



City Council approves resolution to support the U.S. Census

The Friona City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 619 Main in Friona, Texas. The meeting began with a roll call, an invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments. Minutes of the November 11, 2019 were reviewed and approved.

The Council heard a report from the Friona Police Department concerning budget, expenses, personnel, and upcoming events.

Next, the Council approved the Accounts Payable for November 2019 and the Financial Statement for November 2019.

A resolution to support of the U.S. Census Bureau 2020 was approved. More details will be provided at a later date.

A briefing and discussion was held regarding the lease agreement of the street sweeper with First Bank of Sterling, Kansas.

A report from the Friona EMS Department was given concerning budget, expenses, personnel, and upcoming events.

The Council then went into Executive Session to discuss the hiring of a future city manager and to discuss matters concerning property at 604 East 11th.

All meetings are open to the public. The City Council reserves the right to go into Executive session at any time. Go to cityoffriona.com to find the agendas and minutes from previous meetings. Information in this article is only a summary. Any questions concerning specific actions should be directed to the City Council.



Congratulations!!! Marca Lynn Herring received a "retirement rocking chair" from her fellow employees this week in honor of her retirement from Friona InterBank. Marca has worked at the bank for the past 30 years.

Commissioners receive 2019 Fire Report

The Parmer County Commissioners Court met in regular session on Monday, December 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom of the Parmer County Courthouse in Farwell, Texas. The meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

There were no public comments. The Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Commissioners approved the payment of the accounts payables as presented by County Treasurer Sharon May and the Treasurer's Report was also approved.

An Engagement Letter with the law firm Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP was approved as well as the Order for Redistricting in 2021. The initial fee is \$4,500 with the possibility of additional fees depending on the complexity of the redistricting process. Redistricting will not take

place until 2021.

Commissioners approved Contingency Fund Transfers to the General Fund and the Farm to Market Fund. Each of the four precincts will receive \$50,000 and \$65,000 will go to the General Fund. These routine transfers happen near the end of the year to cover unanticipated expenses and to balance all of the budgets. For example, this past year expenses were incurred with the purchase of new voting machines and with the right-of-way work on the bridge project.

The Court approved vacation pay for three Parmer County employees that work in the Sheriff's Office.

The 2019 Parmer County Fire Report was presented to the Commissioners by the five Fire Departments that serve Parmer County. At the first of the year, the county allocates \$150,000 to be divided among the departments to be used for the purchase of

equipment and other expenses. Friona received \$32,000, Bovina, Farwell, & Lazbuddie received \$22,000 each, and Rhea received \$12,000. Another \$40,000 was distributed on a per call basis (Rhea not included). There was a total of 125 calls and the breakdown by department is as follows: Bovina (19 calls-\$6,080), Farwell (19 calls-\$6,080), Friona (57 calls-\$18,240), and Lazbuddie (30 calls-\$9,600).

Sheriff Randy Geries reported that he was currently housing 16 inmates at the Law Enforcement Center and 5 of those were transfers from Deaf Smith County.

All meetings are open to the public. The Commissioners Court reserves the right to go into Executive session at any time. Go to parmercounty.org to find meeting agendas. Information in this article is only a summary. Any questions concerning specific actions should be directed to the court.

Town Hall #475



(l-r) Adaline White, Nancy Rocha, Lizbeth Rojas, Senator Kel Seliger, Mariah Rivera, Mariana Peña, and Andres Montana.

Seliger holds town hall in Friona

Last Thursday morning, State Senator Kel Seliger held Town Hall Meeting #475 at the Depot in the Friona city park. This year's tour through the counties of Senate District 31 allows him to meet with the citizens of the panhandle and to discuss the activities of the 86th Legislature. District 31 consists of 37 counties and is the approximate size of the state of Indiana.

The following members of the Friona High School Senior Class Student Council were in attendance: Adaline White, Representative Nancy Rocha, Secretary Lizbeth Rojas, Vice President Mariah Rivera, Representative Mariana Peña, and President Andres Montana.

Senator Seliger told the

group that, by and large, the last legislative was a success. He did caution that it was not all that good for those who believe in "local control" instead of "state control" on the various issues. He also warned that next year we would see even more "top down" priorities being pushed.

The Senator characterized the past legislative year as a "tax cut session" and not a "teacher pay session" for the most part.

Teachers were promised a \$10,000 pay raise but were only given a \$5,000 raise. The Senator was asked why teachers do not receive Social Security. He adamantly agreed that teachers should receive social security and is doing his best to get the law changed.

Earlier this year, the Senator was kicked off the Education Committee by a fellow republican. The Senator said, that as of now, there is no voice on the commit-

tee from our area. He also informed the audience that approximately two-thirds of the Texas population lives from I-35 south and that Texas is now considered an urban state, not a rural state.

Senator Seliger state that priorities for the upcoming year will be (1) road maintenance, (2) healthcare, and (3) teacher's pay. The 2020 census and redistricting in 2021 will also be hot topics for discussion and debate.

Fire Fighter of the Year



Skip Hodges (right) received the Ralph Shirley Award as Fire Fighter of the Year at the annual Friona Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Banquet last week. John Taylor presented the award on behalf of the fire department and the City of Friona.

Christmas Tea Page 8	Town Talk Page 3	Church Page Page 5	Small Town Cookin' Page 6	Prairie Acres Christmas Page 12
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Emergency Siren System: Alternating tone • Firefighters only | Weather Warning: 1 long tone • take cover — 3 short blasts • all clear | Tested 1st & 3rd Thurs. at 7 p.m.

Friona Weather December 12-18	T 58 36 W 25-35	F 63 33 NW 5-10	S 58 33 SW 15-25	S 56 23 W 20-30	M 42 20 NNW 15-25	T 44 24 WSW 10-20	W 52 29 SW 15-25	Precipitation December 0.01 Year 20.51	Burn Ban: No
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Community Calendar

Send Calendar information to:
frionastar@wtrt.net
 call (806) 250-2211 or fax (806) 250-5127

December 12

- Snack Pak 4 Kids Friona United Methodist Church 4:30 p.m. Double pack day.
- Parmer County Area AA meeting at the Friona Methodist Church (north entrance) at 7 p.m.

December 14

- Prenatal Classes at Parmer Medical Center 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Call 806-729-7352 for information (Rocio Carrasco)

December 17

“Cookies with Santa” at Friona Public Library from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Children can take their picture with Santa and eat cookies.

December 18

- Christmas Open House at Parmer County Farm Bureau from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Christmas Tea at Friona Banking Center from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

December 19

- Friona Noon Lions Club meeting at noon at Los Arcos
- Snack Pak 4 Kids Friona United Methodist Church 4:30 p.m. Double pack day.
- Parmer County Area AA meeting at the Friona Methodist Church (north entrance) at 7 p.m.

December 23

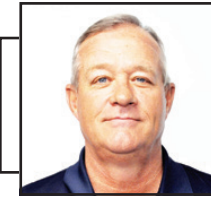
- Friona Star office closed week of December 23

December 25

- Christmas Day

January 1

- New Year's Day



Mayor's Minutes by Ricky White

Christmas in the Park was fantastic!!! Thanks to everyone involved for making this annual event a great time for the kids and adults alike.

The City of Friona applied for a \$25,000 grant through the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) last September for a wood-chipper. The City was notified that we were not awarded the grant. The City will continue to look for grant funding for other recycling programs.

The City of Friona, along with the City of Bovina, and the County Judge's office will be meeting with community leaders in the coming days to help encourage participation and enrollment in the 2020 Census process. The City of Friona has also committed to putting up posting and sharing resource material as needed to help encourage participation.

We thank TXDOT for seal-coating main street this past week. If we have warmer weather in the next couple of weeks, TXDOT will apply a 2nd layer of seal-coat to main street. If this does not occur, the next seal-coat will be applied in early spring.

The City has extended the date to accept bids to repair the roof and to install central heating/air conditioning units at the Community Center. The deadline will be December 20, 2019 for bids to

be accepted. The Visitor Impact Commission has met and made their recommendations for improvements to the community center. The Commission has identified 28 projects to be addressed. The City Council will implement as many projects as possible, as funding becomes available.

Volunteer Fire Department responded to four calls in November. On Nov. 5th, car accident, seven firefighters and three trucks responded. On Nov. 10th, dumpster fire, seven firefighters and one truck responded. On Nov. 21st, gas meter damaged, seven firefighters and three trucks responded and on Nov. 26th, car accident, nine firefighters and three trucks responded.

Chief Jimenez and the officers responded to 182 calls in November. There were 195 stops, 123 warnings, 72 citations and 5 arrests, (1-warrant, 3-no drivers license and 1-driving while intoxicated). The officers drove a total of 3,352 miles patrolling and protecting our city.

Emergency Medical Service responded to 18 calls in November. There were 9 calls for 911, 4 calls for transfers, and 5 calls ended in a “no transport”. Total billing equaled \$14,216.81 and the City collected \$10,749.47. The City would like to introduce Nik Baucom as the new EMS Director. In his new role, Nik assumes

overall responsibility for the clinical activities of the Friona EMS team which includes delivering quality care to critically ill patients under varied conditions and using assessment skills and written standards of care when physician contact is not possible. Nik is a licensed paramedic with over 5 years of experience and has a great history serving the residents of Friona. We know Nik will do a great job!!!

Accounts Payable totaled \$154,104.08 for the month of November. There were no large expenditures this month, just normal operating expenses. All bills are paid and the city continues to be in good standing.

