "kills" (cancels) the stamp on his letter to his mom.

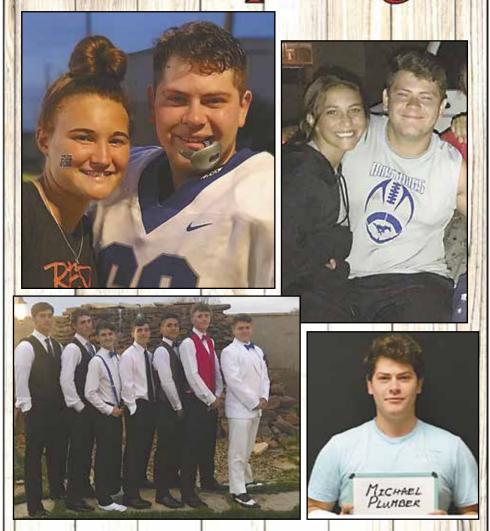


The class enjoys Can I Be Your Dog? read by Post Master Kathy Foster.



Noelle Mustion places her letter in her family's slot on the mail delivery route.

Senior Spotlig



The Senior Spotlight shines bright on this week's senior: Michael Evans. Michael has attended Claude school for 10 years. Michael states Athletics has his favorite class and Mrs. Holland as his favorite teacher. HE loves spaghetti, the color blue and the Dallas Cowboys.

After graduating Michael plans on attending college at West Texas A&M in Canyon. Michael played football, basketball and tennis while attending Claude High School. Michael is a simple man, in his free time he likes to sleep.

Michael's role model is NBA player Steph Curry because "He is great." In his free time he likes to spend it "chillin' with the boys." One day Michael would like to visit Canada. Michael will miss his friends in Claude and he will "always cherish my time here."

Michael Evans



Claude Commerce Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2019

The Claude Commerce Economic Development Board met on February 4, 2019, for a regular meeting in City Hall at 4:30 p.m. located at 115 Trice Street. Board members present were Karen Brown, Mike Crowell, Bill Forbes, Liz Kendall, Keith Lowry, Joe Minkley, adn Steve Sherrill. A quorum was formed. Meeting was called to order by President Joe Minkley.

President Minkley welcomed Board Members and visitors. There were six visitors present: Howard Heath, Billie Peden, Todd Peden, Hannah Tate, Jeremy Tate, and Tessa Waddell.

Minutes of the September 6, 2018, meeting held at 5:30 p.m. were read and reviewed. Karen Brown made the motion to accept the minuts as read. Steve Sherrill seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes of the December 18, 2018, meeting held at 5:30 p.m. were read and reviewed. Steve Sherrill made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Bill Forbes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the following new applications:

1. Pendelton's Ice

Cream: Todd Peden addressed the Board with detailed plans and cost for equipment needed to equip the business. The grant requested was in the amount of \$7,000.00. The remodeling expense of approximately \$15,000.00 will be at Mr. Peden's expense. Opening date is expected to be on or around scholl spring break. The majority of Mr. Peden's purchases were by the internet. Since the Claude EDC pays the vendors directly for purchases, a credit card was needed. Board Member Steve Sherill stated he would apply for a credit card in the name of Claude Commerce Economic Development Coorporation immediately. After a few questions and answers, the Board asked Mr. Peden to provide a pro-forma financial statement, (income, expenses and net), for the first year of operation. The Board made suggestions of inquiring other avenues for equipment purchases and perhpas excluding the television. Mr. Peden will come before the Board on Thursday, February 7,

2. The Studio on Trice: Hannah and Jeremy tate addressed the Board

2019, with the results of

his findings and informa-

tion that the Board request-

with their plans to refurbish an existing building at 115 N. Trice in the amount of \$17,265.00. The Tate's state to the Board the first floor would be utilized as an exercise gym. The upper floor will perhaps become rental space of apartments and/or office space in the future. After visiting with the Tate's, the Board asked that they come before the Board on February 7, 2019, with an adjustment to the cost request or other alternatives to The Studio's plans. Mr. Tate will provide the labor for the remodeling at a cost of \$22,340.00.

