



Friona Star

VOL. 91, NO. 50

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017 TEN PAGES

\$1.00

NEWS BRIEFS

Larry Knowles merges with Johnson and Sheldon, PLLC

The public accounting firm Johnson and Sheldon, PLLC, announced this week that they have merged with Larry J. Knowles, CPA, PC in Friona. Mr. Knowles is retiring after 43 years of serving clients in both the Hereford and Friona area. He will be teaming up with Johnson and Sheldon to serve clients for his final year.

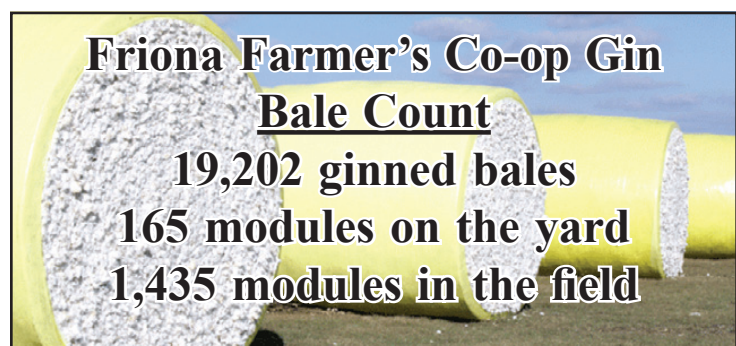
"Larry has a long track record of serving his clients with respect and integrity. It is an honor for us to help deliver exceptional service and honor the lasting relationships he has built with his clients," said Managing Partner Terry Sheldon.

Johnson and Sheldon will host an Open House, Tuesday, December 19 from 4-7 p.m. at their offices located at 119 E. 4th Street in Hereford. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the Hereford staff and find out more about this merger. New and existing clients are encouraged to attend.

Johnson and Sheldon, PLLC, is a locally owned Amarillo public accounting firm, with three partners, Terry Sheldon, Jeff Joyce, and Richard Blankenship. They are located in the Amarillo National Bank Plaza II, Suite 200.

Since 1989, Johnson and Sheldon have established themselves as one of the leading accounting and consulting firms in the Panhandle Region of Texas. They have 11 CPAs and 14 paraprofessionals, who can handle everything from helping clients pay bills to preparing monthly financial statements.

For more information on Johnson and Sheldon, PLLC visit their website at www.amacpas.com.



Project Christmas Card deadline

The Parmer County Hospital Auxiliary is accepting donations to Project Christmas Card. The 2017 donations will be used to purchase a much-needed GlideScope. The GlideScope is a portable video laryngoscope that is used on critical patients for inserting breathing tubes. Donations can be placed in canisters found in local businesses or at Friona InterBank. Deadline for donations is Saturday, September 16. It is not too late!

Ho! Ho! Home for the Holidays

The Friona Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture is hosting Ho! Ho! Home for the Holidays once again this year. It is not too late to enter. The rules are simple: Shop locally and sign up to win \$25 in Friona Bucks at all the participating businesses. Grand prize is \$100 in Friona Bucks. The drawing will be held on Monday, December 18 for winners at each business. Participating businesses are A-1 Service Center, Bi-Wize Pharmacy, Blackburn Hardware, Fast Stop, H&R Block, Hunan Star II, Ivy Cottage Flowers and Gifts, Kendrick Oil/Farm Store, KrafTee Gallery, Lowes Supermarket #3, Malouf's Fabrics, Milk House Market, Tasty Cream, and Vet Industries.

Bracken retirement party Dec. 17

The Friends of the Library will host a retirement reception for Friona Public Library Director Darla Bracken on Sunday, December 17 from 3-5 p.m. at the library. The community is invited to attend this celebration of Darla's 35 years of dedication. **There will be a money tree and card basket available for those who wish to contribute.**

Darla began her library career in 1967 as a high school volunteer. She continued her library work with college work study and became a part time employee in January 1980. She became a fulltime employee in September of 1982 and ultimately being named Director in 1985.

Phipps retirement reception Dec. 29

The employees of the City of Friona invite the community to stop by and congratulate City Manager Patricia Phipps on her retirement. A come and go reception will be held Friday, December 29 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. We appreciate her loyalty and dedication to the city and thank her for 34 years of service.

Friona ISD is financially secure according to annual audit

The Friona Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, December 11 in the boardroom of the FISD Administration building.

Johnson and Sheldon delivered the 2016-107 Annual Audit report and proclaimed that FISD is financially secure. The board approved the report and results.

Elementary Principal Travis Victory gave reports for himself and the ailing Primary Principal Jill Trollinger. Victory reported that the primary would be having their bike giveaway next week. At the elementary, he reported that they have only had two referrals for ISS, the 5th grade field trip to see The Nutcracker was a success, and that the 4th grade field trip was this week to the Amarillo Science Center. He also stated that benchmark testing was being done this week and next week.

A number of Elementary teachers presented work from

their students. Second grade teacher Zac Carr presented an animated video presentation created by his students of The Fox and the Stork. Pam Husted and the Life Skills staff presented picture boards that their students had created.

Monty Humble of Mariah Del Este presented an update on the project. He stated that they are still working on the east project but finances are needed to continue. He also stated that due to the current tax legislation in Congress they investors are waiting for the results before moving on.

Humble also reported that the transmission congestion that is being experienced is being addressed. Sharyland is installing a second line that is proposed to ERCOT for additional lines from the Ogallala region to south of Lubbock then on to Midland/Odessa. This should fix the congestion issue.

Mike Baker from Parkhill,

Council sets wheels in motion to improve water system

The Friona City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 11, 2017 in Council Chambers with all members in attendance.

Retiring City Manager Patricia Phipps was presented a plaque for her 34 years of service to the City of Friona. Mayor Rick White made the presentation before the meeting began.

The council approved the minutes for the November 2, 2017 Special City Council meeting, the November 13 Regular City Council meeting and the November 20, 2017 Special City Council meeting.

Lt. Sanchez of the Friona Police Department presented the departmental report. Those statistics are listed in the Mayor's Minutes on page 2.

Randall Field, P.C. presented the audit report for fiscal year October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. The board approved the audit as stated by Field.

A representative from the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) presented the grant contract between the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and the City of Friona for \$275,000 for the community development fund to improve the city's water system. The council approved the contract.

The council approved the resolution designating the mayor and city manager to act as designated signatories in order to execute contractual document between TDA and the City of Friona. They also approved the mayor, city manager, mayor pro-tem, and human resource finance manager to act as authorized signatories to execute the State of Texas purchase voucher and request for payment form documents required for requesting funds approved in the 2017 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TCDBGP).

Patricia Phipps was appointed



dana jameson photo

Prior to the regular Friona City Council meeting on Monday Mayor Rick White, right, presented retiring Friona City Manager Patricia Phipps, left, a plaque for her 34 years of service.

ed the Civil Rights Officer and Jamie Hall from PRPC as the Labor Standards Officer for the TCDBGP.

The council approved the resolution regarding civil rights including the adoption of citizen participation plan and grievance procedures, Section 3 policy, excessive force policy, Section 504 policy and grievance procedures, code of conduct policy and fair housing policy.

The mayor and the council approved that April 2018 will be Fair Housing Month in the City of Friona.

Before going into executive session, the council approved the November 2017 accounts payable and financial statements.

