

## Holiday Countdown For Opportunities & Events

BY RON CARR

During the two weeks left before Christmas, there are still opportunities to help worthy causes and sample some Christmas cheer. Here is an informal calendar of events and charities to consider:

The Project Christmas Card fund at Friona State Bank, and the Christmas Fund at First Bank in Bovina, accepts donations to benefit Parmer County Community Hospital and the Bovina EMS and volunteer fire department. Deadline for donations to be listed in the newspaper is December 19.

Friends of Friona, a volunteer group, is accepting Christmas donations to benefit the Pioneer Heritage Museum. Donations can be deposited at Friona Banking Center, the Friona Public Li-

brary, or any museum board officer. Or call Mary Johnston or Darla Bracken or Sharon White. They will cheerfully accept your money.

The Empty Stocking Fund needs donations to help buy coats, shoes, and warm clothing for needy children in the area. There is an article elsewhere on the page explaining more and how you can help.

The Friona Depot Heritage Society has official 2003 Texas State Christmas ornaments for sale for \$18. The ornament depicts the gates of the state capitol. A portion of the proceeds goes toward the upkeep of the Depot in Friona city park. To order, call Lois Norwood 250-3209 or Bettye Jarboe at 250-2257.

You might consider "adopting" a resident of Prairie Acres for Christmas. Contact Jo Blackwell at 250-3922. Some of the elderly residents have a pretty skimpy Christmas ahead and could use some holiday assistance.

The Bovina Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Christmas lighting con-

test for residents. Cash prizes will be awarded. Folks are asked to leave their lights on until at least 11 p.m. for the judges. Winners will be announced the week before Christmas.

Also in Bovina, Christmas caroling for kids is on tap for Thursday, December 18. Cotton trailers full of carolers will be pulled around town assisted by the Bovina Volunteer Fire Department and the Bovina Police Department. Trailers leave the EMS building at 6 p.m. and will return by 7 p.m. for a visit with Santa. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served.

Last but not least, Santa letters should be written and on the way to the North Pole by now. Elementary and primary teachers are collecting Santa letters. Deadline is December 15 and as many letters as possible will be published in the December 18 and December 25 issues of the newspaper. Santa letters can also be dropped off at the Friona Star office during business hours Monday-Thursday, or mailed to Santa at P.O. Box 789, Friona, 79035.

**NO COOKIES FOR YOU SANTA!**...One-year-old Jodie Roberson is not happy about her very first encounter with Santa. Her first glimpse and visit with St. Nick was at the Friona Fire Department banquet Saturday night. Jodie is the daughter of Casey and Becky Roberson of Friona. ron carr photo

## Don't Forget The Empty Stocking Fund This Year

The Empty Stocking Fund helps kids. The Parmer County Child Welfare Board is a volunteer board under the County Commissioner's supervision.

The Fund, administered by Jo Blackwell, executive director of Prairie Acres, gathers names of children that have special needs this time of year. Most need warm clothes, shoes, and coats.

The Empty Stocking Fund receives some money from the Friona United Way which is used for Friona children. However Mrs. Blackwell says that there are children listed from Bovina and elsewhere in Parmer County that need help also. Individual donations are used to help all listed children.

Names of children in need are gathered from the elementary and primary schools and donations are used to provide them with what might otherwise be a not so merry Christmas.

Christmas is the season for giving and helping children in need is at the top of the giving list. You can help. For additional information, contact Jo Blackwell at 250-3922, or make a donation to the Empty Stocking Fund at Friona State Bank.



## Perry Announces Jan. 20 As Special Election Date

Governor Rick Perry has announced that Tuesday, January 20, 2004, is the special election date to fill the vacancy for Senate District 31. The seat is being left vacant with the announced resignation of Senator Teel Bivins. In a letter to Perry last week, Bivins declared his intention to leave office January 12, 2004.

Candidates for this special election must file applications with the Secretary of State no later than Monday, December 22. The early voting period for this special elec-

tion runs from Monday, January 5, through Friday, January 16.

Senate District 31 consists of Andrews, Bailey, Cochran, Crane, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Howard, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Martin, Midland, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman and Yoakum counties.

The State Senator elected in this special election will serve out the remainder of Bivins' term which runs through January 2005.

### NOTICE OF FISD MEETING CHANGE

The Board of Trustees of the Friona Independent School District will meet in regular session on Thursday, December 18, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board meeting room.

The meeting was moved from Monday to Thursday to accommodate trustee commitments.

Agenda items for the meeting will include a public hearing on the Academic Excellence Indicator System, action on Texas Association of School Board policy updates, final action on a revision to the FISD facilities use policies, the annual Dropout Prevention Report, and the Superintendent's evaluation of the district.



JOHN TAYLOR, left, and his grandson Reagan Stowers, Texas Fire Museum's Trey Shannon, and John Douglas take a last look at the 1941 fire engine which was donated to the Texas Fire Museum. See story on page 3. ron carr photo



Thanks to The Living Christmas Tree singers for all the long hours of practice and the beautiful concerts last weekend.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRIONA

Birthdays for the week of December 14 through December 20.

Dec. 14—B.K. Buske, Joe Tongate, James Procter, Shana Taylor, Trey Crozier  
Dec. 15—Don Reeve, Crispin Buchanan, Deena Willard, Connie Willard, Sylvia Ingram, Luke London, Lana Allemand, Juan Perez, Haden Smiley, Deven Black

Dec. 16—Michael Stanberry, Gerald Floyd, Lisa Guerra, Megan Carr, Kyle Jamerson, Travis Stewart, Rhett Houston

Dec. 17—Joe Tagle, Ethlie Hand, Robert Garza, Lance Goen, Jim Schlenker, Mary Joyce Barnett, Gloria Drake, Jason Hankins, Esther Alexander  
Dec. 18—Debbie Stevens, Wade Procter, Brittany Anthony, Michael Craig Scott, Antonio Martinez, Hal Ratcliff, Bud Rainey, Pam Rector, Trey Widner, Morgan Leal, Billy Dean Baxter, Crystal Morton

Dec. 19—Wes Drake, Jason Rector, Paige Osborn, Mindi Wilson, Lonnie Busch, Cliff Daniel

Dec. 20—Haretta Carthel, Mika Schneider, Rocky Nichols, Deloris McNeely, Alec Gordon.

If you or someone in your family has a birthday coming up soon, please call the Friona Star office at 250-2211 by Tuesday noon and report it.

When you see names, which should have been removed from our birthday listings (moved away, names that have changed, deceased, etc.) call the newspaper and let someone know. Thank you.

## FRIONA FLASHBACKS

45 Yrs. Ago

December 18, 1958

The H.A. Hydes received word early this week that Rev. and Mrs. Haskell Bolding have moved from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Lufollette, Tennessee. Rev. Bolding, whose wife is the former Maxine Hyde, is pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lufollette. He had served as pastor of the Skyline Baptist Church at Knoxville five years.

35 Yrs. Ago

December 19, 1968

Plans have been completed for a reunion of the 1948 graduating class of Friona High School. Festivities will begin at Federated Club House at 2 p.m. Thursday, December 26. Mrs. Billy Dean Baxter, spokesman for the group, encourages all local merchants of the class to be present.

30 Yrs. Ago

December 16, 1973

Terry Jesko, whose action was credited with saving the life of his father, Lee Jesko, last summer, was presented the KVIL-TV "Good Guy" award prior to the regular meeting of the Friona City Council Monday of this week.

25 Yrs. Ago

December 10, 1978

City of Friona employee Clyde Fields

did a double-take the other morning when he made an inspection of the sewerage ponds, and saw a rare black swan swimming and feeding.

20 Yrs. Ago

December 11, 1983

Kathy Beard is the new manager of the Friona Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, replacing Bunny Murphree, who has resigned to accept a position with the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Beard had served as an assistant in the Chamber office.

15 Yrs. Ago

December 17, 1988

Superintendent of Schools Hal Ratcliff reported at the board of trustees' meeting Monday that he and board president Jerry Hinkle had written letters to the District Highway Engineer requesting a pedestrian over-pass be constructed over Highway 60 by the junior high school.

5 Yrs. Ago

December 11, 1998

The Squaws' varsity team captured the championship trophy of their own invitational tournament last weekend, with wins over Floyd, N.M., Hard, Elida, N.M., and Farwell.



Dec. 13 - Jan. 11

## TPW Predicts Improved

### Pheasant Hunting

As dawn breaks on December 13 bird hunters will comb the Panhandle landscape, searching for the explosion and adrenaline-rushing cackle of long-tailed roosters. According to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Biologists, pheasant hunters will find a more favorable season than last, but still a far cry from the old "hay days" of the early '80s.

Pheasant roadside surveys conducted annually by TPWD personnel indicate that pheasant numbers are up slightly compared to last year. However, Jeff Bonner, TPWD Wildlife Biologist, points out that "last year's surveys were the lowest in 25 years, and while this year's surveys show some improvement they still represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest counts during that same period".

Counties that yielded the most birds per route were Bailey, Deaf Smith, Floyd, Ochiltree, Roberts, and Sherman. Success will still depend on the type of area hunted. "Those hunting areas that have tall, weedy playa lakes and CRP fields, adjacent to fields of corn and milo, should have no problem filling their 2-bird bag limit," Bonner predicts.

Although the long-term trend is not encouraging, localized areas that provide proper habitat components in the right arrangement and receive adequate moisture harbor a tremendous number of birds. What is good habitat? "These are areas having the proper type and condition of vegetation to provide food items and cover for nesting, brood-rearing and loafing," according to Bonner. Panhandle pheasant habitat consists of playa lake basins, grain fields with adequate cover, Conservation Reserve Program field, playa lake edges, field borders, and road rights-of-way. "Landowners and operators that guard against over-grazing in the playa lake basins, maintain a 15-inch cutting height during grain harvest, and leave a few standing rows of milo or corn during harvest will be on the right track to having pheasants," says Bonner.

Hunting opportunities can be found by contacting the local Chamber of Commerce or other community orga-



nization offices in towns of the county where you wish to hunt. TPWD also provides pheasant hunting opportunity on several properties enrolled through the Short Term Public Hunting Lease Program.

For 2003, those purchasing the Annual Public Hunting Permit and having a hunting license can access approximately 1,900 acres in Hansford County. The 30-day hunting season runs from Saturday, December 13, 2003 through Sunday, January 11, 2004 in the Texas Panhandle.

Legal shooting hours are from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. The daily bag limit is 2 roosters per hunter (4 in possession). Hen harvest is not allowed. TPW requires that one leg, including the spur or all feathers remain attached to the pheasant until it reaches its final destination. All hunters must possess a Texas hunting license; there are no special tag requirements.

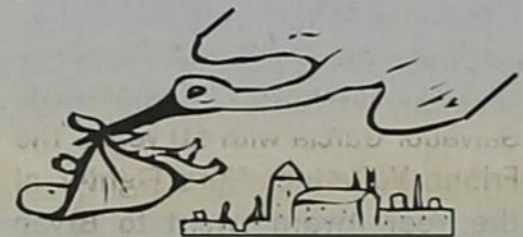
### Claytons Say Hello To Ryan Charles

Mark and Karen Clayton, of Dumas, are the proud parents of a baby boy, Ryan Charles, born Friday, November 14, 2003 at 8:00 p.m. at BSA in Amarillo.

He weighed eight pounds, nine ounces and was twenty inches long. Ryan has a three-year old brother, Mitchell.

Grandparents are James and Sandra Clayton of Bovina, and Charles and Dianne Meyer of Houston.

Great-grandparents are Jack and Alma Clayton of Bovina, and Virginia Meyer of Houston.



## BOVINA REFLECTIONS

45 Yrs. Ago

December 10, 1958

James Lawlis, recognized as Bovina's top ground-gaining back during the 1958 football season, has been named to the 2B All-District football team.

40 Yrs. Ago

December 11, 1963

Good Neighbor Sewing Club has a dinner party Thursday evening at a Clovis restaurant.

35 Yrs. Ago

December 11, 1968

Miss Toni Barraza, LVN, will begin full time work after December 15 at the Bovina Medical Center.

30 Yrs. Ago

December 12, 1973

A trap shoot, sponsored by the Bovina-Friona Knights of Columbus, has been scheduled for this weekend, according to a spokesman for the organization.

25 Yrs. Ago

December 13, 1978

The second snowfall of the season was received this week and lowest temperatures ever were reported. Official temperatures were reported as low as ten to 18 degrees below zero the morning of December 9.

20 Yrs. Ago

December 14, 1983

This season's Cabbage Patch Doll "craze" has developed into one of those shopping fads which comes along every so many years, like the Barbie doll and hula hoop. Even marketing experts could not predict the unusual demand for the dolls this Christmas season.

15 Yrs. Ago

December 14, 1988

Bovina has hired a city patrolman. He is Gary Coleman of Austin. Gary is now on duty, but will be moving permanently to Bovina with his wife, Sue, after the Christmas holidays.

10 Yrs. Ago

December 11, 1993

The Bovina Senior Citizens met on December 1 for their regular luncheon and business meeting. The main topic discussed was the Christmas program, which will be held on December 11.

5 Yrs. Ago

December 11, 1998

The pheasant season kicks off in Parmer County this weekend, and going by what the experts are saying, hunters are not likely to find nearly as many of the bright game birds at which to shoot as they did in 1997.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOVINA

Birthdays for the week of December 14, 2003.