3. Charles H. Roan Memorial **Highway** Signs: Bill Forbes addressed the Board regarding the highway signage to be installed from Claude city limits to city limits, designating this area of Highway 287 as Charles H. Roan Memorial Highway. The signs were authorized on March 30, 2017. Texas State Representative Ken King sponsored and introduced the bill to designate the highwaym which was unanimously approved by the House and the Senate, House Bill #1317. The grant request of \$3,600.00 is for the installation of teh signs by TxDot. TxDot will install the signs and will have the responsibility of the upkeep in the future. Mike Crowell made the motion that the Claude EDC pay for the signs in the amount of \$3,600.00. Keith Lowry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Board Members Bill Forbes and Liz Kendal abstained from voting due to

their participation and involvement in working with Representative Ken King and the Claude Chamber of Commer acquiring the signs in honor of Charles H. Roan, a Medal of honor recipient.

Other items of discussion:

- 1. Claude Welcome Sign: President Joe Minkley informed the Board that a check had been issued to the vendor in the maount of \$6,900.00 for the stone.
- 2. Corner Drug Store: Mark King decided not to install ice cream cabinet.
- 3. 2019-2020 Yearly Budget - April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020: The Board agreed to adjust the expenses of the legal/accounting, miscellaneous, and office supply accounts. Capital layout to remain the same as last year. Bill Forbes made the motion to approve the 2019-2020 Budget with the adjustments specified. Steve Sherrill secodned the motion. Motion carried unanimously. (Budget available from EDC upon request).

An agreed special called meeting by the Claude CEDC was designated. The meeting will be Thursday, February 7, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall, located at 115 Trice Street.

With no further business, motion was made by Steve Sherrill and seconded by Keith Lowry to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Celebrating Lent



BY RHEA BULLOCK, PASTOR CLAUDE UMC

I love old books. One of my favorite things to do is to sit and thumb through the back corners of a used bookstore, looking for odd and unexpected treasures on the shelves. The reality is, you never know just what you're going to encounter there: random and obscure science fiction, lesser known Mark Twain stories, old nursing textbooks. Some may grab your attention more than others, but all have a story to tell.

I love the Church for much the same reason. There are experiences, relationships, and even traditions which, though we sometimes walk by and forget that they are there, each have their own stories, insights, and adventures waiting to be read and reread.

True, I have my own experiences to share, and my own stories to tell: from growing up a Baptist preacher's son to my time as a soldier to choosing to enter into a new faith tradition to success and failure (and hopefully meaningful growth) as a minister. I have served as pastor, teacher, disciple, friend, and student.

And in that time, I've tried to learn to pay atten-

tion to those old books that I encounter. Those people and relationships whose stories may go without much fanfare, but which are unique and valuable and very much their own.

I don't think the value of those stories lies simply in the fact that they are speaking to the world as it used to be. Their value lies in the reality that they tell of real people, who are valued by God, making real choices, navigating the world that they find before them.

We find ourselves more often than not overwhelmed by the world that screams at us from the news networks, from social media, from the internet. And in response it can be tempting to want to escape the chaos. But I want to challenge you, instead of looking for escape or longing for another era, to listen. But not to the loud voices on the TV or the web. Listen to one another. Hear and learn from those next to you. What you may find is that people have always had to navigate chaos, and many have come through it wiser, better, stronger, and less given to panic.

For many Christians around the world, this is the season of Lent. It is a time of preparing our minds and our souls for what's to come – the death of God and the surprising defeat of death by God. In that spirit of preparation, I encourage you to find the forgotten stories that live around you and let them remind you that hope is not a fiction.





Medicare's **Hospital Compare Website** Rates Your Local Hospital Care

BY BOB MOOS, SW REGIONAL **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR** THE U.S. CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

Have you wondered how your area hospitals stack up in terms of the quality of care they provide?

Emergencies obviously call for rushing to the nearest hospital. But when you have time to plan, it is worth doing some research and finding out which hospitals do the best job of caring for their patients.