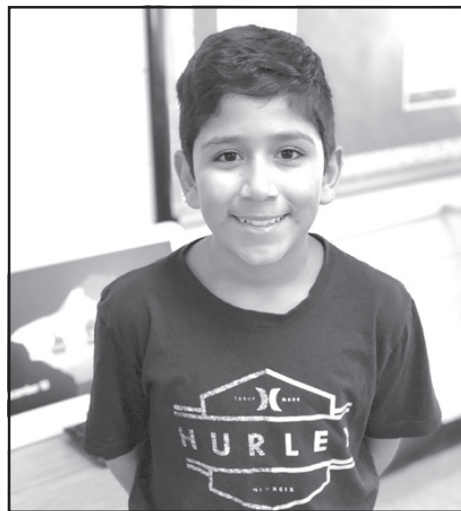
The City pumped 4,222,000 gallons of water and sold \$11,610,000 gallons of water. Billing totaled \$65,800.87 on 1452 accounts.

Friona Public Library had 483 patron visits (including electronic visits) for an average of 28 visits per day and was open for 17 days. There were 516 items circulated and 55 new items added to inventory. On Tuesday, December 17th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. the Library will hold its “Cookies with Santa” event. The public is encouraged and invited to stop by and visit. The children can take their picture with Santa and eat cookies.

Your Mayor

Jr. High News

Students of the Month - November 2019



6th Grade Boy
Avram Hernandez



7th Grade Boy
Nathan Tafoya



8th Grade Boy
Jose Alvidrez



6th Grade Girl
Adaly Rubalcava



7th Grade Girl
Yoselin Mulul



8th Grade Girl
Ivory Shelby

FRIONA STAR SUBSCRIPTIONS

IN PARMER COUNTY: \$30 PER YEAR
 OUT OF PARMER COUNTY: \$40 PER YEAR
 eSTAR (EMAILED): \$24 PER YEAR
 Call 806-250-2211 for more information

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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- ACROSS**
- King Ranch Derby winner: ___ Venture
 - “Texas When ___”
 - TX actress Tierney
 - late TX ___ Red Duke
 - TX singer ___ Davis
 - TX Chili's ___ & Bar restaurants
 - Dr. Pepper rival: Coca-___
 - TX cattle are ___ at sale
 - TX Wadkins goal on the green (2 wds.)
 - author of “The German Texans”: ___ Lich
 - TX Trini Lopez hit (2 wds.)
 - TX Tanya's “Can ___ You Tonight”
 - TXism: “busier than ___ in a boomtown”
 - TXism: “thing-___” (gadget)
 - TX-born Steve Martin was married to this Victoria Springfield, ___
 - TXism: “___ summer squash”
 - dinner rolls
 - feed storage box
 - “60 Minutes” led to release of this innocent TX Geter
 - ignorant
 - TX Ginger Rogers was in “Girl Crazy” by ___ Gershwin
 - Orange, TX's “Stark Museum ___”
 - stats for Astro and Ranger pitchers
 - ex-Cowboy Emmitt (init.)
 - rattlesnake tooth
 - TX fiddler Robertson
 - TXism: “smack ___ middle”
 - a baseball team
 - this Dealey founded The Dallas Morning News (init.)
 - UT grad actor Wallach
 - TX Sam Houston's last wife: Margaret ___
- DOWN**
- TXism: “runnin' with the ___ dogs” (going well)
 - TX Benson film: “___ to Billie Joe”
 - in Smith County on U.S. 69
 - Llano is the “___ Texas”
 - TX Helmond's role on former sitcom “Who's the Boss?”
 - UT has a 1455 copy of this early printed work (2 wds.)
 - ___ Cola
 - TXism: “nip ___ in the bud”
 - West TX Intermediate: “___, ___ crude”
 - noted King Ranch cowboy Alberto “___” Trevino
 - berry desserts
 - TXism: “wouldn't touch that with ___-foot pole”
 - Gulf fish catcher
 - TX Longley: “I see a lot of ___ out there, and mighty few friends”
 - actor Alain of “TX Across the River”
 - TXism: “the ___ barbed wire for dental floss” (tough)
 - TXism: “hasta ___ vista”
 - TX Charley Pride's “Then Who ___ I”
 - Galveston
 - “Honest ___”
 - this Bailey ran a TX circus
 - Santa ___, TX
 - father's sister
 - TXism: “plain as the ears ___ mule”
 - TX Ginger film: “Shall ___ Dance?”
 - pickup stopper
 - foot part hard to fit into a cowboy boot
 - passing fancy TX Charley Pride's “Kiss ___ Good Mornin'” (1971)
 - “Bring 'em Back Alive” TX Buck made expeditions to this country dir. from Abilene to Bowie

solution on page 4

ON YOUR PAYROLL

U.S. Government
President: Donald J. Trump, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500. 202-456-1111, fax 202-456-2461, email comments@whitehouse.gov.
Senator: John Cornyn, 517 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-2934, fax 202-228-2856.
Senator: Ted Cruz B40B Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-5922.
Representative: Jodey Arrington, 2019 Longworth, House Office Building, 202-225-4005. Lubbock District Office, 1312 Texas Ave. #219, Lubbock, TX 79401. Abilene District Office, 500 Chestnut St. #819, Abilene, TX 79602
State
Governor: Greg Abbott, Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711-2428, 512-463-2000.
Senator: Kel Seliger, P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711. 512-463-0131. Amarillo office; P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, 79105. 806-374-8994.
Representative: John T. Smithee, Room CAPIW.10, Capitol P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768. 512-463-0702. fax 512-476-7016. Amarillo office; 320 So. Polk, 1st Floor, Lobby box 28, Amarillo 79101. 806-372-3327, fax 806-342-0327.

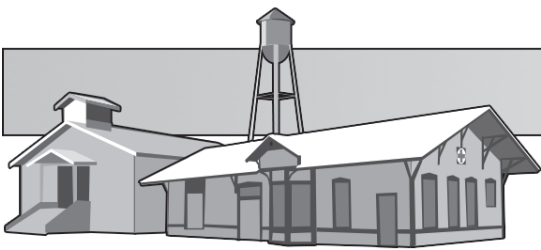
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★★★

Congratulations to Andrea Chaves, Carly Drake, Mariah Rivera, and Lizbeth Rojas for being selected to the 2019-20 3A Volleyball Academic All-State Team. The Texas Girls Coaches Association selects Academic All-State teams for conferences 1A through 6A in volleyball. Athletes and support staff - trainers, stats keepers, bookkeepers, managers, etc. -

must be a senior and have a grade point average of 94 or above.

★★★

The Quality of Life Church and THUG Life Ministries is conducting its 19th annual "Good Shepherd Toy Giveaway" this year. They are accepting new toy donations through Friday, December 20th at 301 Grand Avenue in Friona, Texas. Call (806) 471-4111 for more information.

★★★

Parmer County Farm Bureau is hosting its Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 18th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at 301 W. 11th in Friona.

★★★

Friona Banking Center will hold its Christmas Tea on Wednesday, December 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 710 W. 11th in Friona.

★★★

National Days

- December 12 — Poinsettia Day
- December 13 — Cocoa Day
- December 14 — Monkey Day
- December 15 — Bill of Rights Day
- December 16 — Chocolate-covered Anything Day
- December 17 — Maple Syrup Day
- December 18 — Answer the Telephone Like Buddy the Elf Day

★★★

Texas Weekly Fuel Update and Outlook

Texas gas prices have fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.21 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 stations. Gas prices in Texas are 6.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stands 11.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas is priced at \$1.88 while the most expensive is \$3.59 per gallon. The cheapest price in the entire country today stands at \$1.78 while the most expensive is \$4.99 per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.57 per gallon. The national average is down 6.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 15.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"OPEC's surprising oil production cut announced last week may have a negative impact on gas prices in the days ahead, but for now, a majority of states saw gas prices drift lower in the last week as government data showed a large rise in gasoline inventories, perhaps offsetting OPEC's production cut," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "While OPEC's announcement was certainly not expected, it lasts just three months until

March, which is barely enough time to even see if there's going to be a high level of compliance or not, effectively making the cut indiscernible to markets. It was the highest profile move OPEC could make that the markets could still entirely dismiss. Refineries, meanwhile, have ramped up output as the end of the year looms, which could also offset any rise in oil prices. Refiners draw down oil inventories ahead of the turn of the year to avoid taxes, which could help lead to increases in refined product inventories and drive prices down. There's a lot on the table, and that's without even mentioning the still looming potential trade deal between the U.S. and China."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. Unlike AAA's once daily survey covering credit card transactions at 100,000 stations and the Lundberg Survey, updated once every two weeks based on 7,000 gas stations, GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.



FRIONA FLASHBACKS

10 years ago - December 10, 2014

Van with freshman girls basketball team overturns on ice near Memphis

The freshman girls basketball team and Coach Elizabeth Burton escaped serious injury Monday night December 7 when the school van they were returning in from Childress overturned on Highway 287 about 5 miles north of Memphis. (Approximately 30 miles from Childress.)

Reports are the van hit a patch of black ice, skidded into a ditch and rolled onto its right side. Coach Burton was driving and there were eight 9th grade girls in the van. The accident happened around 10 p.m.

When the van rolled onto its right side it blocked the doors. Two highway workers stopped and helped the girls exit out the back door and assisted until EMS arrived. Three ambulances arrived on the scene and transported the girls and coach to the emergency room at the hospital in Childress. The girls were treated and released but Coach Burton remained in the hospital overnight.