Dec. 14—Barbara Hall, Laura Gilbreath, Dorothy Sorley, Victor Espinoza

Dec. 15—Marion Carson, Linda Marshall, Carol Ortiz

Dec. 16—Rosalie Lopez

Dec. 18—Darren Hromas, Wes Cockerham, Scott Steelman

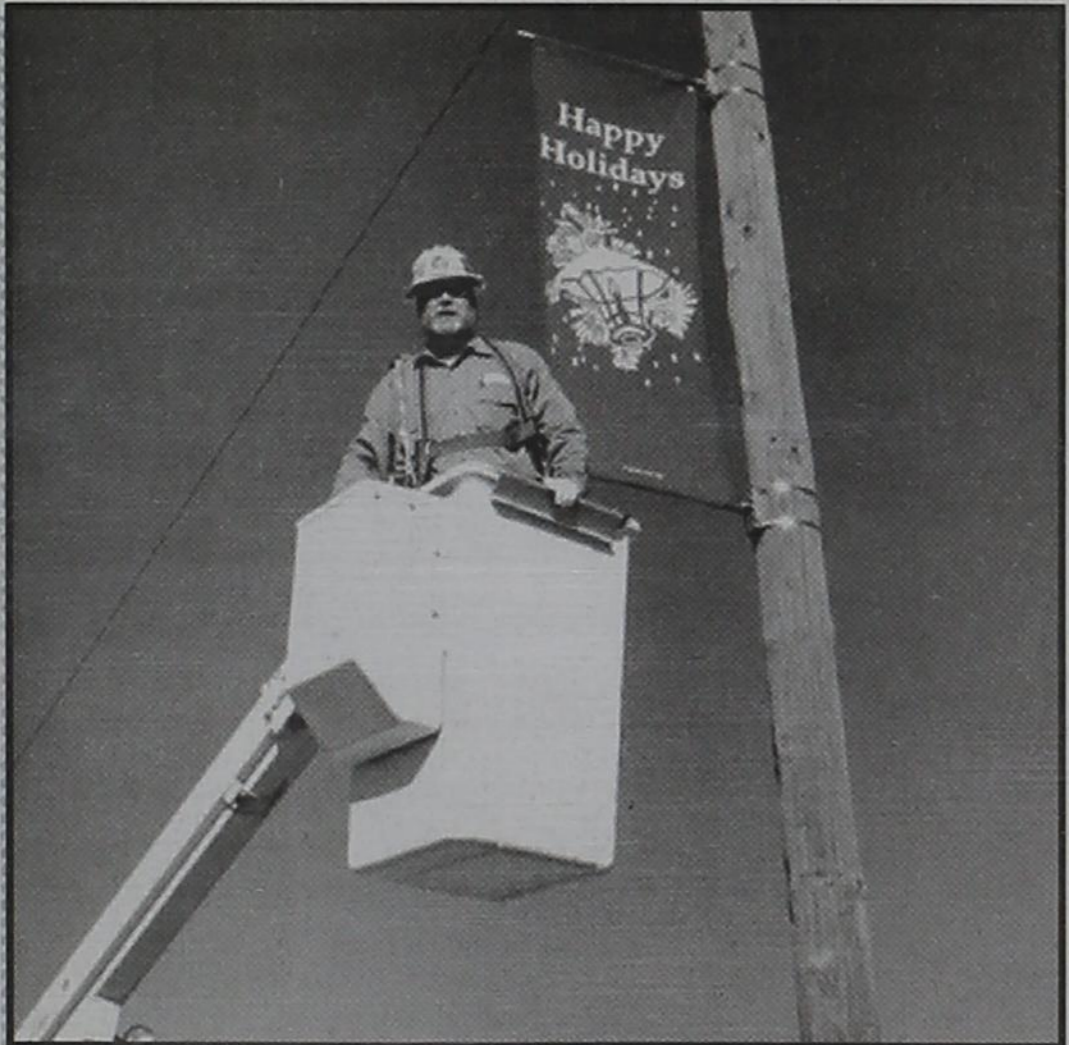
Dec. 19—Mary Carr, Cecil Bunch, Ryan McClaran, Drue Jennings

Dec. 20—Morgan Clayton, Joe Jones, Andrea Ortiz

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When you see names, which should have been removed from our birthday listings (moved away, names that have changed, deceased, etc.) call the newspaper and let someone know. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



XCEL ENERGY'S Jon Hendrickson decorates Friona's Main Street with Christmas banners.

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# Friona Fire Truck Goes To Dallas Fire Museum

Joe Mann remembers the burr fire and the 1941 Ford fire truck he used to fight it. "I spent three days and nights in that old fire truck pumping water on those burrs," the 50-year Friona Fire Department veteran said.

At the time, in the late 1960s, Mann was employed at Paco Feed Yard. Paco had purchased the 1941 fire truck from Wichita Falls around 1967 to keep at the plant since they were 10 miles south of Friona, not a short distance for Friona firemen to respond.

"Every few hours somebody would come by and put some gasoline in the truck and add oil if it needed it. Of course they had to keep hauling water to fill up the tank too. I kept that truck running for three days and nights, pumping water and waiting for them burrs to flare up again," Mann said.

Mann, 76, who is still active in the Friona fire department, soon

convinced A. L. Black, a Paco partner, to donate the old fire truck to the Friona firemen. "He called me one day and said, 'Joe if you can drive that old truck to town, you can have it.' I wasn't sure it would make it so I got Ruben Taylor to follow me in a winch truck just in case, but it made it."

The fire department volunteers, often with their own money, restored the truck to its original shape, overhauled and painted it, and used it in parades or other community events. It held a special place among the firemen. Mann remembers the first time they were going to roll it out for a parade.

"Twenty minutes before the parade was supposed to start, a wheel bearing locked up on it, so we had to wait until the next year to run it in a parade," he said. Until last Friday, the 1941 fire truck had been stored at 4-Way Pump Service when not being

used, which was most of the time.

Fire Chief Jim Taylor, co-owner of 4-Way Pump, says the title shows that the fire truck has been in the county almost 40 years. As a gesture of firefighting kinsmanship, the local firemen donated the truck to the Texas Fire Museum, a North Texas Historical Fire Society in Dallas. Representatives from the Fire Museum drove to Friona last Friday and picked it up.

Trey Shannon, Fire Society treasurer, said, "Our guys will have this truck running and pumping water within a week." Taylor said there were only two of the 1941 Ford fire trucks still in existence: one in Beaumont and the Friona truck. Local firemen can be assured that their truck will have a long and happy life in Dallas.



**GONE TO THE MUSEUM**  
Joe Mann says goodbye to the 1941 Ford fire truck which the Friona Fire Department donated to the Dallas Fire Museum. The old truck was used by the fire department for parades and other community events. See story for more.  
ron carr photos



## Fire Department News

By Darrell Barlow

The Friona Volunteer Fire Department held their Annual Christmas Party this past Saturday, December 6, which was a big success!

Several of the firemen were honored for their years of service including John Taylor with 20 years, Darrell Barlow with 15 years, and Salvador Garcia with 10 years. The Friona Volunteer "Fire Fighter of the Year Award" went to Bryan Harris with nine and one-half years of service to the department.

Thanks to Chief Taylor, John Taylor, Roger Fields, Bryan Harris, Terry Sharrock, and their wives for cooking the meal which was very good.

Santa paid a visit with a sack of goodies for the kids, who then had their pictures made with Santa. We also thank Ron Carr for coming and taking pictures.

The City Council, Highway Patrol, City Manager, and Police Chief were also present.

Please be careful during the holidays.  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**BRYAN HARRIS**, center, was honored as Friona Firefighter of the Year at the fire department banquet Saturday. Fire Chief Jim Taylor and City Manager Terri Johnson presented the award. Harris has been a firefighter for 9 1/2 years and was selected for the honor by his fellow firemen.  
ron carr photos



**FOR SERVICE** to the Friona Fire Department. Above, Darrell Barlow 15 years, Salvador Garcia 10 years, and John Taylor 20 years. Below, firemen Barlow, Roger Field, and Chuck Teague hand out new fire department jackets at the banquet.



**CHILDREN** of all ages lined up to talk to Santa and Mrs. Claus at the fire department banquet which was held at the Friona Community Center.  
ron carr photos



The Bovina I.S.D. Classroom Teachers Association cordially invites the community, former students, family, and friends to a retirement party on Wednesday, December 17, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the Bovina High School Cafeteria.

We will be honoring Carolyn Beauchamp, Phyllis Steelman, Lupe Rodriguez, and Rita Villarreal who have dedicated many years to the education of our youth. We hope you will be there to help us honor their years of service.

## FHS Speech Team Competes

The results for the Amarillo High Speech Tournament held December 5 and 6 were as follows.

Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Quarterfinalists were Aurora Banuelos, and Travis Monk; third place, Stephenie Jones.

Novice Extemporaneous Speaking: Semifinalists were Stephenie Jones, Joey Bentley, and Fabian Dominguez; eighth place, Caleb Hidalgo; seventh place, Mason Vasquez.

Poetry: Semifinalist, Meghan Hendrickson; fourth place, Lory Wyly; third place, Sara Widner.

Outstanding Interper Award: Lory Wyly.  
There were 31 schools in attendance.

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<b>Stuck On You</b>	PG 13
1:30 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:15	
<b>The Missing</b>	R
1:20 - 4:00 - 7:15	
<b>Haunted Mansion</b>	PG
1:40 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:15	
<b>Cat in The Hat</b>	PG
1:25 - 4:00 - 7:10 - 9:05	
<b>Last Samurai</b>	R
1:15 - 4:10 - 7:15	
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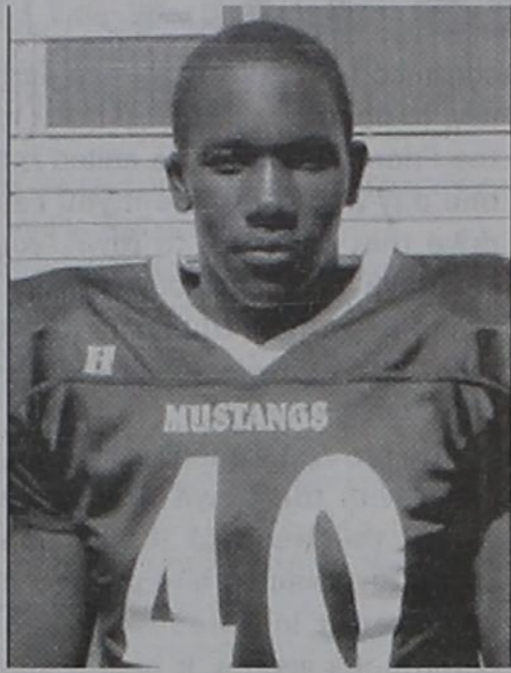
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## Jonathan Chisom Is 4-1A Offensive Player-of-Year

Bovina Mustang senior running back Jonathan Chisom was selected as District 4-1A Offensive Player-of-the-Year by coaches who select the annual all-district team. A bruising runner, Chisom led the Mustangs to a 6-4 record with 1,503 yards on 196 carries and 11 touchdowns.

Four other Mustangs were first team all-district selections. Roger Martinez and Hugo Martinez made both offensive and defensive first team. Eddie Segovia and Matthew Villarreal were first team defensive selections.

Six players were chosen as second team all-district. They are Claude Tamez second team offense and defense; Michael Ortiz and Luis Munoz, second team offense; and Daniel Cecenas, Frank Martinez, and Josh Guevara, second team defense. Ortiz (defense), Cecenas (kicker), and F. Martinez (offense),



**JONATHAN CHISOM** also made the honorable mention team.

Other honorable mention all-district honors went to Mustangs Michael Nieto, Jose Vela, Jeff Casas, J.C. Pena, John Nelson, Alfredo Martinez, and Hugo Aguillon.

## Fillies Are New And Improved

The new and improved Bovina Fillies are scoring a lot of points this year. Sometimes that is enough, sometimes it isn't.

In a game in the Anton Tournament, the Fillies outscored Motley County 60-46, led by 18 points from Amanda Martinez, and 12 from Jessica Bachicha. Laura Rocha kicked in 10 points, Irma Rocha 8, and 2 each from Sandra Moreno, Flor Sanchez, Isabel Guevara, Elizabeth Ortiz, and Hilda Quintero.

They scored more a game later, 65 against Grady, NM. Trouble is Grady scored 70 to give the Fillies a 70-65 loss. Martinez again had a good night with 20 points and Bachicha followed again with 15. Guevara had 11, Irma Rocha 7, Sanchez 6, D. Martinez, Moreno, and L. Rocha 2 each.

The Fillies and Mustangs travel down Highway 60 a few miles next Tuesday to battle the Friona Squaws and Chiefs.



**MUSTANG** Jeff Casas collides with a Matador as Hugo Aguillon (4) looks on. ron carr photos



**BOVINA** Fillie Amanda Martinez scrambles for a loose ball. Jessica Bachicha is in the background. ron carr photo

## Bovina Colts Basketball

Here is a recap of Bovina middle school boys basketball with game scores and individual scoring.

November 24: 7th boys, Bovina 40, Kress 21. Jesus Rocha 32, Esau Saucedo 4, Omar Flores 2, Delphino Sanchez 2.

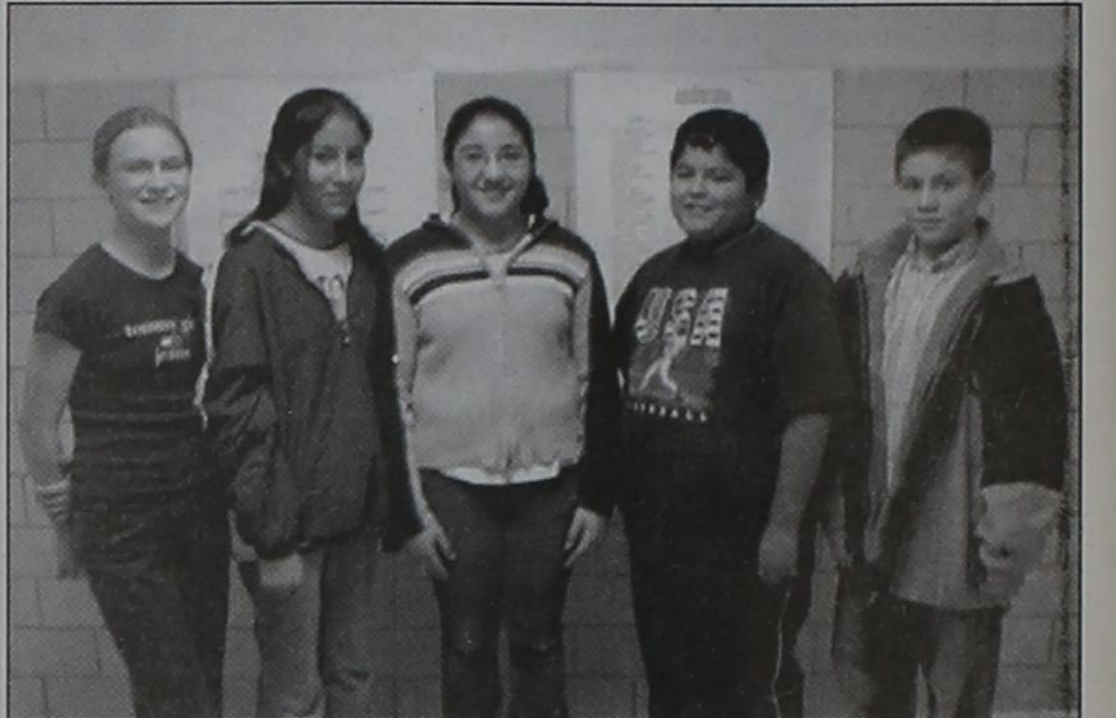
December 1: 7th boys, Bovina 31, Farwell 24. Rocha 14, Saucedo 8, Jeremy Curtis 6, Robert Knoll 2.

December 8: 7th boys, Bovina 33, Hart 31. Rocha 18, Saucedo 6, Jason Sheena 2, Oscar Rodriguez 2, Delphino Sanchez 2, Curtis 2.

November 24: 8th boys, Trent Quintana 18, Daniel Segovia 8, James Lara 6, Josh Ramirez 4.

December 1: 8th boys, Farwell 43, Bovina 25. Segovia 10. Ramirez 4, Isaac Tavera 4, Quintana 4, Lara 3.

December 8: 8th boys, Tavera 8, Jacob Torbert 8, Lara 7, Ruben Lopez 5, Segovia 4, Ramirez 2.



**BOVINA MIDDLE SCHOOL** band members who made all-region band are, l-r, Hannah Miller, 7th grade, clarinet; Esmeralda Saucedo, 7th grade, clarinet; Marilu Salas, 7th grade, alto sax; Isaias Castillo, 7th grade, trumpet, and Jesus Guevara, 8th grade, French horn. All-region competition was held at Lubbock Christian University and the all-region band will present a concert in Lubbock in January. ron carr photo

## Bovina Mustangs Are Sporting a 7-1 Record

The Bovina Mustangs made the playoffs last year for the first time in 10 years, losing to 1A powerhouse Morton in the bi-district game.

The same squad, minus a graduated B. J. Shepherd, is back this year with a year's worth of experience and a new coach.

Coach David Combs, who came out of retirement after a career at River Road, has guided the Mustangs to a 7-1 record and a headstart to the playoffs.

The only loss on the Mustang's record, unfortunately came in a tournament championship game. The Mustangs lost to Crosbyton 51-45 in the championship game at the Anton Tournament.

