Parmer County COVID-19 stats

As of Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Tested at Parmer Medical Center

Vol. 94, No. 20



Negative Results from Parmer **Medical Center**

34

Pending Results from PMC Positive Results from PMC

Parmer County Residents Positive Results From All Test Sites

The Show Will Not Go On

After much consultation and consideration, the Friona Fine Arts Council has announced that its 2020 Summer Drama Workshop has been cancelled. Factors such as district-wide construction and the need to err on the side of extreme caution due to the spectre of COVID-19, made the very difficult decision to cancel a necessity.

SDW Production Coordinator Allison Johnston said, "Please know that this decision was not made in haste, but after many tears and much reflection. The safety of our precious children is paramount." Last year marked the 50th anniversary of Summer Drama Workshop and featured the return of past directors and participants to help celebrate the milestone.

Allison continued, "Thank you for your understanding, and know that we love you all so much and will miss the magic that is Summer Drama more than you will ever know." If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Allison Johnston at 806-220-1610 or via email at allisonj1960@hotmail.com.

Friona ISD School Board Meeting

Monday May 18, 2020 at 7:00p.m.

To Log on you can use this link or call the number.

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/cct-kpub-fxe

Phone Numbers (US)

+1 650-241-4101 PIN: 620 953 333#

Friona Primary & **Elementary School Meeting**

Wednesday May 20, 2020 at 7:00p.m.

Friona Elementary will be having two Title I Meetings on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Due to COVID-19 will be having these meetings remotely. To join, please go to one of the links provided or call in on the phone number. A translator will be provided.

Friona Elementary tendrá dos juntas de Título I el miércoles 20 de mayo 2020. Debido a COVID-19 tendrá estas reuniones de forma remota. Para unirse, vaya a uno de los enlaces provistos o llame al número de teléfono. Se proporcionará un traductor.

Title I Meeting

Wednesday, May 20 • 10:00 - 10:30am Join with Google Meet meet.google.com/mfa-nvvv-pzr Join by phone +1 202-838-7672 PIN: 327 520 495#

Title I Meeting

Wednesday, May 20 • 5:00 - 5:30pm Join with Google Meet meet.google.com/zgi-zmvv-rta Join by phone +1 347-363-4100 PIN: 713 993 512#

Page 7

Town Talk

Page 9

Here's your sign

Thursday, May 14, 2020



FHS Senior Mariah Rivera is shown receiving her Class of 2020 yard sign from members of the Friona High School staff. Each senior received a sign earlier this year to highlight their achievements and approaching graduation. (l-r) Counselor Allison Johnston, Yearbook Advisor Benjamin Monk, Principal Erika Montana, Senior Mariah Rivera, and Assistant Principal David Woods.

Class of 2020 events are announced

FHS principal Erika Montana announced two upcoming events involving the Class of 2020. The Senior Parade is a new event and is an alternative way of honoring Seniors in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Graduation Ceremony will be held a week later than usual in order to comply with Governor Abbott's requirements regarding public graduation ceremonies.

Senior Parade is May 22nd

Since a formal Senior Reception is not possible this year, Friona High School will conduct a Senior Parade at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22nd. Seniors will begin lining up at 6:15 p.m. in front of the elementary/ junior high on Euclid, just like the parades held during Maize Days.

The parade will begin facing north on Euclid, then turn right onto 10th Street. Coach Arias and his helpers will be there to direct drivers when to turn onto Main Street. The parade will proceed south down Main Street and will then turn right onto 5th Street and travel west to Grand Street. The parade will then turn right at Grand Street and in two blocks turn left at Chieftain Way and end up in front of Friona High School.

Seniors will be awarded their scholarships, receive their honor cords and stoles, athletic awards, and academic awards during this parade. Awards will be announced and handed out to each Senior as they pass through the City Park area of Main Street.

Parents, guardians, or family members will drive for the Seniors in the parade. They will be able to hear the presentation of the awards. Cars can be decorated as long as they are school appropriate. Other family members and friends will be able to be parked around the streets that are blocked off, but they will have to stay in their cars.

Friona High School would like to extend its gratitude to the City of Friona for allowing this to happen by blocking off the streets, Friona Police for providing safety services during this parade, WT Services who will broadcast on the local Channel 6, and the countless others who will come together to make this a memorable event.

Graduation Ceremony is May 29th

Friona High School will hold its 2020 Graduation Ceremony at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29th at Chieftain Field. Each member of the Senior Class will be allowed to invite 4 guests (includes children) to attend the event. Guests will be screened as they enter the stadium and will sit in designated areas according to social distancing guidelines. School officials and Seniors will also adhere to distancing guidelines on the field and stage. Everyone will have to exit the stadium and leave the parking lot immediately following the ceremony. The Graduation Ceremony will be closed to the general public.