Superintendent Kenny Austin and FISD

transportation director Kevin Cooper immediately left for Childress in a school bus and arrived there between 3-4 a.m.

In the meantime Athletic Director Mike Herbert and FHS principal Chris Morrow called their counterparts in Childress for assistance. The Childress principal and athletic director went to the emergency room, waited until all the girls had been released, arranged transportation to a Childress hotel, checked them in, and stayed with them until Austin and Cooper arrived.

"The people in Childress could not have been nicer or more helpful," Austin said. One of the players, Megan Sharrock, had visited the Childress emergency room during volleyball season with an ankle injury.

The same doctor was on duty this night and remembered Megan from her previous visit. It was said that the doctor's son and Josh Snead of Friona were college roommates so he knew about Friona. The winter weather that blew through Friona Tuesday swept across the Childress area too.

Kenny Austin said they waited until the weather cleared before returning to Friona. They had lunch at K-Bob's and did some necessary shopping at Wal Mart to pass the time and ease the anxiety before leaving Childress about 4 p.m.

Tuesday after the weather had cleared. (Among other items, Mr. Austin bought phone chargers for the girls whose cell phone batteries had long since been depleted.)

Coach Burton's parents, Pastor Rick and Gail Burton, brought her back in the family vehicle. She was the most seriously injured, suffering from a sprained left arm and shoulder and a "big bump on the head."

Superintendent Austin had nothing but praise for everyone in Memphis and Childress who tended to the girls and Coach Burton. "From the EMS to the DPS Troopers, to hospital personnel and especially Childress ISD personnel, I can't say thanks enough for all they did to look after Coach Burton and the girls. We owe them a huge thanks."

A train passes by grain elevators in Friona



Glennella Appling dropped by the Friona Star on Tuesday to inform us that there was a picture of Friona in the November issue of *Texas Monthly*. Photographer John Dyer had driven 5,500 miles to document Texas' Outer Limits. His *Edge of Texas* photo collection captures life on the border. A photo captioned "A train passes by grain elevators in Friona" can be found on page 134 of the magazine. Glennella is retired and worked for 33 years at Parmer County Community Hospital. We appreciate her informing us of the photo.

Photo by John Dyer

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BI-WIZE

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(drawing on Dec. 23rd)

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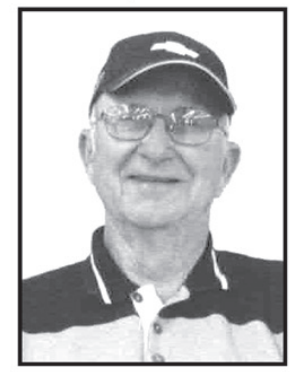
FREE Delivery, limitations apply

* See store for details

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Cell: (806) 265-7034
www.stevens5star.com

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Reported by the **Parmer County Sheriff's Office:**
Randy Gerles, Sheriff

12-2-19 — Humberto Guerra, Jr., 31, of Friona was arrested by the Friona PD on a charge of DWLI with previous, pending County Court.

12-3-19 — Armando Bermea, 41, of Farwell was arrested by the Farwell PD on a Curry County warrant, released to Curry County.

12-4-19 — Fabian Mondragon, 29, of Clovis, New Mexico was arrested by the Parmer County SO on a Violation of Probation (Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon), pending District Court.

12-4-19 — Luis Aguirre, 34, of Bovina was arrested by the Bovina PD on a charge of Public Intoxication, Fine \$266.00 paid and released.

12-5-19 — Uriel Morales, 26, of Friona was arrested by the Friona PD on a charge of Possession Marijuana < 2 oz. in Drug Free Zone, pending County Court.

12-8-19 — Keith Cordova, 22, of Farwell was arrested by the Farwell PD on a charge of Possession Marijuana < 2 oz., pending County Court and Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon, pending Grand Jury.

Texas Mutual distributes \$1.1M in grants for workforce development initiatives

Grants to strengthen future workforce and Texas' economy

AUSTIN, Texas--Texas Mutual Insurance Company, the state's leading provider of workers' compensation, has distributed \$1.1 million in grants to 16 organizations across the state to fund workforce development programs. Part of Texas Mutual's mission is to support workforce development and job-skill training. The company selected strategic partners that deliver impactful workforce development initiatives benefitting the state's workforce and their local community.

"The Texas workforce is one of the strongest in the country, and investments like these grants from Texas Mutual make that possible," said Julian Alvarez III, Texas Workforce Commission Commissioner of Labor. "By providing funds to organizations committed to workforce development and economic expansion, Texas Mutual is ensuring that job seekers across the state will have increased job opportunities and access to critical safety training."

Texas Mutual completed distribution of the grants in December 2019. The grants will directly support workforce development initiatives designed to strengthen job-skill training, influence statewide change and empower community collabo-

ration. The organizations include: Adaptive Construction Solutions in Houston; Advance Together, a program of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (statewide); Bryan Independent School District (ISD), Career & Technical Education Complex; Conroe ISD; Educate Texas (statewide); El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence; Laredo College; Laredo ISD; Lubbock Economic Development Alliance; RGV Focus in the Rio Grande Valley; SA Works in San Antonio; Texans Can Academies in Dallas; Texas Restaurant Association Education Foundation (statewide); TRIO Electric in Houston; The Wilkinon Center in Dallas; and Workforce Solutions Capital Area in Austin.

Programs funded at these organizations will offer pathways to in-demand careers and ensure employees have the skills needed for a changing workforce. Texas Mutual has collaborated with each organization to ensure that funding is tailored to the workforce need in their specific region.

"Texas Mutual's strategic partnerships with these organizations represent our commitment to promoting job creation in the Lone Star State," said Rich Gergasko, president and CEO of Texas Mutual. "When current

and potential employees have access to safety training, the ability to develop new job skills and increased health and safety awareness, workplaces--and the overall Texas workforce--are stronger and safer."

This \$1.1 million distribution is in addition to Texas Mutual's other workforce development initiatives in 2019 including \$1.1 million in college safety grants awarded to 11 colleges, \$1.5 million in policyholder safety grants and more. For more information about how Texas Mutual is supporting local communities and workforce development throughout the state, visit texasmutual.com/community.

About Texas Mutual Insurance Company: Austin-based Texas Mutual Insurance Company, a policyholder-owned company, is the state's leading provider of workers' compensation insurance. Texas Mutual provides coverage to 43 percent of the market, representing 70,000 companies, many of which are small businesses. Since 1991, the company has provided a stable, competitively priced source of workers' comp insurance for Texas employers. Helping employers prevent workplace accidents is an important part of Texas Mutual's mission.

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Puzzle Solution

S-1458

Look up past issues of the *Friona Star* on our website!

- 1.) Go to frionaonline.com
- 2.) Click on the "newspaper archives" link
- 3.) Search

Friona Farmer's Co-op Gin Bale Count

11,180 ginned bales

233 modules on the yard

72 modules in the field

Happy Birthday Friona Folks!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Dec. 12
Linda Knowles
Paul J. Smith
Dustin Acker</p> <p>Dec. 13
Taylor Duran
Aubry Snyder</p> <p>Dec. 14
Joe Tongate
James Procter
B.K. Buske
Troy Benton
Gibson Baafour
Lexie Reeves</p> <p>Dec. 15
Sylvia Ingram
Connie Willard
Deena (Willard) Sellers
Luke London
Haden Smiley
Deven Black
Don Reeve
Caitlin Bronniman
Jennifer (Smith) Jolly
Brenda Patterson
Lori Holcomb
Sarah Correa</p> | <p>Dec. 16
Michael Stanberry
Megan Carr
Kyle Jamerson
Jim Garmatz
Travis Stewart
Rhett Houston
Paul Graham
David Carranza
Cheri Williams</p> <p>Dec. 17
Mary Joyce Barnett
Jason Hankins
Jim Schlenker
Cynthia Silva
Vanessa (Hernandez) Molina
DeeDee Davila
Michael Prokop</p> <p>Dec. 18
Bud Rainey
Logan Loflin
Maxwell Moroney
Wade Procter
Brittany (Anthony) Field
Hal Ratcliff
Michael Scott
Stephanie Madrigal</p> |
|---|--|

To have your birthdays listed in the newspaper, email them to frionaonline@wtrt.net or call @806.250.2211

Christmas Open House

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 from 10 a.m-2p.m



Come on in and enjoy Christmas Goodies with us as you do your business or just come by to say hi.

As you do your Christmas shopping this year remember we have Beef Certificates, Scratch Pads, and Master Card Gift Cards. All great Stocking Stuffers.

Everyone here at Friona Banking Center wants to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



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Farmhouse to Your House

Panhandle Parables

What Child Is This?

By Jeff Procter, Minister, 6th Street Church of Christ

Christmas is here and the debate begins again as to Nativity scenes, whether to say "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays" yata yata yata ... The sad reality is that in the ever increasing commercialization of this holiday, the political correctness gone crazy and the simple insanity of shopping all hours of the night for stuff that rarely makes it to the next holiday, Jesus gets lost in all of it.

We know not the date of His birth, but we believe Him to have been born in the most humble of situations, a feed trough in a barn. I suspect it was a crazy time in Bethlehem as everyone was trying to get home and be counted and in all that hustle and bustle a Child is born, born of a virgin and for the most part unnoticed by the world. Yes, there were the angels and yes, those shepherds had quite a story to share, but born not in the home of a King, but a stable for service animals.

