

CLAY COUNTY LEADER

In the Spirit of the Pioneers, est. 1932

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015 | \$1.00

ALMANAC

	THURSDAY 12/10
	Sunny High: 70 Low: 43
	FRIDAY 12/11
	Mostly Sunny High: 76 Low: 56
	SATURDAY 12/12
	Thunderstorms early High: 73 Low: 39
	SUNDAY 12/13
	Mostly cloudy High: 58 Low: 36
	MONDAY 12/14
	Mostly Sunny High: 66 Low: 41
	TUESDAY 12/15
	Mostly Sunny High: 61 Low: 32
	WEDNESDAY 12/16
	Mostly Sunny High: 55 Low: 32

Weather RECORDS

DATE	HIGH	LOW
Tuesday, Dec. 1	54	32
Dec. 2	56	37
Dec. 3	64	34
Dec. 4	62	34
Dec. 5	61	35
Dec. 6	63	39
Dec. 7	73	34
Rainfall this week	0.00	
Rainfall to date	40.25	
Rainfall 2013	21.00	
Rainfall 2012	21.62	
Rainfall 2011	23.16	

Clay County 25 YEARS AGO

Henrietta's varsity Bearcats improved their season record to 7-1 with wins over Goldburg and Bellevue.

The Bearcats buried Goldburg, 105-23, when Clay Jackson led the way with 20 points. Scot Gibson and Arin Mitchell both scored 13 while Guy Payne, Casey Stell and Heath Brown each scored 11.

The Bearcats defeated Bellevue 72-65, when Payne was highpoint with 15, trailed by Jackson with 14, Mitchell with 11 and Brown and Cody Covert with 9 each.

"We are playing real aggressive basketball at this point in the season," said Coach Randy Romines. "If we will learn to be a little more patient on offense when our break doesn't develop, we will be a good basketball team."

10 years ago
Seventeen Henrietta High
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A CLAY COUNTY CHRISTMAS



Kendra Bennett/Courtesy Photos



There was plenty of floats, food and fun at Frosty's Wonderland Saturday night in downtown Henrietta.
TOP: There were plenty of floats in the lighted parade, even some with music and man's best friend. TOP LEFT: Paul Bennett with niece Layten Liggett visit with Sylvester the Cat.



BOTTOM LEFT: The Girl Scouts had a float of their own.
BOTTOM: Shane Cody gets a free ride from his Boy Scouts troop during the sled races.
The event also featured was sponsored by the Henrietta and Clay County Chamber of Commerce.



ALL GOOD THINGS...

Idalou's running game and defense brings Henrietta's playoff run to an end

There was a brief moment in Friday night's game where it looked like the Bearcats' were on the verge of turning the game around.

Idalou had dominated most of the night, and Henrietta wasn't helping their own cause by turning the ball over and misfiring on offense. In fact the undefeated Wildcats had just scored their third touchdown with just under seven minutes left in the second quarter to go up 20-0 when Idalou proved they were human too.

A bad snap on the extra point attempt led to a mad scramble for a two-point conversion, which was thwarted by the Bearcats. It was one of the few plays that had gone Henrietta's way the whole night, and on the ensuing kick-off, Mason Hanson weaved and battled his way down the left sideline for a

See **BEARCATS** Page 5



Martin Aldridge/Clay County Leader

Dylan Gaylean (12) and Logan Carter try to take down Idalou Quarterback Brandt Schilling, who helped bring the Bearcats playoff run to an end Friday night by rushing for 262 yards.

CCAWF meeting offers first-hand experience

Martin Aldridge
Clay County Leader

Clay County Against Wind Farms (CCAWF) held their second public meeting Monday night at the Rock Barn in Henrietta, and this time two speakers were featured to give their personal accounts of how wind farms have affected them in different ways.

Clay County resident Lyle Horwood said his knowledge of wind farms comes from first-hand experience. Family members of his own land in Sterling County, located southwest of Abilene, and they have had wind turbines operating on their property since 2006.

"Everything was supposed to be great," he told the audience, "but that's not what happened."

He said at first the royalties from the lease were good and as originally promised, but he said it took only about a year and a half before those royalties went to "almost nothing." He said after his family and other landowners investigated the matter they learned the wind development company, Florida Power & Light, was selling electricity generated by the turbines to a

sister company for no gain or even a loss, in what he described as a "shell game." He said landowners in the area hired lawyers to protest this seeming breach of contract, and while royalties eventually began being paid again, they were not nearly at the original level.