They opened with a 46-19 drubbing of Anton, followed by an even bigger drubbing of Motley County 61-27. Alfredo Martinez had 22 points,

with four 3-point goals. But the Crosbyton defense shut down the Mustang attack. Floor captain, point guard Jeff Casas, suffered an ankle injury and did not play in the Crosbyton game. Jonathan Chisom carried the load with 22 points, Alfredo Martinez had 11, Mike Nieto and Raymond Chisom 6 each.

Casas returned Tuesday night for the Grady, NM, game but Coach Combs only had six players suited up. The Mustangs won the homecoming match anyway, beating Grady 52-33.

Jonathan Chisom led again with 20 points, Casas had 14 including 4 three-point baskets, Raymond Chisom 10, Hugo Aguillon and Alfredo Martinez 4 each.

The Mustangs tangle with the Friona Chieftains next Tuesday, December 16, at Friona. Fans are encouraged to make the trip and support the Mustangs.

## Old-Time Recipe

*Bread Pudding*

- 6 slices French bread
- 1/2" thick
- 4 eggs, separated
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 cup raisins
- 6 tbsp. sugar
- 3 1/2 cups milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract or flavor
- 1/2 stick butter, melted
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

Break bread into pieces and toss with melted butter and 1/4 cup of milk. Place in 1 1/2 qt. baking dish.

Beat sugar and egg yolks together until well blended; add remaining milk and mix well. Blend in vanilla, cinnamon, and raisins. Pour mixture over bread. Place dish in pan of water and bake in 300 F. oven for 40 to 50 min. or until knife comes out clean.

Beat egg whites until foamy. Add salt; gradually add 2 tbsp. sugar and continue beating at high speed until stiff peaks form. Spread whites on top of pudding.

Return to oven, raise heat to 350 F. and bake until meringue is brown.

Serves 6.  
(Reprinted from Good Old Days magazine.)

### — ORDER FORM —



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## 2004 CALENDAR

Featuring vintage photographs of Friona, Texas

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**DOWNTOWN** Bovina is festive with Christmas decorations  
ron carr photo

## Chiefs Notch Two Wins Both vs. Highland Park

The Friona Chieftains played in the Vega Tournament last week-end but had trouble finding a winning combination.

In the first game the Chiefs lost to San Jacinto 71-48 as San Jacinto put together a 28-point fourth quarter. Senior post Dustin Thompson found his groove as he scored a team high 18 points. His counterpart, senior Marc Haile had 15, Jonathan Nava 8, Ricky Dickson 3, and Brock Field and Keith Hunt 2 each.

The Chieftains thumped Highland Park 45-34 in the second round. Haile took over this game with a 14 point contribution. Senior point guard Ricky Dickson had 13 points including 6 of 6 free throws and a 3-point basket. Nava had 5 points, Thompson 4, Field 3, Rudy Gonzalez and R. Alaniz 2 each.

The celebration was short lived as the Chiefs gave up a 43-38 loss to Boys Ranch. In this final tourney game, Dickson again reached double figures with 11 points, Nava had 8, Haile 6, Gonzalez 5, Thompson 4 and Matt Gammon 4.

In a return match, the Chiefs hosted Highland Park at Friona's gym Tuesday. The Chiefs once again defeated the Hornets, this time by a score of 59-50 with a 17-point performance by Marc Haile. The Chiefs were behind by one at the half and by three at the end of the third quarter. But

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# Squaws On A Win Streak Take 1st At Vega Tourney

The Friona Squaws are on a win streak which they hope to take to the Farwell Tournament this weekend. The only Friona loss this year was by a narrow 2-point margin to the 4A Hereford Lady Whitefaces.

Since then, the rolling Squaws have posted wins over Tullia, Farwell, San Jacinto, Highland Park (twice), and Vega. The girls swept the Vega Tournament and hope to do the same at Farwell December 11-13.

At Vega, Friona was behind Highland Park at the half 34-21 before a comeback victory 63-56. The Squaws hosted Highland Park again Tuesday but the result was decisive as the girls pressed and depressed the Lady Hornets in a lopsided 74-33 win.

Coach Richard North's squad has depth, leadership, outside shooting talent, and fast break ability. The depth is provided by senior experience, junior leadership, and budding sophomore and freshman talent.

The Squaws defeated Tullia 45-38 led by senior post Ashley Smiley's 13 points, in spite of scoring only 4 points in the third quarter. Junior Katy Welch had 12 points, freshman Shayli Reed 6, seniors R. J. Barrett & V'Leshia Wilcox and junior Andrea Gerles 4 each. Heather Clark scored 2 points.

The Squaws trekked to Farwell to face the highly touted 1A Lady Blue. They got off to a slow start, again scoring only 4 points in the first quarter this time. But they found the secret the next three quarters with 21 points in the second stanza, and 34 more in the second half to coast to a 59-43 victory. This was without the play of junior wing starter Trisha Winebrinner who sat out because of a sprained ankle from the Tullia game.

Filling in nicely for Trisha, Shayli Reed scored a team high 18 points, followed by Smiley with 14, Welch 9, Gerles 8, Barrett 7 and Clark 3.

The 3-game sweep at the Vega Tournament saw the return of Winebrinner in game two on a still sore ankle.

In a swarming offensive and defensive show, the Squaws demolished San Jacinto 88-25 in the first game, highlighted by seven 3-point goals, one each by Welch and Misty Adams, two by freshman Reed, and three by

sophomore Brenda Murphree. All nine of the girls suited up scored in the game.

Reed led with 20 points. Others were Smiley 14, Welch and Murphree 13, R. J. Barrett 8, Clark and Adams 7, Gerles 4 and Haleigh Herbert 2.

In the second game, Friona finally prevailed over Highland Park 63-56 led by junior playmaker Katy Welch. On a hot streak, Welch put together 5 two-pointers, 3 three-point shots and 7 of 7 free throws for a 26 point total. Smiley pitched in 13, Reed 10, Winebrinner and Gerles 4 each, Clark, Barrett, and Wilcox 2 each.

The Squaws faced tournament host Vega in the championship game Saturday night. Trisha Winebrinner returned, sore ankle and all, to lead the team to the championship gold with 14 points.

Andrea Gerles, who was voted as Tournament MVP, had 11 points, Reed and Welch 7 each, Smiley 6 and Wilcox 5. Smiley and Welch were selected to the all-tournament team.

In the Tuesday night rematch with Highland Park, the Squaws were relentless and determined as they warmed up for the Farwell tournament. The Squaws smashed the Lady Hornets 74-33. Detailed stats were not available at press time, but the leading scorers were Welch with 17 and Reed 14.

The bad news is Trisha Winebrinner left the game after a player stepped on her foot and she reinjured her ankle. She sat out the game with an icepack but it did not appear to be too serious. The Winebrinner ankle saga continues. Hang in there Trisha and good job Squaws!

THE FRIONA SQUAWS won first place in the Vega tournament. Top photo, l-r, Ashley Smiley, Andrea Gerles, & Katy Welch made the all-tournament team. Andrea Gerles was also named as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. The team, standing below, l-r, Coach Richard North, Gerles, Smiley, R. J. Barrett, V'Leshia Wilcox, Welch, Haleigh Herbert & trainer Ross Paiz. Front, l-r, Misty Adams, Trisha Winebrinner, Brenda Murphree, & Shayli Reed.



courtesy photos



EMMIE CRUTCHFIELD COMPETED in the State Cross Country meet in Round Rock, Texas on November 10 and placed 34<sup>th</sup> out of 124 girls with a time of 12:54. Emmie, who is a freshman at Friona High School, becomes only the third athlete in Friona High history to compete at the State level in Cross Country. Coach Graham says that, "Emmie has a great future in cross country and track." Congratulations Emmie!



COACH DAVID TOWNER talks strategy.

d. jameson photo

# JV Squaws Win 1st In Muleshoe Tournament

Not to be outdone by the varsity, the Friona JV Squaws swept their 3-games at the Muleshoe Tournament to add another first place plaque to the trophy case.

Coach Ky Graham's JV Squaws crushed River Road in the first game 67-12. All 10 girls on the team scored in this game. From top to bottom, here is the rundown of the junior Squaws and their points scored: Yvonne Vega 12, Krista Graham 12, Lucretia Field 8, Beth Nava 7, Staci Murphree 7, Molly Carthel 7, Courtney Adams 5, Denise Vasquez 4, Tiffany Vasquez 4, Breann Barnett 2.

In the River Road victory, the JV girls recorded no less than 29 steals. They almost duplicated it in the second game with Tullia as they had 22 steals in the 44-30 victory. Graham led scorers with 11 points, T. Vasquez had 8, Murphree and Vega tallied 7 each,

Adams 6, Carthel 2, and Barnett one point.

The tournament championship game pitted the JV Squaws against the host and rival JV Lady Mules (Mullettes?) and Friona passed a tough test with a 53-49 win.

The two teams were tied at the half 19-19. The Lady Mules led at the end of three by one point 28-27. Both teams went on a scoring binge in the fourth quarter when Friona scored 26 of their

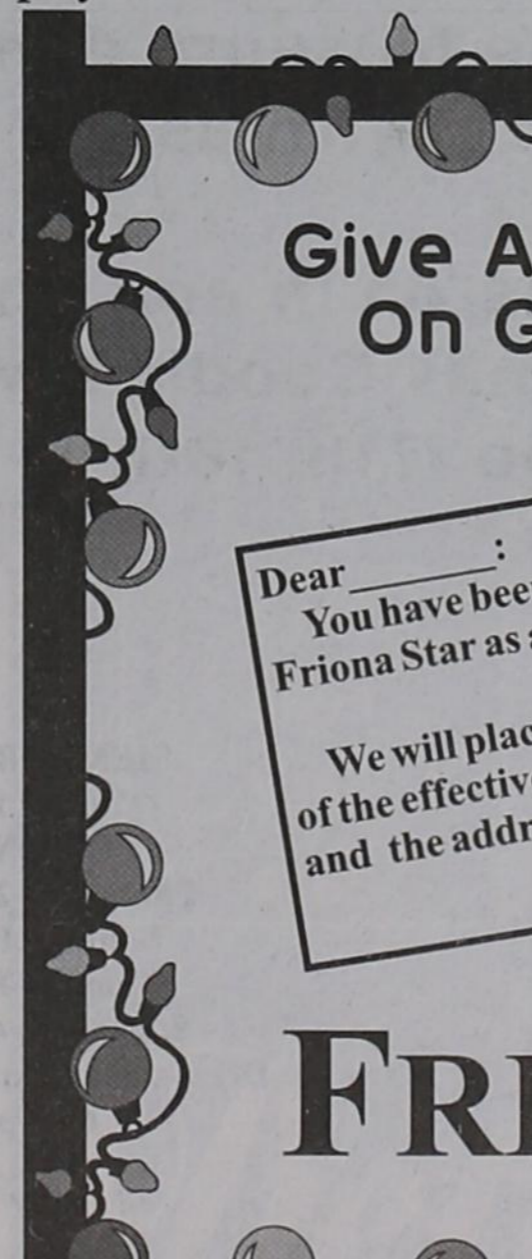
53 points, and held Muleshoe to 21 fourth quarter points. The win gave the JV Squaws the tourney's 1st place gold.

Courtney Adams found a hot shooting streak as she scored 12 of her team high 16 points in the second half. (Courtney's sister Misty is a Squaws varsity player.) Graham had 13 points, and Vega, Field, Barnett, and Murphree each added 6 points to the victory. (Staci Murphree's sister Brenda is also on the Squaw varsity this year.)



THE FRIONA JV SQUAWS competed in the Nazareth Tournament on November 20-22, defeating Abernathy and Levelland before losing to the host Nazareth team 52-43. Pictured back, l-r, Tiffany Vasquez, Krista Graham, Courtney Adams, Denise Vasquez, and Coach Ky Graham; front, l-r, Beth Nava, Molly Carthel, Breann Barnett, Lucretia Field, and Yvonne Vega in front. (Staci Murphree not pictured.)

SQUAW MISTY ADAMS blocks a Highland Park player.



COACH RICHARD NORTH and his basketball tie.



JV CHIEF WILL HUGHES (oo) defends against Tullia.

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# FRIONA STAR

# Remember Bad Times In Good Times

By PATSY MASTERMAN  
(Submitted by Scooter Russell)

Remember the bad stuff! Don't dwell on it. Don't get stuck in it. But file it for use when needed.

Remembering the bad stuff comes in handy when nothing is going right.

If you're able to remember misery or grief or disappointment, you must have survived it. That way, maybe you can figure that sometime in the future you'll be able to look back on your current tribulations with the same sort of survivor's gratitude.

This idea of remembering the bad stuff comes from a sermon by Peter Gomes, professor at Harvard Divinity School and preacher at Harvard University's Memorial Church.

The sermon appears in his collection, "Strength for the Journey". Gomes is preaching a pre-Thanksgiving Day sermon to his campus congregation for turkey feasts ahead.

Gomes adds, "This Thursday, as you gather around your tables...with families and friends, I invite you to remember not the usual good things, not the list of the blessings you have received, but the bad things, by name, that have happened to you, the terrible things, the worst thing."

He continues, "Think you your worst moments, your sorrows, your losses, your sadness, and then remember that here you are, able to remember them. You got through the worst day of your life...Remember who got you through. You got into the mess on your own, but remember that it was the Lord who got you out of it, got you through it and was with you in the middle of it."

So, get your radar out to find the echo of Gomes' advice. You'll find it in sermons you hear, in newspaper articles you read—even in prayers.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel laureate, spoke at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana about peacemaking to an overflow crowd September 11.

He recalled his work as head of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The October 3 issue of National Catholic Reporter quotes Tutu. He said, "We opened the wounds. We cleansed them with the balm of acknowledgement. The perpetrators were given the chance to come to terms with what they had done."

Johnny Cash's obituaries, back in September, nearly all mentioned "adversity" as part of the growing-up of that beloved country-western singer. Time magazine's writer said, "Cash, as a man and an artist, had the strength to see that bad times may be not a curse, but a challenge."

Closer to home, a Globe-News feature about surviving crises quotes Pastor Ken Keller, a Roman Catholic priest who serves Dimmitt and Bovina. His words are, "Learn from mistakes; self-reflect; and build a relationship with your God."

An all Hallows' Eve prayer in the October issue of U.S. Catholic magazine includes words about the past. That paragraph begins, "May you be able to see the fruits of suffering. May memory bless and shelter you with hard-earned light of past travail, may this give you confidence and trust."

Remember to remember the bad stuff—and thank the Lord for getting you through it!



## THE CHIEF'S CORNER

By ROYCE L. GOODSON  
Chief of Police  
Friona Police Department

There is alarming and disappointing news with the release of government statistics showing an increase in alcohol-related traffic deaths for the third year in a row. The preliminary National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data estimates 17,970 deaths last year due to crashes involving alcohol—about 500 more than in 2001 and representing 42 percent of all traffic fatalities. That means nearly 18,000 of our friends and loved ones died, and not because of a terrible disease, natural causes or terrorism, but because of someone's senseless decision to drink and drive. This news is especially hard to take for those of us who have lost loved ones or who have been injured in crashes, however, everyone can relate to the effect of America's \$114 billion drunk driving price tag.

It is proven time and time again that drinking alcohol and driving are two things that you cannot and should not mix. Texas has taken great strides during the past several years by decreasing the level of intoxication from 10% BAC to only 8% and stiffening the penalties. This is certainly a good way to deter most of us from getting behind the steering wheel when we have had too much to drink; however, there are still those who make the decision to risk their life and the lives of others by driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage.