My simple point is this: if you want to join the debate on word choices and nativity scenes you go right ahead. If you like the shop 'til you drop, midnight madness more power to you. My prayer is that people would simply stop and be thankful for this Gift, to remember God's great love that He would give himself to put on the limitations of humanity and walk among us to show us God. My prayer would continue with the desire for people to want to give THIS GIFT above all other gifts. That His steps would matter so much to us that we would follow them, as He leads us to those who need Him most, that we would actually live the lives we sing about on Sunday and that Jesus would be seen, felt and heard by the choices we make. What Child is this? This is Jesus, "and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'"

Giving God your Best in Worship

By Brett Hoyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church

Leftovers may be good the few days after Thanksgiving, but sadly many Christians think that giving God our leftovers is okay when we worship him also. Worshipping God is the call of all creation, the joy of the believer and is to be done wholeheartedly, excellently and genuinely as one focuses their mind's attention and their heart's affection on Christ.

The Old Testament book of Malachi comes in the midst of a worship dilemma. The people have grown apathetic, religious, and complacent in their worship of the Lord, and God's charge to them, is also a charge to the church today to give God your best in worship to him. Malachi 1 reveals three key principles regarding worship that pleases God. First, giving God your best in worship to him means you will honor and fear the Lord. Are you committed with all your heart and mind in

your worship or are you mindlessly going through the motions or aiming for heartless religion? Further, worship that pleases God requires you to purify yourself from sin in your life. The book of Malachi has a looooooong list of sins that even the priests were promoting! Their dishonor of God led to affirming sinful worship in their lives and in the community, and God's call to worship is a call to repentance and forgiveness. When we worship God, because we have made him in our image, anything goes, and our worship is a shallow therapeutic session to ease your conscience. Finally, true worship focuses one's full attention on the one we worship because He alone is worthy of our worship. As you worship Jesus this Christmas, may you give God your best in you worship, and be blessed immensely by worshipping Him.

Christmas Traditions

By Teena Hughs

After Christmas 2018, a friend sent me the book Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas by Ace Collins. Collins covers 26 traditions from advent to yule logs. The thing that amazed me was how each tradition centered on Jesus, the reason we celebrate Christmas.

For the next couple of weeks, I would like to share some of the traditions, starting with the Christmas tree. I don't have the space to give the full history of how the Christmas tree came to be, but I do want to share with you its significance to Jesus.

"In the seventh century, St. Boniface, a monk from Crediton, Devonshire, England, constantly traveled across Europe as a missionary. On his many treks, the dynamic Boniface established hundreds of Christian churches throughout France and Germany. It has been written that on a trip to central Europe he came across a band of men who had gathered around a huge oak tree. One of these men held in his hands a small boy who had been chosen as a sacrifice to the god Thor. When he saw what was transpiring, Boniface demanded that the men stop their ritual. When they refused, the priest walked up to the old tree and struck the trunk with his fist. In an act the men viewed as a miracle, the mighty oak shuddered and then fell to the ground. As the dust settled, a tiny fir tree became visible just behind where the oak had towered. Boniface pointed the tree out to the men, explaining that the evergreen was the Tree of Life. He told them that the tree even winter could not kill stood for the eternal life offered to them by Christ. Finally he pointed to the triangular shape of the

tree and stated that the fir's three points represented the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Many years later, "Legend has it that Martin Luther was walking home on a dark December evening when he was struck by the beauty of the starlight coming through the branches of the many fir trees in the woods around his home." So, he went home and tried to duplicate the scene in his home. He even tied a candleholder onto one of the evergreen's branches, put a candle into the holder, and lit it.

"Luther taught his friends and family that the tree represented the everlasting love of God. He pointed out that the evergreen's color did not fade, just as the Lord's love would not fade, no matter what the circumstance or trial. The candlelight represented the hope that Christ brought to the world through his birth and resurrection. Thus, to those who knew Luther, the tree evolved into a symbol not just of Christmas but of Christian faith in general."

The Christmas tree has been a tradition in America since the 1820s, and it "is the most endearing of all the holiday traditions that originated in pagan cultures...For many, the tree that can survive even the most barbarous winter has come to represent the everlasting promise of eternal life offered through Christ. The lights placed on the tree represent the light that the babe in the manger brought to a dark and hopeless world. Because the evergreen is so strong and so resilient, it has also come to represent peace and hope to millions."

I know I don't look at my Christmas tree the same; I hope you don't either.

Friona Star
is online at
frionaonline.com

Thank You

On behalf of the Mildred Welch family, we would like to express our appreciation to all those who expressed genuine love and concern for our family. To those who took the time to stop for a visit, kept us in your prayers, brought food, sent flowers, cards, calls, memorials and all other acts of kindness when we needed you the most, we 'Thank You' from the bottom of our hearts.

Our loved ones are a gift to us, their presence a blessing when they are on earth. After they are gone, we mourn and then we celebrate the life they lived, the love they shared, the difference they made for being in our lives.

Veca, Kevin, Varla & families

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State Capital Highlights

By Ed Sterling



Governor proclaims results in constitutional amendment election

AUSTIN — Before voter-approved amendments to the Texas Constitution are set in stone, it is the governor's duty to publicly proclaim the results of the election.

On Dec. 4, Gov. Greg Abbott posted such a proclamation, having first certified the tabulation prepared by the Texas secretary of state, the state's chief election officer.

In his proclamation, Abbott listed the nine of 10 proposed amendments that passed in the Nov. 5 constitutional amendment election. The one that did not pass, and therefore not included in the proclamation, was Proposition 1, the proposed constitutional amendment allowing a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time.

Complete results of the election are available at sos.texas.gov and analyses of proposed constitutional amendments are available from the Legislative Research Library of Texas at lrl.texas.gov.

Data resource launches

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Nov. 29 announced an online resource to update the public on response efforts regarding the Nov. 27 TPC Group Plant Explosion in Port Neches.

More than 20 federal, state, county and local gov-

ernment entities worked together in response to the explosion that resulted in three injuries and the release of butadiene, a petrochemical used in the manufacture of tires. The EPA and the TCEQ continue to be focused on providing the assistance and coordination needed to address on-site and off-site environmental impacts.

The resource, called Story Map, can be accessed online via epa.gov and tceq.texas.gov. Response actions, maps and photos are featured.

Revenue total is higher

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Dec. 3 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.18 billion in November, 6.2 percent more than the amount reported in November 2018.

Hegar said growth was led by collections from the wholesale trade, construction and restaurant sectors, while collections from the oil and gas mining sector declined from last year. Also, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in November 2019 was up 4.8 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

The sales tax is the largest source of funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections.

Goal: Strengthen trade

Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs on Dec. 2 posted details about a recent cultural and economic trade mission to Japan hosted by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

Attending with Hughs

were Texas business and workforce development leaders. The group met with Nakayama Norihiro, Japan's parliamentary vice minister of foreign affairs, and representatives of Toyota Motor Corporation, Daiwa House Group, Omron Industrial Automation, Japanese External Trade Organization, Japanese Business Foundation and Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

"As one of the Lone Star State's largest trade partners, it is vital that we not only maintain, but continually strengthen our relationship with Japan," said Hughs, who serves as chief international protocol officer for Texas.

"By working collaboratively to promote opportunities for cultural exchange and economic growth, both Texas and Japan stand to mutually benefit," Hughs added.

Disaster hearings are set

The Texas General Land Office on Dec. 6 announced three regional public hearings on the state's plan for distributing some \$4.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds for Hurricane Harvey recovery purposes.

The hearings, which also will address flood disasters that occurred in 2015 and 2016, are set for Dec. 9 in Dallas, Dec. 10 in the Rio Grande Valley and Dec. 11 in Houston.

"Hurricane Harvey was a storm of historic proportions, with more than \$100 billion in property damage and immeasurable disruption to the lives of Texans," Land Commissioner George P. Bush said. "Many communities in Texas have faced repeated flooding, including the 2015 and 2016 floods. With this action plan, the GLO will prioritize large-scale projects to maximize available infrastructure funding to improve the resiliency of Texas homes, businesses and infrastructure from future storms."

The plan has been published for public comment on the GLO's recovery website at recovery.texas.gov/public-notices/index.html.

Abbott extends declaration

Gov. Abbott on Nov. 27 extended his Aug. 23, 2017, disaster proclamation and subsequent amendments to it, certifying that Hurricane Harvey still poses a threat of imminent disaster for 60 counties.

The proclamation states that due to catastrophic damage caused by the hurricane, a state of disaster continues to exist in those counties, and it authorizes use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster.



Meals for Two

If you still have kids at home or feed lots of people each day, you only dream of a time when you can make meals for just two. However, this isn't as easy as it seems. In fact, just

this weekend, Hadley was bemoaning how difficult it is to prepare food for one person. So, I thought my readers might appreciate a few recipes for one or two people.

