



17th Annual Cheeseburger Festival & Cookoff

Saturday, July 15th

Friona Community Center & Reeve Lake Park

Admission is Free

\$10 wristband buys a burger, chips, & frisbee

Cookoff winners announced at 3:00 p.m.

Vendor, Food/Drink Trucks, Kids Activities

Fun for the entire family!!!

Council has varied agenda

The Friona City Council met in regular session on Monday July 10, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 617 Main in Friona, Texas. The meeting began with roll call, an invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

A public hearing to receive comments regarding the 2022 drinking water report was held. There were no comments concerning the report.

The Minutes of the June 12, 2023 regular meeting were reviewed and approved.

A representative from Hi-Plains Civil Engineers informed council members of a new lead analysis mandate for city water lines from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). Legislation is still on the drawing board but some sort of requirement to replace old water lines is inevitable.

Consideration of a 380 Agreement to deed the old 4-Way Pump property to the Llano Group for commercial development was discussed. Negotiations are ongoing including site evaluation and contract details. No action was taken.

A request from Happy Tribe Academy for financial assistance not to exceed \$37,581.00 was approved. The funding will be in the form of a 5-year forgivable loan and will be used in part to purchase playground equipment and signage.

A request from Franklin Baker (Mexi-Q Restaurant) for financial assistance not to exceed \$1,440.73 was approved. The funding will be in the form of a 12-month forgivable loan to be used to purchase restaurant supplies.

A motion to designate officials to act on behalf of the city in applying for a 2024-25 Texas Parks & Wildlife grant was approved. Funds would be used to build a splash pad near the current city pool. Expected cost would be \$298,000 with the city being responsible for half of the cost.

A motion was approved to change all the positions on the Planning & Zoning Commission to 2-year terms with all terms to begin on January 1st following each election. Places on the commission would still be staggered so all members would not be up for election in the same year. Members currently serve 2-year terms but some serve January-December while others serve July-June.

A carport variance request by Sergio Mendez at 307 Grand Street was approved.

In other business, the accounts payable for June 2023 were approved as well as the financial statement for June 2023. The 3rd quarter (April-June) financial statement was also approved.

All meetings are open to the public. Information in this article is only a summary.



FCCLA National Champions










In the photo (l-r) — Janessa García, Gael García, FCCLA Advisor Erin Barnett, and Fabian Salinas. Janessa, Gael, and Fabian won 1st in the “National Programs in Action” level 3 event at the National FCCLA Conference in Denver, Colorado last week. They are the champions! See story on back page.



At Cheer Camp last week on the Texas Tech campus, the FHS Cheerleader squad won Overall Game Day Champion, Most Traditional School, Overall Most Improved, Best Dressed Mascot, and 3rd Place Cheer. Also, Amy Montana was named All American Cheerleader and won the Pin it Forward Award for leadership and kindness. Congratulations! In the photo — Back Row (l-r) Amy Montana, Mercedes Espinoza, Kitzy Welch, Nadia Snyder, Yaselene Faudoa. Front Row (l-r) Yeslie Faudoa, Jaquelyn Salinas, Aubree Salas, Yvonne Legarreta, Anaesha Carranza, Shelby Lewellen.

	Town Talk Page 3	Church Page Page 5	Classified Page 7	SDW Page 8	Girls State Page 11	
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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	T 	F 	S 	S 	M 	T 	W 	Precipitation	Burn Ban
July 13-19	97 71 S 10-15	99 66 S 10-15	93 64 ESE 10-15	91 66 SE 10-15	97 70 SSW 10-20	101 71 SSW 15-25	101 70 S 10-20	July 2.05 Year 14.12	No

Community Calendar

Send Calendar information to:
frionastar@wtrt.net or call (806) 250-5200

July 13
• Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center

July 15
• Cheeseburger Festival & Cook-off at Reeve Lake
• Library Book Shop at 618 Euclid is open from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

July 17
• Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center
• Friona Noon Lions Club meeting at The Farmwife Kitchen

July 19
• Library Book Shop at 618 Euclid is open from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

July 20
• Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center

July 24
• Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center
• Kidz Building Camp begins at 6:00 p.m. at Boy Scout Hut

ON YOUR PAYROLL

U.S. Government



President: Joseph R. Biden, 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: Kevin Sparks, P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, Tx 78711. 512-463-0131. Amarillo office: Historic Federal Building, 620 S. Taylor St., Suite 203, Amarillo, TX, 79101.



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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Production Editor/IT
Evelyn Romero
Accounting

Deadlines

News articles and photos are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Deadlines may be altered for holidays or special issues.

Advertising

Open Display rates and Classified Ads are \$5.00 per column inch. Thank You Notes are \$15 each. Wedding, anniversary, graduation and birth announcements are \$15 each. Obituaries are published at no charge. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

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Mayor's Minutes

By Greg Lewellen



The month of July is a busy month for the Biggest Small Town in Texas. This week is Cheeseburger Week, with events every day leading up to Saturday's 17th Annual Cheeseburger Festival & Cook-off. The festival has ten teams competing for a \$1,000 top prize, burgers start serving at 11:30 am until 2:30 pm at Reeve's Lake Park. The City of Friona staff and the Chamber of Commerce have put in many hours in preparation for this week, and it will be the best year ever!

This week is also the start of Summer Drama Workshop, a community tradition for the past 54 years presented by the Friona Fine Arts Council. Community performances for the productions will be on Friday evening the 21st beginning at 6:30 with Junior High, followed by the High School production. The Elementary performance will be on Saturday the 22nd beginning at 3pm.

Following Summer Drama Workshop, Friona Kidz Building Camp begins Monday, July 24th through July 28th. This year's theme is Safari, and if you are interested in volunteering to help with the camp, contact Emma at the

Chamber Office.

Finally, on Saturday, July 29th, Friona First Responders will host a Mass Casualty Incident Training involving an active shooter scenario at the Friona Junior High campus. Friona EMT Sara Long is coordinating the event this year, and if you are interested in volunteering as part of the scenario, you can sign up online at the City of Friona's website. Members of emergency departments from surrounding communities will be attending as part of a larger initiative to improve coordination and management of emergency situations.

Our budget spotlight this month is the Friona EMS department. EMS is currently budgeted at \$677,777 for the year, representing 14% of the overall city budget. The department is headed by Director Nick Baucom, and has four paramedics, three advanced EMTs, four EMTs and five drivers. The City began a driver's program in 2021 after the state allowed smaller EMS departments to use non-medical certified employees as ambulance drivers, to help with staffing issues. The driver program has helped as a starting point for many drivers

to further their education in the EMT field. The EMS currently operates three ambulances and responds to calls and transfers throughout Parmer County and will make transfers for

the surrounding counties when needed. Most of the EMS budget, 83%, is used for salary to maintain full and part-time staff on call 24 hours per day, 365 days per week.

City of Friona
By the Numbers
June 2023

Public Library
21 days open
1,023 e-visits
1,193 in-house visits
21 new patrons
1,104 items circulated
206 new items added
Book Shop open 5 times
\$46.00 in sales

Police Department
180 calls
3 arrests
25 citations
55 warnings
80 stops
2,029 miles driven

EMS
8 transports (911)
8 Prairie Acres (911)
23 transfers
6 non-transports (911)
0 no patient or disregard
0 standby
45 total service calls

Volunteer Fire Department
June 23 Fire - sent 4 trucks, 8 firefighters
June 25 Fire - sent 1 truck, 9 firefighters
June 30 Wreck - sent 3 trucks, 8 firefighters
June 30 Wreck - sent 2 trucks, 6 firefighters



Area 1 officers get ready for the opening session of the 95th Texas FFA State Convention in Dallas. Friona FFA Chapter President Dieter Ally will serve as Area 1 Treasurer for the 2023-2024 school year. The convention runs July 10th through 14th.