While society has done much to improve highway safety, you can do much to protect yourself.

- Don't drink and drive and don't ride with anyone who has had too much to drink.
- Always use a safety seat belt.
- Use four-lane highways whenever possible.
- Avoid travel after midnight (especially on Fridays and Saturdays).
- Drive defensively.
- Never use illegal drugs. Illicit drugs are involved in a large proportion of traffic fatalities.
- Never drive when fatigued. The dangers posed when fatigued are similar to those when intoxicated. A drunk or fatigued driver has slowed reactions and impaired judgment. And a driver who nods off at the wheel has no reactions and no judgment.
- Volunteer to be a designated driver.
- Never condone or approve of excessive alcohol consumption. Intoxicated behavior is potentially dangerous and never amusing.
- Don't ever let your friends drive drunk. Take their keys, have them stay the night, have them ride home with someone else, call a cab, or do whatever else is necessary—but don't let them drive!

**REMEMBER, THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCUSES FOR DRIVING WHILE YOU ARE INTOXICATED!!!!**



## COURTHOUSE NOTES

The Parmer County Courthouse released the following warranty deeds this week.

Daryl L. Kirkpatrick, Karen D. Kirkpatrick; Juana I Terrones, Vicente Elias Jr.; 391.16 AC S1 BLK E.

Ronald Byrd; Charles C. Aycock, Charles F. Aycock, Margaret Aycock, Sonya Aycock; SE/4 S1 DOUD & KEEFER, NW/4 S53 BLK H KELLY.

Charles C. Aycock, Charles F. Aycock, Margaret Aycock, Sonya Aycock; Los Gallos Farms LLC; SE/4 S1 DOUD & KEEFER, NW/4 S53 BLK H KELLY.

Donald McMerlin, Francis Willard McMerlin; Marta M. Davidson, Randy N. Davidson; PT L1 B97, PT L4 B90 PT VACATED AVE 1 BOVINA.

Yesenia Cuevas; Tony J. Cuevas; L7 S35' L8 B45 FRIONA.

Outland Joint Living Trust; Samuel Dominguez; L1-2 N/2 L3 B1 MCMILLAN & FERGUS L9 N52.5'L10 B1 DRAKE.



## Top Toys For Christmas

America's Toy Wishes magazine top toys:

- \* Barbie Cook With Me Kitchen
- \* Barbie in Swan Lake
- \* Beyblade remote control top with launcher
- \* BTR Transformers
- \* Care Bears Bedtime Lullaby Bear
- \* Hokey Pokey Elmo
- \* Bratz Formal Funk Runway Disco
- \* LeapPad Plus Writing Learning System
- \* Leapster educational game system
- \* McDonald's McFlurry Maker
- \* My Little Pony Celebration Castle
- \* Neopets voice-activated plush
- \* Powertouch Learning System



Family Fun Magazine's top Christmas toys:

- \* Five Alarm Fun Center (stationary fire engine playhouse)
- \* Hot Wheels T-Wrecks Playset
- \* Bratz Formal Funk Runway Disco
- \* Old Century Dread Pirate
- \* Bratz Krazy Kool Karaoke Machine with Monitor
- \* LEGO Orient Expedition: Dragon Fortress
- \* Game Boy Advance SP
- \* Rippin Rocket Roller Coaster
- \* Barbie Mix & Magic: Real Food Kitchen
- \* Smart Shopper Fun to Learn System Marketplace



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Nylon frames are strong, lightweight and flexible. Some manufacturers also offer a blend of nylon and plastic that is hypoallergenic. Nylon is an excellent material for sports and performance frames. It is also resistant to both hot and cold. Nylon is also easily molded into the present wraparound styles, as well as other shapes that are difficult to produce.

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## SHERIFF'S REPORT

December 4, Jorge Vera, 26, of Friona, was arrested by the Friona Police and charged with assault. Pending Grand Jury.

December 5, Richard Gulley, 30, of Farwell, was arrested by the Farwell Police and charged with retaliation. Pending Grand Jury.

December 6, Marcos Gutierrez, 27, of Friona, was arrested by Friona Police and charged with possession of marijuana. Pending County Court.

**As you do your Christmas shopping remember we have Beef Certificates, Scratch pads and Savings Bonds. You can also make your Project Christmas Card and/or Friona Heritage Museum donations with us.**

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### FSA Announces Closing Date for CDP Sign-up

Friday, December 5, 2003

By Shawn Wade

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that January 30, 2004 would mark the close of the current Crop Disaster Program (CDP), which provides payments for producers who suffered 2001 or 2002 crop-year losses due to a natural disaster. The CDP was authorized by the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003.

Since the start of the program, which opened on June 6, 2003, USDA has issued \$2.2 billion in benefits to about 325,000 farmers across the country.

USDA is encouraging anyone who suffered a qualifying loss to make an appointment with his or her county Farm Service Agency office and take advantage of this assistance.

Under the program, eligible producers are reimbursed for qualifying crop production and quality losses for either the 2001 or 2002 crop years. Payments are issued for losses exceeding 35 percent of expected production. Producers with quality losses of at 20 percent could also seek reimbursement on certain crops.

Eligible producers who did not have crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage during the year of the disaster must agree to purchase coverage for each of the next two crop years.

More information on CDP and other USDA disaster assistance programs is available at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices and on FSA's Web site at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

### Crop Insurance Hearing and Commodity Symposium Highlight Busy Week

Friday, December 5, 2003

By Shawn Wade

The first week of December provided High Plains agriculture a chance to showcase itself by playing host to two different, but equally important informative events.

The week started with the arrival of members of the House Agriculture Committee General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee in Lubbock for a field hearing on federal crop insurance. The hearing was held in Lubbock at the request of Rep. Randy Neugebauer.

Chaired by Rep. Jerry Moran of Kansas, the hearing was attended by three other members of the subcommittee: Neugebauer, Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota, and Rep. Mike Ross of Arkansas. HAC Ranking Member Charlie Stenholm of Stamford was also present.

The hearing provided the Subcommittee with producer feedback on the effectiveness of the federal crop insurance program and many new ideas that could enhance the risk management products available to producers.

Plains Cotton Growers President Mark Williams presented testimony at the hearing. PCG's comments included a number of ideas for program improvements and referenced issues that PCG is working with the USDA Risk Management Agency to resolve.

PCG's testimony provided suggestions for new combination products based on the Group Risk Plan (GRP) of insurance such as a GRP/Hail or a GRP/CAT (Catastrophic Risk Policy). PCG's goal is to add an element of individual protection to the GRP policy to provide effective alternatives to producers who cannot obtain adequate coverage through a traditional MPC policy.

In the same vein, PCG also suggested producers be allowed to purchase different levels of coverage on units based on production practice instead of being locked into one coverage level across both irrigated and non-irrigated units.

Williams concluded by highlighting issues that PCG is working on, such as deferred appraisal periods for non-emerged seed, quality loss adjustment procedures, boll count appraisal procedures, and written agreement provisions.

#### Texas Commodity Symposium Gets High Marks

The final report card for the 3rd Annual Texas Commodity Symposium will show straight A's as a distinguished line-up of speakers provided an in-depth look at important issues facing Texas agriculture today.

The meeting also provided organizations representing Texas farmers and ranchers and opportunity to work face-to-face with federal and state officials that create and implement key agricultural programs. Add the insight gained on national and state issues and the event was a resounding success.

Speakers at the 2003 Symposium were: Juan Garcia, Texas State Farm Service Agency; Dr. Ed Smith, Texas A&M University; Ross Davidson, Jr., USDA Risk Management Agency Administrator; Texas House Members Rick Hardcastle and David Swinford; and Floyd Gaibler, Deputy Under Secretary USDA Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

Topics discussed included payment limitations, farm programs, international trade, crop insurance and risk management, as well as key statewide issues that affect agriculture like school finance reform.

For Plains Cotton Growers it provided an opportunity to make progress on unresolved Crop Disaster Program (CDP) implementation issues, the Conservation Reserve Program and Federal Crop Insurance.

At the top of PCG's insurance issue list was finding ways to offer cotton insurance in northern panhandle counties where producers are diversifying operations to include cotton. Also addressed were the issues of deferred appraisal periods for non-emerged seed and secondary crop coverage.

### Emergency Farm Loan Applications Accepted

"Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by multiple disasters are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located in Farwell," Thomas S. Taylor said today.

Parmer County is one of many counties in Texas recently named by Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from the multiple disasters.

Thomas S. Taylor said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 100% of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agricultural business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest is 3.75%.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Thomas S. Taylor said. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

"Please call this office for the deadlines on accepting applications, there are numerous declarations with different deadlines. Please apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing, with possible delays into the new farming season," Thomas S. Taylor said.

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

The FSA office in Farwell is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information call Thomas S. Taylor at 806-481-3349.

## Hunters and Hikers: Protect Yourself From Diseases

(Reprinted from 'Accent on Health' by the Texas Department of Health.)

Thousands of Texas hunters and hikers are taking to the woods and fields in pursuit of deer, doves and the great outdoors. Unfortunately, they're not alone. Billions of critters that can carry diseases will be out there, too.

Hunters, campers and hikers have an increased risk of exposure to diseases transmitted by ticks, fleas and mosquitoes and to diseases spread by wild animals, cautions the Texas Department of Health (TDH). "But encounters with insects and wildlife are less likely to cause problems if people know what they're dealing with, what the symptoms of infection are and some simple precautions they can take to protect themselves," said Eric Fonken, veterinarian with TDH's zoonosis control division.

WEST NILE VIRUS can cause encephalitis and is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain and meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain or spinal cord that may be caused by one of several mosquito-borne viruses. Symptoms can include intense headache, high fever, nausea, muscle tenderness, partial unconsciousness and even coma. Although unlikely, death may occur.

As of November 13, TDH had recorded 363 human cases of West Nile virus meningoencephalitis in 75 Texas counties this year, including 27 deaths.

West Nile virus is only one illness with which people who enjoy the outdoors have to contend. With LYME DISEASE, which is the most frequently diagnosed tick-borne problem in the United States, there may be skin lesions or rashes. If left untreated, severe damage to the joints, heart and nervous system may result. In addition, ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER, another disease that is spread by ticks and that produces a rash, can cause serious illness and even death if not treated quickly. Exposure to the bacteria that causes TULAREMIA, yet another tick-borne disease, also can occur from handling carcasses of wild rabbits and rodents.

PLAGUE, common in wild rodent populations of West Texas, is transmitted to people by fleas or by direct contact with infected animals such as prairie dogs, squirrels, cats, rats and mice. This dreaded disease sometimes includes the presence of painful, swollen lymph nodes. Unless treatment is sought quickly, death may result.

"Many of these diseases begin with flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, headache and body aches," Fonken said. "However, symptoms can worsen quickly and affect various systems of the body."

The best way to avoid getting these diseases is to protect yourself against insect bites:

Use insect repellent containing DEET, following package directions carefully.

Stay on trails and avoid areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses.

Wear protective clothing such as a hat, a long-sleeve shirt and long pants tucked into boots or socks. Wear light-colored clothes to easily spot ticks.

Check your body carefully for ticks every few hours. Ticks are small, easy to miss and will attach to any part of the body from head to toe, so look carefully.

Some diseases are spread by contact with dust particles containing a virus; others by direct contact with infected animals or animal carcasses.

Infected rodents such as rats and mice spread HANTAVIRUS INFECTION to people. A rodent may have the virus in its droppings, urine and saliva. From there, the virus can spread in the air on dust particles. "You can become infected by inhaling dust that contains the virus," said Fonken. "Cleaning cabins, sheds or barns without a mask can increase your chances of coming in contact with hantavirus."

Early symptoms of hantavirus infection are much like those of flu. The disease may lead to extreme difficulty with breathing, possibly followed by death. Patients may recover through supportive treatment, but antibiotics will not cure a hantavirus infection.

Deer hunters need to be aware that deer can share the bacterium that causes ANTHRAX in people and that feral hogs can carry BRUCELLOSIS. Care should be taken when handling all wild animal carcasses, including wearing latex gloves when field dressing those animals.

RABIES is a viral infection of the nervous system that may affect almost any warm-blooded animal. "It is impossible to tell by looking at an animal whether it is infected with rabies virus, so avoid contact with any wild animals. Especially do not try to assist injured animals or touch dead ones," warned Fonken. "If you see an obviously sick animal or suffer an animal bite or scratch, contact a game warden, a park employee, or an animal control or law enforcement officer as soon as possible."

Rabies is present in many wild-animal populations in Texas, especially skunks, bats, raccoons, coyotes and foxes. Humans usually are infected through a bite by a rabid animal. Rabies is always fatal once symptoms begin, which is why you should immediately consult a doctor if any animal bites you.

More information is available online at [www.tdh.state.tx.us/zoonosis](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/zoonosis).



VISITING SANTA are, L-R, Brayden Pope and Bailey Pope with their aunt, April Pope.



CLINT HURST visits with a customer at Parmer County Implement's booth at the Amarillo Farm Show.

## Chiefs JV Roundup

Friona freshmen and JV boys have had a flurry of games the last couple of weeks, including a tournament at Muleshoe.

Coach Mike Fair's freshman Chiefs report one game with Farwell and won the contest 39-33. Hector Sanchez was high point with 11, Valente Casas and Caleb Miller had 8 each, Chance Wellen 6, Phillip Saiz 4 and Emilio Tarango 2.

The JV Chiefs, under Coach David Towner, participated in the Muleshoe Tournament last weekend, losing 2 out of 3 games. First game the Muleshoe B bested Friona 42-32. Will Hughs and Antonio Monreal pitched in 8 points each. Cody Jamerson, Chad Hutson, and Hayden Patton had 4 each, and Steven Sanchez and Kelby Monroe 2 each.

In the second round, they lost a narrow decision to Tulia 51-49. Antonio Monreal did his part in the second half, scoring 15 of his 22 points. Jamerson added 10, Hughs 9, Sanchez and Monroe 3 and Patton 2.

The boys took revenge on Hale Center racking up a 56-23 win in the final tournament game. High scorers were Sanchez and Hutson with 13 points each, Jamerson 10, Hector Sanchez 5, Monreal, Patton and Hughs 4 each and Monroe 3.

Tuesday night the JV Chiefs won over Highland Park 43-37 at the home gym. Hayden Patton found the range as he led with 13 points, Monreal had 11, Jamerson 10, Monroe 5, and Sanchez and Andrew Aguirre 2 each.