Chicken Parm and Pasta Skillet

www.thekitchn.com

Ingredients

6 ounces rigatoni pasta
8 ounces frozen breaded chicken breast
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced, divided

1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes, drained
1 cup marinara sauce
1 cup shredded Italian cheese blend, divided
Small handful fresh basil leaves

Instructions

Arrange a rack in the top position of the oven and heat to broil. Bring a medium saucepan of salted water to a boil over medium-high heat. Add the pasta and cook until tender. Drain and set aside. Meanwhile, microwave the chicken according to package directions. When cool enough to handle, cut into large chunks. Heat the oil over medium heat in a me-

dium oven-safe frying pan or cast iron skillet until shimmering. Add half of the sliced garlic and cook 30 seconds. Add the chicken and cook, stirring occasionally, until crispy and golden-brown, about 2 minutes. Transfer the chicken and garlic to a plate. Add the drained tomatoes and remaining garlic to the skillet. Cook until the tomatoes have softened and most

of the liquid has evaporated, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in the pasta, marinara, and half the cheese. Stir until fully coated and the cheese has melted. Fold in the reserved chicken and garlic. Sprinkle with the remaining cheese. Broil until the cheese has melted and begins to just brown in spots, 1 to 2 minutes. Tear the basil leaves and sprinkle over the top. Serve immediately.

Creamy Chicken Alfredo Lasagna Roll-Ups

www.thekitchn.com

Ingredients

4 dry lasagna noodles
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus more for coating the baking dish
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 cup heavy cream
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 teaspoon lemon juice
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup cooked shredded chicken
1/2 cup loosely packed baby spinach leaves
3/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Instructions

Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat to 350°F. Lightly coat a 9x9-inch baking dish with butter; set aside. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the lasagna and cook according to package directions until al dente. Transfer to a clean towel and lay on a flat surface to dry and cool. Meanwhile, make the sauce: Melt the 2 tablespoons butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add the gar-

lic and sauté until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the cream, bring to a simmer, and cook, stirring frequently, until the sauce thickens slightly, about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and add the Parmesan, lemon juice, a big pinch of salt, and a few grinds of pepper. Whisk until smooth and set aside. Combine the chicken, spinach, 1/2 cup of the mozzarella, and 1 tablespoon of the sauce in a large bowl. Di-

vide the mixture among the lasagna noodles and spread into an even layer. Starting from a short end, roll up the noodles into a tight roll. Place the roll-ups seam-side down, side by side and touching in the baking dish. Pour the remaining sauce over the roll-ups and sprinkle the remaining 1/4 cup mozzarella over the top. Bake until heated through and the sauce is bubbling, 15 to 20 minutes.

Easy Minestrone

www.onedishkitchen.com

Ingredients

2 strips bacon
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire Sauce
1/2 cup canned red beans, rinsed and drained
1/2 cup canned diced tomatoes

3/4 cup frozen mixed vegetables
2 cups chicken broth
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/2 cup small shaped pasta

Instructions

Slice the bacon into 1/4-inch pieces and cook in a medium-sized pot over medium heat, stirring occasionally until bacon is crisp. Remove bacon from pot and place on a paper towel-lined plate. Add the chopped onions to the pot and cook 2-3 minutes until

translucent. Add the minced garlic and cook for 1 minute longer. Stir in the Worcestershire Sauce, the red beans, the diced tomatoes and the mixed vegetables. Stir for 1 minute. Add the chicken broth and stir in the cooked bacon. Season with salt and pepper and bring to a gentle

boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the pasta and cook on low heat until pasta is al dente, about 4 minutes. Pour into a bowl and serve.

You can use the extra beans and tomatoes for other recipes during the week.

2019 Friona Noon Lions Club Fundraiser

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Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Delfino Hernandez, Deceased, were issued on November 20, 2019, under Docket No. 3186, pending in the County Court of Parmer County, Texas, to Eddy Hernandez.

Claims may be presented in care of the Independent Executor for the estate, addressed as follows:

Estate of Delfino Hernandez, Deceased
c/o Eddy Hernandez, Independent Executor
201 E. 10th St., Friona, Texas 79035

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: November 20, 2019.

Eddy Hernandez

Friona ISD Announces Fiscal Accountability Rating

Friona Independent School District officials announced that the district received a rating of A for Superior Achievement under Texas' School FIRST financial accountability rating system. The rating system measures the quality of a school district's financial management and reporting system. This is the 17th year of School FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999 and amendments under House Bill 5, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013.

The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system. "The Schools FIRST accountability rating ensures that Texas school districts are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently," said Jimmy Burns, Friona ISD Superintendent. "The information provided by the Schools FIRST system will guide us in our continued efforts to maximize each taxpayer dollar." The Texas Education Agency assigned one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being "A" for "Superior Achievement," followed by "B" for "Above-Standard Achievement," "C" for "Standard Achievement" and "F" for "Substandard Achievement."



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Keyword: Friona ISD

NOW HIRING
The Farmwife Kitchen is looking to fill various positions including cook, order receiving, and delivery driver. Employment would be part-time and compensation would range from \$8-\$12 per hour. Hours of operation will be Tuesday-Friday for lunch and some evenings for special occasions. To apply, call 806-778-4652 or apply in person at 1505 W. 5th in Friona.

NOW HIRING
Friona ISD is looking for a substitute custodian that could possibly turn into full time. Hours are based on need each day. Interested applications may call Friona ISD 806-250-2747 or Martha Moreno 806-346-2091.
Friona ISD está buscando una persona de limpieza sustituto que posiblemente pueda convertirse en tiempo completo. Las horas se basan en la necesidad de cada día. Las personas interesadas pueden llamar a Friona ISD 806-250-2747 o Martha Moreno 806-346-2091.

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NEW: 3/2/2 Brick w/central heat & air, new roof, sunroom, cellar, fenced backyard **SOLD**

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Let's all help decorate each others'... **Newspaper Fun!** ...homes for the holidays this year! Kids: color stuff in!

Holiday Fun & Feasts

I have such a busy schedule for the holidays. This week I made little doughnuts and honey-covered puffs to take to my classmate's Hanukkah celebration. Next week, one of our teachers is going to tell us about the holiday season of Kwanzaa and some of his traditions. Then, I'm going to help Forest and Glade decorate their home with greens for Christmas. Chatter will bake cookies, breads and a Bûche de Noël – a delicious Christmas log cake – and I'll help! What are you and your family doing to celebrate the holidays?

Read the clues to fill in the crossword with holiday fun:

- Festival of Lights, an 8-day Jewish holiday, honoring the Maccabees' victory over their enemies and the miracle of a small amount of oil that kept burning for 8 days in their temple.
- Jewish families use this to arrange candles.
- Families find their recipes for sugared jelly doughnuts, honey-covered puffs and these delicious potato pancakes.
- Las _____ is a celebration in Mexico for 9 days before Christmas. People act out the journey of Joseph and Mary trying to find shelter.
- Families make these special treats from a corn dough and a spicy pork or beef filling, all wrapped in corn husks for cooking.
- Families set up these scenes in their homes: a stable for shelter, the figure of the Christ child in the center with Joseph and Mary looking on, three kings (the Magi), angels, shepherds and townspeople, and some animals.
- Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus.
- On Christmas Eve, _____ delivers gifts to good children; fills their stockings too!
- Families _____ their houses, mantels and halls with lights, greens and a tree.
- A 7-day festival celebrated by African-Americans; a time to think about their lives and families; how they can help to create strong communities.
- People decorate, set a nice table for a dinner, light _____ and give gifts.
- Peanut soup, sweet potatoes, rice or chicken dishes are made for a _____.

Decorative elements include a menorah, Santa Claus, a reindeer, and various holiday foods.

Favorite Family Films and Fun!

It's that time of year when there are many choices for family holiday fun and entertainment: movies, plays, television shows, cartoons, books, poetry, stories, and music. Here is a list of some family favorites. Match each title to its description:

- Lights: The Miracle of Chanukah**
- Just Enough is Plenty**
- The Legend of the Poinsettia**
- Miracle on 34th Street**
- The Nutcracker Ballet**
- A Charlie Brown Christmas**
- A Christmas Story**
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**
- 'Twas the Night Before Christmas**
- It's Kwanzaa Time!**

- folktale by Tomie dePaola about a girl in Mexico whose gift to Baby Jesus turns into beautiful poinsettias
- dance and musical performance based on storybook; music was written by a famous composer—Tchaikovsky; first shown in Russia
- money is tight for the family in this Hanukkah tale; but when a stranger visits they share what little they have
- movie that makes everyone want to write to Santa Claus
- cartoon that shows the story of Hanukkah (Chanukah) and the family traditions of this holiday
- story, song, TV show about reindeer whose bright red nose helps Santa find his way through bad weather to deliver gifts
- TV special based on the comic strip *Peanuts*; Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus and other characters talk about the meaning of Christmas
- poem by Clement Clarke Moore describing Santa Claus' trip to deliver gifts; "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"
- movie about 9-year-old Ralphie who can only think about the Red Ryder air rifle he wants for Christmas
- book by Linda and Clay Goss full of stories, songs, recipes, games and crafts for celebrating Kwanzaa

A Musical Note!

Holiday Pops! This is a concert of beautiful pieces of music like *The Nutcracker Suite* played during the holidays. Fun and sparkly musical pieces like *Oh, Chanukah, Oh, Chanukah!* or *Jingle Bells* will be enjoyed by the audience.

If you can hear the musical, magical sounds of the holidays in person, you may be at the...

Color Key:
B = blue
G = gold (or yellow)

Friona Junior High All-Region Results

On Tuesday, December 3rd, Mr. Rackley and Mr. Monk took 28 Friona Junior High students to Pampa to audition for the All-Region Bands. 11 of the kids made one of the bands and 1 made alternate.

