



Youth Diversion Program is approved

The Friona City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 9, 2024 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. Council members Alan Monroe and Cindy Moreno were not present. There were no public comments.

A new Friona Municipal Court Youth Diversion Program, as written and presented by Municipal Court Judge Marie Samarron, was approved by a unanimous vote. Judge Samarron's program has already been used as a prototype by other towns in the area and state officials have provided positive feedback.

Due to increasing administrative costs involving engineering services, the Seal Coating Program scheduled for 2025 was postponed until 2026.

A motion was approved to suspend the December 19th, 2024 effective date for a decision regarding Atmos Energy Corp. West Texas Division's requested rate change. More time is needed to study the request and provide a response.

A variance request by Santos Carranza to build a carport at 710 W. 5th Street that would encroach 3 feet onto the 22 foot rule of the city's right of way was approved.

A variance request by George Torres to build a carport at 1504 Jackson Avenue that would encroach 11 feet onto the 25 foot rule of the city's right of way was approved.

A motion was approved to confirm the reappointment of Andy Alexander and Holly Campbell to the Board of Directors of the Friona Economic Development Corporation.

A motion to renew five agricultural leases for 2025-2026 crop years was approved. They include: Michael Rushing, 57.10 acre tract at \$16.00/acre — Rex Wells, 72.253 acre tract at \$22.10/acre — Wade Schueler, 129.57 acre tract and 144.16 acre tract at \$75.00/acre — Wade Schueler, 320 acre tract at \$18.00/acre — David Hough, 432.96 acre tract at \$46.26/acre.

In other business, the accounts payable for November 2024 were approved as well as the financial statement for November 2024. The Minutes of the November 11th regular meeting were tabled until the next meeting. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 13th.



Friona Fire Department Awards



See more awards on back page



Rookie of the Year
Jesus Guevara

Firefighter of the Year
Lt. Juan Samarron

Hereford man dies following crash south of Friona

Donald Warren, 57, of Hereford, Texas died from injuries sustained in a two-vehicle crash which occurred around 11:01 a.m. last Friday morning on U.S. Highway 60 approximately 1.2 miles west of Friona.

According to an investigation by Texas Highway Patrol Troopers, Warren was driving north

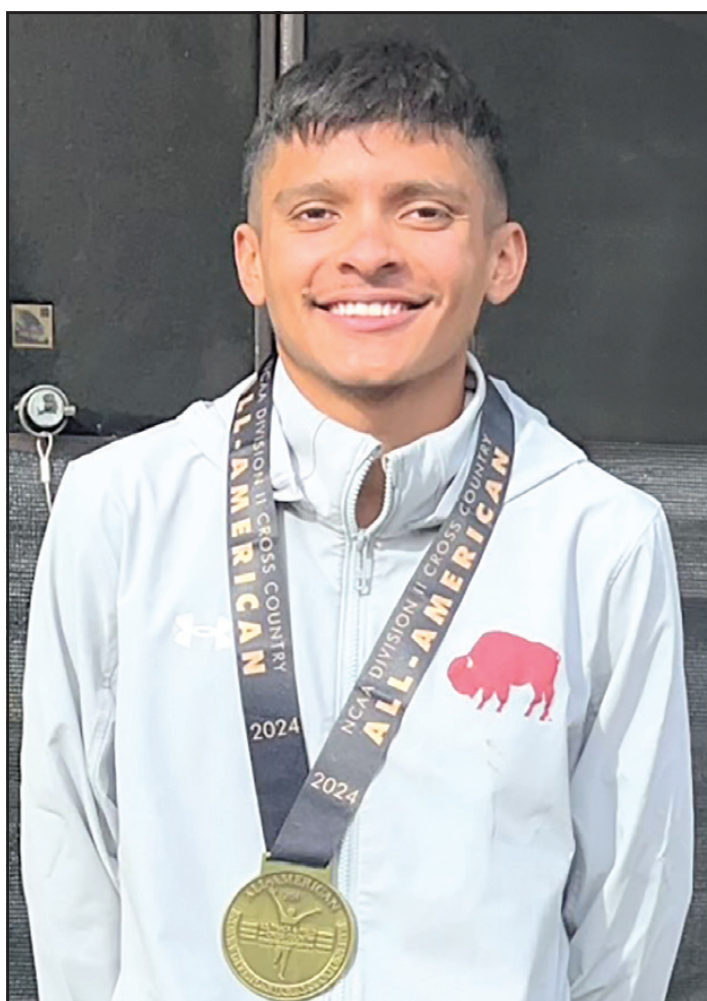
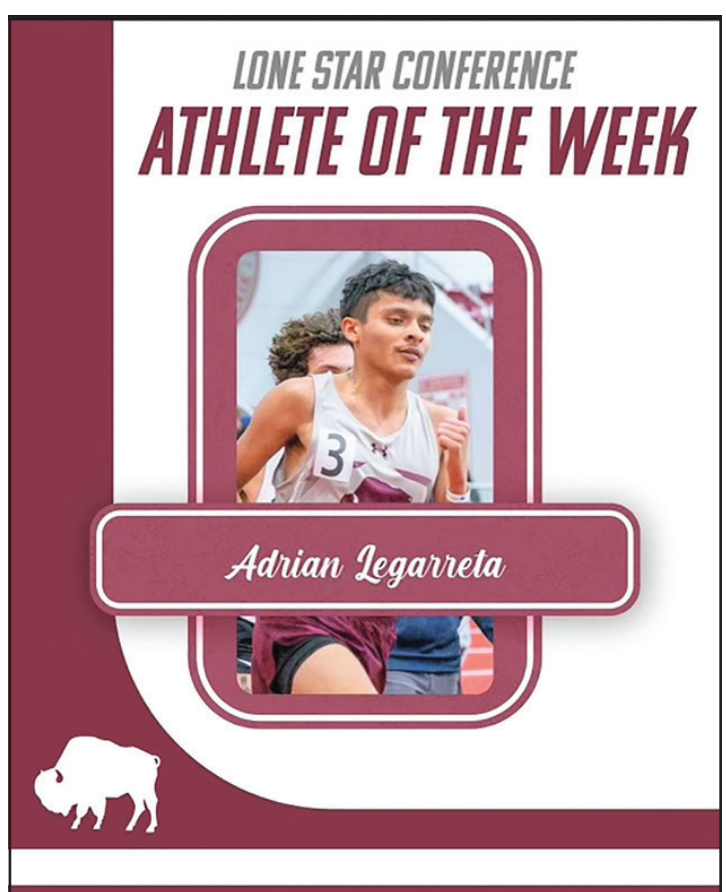
on County Road 17 in a 2012 Kia Sorento and was approaching a stop sign at the intersection with U.S. Highway 60. Warren failed to yield the right of way and pulled into the path of a 2000 Peterbilt Truck tractor towing a semi-trailer which was eastbound on U.S. 60 and being driven by Reyes Lucero Jr., 60, of Mesquite, New Mexico.

The truck hit the midsize SUV on the driver's side.

Warren was transported to Parmer County Medical Center with life-threatening injuries, where he later died. Lucero was not injured in the crash. The report stated that Warren was not wearing a seat belt.

The crash remains under investigation.

Adrian Legarreta



Athlete of the Week — Class of 2021 Friona High School graduate Adrian Legarreta has been selected as the Lone Star Conference Athlete of the Week. Legarreta just recently earned All-American honors by finishing 10th in the NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships and helping West Texas A&M claim a fourth-place finish for the second straight season. It was the Buffaloes best finish at the NCAA Championships in program history.

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| | Town Talk Page 3 | Obituary Page 4 | Church Page 5 | Classifieds Page 6 | Sports Page 9 | |
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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.

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| Friona Weather December 12-18 | T 59 31 SW 10-20 | F 62 28 WSW 20-30 | S 60 34 SW 5-10 | S 66 35 SW 10-20 | M 57 29 NNE 10-15 | T 58 31 SSW 15-25 | W 52 28 N 10-20 | Precipitation December 0.00 Year 21.72 | Burn Ban No |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|

State Capital Highlights

By Gary Borders



Community Calendar

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

December 12

- Tacos Meal @ Senior Center
- Christmas Choir Program @ 7:00 p.m. at FHS Auditorium

December 16

- Enchiladas Meal @ Senior Center

December 17

- Junior High Band Concert 7:00 p.m. at Junior High Auditorium

December 18

- Library Book Shop at 618 Euclid open 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

December 19

- Meal @ Senior Center
- Early release for students

December 20

- Early release for staff/students

December 23 - January 3

- No school / Christmas Break

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.



Phelan drops bid for speaker; no clear winner yet

House Speaker Dade Phelan withdrew last week from seeking another term leading that chamber. After three rounds of voting on Saturday, state Rep. David Cook, R-Mansfield emerged as the preference of most House Republicans. However, his opponent, state Rep. Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, claims to have enough support from both Republicans and Democrats to clear the 76-vote threshold.

The Dallas Morning News reported that Cook acknowledged the race for speaker wasn't yet over.

"I'll continue working between now and Jan. 14 to earn [the vote] of every member of the Texas Republican caucus — as well as any Democrat," Cook said.