Texas Ag takes a hit

New report estimates Texas' agricultural losses from pandemic could be \$6-8 billion

By Paul Schattenberg

The Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University has released a new report showing the economic impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on production agriculture in Texas.

Since the beginning of the pandemic many agricultural commodity prices have dropped 20% to 30%, according to the report. Many Texas producers have already experienced losses, and if prices do not recover soon for livestock and prior to row crop harvest, they could easily see losses in the range of \$6 billion to \$8 billion - down 27% to 36% overall.

"Our goal in producing the **COVID-19 Economic Impact** to Texas Agriculture report was to frame agricultural issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as provide insights and discussion on how various production agriculture commodities in Texas were affected," said Joe Outlaw, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agricultural economist and co-director of the center.

Outlaw said Texas is an important agricultural state, ranking only behind California and Iowa in terms of cash receipts from the sales of agricultural commodities.

"In 2018, those agricultural receipts totaled about \$22 billion," he said.

Some of the factors affecting agricultural production include supply chain issues, labor shortages and instability in agricultural commodities markets, as well as the general change in where people are now spending their food dollars due to COVID-19-related restrictions.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the food production and supply and has also exposed many longtime vulnerabilities across the food and agriculture value chain," said Patrick J. Stover, Ph.D., vice chancellor of Texas A&M AgriLife, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, College Station. "This has had a profound and far-reaching



Tristan Schueler- Motion & Action (Senior Div.)

impact on those front-line farmers we depend on to meet our needs for food and nutrition."

Shutting down schools and restaurants to dine-in customers has led to a dramatic shift in food purchasing and has affected agricultural supply chains for many food products, the report noted. Thus far, the effects have been particularly troublesome for producers of livestock, fruits and vegetables and dairy

products, including milk. It also noted many retail clothing outlets around the world have been closed as well, and that has dramatically decreased the demand for cotton, Texas' largest cash crop.

The Texas agricultural commodities most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic thus far are weaned calves, stocker calves, feeder steers, sheep and goats, fruits and vegetables, and dairy products.

Continued on page 10.

Obituaries Page 6

Classifieds

Page 3

Church Page Page 5

Small Town Cookin'

COVID-19 news frionaonline.com

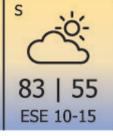
Emergency Siren System: Alternating tone • Firefighters only | Weather Warning: 1 long tone • take cover — 3 short blasts • all clear | Tested 1st & 3rd Thurs. at 7 p.m.

Friona Weather May 14-20













S 15-25



Precipitation May 0.00 Year

3.84

Burn Ban:

Community Calendar

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

May 19

• School Retiree Parade at 10:00 a.m.

May 22

• Senior Parade at 7:00 p.m. on Main Street

May 25

• Memorial Day

May 29

•FHS Graduation Ceremony at 8:00 p.m.

COVID-19 News

Coronavirus cases confirmed

Texas Panhandle: 2642 cases, 38 deaths Armstrong County: 2

Briscoe County: 1 Carson: 3 Castro County: 23 Childress: 2 Collingsworth: 4 Cottle: 4

Dallam County: 15

Deaf Smith County: 59 Donley County: 26 Gray County: 76 Hansford County: 13 Hartley County: 8 Hemphill County: 1 **Hutchinson County: 21**

Lipscomb: 2 Moore County: 535 Motley: 1 Ochiltree County: 29 Oldham County: 3 Parmer County: 22 Potter County: 1,327

Randall County: 413 Roberts County: 2 Sherman County: 23 Swisher County: 12 Wheeler County: 15

Eastern New Mexico: 52 cases, 1 death

Curry County:32 Quay County: 5 Roosevelt County: 12 Union: 3

Oklahoma Panhandle: 446 cases, 4 deaths

Beaver County: 20 Cimarron: 1 Texas County:425

Texas: 41,048 cases 1,133 deaths 22,674 recoveries

United States: 1,370,016 cases 82,389 deaths

Worldwide: 4,281,838cases 292,619 deaths

Wash your hands Stay 6 foot away Wear your mask

FRIONA STAR SUBSCRIPTIONS

IN PARMER COUNTY: \$30 PER YEAR

OUT OF PARMER COUNTY: \$40 PER YEAR

ESTAR (EMAILED): \$24 PER YEAR

Call 806-250-2211 for more information

frionaonline.com

Mayor's Minutes by Ricky White

Greetings!!!! I hope all mothers had a wonderful Mother's Day!!! We love our moms year-round and we spend one day out of the year to honor and recognize them in our own special way. As the pandemic prohibited us from celebrating our moms the way we would like, we are grateful for their unconditional love, strength and encouragement they have provided us throughout our lives. Thank you to all of the moms.