But problems and concerns about the wind farm began cropping up even before royalties were being paid, said Horwood, who claimed the construction process was very intrusive. As a case in point he said the cranes used to erect turbines needed a flat surface, so they often required huge pads to be built on uneven terrain, much larger than any found on oil-lease developments. He described one of these pad construction projects as a "Hoover Dam."

Horwood admitted that his family and other landowners in the area were warned "not to do it" from other landowners who had had wind turbines installed on their properties—but the deal sounded good, and they went ahead anyway.

Now, he says, the land will "never be back to the way it

See **CCAWF** Page 9

Fugitive captured by Sheriff at Lake Arrowhead

On Friday, December 4, at approximately 12:15 p.m., the Clay County Sheriff's Office received information from the Lake Arrowhead Park Ranger, Keith Gauthier, that an escaped fugitive from Colorado had been spotted at the State Park at Lake Arrowhead, according to a press release from the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Clay County Sheriff Kenny Lemons along with Chief Deputy Mark Elgin made arrangements with Ranger Gauthier and the Clay County Game Warden Eddie Hood to meet at the State Park, in order to further investigate the report. While in route Sheriff Lemons summoned the assistance of Wichita County Sheriff's Office and the Archer County Sheriff's Office. As officers were arriving at the State Park, information was received from a surveillance unit posted in the brush that the suspect matching the description of the



Paul Jacob Sellers

escaped fugitive was preparing their vehicle to leave the park. Officers began to move towards the direction of the suspected fugitive's campsite when he appeared directly in front of Sheriff Lemons's vehicle, whose patrol vehicle was first in line. As other units were positioning themselves to surround

See **FUGITIVE** Page 7

Longtime resident struck by motorist

Longtime resident A.G. "Twister" Akin was struck and killed by a motorist while walking on U.S. 287 Monday, November 30.

According to Media and Safety Education Trooper Dan Buesing with the Texas Department of Public Safety, a young female in a 2009 Nissan passenger car noticed Akin walking along the side of the highway near New York Road and slowed down after he appeared to be veering onto the lane. Akin then, according to the motorist, began walking across the highway and was struck by the car, hitting the windshield with enough force to go through it.

Akin, 87, was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and his family had requested the Clay County Sheriff's Office to check on him in the past, which officers duly did.

However, Akin was known to take walks near the highway, often with his dog.

Buesing said the incident occurred at approximately 9:50 a.m. Medical treatment was administered at the scene, but Akin was pronounced dead at a hospital at 12:31 p.m.

Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday and his obituary appears on page 2 of this issue.

Sheriff

the 2700 block of New London Rd. in Henrietta on November 30.

Animal complaint was reported on FM 174 near Brock in Vashti on November 30.

Arrest was reported in the 2700 block of New London Rd. in Henrietta on November 30.

Fire was reported in the 2300 block of FM 1883 in Bluegrove on December 1.

Controlled burn was reported in the 1700 block of FM 172 in Bluegrove on December 1.

Deceased person was reported on New York Rd. in Henrietta on December 1.

Controlled burn was reported on Ambrose Crain Hwy. 82 in Henrietta on December 1.

Controlled burn was reported in the 7400 block of FM 2393 in Dean on December 1.

Traffic accident was reported on US 287 at Mosely's in Henrietta on December 1.

Animal bite was reported in on US 287 near the Eagle Mart in Bellevue on December 1.

Suspicious person/vehicle was reported in the 200 block of Main St. in Henrietta on December 1.

Controlled burn was reported in the 3700 block of SH 79 in Dean on December 1.

Animal complaint was reported at Watkins and Broday Wallace in Dean on December 1.

Arrest was reported in the 400

block of Ray Rd. in Dean on December 1.

Sexual assault was reported at Lake Arrowhead on December 2.

Controlled burn was reported on FM 3393 at Tammen Rd. in Dean on December 2.

Criminal mischief was reported at Lura Maie and Hwy. 77 in Dean on December 2.

Controlled burn was reported in the 700 block of Prairie Branch in Vashti on December 2.

Animal complaint was reported at New York Rd. and Lonestar & Cullars in Henrietta on December 2.

Animal bite was reported in the 400 block of Morgan St. in Petrolia on December 2.

Controlled burn was reported in the 12000 block of SH 148 in Henrietta on December 2.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 900 block of Spring St. in Henrietta on December 2.

Assault was reported in the 400 block of Ray Rd. in Dean on December 2.

Fire was reported in the 300 block of Main in Henrietta on December 3.

Fire was reported on US 287 at the Wilson overpass in Jolly on December 3.

Felony theft was reported in the 200 block of Morgan Ave. in Petrolia on December 3.

Controlled burn was reported in the 2300 block of FM 171 in

Byers on December 3.