Phelan, R-Beaumont, narrowly won re-election to his seat in the May primary, needing to prevail in a runoff to return to Austin. He was opposed by fellow Republicans who blamed him for the failure of several priorities in the last session, including the push to institute school vouchers.

Among Phelan's opponents were Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who was impeached by the House but survived a conviction trial in the Senate. Paxton blasted Burrows, who voted to impeach him, as "Dade 2.0"

"Supporting Burrows is a betrayal of the conservative movement," Paxton said Friday. "Voters will remember."

Voucher push spurs call for accountability

Education savings accounts, popularly known as school vouchers, are again a top priority for Gov. Greg Abbott in the upcoming session after a similar push failed in 2023. This time, however, the primary loss of several voucher opponents last March has even those opposing vouchers conceding passage of a measure is likely.

That means lawmakers will pass a bill to send public tax dollars to private schools, according to the Texas Standard.

At a recent visit to the private religious school Kingdom Life Academy in Tyler, Abbott said, "We are assuring that students who may have fallen through the cracks in their public school, they're going to have a new chance, a new opportunity to be able to, to learn, to achieve, to succeed."

Dallas school board member Dan Micciche recently said that since vouchers are a likely possibility, it is vital that private and home schools that receive taxpayer money be held to the same accountability standards as public schools, including STAAR testing.

"Any school or educational entity

that receives public funds should be held to the same accountability standards for student outcomes, fiscal performance, open records and meetings act, and student services," he said.

Public school administrators are also pushing for teacher pay raises, something that fell by the wayside in the last session when a voucher bill failed to pass.

Lawmakers mull social media ban for teens

Texas lawmakers could consider banning social media from minors in the upcoming session, The Texas Tribune reported. A bill filed by state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, would prohibit minors from creating accounts on social media sites and add age verification for new users.

Other online measures would attack use of artificial intelligence to make pornographic images using people's likenesses and would boost funding for internet crime units in law enforcement agencies.

"Social media is the most dangerous thing our kids have legal access to in Texas," Patterson said.

A number of national organizations, including the American Federation of Teachers and the American Psychological Association, have criticized social media companies for being a "root cause" of the nationwide youth mental health crisis. Studies indicate 95% of youth ages 13 to 17 use social media, with more than a third saying they use it "almost constantly."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued TikTok in October, saying the company allows its algorithms to affect minors. That suit is set to go to court in coming months.

Higher risk of another deep freeze in Texas

The top meteorologist for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas said the coming winter could bring a higher risk of extreme cold temperature than experienced during the February 2021 storm.

Chris Coleman with ERCOT said a bevy of weather variables such as ocean currents, atmospheric patterns and soil moisture appear very similar to the 2021 conditions that spawned Winter Storm URI, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"The more I look at this winter, the more cold potential I see," Coleman said. "This is like a tornado watch. Doesn't mean a tornado is going to happen. It means conditions are there."

ERCOT is emphasizing that any potential rotating outages because of winter storms would be only hours long rather than multiple days because of improvements to the Texas grid, such as weatherproofing of

power plants and more backup power sources.

"I always point to the weatherization program as probably being one of the most statistically significant changes that have been made, that has markedly changed the risk profile of the ERCOT grid, in particular during the winter seasons," ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas told the board Tuesday.

TEA investigating 100 teachers in cheating scheme

More than 100 Texas teachers are being investigated by the Texas Education Agency in connection with a teaching certification cheating scheme. The vast majority of teachers on a list released last week by TEA are employed by North Texas or Houston-area school districts.

Five people have been charged with felonies in connection with the scheme, allegedly organized by a Houston-area basketball coach, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

School districts have had a difficult time filling teacher vacancies since the pandemic, and the number of uncertified teachers hired has risen considerably. Statewide, 34.6% of teachers hired during the 2023-24 school year didn't have a teaching certificate, nearly three times the rate in 2019-20.

Patrick vows to go after THC products sold by dispensaries

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said banning THC products will be a top priority next session, threatening the livelihood of dozens of stores across the state selling products with higher levels of the main compound in cannabis, the Chronicle reported.

Hemp was legalized in Texas in 2019. That has led to a proliferation of products containing higher levels of THC, which produces a high similar to cannabis, which is still illegal in Texas..

"Retailers exploited the agriculture law to sell life-threatening, unregulated forms of THC to the public and made them easily accessible," Patrick said.

Hemp producers are regulated by the Texas Department of State Health Services, and industry groups say there are far too few producers for the booming market.

"Such a ban would hand this multi-billion-dollar industry over to the illicit market, abandoning all opportunity to properly regulate the industry," said Heather Fazio, co-founder of Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy.

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

ACROSS

- 1 sports number abbr.
- 5 ZZ Top, e.g.
- 6 TXism: "he can all day and dance all night" (stamina)
- 7 Johnny Cash's "___ Named Sue"
- 8 TXism: "can't carry a ___" (bad singer)
- 18 dir. from Uvalde to New Braunfels
- 19 prints produced by silkscreens
- 21 Rice won "___ College Bowl" in 1966
- 22 TXism: "he's too lazy to ___ flies"
- 23 actor Keith of 1953 "Son of Belle Starr"
- 24 TX Charley Pride's "Then ___"
- 29 Lone ___ State
- 30 Eagle Pass FM
- 31 TX George Strait sang "What ___ You Say to That" (1999)
- 32 TXism: "if it ain't true, there ___ Texas"
- 34 seven day period
- 35 epic film "Ben ___"
- 36 TXism: "___ old range cow"
- 37 one who hoes
- 38 this Richard was the 15th governor of Texas
- 39 TXism: "she could talk the legs off ___"
- 41 be concerned
- 42 school of dolphins

- 43 "north" below the border
- 44 farm buildings
- 45 WWII forerunner of the CIA
- 46 TXism: "it's ___ worth didley squat"
- 47 "Dirty ___" of Eastwood film franchise
- 48 TXism: "attracted like flies ___"
- 50 TX Strait won 5 CMA "___ Vocalist" awards