I am encouraged with Governor Abbott's recent comments allowing businesses that were mandated to close many weeks ago to re-open. There were 10 businesses in Friona that were able to re-open on Friday, May 8th. These businesses have been closed for many weeks, and I know they are anxious to be able to operate once again. I want to encourage these businesses to implement good hygiene practices for their safety and the safety of their patrons. All of us can do our part by washing our hands frequently, wearing our masks when going out to run errands or shop in stores, and limit gatherings to no more than 10 people. Currently in Parmer County, there are 19 positive cases and 7 recoveries. Be safe!!!

On Wednesday, May 6th around 6:30 a.m. the alarm sirens were set off due to an electrical malfunction. Each siren had to be manually turned off. The City has contacted Omega Electronics located in Amarillo to address the issue. This is a concern now that we are moving into tornado season. Until the issue can be resolved, each siren has been assigned to a City employee. In the event of a tornado warning, each siren can be manually turned on. Hopefully the issue will be resolved quickly, but if not, we will be prepared to sound the alarms.

On Saturday, May 2nd, the City had a huge turnout for the roll-off box. There were approximately 40 vehicles that came to dump their large bulk items which filled up our roll-off box in record time. We decided to open this past Saturday, May 9th, and once again we had many people show up to get rid of their large items. We want to encourage everyone to throw away their large bulk items at the city roll-off box. You can use the roll-off box Mondays thru Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by contacting the City at (806) 250-

We decided to cancel the City Coun-

cil meeting scheduled for Monday May 10th. There were no pressing issues that needed to be addressed or voted on at this time. All items will be pushed back to the meeting scheduled for June 8th. Due to the pandemic, we thought it best to cancel the meeting and pick back up in June.

County Judge Ellis and I were invited to Cargill a couple of weeks ago by General Manager Scott Pohlman and Controller Casey Conrad to observe and witness firsthand the safety preventions and sanitary practices implemented since the COVID-19 pandemic hit our community. Scott, Casey, and the Cargill team have done a fantastic job to reassure employees that they have the best and safest environment possible in which to work. Their day begins as they enter the plant with temperature checks of every employee using the highest technology. There are certain precautions employees take as they suit up to work, enter their work stations, work with co-workers, during breaks, and at the end of the shift. It was impressive to see all the methods and techniques that have been implemented. Thank you to the Cargill team for all that you are doing.

Your Mayor

Commissioners discuss possible COVID-19 grants

The Parmer County Commissioners Court met in regular session on Monday, May 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom of the Parmer County Courthouse in Farwell, Texas. The meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag. Commissioner Wilkins (Pct. 2) was absent.

There were no public comments. The Minutes from the April 27th meeting were read and approved. Commissioners approved the payment of the accounts payables as presented by County Treasurer Sharon May. The Treasurer's Report was also approved.

The Janitorial Contract for the Parmer County Courthouse and Parmer County Law Enforcement Center was renewed with Becca's Quality Cleaning.

Approval was given to reschedule the next Commissioners Court meeting for Tuesday, May 26th because the original date of Monday, May 25th is the Memorial Day holiday.

Commissioners voted to purchase another Electronic Pollbook from Election

Systems and Software, LLC. The county had originally purchased 10 new voting machines and only 9 pollbooks. One of the voting machines was designated as a backup in case of an emergency. However, each machine has to have a pollbook in order to function. Cost of the additional pollbook was just under \$2000 and the county now has 10 fully operational voting machines for the fall election.

Bovina ISD made a request to utilize a portion of its Permanent School Funds for the district's current construction project. Bills which totaled \$122,229.32 were submitted and the court approved them for payment.

Sheriff Randy Geries reported to the court that the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) has grant money available for counties to use in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The minimum grant is \$10,000 and is also available to cities. The PRPC serves the top 26 counties in the Texas panhandle. A possible use for the funds would be the installation of another "negative pressure" cell at the

Parmer County Law Enforcement Center. Currently there is only one such cell and it is for male inmates. The projected cost is \$15,000 for an additional "negative pressure" cell for female inmates. The intended use of the "negative pressure" cell was to separate an inmate who may have TB. Now, it could also be used for an inmate who has possibly contracted the coronavirus. Another possible use of grant money would be the installation of more plexiglass shields in the courthouse offices.

Judge Ellis reported that 19 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Parmer County with 7 recoveries. Judge Ellis would also like to encourage everyone to wash your hands often, wear a mask, stay 6' away, and stay safe!!!

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

Governor moves to protect nursing homes

Governor Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to test 100% of residents and staff in Texas nursing homes. The Governor instructed HHSC, TDEM, and DSHS to develop and implement a plan based on the guidance of Vice President Mike

Pence and Doctor Deborah Birx.