These students will perform with their respective bands at WTAMU in Canyon on January 18, 2020. They kids worked extremely hard and Mr. Rackley and Mr. Monk are very proud of them. Here are the results:

- Symphonic Band**
- Valeria Corrales (8th grade)
6th chair Clarinet
 - Dieter Ally (8th grade)
3rd chair Alto Sax
 - Ramon Ortiz (8th grade)
2nd chair Trumpet
 - Jarrett White (8th grade)
6th chair Trumpet
 - Kitzy Welch (7th Grade)
6th chair French Horn
 - Ellie McEuen (8th grade)
8th chair French Horn
 - Reagan Daniels (8th grade)
4th chair Percussion
 - Jonathan Gonzalez (8th grade)
5th chair Percussion
- Concert Band**
- Elijah Thompson (8th grade)
8th chair Trumpet
 - Amy Montana (8th grade)
1st chair French Horn
 - Yvonne Legarreta (8th grade)
3rd chair Percussion
 - Andres Pinon (8th grade)
Trumpet Alternate

Friona ISD Notice of Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held during the Friona ISD Board Meeting on Monday, December 16, 2019, at 7 p.m.

The purpose of this part of the board meeting will be to discuss Friona ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

2019 NTSA Modeling & Simulation Award Winners



The L3Harris MQ-9 Mission Training System team displayed engineering and procurement excellence by rapidly developing highly sophisticated training capabilities to dramatically improve the efficiency and effectiveness of MQ-9 aircrew training. Receiving the award on behalf of L3Harris from left to right are: Paul Meserole (Sr. Architect), Elaine White Harmon (Sr. Program Manager), and Matt Martin (Sr. Business Manager). Elaine is the daughter of Teddy and Sharon White.

USDA Opens Signup for Conservation Reserve Program

USDA opened signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on December 9, 2019. The deadline for agricultural producers to sign up for general CRP is February 28, 2020, while signup for continuous CRP is ongoing.

Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive a yearly rental payment for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands.

CRP has 22 million acres enrolled, but the 2018 Farm Bill lifted the cap to 27 million acres. This means farmers and ranchers have a chance to enroll in CRP for the first time or continue their participation for another term.

By enrolling in CRP, producers are improving water quality, reducing soil erosion, and restoring habitat for wildlife. This in turn spurs hunting, fishing, recreation, tourism, and other economic development across rural America.

CRP Enrollment Options

General Signup

CRP general signup will be held annually. The competitive general signup will now include increased opportunities for enrollment of wildlife habitat through the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.

Continuous Signup

While some practices under SAFE will remain available through continuous signup, CRP continuous signup will focus primarily on water quality with the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative. The 2018 Farm Bill prioritizes water quality practices such as contour grass strips, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetlands and a new prairie strip.

USDA will also be working with Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) partners to relaunch CREP continuous options in each state under new statutory provisions. CREP will continue to target high-priority local, state or regional conservation concerns.

Grasslands Signups

CRP Grasslands signup helps landowners

and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. A separate CRP Grasslands signup will be offered each year following general signup.

Pilot Programs

Later in 2020, (FSA will roll out pilot programs within CRP: CLEAR 30, which allows contracts expiring with CLEAR practices to be reenrolled in 30-year contracts and in the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) in the prairie pothole region. More information on these programs will be announced in the new year.

Land Transition

The CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) is an option for producers interested in transitioning land to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants may have a lease less than five years with an option to purchase, and they have two years before the end of the CRP contract to make conservation and land improvements.

Previously Expired Land

Land enrolled in CRP under a 15-year contract that expired in September 2017, 2018 or 2019, may be eligible for enrollment if there was no opportunity for re-enrollment and the practice under the expired contract has been maintained.

CRP Rates and Payments

FSA recently posted updated soil rental rates for CRP. County average rates are posted on the CRP Statistics webpage. Soil rental rates are statutorily prorated at 90 percent for continuous signup and 85 percent for general signup. The rental rates will be assessed annually. Under continuous signup, producers also receive incentives, including a signup incentive payment and a practice incentive payment.

To enroll in CRP, contact the Parmer County FSA office at (806) 481-3311 or visit fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Texas Mutual distributes \$1.1M in grants for workforce development initiatives

Grants to strengthen future workforce and Texas' economy

AUSTIN, Texas--Texas Mutual Insurance Company, the state's leading provider of workers' compensation, has distributed \$1.1 million in grants to 16 organizations across the state to fund workforce development programs. Part of Texas Mutual's mission is to support workforce development and job-skill training. The company selected strategic partners that deliver impactful workforce development initiatives benefitting the state's workforce and their local community.

"The Texas workforce is one of the strongest in the country, and investments like these grants from Texas Mutual make that possible," said Julian Alvarez III, Texas Workforce Commission Commissioner of Labor. "By providing funds to

organizations committed to workforce development and economic expansion, Texas Mutual is ensuring that job seekers across the state will have increased job opportunities and access to critical safety training."

Texas Mutual completed distribution of the grants in December 2019. The grants will directly support workforce development initiatives designed to strengthen job-skill training, influence state-wide change and empower community collaboration. The organizations include: Adaptive Construction Solutions in Houston; Advance Together, a program of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (statewide); Bryan Independent School District (ISD), Career & Technical Education Complex; Conroe ISD; Educate Texas (statewide); El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence; Laredo College; Laredo ISD; Lubbock Economic Development Alliance; RGV Focus in the Rio Grande Valley; SA Works in San Antonio; Texans Can Academies in Dallas; Texas Restaurant Association Education Foundation (statewide); TRIO Electric in Houston; The Wilkinson Center in Dallas; and Workforce Solutions Capital Area in Austin.

Programs funded at these organizations will offer pathways to in-demand careers and ensure employees have the skills needed for a changing workforce. Texas Mutual has collaborated with each organization to ensure that funding is tailored to the

workforce need in their specific region.

"Texas Mutual's strategic partnerships with these organizations represent our commitment to promoting job creation in the Lone Star State," said Rich Gergasko, president and CEO of Texas Mutual. "When current and potential employees have access to safety training, the ability to develop new job skills and increased health and safety awareness, workplaces--and the overall Texas workforce--are stronger and safer."

This \$1.1 million distribution is in addition to Texas Mutual's other workforce development initiatives in 2019 including \$1.1 million in college safety grants awarded to 11 colleges, \$1.5 million in policyholder safety grants and more. For more information about how Texas Mutual is supporting local communities and workforce development throughout the state, visit texasmutual.com/community.

About Texas Mutual Insurance Company
Austin-based Texas Mutual Insurance Company, a policyholder-owned company, is the state's leading provider of workers' compensation insurance. Texas Mutual provides coverage to 43 percent of the market, representing 70,000 companies, many of which are small businesses. Since 1991, the company has provided a stable, competitively priced source of workers' comp insurance for Texas employers. Helping employers prevent workplace accidents is an important part of Texas Mutual's mission.

Storage idea of the month...

Store your Christmas stuff with us!!

806-250-2734

When the season is gone, don't put all the decorations, (the tree, the lights, the angels -- even Santa) in the attic or closet!
The solution...rent a 5 FT x 10 FT unit that's dust and climate controlled.
In fact - there's probably enough room in a 10x10 for 4 families to share a unit!!



Call today at
806-250-2734
or my cell
806-265-7923
to reserve
your unit.

Think about it -- No ladders to climb into the attic!! Yes!!

EVERYBODY -- MERRY CHRISTmas! and Thanks to all my customers.



806-250-2734
1015 W. 11th

Holiday Fun and Feasts

Dear Santa. I've been good all year long!

Favorite Family Films and Fun!

1. Lights: The Miracle of Chanukah
2. Just Enough is Plenty
3. The Legend of the Poinsettia
4. Miracle on 34th Street
5. The Nutcracker Ballet
6. A Charlie Brown Christmas
7. A Christmas Story
8. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
9. 'Twas the Night Before Christmas
10. It's Kwanzaa Time!

A. a folktale
B. a dance/musical
C. Hanukkah tale
D. a movie
E. cartoon
F. a story/song/show
G. television special
H. poem
I. movie
J. book

S Y M P H O N Y

If you can hear the musical, magical sounds of the holidays in person, you may be at the:



Mighty Writers

Fictional Mariela Soto
5th Grade 1st Place

My new dog

So I was walking back from my school and I arrived home to find this HUGE box I almost tripped on it like "oh, oh, my mom came out from the kitchen and said to me "Open the box if came in while you were at school" but while she said all that I was there dancing like oh uh ya... So I opened the box and I found a... a... a... DOG and it was a... a... a... HUSKY again I was dancing like "up I got a dog hmmm yasss!" I took the dog out the box and I called it "Peppa" I said "Sup dog your new name is hmm Peppa ya it's a good name" and when I finished what I said it seemed like it understood me! Again my mom said "Go do your homework" and my smile went up to down... I walked so sad and slow to the table with Peppa and I was too lazy to even do my homework so I said this as a joke "Peppa can you do my homework and he did it! Wub! I am amazed! I had to check a calculator to see if it was right (Ps. Mom don't worry I don't use a calculator for homework). I couldn't believe my eyes but I still did when my mom saw I was done she told me to clean CAN YOU BELIEVE HER she wants to kill me so I did half of the cleaning but I got tired so again I told Peppa "Peppa can you finish cleaning" and "Zoop loop oop" it was done. We both got tired really quick so we decided that it will be best if we sleep. I walked tiredly to my room and so did Peppa. We both jumped on the bed and fell asleep. But I woke up to go get water and I find Peppa floating! I was scared so I grabbed my saddle to get ready to attack it! I looked closely and saw that it was Peppa. So I put my saddle down and went to go get my drink and fell asleep.