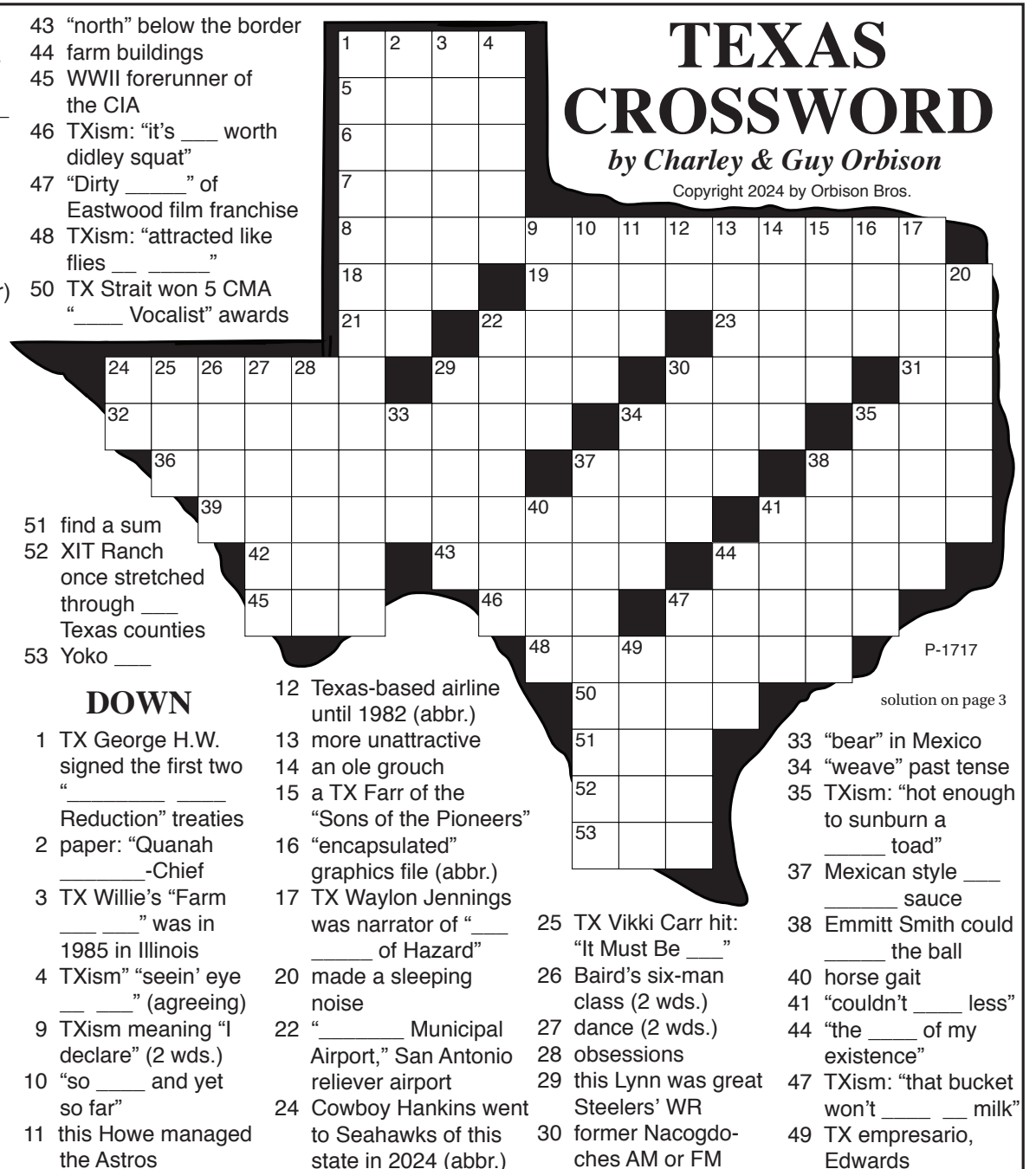
DOWN

- 1 TX George H.W. signed the first two "___ Reduction" treaties
- 2 paper: "Quanah ___-Chief"
- 3 TX Willie's "Farm ___" was in 1985 in Illinois
- 4 TXism: "seein' eye ___" (agreeing)
- 9 TXism meaning "I declare" (2 wds.)
- 10 "so ___ and yet so far"
- 11 this Howe managed the Astros
- 12 Texas-based airline until 1982 (abbr.)
- 13 more unattractive
- 14 an ole grouch
- 15 a TX Farr of the "Sons of the Pioneers"
- 16 "encapsulated" graphics file (abbr.)
- 17 TX Waylon Jennings was narrator of "___ of Hazard"
- 20 made a sleeping noise
- 22 "___ Municipal Airport," San Antonio reliever airport
- 24 Cowboy Hankins went to Seahawks of this state in 2024 (abbr.)
- 25 TX Vikki Carr hit: "It Must Be ___"
- 26 Baird's six-man class (2 wds.)
- 27 dance (2 wds.)
- 28 obsessions
- 29 this Lynn was great Steelers' WR
- 30 former Nacogdoches AM or FM
- 33 "bear" in Mexico
- 34 "weave" past tense
- 35 TXism: "hot enough to sunburn a ___ toad"
- 37 Mexican style ___ sauce
- 38 Emmitt Smith could ___ the ball
- 40 horse gait
- 41 "couldn't ___ less"
- 44 "the ___ of my existence"
- 47 TXism: "that bucket won't ___ milk"
- 49 TX empresario, Edwards

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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solution on page 3

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Accounting

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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 \$20 each. Obituaries are published at no charge. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday.



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It is not your right to dictate its use.*

*Because otherwise
It was not a gift but property lent.*

*Gifts with complete
Sincerity, openness, honor,
Will always bring
Joy, gratitude, love.*

*Bul
www.countryboyjustme.com*

COURTHOUSE NOTES

Susie Spring, County Clerk

Warranty Deeds recorded at the Parmer County Clerk's Office from November 28, 2024 to December 5, 2024

(12/2/24) Terry Parham — Cecelia Parham, Terry Parham, Tiffany Parham Hicks, Terry and Cecelia Parham Trust — The NW/4 of Section 36, Block H, Thomas Kelly Subdivision; More Tracts on Exhibit "A"

(12/2/24) Terry Parham, Cecelia Parham — Terry Parham, Cecelia Parham, Tiffany Parham Hicks, Terry and Cecelia Parham Trust — The SW/4 of Section 79, Block H, Thomas Kelly Subdivision; All of SW/4 of Section 91, Block H, Thomas Kelly Subdivision, Parmer County, Texas

(12/3/24) Margie Rivera — Aaron Rivera, Joshua Rivera — Lakeview, Block 6, Lot 21, Friona, Texas

(12/4/24) Tracy Diane Devault, Estate of Johnnie Bert Williams — Devault Land and Cattle LLP — All of Lots 1 and 2 and the E/2 of Lot 3 and E/2 of Lot 6, All of Lot 7, of Section 7, All in T16S, R1E, Parmer; More Tracts on Document

(12/4/24) Gregory Duffield — Annette Duffield Terran — North 85' of Lot 2, block 3, Ridgecrest Addition Unit 2, City of Farwell, Parmer County

Lower gas prices for Christmas

By GasBuddy

Average gasoline prices in Texas rose 3.6 cents last week, averaging \$2.55 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's survey of 13,114 stations in Texas. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas was priced at \$1.71 while the most expensive was \$3.39 per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline fell 3.1 cents last week, averaging \$2.97 per gallon. The national average price of diesel declined 2.3 cents last week and stands at \$3.491 per gallon.

"The national average has finally fallen below \$3 per gallon, and it couldn't come at a better time for motorists with the holidays upon us. One would need to count over 1,300 days since we've seen the national average this low, with the affordability of gasoline at its lowest non-COVID level since 2015," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

FSA News

Maps for Acreage Reporting Are Available

Maps are now available at the Parmer County FSA Office for acreage reporting purposes. If you wish to receive your maps by e-mail, please call our office or email esmeralda.vazquez@usda.gov, adriana.jones@usda.gov or vicenta.martinez@usda.gov.

Reporting deadline for Parmer County: January 15, 2025: Fall & Winter Crops

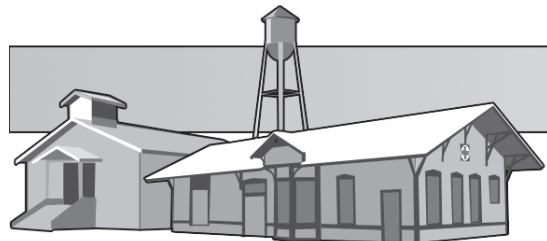
In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, you must file timely acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may cause ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.

Producers are encouraged to file their acreage reports as soon as planting is completed.

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Puzzle Solution

S-1717



TOWN TALK

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

All Aboard! — Grab your "ticket" and join Legacy Pointe for their Annual Christmas Party at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 19th in the Legacy Pointe dining area. Santa will be there along with snacks, games, prizes, and a hot cocoa bar. Call Kathy at 806-206-7788 to get reserve your ticket. ★★

Christmas Band Concert — Friona Junior High bands will be present their annual Christmas Band Concert at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17th at the Friona Junior High auditorium. ★★

FISD Christmas Break — All

FISD schools will be closed from December 23rd through January 3rd for the Christmas Break. Students will have early release on December 19th and students/staff will have early release on December 20th. ★★

Last 2024 Issue — Next week will be the final edition of the Friona Star for 2024. The December 19th edition will contain Santa letters, Christmas photos from various events, and special ads from our sponsors. The Friona Star will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2025. Stay tuned. ★★

Texas Facts — In 2010, the En-

vironmental Protection Agency declared Texas unfit to regulate its own greenhouse gas emissions. Source: funworld-facts.com

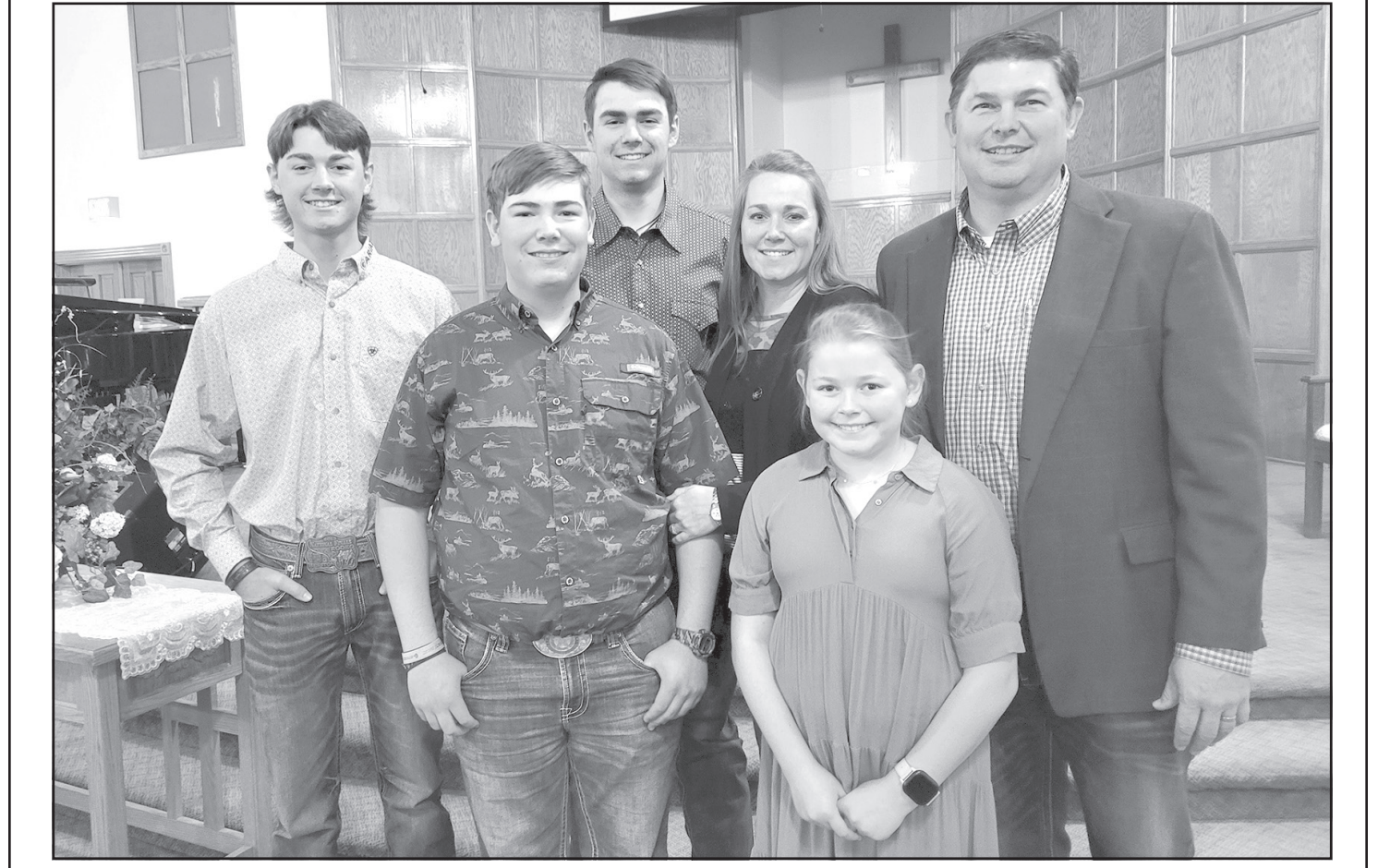
- ★★★
- National Days**
- December 12 — Poinsettia Day
 - December 13 — Cocoa Day
 - December 14 — Wreaths Across America Day
 - December 15 — Bill of Rights Day
 - December 16 — Christmas Card Day
 - December 17 — Maple Syrup Day
 - December 18 — Twin Day
- ★★★