The Friona City Council will meet again on Monday, January 8, 2018 in Council Chambers at 619 Main Street. All meetings are open to the public and the community is encouraged to attend.



dana jameson photo

Retirees Honored...Friona City Manager Patricia Phipps, left, and Friona Public Library Director Darla Bracken were honored at a retirement luncheon Wednesday, December 13 at the Senior Citizen House. Phipps has served the city for 34 years and Bracken has served the library for 35 years.

Commissioners approve purchase of front-end loader

The Parmer County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 11 at the Parmer County Courthouse in the County Courtroom in Farwell to discuss a lengthy agenda.

Among the many subjects discussed was the approval of the purchase of a front-end loader for use in Precinct 3.

They heard an update from Veteran's Service Officer Bill Dannheim. Dannheim also tendered his resignation but the Commissioners will not consider it until the next meeting on Thursday, December 21.

The Commissioner approved fire department calls for the year for Bovina (17), Farwell (41), Friona (54) and Lazbuddie (27). Each year \$100,000 is set aside for the county fire departments. Each department is given \$12,000 in January and the remain-

der of the \$100,000 is divided between the separate entities in December. For the fire calls in 2017, Bovina received \$4,892.09; Farwell received \$11,798.56; Friona received \$15,539.57; and Lazbuddie received \$7,769.78. The Rhea Community received only two calls for the year and received their \$12,000 in January.

Also approved was a request from an employee for paid unused vacation days and an agreement to hold a joint election between Republican and Democratic parties.

They did not approve a SPAG Accounting invoice for the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group.

Approval was postponed for additional upgrades to the Bovina Agri-Life Extension office.

Parmer County Sheriff Randy Geris

asked the commissioners to consider the transfer of property to the Texico Fire Department regarding a grill guard. The grill guard had been used on a Sheriff's Office vehicle but the vehicle was traded off and the grill no longer fit any of their equipment. The commissioners approved the matter and sold the grill to the Texico Fire Department for a sum of \$1.

Sheriff Geris also asked the commissioners to consider a policy amendment dealing with holiday time. The item was taken under advisement until the proper language could be approved.

The commissioners will meet in regular session on Thursday, December 21. All meetings are open to the public and begin at 10 a.m. in the County Courtroom of the Courthouse in Farwell.



dana jameson photo

FISD Superintendent Dr. Pam Ray, left, looks on as Friona Elementary Principal Travis Victory reports on the activities at the Elementary school at the FISD Board of Trustees meeting Monday evening.

Smith, and Cooper delivered an update on the surveys that were sent out to the district. The surveys were extremely encompassing. He also informed the board that he, Aaron Rivera and

a number of engineers would be doing walk through of the schools starting Tuesday, December 12. He will deliver the companies recommendations at the January 11, 2018 meeting.

He mentioned that the biggest concern at this point is replacing windows and lighting, as they are in bad shape. Baker stated that there are many upgrades that need to be made.

The board approved the consent agenda which included JEM Construction gifting back to the school \$2,000 off his construction costs at the Ag Farm east of Friona. The recent fire at the Ag farm was due to heat lamps and was addressed by the current Ag Instructors. They stated they would be monitoring the situation more closely.

Good news was in the summary of the financial impact of the Chapter 313 agreement with Mariah Del Norte, LLC. FISD will be receiving \$2.1 million this month and another \$1.8 million in January 2018 as part of the agreement.

The board agreed to join the TexBuy Region 16 Coop for a savings in items purchased for the district.

After a lengthy discussion, the board approved the moving of funds to an ICS CEDAR investment program.

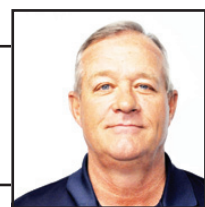
The board approved the policy amendments concerning donating excess food to the Food Bank and an addition to the drug policy.

The board approved the resolution presented by the Retired Teachers Organization to promote employee voting.

The final item on the agenda before the board went into executive session was to approve the application to the Education Superhighway Grant through E-Rate. Through the grant, E-Rate will pay 80% of the fees and TEA will pay the remaining 20% leaving no cost to the district.

The Board of Trustees will meet next on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building. All meetings are open to the public and the community is encouraged to attend.

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



Mayor's Minutes

by Ricky White

December 14

- Friona Noon Lions Club meeting at noon at Headquarters-Gun Raffle drawing to be held
- FUMC Christmas Choir concert 7 p.m.

December 15

- Aging and Wellness Workshop at Heritage Estates 11 a.m.
- 5th Grade Science Fair in gym
- JVG/VG Basketball at Shallowater 5/6:30
- JVB/VB Basketball at Highland Park 5/6:30

December 16

- Deadline for Project Christmas Card donations

December 17

- Retirement reception for Darla Bracken from 3-5 p.m. at Friona Public Library
- FBC Christmas Caroling at 6 p.m.

December 18

- Ho! Ho! Home for the Holidays drawings
- 7th/8th/Freshmen Girls Basketball vs. Slaton at home 5/6:15/7:30
- 7th/8th/Freshmen Boys Basketball at Slaton 5/6:15/7:30

December 19

- FHS Choir: Carol Around Friona
- Friona Heritage Estates Game Day at 2 p.m. The community is invited to come play games with the residents
- Prairie Acres Family Bingo Night at 7 p.m.
- JVB/JVG/VG/VB Basketball vs. Roosevelt at home 5/5/6:30/8

December 20

- First National Bank Annual Christmas Tea
- Friends of the Library Book Shoppe open
- Early School Release
- FBC Youth Christmas Party at 7 p.m.

December 21

- WINTER BEGINS
- Early School Release
- Friona Noon Lions Club meeting at noon at Headquarters
- Parmer County Commissioners meeting at 10 a.m. at Courthouse in Farwell

December 22

- JVB/JVG/VG/VB Basketball at Littlefield 5/5/6:30/8

December 22- January 2

- FRIONA STAR CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

December 22-January 5

- Christmas Break at schools

December 24

- FBC Christmas Eve Service-No PM Service

December 25

-CHRISTMAS

December 27

- Friends of the Library Book Shoppe open

December 28-30

- VB/VG Basketball at Littlefield Invitational

December 29

- Come and Go Retirement Reception for Patricia Phipps from noon to 4:30 p.m. at Friona City Hall

December 30

- Prairie Acres Community Bingo at 3 p.m.

December 31

-NEW YEAR'S EVE

- FBC New Year's Eve Service-No PM Service

2018

January 1

-NEW YEAR'S DAY

I had the privilege and opportunity on December 5 to visit with the high school government classes about city government, discussed city expenses, revenues and other aspects it takes to operate the City of Friona. Thanks to Coach Darrel Ray for the opportunity to visit with his students.

On December 11, I had the privilege and opportunity to go to the junior high school and visit with the eighth graders about community involvement. Mr. David Gonzales (eighth grade teacher) is challenging his students to go out and perform an activity in the community, teaching them community involvement. I discussed different ways to get involved in the community as a group or as an individual. I discussed with the students roles and responsibilities of city officials. Thanks to Mr. Gonzales for the opportunity to visit with his students. I enjoyed visiting with all of the students at the high school and the junior high.

The Chamber of Commerce did a very good job planning and organizing the Christmas in Park and the Light Parade. Thanks to everyone involved for making this a great time for the kids.