ACROSS

- 1 TX golfer Nelson book: "___ Played the Game"
- 5 longtime U.S. representative Teague
- 6 TX-born Robin Wright's husband actor, Sean
- 7 TXism: "too lazy ___ swat flies"
- 8 Congress voted to admit Texas as a state in this mo.
- 9 TXism: "give me some ___ room"
- 14 TXism: "a sight for ___ eyes"
- 15 he coached for the Longhorns, Oilers, & Cowboys (2 wds.)
- 19 what TX "Spanky" wrote on the flying red horse atop Dallas' Magnolia Bldg. (2 wds.)
- 21 a legal right
- 22 Brady hosted the "___ the Cactus Shoot"
- 27 TXism: "mobile mouse ___" (cat)
- 28 country ballad: "___ on My Mind"
- 29 a gazed state
- 30 takes gas with a hose
- 32 ___-con (now free)
- 33 TXism: "about as clear as Red ___" (confusing)
- 36 TXism: "fast as ___ up a rafter"

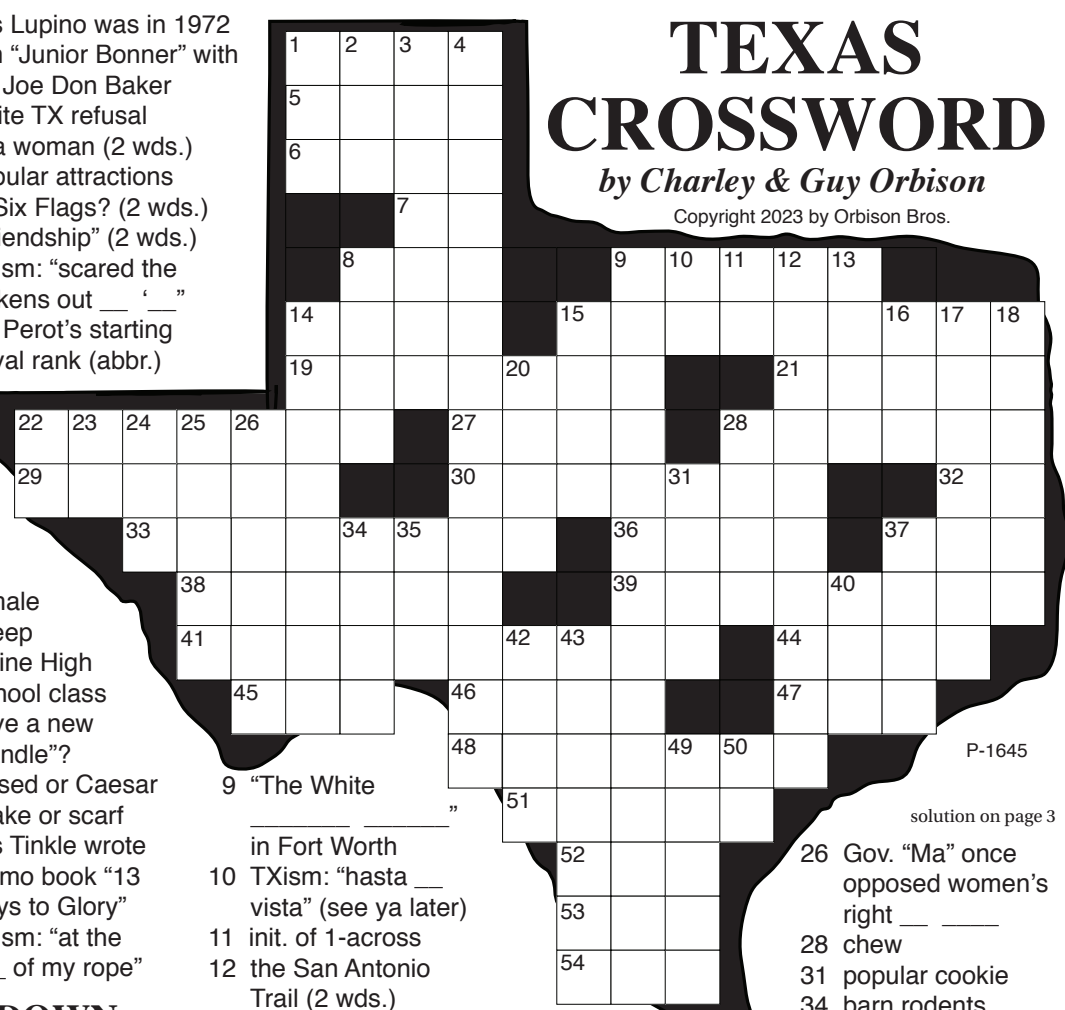
- 37 this Lupino was in 1972 film "Junior Bonner" with TX Joe Don Baker
- 38 polite TX refusal to a woman (2 wds.)
- 39 popular attractions at Six Flags? (2 wds.)
- 41 "Friendship" (2 wds.)
- 44 TXism: "scared the dickens out ___"
- 45 TX Perot's starting naval rank (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 "___ to it!"
- 2 Grand ___ Opry
- 3 in Runnels County on U.S. 83
- 4 book about murder in Commerce: "The Last ___"
- 8 TXism: "it'll ___ a pinch"
- 9 "The White ___ in Fort Worth"
- 10 TXism: "hasta ___ vista" (see ya later)
- 11 init. of 1-across
- 12 the San Antonio Trail (2 wds.)
- 13 TXism: "___ to a frazzle" (tired)
- 14 with "long," Houston dock worker
- 15 TXism: "do I have to draw you ___?"
- 16 counterterrorism "war" abb.
- 17 the hens won't lay 'cause the dog "___ ' ___ up"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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solution on page 3

- 18 historic area: "Coahuila ___" (or "Tejas")
- 20 west Texas climate
- 22 Sinatra in "Four for Texas" (init.)
- 23 TX actor Rip (init.)
- 24 Austin: "War is ___ only resource"
- 25 whirls around
- 26 Gov. "Ma" once opposed women's right ___
- 28 chew
- 31 popular cookie
- 34 barn rodents
- 35 TX Ella ___ Morse's "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- 37 TXism: "neon light ___" (inspiration)
- 40 TXism: "___ hog had wings he'd be an eagle"
- 42 is in debt
- 43 defensible
- 49 "___ Pa Kettle"
- 50 actor Asner

COURTHOUSE NOTES

Susie Spring, County Clerk

Warranty Deeds recorded at the Parmer County Clerk's Office from June 29, 2023 to July 6, 2023

(6/29/23) Jennifer Garza — Triple J Rentals LLC — Portion of Lots 16-20, Block 75, South of Highway 86 right-of-way and a part of Lot 15, Block 75, all located in the Original Town of Bovina, Parmer County, Texas

(7/3/23) Debra Lea Jennings — James Jennings — The East 1/2 of the Southeast Quarter of Section 33, Doud and Keefer Subdivision, League No. 567, State Abstract No. 127, Parmer County, Texas

(7/5/23) David B. Conner — Weston Allen Wyly, Courtney Nicole Wyly — The South 80 Acres out of the Southeast 160 Acres of Section 31, Township 2 North, Range 3 East, of a Capitol Syndicate Subdivision of Parmer County, Texas

(7/5/23) Barbara Braham Sanborn, Ranza B. Bogges — Robert Clinton Hurst, Shannon Hurst — A Tract of Land in the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Block A, Rhea Brothers Subdivision, Parmer County, Texas

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Reported by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office:
Eric Geske, Sheriff

(7/12/23) Omar Martinez, 44, of Friona was arrested by the Friona Police Department on a charge of Public Intoxication.

Come have Fun with us at Malouf's Fabric

These are the classes scheduled this summer

July 14, 15 Handi Quilter Education Event

July 22 3 Yard Quilt Class

July 29 Free Accuquilt class

Call 806-250-3575 to register • like us on Facebook

Friona Public Library Story Time

call 806-250-3200 for info

Read and Play Story Time

Every Tuesday in June and July at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Ages Birth to 6 years old

Kids Rock Story Time

Every Thursday in June and July at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Ages 7 to 12 years old

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

Puzzle Solution

S-1645

Friona Star

is online at frionaonline.com

TOWN TALK

Phone: 806-250-5200
Email: frionastar@wtrt.net

Cheer Up — Little Girls Cheer Camp is scheduled for July 25-27 from 8 a.m. till 10 a.m. for ages 4 years old to upcoming 6th graders. Same day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the High School Activity Center.

B for Bingo — Legacy Pointe would like to personally invite you to join them on Thursday, July 20th at 6:00 p.m. for a family fun night of BINGO! They will have delicious snacks and awesome prizes for the winners! they hope to see ya'll there!

Read all about it — Friends of the Library Book Shop manager Connie Slagle said the book shop will be open this Saturday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Visitors to the cheeseburger festival will have a chance to shop for books of all kinds which sell for only a dollar per bag. Proceeds benefit Friends of the Library projects. The book shop is located at 618 Euclid behind the library. It is also open every Wednesday from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Taste Buds — Cheeseburger festival officials announced this week that Adolfo Garcia, Paige Goodell, Alex Guerra, and Anna Hernandez are the judges this year for the Cheeseburger Cookoff. They will determine the Cheeseburger Champions for 2023!