Last week these 4-H kids went to Legacy Pointe Senior Apartments and helped decorate for Christmas.

Come Say Goodbye to the Hoyles

Community Reception
Sunday - December 15th
1:30 - 2:30
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall



Pastor Brett Hoyle and family will be moving soon to Burkburnett, Texas, where he will serve as pastor of First Baptist Church. He and Lindsey have served First Baptist, Friona, for 15 1/2 years and have had a big impact on our community. Brett has been the Bluebonnet Hospice chaplain, a big part of Friona Christian Ministries, coached youth baseball, and has ministered to countless families in and around Friona. His last day will be December 15th. Please come express your love and appreciation to Pastor Brett, Lindsey and family.

Small Town Cookin' By Jeri Lynn White

Cookies for Christmas

This weeks cookie comes in the form of a bar. This recipe is a little more time consuming, but I think the end result will be worth it. I have not made this recipe, so let me know how they turn out if you make them. Hope you enjoy!

Caramel Shortbread Squares
www.allrecipes.com

Ingredients

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Shortbread: | Caramel: | ½ cup packed light brown sugar |
| 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour | ½ cup unsalted butter | 2 tablespoons light corn syrup |
| ¾ cup unsalted butter, softened | ½ cup sweetened condensed milk | Chocolate Topping: |
| ¼ cup white sugar | | 1 ¼ cups milk chocolate chips |

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 C). To make the shortbread: Mix flour, softened butter, and sugar together in a medium bowl until well blended and crumbly. Press into the bottom of a 9-inch square baking pan. Bake in the preheated oven un-

til dry and light golden brown, about 20 minutes. To make the caramel: Bring butter, brown sugar, condensed milk, and corn syrup to a boil in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Boil for 5 minutes, then remove from the heat and beat vigorously with

a wooden spoon for about 3 minutes. Pour over baked crust (crust can be either warm or cool). Let sit at room temperature until caramel begins to firm up, 2 to 3 hours. Microwave chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl on high for 1 minute, then stir

and continue to heat and stir in 20-second intervals until chocolate is melted and smooth. Pour chocolate over caramel layer and spread evenly to cover completely. Chill in the refrigerator until chocolate is set, about 30 minutes. Cut into bars.

Caviness to Receive Honorary Doctorate

An area cattleman whose family-owned business has evolved into a worldwide industry leader will be presented an honorary doctorate on December 14th by West Texas A&M University. Terry Caviness, CEO of Caviness Beef Packers, will be presented with an honorary Ph.D. in agriculture business from WT's Paul Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences.

"I am most humbled by this extremely fine honor. WT is such an important institution not only for students, but also for the quality of life in the Texas Panhandle," Caviness said. "The Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences has very strong leadership, and the school's mission and values are very much aligned with our family's."

Caviness will be honored during the second of WT's three commencement ceremonies, which will be stretched to two days — Dec. 13 and 14 — in the First United Bank Center, 3301 Fourth Ave. in Canyon. The 10 a.m. Dec. 14 ceremony also will include the

Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities.

Caviness Beef Packers was founded in 1962 and is currently led by second- and third-generation family members. The company has grown from harvesting a handful of cattle in the early days to processing 4,700 head today as the sixth-largest beef packer in the country.

"Terry's leadership and expertise in growing and evolving the beef packing industry in the Panhandle is worthy of recognition and distinction," WT President Walter V. Wendler said. "The honorary doctorate is the University's way of not only recognizing Terry, but also of drawing attention to the vital role the cattle industry, and beef packing in particular, plays in our region. WT is proud to be a regional research institution."

Caviness is a community and industry leader. He is the past chair and director of the National Meat Association, which gave him its most distinguished award for service, the E. Floyd

Forbes Award, in 2009. Caviness has led the boards for FirstBank Southwest, the Amarillo Area Foundation, the Presbyterian Home for Children and the Maverick Boys & Girls Club.

Earlier in 2024, Caviness was inducted into the Meat Industry Hall of Fame, and he and sons Trevor and Regan were given the Pinnacle Award by WT at the annual Celebration of Donors.

"Terry Caviness has always given of his time and talents to the agricultural and food industries, to West Texas A&M University and to the community," said Dr. Kevin Pond, dean of the Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences. "We are excited to award him with the most prestigious honor an individual can receive from the University."

Caviness and his family have provided significant support to WT, including the state-of-the-art Caviness Meat Science and Innovation Center inside WT's Agricultural Sciences Complex, and the Caviness Davis Distinguished Chair

in Meat Science with Dr. Gordon W. Davis, a Lubbock businessman and former educator.

Happy Birthday

Dec. 12
Linda Knowles
Paul J. Smith
Dustin Acker
Brittan Bynum
James Wiley

Dec. 13
Taylor Duran
Aubry Snyder

Dec. 14
Joe Tongate
B.K. Buske
Troy Benton
Gibson Baafour
Lexie Reeves

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
Socorro Reyes
Emilia Contreras

Dec. 16
Michael Stanberry
Megan Carr
Kyle Jamerson
Travis Stewart
Rhett Houston
Paul Graham
David Carranza
Cheri Williams
Toby Martinez
Abayomi Salinas
Leanne Garcia

Dec. 17
Mary Joyce Barnett
Jason Hankins
Jim Schlenker
Cynthia Silva
Vanessa Hernandez
DeeDee Davila
Michael Prokop

Dec. 18
Bud Rainey
Logan Loflin
Maxwell Moroney
Wade Procter
Brittany (Anthony) Field
Michael Scott
Stephanie Madrigal
Amanda Zapata

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



Obituary



Jim Varner



Jim Varner, 84 of Herford passed away at his residence on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Memorial Celebration of Life Services have been scheduled for 10:00AM, Saturday December 14, 2024 at the Union Congregational Church in Friona with Pastor Ken Varner, officiating. Cremation and arrangements by HANSARD FAMILY Funeral Home of Friona

Jim was born June 29, 1940 in Cuthand, Texas to James Russell and Stella Joan Mauldin Varner. He married Mary Melinde Dean on November 2, 1962 in Friona.



They met at an area roller skating rink. He spent 20 years in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War era. Jim was a very hard worker providing for his family, but also loved to spend time enjoying each one of them. His patient and kind spirit will be missed.

Those preceding him

in death include his parents- James and Stella Varner, 2 sisters-Martha Shepherd and Gail Trevison, 2 brothers-Stanley Ray Varner and Phillip Varner, and 1 granddaughter-Danielle Sunderlin.

Those to mourn his passings include his wife Lindy Varner of Herford, 1 daughter-Gaylene Varner Young and husband Greg of Glendale, AZ., 2 grandsons-Jeffery James Sunderlin and Justin O'Neil.

You may send blessings to the family and sign the online guest book on Jim's memorial page exclusively at: hansardfamily.com

Hansard Family
Funeral Home



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Farewell Friona

By Brett Hoyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church

You may have heard the news by now, but First Baptist Church in Friona is soon to be without a pastor as I will be moving to pastor at First Baptist Church, Burkburnett. In May 2009 the Lord clearly led me and Lindsey to move to Friona from Louisville, Kentucky, and the Lord led FBC Friona to call a twenty-eight year old seminary grad to be their pastor. For the past fifteen and a half years I have had the privilege of serving as the pastor of FBC Friona.