Judge Campbell had twenty-seven new cases in November. There were nine cases

tried by judge that pled guilty. There was one community service ordered and six cases were dismissed. Total fines collected were \$2,179.83 and court cost equaled \$881.41.

EMS made 29 total runs in November. There were nine calls for 9-1-1, eighteen calls for transfers and two calls ended in "no transport". Payments collected totaled \$26,040.98 and billed equaled \$44,870.00.

City pumped 11,900,800 gallons of water in November and sold 9,272,000 gallons. Billing totaled \$57,656.47 on 1419 accounts.

Accounts payable equaled \$166,348.24. There was one big expenditure, \$42,000.00 spent for the purchase of the E-1 pumper fire truck. Otherwise, a normal month of expenses for the city.

However, there is a need for the city to purchase a new pickup. We have a 2008 model that spends a lot of time in the shop for repair and needs to be replaced. For November, all bills are paid and the city is in good standings.

Chief Jimenez and the officers responded to 150 calls in November. There were 57 stops made, 49 warnings issued, 35 citations written and 3 arrests (1-no drivers license, 1-warrant and 1- terroristic threat). The of-

ficers drove a total of 1884 miles protecting our city.

Volunteer Fire Department responded to eight emergency calls in November.

November 2, nine fire fighters and two trucks responded to a car accident.

November 11, seven fire fighters and three trucks responded to a grass fire.

November 16, eleven fire fighters and four trucks responded to a module fire.

November 16, two fire fighters and one truck responded to another module fire.

November 18, seven fire fighters and three trucks responded to a module fire.

November 25, seven fire fighters and one truck responded to a car accident.

November 27, ten fire fighters and three trucks responded to a grass fire.

November 28, two fire fighters and one truck responded to a burr fire.

Our community is so blessed to have great men serving on the volunteer fire department.

I want to thank Patricia Phipps and Darla Bracken for their many years of dedicated service to this community. They have done a fantastic job and I hope they have a great time enjoying their retirement.

Your Mayor

The Core of Any College Curriculum

By Walter V. Wendler, President at West Texas A&M University

The center of every university experience worth its salt is a grounding in the fundamentals of the human condition. For full and lasting impact on students, it should also be rigorous and challenging. Studies in history, literature, mathematics, "readin' and arithmetic" are more important now than at any time since the Second World War. The Core Curriculum, sometimes called General Education, was born in the German Polytechnics. The concept crossed the Atlantic to Manhattan, taking root at Columbia University in 1895, as the Gymnasium Program. It has changed dramatically, some claim diminished, as politically charged requirements to meet various contemporary social trends have overpowered the clarity of the original models.

As legitimate pressure from boards and elected leaders regarding the applicability of a university education grows, particularly as costs skyrocket, the workplace value of general studies are questioned. The ability of a person to interpret the Constitution of the United States, the Bible, algebraic expressions, or Melville's symbolism in Moby Dick seems nice, but unnecessary.

You will not find a stronger proponent for practicality in a college education. However, when immediate utility exists without an appreciation for the broader social context in which the marketplace thrives or withers, value and utility fall. Market forces, vocational training, immediate skill-based employability do nothing to diminish the value of a strong core curriculum. In fact, they reinforce it.

A few years ago, I endeavored to help a student gain transfer hours from Jiliang University in Hangzhou, China. The student had no course in multiculturalism. He did have 12 hours of required Maoist philosophy, accepted by our university as college-level philosophy. He

was also an accomplished speaker of Mandarin. In the Tests of English as a Foreign Language, had a stellar academic record, had an excellent portfolio of architectural work and had traveled to nine countries. The argument from the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee was that these experiences did not satisfy the core curriculum multicultural requirement. The student did not need a course in multiculturalism. He lived a multicultural life. The very thing he sought to escape, the numbness of communist bureaucracies, hit him upside the head in the place he sought for the freedom to study. The point of this story is that too many core curricula, driven by narrow-mindedness, do not recognize the student as a human being with diverse life experiences.

Core curriculum courses that emphasize topical aspects of the human experience to satisfy vocal political groups may have low long-term applicability and represent a fleeting fashion or sign of the times, rather than something of lasting value. Highly focused areas of interest are free online as avocations or pursuits of passion.

Randall Stross, professor at San Jose State University, argues forcefully in "A Practical Education: Why Liberal Arts Majors Make Great Employees" for the value of a rigorous liberal arts education. Edgar Bronfman, former CEO of the Seagram Corporation, also believes there is great value in a liberal arts education.

The manufactured dichotomy between an effective liberal arts and science experience and vocational expertise is a mirage according to a Harvard Business Review essay. The mutually supportive co-existence of applicable technical ability and critical thinking skills is the basis of a quality liberal arts experience. It is inarguable. Even Mr. Bronfman wants his distillers

to understand the technicalities of chemical reactions. The 115,000 janitors, 83,000 bartenders, 35,000 taxi drivers and 16,000 parking lot attendants (all noble professions) that held bachelor's degrees in 2012 did not all major in humanities and liberal arts disciplines but many areas of study.

In 1976, on the campus of Louisiana State University in a restroom at Hill Memorial Library, a young man had penned these words on the wall, "The problem with this place is everybody is trying to change the way you think." (Expletives revealing the depth of dissatisfaction have been excised.) I reflected on his observation the rest of that day.

The next day, I returned to the same place. Under the angry epithet was a more reflective proposition from another scribe in response to the first. "If they don't, demand your money back." The second scribe completed the thought and revealed his understanding of a uni-

versity's job. I have reflected on these two observations from that day until today. Helping students learn to think clearly and reflectively and gain skills that will sustain life intellectually and materially is first purpose.

I started my studies, although I might not have said it exactly this way, "To learn to think like an architect." That's what I paid for. The core curriculum, coupled with disciplinary excellent disciplinary training, provides a springboard to a thoughtful vocation and sound educational value for all who come calling.

A dedicated prospective student should find a challenging university that provides the opportunity to think and to do. Follow head and horse sense, you know, the balance of reason and experience ingrained in many by grandparents. Rigor, diligence and performance, valuable in every workplace, should be the core of every curriculum.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What a wonderful event "A Harvey Christmas" turned out to be! It was filled with the music and joy of the Christmas season. This program would not have become a reality without the help of many people, both those who are members of Friona Union Congregational Church UCC and those who come from the larger community. I want to thank all of the performers, who used their talent to serve others; those who produced flyers, and the businesses that allowed us to put the flyers in their establishments; Chris Alexander, who placed the event on the Chamber of Commerce sign; Dana Jameson at the Friona Star for her support and publicity; those who used their skills to make sure the program ran smoothly and that people could see and hear; Friona High School for the use of the auditorium; John Bonner for his assistance at the facility; and everyone who attended and contributed to Hurricane Harvey Relief. The Union Congregational Church is grateful to all who reached out this holiday season and shared the gift of love with the southern Texas victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Merry Christmas!
Rev. Joe Schulte, Pastor
Friona Union Congregational Church

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS

1 large TX jewelry retailer: ___ Corp.

5 TXism: "___ buster" (farmer)

6 food or grub

7 TXism: "___ few bricks shy of a load"

8 English hat not worn by cowboys (2 wds.)

11 TXism: "trying to keep my head ___ water"

16 Six Flags ride has ___

19 Spanish "si"

20 kids' soarer (2 wds.)