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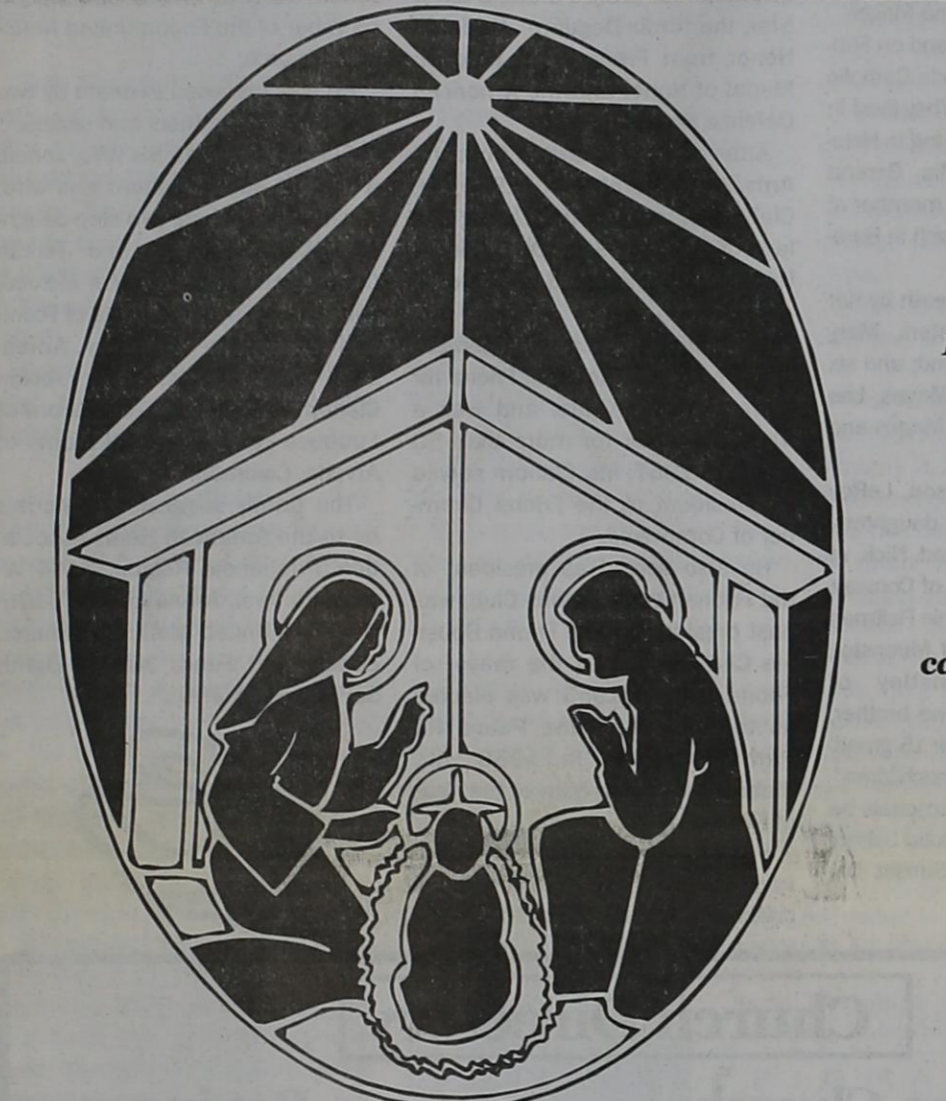
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# Make Room For Jesus

(Submitted by Rev. Quita Jones, Bovina United Methodist Church)

Christmas time is here—a time of caring, sharing and expressing love and appreciation to those around us. I can't think of a better time to express my appreciation to you—the community. How grateful I am to all of you for your encouragement, support and partnership as we work together to bring Christ to a hurting world.

As I was thinking about what to share with you, the Lord brought me back to the place and time where Jesus was born. In Luke 2:7, the Scriptures say Mary...gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the village inn (NLT). Think about that—it doesn't say there was no room at the inn, but no room for them! The King of Kings and Lord of Lords—God in the flesh—was born in one of the most unexpected places. He wasn't born in a palace or a beautiful home. No! Because of cultural prejudice he was born in a smelly barn where animals are kept. In contrast to the Christmas card photos we see the stable was probably a very ugly place.

I believe these circumstances say a lot about the character of Christ. First of all no person is too lowly or dirty with sin for Jesus to come to. No matter how dark the person's past or how unfeeling his heart is, Jesus will come to him. It also tells us that no matter how impossible our situation may be and no matter how unlikely we think it is for Jesus to show up, He will come and help us if we make room for him. And just as God's glory was manifested to the shepherds, when we invite Jesus into our situation, His glory—the clear undeniable expression of His goodness and excellence will show up for us too.

So as another year comes to a close I want to encourage you to make room for Jesus. If you invite Him, He will come. May you celebrate the season cradled in God's love and grace.

## Night Under The Stars, A New Beginning

The Singles Ministry of Paramount Terrace Christian Church is having an area-wide Singles New Year's Eve dinner and dance at the Amarillo Civic Center Heritage Room on December 31, 2003 from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

The dress will be church attire to semi-formal. The Singles New Year's Eve event will be an alcohol and smoke-free environment.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person which includes a guest speaker, dinner and dance. The deadline for purchasing tickets will be December 29, 2003.

More information and tickets may be obtained by calling Penny Lawlis or Mike Nuthman at Paramount Terrace Christian Church at (806) 353-6615.

### LET THE "SON" SHINE

"TIS THE SEASON"...To Be Joyful. We will hear "Joy to the World". Let's remember that the reason for real joy is that indeed a Savior was not only born but died so we can live eternally. Let us "rejoice in the Lord always". (Phil. 4:4)

Have a great week! (TLT)

**Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI**

**ELIJAH AND THE PRIESTS OF BAAL**

WHEN THE PRIESTS OF BAAL FAILED TO BRING FIRE ON THEIR SACRIFICE, ELIJAH STEPPED FORWARD TO TAKE COMMAND. HE EVEN INSTRUCTED THE PEOPLE TO POUR WATER AGAIN AND AGAIN OVER HIS SACRIFICE...

IF THE LORD DID SEND DOWN FIRE, HOW THEN CAN IT BURN WHEN ELIJAH HAS DRENCHED THE ALTAR WITH WATER?!

LORD, GOD OF ISRAEL, LET IT BE KNOWN THIS DAY THAT THOU ART GOD...O LORD, HEAR ME, THAT THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW THAT THOU ART THE LIVING GOD!

AND SUDDENLY FIRE FALLS ON THE ALTAR, CONSUMING THE SACRIFICE AND THE WOOD AND THE STONES OF THE ALTAR, AND LICKING UP THE VERY WATER IN THE TRENCH ROUND ABOUT THE ALTAR...

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

# Obituaries

## James Vernon Stewart

Funeral services for James Vernon Stewart, 64, of Austin, were held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, November 29, 2003 at the De Leon Church of Christ. Burial followed in the Victor Cemetery in Erath County under the direction of the Nowlin Funeral Home.

Mr. Stewart died Tuesday, November 25, 2003 in Ballinger.

He was born February 25, 1939 in Comanche County to Vernon Stewart and Lorene Johnston Stewart. He was a business consultant serving Sonic franchises and other foods-related companies. He

was also associated with the Bovina Blade and Friona Star around 1959-1962. He had resided in Austin for 13 years and was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include his parents, James Vernon and Velma Lorene Stewart of De Leon; two daughters, Misti Laine Warren of Lubbock and Laci Brook (Mrs. Clay) Dixon of Ballinger; five grandchildren; two sisters, June Stephens of Desdemona and Jan Grisham of De Leon; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

## Dorothy Berend



**DOROTHY BEREND**

Dorothy Berend, 94, of Hereford, passed away Monday, December 1, 2003 at the Westgate Nursing Center in Hereford.

Funeral services are under the direction of Parkside Chapel Funeral Home of Hereford. Rosary services will be held at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 2, 2003 and Wednesday, December 3, 2003 at Parkside Chapel.

The funeral mass will be said at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, December 4, 2003 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Hereford with Father Ed Sweeney officiating. Interment will follow at St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery in Hereford.

Mrs. Berend was born December 9, 1908 in Westphalia, Iowa, the daughter of Frank and Anna Mages.

She married Ewald Berend on February 1, 1932 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Lindsay, Texas. They lived in Gainesville, Texas until moving to Hereford in August 1958. Mrs. Berend was a homemaker and a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Hereford.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ewald; two sisters, Mary Grewing and Cecilia Berend; and six brothers, Joe Mages, Al Mages, Lee Mages, Carl Mages, Tony Mages and Frank Mages, Jr.

Survivors include one son, LeRoy Berend of Friona; two daughters, Marian Yosten and husband, Nick, of Hereford and Doris Zinser of Conway, Arkansas; three sisters, Annie Fleitman and Betty Yosten, both of Muenster, Texas and Jane Kinstley of Plaquemine, Louisiana; one brother, Eddie Mages of Gainesville; 15 grandchildren; and 34 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to the St. Anthony's Catholic School Endowment Fund, 114 Sunset Dr., Hereford, TX 79045.

## John Cecil "Jay" Claborn

John Cecil "Jay" Claborn, 83, died Sunday, December 7, 2003, in Lubbock.

Services were held at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, in the Friona United Methodist Church with Rev. Steve Patterson officiating. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery, west of Friona, with arrangements by Parkside Chapel Funeral Home of Hereford.

Mr. Claborn was born July 16, 1920, in Post, the son of John Cordie Claborn. After graduating high school, Mr. Claborn joined the Army during World War II. He was a staff sergeant medic with the 328th Infantry Combat Team attached to the 26th Infantry Division.

Mr. Claborn fought in five major battles which include the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest, the Invasion of Normandy, the Northern France Campaign, the Rhineland Campaign, and the Central Europe Campaign. He was awarded four Bronze Stars, a Silver Star, the "Croix Deguirre" Medal of Honor from France, the Belgium Medal of Honor and the American Defense Service Medal.

After being discharged from the Army on September 30, 1945, Mr. Claborn enrolled in the Landig College of Mortuary Science School in Houston. He graduated from Mortuary School in 1947.

Mr. Claborn owned and operated Claborn Funeral Home in Friona for more than 30 years, and was a funeral director for more than 50 years. In 1957, Mr. Claborn served as president of the Friona Chamber of Commerce.

He also served as president of the Friona Evening Lions Club, was past president of the Friona Boosters Club, served as the mayor of Friona, and in 1953 was elected as the Justice of the Peace for Parmer County. In 1966, Mr. Claborn was voted Man of the Year of Friona.

He was a past president of the Panhandle Funeral Directors Association and a past director of the



**JOHN "JAY" CLABORN**

Texas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association. Mr. Claborn was a life member of Friona V.F.W. Post No. 1413 and Friona American Legion Post No. 209.

In 1997, Mr. Claborn married Jonell Clark in Friona and was a member of the Friona United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by two sons and 10 brothers and sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Jonell; a son, Dr. Jobey Claborn and wife, Janet, of Muleshoe; two step-daughters, Diana Russell and Teresa Carter, both of Clovis, New Mexico; two sisters, Faye Strickland of Plano and Lois Staley of Searcy, Arkansas; three grandchildren, Jackie Claborn of Dallas, Jason Claborn of Lubbock and Amy Claborn of Arvada, Colorado.

The family suggests memorials be to the American Heart Association, Panhandle Region, 2404 W. Seventh Ave., Amarillo, TX 79106; or Friona United Methodist Church Endowment Fund, 301 E. Eighth St., Friona, TX 79035.

## Church Directory

### Friona Churches

**ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
VICTORY FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER  
5<sup>TH</sup> & Ashland  
Rick Beard, Pastor  
250-2207

**TEMPLO "MARANTHA" SPANISH**  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
301 GRAND  
Rev. Isidro Jimenez

**BAPTIST**  
CALVARY BAPTIST  
14<sup>TH</sup> & CLEVELAND  
ALVIN PETTY  
250-3000

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
SIXTH & SUMMITT  
MARK STOVALL, PASTOR  
250-3933

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
NORTH END OF CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH  
1601 EUCLID  
265-5267

**TEMPLO BAUTISTA**  
403 WOODLAND  
MAURICIO ANTONIO MARTINEZ, PASTOR  
250-3472

**CATHOLIC**  
ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC  
16<sup>TH</sup> & CLEVELAND  
FATHER ED SWEENEY, PASTOR  
250-2871

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
SIXTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST  
502 WEST SIXTH  
T. LEON TALLEY, MINISTER  
250-2769

**TENTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
10<sup>TH</sup> & EUCLID  
RON SMILEY 250-3213  
GERALL WYLY 295-6774

**METHODIST**  
FRIONA UNITED METHODIST  
8<sup>TH</sup> & PIERCE  
REV. STEVE PATTERSON  
250-3045

**IGLESIA COMPANERISMO**  
CRISTIANO  
7<sup>TH</sup> & WASHINGTON  
RUBEN RIVERA, MINISTER  
250-8011

**CONGREGATIONAL**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
UNION CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH  
1601 EUCLID  
JULIA ALEXANDER  
250-3635

### Bovina

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
308 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET  
AARON REED, PASTOR  
251-1632

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
500 AVE. E  
MIKE PRATHER, MINISTER  
251-1334

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**  
CHURCH  
205 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
QUETA JONES, PASTOR  
251-1124

**ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
401 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET  
FATHER JUAN CARLOS BARRAGAN  
251-1511

**LA IGLESIA DE DIOS DEL**  
PRIMOGENITO  
THE CHURCH OF GOD OF THE  
FIRSTBORN  
102 2<sup>ND</sup>

**IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA**  
103 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
RAFAEL MARIN, PASTOR  
251-5232

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250-3913  
1205 Hwy. 60 West Friona Texas

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Mobile: 806-357-9132  
Office: 806-357-2231  
Summerfield  
PO Drawer 1938 Hereford TX 79045

**W Services Inc.**  
1010 Columbia at Hwy 60, Friona  
Hours: 8am-noon and 1-5 pm  
Monday-Friday  
250-5555

250-3913  
800 Hwy. 86 Bovina, Texas

**West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc.**  
Phone 364-3331  
Hereford, Texas 79045

# AROUND TOWN



## OUT HERE

BY RON CARR

Gone Christmas Shopping,  
See You Next Week

There is no charge for news included in Around Town. So call us at 250-2211, fax to 250-5127, email to [frionastar@wrt.net](mailto:frionastar@wrt.net), or mail info to P.O. Box 789, Friona, Texas 79035.

We reserve the right to approve all copy and edit submitted article for space reasons. Let us hear from you.

UMW have a new shipment of pecan halves for sale just in time for the holiday! They are \$6.50 a pound. Contact any UMW member for more information.

Friona Evening Lions Club will meet Thursday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at 9th and Pierce. Chairman Roy Miller will present the annual Christmas Holiday program. The next meeting will be January 8, 2004.

The Moonlight Extension Education Club announces its Twenty Fifth Annual Christmas Bazaar to be held December 13, 2003 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., at the Bailey County Civic Center and Coliseum at 2200 West American Boulevard in Muleshoe, Texas. Admission is FREE!

Come do your Christmas shopping and enjoy the community Christmas parade at 10 a.m.

Drive-Through Christmas Nativity Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Music, Youth, and Children's ministries of First Baptist Church would like to invite you to "Take a drive to Bethlehem". We will be depicting the events leading to the birth of Christ through a series of scenes made up of live characters. It will take just a few minutes for you to drive through. Please approach the church on Sixth Street to guide you.

It is our desire through this event to provide a glimpse of what took place over 2000 years ago as God sent forth the greatest gift ever given: The birth of a Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord!

Kidz Khoir & Cherub Choir will perform their Christmas Cantatas Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Friona United Methodist Church.

The children of Roy & Paula O'Brian will be hosting a 40th wedding anniversary for their parents on Sunday, December 14, 2003 from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Calvary Baptist Church of Friona.

Friona High School students and their parents are invited to a Scholarship Writing Seminar conducted by Lila Vars from West Texas A&M University. She will give "how to fill out the applications" information and tips on all aspects of financial aid for college. The presentation will be Monday, December 15, 2003 at 7 p.m. in the Friona High School Cafeteria.