In that time many have gotten saved,

many more have grown in Jesus, millions of dollars have been spent to get the gospel across the street and around the world, and it has been a tremendous privilege to be in Friona! God truly does "...far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us" (Eph 3:20). Friona has been a blessing to our family in many ways, but the greatest joy we have regarding Friona is that so many of you have been impacted by Christ. To God be the glory!

FBC Friona is an amazing Church as well, but it is an amazing Church because of Jesus! Colossians 1:18 makes clear that "...he [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church...", and sometimes changes in Church leadership can be a shock to our comfort, but the reality is that the Church is in great hands, because the Church belongs to Jesus! He is the one we fix our heart and hope upon, because he is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and we rest our faith and our future in him.

Panhandle Parables

"God With Us"

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

We know not the date of His birth, but we believe Him to have been born in the humblest 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, and the world would never be the same for an eternal light would forever dispel the darkness.

My prayer is that people would

simply stop and be thankful for this Gift, to remember God's great love. Remembering 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.'"

It's All About Jesus

By Teena Hughs

We have no flooring in our house due to our contractor not putting vents under the new part of our house; not allowing the moisture under the house to dry out. As I write this, we are waiting for a flooring man to come from Kerrville to tell us if we have dried out the plywood so we can get the new flooring installed.

We are also waiting for some test results for Feller so I can write my annual Christmas newsletter.

We do have our outside lights and Christmas tree up. We aren't decorated for Christmas because we are waiting to see if there is a chance our flooring will get put in before Christmas.

It is 16 days before Christmas, and so many things are up in the air here. But, that is life.

Even though I LOVE my decorations, and I LOVE my house being decorated, Christmas isn't about decorations and about trees,

it is about Jesus. He is where all of our attention and focus are supposed to be.

For me, preparing for Christmas is fun. I admit that in years past, I have focused more on making things look good than on Jesus. So, when years like this one happen, it is ok. I have said before that I believe God lets us experience things to show us how much we have changed and grown up. Such is the case of this Christmas season.

It wasn't that long ago that all of my undone things would have me frazzled, in the worst mood, and just unhappy because I wasn't prepared for that "perfect" Christmas, that never happens!

This year, due to all of our situations, I have had the time to focus more on Jesus. After I wrote last week's column, I got back on the computer and started two lists: one is about Jesus and what He means to me,

and the other is a list of Scriptures I love.

So far, I have kept up with my lists, and I am finding myself thinking about Jesus more than I have during any other Christmas season. I am having to really think about who Jesus is to me; what He means to me; what He has done for me, but there is great peace that comes from focusing on Him, and it makes those things like decorating and shopping seem not as important as they have in the past.

Jesus affects us in different ways in different times and places of our lives. Because of Him, it doesn't matter when we get our flooring in; it doesn't matter when we get the test results; it doesn't matter what decorations end up getting put up, we will have Christmas, and it will be a great Christmas, all because of Jesus, who He is, and how He has transformed our lives! Thank You, Jesus, it is all about You!!!

Send your church news to the

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frionastar@wtrt.net

Area Church Directory

Friona

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15th & Cleveland • 806-250-3000
Pastor D.J. Lewis
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
6th & Summit • 806-250-3933
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
502 W. 6th • 806-250-2769
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
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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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
308 3rd Street
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
103 1st Street
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Pastor Rafael Marin

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Friona Texas



December Bible Verse

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11 KJV

¹⁰ Pero el ángel les dijo: No temáis; porque he aquí os doy nuevas de gran gozo, que será para todo el pueblo: ¹¹ que os ha nacido hoy, en la ciudad de David, un Salvador, que es CRISTO el Señor. Lucas 2:10-11 R-V 196

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NOTICE

Friona ISD Notice of Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held during the Friona ISD Board Meeting on Monday, December 16, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Friona ISD Administration Building at 909 E. 11th Street, Friona, Texas.

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

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Proper tree planting for more 'fruitful' results

AgriLife Extension expert provides tips to establish and maintain fruit trees in Texas

by Adam Russell

Larry Stein, Ph.D., professor and Regents Fellow in the Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Sciences and AgriLife Extension fruit specialist, Uvalde, said now is the time to plant, and homeowners should choose the right tree and take the correct steps to establish and care for their fruit trees in the first critical years.

When it comes to fruit trees, Stein said to plant in late December through February. The key is that trees be totally dormant at the time of planting. Planting trees in early winter helps them establish some root growth before they break dormancy in the spring, Stein said. That initial root growth can make a big difference during harsh summer conditions.

Poor draining soil can cause problems for fruit trees, Stein said. Low spots or

areas that stay saturated are poor transplant locations. "You want well-drained soil and not a spot where water collects," he said. "That can drown the tree."

Stein also recommends placing the tree on the north side of the property so it stays cold during dormancy and remains dormant longer. "Plant fruit trees in an area where they will avoid late-day sun, which can contribute to earlier bud breaks," he said. "You want the tree to stay dormant as long as possible to avoid tree or fruit damage from any potential late-spring freezes."

Before planting, knock off the soil around the tree's roots, which, in container trees, typically includes peat moss and perlite or a light mix. Inspect the roots and cut them back if they are wrapped around the root

ball to prevent the tree from becoming rootbound.

Dig a hole the size of the root system, typically 12-18 inches across, Stein said. Dig it deep enough to plant the tree so that its root collar — the distinct line where the stem meets the root ball — is level with the ground.

Fill in the hole with the original soil, Stein said. Water the tree well to settle the soil around the roots, and then cut the tree back hard. He said to be sure to cut the trees back hard at planting as doing so will greatly improve tree livability.

Stein also recommends clearing weeds and grass from around fruit trees for at least the first five years. This reduces competition for water and nutrients critical for the tree's development.

"It's important to just let the tree do its thing. Most people kill trees with kind-

ness at that point," he said. "Overwatering is probably the No. 1 cause of death. Trees don't need much water while inactive. They can go 4-6 weeks without water when dormant, and normal rain usually provides the needed moisture."

When the tree begins growing, keep it well-watered — typically once a week with 1 inch of water, depending on soil type, Stein said.

In May, after the tree shows 8-10 inches of growth, fertilize it with a cup of ammonium sulfate with 21% nitrogen. Organic 3% fertilizer can be used but apply 7 cups to reach the 21% nitrogen requirement. Water in the fertilizer 12-18 inches from the trunk of the tree, he said.

Stein said to continue to water and weed around the tree and ramp up the fertilization regimen in year two with a cup of fertilizer

in March, April, May and June. In year three, double the fertilizer regimen with 2 cups of ammonium sulfate in those months to push the tree's growth.

Provide a half pound of 21% fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter at bud break in subsequent years for the life of the tree, Stein said. Give the tree another half-pound of fertilizer in May if it shows a fruit crop. Do not apply the second round of fertilizer if the tree is not showing fruit.

"Those are the recommendations for the life of the tree," he said. "There are variety-specific training and pruning regimens we recommend in the fact sheets, and you'll need to be aware of potential seasonal disease and pest issues, but that is a good start to successfully establishing fruit trees in Texas."

Friona Jr. High UIL Team and Individual Results, 2024-25

Overall Ranking: 4th Place

Art SMART 6th Grade

- *1st Place Team
 - *Giovani Gonzalez, 1st Place Individual (perfect paper)
 - *Emely Bejar, Tie 2nd Place Individual
 - *Rosalinda Ordonez, 5th Place Individual
 - *Cristina Castro
- ## 7th Grade
- *3rd Place Team
 - *Yudith Gutierrez, 1st Place Individual (perfect paper)
 - *Angel Faudoa
 - *Jace Jarecki
 - *Odalys Quiros
- ## 8th Grade
- *Brenda Lopez Pablo, 1st Place Individual (perfect paper)

Chess Puzzles 6th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Eden Esparza
- *Julian Mendoza
- *Isziah Snyder

7th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Zane Gonzales, 5th Place Individual
- *Nico Alcaraz
- *Mateo Salinas

8th Grade

- *1st Place Team
- *Andrew Marquez, 1st Place Individual
- *Jalond Rejino, 3rd Place Individual
- *Darius Gonzalez, 4th Place Individual
- *Kolton Thompson

Calculator Applications 6th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Yahdir Faudoa
- *Andres Gutierrez
- *Juan Perez
- *Isziah Snyder

8th Grade

- *2nd Place Team
- *Zaylee Dominguez
- *Fernando Moreno

- *Eli Rosales
- *Angelica Villarreal

Dictionary Skills 7th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Karleigh Rangel, 5th Place Individual
- *Preslie Goyne
- Sophia San Miguel

8th Grade

- *2nd Place Team
- *Natalie Achor, 4th Place Individual
- *Tania Martinez, 5th Place Individual
- *Marely Quinones, 6th Place Individual
- *Ivanna Guevara

Editorial Writing 7th Grade

- *Owen Daniels, 3rd Place Individual
- 8th Grade
- *Fernando Moreno, 1st Place Individual
- *Andrew Marquez, 3rd Place Individual
- *Natalie Achor, 6th Place Individual

Impromptu Speaking 6th Grade

- *Ermalinda Rodriguez, 6th Place Individual

8th Grade

- *Marely Quinones, 3rd Place Individual
- *Melanie Estrada, 4th Place Individual