Medicare's Hospital Compare website – at medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/search.html - has made it easier for you to check that. The site has overall star ratings to help you better understand which hospitals are top performers, which are average and which need improvement. The ratings range from one to five stars, with five being the

The Hospital Compare site already enjoys a solid reputation with the public, showing how thousands of hospitals scored on various indicators of quality care. You can compare hospitals on the basis of such factors as clinical outcomes, customer satisfaction and patient safety.

just-updated The overall star ratings offer a snapshot of particular hospitals' quality of care, by summing up individual measures of hospital performance already posted on the website. The ratings reflect such factors as how often patients get infections after surgery, how long patients must wait in the emergency department before seeing a doctor or Hill Country Memorial nurse, and how likely patients are to get readmitted to the hospital after a heart attack.

assigned Medicare stars to 3,725 Medicare-certified hospitals nationwide. Another 848 couldn't be included, mostly because they didn't have enough data to properly evaluate them. They may have been too new or too small and, therefore, had too few cases on which to base ratings. The ratings are updated regularly on the website, as the government continues to collect the most recent data.

Nationally, 293 hospitals received five stars, 1,086 rated four stars, 1,264 scored three stars, 800 received two stars, and 282 had just one star.

The 266 rated Texas hospitals scored an average of 3.2 stars for overall quality of care. Twenty-four hospitals received Plains Community Hospifive stars, 84 rated four stars. 95 scored three stars. 53 received two stars, and 10 had just one star.

The 24 Texas hospitals that received Medicare's top rating of five stars were Baptist Emergency Hospital in San Antonio, Baylor Medical Center in Frisco, Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in Marble Falls, Baylor Scott and White Texas Spine and Joint Hospital in Tyler, Baylor Scott and White Heart and Vascular Hospital in Dallas, Baylor Scott and White Surgical Hospital in Sherman, Foundation Surgical Hospital of El Paso, Grace Medical Center in Lubbock, Hamilton General Hospital, Harlingen Medical Center,

Hospital in Fredericksburg, Houston Methodist Hospital, Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center in Houston, Methodist Hospital for Surgery in Addison, Nix Health Care System in San Antonio, North Austin Medical Center, North Central Surgical Center in Dallas, Scott and White Hospital in Round Rock, South Texas Surgical Hospital in Corpus Christi, St. David's Medical Center in Austin, Sugar Land Surgical Center, Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital of Southwest Fort Worth, Heart Hospital Baylor Plano and TOPS Surgical Specialty Hospital in Houston.

Here are the scores for all area hospitals:

Amarillo - Baptist St. Anthony's Hospital -- 4

Amarillo - Northwest Texas Hospital -- 2

Borger - Golden tal - 3

Canadian - Hemphill County Hospital – 3

Childress - Childress Regional Medical Center

Dumas - Memorial Hospital – 4

Lubbock Grace Medical Center -- 5

Lubbock - Lubbock Heart Hospital -- 4

Lubbock – University Medical Center -- 3

Lubbock - Covenant Medical Center -- 3

Pampa - Pampa Regional Medical Center -- 4

Other Texas hospitals' star ratings can be found at medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/search.html.

By using star ratings on its Compare websites, Medicare is trying to help

you make more informed decisions about your health care. The public reporting also gives low-performing providers a compelling incentive to improve their practices and procedures and, hence, their scores.

Nursing Home Compare, Home Health Compare and the Medicare Plan Finder also use star ratings to help you check out health care providers and choose one with quality in mind.

Of course, as informative as these websites can be, they can't tell the whole story about where to go for care. They're simply a screening tool that lets you focus on a few providers that interest you.

Visit with your doctor about the best hospital for you. Research shows that some hospitals do better than others at treating certain conditions. And talk to family members and friends about what they liked or disliked about their recent hospital stays and which facilities they'd recommend.

Medicare also recently updated its "Guide to Choosing a Hospital," which includes a checklist of questions to ask your doctor and explains how to find the hospital that's the right fit for you. A free copy can be downloaded at medicare.gov or requested by calling Medicare at 1-800-633-4227.

Once you've done your homework, you'll have peace of mind knowing you've made an informed choice about your care. Then you can concentrate on the rest of your preparations for your hospital stay.