Parmer County Farm Bureau will be hosting a Christmas Open House Tuesday, December 16, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Hub Cowboy Fellowship. Everyone is invited to come enjoy a time of worship and fellowship on Tuesday, December 16 at 7 p.m. This will be held at the Hub Community Center (a Quonset barn). From the junction of Hwy 86 and 214 go south one and a half miles. The speaker is Aaron Reed. Music will be provided by the Bovina Baptist Church.

Private Applicator License training and testing will be held December 18, 2003 in the Farwell

Community Center from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with no lunch break. This class is offered by the Texas Cooperative Extension Service. For more information contact Cody G. Hill, Parmer County Extension Agent at 806-481-3619.

"A Thrill of Hope" Christmas Cantata will be presented by the Calvary and Grace Baptist Churches on Sunday, December 21, 2003 at 6 p.m. at the Calvary Baptist Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

Rick Ellis of Los Angeles will be at home in Friona a few days early for Christmas and will be giving a free yoga class on Monday evening, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Friona State Bank Meeting room. He asks that you bring a mat or a large bath towel to the yoga session and wear sweats or other loose clothing.

Children age 13 and over may take the class. However, participants are requested not to bring younger unsupervised children as they can disrupt the concentration of the class.

Rick is the son of Bill and Carol Ellis and is a 1991 FHS grad.

The registration deadline for the February 7, 2004 ACT test is January 2, 2004. Students need to pick up registration forms from Mrs. Gallman before the Christmas break or plan to register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). School will not be in session until January 6, 2004. Please be aware that there are only three more testing dates this school year, February 7, April 3, and June 12, 2004.



KIDS and adults lined up at the Depot at Friona City Park for cookies and punch. Below, Victoria Herrera visits with Santa. ron carr photos



### Meet the Class of 2016

Aaron is a kindergarten student at Friona Schools. His mother is Cheraye A. Spence. His Grandparents are Cheryl Langlais and Johnny Tannahill.

Aaron likes doing anything energetic. His favorite foods are peaches and banana nut bread.

FRIONA TEXAS  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## Deaf Smith Electric Co-Op To Award 5 Scholarships

Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative will award five \$2,000 scholarships in May to eligible applicants of immediate families of active members and active employees of Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative.

Applicants may be either traditional high school graduates or students wishing to continue their education after an extended absence.

Applicants must be of good character as evidenced by at least three letters of recommendation from teachers, principals, or counselors. Selection will be based on grade point average, community activities, service work and recommendations. Secondary criteria will include: written essay, SAT/ACT scores and academic honors.

Applications may be obtained from area high schools, extension offices of Deaf Smith, Parmer, Castro and Oldham counties, or Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative's office in Hereford.

Applications must be received no later than March 12, 2004. Awards will be announced within sixty (60) days of this date.



### Johnson & Sheldon, PC Certified Public Accountants

One of the Panhandle's leading accounting and audit firms is pleased to announce the opening of their NEW Friona location.

#### Grand Opening Celebration

Wednesday, December 17, 10 a.m. to Noon  
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2WD, fully  
loaded!  
**\$25,500**



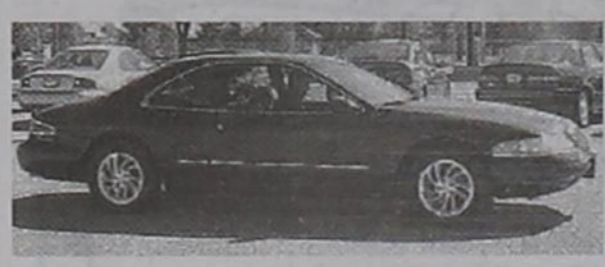
2000 Expedition  
4x4, leather,  
nice!  
**\$13,500**



2000 F250  
4x2, Larait,  
V10  
**\$15,000**



1998 Jimmy  
4x4, V6  
**\$9,900**



1998 Mark  
VIII 42K miles  
**\$13,000**



1995 Cougar  
V6, nicely loaded!  
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BOBBY & TEMPEY WEBB (1953)



BOBBY & TEMPEY WEBB (2003)

## Bobby & Tempey Webb Married For 50 Years

Bobby Hugh & Tempey Willis Webb celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 23, 2003. They were married October 23, 1953, in Portales, New Mexico, and currently reside in Burkburnett, Texas.

They celebrated their anniversary with a trip to Corpus Christi and the children and grandchildren will be hosting a family dinner for them during the holidays.

Tempey Willis Webb was the only child of the late Emley Kelley and is great-granddaughter of the late Bud and Iva Queen who were pioneers of Bovina.

Bobby Hugh Webb was born in Danville, Arkansas, to the late C.H. & Bessie Webb of Bovina. He is brother and uncle to many in the Bovina area.

He retired from the Air Force in 1978 after 22 1/2 years, worked 7 1/2 years in civil service at Sheppard Air Force Base, then became a Baptist pastor. He has served congregations in Charlie, Texas, Petrolia, Texas, and for the past 10 years as pastor of Hillside Baptist in Electra, Texas.

Tempey Webb also had a long civil service career working on Air Force bases in Wichita Falls and Altus, Oklahoma. Bovina is her hometown and she was a freshman when the high school burned in the 1950s.

The Webbs have two daughters, Barbara Webb of Burkburnett and Brenda and Bill Banks of Big Spring, Texas, and two granddaughters, Angela and Allison Banks of Big Spring.

## Drive Through Living Nativity Dec. 13 & 14

The music, youth, and children's ministries of First Baptist Church of Friona invites the community to take "a drive to Bethlehem."

Members and volunteers will depict events leading to the birth of Christ through a series of scenes with live characters.

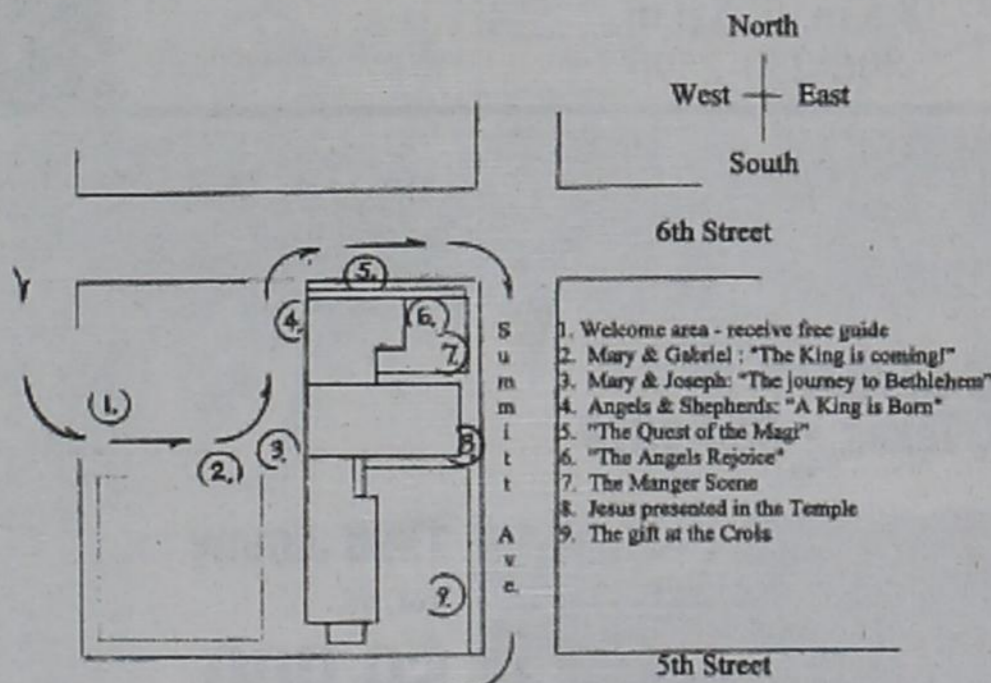
Pastor Mark Stovall says "it will only take a few minutes to drive through the living nativity." For easy access to the drive-thru nativity, travel east on Sixth Street from Grand Avenue. A patrolman will be stationed at Prospect and Sixth to guide visitors through the nativity.

Depicted in the different drive-thru scenes will be 1. Mary & Gabriel: The King is coming. 2. Mary & Joseph: The journey to Bethlehem. 3. Angels & Shepherds: A King is born. 4. The quest of the Magi. 5. The Angels rejoice. 6. The manger scene. 7. Jesus presented in the temple. 8. The gift at the cross.

The drive-thru Christmas Nativity will be presented December 13 & 14 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

"It is our desire to provide a glimpse of what took place over 2000 years ago as God sent forth the greatest gift ever given: the birth of a Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord," Pastor Stovall said.

**Drive-Through Christmas Nativity**  
December 13th & 14th  
7:00pm - 8:30pm



### Christmas Prayer

Let Christmas not become a thing  
Merely of merchants' trafficking,  
Of tinsel, bell and holly wreath  
And surface pleasure, but beneath  
The childish glamor let us find  
Nourishment for soul and mind.  
Let us follow kinder ways  
Through our teeming human maze  
And help the age of peace to come  
From a Dreamer's martyrdom.  
-Madeline Morse

(Reprinted from The Messenger, Friona United Methodist Church.)

**A Christmas Prayer**  
Alberta Dredia  
Give us youth  
At Christmastime,  
And simple faith  
And humility..  
Give us purity of heart  
And motive, of thought  
And aspiration.  
As we pause to  
Renew friendships  
Help us to  
Recognize goodness  
In everyone,  
To see the blessings  
Near us  
By candlelight  
And star.  
May the spirit  
Of Christmas  
Enter our hearts  
And stay with us  
Where we are.

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Fresh Pork Steak \$1.19 lb

Cook's Ham Steak \$2.59 lb

**Split Fryer Breast 99¢ lb**  
Family Pack

**Fresh "Boston Butt" Pork Roast 99¢ lb**

**Fresh Pork Steak \$1.19 lb**

**Cook's Ham Steak \$2.59 lb**  
Bone In

**SEE YA AT LOWE'S**

FRIONA STAR/BOVINA BLADE  
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Lodge...  
Stated...  
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Larry J...  
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4-BR-3-bat...  
3-BR-1-bat...  
3 BR, 2 bat...  
3-br-1-bat...  
3-BR-2-bat...  
Small Office...  
3-4 Br, 1-1...  
3 BR, 2 bat...  
Upstairs-8...  
3-BR-1-bat...  
2 BR, 1 bat...  
3-BR-3-B...



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COUNTRY ACREAGE-Great Buy for 350+ acres.....SOLD  
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3/1 BRICK-Nice beginner home.....Contract pending  
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2/2/1 BRICK-Ceramic tile, new carpet, lg. living area, cent.h/a.....68,000  
3/3/2 COUNTRY HOME-Central heat/air, basement, acreage...100,000  
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**BOVINA LISTINGS**

MOTEL ON HWY 60: 10 furnished rooms, RV hookups.....100,000

**COMMERCIAL**

NEW LISTING: Apt. bldg. (1)3bdr, (2)1bdr, across fr. park.....59,000  
NEW LISTING: Nice sized lot with restaurant facility.....39,500  
NEW LISTING: Lg. lot w/restaurant facility, w/ or w/o equip.....76,000  
NEW LISTING: Very nice business space on main street.....24,000  
ATTRACTIVE: Office bldg.Hwy 60 w/Apartment.....79,900  
GREAT BUY: Restaurant \$33K - \$25K equip. only/rental opt.....33,000  
TRUCK BUSINESS: On Hwy 60 with Equip, tools, etc.....149,900  
BLDG ON HWY 60: Offices, lg. parking lot, 2 service bays.....92,500

**Happy Holidays from Holly!**



LAMB CO. RANCH-Let's look at dividing this 8 section ranch into a 2014.3 acre tract, a 2536.7 acre tract, or a 538.7 acre tract, more or less, all on pavement, excellent fences and water, large set of working pens, comb. Calving barn and tack room, mobile home. Buy all or part.  
HUB AREA-480 choice acres can be divided-160 acres with nice home, large barn & sprinkler +320 acres with two pivots-all on pavement, buy one or both.  
BUY ALL OR A PART OF 2115 acres on pavement with sprinklers, wells, U.G. pipe & help house with possibility of leasing 4 sections with 1/2 mile sprinklers & good set of precon pens.  
1210 ACRES OF CHOICE LAND in three adjoining tracts, two 1/4 mile sprinklers and wells, some native grass, on pavement approx. 8 miles out of Hereford. Would divide well.  
CHECK OUR WEBSITE and call us toll-free for these properties and details and pictures of many other ranches, farms, feedyards, dairies, prime dairy locations with permits and acreages with homes.  
www.scotlandcompany.com  
Ben G. Scott-Broker 800/933-9698 day/eve.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FRIONA MASONIC**

LODGE No. 1332  
Slated Meeting-1st Tues.  
8 P.M. - 7th & Ashland  
John R. Blackwell, W.M.  
Larry J. Knowles, Sec.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Sixth St. Church of Christ is collecting clothes for Medina Children's Home. If you have clothes that you would like to discard, regardless of size or condition, please bring them to Sixth St. Church of Christ.

**HELP WANTED**

Bovina I.S.D. is now accepting applications for a second grade teaching position to begin on January 5, 2004. Please send resume to Darla Sealey, P.O. Box 70, Bovina, TX 79009. Deadline to accept applications is Tuesday, December 16, 2003.  
F-1tc-12/11



**FRIONA HEATING & AIR, INC.**  
LICENSE # TACL B005719C  
250-2536  
INSULATE NOW! FREE ESTIMATES  
F-tfnc-11/27

THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER IS 1-800-252-5400. Remember that our children today are our future tomorrow.  
F&B-tfnc

**EMPLOYMENT WANTED**

I do handyman work of all kinds. Residential or farm. Allan Humberg, (806)295-6737 leave message. Have references.  
F&B-tfnc-12/7

**FOR RENT**

BOVINA STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE Highway 60 & FM 2290 251-1107  
B-tfnc-6/17

FOR RENT-1 bedroom apartment. Call (806)250-3818.  
F-tfnc-1/10

**HELP WANTED**

Silverhawk Security has positions open for security guards. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED and have no criminal record. Pay \$7 per hour. Call 295-8357 or come by the security office at Excel.  
F&B-tfnc-4/25

Outreach Health Services needing home providers in Friona area for nights and weekends. 13-20 hrs. per week. \$6 per hour. Must be 18 or older. Please call Pati or Regina, 1-800-800-0697.  
F-2tc-12/4-12/11



**Snead Realty**  
REALTOR  
908 W. 11th St. Phone 250-2345 Fax 250-3682  
Gary Snead, MFLA, MSA Home Phone 265-3383  
NEW LISTING 3 BR, 1 bath, w/rent house, newly redone.....\$46,000  
NEW LISTING 2BR, 1Ba, C/P, nice, clean twin living.....\$32,250  
NEW LISTING 3BR, 1Ba, Brick, Fence, storage bldg.....\$36,900  
NEW LISTING 4BR, 2Ba, 2 Living, F/P, C/P, Nice.....\$74,000  
NEW LISTING 3BR, 2Ba, Nice Size, 1-Car, 2 C/P.....\$37,250  
2 small rent houses, corner lot, investment prop.....\$23,000  
2 BR, 1 bath, large living area, basement.....\$35,000  
4 BR, 3 baths, 2 car, 2 living, BIG, metal roof.....\$81,900  
3 BR, 1 bath, 1 car, new paint, carpet.....\$38,000  
3 BR, 2 bath, 2 car, brick, quiet street w/nice covered porch.....\$60,000  
3 br, 1 bath, 1 car, new SAU.....\$30,500  
3 BR, 2 bath, basement, 2 car.....\$80,000  
Small Office/studio with 1/2 bath, to be moved.....\$5,000  
3-4 Br, 1-1/2 ba, metal roof, 4637 acres.....\$58,000  
3 BR, 2 bath, 2 car garage, newly repainted.....\$72,000  
Upstairs & downstairs apartment-complex.....\$21,900  
3 BR, 1 bath, utility room, basement.....\$25,500  
2 BR, 1 bath home plus mobile home lot.....\$25,000  
3 BR, 3 BA, 2LR, DR, lg. garage, re-done.....\$123,900

**King's Manor Retirement System, Inc.**  
400 Ranger Drive  
Hereford, Texas 79045  
**ANNOUNCES OPENING**  
Adult Day Service  
Monday thru Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Protective Environment, Planned Activities, Nutritious Meals and Snacks, Transportation provided in Hereford area.  
For more information call Jacque Carter or Betty Koelzer @ 806-364-0661  
Inquire on website Kingsmanor info  
F-4tc-11/27-12/18

**REAL ESTATE**

FOR SALE...3 BR home, oversized garage, separate apartment, 1301 Columbia in Friona. Call (806)655-4650.  
F-tfnc-5/25

**TO GIVE AWAY**

Free to good home. 1year old female dog, mixed breed, fun and friendly, loves kids. Call 265-3812 or 806-777-6218 for more information.  
Ask for Charee.  
F-2tpd-12/11-12/18

**LOST & FOUND**

Found north of Friona, Border Collie/Australian mix dog with red collar, no tag. Call 250-3855.  
F-2tp-12/11-12/18

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF FISD PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board of Trustees of the Friona Independent School District will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, December 18, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., Friona ISD Administration Building, 909 E. 11th, Friona, Texas 79035.  
The topic of the hearing will be the Texas Education Agency Academic Excellence Indicator report. Patrons may obtain a copy of this document at any campus office or central administration office.  
Questions may be directed to Jim Parker, at 250-2747.