Listening Skills 6th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Roman Salinas, 4th Place Individual
- *Aide Rodriguez
- *Amayah Rojas

7th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Matteo Jaramillo, Tie 5th Place Individual
- *Alfredo Chavez
- *Jayven Rodriguez
- *Sophia San Miguel

8th Grade

- *1st Place Team
- *Porter Gilley, Tie 2nd Place Individual
- *Avril Wells, 5th Place Individual
- *Brianna Rocha, 6th Place Individual
- *Marely Quinones

Maps, Graphs & Charts 7th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Alfredo Chavez, Tie 2nd Place Individual
- *Nico Alcaraz
- *Jayven Rodriguez
- *Mateo Salinas

8th Grade

- *1st Place Team
- *Fernando Moreno, 1st Place Individual
- *Angelica Villarreal, 2nd Place Individual
- *Natalie Achor, Tie 3rd Place Individual
- *Marely Quinones

Mathematics 6th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Roman Salinas, 6th Place Individual
- *Francisco Bolanos
- *Nayely Lias
- *Anthony Marquez

8th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Kolton Thompson, Tie 3rd Place Individual
- *Aylen Moreno
- *Darien Padilla
- *Kolton Thompson

Modern Oratory 6th Grade

- *Kyleigh Juarez, 1st Place Individual
- *Nayely Lias, 6th Place Individual

7th Grade

- *Ella Rector, 2nd Place Individual
- *Joselin Perez Castro, 5th Place Individual

8th Grade

- *Natalie Achor, 1st Place Individual
- *Marely Quinones, 2nd Place Individual
- *Aylen Moreno, 3rd Place Individual

Music Memory 6th Grade

- *2nd Place Team
- *Manasseh Licerio, 5th Place Individual
- *Ermalinda Rodriguez, Tie 6th Place Individual
- *Roman Salinas, Tie 6th Place Individual
- *Anthony Marquez

8th Grade

- *1st Place Team
- *Fernando Moreno, 1st Place Individual
- *Porter Gilley, 2nd Place Individual
- *Brianna Rocha, 6th Place Individual
- *Joanna McElroy

- *Karleigh Rangel (7th Grader)
- *Sophia San Miguel (7th Grader)

Number Sense 6th Grade

- *3rd Place Team
- *Francisco Bolanos
- *Andres Gutierrez
- *Kyleigh Juarez
- *Juan Perez

7th Grade

- *Jace Jarecki, 4th Place Individual
- *2nd Place Team
- *Kolton Thompson, 2nd Place Individual
- *Darien Padilla, 5th Place Individual
- *Aylen Moreno
- *Eli Rosales

Oral Reading 7th Grade

- *Owen Daniels, 1st Place Individual
- *Sophie Lewellen, 4th Place Individual
- 8th Grade
- *Noah Beltran, 6th Place Individual

Ready Writing 8th Grade

- *Marely Quinones, 6th Place Individual

Science 6th Grade

- *2nd Place Team
- *Jay'ven Munoz, 4th Place Individual
- *Mariah Ibave, 5th Place Individual
- *Bart Van Sommeren
- *Brantley Van Sommeren

8th Grade

- *1st Place Team
- *Justin Henry, 2nd Place Individual
- *Sebastian Perez, 4th Place Individual
- *Joseph Hooley, 6th Place Individual

Social Studies 6th Grade

- *Isziah Snyder, 4th Place Individual
- *3rd Place Team
- *Sarina Amaya, 7th Grader
- *Darius Gonzalez
- *Dustin Shields

Spelling 6th Grade

- *Miranda Santiago, 6th Place Individual
- *3rd Place Team
- *Kamila Moreno, 4th Place Individual
- *Karleigh Rangel, 5th Place Individual
- *Genesis Aguirre
- *Sophia San Miguel

8th Grade

- *2nd Place Team
- *Luis Grado, 2nd Place Individual
- *Avril Wells, 6th Place Individual
- *Fernando Perez
- *Brianna Rocha

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FRIONA FLASHBACKS

From the Friona Star Archives



ALL-REGION BAND . . . These Friona High School students earned positions on the All-Region Band recently. In the back, l-r, are Jaclyn Peace, Jenny Ahrhart, Leander Davila, Lucy Venhaus, Isaac Aguilar and Aaron Rivera. Seated: Joni Johnson, Sheila Wiseman, Candi Baca, Michel Rodriguez, Carrie Cox and Amber Martin. Not present for the photo was Sara Hale.

(Friona Star, Saturday, December 17, 1994)

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE
NATURAL GAS UTILITY RATES
AVISO PÚBLICO DEL CAMBIO DE TARIFA PROPUESTO
TARIFAS DE SERVICIOS DE GAS NATURAL**

On October 25, 2024, Atmos Energy Corporation’s (“Atmos Energy” or “the Company”) West Texas Division (“WTX Division”) filed a proposed systemwide cost of service and accompanying Statement of Intent with the Railroad Commission of Texas (“Commission”) and each municipality served by the WTX Division. The Statement of Intent seeks to change the gas utility rates charged by the Company to customers within all incorporated and unincorporated areas served by the WTX Division. The incorporated areas of the WTX Division are comprised of Amarillo, Lubbock, Dalhart, and Channing (collectively, the “ALDC Cities”) and the cities of Abernathy, Amherst, Anton, Big Spring, Bovina, Brownfield, Buffalo Springs Lake, Canyon, Coahoma, Crosbyton, Dimmitt, Earth, Edmonson, Floydada, Forsan, Friena, Fritch, Hale Center, Happy, Hart, Hereford, Idalou, Kress, Lake Tanglewood, Lamesa, Levelland, Littlefield, Lockney, Lorenzo, Los Ybanez, Meadow, Midland, Muleshoe, Nazareth, New Deal, New Home, Odessa, O’Donnell, Olton, Opdyke West, Palisades, Pampa, Panhandle, Petersburg, Plainview, Post, Quitaque, Ralls, Ransom Canyon, Ropesville, Sanford, Seagraves, Seminole, Shallowater, Silverton, Slaton, Smyer, Springlake, Stanton, Sudan, Tahoka, Timbercreek Canyon, Tulia, Turkey, Vega, Wellman, Wilson, Wolfforth (collectively, the “WTX Cities”).

The proposed change in rates will affect residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, and public authority customers within all incorporated and unincorporated areas served by the WTX Division, which includes the incorporated ALDC Cities, WTX Cities, the Triangle system, and all unincorporated areas served by the WTX Division. The proposed effective date of the requested rate change is November 29, 2024.

If approved, the proposed rates will increase the annual revenues received from the unincorporated and incorporated areas served by the WTX Division by approximately \$66.1 million, which is a change of 19.95% including gas costs and 31.54% excluding gas costs. Because the proposed changes will increase the Company’s total aggregate revenue within the WTX Division by more than 2.5%, the proposed changes, if approved, constitute a “major change” in rates as that term is defined by Tex. Util. Code § 104.101. The proposed rates do not, however, exceed 115% of the average of all rates for similar services within all municipalities served by the Company within the same counties, pursuant to Tex. Util. Code § 104.006.

The Company proposes to implement the rates included in Tables below:

TABLE 1 – Proposed Rate Changes for WTX Cities Customers

| Customer Class | Number of Customers Affected | Current Customer Charge | Proposed Customer Charge | Current Consumption Charge (per Ccf) | Proposed Consumption Charge (per Ccf) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Residential | 133,135 | \$ 19.69 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 0.43304 | \$ 0.66215 |
| Commercial | 10,333 | \$ 67.39 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 0.21728 | \$ 0.27727 |
| Industrial & Transportation | 38 | \$ 772.87 | \$ 900.00 | \$ 0.12145 | \$ 0.07749 |
| Public Authority* | 1,314 | \$ 186.36 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 0.19014 | \$ 0.27727 |

TABLE 2 – Proposed Rate Changes for Amarillo, Dalhart, and Channing Customers

| Customer Class | Number of Customers Affected | Current Customer Charge | Proposed Customer Charge | Current Consumption Charge (per Ccf) | Proposed Consumption Charge (per Ccf) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Residential | 67,066 | \$ 24.36 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 0.32946 | \$ 0.66215 |
| Commercial | 5,901 | \$ 79.61 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 0.19071 | \$ 0.27727 |
| Industrial & Transportation | 22 | \$ 1,038.10 | \$ 900.00 | \$ 0.14422 | \$ 0.07749 |
| Public Authority* | 300 | \$ 103.83 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 0.26346 | \$ 0.27727 |

TABLE 3 – Proposed Rate Changes for Lubbock Customers

| Customer Class | Number of Customers Affected | Current Customer Charge | Proposed Customer Charge | Current Consumption Charge (per Ccf) | Proposed Consumption Charge (per Ccf) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Residential | 73,553 | \$ 24.36 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 0.40078 | \$ 0.66215 |
| Commercial | 6,099 | \$ 79.61 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 0.19856 | \$ 0.27727 |
| Industrial & Transportation | 36 | \$ 1,038.10 | \$ 900.00 | \$ 0.11225 | \$ 0.07749 |
| Public Authority* | 254 | \$ 103.83 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 0.24975 | \$ 0.27727 |

TABLE 4 – Proposed Rate Changes for Triangle System Customers Moving to the WTX Division Transportation Tariff**

| WTX TRIANGLE CITY GATE/TRANSPORTATION SERVICE | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Charge | Current | Tariff to be withdrawn & customers moved to proposed transportation rate shown below | Difference* |
| Customer Charge | \$0.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 |
| Consumption Charge per Ccf | \$0.62307 MMBtu | \$0.07749 Ccf | \$0.01428 |

*The current consumption charge is \$0.62307 MMBtu. This rate has been converted to the equivalent Ccf rate of \$0.06321 using a conversion Ccf rate \$ 0.1015 to determine the consumption charge difference.