Kidz Camp — Volunteers are needed for the Kidz Building Camp scheduled for July 24-28 from 6-9 p.m. each evening. Call the Chamber office at 806-250-3491 for more information.

Training Event Coming Soon — Volunteers are needed for the Friona First Responders Mass Casualty Incident Training Event to be held on Saturday, July 29th. See more information in ad on page 8. Call 806-250-2761 for information.

Pun Intended — I tried to make a belt out of watches. It was a waist of time. Source: www.pun.me

Hot Dog Day is July 19th — The top 10 most popular hot dog toppings according to yummysdogs.com are: 1. Mustard, 2. Ketchup, 3. Onions, 4. Chili, 5. Relish, 6. Sauerkraut, 7. Cole-slaw, 8. Jalapeño, 9. Cheese, 10. Mayo.

Can You Dig It — The annual Texas A&M Potato Breeding Program Field Day, hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Bruce Barrett Farms, will be Tuesday, July 18th. No registration is required for the free program. Participants will assemble at Springlake Potato Sales, located off of Texas

Highway 385 between Littlefield and Springlake, at 10 a.m. and then go to the field. For information call Bruce Barrett at 806-893-2040.

Save the Date — A two-day Brazos River Headwaters Local Food Summit will be held July 25-26 at the Clovis Community College Main Building. The Food Summit will provide information, ideas, and inspiration for food producers/crafters working in Curry and Roosevelt counties, as well as across the Eastern New Mexico/West Texas region.

For more information, contact Berlin Arellano, Ogallala Commons New Mexico Regional Coordinator at 505-795-9848.

- National Days**
- July 13: Barbershop Music Appreciation Day
 - July 14: French Fry Day
 - July 15: Give Something Away Day
 - July 16: Ice Cream Day
 - July 17: Tattoo Day
 - July 18: Blueberry Muffin Day
 - July 19: Hot Dog Day

Newspaper Fun!

Where do the sky, ocean and... ...sky meet? At the seashore!

Fun in the Sun at the Beach!

Throw the ball, please, Cousin Echo!

Hey, who are you talking to?

Can you find and circle 18 different words on this page that begin with the letter 's'?

Steamy, sunny summer days are a great time to visit the beach. I like to swim, leap and dive in the surf! What do you like to do? I'll be looking for you!

Fill in the crossword puzzle with these "fun in the sun" activities at the beach.

- drinking lots of _____ and picnicking on a blanket
- strolling along the _____, feeling the sand, water, wind and sun
- reading, resting and basking under the _____
- searching for and collecting _____: shells, seastars, smooth stones
- throwing bread crusts to the _____ near the rocks
- picking up gnarled pieces of _____ to use in a garden display
- digging up _____ in the mud when the tide goes out
- climbing the rocks of the _____ to watch ships passing and people fishing
- bodysurfing in the roaring, salty _____
- watching _____ play, swim, walk their pets
- shoveling, piling and dripping wet _____ to build a castle
- fishing for _____ from the pier

People at the Beach

- f _____ milie _____
- beac _____ pa _____ rol _____
- i _____ e _____ ream vendor
- _____ ifeguar _____ s

Cool Break!

It's time for a cool break from the hot sun. Can you find your way through the maze to the ice cream cart?

If you happen to drop a treat in the sand, I may help clean it up.

Whew! I really need a cold treat after lying on the rocks in the sun!

Yeah, yeah... you try dodging kids' big feet all day long!

Who are these "underwater unicorns" with long, pointed tusks on their heads? They live in the Arctic region, but maybe you'll see them secretly vacationing at the beach! Follow the key to color in this puzzle and see!

B = Blue
G = Gray
K = Black
N = Green
P = Pink
R = Brown
W = White

What Should You Take for Fun in the Sun?

Can you find and circle these items in the top of the beach bag?

sunglasses towel shovel books

flip-flops sun lotion hat

coins keys

bucket

Just hanging around!

G R A P E S K J E
I E L N H F S D Y
E T M O H V A W Q
C A J L O N P C S
E W T E O K G R F
N S I M L P O A Z
R U I E R N V D C I
J L M E I H D K P
O R A T H I V E O
H B Y A O C N R J
Z C I W D N A S

Lunch and snacks are packed in the cold pack in the bottom of the bag. Can you find and circle them?

water
grapes
cheese
crackers
sandwich
lemonade
watermelon

Small Town Cookin' *By Jeri Lynn White*

Blueberry Muffin

Blueberry muffins are a great addition to breakfast or an afternoon treat anytime of the year. Since July 11th was National Blueberry Muffin Day, this will be the perfect week to give this recipe a try. It uses blueberries two different ways to give the muffins all the blueberry flavor they need.

Double Blueberry Muffins By Gale Gand

Ingredients

- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups fresh or thawed frozen blueberries
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

Directions

Preheat the oven to 375oF. Grease a muffin tin or line the cups with paper liners. In a mixer fitted with a paddle attachment (or using a hand mixer), cream the butter until smooth. Add 1 cup of the sugar and mix. Add the eggs, vanilla, baking powder, and salt and mix. In a shallow bowl, mash 3/4 cup of the blueberries with the back of a fork. Then add the mashed blueberries to the batter and mix. With the mixer running at low speed, add 1/2 of the flour, then 1/2 of the milk, and mix. Repeat with remaining flour and milk. Fold in the remaining 1 3/4 cups whole blueberries by hand until well mixed. In a separate small bowl, mix the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar with the cinnamon. Use an ice-cream scoop or large spoon to fill the muffin cups 3/4 full. Sprinkle the cinnamon-sugar over the muffins and bake until golden brown and risen, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool in the pan at least 30 minutes before turning out.

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$3.9 Billion in June

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced that state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.92 billion in June, 6.8 percent more than in June 2022. The majority of June sales tax revenue is based on sales made in May and remitted to the agency in June. "The overall rate of sales tax revenue growth was in line with the rate of growth over the last three months," Hegar said. "Growth in receipts from sectors principally driven by business

spending continued to outpace that from consumer-oriented retail trade. "Receipts from the oil and gas mining sector once again showed the largest year-over-year gain among all major sectors, increasing approximately one-third over remittances from June 2022. Nonetheless, this increase represents a slowing of the rate of increase from that sector in recent months. Receipts from the man-

ufacturing sector were up solidly from a year ago, but receipts from the construction industry came in only slightly higher than June 2022, and receipts from the wholesale trade sector were down slightly from a year ago, as building materials prices have come down from year-ago levels. "Receipts from the services sector were up strongly, driven by higher consumer spending at concerts and other live performances, sporting events and theme parks. Restaurant receipts also increased, but at a rate about 1 percent less than the May inflation rate for food away from home. "Remittances from the retail trade sector just barely surpassed year-ago levels after dipping below the prior year last month, with large gains from online general merchandisers countered by declines from major store-based general merchandisers and department stores. "Remittances from furniture and home furnishings stores were down compared with year-ago levels for the fourth consecutive

month. Receipts from the home improvement, clothing and accessory stores, electronics and appliance stores, and sporting goods and hobby stores sectors were also negative compared with June 2022." Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in June 2023 was up 5.9 percent compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 56 percent of all tax collections. Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes: (1) motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$597 million, up 2 percent from June 2022; (2) motor fuel taxes — \$324 million, up less than 1 percent from June 2022; (3) oil production tax — \$456 million, down 33 percent from June 2022; (4) natural gas production tax — \$184 million, down 58 percent from June 2022; (5) hotel occupancy tax — \$71 million, up 6 percent from June 2022; and (6) alcoholic beverage taxes — \$156 million, up 4 percent from June 2022.