The End

Johnny Ha Garcia Kindergarten 1st Place

Gloria is mad at Officer Buckle because he got her into trouble with Mighty Writers.

Gloria esta enojado con Officer Buckle por que lo regaño en Mighty Writers.

Carliena Padilla 3rd Grade 1st Place

Safety Tips

One day I was thinking of a safety tip when I was walking I slipped on a pile of m-pooze. Then it came to me safety tip: always close a manaz-jar. The next morning I went walking then I crashed safety tip: always look where your going.

Sophie Lewellen 2nd Grade 1st Place

The Day of No Laws

One day, I was going to the store and my mom went super fast in the car. I said, "Mom your going to fast it's not safe!" She looked at me. Then when we got home my dad was saying he wanted this book but did not want to buy it so he was going to steal it! I said "that's against the laws!" He said "There are no laws here." "wait what?" I said but he was going. My sister said, "that same thing!" I said, "why?" She said "because I want to be like dad!" I went to my room and texted my friend and told her. She said, "really that's true." I said, "what the heck why?" I said "maybe going to bed will help." but it was three o'clock! Finally it was time for dinner and a time for bed. We ate pasta and green beans yum! Then I brushed my teeth and went to bed and said "tomorrow will a better day." It was every thing was normal when I said, "this is way better!" But why did it happen I don't know but it's done now.

4th Grade 1st Place

October 10-119

Dear Mrs. Jeter,

I want to tell you something that's maybe going to explode you like kaboom! So are you ready? I think one of our rules should be erased from the rules. I think we should have snacks, because the teachers say that if we eat, it helps our brain to think. So like we could bring snacks like cookies, grapes, chips, popcorn, and crackers. I want you to erase that off like in the 150s. Can you please do that? If not, I will send a letter to your mom to tell her that it's not fair because they use to eat snacks during class. We won't eat at the science lab. So you better get movin and take off that rule. Thank you! You better do it like I told you today.

LOVE,
Jasithyd Munoz

If you swing in the park and you swing super high you will get in the tree and you will scream for help. You call a teacher to help, she will take you to the nurse.

Dominick Rocha
Pre-K 1st Place

Giovani Gonzalez 1st Grade 1st Place

Dear officer Buckle,

I was in the cafutewy. I fell cuse Ther was water come to the school please and my teacher fell on her face and my Teacher on a swivolt chair and lots of chairs came and The chairs hit a boys on Aher face your friend Giovani

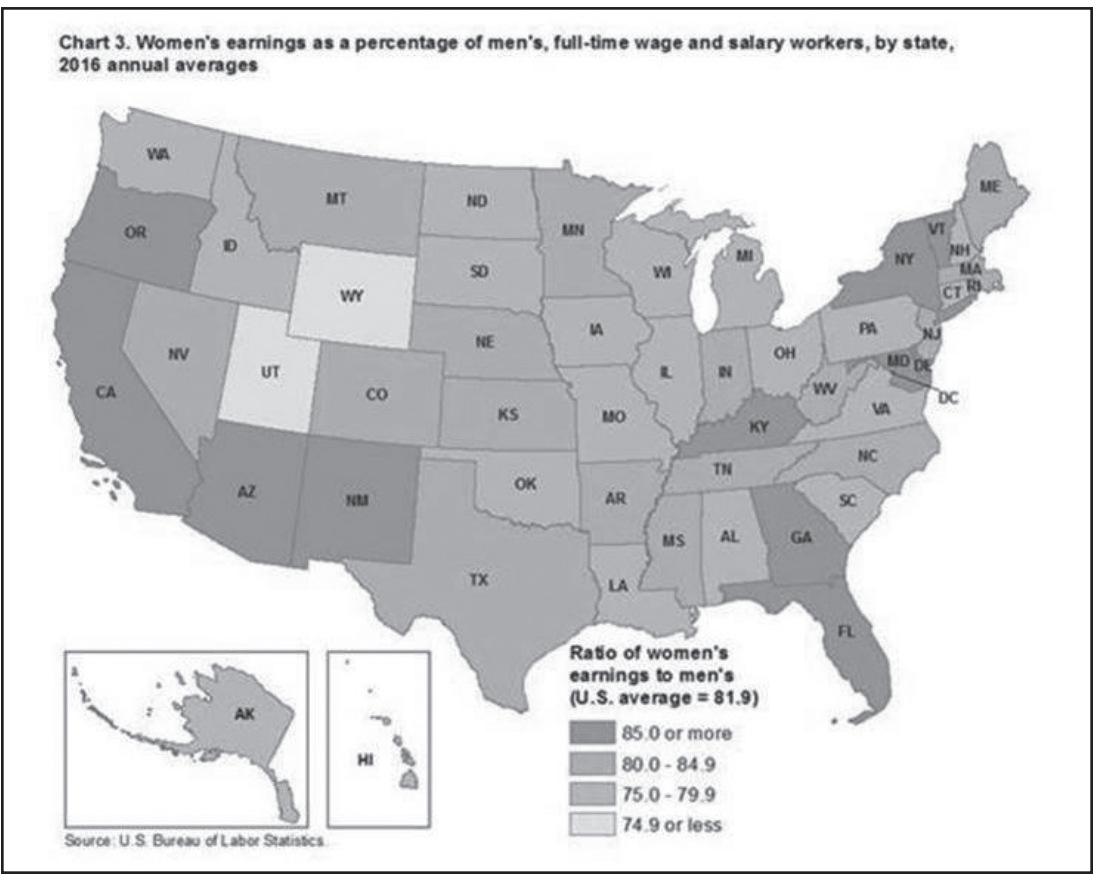
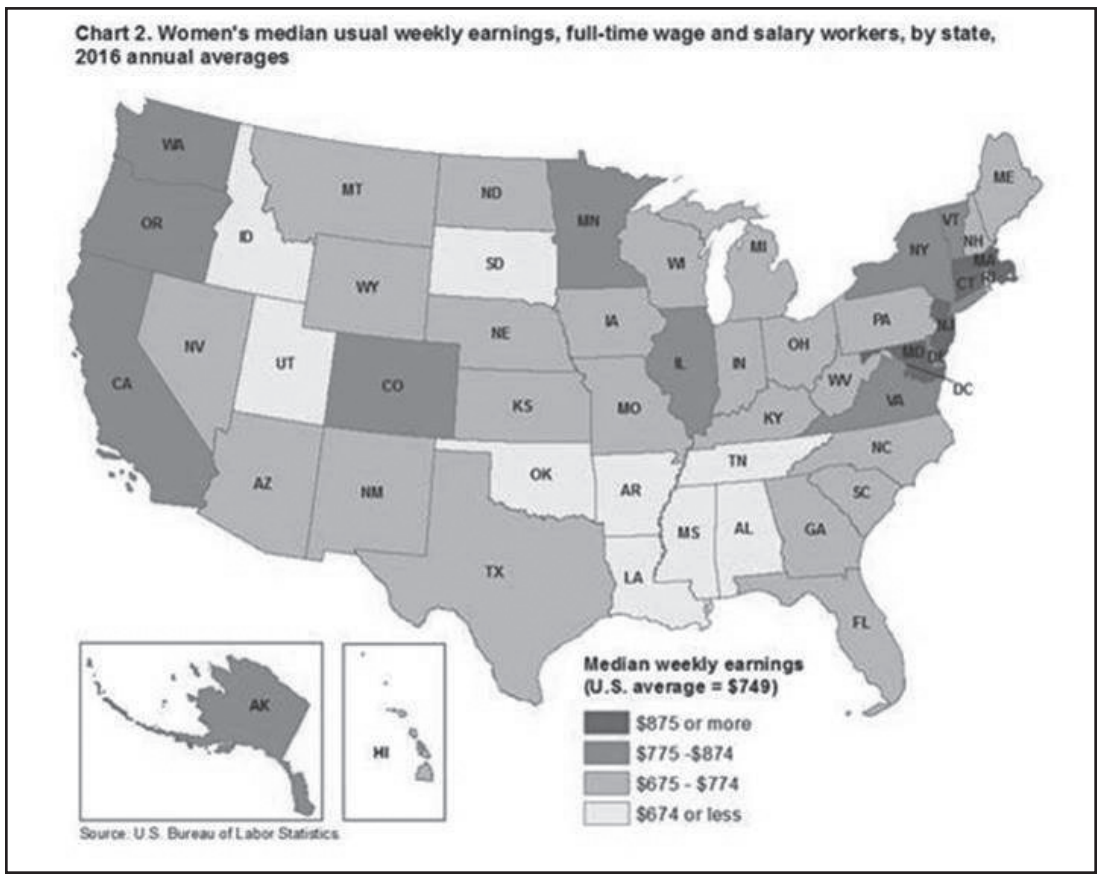
Women's Earnings in Texas - 2018

The Southwest Information Office of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics today released Women's Earnings in Texas - 2018. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted the following points of interest regarding the release:

- Texas women who were full-time wage and salary workers had median usual weekly earnings of \$739 or 80.5 percent of the \$918 median usual weekly earnings of their male counterparts in 2018.
- Although fluctuating from 1997 to 2010, the Texas ratio of women's-to-men's earnings generally trended upward, reaching a series high of 85.6 percent in 2010. The

ratio fell in each year from 2011 to 2013, and during the past five years, has ranged from 79.1 to 82.2. (See chart 1. Data for the states began in 1997.)