TABLE 5 – Proposed Rate Changes for Unincorporated Areas Customers

| Customer Class | Number of Customers Affected | Current Customer Charge | Proposed Customer Charge | Current Consumption Charge (per Ccf) | Proposed Consumption Charge (per Ccf) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Residential | 19,768 | \$ 35.11 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 0.21224 | \$ 0.66215 |
| Commercial | 2,297 | \$ 96.65 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 0.11722 | \$ 0.27727 |
| Industrial & Transportation | 91 | \$ 1,237.64 | \$ 900.00 | \$ 0.06895 | \$ 0.07749 |
| Public Authority* | 187 | \$ 286.27 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 0.09518 | \$ 0.27727 |

The average bill impacts identified in Tables 6-10 below have been calculated based on a \$0.41067 per Ccf cost of gas with the exception of Transportation and Triangle System customers, which do not receive a cost of gas.

TABLE 6 – Impact on Average Bill for WTX Cities Customers

| Customer Class (Average Monthly Usage Ccf) | Current Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Monthly Change | Percentage Change with Gas Cost | Percentage Change without Gas Cost |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Residential (45.6) | \$ 61.51 | \$ 78.17 | \$ 16.66 | 27.09% | 39.96% |
| Commercial (233.1) | \$ 226.06 | \$ 248.89 | \$ 22.84 | 10.10% | 18.29% |
| Industrial (2,898.6) | \$ 2,448.40 | \$ 2,448.09 | \$ (0.31) | (0.01)% | (0.03)% |
| Transportation (18,762.2) | \$ 3,227.02 | \$ 2,489.22 | \$ (737.80) | N/A | (22.86)% |
| Public Authority* (618.4) | \$ 589.98 | \$ 529.20 | \$ (60.78) | (10.30)% | (18.91)% |

TABLE 7 – Impact on Average Bill for Amarillo, Dalhart, and Channing Customers

| Customer Class (Average Monthly Usage Ccf) | Current Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Monthly Change | Percentage Change with Gas Cost | Percentage Change without Gas Cost |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Residential (59.4) | \$ 72.25 | \$ 93.83 | \$ 21.57 | 29.86% | 46.44% |
| Commercial (339.4) | \$ 300.03 | \$ 326.23 | \$ 26.19 | 8.73% | 17.16% |
| Industrial (13,903.7) | \$ 9,256.42 | \$ 8,129.22 | \$ (1,127.20) | (12.18)% | (35.02)% |
| Transportation (49,395.9) | \$ 8,631.33 | \$ 4,999.50 | \$ (3,631.83) | N/A | (42.08)% |
| Public Authority* (1,243.7) | \$ 996.42 | \$ 984.10 | \$ (12.32) | (1.24)% | (2.70)% |

TABLE 8 – Impact on Average Bill for Lubbock Customers

| Customer Class (Average Monthly Usage Ccf) | Current Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Monthly Change | Percentage Change with Gas Cost | Percentage Change without Gas Cost |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Residential (49.9) | \$ 68.58 | \$ 83.05 | \$ 14.47 | 21.10% | 30.84% |
| Commercial (284.2) | \$ 267.29 | \$ 286.07 | \$ 18.78 | 7.03% | 13.06% |
| Industrial (7,140.6) | \$ 5,046.46 | \$ 4,637.92 | \$ (408.53) | (8.10)% | (21.00)% |
| Transportation (37,671.1) | \$ 5,569.54 | \$ 4,038.71 | \$ (1,530.83) | N/A | (27.49)% |
| Public Authority* (1,031.7) | \$ 830.33 | \$ 829.87 | \$ (0.46) | (0.06)% | (0.12)% |

TABLE 9 – Impact on Average Bill for Triangle System Customers Moving to the WTX Division Transportation Tariff

| Customer Class (Average Monthly Usage Ccf) | Current Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Monthly Change | Percentage Change with Gas Cost | Percentage Change without Gas Cost |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| City Gate/Transportation (168,715) | \$ 11,227.95 | \$ 14,777.08 | \$ 3,499.12 | N/A | 31.03% |

TABLE 10 – Impact on Average Bill for Unincorporated Areas Customers

| Customer Class (Average Monthly Usage Ccf) | Current Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Average Monthly Bill with Gas Cost | Proposed Monthly Change | Percentage Change with Gas Cost | Percentage Change without Gas Cost |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Residential (65.2) | \$ 80.08 | \$ 100.41 | \$ 20.33 | 25.39% | 39.27% |
| Commercial (438.9) | \$ 347.22 | \$ 398.61 | \$ 51.39 | 14.80% | 32.81% |
| Industrial (3,426.4) | \$ 3,046.67 | \$ 2,720.55 | \$ (326.12) | (10.70)% | (20.92)% |
| Transportation (20,908.0) | \$ 2,833.32 | \$ 2,665.06 | \$ (168.26) | N/A | (5.94)% |
| Public Authority* (1,811.2) | \$ 1,271.61 | \$ 1,396.96 | \$ 125.35 | 9.86% | 25.84% |

*Note to Tables 1 through 3 and 5 through 10: The Company is proposing to withdraw its Public Authority tariff and transition customers taking service under this tariff to the Commercial Gas Service tariff at the rates shown above.

** Note to Table 4: The Company proposes to withdraw the Triangle system tariff(s) in effect within the unincorporated areas and the Cities of Lubbock and Hereford. Customers taking service under the Triangle system tariff(s) will move to the Transportation Gas Service tariff or the proposed Rate Schedule-WAT, as applicable. Only three Triangle system customers that have a unique character of service off of the Triangle system are eligible for the proposed, new Rate Schedule - WAT.

In addition to the proposed change in rates and withdrawal of the Public Authority and Triangle system tariff(s), the Company seeks to:

- Obtain a prudence determination on the capital investment made in the existing WTX system between January 1, 2018 and September 30, 2024, as well as the investment made in the Triangle system between April 1, 2019 and September 30, 2024;
- Obtain a Commission determination that the WTX Division has correctly reflected changes to utility rates to account for all the impacts of the lowered federal corporate income tax rate consistent with the Accounting Order issued in Gas Utilities Docket (“GUD”) No. 10695;
- Establish new depreciation rates for the WTX Division’s plant assets, as well as the plant assets held by Atmos Energy’s Shared Services Unit;
- Obtain approval to record Cloud Computing costs as a capital investment recoverable through its annual interim rate adjustment filings made pursuant to Tex. Util. Code § 104.301;
- Increase the meals and lodging limitations to levels that have been approved as reasonable by the Commission in recent rate proceedings;
- Adopt a new System Safety & Integrity Rider (“Rider SSI”) that will, based on a benchmark established as part of this request, allow the Company to recover or refund to customers, third-party expenses incurred for: (1) inspection activities to confirm that there is no existing cross-bore damage on facilities installed prior to 2016; (2) specific damage prevention activities necessary to install technology to make unlocatable facilities electronically locatable; (3) incremental leak surveying and detection activities conducted by third-party contractors; (4) supervisory activities related to third-party excavation near Atmos Energy facilities; and (5) pipeline integrity testing and records review required by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The pipeline integrity testing and records review costs will capture both activities currently being performed within the legacy WTX system and the Triangle system activities currently being recorded to the SSI regulatory asset as authorized by the Commission in GUD No. 10900;
- Adopt a new Rate Schedule - WAT for the WTX Division’s unincorporated areas, which will grandfather the service currently being provided to three existing customers with a unique character of service currently receiving transportation service on the Triangle system;
- Adopt a new Rider SUR - Surcharges (“Rider SUR”), which will provide for: (1) the recovery of the outstanding interest expense balance related to Winter Storm Uri (2) the recovery of authorized rate case expenses; (3) the refund of uncertain tax provisions, which have historically been referred to as FIN 48; (4) the recovery of the existing SSI regulatory asset balance; (5) the refund of the residual Excess Deferred Income Tax (“EDIT”) amortization balance to customers. The Company further proposes to recover Rider SSI amounts under the Rider SUR, if the tariff is approved. The Company further notes that it is proposing area-specific Rider SUR - Surcharges due to timing differences to assist with cost recovery of interest expenses related to Winter Storm Uri and the refund of residual EDIT amortization balance to all unincorporated customers;
- Withdraw the Rate Review Mechanism (RRM) tariff currently in effect in the WTX Cities so that new base rates resulting from the Statement of Intent filing can take effect;
- Adopt updated tariffs reflective of the WTX Division’s actual cost of providing service, align operating division nomenclature, update its line extension policy, and clarify the responsibilities of the utility and its customers;
- Identify the specific annual amount of Pension and Other Postemployment Benefits as provided for in Tex. Util. Code § 104.059; and
- Recover all of its reasonable rate case expenses.