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Happy Birthday

<p>July 13 Ricky White Kevin Wiseman Terry Stanberry Lynn Copley Logan Tongate Collin Thompson Jan Whaley</p>	<p>July 16 James Bland John Bonner Ab Hendley Penny Mars</p>
<p>July 14 Julie (Wiseman) Duenes Bobby Thompson Darla Bracken William Herring Sierra Edelson Janna Reeve Preston Claudia Alexander Juan Reyes Nathan Moroney, Jr. Kenny Ford Darrell Brewster Tony Reyes</p>	<p>July 17 Dallas Bass Lauren Buske Ashley Manning Ophelia Florez Kevin Steen Maria Galvan</p>
<p>July 15 Ross Paiz Jared Kuhlmeier Dena Stubbs Raul Brailiff Jesus Saenz</p>	<p>July 18 Brent Loflin David Avila Josh Jameson Joy Bauer Clara Salinas Brandy Castorena</p>
<p>July 19 Joe Kyle Reeve Karen King Dana Jameson Tony Beauchamp Amy Veggeberg Cody Epperson Peggy Goettsch Karina Trevino Kim Kimbrough</p>	

To have your birthdays listed in the newspaper, email them to frionastar@wtrt.net or call: 806.250.5200

Prices remain steady

By GasBuddy

Average gasoline prices in Texas fell 0.9 cents last week, averaging \$3.11 per gallon according to GasBuddy's survey of 13,114 stations in Texas. Prices in Texas are 2.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 108.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas was \$2.52 while the most expensive was \$4.17 per gallon. The national average price of gasoline was unchanged last week, averaging \$3.50 per gallon. The national average is down 8.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 116.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel fell 1.3 cents last week and stands at \$3.79 per gallon. "After declining going into July 4, average gasoline prices have struggled to find much momentum in either direction as the price of crude oil has continued to bounce around, digesting offsetting news on both sides of the scale: supply, which OPEC+ continues to try and tighten, and weak global demand as monetary policy restrains growth," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. De Haan concluded, "I don't see much chance of a major break out of the tight range we've held since April, but there is rising risk for hurricane season and potential disruptions as major forecaster Colorado State University released its third forecast for 2023 hurricane season, showing a sharp uptick in the number of expected major hurricanes. Heading into the prime of summer gasoline demand, any disruptions, whether storms or unexpected outages and what might be a small challenge outside of the summer driving season, could be a larger problem, so there is some risk to gas prices going into the second half of summer." GasBuddy data is compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Compromise or Commitment

By Brett Hoyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church

What characterizes your daily life following Jesus? Is it compromise or commitment? Compromise lulls your away from your convictions, while commitment takes a firm grip on the Lord and refuses to let go. The world, your sinful heart and demonic opposition resonate an endless song to give in to sin and loosen up and let go of biblical beliefs by acting in a way that is contrary to scripture. The issue of compromise or commitment is pertinent for believers today, but this is not something new.

In Deuteronomy 4:3-4, while Moses is exhorting the nation of Israel to stay true to the Lord, he reminds them of a sinful episode in Israel's past at Baal-peor. In Numbers 22-24 scripture tells of Balaam, a prophet for hire, who was contracted to curse Israel on behalf of Balak, King of Moab. Balaam was unable to curse Israel, as Balak had hoped, but Numbers 31:6 tells us Balaam did something much worse in suggesting the Moabites seduce the Israelites to compromise and

sin through sexual immorality and pagan worship. Numbers 25 records this sinful failure including God's judgment on the nation where 24,000 died. Warren Wiersbe commented on this story by saying, "What the enemy couldn't accomplish with curses and fighting he accomplished with compromise and friendship."

When Israel compromised itself through sinful choices, they were under God's discipline and judgment, forfeiting the full blessings of God. The same is true of the Church today when it, or its members compromise on the Word of God, or give in to sin in their lives. A Christian who lives a constantly compromised life of indulging in sin is a carnal Christian, and is begging for God's discipline. The call of Christ, is one of repentance and commitment to him above all else. A committed believer is faithful in their walk, consistent to say no to sin, intentional to minister to others, involved in their Church family and overflows with a supreme love for God.

Panhandle Parables

Tapestry of Life

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

I am often amazed at the many people that come into and out of my life. Some leave bold impressive strokes of bright colors others a brief encounter that adds a single thread. Then there are the experiences in life they too come in many colors, some brilliant others a bit dark. All these things whether people or experiences make up who I have been, who I am and who I will become. As the one in the middle of it all, I don't always notice what I should and sometimes focus on what I should not, nonetheless, I am being woven into what God sees best from His vantage point. I may only see the negative experiences and get discouraged that so much darkness has entered my life. Or I may be a cup is half full kind of person and only see the positive and ignore the struggles. Yet it is all of it that is being woven into what I know as my life.

In the day to day grind I may enjoy the moment or suffer through but one thing I have learned is to continue to trust the One doing all the weaving. I can't say I understand why there is tragedy and strife, because those moments seem so bold and overwhelming, while the good

stuff seems to not last as long and may not be as bold. Yet the Weaver continues His work.

I have been privileged to do many funerals in ministering to people. Some have been lifelong friends, others a relative of someone I hardly know. In the lessons that I learn from these opportunities is that regardless of the success, the tragedy, the good, the bad and the ugly a believer's tapestry is a one of a kind masterpiece because of the One doing the weaving. He truly can make wonder out of what appears to be mundane. But what makes it possible at all is faith. If we do not trust the Weaver, it makes it difficult for Him to work in our lives. Yet, if we will only trust the Weaver, He will complete the work He began in us as we started our journey in faith. So, no matter how you feel about your life in this moment remember it is but a moment and God is working on something far greater than what I may be able to see now. Your life is a tapestry, woven in His love through His Son that it may bring glory to the author and perfecter of our faith. Keep going He's not through with you yet. May God bless you this week.

Changing Ourselves to Change Our World

By Teena Hughes

Only God Himself knows how desperately our world needs changing. I am reminded of a talk given on a Walk to Emmaus about this very thing, Changing Our World.

Our little church is proceeding with the Global Methodist Church. It is almost like we are starting over, and we have decided to focus on the ministry of our local area: being the hands and feet of Jesus to our local community; ministering to people here who need Jesus. But, before we can change others, our community, or our world, we have to make sure we are spiritually anchored with God.

The talk outline says, "Micah 6:8 provides a helpful framework for understanding what God requires of us and how we will bring about change in these fields of ministry: 'What does the LORD require of you but to do justice (community and world), and to love kindness (others), and to walk humbly with your God (self)?"

If we aren't careful, and if we don't have a strong relationship with Jesus and our Christian community, we risk falling into several "traps". We can become a Pharisee, someone who isn't motivated by God's grace, but by "rigid perfectionism and guided by legalism...to force everyone into one's own mold."

We can be a do-gooder, someone motivated by their own need to "make a notable difference" rather than having "true compassion and commitment to meet human needs."

Some people have a 'savior complex' where they feel like they have to save the world by themselves, and that can lead to a fourth trap, burnout! We can't be an ef-

fective servant for Jesus if we are burned out!

To begin changing the world around us, we need to begin with ourselves. We need to know we have a strong foundation and relationship with Jesus. We need to spend time talking to our model, Jesus, asking Him how we can have a stronger relationship with Him. Do we need to spend more one-on-one time with Him in prayer, in study, in trying to look at people as He looks at them? Do we need to surrender fear of what He might reveal to us? Do we need to surrender our unwillingness to change, or even the recognition that we need to change areas of our lives? This is something all of us have to choose to do; how we respond will determine how we change, and how we change others, our community, and our world.

So, how are you going to respond? Are you willing to face the fact that you need to make changes if that is what Jesus shows you? Are you willing to do what He says and put in the time and effort to make those changes? Are you willing to sustain these changes in your heart by constantly working and firming up your relationship with Jesus? Are you willing to study God's Word to sustain your mind? Are you willing to show how God has changed you through your actions, and how you treat and help others?

God wants us to change and be like His Son. There is only so much He will do, and the rest is our choice. He is counting on us to help change others, our communities, and our world. Are we willing to change ourselves so we can do what He is counting on us to do?