Softball Starts the **Season Strong**

BY ALYSSA HIGGS STUDENT REPORTER

The Claude softball season is in full swing. The Lady 'Stangs have played a total of four games this year, one of them being a district game. Since Claude ISD has dropped to the 1A division, however, the softball girls' district games do not count towards their advancement unless they are played against another 1A opponent.

The varsity softball team participated in the Hale Center Tournament on February 23rd. They played junior varsity team, Lubbock Estacado, at ten a.m. and won with a score of 13 runs to 4 runs.

McKay Wilkerson, Angelina Stanghellini, Jade Edwards, and Aubrie Brannon all scored twice. Grace Graham, Amber

Hand, Makenzie Miller, Millie Graham, abd Rebecca Ellison all scored once. Miller pitched well with a ratio of 78-36, pitches-strikes.

The team also played Seagraves. They tied during this game with each team having eight runs. Wilkerson, G. Graham, and Hand all scored twice while Miller and Edwards scored once. Miller pitched 52 strikes out of 99 pitches. She had three strikeouts and only three walks.

On February 26, 2018, Claude played Sunray. They unfortunately lost with a score of 12-23. The softball team also played Clarendon. They lost to this team as well with a score of 3-13, but they are looking to improve as the season progresses. Make sure to support your team!

Athlete THE Week



AMBER HAND

Amber has done well offensively for the Lady Stangs over the last six games. She has patience and will find a way to get on base, whether it's finding her pitch to hit or drawing a walk. Amber has always been a vocal leader on the team and is not afraid to throw a little humor

in the mix even when the going is rough.



Jim Hubbard, CIC Risk Consultant 114 Trice Street 806-226-3331 jhubbard@neely.com

Let's Paint! brings Art Classes to Claude

Maybe you have heard about sip and paint parties, or maybe you have no idea what I'm talking about. Either way, it's exciting to know that new opportunities for socializing and entertainment are constantly popping up right here in Claude, Texas! One of the most recent is Let's Paint!

Let's Paint! was started by Carrie Gressley and Christiana Mustion as an artistic outlet for members of the community. "People tend to assume that painting classes are just for women, but they're not! Anyone is welcome to attend, and we hope to have classes for a variety of age groups and interests," said Carrie Gressley.

In December, the pair hosted a Christmas Elves paint class for children. The class filled up quickly and excitement built as the children arrived. Carrie led the children step by step through the painting process and showed them different ways that they could customize their elf and make it all their own. "I loved painting my elf!" said Savannah Fields, daughter of David Fields and Tessa Bilbrey. "The class was super fun, and I want to do it again!" After the kids were done painting, they enjoyed Christ-



Laughter was heard all around at Let's Paint!'s 3D metal star class. (I to r) Lauren Hudson, Camey Gravley, Caroline Haskell, Melissa Anderson, Karen Schrader, and Carolyn Lowe. photo by Christiana Mustion

mas cookies made by Debbie Johnson of Debbie's Little Bakery of Claude,

January, Let's In Paint! hosted their first painting class for adults. "We had eleven women come and join us for the wooden mason jar painting class," said Christiana Mustion. "The mason jars were self-led projects that the ladies could paint however they liked. We provided ideas, supplies, good company, and most importantly SNACKS." The group started their projects at 6:00 p.m. and partied on until 9:30 that night.

"It was a very relaxed atmosphere. We had a lot of laughs and so much fun," said Jennifer Denham, long-time Special Education Teacher at Claude Elementary School. "Christiana and Carrie were there to give us ideas and help us in any way we needed. Carrie helped me sketch out the llama I wanted on my project, and Christiana helped my daughter's friend with some of her hand letter-

In February, the group had planned a Valentine's

Day class for children, but to the number of individhad to cancel due to scheduling conflicts and reduced enrollment. Not to be discouraged, they hosted a successful 3D metal star painting class for adults at the end of the month. "The star class was fabulous," said Claude resident. Melissa Anderson. "I was able to paint with my daughter, and it was neat to see how different our projects turned out." The 3D star painting class was another self-led class, and the variety of results was equal

uals who participated in the class. "Seeing the creativity of the people who attended was exciting," said Christiana Mustion. "Even though we provided several ideas, it was amazing to see so many ideas come to life that hadn't even crossed my mind. I am very much looking forward to our next painting class!" Let's Paint!'s classes

range in price from \$25 to \$45 depending on the project, supplies, and complexity. Registration for each class begins as soon as it is announced and is

done on a first come first served basis. All classes pre-registration require and pre-payment to reserve your seat. Classes are currently being held at The Claude News Office.