**SERVICES**

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Bess Williams, E.A.  
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(806)364-5321 or (806)364-8129



At Christmas be merry and thankful withall. And feast thy poor neighbor: the great and the small.

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FARWELL TEXAS 79325

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file an answer with the court that issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation, a default judgment may be taken against you."  
TO: Jessica Viernes, GREETING:  
You are commanded to appear by filing an answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday the 12th day of January, 2004 before the Honorable Judge Vivaliah Hutto, Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct 2, Farmer County, Texas at Bovina, Texas.  
Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court, by Albert Ricketts, agent for Farmer County Community Hospital, whose address is 1307 Cleveland, Friona, Texas 79035 on July 15, 2003 in this case numbered 495 on the docket of said court, and styled, Farmer County Community Hospital.  
The nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Outstanding hospital bills and is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.  
The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.  
Issued and given under my hand and seal of the said court, at office in Bovina, Farmer County, Texas, on November 24, 2003.  
Vivaliah Hutto  
Justice of the Peace  
Precinct 2, Farmer County, Texas  
PO Box 849  
Bovina, Texas 79009

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file an answer with the court that issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation, a default judgment may be taken against you."  
TO: Leopoldo Trevizo, GREETING:  
You are commanded to appear by filing an answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday the 12th day of January, 2004 before the Honorable Judge Vivaliah Hutto, Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct 2, Farmer County, Texas at Bovina, Texas.  
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Vivaliah Hutto  
Justice of the Peace  
Precinct 2, Farmer County, Texas  
PO Box 849  
Bovina, Texas 79009



## Grandpa's Brick Lubbock Vet Memorial Is Special For Grandpa

By DANA JAMESON

December 7, 1941. What thoughts come to mind? Is it just another day?

I wasn't born until 1961, so, my memories of Pearl Harbor are from a history book, old movies and the History Channel.

My grandpa remembers the day very clearly. He was supposed to be on his honeymoon. He had married my granny the day before. He always used to wink and say that he started two wars in two days. Granny would do her usual of giving him a look. But she knew he meant it with love.

Sunday, December 7, 2003 marked the sixty-second anniversary of the Pearl Harbor bombing. It was observed in Lubbock with the dedication of the Lubbock Area Veterans War Memorial. Unfortunately, granny didn't get to see this memorial. She passed away in January of 2000.

Grandpa was able to attend though. He was in a wheelchair and had his ever present oxygen tank but he was surrounded by family; his wife, Leona; daughter, Tana Young; son-in-law, Marshall Young; myself, my husband, Coy, our two sons, Tyler & Joshua; and a family friend, Kary Mathys from Farwell.

Near the entrance to the memorial we found grandpa's brick. He was speechless. He was finally getting to see his birthday present. The brick was the only present he wanted this year for his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The American Legion sold bricks to fund this special memorial and that was all he wanted. Each brick held the name, rank, place of deployment and various other information. Grandpa's brick reads Jacob M. Hefner, MSGT USA 1941-45, World War II, Frederick, OK.

As I helped grandpa past the hundreds of names on the memorial he would reach out and touch some of

the bricks and wonder out loud if the name belonged to someone he had known.

The ceremony started promptly at 2:00 p.m. with the playing of patriotic music by the Westwinds Brass Band and "Amazing Grace" by Bagpipers Jonathan Milton and Associates. The colors were presented by the EMS Honor Guard. Ray Hill of The Buffalo Springs Community Church offered the prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. James Reckner.

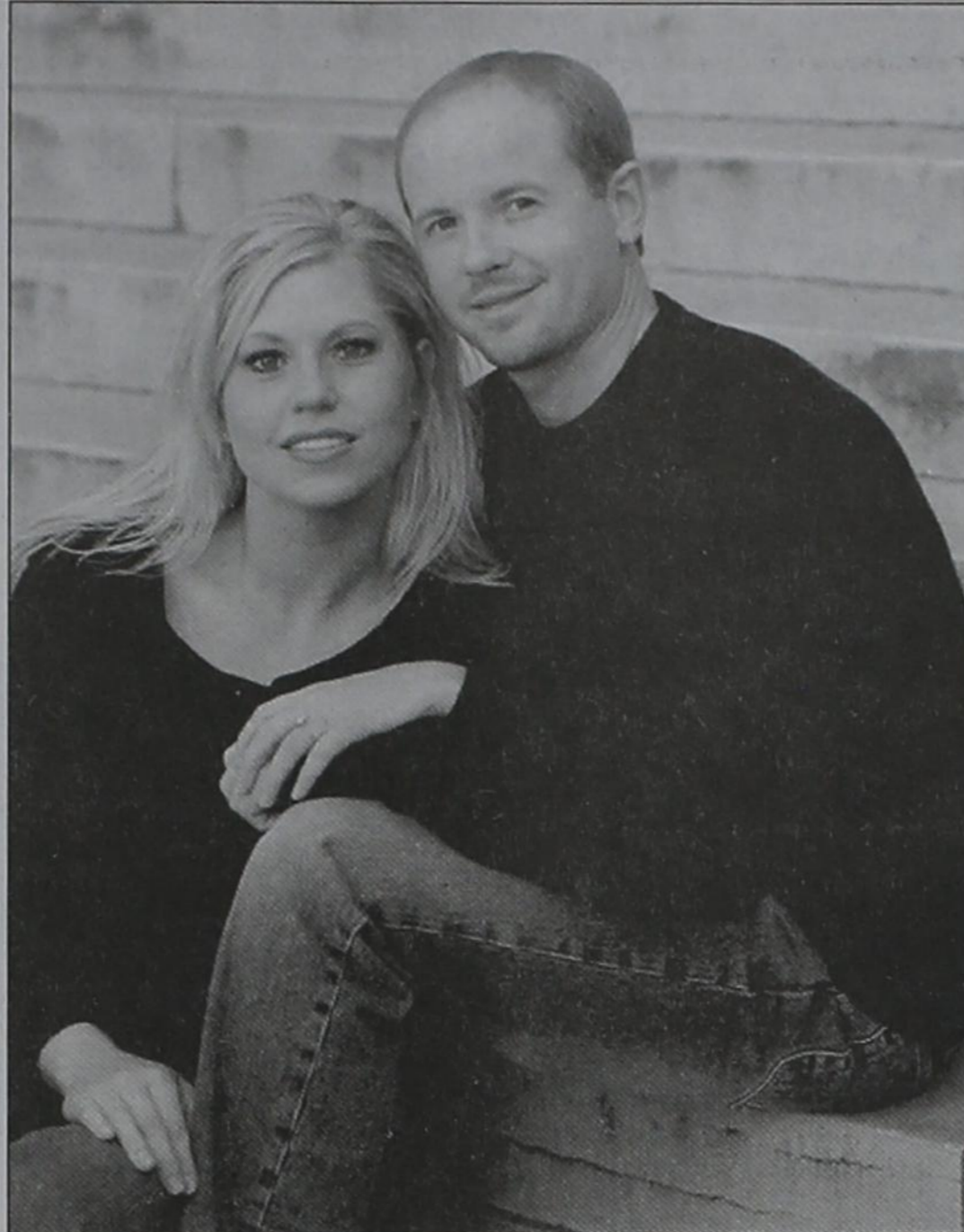
Kenny Maines, formerly of the Maines Brothers, sang the National Anthem. Various other speakers were presented including City Councilman T.J. Patterson and Congressman Randy Neugebauer. "God Bless America" was followed by a 21-gun salute from the United States Marine Corp. "Taps" was played and the colors were retired. Congressman Neugebauer made a special presentation of a flag flown over the Capitol.

Members of each branch of the service raised the colors for the official opening of the Lubbock Area Veterans War Memorial.

After the ceremony grandpa was quiet as we rolled him back to his car. He finally spoke when we were back at his home. He said how nice the memorial had been and he held back tears remembering what the day before should have been.

Grandpa is one of so many that have gone forth and served their country with honor. They are the ones that have made the sacrifices that so many of us have never made. We should honor our veterans every day.

If you should ever get the chance to visit Lubbock, swing by the Lubbock Area Veterans War Memorial on 82<sup>nd</sup> and Nashville. It is such a beautiful and serene park. But not just that, it is a place to honor those who sacrificed so much, so we can be a free nation.



JESSICA BURCH and DAN PARTIN

### Burch & Partin Engagement Announced

Kirby and Vickie Burch, of Lazbuddie, announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessica of Lubbock, to Dan Partin of Plains, son of Morris and Donna Partin of Plains.

Jessica, a graduate of Lazbuddie High and Texas Tech University, is an accountant for AMA TechTel Communications in Lubbock.

Dan, a graduate of Plains High and the University of North Texas, is engaged in farming near Plains.

The couple will wed January 17, 2004 at the First United Methodist Church in Lubbock.

The bride-elect's grandparents are M.C. Street and Lillian Street, both of Muleshoe, and Hazel Burch of Clovis.

The bridegroom's grandparents are Bobbie Partin of Plains, and Alvin and Dorothy Largent of Bridgeport.

### 7/8 Maidens Basketball Update

Friona's 7th and 8th grade girls basketball is in full swing.

The 7th girls have a 1-2 record. On December 4 they lost to Floydada 14-21. Lucy Mendez netted 8 points, Melissa Gallegos 4 and Heather Sandoval 2.

They followed with a win over Hale Center 21-9. Heather Sandoval was high with 12 points, followed by Lucy Mendez 6, Hannah Carthel 2 and Melissa Gallegos one point.

In a 7th grade B team game, Corrine Hinton scored 2 points as the B lost 4-2. Coach Ben Kirton said, "We are proud of our 7th girls. We got out first win of the season and the girls have shown great improvement the last two weeks."

The 8th grade Maidens are sporting a 5-1 record. They beat Olton November 24 39-11. Michelle Martin and Briar Barnett had 8 points and Erin Anthony 6.

Then on December 4 they had a convincing 35-11 victory over Floydada. Miranda Frye put in 10 points, Briar Barnett 8, Jordan Monroe 4 and Erin Anthony 4. The next game against Hale Center was closer but Friona 8th carded a 27-20 win. Frye scored 9 points, Monroe 6 and

Barnett 6. Erin Anthony had 4 rebounds and Ashley Ingram had 4 steals.

The 8th girls B team also has a 5-1 record as they beat Floydada 10-0 and Hale Center 11-0. Morgan Anthony scored 4 points and Sabrina Barber 3.

The next games are Monday, December vs. Lockney.



MR. & MRS. PHIL BANNER

### Reeve & Banner Exchange Vows

Trudy Reeve and Phil Banner, both of Waco, Texas, exchanged wedding vows on September 20, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at Slumber Falls Church Camp in New Braunfels, Texas with Reverend Mark Sirnic of Denver, Colorado officiating.

Parents of the bride are Wanda Reeve of Farwell and Joe F. Reeve of Friona.

Grandmothers of the bride are Frances Ready and Allo Reeve of Friona.

Parents of the groom are the late Monica Banner and Gerald Banner of Hereford.

The bride is a graduate of Southwest Texas University of San Marcos and is employed by Maintenance Warehouse.

The groom is employed by Olmstead Kirk of Waco.

The couple are making their home in Waco, Texas.

### 7/8th Friona Braves Basketball

Here is an update on Friona junior high boys basketball. Coach Greg Hazelwood has 12 boys on the 7th grade squad. In their latest games, the 7th graders have lost 56-20 to Floydada and 32-22 to Hale Center.

Justin Echevarria had 8 points against Floydada, Mike Keen had 6 and Rolando Castanon, Justin Dominguez and Joey Mendoza had 2 each. Castanon led against Hale Center with 11 points, Echevarria had 9 and Aaron Hand 2.

Coach Rex Cumpton's 8th grade boys lost to Floydada 52-34. Sawyer Reed had 12 points, Eric North 6, Ryan Gerles 5, Dillon Welch 4, and Gerald Padilla 2.

They did get a win against Hale Center 44-37. North led with 11 points, Gerles 10, Reed 9, Alex Gurley 6, Dillon Welch 4, Trent Hutson and Jared Boyd 2 each. Coach Cumpton said, "We are doing things better and being more patient. We still have a lot to work on. Did a good job at the free throw line Monday." The 8th boys record is 2-2.



J.M. HEFNER, in wheelchair, is surrounded by his family at the Lubbock Area Veteran's Memorial.

coy jameson photo



GRANDPA'S BRICK is shown in the center of the picture.

tyler jameson photo



BOVINA'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH has decorated the front lawn with the scene of wise men, camels and a manger.

ron carr photo



"Return with us now to captivating, compelling family entertainment!"

Meaningful, Uplifting Programming  
24 HOURS-A-DAY  
7 DAYS-A-WEEK

Wise men follow Him!

"For unto you is born, this day in the city of David, a savior, which is Christ the Lord!"  
Luke 2:11

# KNNK

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Hereford • 363-1005

Join KNNK for splendid music of celebration this holiday season!

Rejoice in the spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the miracle of Christmas which is Hope, and the heart of Christmas which is Love.



FJHS All Region Band qualifiers, front, l-r, Alex Vega, Alonzo Rojas, Rolando Castanon, Aaron Hand. Middle, l-r, Alex Gurley, Justin Dominguez, Monica Acosta, Lauren Hughs. Back, l-r, Richie Salinas, Gerald Padilla, Juan Vera, Curtis Graham.