Send your church news to the

Friona★Star

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Area Church Directory

Friona

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15th & Cleveland • 806-250-3000
Pastor D.J. Lewis
Sunday School 9:30 • Worship 10:45
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Pastor Brett Hoyle
Email-firstbc@wtrt.net
Website-www.fbcfriona.com

FRIONA METHODIST CHURCH
8th & Pierce • 806-250-3045
Pastor David McGaughy
Email-frionamethodist@wtrt.net

IGLESIA EVANGELICA NUEVA JERUSALEN
701 E. 11th • 806-250-5363
Pastor Benito Mejia

QUALITY OF LIFE BIBLE STUDY CHURCH
301 Grand Ave. • 806-240-0826
Pastors Mark & Mary Goff

SIXTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Jeff Procter, Minister

ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
401 West 17th St. • 806-250-2871
Pastor Gregory Bunyan

TEMPLO BAUTISTA DAMASCO
403 Woodland • 806-250-3472
Pastor William Tapias

TEMPLO DE ADORACION
620 Washington • 806-250-5929
Pastor Roy Dominguez

TENTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST
10th & Euclid • 806-250-5236
Gerall Wyly

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1601 Euclid • 806-250-3635

VICTORY FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER
9th & Washington • 806-250-2207
Pastor Robert Kerby
Website-www.thevictory.tv

FRIONA PARA CRISTO LLAMADOS A CONOCERLE
411 Ashland • 806-223-3469
Pastor Aurelio & Cynthia Silva



Bovina

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806-251-1632
Pastor Frank Landry

CHURCH OF CHRIST
500 Ave. E
806-251-1334
Mike Prather, Minister

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
205 4th Street
806-251-1124
Pastor Larry Mitchell

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
409 3rd Street
806-251-1511
Pastor Gregory Bunyan

LA IGLESIA DE DIOS DEL PRIMOGENITO
The Church of God of the Firstborn
102 2nd Street

IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA
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806-251-5232
Pastor Rafael Marin

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2 Corinthians 5:7



has an archive of past obituaries at frionaonline.com



FRIONA FLASHBACKS

From the Friona Star Archives



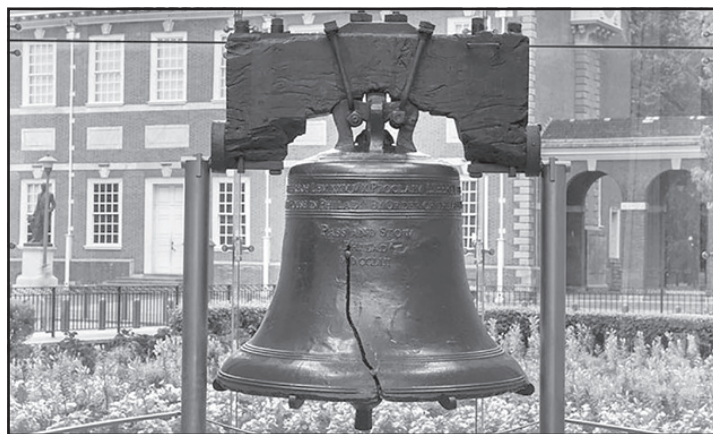
The first ever Cheeseburger Festival champion was a team from Cargill Meat Solutions. Cargill entered two teams. Cargill team members were, l-r, Michael Jaks, Rudy Centeno, Ignacia Centeno, Jamin Phipps, Rhonda Weakley, Jeremiah Smith, Maia Cordova, and Adrian Prieto. Congratulations to Cargill and all the teams that entered the competition. Dana D. Jameson photo. (Friona Star, Thursday, July 20, 2006)

Let Freedom Ring

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

Four days after its ratification, the first public reading of the Declaration took place at the Pennsylvania State House. Citizens were summoned by the sound of “the 2,000-pound copper-and-tin... ‘Liberty Bell,’” according to History.com.

Cast in 1752 England, the bell—stenciled with a message of, “Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land unto All the inhabitants thereof”—was shipped to Pennsylvania—and garnered incremental iconic status—because of its crack; a herald of liberty, according to the National Park Service.



The bell has “served to remind Americans of a time when they fought together for independence. Abolitionists, women’s suffrage advocates and Civil Rights leaders took inspiration from [its] inscription. Now a worldwide symbol, the...message of freedom remains rever-

berating and relevant.

For more information, The Grateful American Book Prize endorses Gary B. Nash’s **The Liberty Bell**.

Source: History Matters: Showing our children that their past is prelude to their future at the gratefulamericanbookprize.com website.

Commissioners approve new storm warning siren for City of Bovina

Parmer County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 10, 2023 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 Texas Flag.

The Bovina Fire Department made a request for a storm warning siren system that includes a battery backup. A recent storm knocked out power in the town and officials were unable to use the current siren to warn citizens of approaching severe weather. Commissioners approved \$26,800 in ARPA funds to purchase a new system.

In other business, a motion to renew the TAC HEBP Health Plan for Parmer County employees was approved. A bond was approved for county judge

secretary Michelle Agee. Also, budget workshops were scheduled for each Monday in August.

Sheriff Geske reported to the Court that the Parmer County Law Enforcement Center is currently housing 34 inmates of which 6 are paying customers from Dawson County and 8 paying customers from Lubbock County.

There were no comments from the public during the open forum. Minutes from the June 26th meeting were read and approved. Commissioners approved the payment of the accounts payables as presented by County Treasurer Sharon May. The Treasurer’s Payroll Report was also approved. The next regular meeting is Monday, July 24th.

All meetings are open to the public. Information in this article is only a summary.

June among hottest, coolest for parts of the state

John Nielsen-Gammon, Ph.D., Texas state climatologist and Regents Professor in the Texas A&M Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Bryan-College Station, said the heat wave produced eight “all-time” temperature and heat index records, from Tahoka to Cotulla. June was one of the 10 hottest on record for South Texas.

Most of the state recorded multiple days over 100 degrees, in-

cluding half the month of June along the Texas-Mexico border up to Midland, five days in triple-digits in Dallas/Fort Worth and Bryan-College Station and three days in Houston.

Conversely, it was cooler than normal in northern parts of the state and one of the coolest Junes on record in Dalhart, near the top of the Texas Panhandle.

“It’s not the hottest summer so far,” he said. “But it’s been quite a bit

more humid from all the rain in April and May, and that is where people are really feeling the heat.”

“If we don’t get a decent amount of rain in the next few weeks, we will see more vegetation turning brown and crops suffering,” he said. “The Panhandle and East Texas have gotten enough rain, but the areas that are marginally out of drought are definitely at risk of slipping back.”



The Smiley-Frye grandkids visited the Friends of the Library Book Shop recently, shown here with book shop manager, Connie Slagle. The book shop, located at 618 Euclid behind the library, will open this Saturday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. so visitors to the cheeseburger festival will have a chance to visit the book shop.

Letter to business customers

In February, I celebrated my 11th anniversary with West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative and WT Services. I continue to be honored to have been selected to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of our companies. I am proud of the Team we’ve built and the many accomplishments we have achieved.

- In 2022, we completed our fiber project in the rural service area of West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative. We received funding from the Federal Communications Commission in 2017, which allowed us to accelerate the installation of fiber. We have completed the 1500 linear miles of fiber in 5 years. Our members can be proud they have joined the ranks of only a few rural companies like ours to have **fiber-to-the-premise**. We chose to take fiber to your premises because the copper line from our node to your home was 70 years old, just like the remainder of our facilities. It made sense to do this because now, we have built a network of the future.
- We have added a Voice over Internet Protocol Telephone System to our products. This is a cloud-based system, and the cloud will remain local.
- We have built redundancies in our network. In May 2021, we had a major fiber cut on our fiber that runs along I-40 in Amarillo. Because of the redundancy, you were never aware of the outage. Our Construction Team worked tirelessly for over 7 hours to repair the damage to our fiber, all the while being mindful that a major storm with tornados was approaching.
- We have entered into an agreement with our engineering consulting firm who has developed a **Network Operations Center** that assists us in monitoring our network on a **24 X 7 basis**. The NOC personnel become aware of issues impacting our network and services, likely before we do, and they alert us. One incident happened last year, when an impaired driver ran over our equipment (and another provider’s equipment) at 3:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning. The NOC alerted our on-call supervisor. After investigating the damage, our Team repaired the equipment before anyone knew we were out of service in that area (around 9:30 a.m. that morning).
- Nearly every component of our network has been updated during the past decade, including, but not limited to:
 - ▶ Installation of a DDOS Server to capture attacks on IP addresses in our network
 - ▶ Installation of DWDM (Dense Wave Division Multiplexing) technology over our fiber that transits the rural area into Amarillo. This technology fractionalizes the fiber optics and expands its capacity exponentially.
 - ▶ Upgrade to our IPTV System
 - ▶ Installation of a backup central office switch in Friona that is a mirror to the central office switch in Hereford.
 - ▶ Partnered with neighboring telephone cooperatives to connect our networks. If our network is compromised (as the fiber cut last May), then the traffic is automatically routed over the neighboring partners networks to Lubbock and vice versa
 - ▶ We have conducted a cybersecurity audit and subsequently rearranged some parts of our network to make it more difficult to hack. We will continue to have these audits in the future because these attacks are increasing.
 - ▶ We installed a new billing system that allows payments online and allows us to operate more efficiently.