In addition to the adoption of the proposed Rider SSI and Rider SUR discussed above, the Company proposes additional tariff changes. In the Company’s Gas Sales Service Tariff, the Company proposes to revise its WTX Division Residential, Commercial, Industrial & Transportation rate schedules to reflect the proposed rates and to provide additional clarity regarding the applicability of state and local taxes. The Company also proposes to revise its Industrial & Transportation tariffs to revise and/or emphasize certain terms of service.

The Company also proposes rename its Other Service Charges tariff to Miscellaneous Service Charges to align operating division nomenclature and achieve consistency with the references to Miscellaneous Charges in the gas sales service tariffs. The Company proposes to adopt a definitional section in its tariffs and update the Quality of Service tariff. The proposed Quality of Service tariff revisions include a new construction section and clarify Atmos Energy’s line extension policy, as well as the Company’s right to access customer premises for operational purposes, including the installation of necessary equipment, as well as what customers’ responsibilities are if Company facilities are damaged. The Company has also included language to further clarify billing adjustments. Lastly, the changes describe in more detail the responsibilities of customers for their facilities and equipment and the limitations of responsibility of the Company for loss or damages. Finally, the Company proposes to revise the Rider TAX - Tax Adjustment tariff to clarify the applicability of the Rider and address: (1) the treatment of residual EDIT; (2) the proposed refund of amounts related to the Company’s FASB 740-10 FIN 48 Uncertain Tax Positions; and (3) timing issues created by tax rate changes that may be made at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as the implementation of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax, which was signed into law in August 2022.

Persons with specific questions or desiring additional information about this filing may contact Atmos Energy Corporation at 1-888-286-6700. Complete copies of the filed Statement of Intent, including all proposed rates, schedules and tariffs are available for inspection at Atmos Energy’s offices located at 6606 66th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79424 and on our website at <https://www.atmosenergy.com/utility-operationsrates/tariffs-west-texas/west-texas/>

In addition, any affected person within the unincorporated areas served by the WTX Division may file written comments or a protest concerning the proposed rate change with the Docket Services Section of the Office of the Hearings Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective, or December 29, 2024. Please reference Docket No. OS-24-00018879. Any affected person within an incorporated area may contact his or her city council.

Este aviso tiene como fin informarles a los clientes de Atmos Energy Corporation de West Texas Division (la “Compañía”) que la Compañía ha presentado una solicitud para aumentar las tarifas del servicio público de gas. Esta solicitud afecta a todos los clientes en las áreas servidas por Atmos Energy Corporation. Las personas que deseen hacer preguntas específicas o recibir más información sobre esta solicitud pueden comunicarse con la Compañía llamando al 1-888-286-6700. Cualquier persona afectada puede presentar por escrito comentarios o una protesta sobre el cambio de tarifas propuesto a Docket Services Section, Office of the Hearings Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, en cualquier momento dentro de los 30 días siguientes a la fecha en que este cambio entrará en vigencia. Por favor haga referencia a Docket No. OS-24-00018879. Cualquier persona afectada dentro de un área incorporada puede contactar a su Consejo Municipal.



Photos courtesy of
FHS Facebook

Sports



Squaws vs Dimmitt



Squaws vs Dimmitt



Chiefs at Whiteface Tournament



Chiefs at Whiteface Tournament



Justen Trevino

All-Tournament Team | Whiteface Tournament

Scoreboard

Varsity Boys Basketball

12/3 Tuesday

Hart 51 Friona 43

Damian Sanchez 12, Brice Jeter 7, Justen Trevino 7, Marcelo Leon 7, Maddox Ashlock 3, Jeremy Polk 3, Mason Ramos 2, Tony Diaz 2

Thursday 12/5

Whiteface Tournament

The Chieftains finished second in the tournament. Justen Trevino was selected to All-Tournament Team

Friona 38 Newcastle 35

Maddox Ashlock 8, Justen Trevino 8, Mason Ramos 5, Tony Diaz 5, Brice Jeter 5, Rafael Rocha 3, Damian Sanchez 2, Bryer Stanberry 2

Friona 77 Fort Davis 34

Brice Jeter 19, Mason Ramos 15, Justen Trevino 15, Rafael Rocha 11, Bryer Stanberry 6, Damian Sanchez 5, Tony Diaz 4, Maddox Ashlock 2

Friday 12/6

Springlake-Earth 55 Friona 39

Damian Sanchez 11, Brice Jeter 11, Mason Ramos 10, Justen Trevino 3, Tony Diaz 2, Rafael Rocha 2

Friona 57 Wellman-Union 41

Mason Ramos 18, Brice Jeter 12, Tony Diaz 10, Justen Trevino 6, Damian Sanchez 4, Bryer Stanberry 3, Rafael Rocha 2, Maddox Ashlock 2

Monday 11/25/24

Bovina 49 Friona 39

Justen Trevino 16, Mason Ramos 9, Brice Jeter 5, Tony Diaz 5, Nathan Padilla 2, Jeremy Polk 2

Tuesday 11/26/24

Tulia 52 Friona 18

Justen Trevino 8, Brice Jeter 3, Bryer Stanberry 3, Mason Ramos 2, Maddox Ashlock 2

Varsity Girls Basketball

12/10/2024

Friona 50 Dimmitt 45

Alaiyah Padilla: 27 pts, Annison Steelman: 7 pts
Reese Steelman: 5 pts, Yaselene Faudoa: 2 pts
Aimee Jimenez: 1 pt, Harley London: 4 pts
Kitzy Welch: 4 pts

Junior High Boys Basketball

12/9/2024

8th Grade A Team 12 Idalou 20

Jalond Rejino-4 pts, Darien Padilla-3 pts
Eli Rosales-2 pts, Fernando Moreno-2 pts
Andrew Marquez-1 pt

7th Grade A Team 13 Idalou 33

Jace Jarecki-9 pts, Joel Ramos-2 pts
Vicente Quintana-1 pt, Zane Gonzales-1 pt

B Team 21 Idalou 21

Hector Mendez-9 pts, Fernando Perez-8 pts
Isa Salazar-4 pts

Friena Volunteer Fire Department Awards



Charles Cooper
5 Year Service Pin
Presented by Fire Chief Danny Campbell



Jim Taylor
45 Years Service Pin
Golden Axe



Terry Sharrock
35 Year Service Pin
Golden Axe



Meal catered by Danny's Hens & Fins



Fire Department Christmas Banquet
Saturday, December 7 at the
Clarence Monroe Community Center



Chief Campbell welcomes attendees

Commissioners Receive Fire Reports

Parmer County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 9, 2024 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. Commissioners received reports from the fire departments operating in Parmer County. The Parmer County budget for 2024 allocated \$150,000.00 for Rural Fire Subsidy. In January 2024, subsidy payments were as follows: Rhea received \$12,000.00; Bovina, Farwell, and Lazbuddie received \$22,000.00 each; and Friena received \$32,000.00 advance. The remainder of the subsidy, \$40,000, is prorated to the five (5) fire departments based on the number of fire calls. In 2024, there were 168 county fire calls so the subsidy would be \$238.095 per call. Bovina Fire Department received \$4,047.62 for 17 calls; Farwell Fire Department received \$13,809.53 for 58 calls; Friena Fire Department

received \$15,238.09 for 64 calls; Lazbuddie Fire Department received \$6,190.47 for 28 calls; and the Rhea Fire Department received \$714.29 for 3 calls. A Bond for the City of Friena was approved since the city is now a subcontractor for Parmer County and will provide vehicle registration services. The Friena Chamber of Commerce had been the previous subcontractor. A motion was approved to deposit a \$36,303.60 overage check from the Juvenile Probation program into the General Fund. Commissioners discussed compliance issues with the FLSA for 207K which involves overtime pay for Sheriff's Office employees. Next, they discussed moving all Parmer County employees to the same Timesheet which would be from 12:00 a.m. Monday through 12:00 p.m. Sunday. A motion was approved to adopt a single Timesheet for all employees. Agenda items concerning Sick/Vacation Time and Holiday Pay

were tabled. Sheriff Geske reported that he was currently housing 24 inmates of which 11 are from Lamb County. A Memorandum of Understanding with City of Farwell for law enforcement services was approved. The rate is set at \$55/hour and the Sheriff's Office will provide the officer(s) when scheduled with the City of Farwell. A Memorandum of Understanding with the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base was also approved. The Air Force will provide free training in order to help prepare PCSO employees for all possible scenarios. In other business, the Minutes from the November 25th regular meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioners approved the payment of accounts payables and the Treasurer's Payroll Report was approved. The next Commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 23rd. All meetings are open to the public. Information in this article is only a summary.

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Friena



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- Convenient ATMs
- CheckCards/ Business Debit Cards
- Free Internet Banking
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