21 athletic assoc. of most TX colleges

23 TXism: "high ___ back" (costly)

28 Whitman & Oswald

30 Waco's Bledsoe sang "___ Man River"

31 TXism: "hitched to ___ double harness" (married)

32 this John founded Houston (init.)

33 Junction H.S. class

35 TXism: "write slow 'cause ___ can't read fast"

36 TX Roy Orbison hit

40 TXism: "___ you a new hat size"

43 TX gunfighter: John ___ Hardin

44 Fort Worth's Roger Miller hit: "Dang ___"

45 TXism: "that'll ___ nicely"

46 relating to aviation

47 chimney residue

48 oil drilling structure

49 Zsa Zsa's sister

51 TX-sized phone co.

52 TX pitcher Nolan (init.)

53 TXism: "he could strut sitting down" (big ___)

54 Travis: "I shall ___ surrender or retreat"

56 starchy tubers

58 TXism: "will miss ___ you blink" (small town)

DOWN

1 this U.S. president fought in TX in the Mexican War

2 TXism: "changes his mind as often ___"

3 "___ a goose"

4 TX spacewalker White (1965)

9 cereal ingredient

10 LBJ's favorite dog

11 poker stake

12 TXism: "___ joint" (saloon)

13 TXism: "it's root hog ___ die"

14 Fort Worth pianist Cliburn

15 name before Exxon

17 TXism: "___ it in the bud"

18 XIT ranch town

22 TXism: "hot as ___ stove"

23 in Smith County on highway 135

24 old El Paso parish: Socorro de ___

25 TXism: "quick as ___ York minute"

26 quotes authority

27 TXism: "numerous as ___ a dead worm"

28 Houston or Rayburn

29 TX lake: El ___ de Rey ("King's Salt")

32 TXism: "___ juice" (whiskey)

34 TXism: "contented ___ in mud"

37 TXism: "still ___ behind the ears"

38 TXism for "friend"

39 TXism: "dicker"

40 TXism: "spittin' image of"

41 Houston film: "For the ___ Benji"

42 Jerry Jones once had a ___ jet

48 TX George W.'s party (abbr.)

50 TX George W.'s old address: Pennsylvania ___

55 Cowboy former RB Smith (init.)

57 TXism: "she could charm a bird out of ___"

P-1353
solution on page 4

ON YOUR PAYROLL

U.S. Government

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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

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Friona was rocked this week with the tragic death of one of our beloved teachers and friends, Jenny Riethmayer. Jenny was loved by all who knew her and we will miss her terribly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

Peggy Padilla won the Guess That Man Contest in last week's Friona Star. She correctly guessed Andy Alexander as being the man in the picture. She wins a free one-year subscription to the Friona Star. We had a number of guesses from Alan Humberg to Brett Hoyle to Ron Carr. Kip Frye (who has a subscription) called in early Friday morning but was not eligible for the subscription. He said he couldn't have missed that it was Alexander. They went to school together. Congratulations Peggy!

If you liked this promotion, give me a call and I will see what I can come up with for the next free subscription.

The Friona Ambulance Fund still needs donations to meet their goal of \$220,000 to purchase a new am-

balance for Friona. Contact Kitty Gallman, Sharon White or Kathryn Goddard for more information on how to donate to this worthy cause.

Time is ticking down to get your tickets from the Friona Noon Lions for a chance at three great prizes. They will be drawing for a Browning 20 gauge Over/under shotgun, a Ruger Birds Head .357/9 mm, and a Custom Built Tomahawk. All of the prizes are from Tyler Gun Works. The drawing is Thursday, December 21 at 12:30 p.m. at Headquarters Restaurant. Tickets are just \$10 each and available from any Noon Lions Club member.

The Friona Star will be closed for Christmas from December 22 until January 2. We take off for one week each year to recharge our batteries and jump into a new year.

Remember that Santa letters will be in next week's paper.

If you haven't signed up for the Chieftain Choices Program on

February 9, call Allison Johnston at Friona High School. She can get you set up to be a part of this day to help local students looking to the future.

Have you been by any of the Ho! Ho! Ho! for the Holidays participating businesses? It is not too late to be entered in the drawings for Friona Bucks on Monday, December 18.

Go by the Friona Public Library this Sunday, December 17 to wish Darla Bracken well as she retires. The party will be 3-5 p.m. She has been with the library for 35 years and done a wonderful job building the library into what it has become. Miss Darla will be missed but she leaves the library in the capable hands of Miss Lucy.

Retiring City Manager Patricia Phipps will be honored with a Come and Go retirement reception on Friday, December 29 at City Hall. Stop by and wish her well in this new phase of her life. The reception will be from noon to 4:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library Book Shoppe will be open Wednesday, December 20 for your last minute Christmas presents. Nothing is much better than a book for Christmas.

Prairie Acres Family Bingo Night is Tuesday, November 19 starting at 7 p.m. Stop by and check it out.

The Parmer County Commissioners had to do a little shuffling recently. Their next meeting was supposed to be on Monday, December 25 but none of the commissioners wanted to meet on Christmas. They moved the meeting to Thursday, December 21. All meetings are open to the public and the community is encouraged to attend.

The January Friona Independent School District meeting was shuffled as well. Their meeting was

set for Monday, January 8, 2018 but was moved due to not being back from Christmas vacation until that Monday. They moved the meeting to Thursday, January 11.

Remember the Caregivers Coffee Break every first Friday of the month at the First National Bank community room. The next meeting is Friday, January 5, 2018 at 9:30. Stop in for a donut and stay for the comfort.

The Aging and Wellness Workshop for December is Friday, December 15 at Friona Heritage Estates at 11 a.m.

First Baptist Church will be caroling on Sunday, December 17 starting at 6 p.m.

I was told a week or so ago about a number of break-ins in the Western Addition but when I called the Friona Police Department was told that they only had a call of criminal trespass.

Residents are reminded to lock your doors and when you are away from home make sure your home looks lived in. Have a neighbor, relative or friend check your home in your absence. Don't post that you are going out of town on so-

cial media...thieves can read too. Keep your home safe while you are home and away by thinking smart. Contact the Friona Police Department or the Parmer County Sheriff's Office for tips on keeping your home safe.

"On the day after Christmas, some store or another will always take out an ad saying there are only 364 shopping days to Christmas. No one is amused." ~Gerard Del Re

FHS C-Team Update

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final
Friona	6	12	16	18
Dimmitt	14	21	38	53

Top scorers for Friona were: Luis Garcia (7), Juan Diego Salinas (6), Marc Mendoza (2), David Martinez (2), Alex Montes (1)



dana jameson photos

The Friona Volunteer Fire Department held their Christmas party Saturday, December 9 at the Senior Citizen Center. Above, Stephen Campbell, right, received his 5-year pin from Friona Volunteer Fire Department Chief John Taylor. Below, Chuck Teague received his 25-year pin. The Fireman of the Year will be announced at a later date.



Chieftain Choices Program Feb. 9

Plans are underway for the Chieftain Choices Program at Friona High School on Friday, February 9. Letters have gone out to colleges and businesses to invite them to participate in our College and Career Fair.

If you are a business owner in the area, and would be willing to be a part of this exciting and educational day for FHS students, please contact Allison Johnston at Friona High School, (806) 250-3951 or via email at ajohnston@frionaisd.com

"We would love to fill the Activity Center with businesses ready to talk to our students," stated Johnston. "This was such a success last year, and we would love for the event to be bigger and better this year."