We have spent more than \$45 million on network and equipment upgrades over the past decade. We continually work to make sure our network is up to date to serve you well for decades to come.

We are local, we live and work where you live. When you call on us for assistance, you get a real live, local person. You don’t dial an 800 # in a distant call center with a bunch of prompts and you don’t have to speak with representatives in another country. Being local also brings the added benefit of being responsive to your needs in a timely manner, second to none.

We are not only local, but we also can reach distant locations, globally. We are a Preferred Vendor with AT&T and have a direct connection with them at their South Tyler Building in Amarillo.

There is nothing the large commercial companies can offer that we can’t do for you. With all the redundancies we have installed in our network, we can say we can serve you better. We don’t have to dispatch repair from a distant city on our timeline, we are right here.

We invite you to meet with us so we can learn about your future communications needs and prepare to continue to serve you in the way you deserve.

To arrange for a meeting or if you have any questions, please contact Raquel Vallejo or one of our Business Solutions Team members: Bennie Gonzales, Julie Brooks, or Ruben Coronado at 364-3331.

Best Regards,

Amy Linzey
Chief Executive Officer



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Deadline: Tuesday @ 5 p.m.

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING

Friona ISD is looking for a full time custodian. Hours are 7am-5pm with 1 hour lunch and a 30-minute break in the morning and afternoon. Starting pay is \$10 per hour. Interested applicants may call Friona ISD 806-250-2747 or Martha Moreno 806-346-2091.

Friona ISD está buscando una persona que ayude a limpiar la escuela a tiempo completo. El horario es de 7 am a 5 pm con 1 hora de almuerzo y un descanso de 30 minutos por la mañana y la tarde. El pago inicial es de \$10 por hora. Los solicitantes interesados pueden llamar a Friona ISD 806-250-2747 o Martha Moreno 806-346-2091.

Help Wanted

Prairie Acres is seeking to hire full-time nursing assistants for our day and/or night shifts. The position requires handling emergency situations and taking direction from medical professionals while maintaining confidentiality. Candidates will be responsible for helping care for the elderly and disabled, assisting with meals and other daily activities as assigned. This will be for 3 shifts per week with every other weekend off. Great benefits and competitive wages as well as sign-on bonuses offered! Come by 201 East 15th in Friona or call Marisa at 806-250-3922 today!

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Hospice Volunteer Opportunities

Local hospice volunteer opportunities exist with Bluebonnet Hospice. Hospice is an end of life service that enables patients and family to be served either in a home setting or in a long term care setting. This is a difficult time and the support is key from hospice and the community to ease the pain, have a smooth experience, and feel the much deserved love and support during the caregiving journey. If you are looking for something to do for others and would like to consider this opening feel free to call Bluebonnet and ask for Rhonda K. Sanders, LMSW, Bluebonnet Volunteer Coordinator. 806-247-0057

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How many words that begin with the letter "s" did you find and circle?

If you found:
18 words = Smarty pants!
16 words = Not bad!
14 words = Try harder!
12 words = Look again!
10 words = Now really!

Who are these "underwater unicorns" with long, pointed tusks on their heads visiting from the Arctic region?

Created by Annimills © 2023

Narwhals!

What Should You Take for Fun in the Sun?

Legend:
B = Blue
G = Gray
K = Black
N = Green
P = Pink
R = Brown
W = White

Summer Drama Workshop

2023 Summer Drama Workshop
FHS Auditorium

Junior High Performance
Once Upon a Clothesline
Friday, July 21st @ 6:30 p.m.
Directed by Amy Montana,
Grace Stadler, and Joy Morton

High School Performance
Bad Auditions for Bad Actors
Friday, July 21st after Jr. High Performance
Directed by Karlee Osborn

Elementary Performance
The Big Bad Musical
Saturday, July 22nd @ 3 p.m.
Directed by Holly Johnston
& Brooklynn Johnston



Elementary Cast — Front Row (l-r) Everson Morgan, Emma Morgan, Charlotte Johnston, Paisley Osborn, Caetlie Field, Demri Rackley, Jocelyn Polk, Amelia Cramer, Jayden Morgan. Middle Row (l-r) Reese Johnston, Bryson Morgan, Kayleigh Juarez, Katiyah Perez, Scout Schlabs, Ruby Moroney, Tensley Grimsley, Jesalyn Jar-ecki, Kyleigh Juarez. Back Row (l-r) Mya Van Sommeren, Blair Vallejo, Amayah Rojas, Piper Schlabs, Graylen Garman, Camryn Bailey, Bart Van Sommeren, Owen Daniels, Brantley Van Sommeren, Matthew Riethmayer, Asher Sciumbato, James Miller, Isaiah Trevino. Not in picture, Henry Miller.



Junior High Cast — Front Row (l-r) Maddie Wium, Esther Miller, Anna Butler. Middle Row (l-r) Lillian Cramer, Kami Moreno, Abby Marquez, Sophie Lewellen. Back Row (l-r) Max Moroney, Presley Procter, Noah Aguilar, Ayden Pena, Knox-son Procter.



High School Cast — (l-r) Melody Upton, Grace Stadler, Amy Montana, Kendall Bailey, Noah Aguilar, Nicholas Gutierrez.



FRIONA FIRST RESPONDERS MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT TRAINING EVENT (ACTIVE SHOOTER SCENARIO)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
JULY 29, 2023
@ 8 AM

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- Ages 10 years old and up
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EVENT DETAILS
Mass Casualty Incident Training events are held to prepare our first responders in case of real emergency situation. By volunteering you can help us be prepared.

CHECK-IN
Volunteers will need to arrive at the Friona High School at 7:30 am so we can check in and make sure everyone is registered and have liability waiver signed.

PREPARATION
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Xcel Energy Foundation gives \$50,000 for disaster relief

The Xcel Energy Foundation has granted \$50,000 to disaster relief funds at the United Way of Amarillo and Canyon and the Amarillo Area Foundation to help Texas Panhandle residents affected by severe weather events during June.

"We are inspired by the generosity of our customers across the region who have done so much to help their neighbors and hope our contribution can extend this support to more people whose lives have been disrupted by flooding and severe weather," said Adrian J. Rodriguez, president, Xcel Energy - New Mexico, Texas. "With help from our community partners at the United Way and the Amarillo Area Foundation, we are confident this funding will be put to good use."

Flash floods displaced hundreds of residents in Hereford and Amarillo in early June, and on June 15, a tornado devastated parts of Perryton, taking three lives and destroying hundreds of homes and businesses. The following week, a tornado caused four deaths and destroyed parts of the Motley County community of Matador. In response, the Amarillo Area Foundation reactivated the Panhandle Disaster Relief Fund that

was created after the 2006 Texas Panhandle wildfires. The Amarillo Area Foundation is donating 100% of the dollars raised to help residents affected by these extreme weather events.

"The Amarillo Area Foundation maintains the Panhandle Disaster Relief Fund to allow for rapid response to life-altering events that negatively impact the lives of residents of the Texas Panhandle," said Clay Stribling, president and CEO of the Amarillo Area Foundation. "When such an event occurs, we work with our partners in each community to determine how best to deploy resources to meet the demand for food, clothing, shelter, utility assistance, and other critical needs. We rely on support from philanthropy, individual donors and private enterprise. Partnerships with corporate entities are critical to meet the needs of those impacted by such tragic events."

The United Way of Amarillo and Canyon is also directing funding to the impacted communities through the 2-1-1 Texas program. The United Way's goal is to sustain families affected by disaster, allowing them to bridge the gap in income so that individuals do not fall behind in being able to provide health and fi-

financial stability.

"It is comforting to know we have partners like the Xcel Energy Foundation and the Amarillo Area Foundation supporting our Panhandle communities," said Kelly Stephens, 2-1-1 director, Texas Panhandle. "The money donated for Amarillo, Perryton and Hereford disaster relief

provides families and individuals much-needed assistance to make their families and homes whole."

Xcel Energy's regional employees, some of whom were impacted by the severe weather, have also stepped up to give. Employee donations are matched dollar for dollar by the Xcel Energy Foun-

datation.

The company provides electric service in Amarillo, Hereford and Perryton and committed extra personnel and resources to ensure power supplies were restored quickly and safely as relief efforts got underway. The company continues to work with affected customers to connect them with fi-

nancial resources and ensure their homes and businesses can be safely reconnected to power service once repairs have been made.