## Jr. High Band Students Qualify For All Region

On December 2, thirty six Friona band students went to Highland Park High School to audition for the ATSSB Class AA All-Region Junior High Band.

Thirty of the Friona students were selected. Only Canadian had more students in the 100-piece honor group. Schools participating were Friona, Canadian, Panhandle, West Texas, Sanford-Fritch, Highland Park, Spearman & Boys Ranch.

Friona students and their chair placement were:

Flute: Deirdre Johnston 4, Jordan Carr 5, Hollis Gurley 6, Lucy Mendez 12, and Hannah Carthel 14.

Clarinet: Jordan Monroe 5 and Paola Castillo 17.

Trumpet: Erica Wylie 1, Justin Echevarria 2, John Torres 5, Briar Barnett 6, John O'Brian 9, and Alex Vega 13.

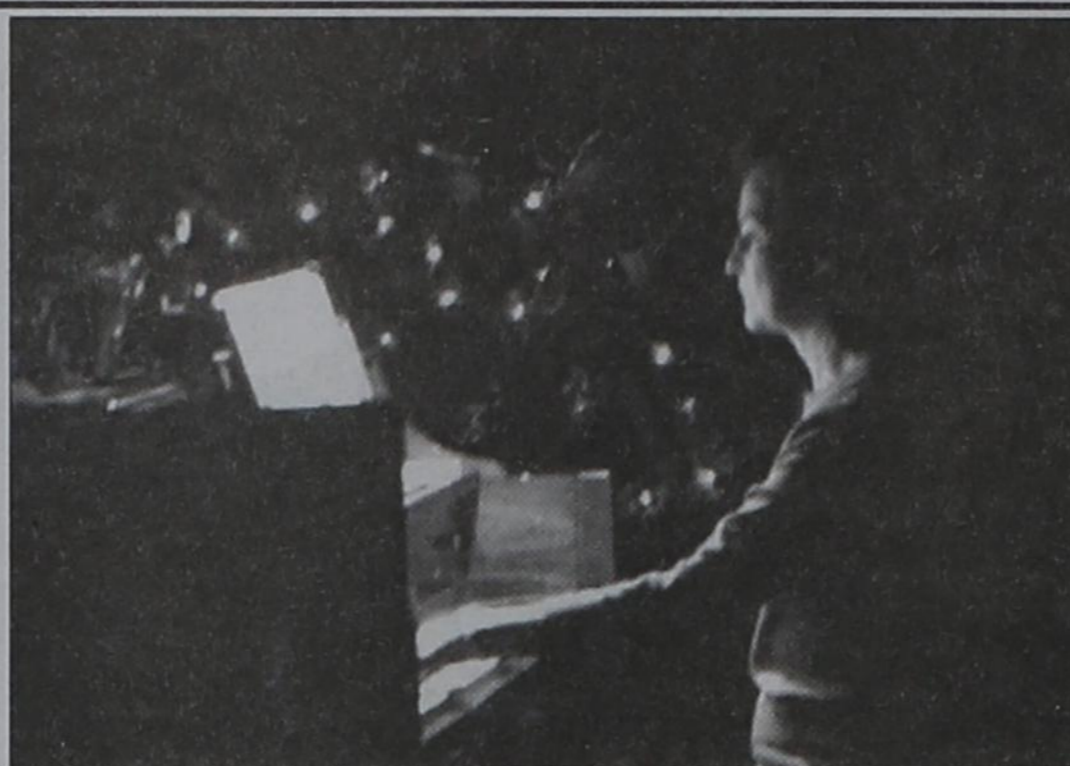
Trombone: Alonzo Rojas 1, Aaron Hand 3, Rolando Castanon 4, Alex Gurley 6, Justin Dominguez 7 and Monica Acosta 12.

Baritone: Lauren Hughs 1, Richie Salinas 4, Gerald Padilla 5.

Tuba: Juan Vera 2, Curtis Graham 3, Andres Herrera 4, Raul Licerio 8, Jonathan Rocha 2nd alternate.

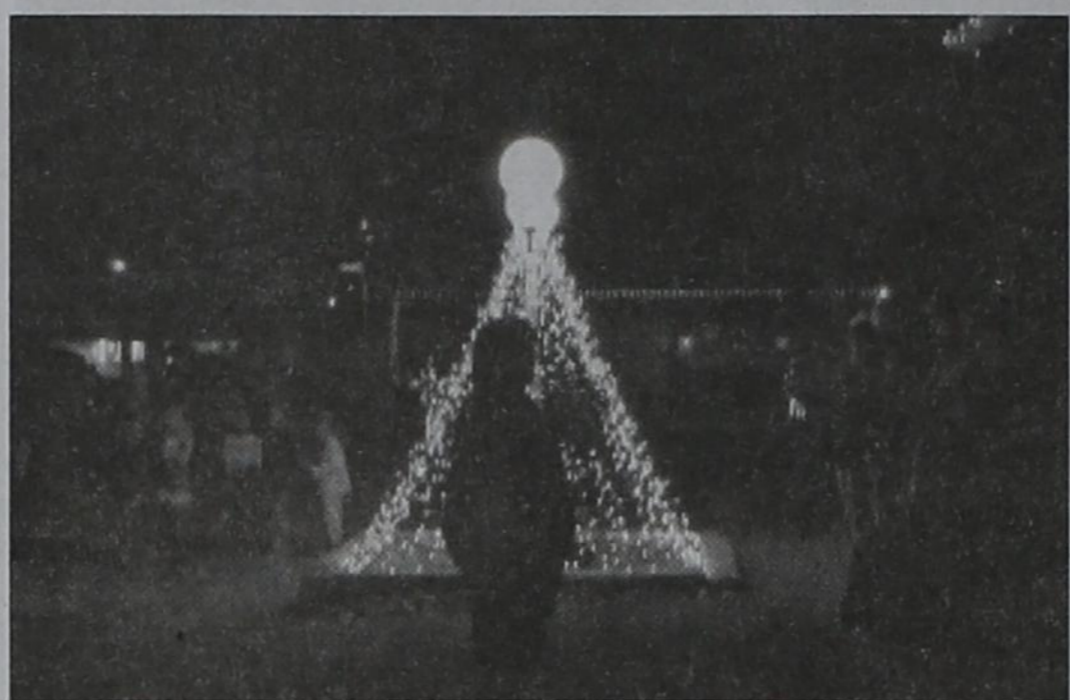
Percussion: Blair Smiley 3, Emily Allen 4, Andy Bentley 2nd alternate.

The all-region students' hard work will pay off when they perform with the ATSSB All Region Band January 17 at the Civic Auditorium in Amarillo. Band director Ron McWilliams said, "Both Mr. Youree (high school band director) and I are very proud not only of all the students that made the band, but all of the students who tried out. Our students represented our school and community very well."



LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE musicians, left, Cheri Taylor, above, Claudia Hanes, and below, Julia Alexander

ron carr photo

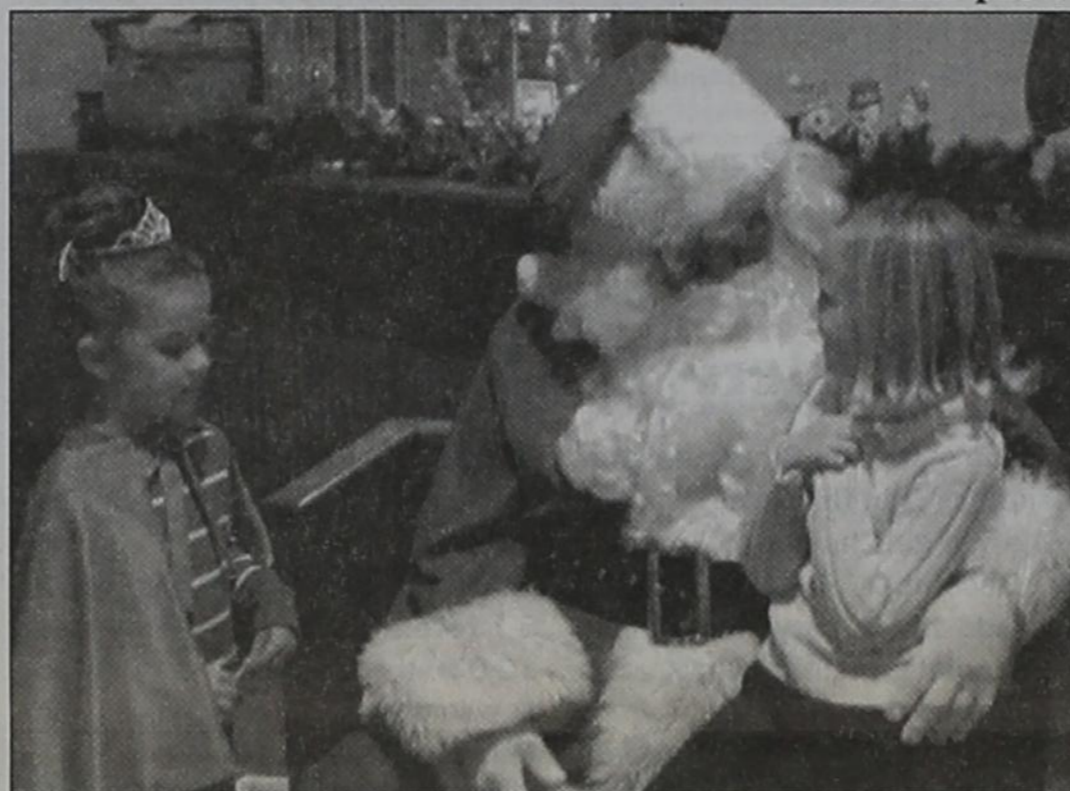


COMMUNITY Choir director Allison Johnston directs the chorus at the Christmas in the Park celebration.

ron carr photo



FJHS All Region Band qualifiers, front, l-r, Hannah Carthel, Jordan Monroe, Paola Castillo, Erica Wylie. Middle, l-r, Justin Echevarria, John Torres, Briar Barnett, John O'Brian. Back, l-r, Deirdre Johnston, Jordan Carr, Hollis Gurley, Lucy Mendez.



LITTLE MISS FRIONA Jaylee Floyd, left, assisted Santa by handing out candy canes.

ron carr photo



Rayanna Williams

### Meet the Class of 2016

Rayanna is a Kindergarten student at Friona Schools. Her Mother is Neva Vaughn. She has 2 sisters, Elizabeth and Rosaria.

Rayanna likes playing with Barbies, riding bikes, singing and dancing. Her favorite color is red.

FRIONA TEXAS  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



Daniela Cruz

### Meet the Class of 2016

Daniela is a Kindergarten student at Friona Schools. Her parents are Maria and Daniel Cruz. She has one brother, Emmanuel.

Daniela likes to play in the house and watch T.V. Her favorite foods are pizza and hamburgers, and her favorite colors are purple and pink.

FRIONA TEXAS  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## Neugebauer Launches New Official Website

Congressman Randy Neugebauer launched his new official U.S. House of Representatives website Monday.

This site allows constituents of the 19<sup>th</sup> District to regularly contact the Congressman via e-mail. It also provides several services, including grant application infor-

mation, press releases, town hall meeting notices, and research through the Library of Congress on exact bills being debated in Congress.

"It's important to offer a place where people of the 19<sup>th</sup> District can learn what's going on in Congress that affects them directly," said Neugebauer. "If you're planning on visiting Washington, DC or you just want to learn more about issues before Congress, you should visit this site. I consider this YOUR site, not mine."

It is also important to the congressman that the site be bilingual. He hopes to have translation completed soon. "This is a great site for people of all ages and backgrounds. Farmers can learn how I'm paying close attention to what's going on in agriculture, while students can do legislative research and learn how to apply to military academies," said Neugebauer.

Neugebauer encourages constituents to sign up for monthly newsletters on the website to keep informed. His website may be accessed at [www.house.gov/neugebauer](http://www.house.gov/neugebauer).



FJHS All Region Band qualifiers, front, l-r, Andres Herrera, Raul Licerio, Jonathan Rocha. Back, l-r, Andy Bentley, Emily Allen, Blair Smiley.

ron carr photos

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CAPITOL COMMENT  
U.S. SENATOR  
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

## Bringing Medicare Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

While the medical community has ridden the technological wave of the future, pushing the envelope in research into new pharmaceuticals, treatments and lifesaving measures, Medicare has been stuck floundering in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

After years of talk, Congress is poised to enact the most sweeping change for America's seniors in nearly 40 years. Pharmaceuticals are one of the true miracles of modern medicine. Ailments that traditionally required an expensive in-patient hospital stay and invasive surgery can now be treated with medication. But most Medicare recipients wouldn't know it. An estimated 9.9 million Medicare beneficiaries do not have prescription drug coverage. While the government pays for costly heart surgery, it currently will not pay for the preventative drugs that may have precluded the need for an operation in the first place.

The bill before Congress would give America's seniors access to a prescription drug benefit for the first time. Beneficiaries would pay a \$35 monthly premium and a \$250 deductible, after which they pay 25 percent of drug costs between \$250 and \$2,250 and 100 percent between \$2,250 and \$3,600. Costs over that threshold would require an average co-pay of \$2 for generic drugs and \$5 for brand name drugs, or five percent of the total drug cost depending on the plan.

Until these reforms are in place, a prescription drug discount card offering savings of up to 25 percent will be available in 2004, providing some relief immediately.

This measure also offers additional and unprecedented assistance to those with low incomes or catastrophic drug costs. Medicare beneficiaries at the poverty level and below will pay no premiums or deductibles and will have nominal cost sharing responsibility, with co-pays of \$1 for generic drugs and \$3 for other pharmaceuticals. And those at 135 and 150 percent of the poverty level will have dramatically reduced premiums, deductibles and co-pays. These changes will mean more than 680,000 low-income Texans will pay no more than \$5 per prescription.

In addition to the prescription drug benefit, there are a number of other elements that bring Medicare up to modern-day medical standards. In the end, the legislation is a good compromise and addresses the fundamental problems.

One significant element is choice. This plan gives seniors access to a broad array of healthcare options, similar to what most working Americans already enjoy. Seniors can stay in traditional Medicare or choose another benefit package. It also has provisions to encourage companies currently providing healthcare to their retirees to continue offering this important benefit. In addition, those in rural areas will have access to the same choices as those in more densely populated urban areas.

Another important component of the bill is an increase in reimbursement rates for physicians, many of whom have stopped taking on new patients who are part of the Medicare program. Hospitals that treat a large number of illegal immigrants will receive some reimbursement for their services—a provision important for Texas hospitals.

Another advantage that will apply to the general population, not just those within Medicare, is the creation of Health Savings Accounts, which will allow individuals and families to put money, tax-free into an investment type account dedicated to their medical costs. The money is not taxed when taken out for qualified medical expenses, giving Americans another tool to cover healthcare costs.

As with any compromise, some areas are not everything you support. I advocated larger teaching hospital reimbursement levels. In addition to training the physicians of tomorrow, these institutions treat underserved patients and provide comprehensive and unique services such as neonatal intensive care and burn units for the general population. Texas teaching hospitals will receive an additional \$12.9 million over the next ten years, below the levels I wanted, but a welcome increase over the status quo.

Let me be clear: this bill is not perfect, but as AARP President James Parkel said, "Millions of Americans cannot wait for perfect. They need help now."

Finally, we are taking the first step to bring this vital program up-to-date. For the first time, we can provide a voluntary prescription drug benefit that offers additional assistance for those who need it most, and strengthen Medicare for future generations.