"We would love to have our numbers in place by the time we get out for Christmas break so that we can adequately plan for the day," Johnston continued. "Please come and join us for this day of exploration and discovery."

Parmer County Offices for 2018 Elections

- DISTRICT CLERK**
Sandra Warren
- COUNTY JUDGE**
Trey Ellis
- COUNTY CLERK**
Gerri Bowers
Susan (Susie) Spring
- JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1**
Jo Beth Gipson
Ross Paiz
- JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2**
Deena Lucero Leuea
- JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3**
Pamela Haseloff
- COUNTY TREASURER**
Bailey Warren Windham
Sharon May
- COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2**
Steve Cockerham
Charles Wilkins
- COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4**
Casey Russell
- TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR**
Awyna Sanchez
- REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN**
Bill White

School Menu • December 18-22

Monday
Breakfast: Cereal, cinnamon roll, apple juice, pears, milk
Lunch: Roasted chicken, roll, mashed potatoes, fresh tomatoes, pears, milk

Tuesday
Breakfast: Cereal, orange pineapple juice, banana, milk
Lunch: Corn dog, Doritos, corn, green beans, Mandarin oranges, milk

Wednesday
Breakfast: Cereal, Eggstravaganza with toast, grape juice, oranges, milk
Lunch: Cheeseburger, broccoli, French oven potato, mixed fruit, milk

Thursday
Breakfast: Cereal, sausage pizza, orange juice, diced peaches, milk
Lunch: Pizza stick, spaghetti meatball, carrots, lettuce & tomato salad, tropical fruit, milk

Friday
NO SCHOOL

Friona Flashbacks

News from the week of December 17, 1970

*Chairman of the Board A.L. Black and bank president Frank A. Spring presented the deed to Friona State Bank's former building to the City of Friona in a ceremony Monday morning at the new bank building.

*Governor Preston Smith, who incidentally has the "Number 1" hunting license in the state, made his fourth consecutive trip to Friona last Saturday to hunt pheasants with local friends. Smith along with Herschel Johnson managed to find the object of the hunt.

Governor Smith had been with President Nixon and George Bush, the latter received his United Nations appointment on Friday. The state's chief executive arrived home about 11 p.m. Friday after logging 4,500 miles for the day, and tele-

phoned friends that he would be in Friona to hunt pheasants the next day.

Hunting with the governor on Saturday, along with Floyd and Herschel Johnson, were Harold, Jim Roy and Max Wells.

*Walt Dittmar and Leon Coffey displayed the bobcat, which Dittmar found near his residence 18 miles west of Friona in the Rhea community. The large cat, which is somewhat a rarity for this area, had been run over by an automobile when found. Dittmar said the motorist had left the road to hit the animal, and apparently also ran over a metal sign in the process. It was figured that the cat weighed close to 50 pounds.

*Bill Kevin is the name of Mr. & Mrs. Ted White chose for the baby born to them at 12:58 a.m.

Wednesday, December 9 at Parmer County Community Hospital. He is the first child for the couple and weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz.

*Members of the primary choir of the First Baptist Church will perform in a program of Christmas music on Sunday. Performers and leaders are Rhnae White, Shawn Osborn, Ragina Priest, Stanley Ellis, Samme Adkins, Amber Smith, Christy Bengel, Christy Wiseman, Teresa Loflin, Jill Hight, Mitchell Massey, Penni Weatherly, Brenda Seright, Terri Lloyd, Sarah Mears, Kirk Frye, Joel Hight, Doug Massey, Lance Broadhurst, Palmira Perez, Evelyn Hart, Jimmy Menefee, Carl Dandridge, Jeffrey Reasoner, Mrs. Lee Witten, Mrs. Melvin Lloyd and Mrs. Dale Smith.

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Friona Star

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Great Things

BRETT HOYLE, Pastor, First Baptist Church

As Christmas approaches many of us are looking to buy presents that will be opened by children and teens who will excitedly embrace their gifts, and proclaim, "This is the greatest present ever!" Two thousand years ago Mary, the mother of Jesus, said something similar to that when she said "for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name," (Luke 1:49). Mary was

able to proclaim this because the Son of God was growing in her womb, as she expectantly waited to meet this holy babe. Mary was in great awe and amazement that God would chose her to be His servant for such an honorable task. Thank God, that He still desires to do great things, for His glory, through ordinary people like you!

Changed Plans

By TEENA HUGHS

When Feller and I married nearly 35 years ago, you won't believe the biggest adjustment I had to make: making plans and having to change them. Of all the things that go into marriage, this was it for me!

I was 28; I was used to making plans; and, I was used to keeping those plans!!! Less than a year into marriage, I got used to changing plans; and, I remember just being happy when our plans came together.

On a more serious note, how many times do we make plans, have everything taken care of, and then those plans get changed, and our lives are changed forever? Perhaps we plan to live in a certain place all of our life, but we get transferred; perhaps we plan for our kids to take over the family business, but they choose a completely different occupation; perhaps the perfect job didn't turn out to be perfect.

Many "perhaps" occur during a lifetime. Sometimes we change our plans; sometimes our plans are changed for us. When I change my plans, it is fairly easy for me to accept failure or success. However, sometimes it is difficult for me when

my plans are changed by someone else, especially when those changes affect so many areas of my life.

That is when I am so thankful for the presence of Jesus in my life. He helps me look at changes in a positive light: He has something better for me; He knows the entire picture of my life, and He is preparing me for a new journey; God is going to see me through any changes that occur in my life, whether I make them or someone else makes them for me.

How we look at changed plans determines how we accept them. We can look at them in a negative way, pity ourselves, worry about how things will turn out, etc., etc., etc. Or, we can look to Jesus: see what He has for us; see Him work in our lives; depend on Him and draw closer to Him; and remember that it is not all about what we think is best, but what He thinks is best for us.

Peace, comfort, guidance, and wisdom are just a few of the gifts we receive from Jesus. May you look to Him and find these, and more, when your plans are changed!

~OBITUARY~

Vernell Cunningham

Vernell Cunningham, 92, of Friona, died December 11, 2017 in Amarillo. Celebration of Life services have been scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Thursday, December 14, 2017 at the Friona United Methodist Church in Friona with Rev. Skip Hodges, pastor, and Jenny O'Pry, officiating. Burial following in the Friona Cemetery by Blackwell-Mullins Funeral Home of Friona.



Cunningham and wife Letha of Cushing, Texas; one daughter, Janice Jones of Twin Oaks, Ok.; three sisters, Vivia Lee Box of California, Jeanette Welch and husband Jim of Levelland, and Shirley Conley and husband Dick also of Levelland; seven grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Memorials may be sent to: Friona United Methodist Church, 301 East 8th St., Friona, Texas 79035 or the Parmer County Cancer Coalition, 906 Euclid Ave., Friona, Texas 79035.

Send condolences to the family and sign the online register book at www.blackwellmullins.com.



working in her yard and picking up pecans.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one brother, L.V. Hogue; and two sisters, Nora O'Brian and Nadine O'Brian.