"These severe weather events have long-term impacts for many of our customers, and we will work with them through the recovery effort," Rodriguez said.

Texas State Parks Recognized Among the Nation's Best

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) along with the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration have selected Texas State Parks as a finalist for the 2023 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

"I'm proud to have the hard work of our Texas State Park staff recognized for building one of the best state park systems in the country," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks. "It is an honor for Texas State Parks to be nationally recognized for our efforts to welcome all Texans and preserve the gems of Texas for all generations."

Texas State Parks is competing against three other state park systems for the top award: Missouri State Parks, Ohio State Parks and Watercraft; and Wyoming State Parks, Historic

Sites and Trails. The winner will be announced in October at the NRPA conference in Dallas.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the United States that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population, one class for armed forces

recreation and one class, awarded on odd numbered years, for state park systems.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of community members, staff and elected officials. Four finalists in each class are chosen to compete for grand honors each year.

"We are especially thrilled to receive this recognition during our Centennial year," Franklin said. "The fact that we were named a finalist among peer institutions across the country really

highlights the progress we have made over the past century to fulfill then-Gov. Pat Neff's vision of a Texas dotted with state parks 'to be held in sacred trust by the State for the public good, now and forever.'"

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is partnering with TPWD and H-E-B to celebrate 100 years of Texas State Parks. H-E-B, the presenting sponsor of the celebration, has donated \$1 million to help Texas State Parks engage all Texans in discovering and enjoying their state parks throughout the yearlong celebration.

For more information on the Centennial Celebration, including community events, the history of Texas State Parks and how to make a day visit or overnight reservation, visit the Texas State Parks 100 Years website at TexasStateParks.org/100years.



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State Capital Highlights

By Gary Borders



House Democrats' tax plan would help renters

Texas House Democrats unveiled a \$20.9 billion plan for property tax relief that drops tax rates, increases the homestead exemption, gives annual rebates to renters, and includes pay raises for teachers, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The newest proposal comes as the Legislature continues wrangling over the issue in the second special session this year.

The bill, proposed by Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas, is a combination of previous proposals with the added wrinkle of providing benefits for renters, who do not directly pay property taxes. The proposal also would raise the state's per-student funding to public schools by \$1,000 and give a permanent annual raise of \$4,300 for teachers.

"Our effort is one that recognizes that you can't talk about property taxes without talking about public education," Bryant said of his proposal to raise the state's basic allotment for school funding by \$1,000.

The Senate has already passed a proposal to increase the homestead exemption to \$100,000 and give a \$2,000 pay hike for teachers in urban districts and a \$6,000 increase to teachers in rural districts over the next two years.

TxDOT seeks input on \$100 billion plan

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking public input on a proposed 10-year, \$100 billion transportation plan. The Unified Transportation Plan for 2024 is the agency's road map to developing projects across the state.

"It's important to work with our trans-

portation partners and hear from the public to guide transportation improvements that address congestion and enhance safety," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said.

Projects included in the plan seek to ease congestion and improve connectivity. They address all types of transportation, including aviation, rail, freight, maritime and public transportation. The public comment period ends on Aug. 7. To weigh in, go to txdot.gov and click on the public input link.

State gets \$60 million from feds for grid

The federal government is providing \$60.6 million to the Texas Division of Emergency Management to help utilities strengthen the state's power grid, the Texas Tribune reported. The grant program is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in late 2021.

"These grants will help modernize the electric grid to reduce impacts of extreme weather and natural disasters while enhancing power sector reliability," U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm said in a statement.

State emergency officials will decide how to use the money. Possibilities include improving how power-producing equipment performs in extreme heat or cold, or trimming trees near power lines. Since Winter Storm Uri caused wide-

spread outages in 2021, other storms have also caused power crises. An ice storm in late January and early February sent tree limbs crashing into power lines, particularly in Austin. In June, severe storms swept through East Texas, again knocking out power lines.

A total of \$2.3 billion will be distributed by the Department of Energy across the nation to address power grid reliability issues.

Saharan dust brings hazy skies to state

Dust from Africa's Sahara Desert is once again sweeping across Texas, making for hazy skies, pretty sunsets and a reduced chance of tropical storms forming in the Atlantic, according to KXAN-TV.

The waves of dust are caused by thunderstorms kicking up dust from the desert and sending it several thousand feet in the air, where easterly winds blow it across the ocean and, eventually, into the southern United States.

The dusty air plumes suppress tropical cyclone formation and also slow down the intensity of the storms that do form.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin, and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

TESTIMONIAL:

I have worked at West Texas Rural Telephone/W.T. Services for 29 years. I love that one of our companies' main focuses is to have the best customer service then any of our competitors. I have heard from numerous people around town how nice it is to be able to call and talk to an actual person, and when you need something repaired someone shows up quickly.

My mom at one time was with another provider and when she would have problems with any of her servic-

es, she would ask me to help her call them. After doing this numerous times only to be beyond frustrated after spending hours on the phone trying to understand the customer service rep and being transferred numerous times to get my mom's problems resolved, I suggested she move to West Texas Rural Telephone/W.T. Services. My mom made the move and absolutely loves the local service and support. She has mentioned that when she has had any problems with any of her

services, our I&R team is on it quickly and always very pleasant and helpful. My mom would take this kind of customer service easily rather than spending hours and hours on frustrating calls.

I would recommend trying our fiber to the premise phone, cable and internet services and experience our awesome customer service, you will not be disappointed and for certain there would be no frustration.

Cindy Carroll



NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS – COMBINED NOTICE

7/13/2023
City of Friona
623 Main Street
Friona, Texas 79035-2006
(806) 250-2761

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Friona.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about 7/29/2023 the City of Friona will submit a request to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the release of Community Development Block Grant Program funds under Section 104 of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as Water line replacement and elevated water storage tank (EST) rehabilitation, CDV21-0157 for the purpose of Rehabilitate one (1) elevated storage tank including installation of exterior tank coating system, replace approximately one thousand seven hundred and fifty linear (1,750 l.f.) of ten-inch (10 in) waterline, valves, fire hydrants, fittings, related pavement repair, and all associated appurtenances, and associated administration and/or engineering activities, for an estimated cost of \$350,000.00 in HUD funds and \$77,050.00 in non-HUD funds. The project is located as follows: Southwest corner of E. 15th Street and N. Pierce Avenue, N. Pierce Avenue from E. 15th Street to E. 14th Street, E. 14th Street from N. Pierce Avenue to N. Virginia Avenue.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Friona has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of Friona, City Hall, 623 N Main St, Friona, TX 79035 and may be examined or copied weekdays at Monday - Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Friona City Hall at citymgr@frionatx.us. All comments received by 7/28/2023 will be considered by the City of Friona prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Friona certifies to the State of Texas that Leander Davila in his capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Friona to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The State will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Friona's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Friona (b) the City of Friona has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the State; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Texas Department of Agriculture at CDBG_EnvReview@TexasAgriculture.gov or PO Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711. Potential objectors should contact the State to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Leander Davila, City Manager

AVISO DE CONSTANCIA DE LA AUSENCIA DE UN IMPACTO SIGNIFICATIVO Y AVISO DE INTENCIÓN DE SOLICITUD DE LIBERACIÓN DE FONDOS: AVISO COMBINADO

13/07/2023
Ciudad de Friona
623 Main Street
Friona, Texas 79035-2006
(806) 250-2761

Estos avisos cumplen con dos requisitos procesales separados pero relacionados para actividades que serán llevadas a cabo por la Ciudad de Friona.

SOLICITUD DE LIBERACIÓN DE FONDOS

Alrededor del 29/07/2023, la Ciudad de Friona presentará una solicitud al Departamento de Agricultura de Texas para la liberación de fondos del Programa de Subvenciones para el Desarrollo Comunitario bajo la Sección 104 del Título I de la Ley de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de 1974, enmendada, con el fin de llevar a cabo un proyecto conocido como Reemplazo de línea de agua y rehabilitación del depósito de almacenamiento de agua elevado (EST) en Friona, Texas, CDV21-0157, con el propósito de rehabilitar un (1) depósito de almacenamiento elevado, incluyendo la instalación de un sistema de revestimiento exterior para el tanque, reemplazar aproximadamente mil setecientos cincuenta pies lineales (1,750 l.f.) de línea de agua de diez pulgadas (10 in.), válvulas, hidrantes contra incendios, accesorios, reparación de pavimento relacionada y todos los accesorios asociados, así como actividades de administración y/o ingeniería, por un costo estimado de \$350,000.00 en fondos de HUD y \$77,050.00 en fondos no-HUD. El proyecto se encuentra ubicado de la siguiente manera: en la esquina suroeste de la calle E. 15 y la avenida N. Pierce, la avenida N. Pierce desde la calle E. 15 hasta la calle E. 14, y la calle E. 14 desde la avenida N. Pierce hasta la avenida N. Virginia.