- Nationally, women earned \$789 per week or 81.1 percent of the \$973 median for men.
- Among the 50 states, median weekly earnings of women in full-time wage and salary positions in 2018 ranged from \$637 in Mississippi to \$995 in Massachusetts. (See chart 2.)
- The 2018 ratio of female to male full-time median weekly earnings ranged from a high of 88.3 percent in California to a low of 67.8 percent in Wyoming. (See chart 3.)





OBITUARIES



Charlene Beatrice Walker Harper

Charlene Beatrice Walker Harper, age 90, passed away December 5, 2019 in Portland, Oregon.

Celebration of Life Services will be held at 10:00 a.m., December 16, 2019 in Friona, Texas at the Friona Cemetery Memorial Chapel with Rev. Skip Hodges, officiating. Internment following in the Friona Cemetery by HANSARD FAMILY Funeral Home of Friona.



Charlene was born October 25, 1929 in Hereford, Texas into a farming family. She was the daughter of Lowery and Jewell Walker and the oldest of five children. She was educated in Hereford and graduated from high school in 1946. She met her future husband, Clifton Lowell Harper, when she was 14 and he was 16. They met at a community chicken fry gathering and were engaged one year later. They married June 8, 1946 at her parents' home in Summerfield, Texas.

Clifton passed away August 28, 2007 after the couple had celebrated 61 happy years together. In their early years, Charlene supported and assisted Clifton in farming in Parmer, Reeves and Deaf Smith counties in Texas, ranching in Hartsel, Colorado and custom harvesting, cutting fields for farmers every season from south Texas up the grain belt to Wyoming, along with raising four children.

In 1970, Charlene began working as a bookkeeper at Friona State Bank. While working at the bank, she joined the National Association of Banking Women and attended night school to earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Banking, graduating Summa Cum Laude from Eastern New Mexico University.

She retired after 25 years as the bank's first woman Vice President. Following Charlene's retirement, the couple

moved to Van Alstyne, Texas. There, Charlene earned a Master Gardener's certificate, became active in the Van Alstyne United Methodist Church, the Van Alstyne Quilters Guild, and was accepted as a Daughter of the American Revolution. Five years after Clifton's death, Charlene moved to Portland, Oregon, where she lived with one of her daughters and sons-in-law and transferred her church membership to Fremont United Methodist Church in Portland. During her life, she had many interests and hobbies which included: genealogical research, quilting, knitting, gardening, painting, embroidery, reading, and Bible study. Charlene loved her family and took pride in their large holiday gatherings where everyone raved over her amazing fried

okra, cornbread dressing and homemade cinnamon rolls.

Charlene is survived by her sons, C. David Harper of Dallas and Lowery Harper of San Antonio and their wives Carole and Rhonda; daughters, Donna Doebbler of Houston and C. Darlene Harper and her husband, Joe Meissner of Portland, Oregon; sister, Carolyn McNeil of Pecos, Texas; sisters-in-law, Sandra McIntyre of Bayfield, Colorado and Virgie Walker of Antelope, California; eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Charlene was preceded in death by her husband, Clifton Lowell Harper; parents, Lowery and Jewell Walker; sister, Wanda Pegram; brothers, Wayne and Norman Walker; and son-in-law, Fred Doebbler.

Charlene was much loved by her many friends and family and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. May she forever rest in peace. You may send condolences to the family and sign the online register book at www.hansardfamily.com



Ileta Uldene Bomar Grimsley

Ileta Uldene Bomar Grimsley, age 88, passed away Sunday, December 8, 2019, at Parmer Medical Center in Friona. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held at 1:30 P.M. Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at Sixth Street Church of Christ in Friona, with Jeff Proctor, minister, officiating. Arrangements by HANSARD FAMILY Funeral Home of Friona.



Uldene was born on December 22, 1930, in Clovis, New Mexico, to James Herbert and Esther May Bomar. An only child, Uldene spent her childhood in the small general mercantile store operated by her parents. In her early years the family lived in the community of Maple, and she grew up with many of her cousins filling in as surrogate siblings and playmates. The business then relocated to Lubbock for two years, before finally moving to the town of Springlake where her mother continued operating a small grocery store for many more years. Uldene was a 1948 graduate of Springlake High School

and was married to her husband, David, that same year. They made their home and farmed outside of Olton before moving to Friona in 1959.

She was a member of the Sixth Street Church of Christ, where she taught bible class for many years. She also volunteered delivering Meals on Wheels in Friona. Until her later years, she spent countless hours working in her yard and truly enjoyed her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, James "Jimmy" Grimsley, and a great-granddaughter Sayge Caroline

Massie. Uldene is survived by her husband of 71 years, David; her son Jayson, and wife Jyl, of Friona; seven grandchildren: Holly Davila, of Lubbock, Poppy (Rob) Stokes of McKinney, Kyle (Kiley) Grimsley, of Dalhart, Justin (Julie) Grimsley of Benbrook, Jena (Shawn) Massie, of Lubbock, Jacy Weatherly, of Friona, and Cody (Erin) Grimsley, of Friona; and 15 great-grandchildren.

The family would like to say a special thank you to the doctors, nurses, attendants and staff who have so graciously attended to our mother and grandmother during the last months and days of her life. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent to: Parmer Medical Center 1307 Cleveland Friona, Texas 79035 you may send condolences to the family and sign the online register book at www.hansardfamily.com



UIL State Second Runner-Up Robotics BEST Division Group 1
Lazbuddie Robotics Team



Opportunities to give

Empty Stocking Fund

Donations are being accepted for the Empty Stocking Fund which provides clothing and a toy to local needy children. School officials are consulted to determine the recipients. Donations may be made at Friona InterBank or given to project co-chairs Holly Campbell or Jyl Grimsley.

Project Christmas Card

The Parmer County Hospital Auxiliary is accepting donations for its 2019 Project Christmas Card. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser will be used by the Auxiliary to purchase a Pulse Oximeter and Spirometer for Parmer Medical Center. Project Christmas Card began years ago by encouraging people to donate the money they would usually spend on Christmas cards to the hospital fund instead. That idea continues today by asking citizens to set aside a percentage of their Christmas budget for Project Christmas Card. Project baskets and canisters have been placed around town in various businesses for the collection of donations. The names of donors will be included in a special Christmas Greeting in the December 19th edition of the Friona Star. Please make sure you put your name with all (even cash) donations. The deadline for donations is Saturday, December 14th. You can contact Connie Neelley at (806) 250-2542 for more information.

Adopt a Resident for Christmas

The "Prairie Acres" Adopt a Resident for Christmas* Program is underway. The list is ready, so please contact Elizabeth or Yvette at 806-250-3922. The residents really appreciate the kindness our community shows them. The staff at Prairie Acres would like to say thanks in advance for your support. The Christmas party is December 10.

Ho! Ho! Home for the Holidays

The Friona Chamber of Commerce is once again hosting Ho! Ho! Home for the Holidays! All you have to do is shop locally and sign up to win \$25 in Friona Bucks at local businesses. The event ends on Thursday, December 19th and there will be a drawing for winners at each participating business. There will also be a grand prize of \$100 in Friona Bucks.

Participating businesses include A-1 Service Center, Bi-Wize Pharmacy, Blackburn Hardware, Creative Chaos, H&R Block, Human's Restaurant, Ivy Cottage, Kendrick Oil/Farm Store, Joe's Restaurant, Lowes Supermarket, Malou's Fabrics, Milk House Market, The Nutrition Spot, and Veterinary Industries.



INVITATION TO BID

The City of Friona is accepting competitive bids from qualified contractors for 2 projects:

- Heating & Air /Replacement Project
- Roof Repair/Replacement Project

for Friona Community Center located at 601 W 15TH Street, Friona, Texas 79035. Sealed bids will be accepted by Leander Davila, City Manager, until 10:00 a.m., December 20, 2019. Bids received after 10:00am, December 20, 2019 WILL NOT be opened or accepted. All accepted bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at Friona City Council Chambers, 619 Main Street, Friona, Texas 79035. Individual bids for each project can be submitted or you can choose to submit 1 combined bid for both projects.

Bid proposals will be considered at the January 13, 2020 Friona City Council Meeting. Criteria for selection/acceptance of bids will include the following: experience, cost, reliability, project timeline and references. For specifications on the scope of work, please contact City of Friona Public Works Director Salvador Garcia during regular business hours at (806) 346-2673 or email: pwdirector@frionatx.us.

Bids may be delivered as follows:
Hand Delivered, Mailed, Express Delivery
ACCEPTED until 10:00 AM - DECEMBER 20, 2019

City of Friona
623 Main Street
Friona, Texas 79035
Attention: Leander Davila

The Friona Community Center will be open to contractors to view from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on December 10th, 11th, and 12th. All other visits to the Friona Community Center can be scheduled by calling Friona City Hall at (806) 250-2761.

City of Friona reserves the right to waive any formalities or to reject any or all bids. No bid proposals may be withdrawn until the expiration of 60 days from the date bid proposals are opened and read.

Prairie Acres Christmas 2019



Proudly serving Friona and Parmer County

Culligan Water

of Plainview

Culligan of Plainview
 Jason Stehlik
 3408 Olton Rd.
 Plainview, TX 79072

Phone: 806-293-9283
 Fax: 806-213-0083
 Email: jason.stehlik@ultrapure.com
 Website: culliganplainview.com

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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