Survivors include two sons, Joe Cunningham and wife Cheryl of Friona, and Dale

Christmas at St. Ann's in Bovina



Santa Claus stopped by for a visit with the CCD students at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Bovina on Sunday, December 10. Students from the CCD program, directed by Kristen McDonald, presented the Story of Jesus Birth in drama and song. Santa and his helpers distributed Christmas sacks and tree decorations to all young people present. Refreshments were served by St. Ann's Society.



Panhandle Parables

Hugs and Casseroles Still Work!

By JEFF PROCTER, Minister, 6th Street Church of Christ

Our community is truly at a loss for words. I find myself without words tonight as I type. There was a day when words came more easily. I share them with you again because I do believe that Hugs and Casseroles still work. May our God comfort all who hurt this week.

There are times in life that storms show up and turn people's worlds upside down. These are storms where the pain seems bottomless and God seems distant. It is a storm that comes suddenly and leaves almost as quickly, but the wound is deep and the scar will remain. Not all of these storms will be chased by folks with cameras. Sometimes the sirens don't sound and there is no warning on TV. Many storms will hit with such precision few may be directly affected, but for them their world is forever changed. Questions pour out in every tear, but no reasonable explanation helps. Then God shows up.

He walks through the door with a hug and a casserole and before you can comprehend the

tears in His eyes, He walks in again with another hug and casserole. You look out the door and there He stands in a long line of Himself each bearing two gifts that represent the most powerful force in all of eternity, love itself. There is nothing that is designed to take away all the pain that a storm can pour out, but God in infinite wisdom would step into lives of storm victims with enough love to help them bear the burden of their despair and give them hope. Those who are His are often called upon to be storm chasers of sorts. They chase not the storm, but its path

for they know that in it are victims of devastation. They are armed with hugs and casseroles full of love and will stand and help bear the crushing weight of loss. Why? Because that is what love does.

Love is what caused creation. Love is what remained faithful when creation failed. Love would hold Jesus to the cross and love would raise Him from the grave. It is love that reminds us we are conquerors of even death for it is God that is love. What a blessing it is to live in a community that responds to storms with love.



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Friona

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Bovina

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

15th & Cleveland • 806-250-3000

Pastor Bobby Broughton

CHILDREN'S CHURCH • 3 yrs-6th grade

www.calvaryfriona.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

6th & Summit • 806-250-3933

Pastor Brett Hoyle

Email-frstbc@wtrt.net

Website-www.fbcfriona.com

FRIONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8th & Pierce • 806-250-3045

Rev. Skip Hodges

Email-frionaoum@wtrt.net

Website-www.frionaumc.com

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

North end of Congregational Church

1601 Euclid • 575-693-6381

IGLESIA EVANGELICA

NUEVA JERUSALEN

1517 Main St. • 806-346-9725

Pastor Benito Mejia

benitomejia@live.com

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Pastors Mark & Mary Goff

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502 W. 6th • 806-250-2769

Jeff Procter, Minister

ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

16th & Cleveland • 806-250-2871

Father Anthony Swamy Aakula

TEMPLO BAUTISTA

403 Woodland • 575-693-6381

Pastor Ruben Rivera

TEMPLO DE ADORACION

620 Washington • 806-250-5929

Pastor Roy Dominguez

TENTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST

10th & Euclid • 806-250-5236

Gerall Wylly

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Union Congregational Church

1601 Euclid • 806-250-3635

Rev. Joe Schulte

VICTORY FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

9th & Washington

806-250-2207

Pastor Robert Kerby

Website-www.thevictory.tv

FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH

308 3rd Street

806-251-1632

Pastor Brian Mullins

CHURCH OF CHRIST

500 Ave. E

806-251-1334

Mike Prather, Minister

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806-251-1124

Pastor Larry Mitchell

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806-251-1511

Father Anthony Swamy

Aakula

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DEL PRIMOGENITO

The Church of God of the Firstborn

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Pastor Rafael Marin

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Prairie Acres Christmas



courtesy photo

Prairie Acres took home the 2017 Traveling Christmas Tree award during Christmas in the Park. They collected 154 units/votes during the food drive. Congratulations to all the employees and residents at Prairie Acres.



FRIONA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2017

Data Control Codes		10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 3,858,720	\$ 743,715	\$ 4,602,435
5800	State Program Revenues	7,173,159	96,375	7,269,534
5900	Federal Program Revenues	852,200	931,633	1,783,833
5020	Total Revenues	11,884,079	1,771,723	13,655,802
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011	Instruction	6,382,160	703,577	7,085,737
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	124,491	569	125,060
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	71,098	31,200	102,298
0021	Instructional Leadership	5,000	160,141	165,141
0023	School Leadership	726,542	65	726,607
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	401,560	330,453	732,013
0033	Health Services	115,515	239	115,754
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	265,172	1,517	266,689
0035	Food Services	937,415	14,887	952,302
0036	Extracurricular Activities	820,525	334,188	1,154,713
0041	General Administration	539,598	9,104	548,702
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	1,293,145	145	1,293,290
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	98,881	-	98,881
0053	Data Processing Services	257,274	-	257,274
Debt Service:				
0071	Principal on Long Term Debt	-	250,000	250,000
0072	Interest on Long Term Debt	-	53,900	53,900
0073	Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	400	400
Capital Outlay:				
0081	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	-	370	370
Intergovernmental:				
0095	Payments to Juvenile Justice Alternative Ed. Prg.	5,933	-	5,933
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	80,034	-	80,034
6030	Total Expenditures	12,124,343	1,890,755	14,015,098
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(240,264)	(119,032)	(359,296)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7915	Transfers In	190,183	123,511	313,694
8911	Transfers Out (Use)	(313,694)	-	(313,694)
7080	Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(123,511)	123,511	-
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS:				
7919	Extraordinary Item - Resource	153,449	-	153,449
8913	Extraordinary Item - (Use)	(62,465)	-	(62,465)
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	(272,791)	4,479	(268,312)
0100	Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	4,441,282	451,317	4,892,599
3000	Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 4,168,491	\$ 455,796	\$ 4,624,287

Friona Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture
December 2017 Member of the Month

Cottonwood Townhouses

1300 Walnut #53
Friona, Texas 79035
(806) 250-5288

Owner: Paul & Diane Sullivan
Manager: Betty Trevizo



We have 60 units: 32-3 Bedrooms, 20-2 Bedrooms, 8-1 Bedrooms and a Laundry Room. We have one office. The manager is Betty Trevizo with two full time maintenance workers Jorge Nabor and Mario Casado. The owners are Paul and Diane Sullivan. The tenants are all great people and a joy to have. Trevizo has been here since 1999.

Friona Chamber of Commerce

621 Main Street
Friona, Texas 79035
Office: (806) 250-3491
Fax: (806) 250-2348
E-mail: fedc@wtrt.net



Friona Noon Lions Club Fundraiser
- 3 Great Prizes -

Drawing at
Headquarters Restaurant
Thursday @ 12:30
December 21, 2017

Need not be present to win
Must be 18 or older

\$10.00 Donation

See Noon Lion Members to purchase



Browning 20 ga. over/under Shotgun
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Business Office: 364-0101 - Movie Hotline: 364-8000

Star Wars: Last Jedi
PG13
2D (3D)
12:00 • 3:20 • 6:45 • (10:00)

Coco
PG
12:10 • 3:45 • 7:00 • 9:50

Daddy's Home 2
PG13
12:00 • 2:20 • 4:45 • 7:10 • 9:35

Justice League
PG13
12:25 • 3:35 • 7:00 • 9:50

Ferdinand
PG
12:30 • 3:50 • 7:00 • 9:40

Wonder
PG
12:45 • 4:00 • 6:50 • 9:30

Friday 15th: 7's and 9's Only
Saturday 16th: All Showings
Sunday 17th: All But Last Showings
Monday 18th - Wednesday 20th 7's Only
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Work Schedule will include 1 & 1/2 days off on most weeks and hours will average 50-60 straight wage, no overtime. Position offers full benefit package including Health Insurance and 401K.