Current painting events are listed on the Let's Paint! Facebook page and updated regularly. "If you have ideas about classes you'd like to see or you want to sign-up, give me a call or message us on our Facebook page," said Christiana Mustion. Let's Paint! also offers private parties—no matter what the occasion. Private parties may be booked by calling Christiana at 816-489-3919 or by sending a message to the Let's Paint! Facebook page.

The next scheduled class is a step-by-step guided painting class for adults called "Spring Daisies". It is a painting on canvas and costs \$25 per individual. The class will be Saturday, March 30th at 6:00 p.m. Maximum class capacity is 10 individuals. To register call 816-489-3919 or drop off your paid registration at The Claude News Office marked "Spring Daisies Painting Class". Carrie Gressley says, "We hope you will come and join us soon, and Let's Paint!"



Jennifer Denham, Nicole Payne, and Ashley Denham proudly display their finished projects at the wooden mason jar painting class. photo by Christiana Mustion



Carrie Gressley led the children in their step-by-step paintings of their Christmas elves. photo by Christiana Mustion



Lily Lowrey and Jensynn Rumbaugh work side-by-side as they paint their Christmas elves. photo by Christiana Mustion

AFT Launches Massive National Campaign to Fund Future of Education

Educators' strikes targeted pervasive underinvestment—now it's time to supercharge our demands in Congress, statehouses and communities

WASHINGTON— The American Federation of Teachers has launched a sweeping, multipronged campaign to fund the future of American public education.

Amid the continuing wave of teacher activism shining a spotlight on massive shortfalls in education investment, the Fund Our Future initiative aims to take the teachers' megaphone into Congress, statehouses and communities nationwide.

This ambitious new deal for public schools and colleges, launched today by AFT President Randi Weingarten and AFT leaders from across the country, zeroes in on the concrete steps necessary to do three things:

Reverse the economic austerity masquerading as reform that has stripped support from K-12 and higher education, hurting children and sending tuition and student debt skyrocketing.

Recognize those states that have made commitments to fund our future where the campaign will be to sustain and build on that investment.

Fight for a national commitment to the programs that can provide necessary and equitable investment in public schools and universities across America.

Fund Our Future will include an array of community- and state-based legislative initiatives, and strategies paired with national demands to fully fund Title I; fully fund

the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; increase investment in school infrastructure: secure operating funds at the national and state levels to counteract disinvestment in public colleges and universities: and forgive outstanding student loan debt under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Pro-A six-figure adver-

tising campaign, rolling out today across print, digital and online streaming services in 14 states, will draw attention to the necessity of increased investment to give students a shot at a better life for themselves and their families. Community events. rallies, lobby days and petition drives will take place daily, with the AFT serving as a national clearinghouse for advocacy. Fund Our Future priorities will also provide the 2020 presidential and down-ballot candidates an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to students, their parents and their commu-

While some states have sustained their commitment to public schools and universities, many have not. Twenty-five states spend less on K-12 education than before the Great Recession, and 41 states spend less on higher education, while the federal government has continued to underfund its education commitment by hundreds of billions of dollars. That disinvestment in public schools and colleges has hurt students and faculty and led to overcrowded classrooms; schools without nurses, librarians, guidance counselors and supports to ensure children's well-being; deteriorating school buildings with outdated teaching materials and technology; and unhealthy, unsafe environments. The testing fixation, coupled with austerity, has meant the loss of instruction in the arts, music and other programs; and disinvestment has led to huge increases in tuition and student debt as well as fewer course offerings and full-time tenured faculty.

Parents and communities are standing with educators. The 2018 PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools made clear that most Americans have trust and confidence in public school teachers. Ninety-one percent of Americans send their children to public schools, and say they want public schools strengthened. When asked about strengthening public schools or moving to private alternatives, nearly 80 percent said they wanted to strengthen public schools. Americans believe teachers are underpaid and said they would support them if they went on strike for better wages.