Fire was reported on Hwy. 79 at FM 3393 in Wichita Falls on December 3.

Noise complaint was reported in the 200 block of Barrett in Henrietta on December 3.

Terroristic threat was reported in the 900 block of Ikard in Henrietta on December 3.

Controlled burn was reported in the 300 block of Hilltop in Bellevue on December 3.

Suspicious person/vehicle was reported on Womack Loop at Henry Scheer Rd. on December 3.

Suspicious person/vehicle was reported at Wells Fargo Bank in Henrietta on December 3.

Power out/line down was reported on SH 79 in Byers on December 3.

Driving while intoxicated was reported on US 287 in Bellevue on December 4.

Controlled burn was reported in the 700 block of Third St. in Bellevue on December 4.

Controlled burn was reported on Hwy. 148 at Kerr Rd. in Henrietta on December 4.

Deceptive business practice was reported in the 600 block of South St. in Henrietta on December 4.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Harrison Rd. in Petrolia on December 4.

Arrest was reported at Lake Arrowhead on December 4.

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Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of Walnut in Petrolia on December 4.

Accident was reported on FM 174 at SH 148 in Joy on December 4.

Forgery was reported at the Subway in Henrietta on December 4.

Animal complaint was reported in the 600 block of Bridge St. in Henrietta on December 4.

Disturbance was reported in the 500 block of Central in Petrolia on December 4.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of Hampton in Petrolia on December 4.

Controlled burn was reported in the 100 block of Harris St. in Petrolia on December 5.

Identity theft was reported in the 100 block of Byers Rd. in Byers on December 5.

Controlled burn was reported in the 2900 block of Watkins in Dean on December 5.

Suspicious person/vehicle was reported in the 200 block of Ikard in Henrietta on December 5.

Controlled burn was reported in the 1300 block of Saratoga at Arrowhead Ranch Estates on December 5.

Visit the Clay County Sheriff's Office at www.sheriff.co.clay.tx.us.

Local VFW gives thanks



Sean Roberts/Courtesy Photo

Bucky Boyd Post #5401 members (l-r) Kenny Brown, Don Lavy, Frank Cooper (Commander), W.C. Galliton, Johnny Shaw, Bob Davidson, and James Hager. Not shown is Robert Tweed.

Christmas Celebration in Henrietta lighting of the lights parade was fun for all and a success.

We want to thank all the members of the Bucky Boyd VFW Post 5401 that gave a huge helping hand to see that our 1st attendance in the celebration was a great success. They all did a great job. We

also want to give a very heartfelt thank you to the businesses that helped support our cause.

They are Diamonds, Henrietta Quick Stop, Good Morning Donuts, Pioneer Home Medical Supply Inc., Dollar General and Bread and Butter.

Thank you again for your support from the Men's Auxiliary Bucky Boyd Post #5401

Christmas Cantata set for Dec. 13

The combined choirs of Central Christian, Nocona, First Christian, Henrietta and First Christian, Bowie will present a Christmas Cantata, *Mary Did You Know*.

The performance will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 6:00 pm at First

Christian Church, Bowie. The combined choir is directed by Lorra Lierly and will feature a solo by Wray Stewart. A reception will be held in the fellowship hall following the Cantata. There is no admission charge and the public is welcome to attend.

Senior Center lunch menu

The Clay County Senior Center, 216 N. Hancock St. in Henrietta, offers a hot lunch for \$6. Lunch is served Monday-Friday, 11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Thursday December 10th: Fried Ck, French Fries, Mac Salad.

Friday December 11th: Beefy Mac, Corn, Zucc/Tom.

Monday December 14th: Stew & Cornbread.

Tuesday December 15th:

Christmas Lunch/ Turkey or Ham, All Fixings.

Wednesday December 16th: Pepper Stk, Mash Pot, Carrots.

Monday's at 12:30p.m., the Senior Center offers an enjoyable game of Dominos, and on Tuesday's Art Class is available from 10a.m. to noon, and Bingo begins at 12:30 p.m.

Come get a fresh, hot, delicious meal on your lunch break!

For more information call 940-538-5615.

CCAWF

was."

He also said land values on his family's place dropped by about 50%, and hunting - which used to be a good source of extra income - was not allowed during the construction process.

Other problems included safety concerns regarding falling ice from the towers and blades - he said he actually knew of a rancher who had lost a cow from falling ice - and that one blade which had fallen off had been sitting in a wheat field for over a year.

He said his family also had major problems with the 50-70 people working for the wind development company running around on the farm and leaving gates open all the time, and that when a wind turbine malfunctions, it will shoot oil all over the ground, rendering it useless for any agricultural purpose.