Interested applicants should apply in person at Bovina Cattle Co., 600 US HWY 60, Bovina, Tx. 806/225-4400



Bovina Cattle Company
A Division of Friona Industries
2tc:12.7-12.14

Pen Rider

Bovina Cattle Company, A Division of Friona Industries, LP. has a position available for a Pen Rider in the Cattle Department. Responsibilities include processing cattle, doctoring, shipping, receiving, riding pens, Housekeeping, and other duties as assigned. Applicants must be willing to perform all of these responsibilities.

Work Schedule will include 1 & 1/2 days off on most weeks and hours will average 50-60 straight wage, no overtime. Position offers full benefit package including Health Insurance and 401K.

Interested applicants should apply in person at Bovina Cattle Co., 600 US HWY 60, Bovina, Tx. 806/225-4400



Bovina Cattle Company
A Division of Friona Industries
2tc:12.7-12.14



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Karla Rector 806-382-7465
Mike Chaney 806-265-7605
George Rushing 806-265-7037



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FRIONA

NEW: 4/3 Brick 2-story, w/attached double carport, 2 living areas, utility room, office/sewing room, central heat & air, partially fenced, corner lot w/extra lot.....\$129,000

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3/1 Brick w/central heat & air, utility room, tile throughout, new windows, partially fenced, 2 storage buildings, corner lot, close to high school\$80,000

BOVINA

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3/3 Stucco w/attached carport, metal roof, central heat & air, basement, studio room, fenced yard, corner lot plus 2/1 Stucco rent house w/central heat\$129,900

Commercial building on Hwy 60 in Bovina, plus (4) city lots, call for more info.....\$99,900

SOLD

3/2/2 Brick w/central h&a, fireplace, basement, original hardwood floors, 8.66 acres on pavement, metal horse shed w/tack room, large yard.....SOLD

3/2/2 Brick w/central h&a, Western Addition, sunroom, fireplace, open floor plan, finished basement, sprinkler system, fenced backyard...SOLD



Kevin Cooper
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2tc:12.7-12.14

Prairie Acres is hiring FULL TIME CNA's for various shifts. Competitive wages and benefits offered.

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Friona Texas or call 806-250-392.

4tc: 12.14-1.11

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AGRICULTURE

State climatologist:

Dry conditions could worsen for much of Texas

By Adam Russell

October and November were two of the driest Octobers and Novembers on record, and much of the state appears to be facing a continued dry spell through winter, according to the state climatologist.

Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, College Station, said conditions were excessively dry throughout the typically wet fall months, and dry conditions are expected to continue through the next several weeks at least.

The lack of rain is causing concerns about fire danger, poorly developed winter pastures, including wheat, and dropping surface water levels for livestock, according to reports from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agents in areas that have missed rain events.

"When you get a dry spell it takes a while for soils to dry out, but they do get there," he said. "Take the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey, you saw extreme flooding in some areas and not much since then."

Nielsen-Gammon said October-November 2017 was the 12th-driest since the state started keeping records in 1895. September and October are typically wetter months for Texas, he said, but rain hasn't materialized.

No single county in Texas has received at least 4 inches of rain anywhere within its borders since the beginning of October, he said. Drier areas of the state, including North Central, West and South Texas, have received less than 2 inches over that period. Areas from the Winter Garden to Big Bend and from Lubbock to the Red River have received less than half an inch over those 60 days.

Warmer, sunny days, winds

and lack of rain are drawing a growing portion of the state into drought conditions, he said. The drought monitor shows 35 percent of the state is in drought, up from just 2.5 percent a month ago, he said.

"October is usually one of the wettest months and oftentimes is extremely wet, but it's been fairly dry and the forecast going forward into winter doesn't look promising," he said. "Overall for the next couple of weeks, it looks like most of the state will average less than half an inch of rainfall."

The lack of intense or significant rain events that would produce runoff once it does rain could also be a concern for ranchers who rely on surface tanks for livestock water as winter progresses, he said. Runoff is contingent on soil moisture levels and rain intensity, but it typically takes 1-2 inches of rain to saturate the ground enough to create runoff or produce a flash amount that could replenish watering holes.

Nielsen-Gammon said it was too early to draw any comparisons to the state's last significant dry spell when a dry fall and winter in 2010 stretched into spring and summer 2011. But La Niña conditions in the Pacific Ocean, which translates into warmer, drier air for much of the state, are expected through winter.

"Its effect will vary by region and local conditions when it comes to forage, crops and surface water, but it's been hard so far, particularly on winter wheat in Northeast Texas because they are well below normal for rainfall," he said. "Fields are having difficulty emerging and getting established."



Friona Volunteer Fire Department Dec. 9 Christmas Party



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DPS reminds Texans of winter weather safety tips

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) encourages Texans in all regions of the state to make preparations for winter weather as we enter the cold weather season.

"While we've all heard the joke about Texas only having two seasons – hot and hotter – all Texans need to prepare now for the serious threats that the upcoming winter could bring," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Every year, Texas faces the dangers of winter weather conditions, including freezing temperatures, ice, sleet, and even snow. Texans are urged to stay informed about changing weather in their area and to take steps now to help stay safe during the coming months."

Texans should winterize their vehicles by checking the battery, windshield wipers (including appropriate freeze resistant-fluid), tire pressure, tire tread, fluid levels, and lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent freezing. In addition, here is a list of emergency sup-

plies drivers can keep in their vehicle:

- *Blankets/sleeping bags, extra clothing, gloves and a hat.
- *Cell phone, radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- *First-aid kit and pocket knife.
- *High calorie, non-perishable food and bottled water.
- *Bag of sand or cat litter to provide traction for tires.
- *Windshield scraper, tool kit, booster cables, tow rope and a shovel.

DPS offers the following additional tips for staying safe during possible winter weather:

- *Monitor local weather broadcasts and follow up-to-the-minute weather conditions, at <http://www.weather.gov/>.
- *Purchase an all-hazards weather radio for up-to-date warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information.
- *Sign up for your local emergency notification system.

*Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before any trip, and keep your gas tank full.

*On icy roads, drive slowly and increase distance required for stopping, and avoid using cruise control.

*Watch for downed trees and power lines across roads. If power is out, treat all intersections as four-way stops.

*Allow extra time when traveling in inclement weather.

*Avoid traveling when sleet, freezing rain or snow is predicted, and monitor road conditions by visiting www.drivetexas.org or by calling 1-800-452-9292.

*Insulate outside faucets and pipes near outer walls.

*Make sure that furnaces, heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves are clean, well-ventilated and in good working condition.

*To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, NEVER operate generators and other fuel-powered devices inside a home or an enclosed space, such as a garage. The deadly odorless, colorless gas is produced any time a fossil fuel is burned, with sources including motor vehicle engines, generators and fuel-burning appliances or heating systems. Consider installing a carbon

monoxide detector.