CONSTANCIA DE LA AUSENCIA DE UN IMPACTO SIGNIFICATIVO

La Ciudad de Friona ha determinado que el proyecto no tendrá un impacto significativo en el medio ambiente humano. Por lo tanto, no se requiere una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental de conformidad con la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental de 1969 (NEPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Información adicional sobre el proyecto se encuentra en el Registro de Revisión Ambiental (ERR, por sus siglas en inglés) que se encuentra en la Ciudad de Friona, City Hall, 623 N Main St, Friona, TX 79035 y puede ser examinado o copiado de lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.

COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS

Cualquier individuo, grupo o entidad puede enviar comentarios escritos sobre el ERR al Ayuntamiento de Friona a citymgr@frionatx.us. Todos los comentarios recibidos antes del 28/07/2023 serán considerados por la Ciudad de Friona antes de autorizar la presentación de una solicitud de liberación de fondos. Los comentarios deben especificar a cuál aviso se refieren.

CERTIFICACIÓN AMBIENTAL

La Ciudad de Friona certifica ante el Estado de Texas que Leander Davila, en su capacidad de Gerente Municipal, acepta la jurisdicción de los tribunales federales en caso de que se presente una acción para hacer cumplir las responsabilidades relacionadas con el proceso de revisión ambiental y que estas responsabilidades se han cumplido. La aprobación del Estado de la certificación satisface sus responsabilidades bajo la NEPA y las leyes y autoridades relacionadas, y permite que la Ciudad de Friona utilice los fondos del Programa.

OBJECIONES A LA LIBERACIÓN DE FONDOS

El Estado aceptará objeciones a la liberación de fondos y a la certificación de la Ciudad de Friona durante un periodo de quince días siguientes a la fecha de presentación anticipada o a la fecha real de recepción de la solicitud (la que sea posterior), solo si se basan en uno de los siguientes motivos: (a) la certificación no fue ejecutada por el Funcionario Certificador de la Ciudad de Friona; (b) la Ciudad de Friona ha omitido un paso o no ha tomado una decisión o constatación requerida por las regulaciones de HUD en 24 CFR parte 58; (c) el beneficiario de la subvención u otros participantes en el proceso de desarrollo han comprometido fondos, incurrido en costos o realizado actividades no autorizadas por la Parte 58 del 24 CFR antes de la aprobación de la liberación de fondos por el Estado; o (d) otra agencia federal, actuando de conformidad con la Parte 1504 del 40 CFR, ha presentado un dictamen escrito de que el proyecto es insatisfactorio desde el punto de vista de la calidad ambiental. Las objeciones deben ser preparadas y presentadas de acuerdo con los procedimientos requeridos (24 CFR Parte 58, Sección 58.76) y deben ser dirigidas al Departamento de Agricultura de Texas a CDBG_EnvReview@TexasAgriculture.gov o a PO Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711. Los posibles objetores deben comunicarse con el Estado para verificar el último día real del periodo de objeción.

Leander Davila, Gerente Municipal

Three delegates attend Girls State

The Parmer County American Legion and Auxiliary Post 206 selected three delegates to participate in the Bluebonnet Girls State Convention this summer which was held at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas, June 18-24, 2023.

Three high school juniors were nomi-

nated for their leadership, citizenship, academics, and character by their counselors and principals. The delegates were Yazmyn Campos and Anna Neufeld from Bovina High School, and Amy Montana from Friona High School. Each was presented with a Certificate of Completion and a \$25 gift card for

their participation and commitment. Presenting the certificates was Sharon White, President, (Unit Girls State Chair) for the PCALA Post 206.

This was all made possible through monetary donations from the United Way and Parmer County American Legion Post 206. The United Way contributed \$2500 towards Boy and Girl State conventions this year. The American Legion Post 206 is grateful for this year's donation. Their donation helps with the airline flights and registration.

No Boys State delegates attended the Boys State Convention this summer. Photos by Elida Villarreal and Hannah Sacco.

From the Bluebonnet Girls State website:

Some of the greatest benefits of Texas Bluebonnet Girls State are those gifts that come from forming new, life-long friendships, learning about civic responsibility, performing community service, and becoming empowered young women. The empowerment that citizens gain from the Texas Bluebonnet Girls State comes through community, education, and achieving goals through practicing our American Democratic process.



In the photo (l-r) — Galyon Rhodes (Treasurer), Shelby Rhodes (Aux member), Sharon White (Aux President), Amy Montana, Elida Villarreal (Aux Treas/Sec), Anna Neufeld, Richard Villarreal (Post Commander/Adjutant).

"My time at Texas Girls State was truly a blessing. I am so grateful that the American Legion Auxiliary gave me this wonderful opportunity. It was a once in a lifetime experience, and I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to go, to take it! I learned how to be an active member in my community, how to vote, and how I am going to change the world someday. I am blessed to say I am a proud Citizen of Texas Girls State, all thanks to the American Legion Auxiliary."

**Sincerely,
Amy Montana**



"What I enjoyed the most about Girls State was the people I met and the friends I made. Everyone was so nice and friendly and they made me feel so welcomed. I met a lot of girls who I can proudly call my friends now and even though I'm glad to be back home, those girls made Girls State unforgettable to me."

Anna Neufeld



"I had a spectacular time at Girls State this past June. When I first arrived I was really nervous to take part in this camp. However, everyone was so welcoming right when I walked in my city. Before coming to Girls State I had no knowledge about government. But, during the program I learned how the Senate functioned and how a bill was passed. I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge of state government after my week at Girls State. I loved how there were so many ways to help our imaginary city, county, and state. I ran for county tax collector and got the position! I was so thankful for my JC's and SC for pushing me to actually run for a position. Overall, my time at Girls



State was productive and exciting. I made all sorts of new friends and mentors. I wish I could

relive this experience again to spend one last time at Girls State."
Yazmyn Campos

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The Hop-In convenience store, located at 604 W. 11th, is under new management and is conducting a Grand Opening this week. Also, check out Pam's Kitchen which serves a full menu all day and offers daily specials.



The Grime Scene Car Wash is now open for business. The former Soapy Springs property was repaired and a new drive-thru car wash system was installed.

FCCLA travels to Denver for national conference

Friona FCCLA had an amazing time in Denver, Colorado for the FCCLA National Conference. As well as attending and competing at the conference they had the opportunity to visit the Capitol, the Air Force Academy, Garden of the Gods, The Air and Space Museum, Union Station, Elitch Gardens, and Meow Wolf.

Nadia Snyder competed in "Promote and Publicize FCCLA" level 2. Nadia received a silver medal for her overall score. This was Nadia's second year in a row to compete at the National level.

Fabian Salinas, Gael García, and Janessa García competed in "National Programs in Action" level 3. They placed 1st in their event and received gold medals for their score. This makes them National Champions.

Blanca Chavez represented Texas as a regional President. She was able to volunteer as an evaluator.

FCCLA Advisor Erin Barnett added, "None of this would have been possible without the amazing support from the Friona community and FISD administration. Thank you so much."

Fireworks — Man-made vs. Nature



On July 4th, the Friona Volunteer Fire Department capped off Independence Day by staging the city's largest ever firework display. The sky was filled with an array of exploding colors and the explosions reverberated throughout Reeve Lake as onlookers enjoyed and cool evening and a light breeze.

Not to be outdone, Mother Nature responded the next night around 11

p.m. with an environmental display that more closely resembled a hurricane than a thunderstorm. The weather event provided a barrage of continuous lightning, a constant dull roar, and a mix of horizontal and vertical rain. Broken tree limbs could be found all over town the next day. John Gurley reported 1.88 inches as the official rainfall total.



In the photo (l-r) — Gael García, Janessa García, Blanca Chavez, Fabian Salinas, and Nadia Snyder visit the Air and Space Museum in Denver, Colorado.





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