The second speaker was Jack Pickett, also a Clay County resident who owns land between Henrietta and Jolly. He said he can actually see the Shannon project from his place, especially the blinking red lights at night.

Pickett, however, talked about how wind farms would affect the energy supply. He is a member of the board on both the J-A-C Electric Cooperative headquartered in Bluegrove, which serves almost 3,000 members in Clay, Jack and Archer counties, and the Brazos Electric Cooperative headquartered in Waco.

Pickett said he was not at the meeting officially representing either cooperative, but he did speak about how he feels wind energy is affecting energy production in a negative fashion.

He said since wind energy is intermittent, it cannot be relied upon to provide power consistently and said that, despite reports otherwise, the abundance of cheap natural gas is the real reason electricity prices are so low.

He said wind energy can't compete without subsidies, and doesn't believe they have any affect on climate change, which he doesn't believe in.

"That climate change is man-made is one of the biggest lies forced on the American people," he said.

He said that wind energy's current capacity in Texas is capable of supplying about 19% of the energy needs of the state, but said that in 2014 it only supplied a little under 11%. Again, this is because of the intermittent nature of wind, which he says often doesn't blow when it is needed and often does blow when it is not.

He said the real danger of wind energy, however, is keeping other types of power plants

fuelled by natural gas or coal - which he said is cleaner now than ever - from being built. He said this could result in brown-outs in the future if energy demands are exceeded during times when the wind isn't blowing.

The federal Production Tax Credit (PTC), which pays 2.3 cents for every kilowatt hour of energy produced from renewable sources, and a generous state subsidy to build large capacity transmission lines helped make wind popular in Texas, according to Pickett, who questioned the need for local taxing entities to provide further incentives in the form of tax breaks.

"When the subsidies run out," warned Pickett, "(wind energy development) is going to be gone."

He said governments would be better served subsidizing natural gas, which he considers a relatively clean and abundant energy source, if governments should be subsidizing any energy source at all.

In fact, governments do subsidize all forms of energy, and has for years. However, renewable sources such as wind, solar, biomass, and hydropower have been receiving more in subsidies in recent years. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, wind received almost \$6 billion in subsidies in 2013 while natural gas received \$2.3 billion.

Pickett believes it might take brownouts in populated urban areas - and subsequent complaints by those citizens - before any real change is made regarding wind energy.

"We're trying to give you different perspectives," claimed John Greer of CCAWF.

He encouraged landowners and other citizens to contact

their precinct commissioner and engage them in a courteous discussion regarding the future of wind energy in Clay County. He also said people in towns who don't believe wind farms will affect them should think again.

"Don't believe you want be affected," he said, claiming transmission lines will have to be built across the county to carry the energy produced by new wind farms, as well as degrading the visual aesthetics with even more of the 400-foot tall turbines going up and the blinking red lights at night.

Greer also said people should be leery of "removal bonds" which seemingly guarantee the land will be returned to its more or less original condition once the lease - typically running 50 years including options - runs out. He said the bonds typically don't go into effect until the 15th year and are then calculated on the present value of the future income stream. He said the calculations don't work and require only the top four or five feet of the concrete turbine pads, which reach down several dozen feet, to be removed.

Another CCAWF member, Forrest Baldwin, who lives about 15 miles from the Shannon project but says even at that distance he finds it intrusive, encouraged people to visit the site and decide for themselves if more wind farms is something they want in Clay County. He said in just two months CCAWF has collected over 150 petitions representing more than 151,000 acres against wind farms.

Baldwin said the group plans to continue to work to stop more wind farms in the county by sending out press releases, encouraging people to put signs in their yards, running ads and sending letters to landowners,

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as well as encouraging people to visit their website at CCAWF.org.

One of the goals is to simply educate the public about wind farms, said Baldwin, and he hopes continuing coverage, be it local or area, newspapers or TV, will help people decide that wind farms in Clay County will not create the types of benefits claimed by supporters of wind farms and wind energy.

Today, she's silver-headed, still has to hem her pants, and is 70 years young! Help me wish **DEANNA CHOATE** the best birthday yet!

Happy Birthday, Mom!

Robert, Landis, Larkin, & Drayton

Massive Christmas Savings at PIERCE OUTLET

Open during the Christmas parade!
105 S. MAIN HENRIETTA

Prices starting at ...

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- Picks: \$1
- Ornaments: \$1.50
- LED Lights: \$2.25
- Blow Ups: \$10
- Bows: \$1
- Toppers: \$4
- Clothes: \$5

HUNDREDS OF ITEMS AVAILABLE!