"We have some notable exceptions, but for far too long, our public schools and colleges have been shortchanged, particularly in relation to our nation's staggering wealth," the AFT's Weingarten said. "After a decade of neglect and austerity, the American



people have had enough and want a reordering of priorities to make their lives better. That's why educators and communities have hit the streets over the last year to demand not just a small course correction, but a sustainable investment in public schools and colleges.

"This funding hole for public schools is not inevitable; it's the direct result of deliberate and harmful political choices. That's why we're launching Fund Our Future—to supercharge the work teachers, parents and students have been doing into a set of comprehensive demands to take to the halls of state legislatures and Congress. What better time than now and who better than us to take on this challenge and

Florida Education Association President Fedrick Ingram said: "Fund Our Future is a campaign focused on our country and actualized in our communities. The lack of investment in Florida's schools is a real crisis. And when our students are in crisis, we know that educators are the first responders. Our members have stepped up to the plate and responded to the needs of their students time and time again; and with this campaign, we are holding our legislators accountable." He continued, "We know what's best for our students, and we're committed to supporting students throughout their journey to reach their full potential. We just need the politicians in Tallahassee to give us the tools necessary to do that. We need our legislators to fund the future and invest in the success of our students."

Washington President Karen Strickland said: "In Washington state, the community and technical college system has been defunded over the last 30 years, with the recession exacerbating the damage. Our budgets

AFT

reflect our values, so investing in our students and our communities is about choices. Our state's tax system is the most regressive in the country, so we're effectively telling our students: Your higher education is less important than protecting the wealth of Washington's highest earners. Our CTCs prepare students for civic engagement, employment and attainment of higher degrees. Employers benefit from a well-prepared workforce. And the economy is fueled with \$20 billion of activity each year. Investing in the CTCs is a smart investment that pays huge dividends. That's why AFT Washington is joining the Fund Our Future campaign to fight for the reinvestment in our colleges that makes a difference in people's lives."

For more information on the campaign, visit http://fundourfuture.aft. org.

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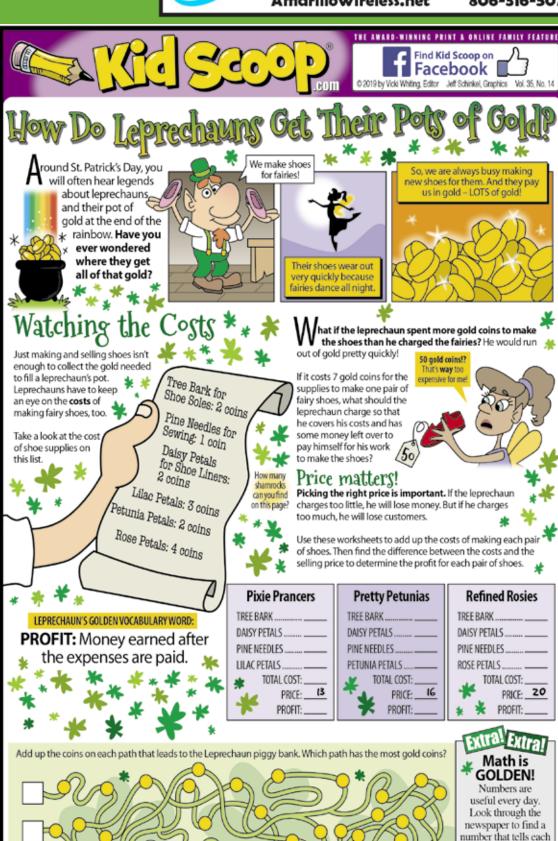
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An age

Standards Link: Research Use the newspaper to locate information.

☐ A year

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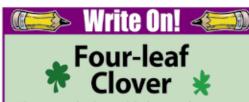
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March 5

Tascosa Tennis Center at Austin Middle School

March 11-16

March 21

Spring Break

Tascosa Tennis Center at Austin Middle School

Tascosa Tennis Center

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