*Make arrangements for proper shelter and an emergency supply of food and water for your pets and livestock.

*Stock up on firewood and supplies, including canned goods and bottled water.

*If you will be away from home for a long period of time, set your thermostat to 55 degrees or higher and open cabinets under sinks.

*Make sure you have inclement weather contact numbers for schools and work.

*Check on friends and family members whose health or age may put them at greater risk from cold weather.

During the winter season, residents can contact 2-1-1 Texas, the state's free 24-hour helpline, to check on possible community-established warming centers or related services in their area. No matter where you live in Texas, you can dial 2-1-1 or 877-541-7905 for community resources.

Visit <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/ThreatAwareness/winterstorm.htm> for additional information and tips regarding winter weather preparedness.

AgriLife sets 4-H livestock, showmanship clinic Dec. 16

By Steve Byrns

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will conduct the annual District 2 Showmanship Clinic from 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 16 at the Texas Tech Arena in Lubbock.

Admission is free to 4-H and FFA exhibitors who are urged to bring their livestock projects – cattle, lambs, goats and hogs – for a morning of hands-on training, said Robert Scott, AgriLife Extension agent in Lubbock County.

For more information, contact Scott at 806-775-1680, rj-scott@tam.u.edu, or Wade Howard,

AgriLife Extension agent in Lynn County, at 806-561-4562, howard@ag.tamu.edu.

"This clinic is a prime opportunity for youth and their families to gain valuable experience directly from older 4-H members who have been successful in the showing," Scott said.

"The Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassadors who will be conducting much of the instruction are high school-aged 4-H members who receive in-depth instruction and are selected to represent the agricultural industry in Texas. They must commit to 40 hours of ser-

vice annually and many comply by helping novice 4-H families with their livestock projects.

"We've selected almost a dozen of our district's top ambassadors to conduct this training," he said. "They are all longtime 4-H'ers and veterans of the showing. They know first-hand what it takes to compete successfully. This is a real opportunity for youngsters just getting started to hear from the 'old pros' in a relaxed setting. The clinic is the perfect primer for the upcoming stock show season, which will be here before you know it."

Fumonisin update meetings in Dumas, Dimmitt

By Kay Ledbetter

Texas Corn Producers and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will host two update meetings Dec. 19 regarding fumonisin issues in corn this year and what to expect for 2018.

"These meetings will offer our farmers an opportunity to review the regulations and policies related to fumonisin and provide guidance on planning for the year ahead," said David Gibson, Texas Corn Producers executive director, Lubbock. "We want to ensure farmers have the information and resources available to adequately mitigate fumonisin risk."

The first meeting will be from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Moore County Community Center, 1600 S. Maddox St. in Dumas. The second will be from 5:30-8 p.m. in the Castro County Expo Center, 405 S.E. 4th St. in Dimmitt.

High levels of fumonisin in corn harvested this year in the Texas Panhandle resulted in about 700 farmers, crop consultants, insurance agents and end-users at-

tending two emergency meetings in September.

Fumonisin is a mycotoxin produced by two species of *Fusarium* fungi that can cause illnesses in livestock and humans, so there are regulatory limits to the amount corn can contain.

Dr. Jourdan Bell, AgriLife Extension agronomist in Amarillo, and Dr. Jason Woodward, AgriLife Extension plant pathologist in Lubbock, will begin each meeting with a discussion on production.

"We know that fumonisin occurrence is very dependent on weather conditions from year to year, but there are some agronomic steps producers can take to help minimize their risk," Bell said.

Each meeting will also include representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency providing a crop insurance update and reports from representatives of a Lending Task Group and Marketing Task Group.

Both meetings will conclude with a question and answer session.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0001350000

APPLICATION. Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation, P.O. Box 579, Friona, Texas 79035, which owns a slaughter house, beef packing plant, and rendering facility, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) No. WQ0001350000 to authorize the disposal of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a total flow of 71,300,000 gallons for any 30-day period from the facility to the playa lake via irrigation on a combined area of 2,865 acres; and the disposal of brine and pickling wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 21,000 gallons per day via evaporation. The facility is located at 1530 West Highway 60, Friona, in Parmer County, Texas 79035. The disposal areas are located on various tracts of land within approximately 10 miles south of the facility property. TCEQ received this application on June 2, 2017. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Friona City Hall, 623 Main Street, Friona, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=34.598895&lng=-102.7738&zoom=13&type=1>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Nicholas McFarland at 806-295-8289.

Issuance Date: November 28, 2017

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AgriLife specialist has tips on Christmas tree fire safety

By Paul Schattenberg

Taking proper care of and precautions with Christmas trees can keep them from catching fire until they can be properly disposed of, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialist in family and community health.

“While Christmas tree fires are fairly rare, they can still cause serious property damage and possibly injury or death,” said Joyce Cavanagh, College Station. “The fires typically start due to an open flame from a candle or a short in the electrical lights, but there are other ways Christmas trees can catch fire.”

She said it is important to properly maintain Christmas trees and take steps to help ensure they do not catch fire. She and the National Fire Protection Agency offered the following tips for Christmas tree safety:

- Provide a direct water source for your tree or water it frequently to keep it from drying out.
- Inspect holiday lights for frayed wires or wear that might spark a fire.
- Never use candles as tree decorations and buy electrical lights that meet independent laboratory testing standards and are labeled flame-retardant.
- Keep the tree 3 feet or more away from any heat source such as a fireplace, stove, radiator or candle.

- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit in the event there’s a need to escape.
- Turn off the tree lights when going to bed or away from home.
- Remove the tree from the home when needles start dropping and turning brown.

Cavanagh said even though a Christmas tree has been removed from a home, it may still present a fire hazard.

“Dried-out trees constitute a real fire danger and should not be left in the garage or placed outside next to the exterior walls of your home,” she said. “See if your community has a Christmas tree collection or recycling program, make arrangements for pickup from the appropriate removal service as soon as possible.”

Cavanagh said for proper and safe disposal of Christmas trees, all ornaments, tinsel, ribbon, lights and other non-organic materials should be removed.

“If needles drop onto the floor during the process of tree removal, it’s better to sweep them up as opposed to vacuuming, because the needles can clog your vacuum cleaner,” she said.

Cavanagh also said large Christmas tree disposal bags are an excellent way to cut down on the mess and are available at many home improvement stores.

“Most communities have curbside Christmas tree collection for a few weeks after Christmas and some offer it throughout the month of January,” she said. “And many communities also have free tree drop-off locations. Some debris removal services may require trees to be cut into 4-foot or shorter lengths, so it may be necessary to cut the tree in half.”

Should the designated Christmas tree collection time be missed, Cavanagh said unflocked trees can usually be chopped up and put into the organic or yard waste container for collection during the next regularly scheduled pickup.

“Flocked trees will likely need to be chopped up and disposed of along with your regular solid waste,” she said.

Cavanagh also noted tree recycling and mulching programs are gaining popularity in many communities.

“You can check with your local department of public works for information on whether this service is available in your area,” she said. “For these programs, they chip and shred the trees, then make the mulch available for use in your garden. Your hauler can usually notify you of pickup dates in your area and what you need to do to get your tree ready for recycling.”

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