"The State of Texas is working to rapidly expand our testing capacity—especially among vulnerable populations in Texas nursing homes," said Governor Abbott. "This important collaboration among HHSC, TDEM, and DSHS will ensure that any potential clusters of COVID-19 cases in nursing homes are quickly detected and contained."

TEXAS

CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

Also, the Texas National Guard has activated Facilities Disinfection Teams to support Texans in nursing homes and to help limit the spread of COVID-19. These Facilities Disinfection Teams, formed in coordination with Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), provide a major boost to protecting Texans and limiting the spread of COVID-19. Six teams have already been mobilized to facilities across the state with more coming online.

Governor Abbott also issued a proclamation extending his Disaster Declaration for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19. Originally issued on March 13 and extended on April 12, the Disaster Declaration provides the state a number of resources to effectively serve Texans as the Lone Star State continues to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

ACROSS

- 1 TX Jessie who led anti-lynching fight in 1930s & 1940s
- 5 TXism: "___ poison" (choose) 6 Matt Damon is a
- TX Ranger in 2010 film "True 7 in Hidalgo County
- on highway 107 8 a former flag over Texas: fleur-de-_
- 9 heating in dryer or on stove 16 a stylist's cut
- 18 seat of Anderson County
- 21 "good '_ _ boy" 22 subdivision map
- 23 unruly crowd 24 TXism: "she would have to stand up twice _
- TXism: " __ a duck in water"

shadow" (skinny)

- 34 veteran agcy. 35 TX Larry Gatlin's Gold in
- California" (1979) 36 TX George Jones "She Thinks I Still " (1962)
- 37 actor Killam of film "Night School" with TX Anne Winters
- 39 this TX team became the Kansas City Chiefs (2 wds.)
- "the echo," south of the border
- 44 waterlogged, lowlying areas

- 45 "mi casa es casa"
- 46 golf ball holders 47 TXism: "as much chance __ a packing as a _
- plant" (slim chance) 49 TXism: "full 52 TX Sandy of old sitcom
- Copyright 2020 by Orbison Bros. "The Hogan Family" (init.) 13 14 53 dir. from New Braunfels to McGregor 16 19 54 unit for TX-based Southwest Airlines 30 32 33 36 43 55 Tammy, 46 once married to TX George 49 48 **Jones** steam bath TX actor Cassidy, 56 "Lurch" on "The P-1479 Addams Family" 13 the one left by TX 60 Adam & _ Howard Hughes was solution on page 3 TXism: " 59

 - buster" (farmer) **DOWN**
 - 1 Astros foe from Los Angeles
 - 2 Falls County seat 3 gaseous discharge _ trap" (try
 - to catch an animal) 9 "The King" (init.) 10 "the press," south
 - of the border TX Mildred
 - "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias
- 12 purchase at TXbased Luby's, e.g.
- about \$2.5 billion 14 2nd part of the Bible (abbr.) TX Brown who won
- Heisman while at Notre Dame 17 TX-based 1984 film:
- Heart" 19 this Jay helped the Cowboys win three
- Super Bowls Ferry' 20 "Los 24 "__-dah!" (fanfare)
- 25 TXism: "_ __ as dirt" 26 Gulf mollusk 27 book of maps
- 28 Cowboy and Texan tees, e.g. 29 TXism: "mad as a snake"

60

- 31 Texas doesn't have an income ____ 32 fictional sister of
- TX Ima Hogg 33 cracker that goes well with TX chili
- 38 this Morrison played for Texas State before going to the NFL in 1968 40 TX George Strait's
 - Let Herself Go" 41 Gulf coast seabird 42 what happened to
 - schools in TX in March of 2020 48 "Azle _" paper
 - 50 Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson
 - "tit for _ T.J. who is a Texan
 - assistant coach 57 "new" in Mexico

ON YOUR PAYROLL

U.S. Government

President: Donald J. Trump, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500. 202-456-1111, fax 202-456-2461, email comments@whitehouse.gov.

Senator: John Cornyn, 517 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-2934, fax 202-228-2856. Senator: Ted Cruz B40B Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Wash-

ington, D.C. 20510 202-224-5922. Representative: Jodey Arrington, 2019 Longworth, House Office Building, 202-225-4005. Lubbock District Office, 1312 Texsas Ave. #219, Lubbock, TX 79401. Abilene District Office,

500 Chestnut St. #819, Abilene, TX 79602

State Governor: Greg Abbott, Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 12428, Austin, Tx 78711-2428, 512-463-2000.

Senator: Kel Seliger, P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, Tx 78711. 512-463-0131. Amarillo office; P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, 79105. 806-374-8994.

Representative: John T. Smithee, Room CAP1W.10, Capitol P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Tx 78768. 512-463-0702. fax 512-476-7016. Amarillo office; 320 So. Polk, 1st Floor, Lobby box 28, Amarillo 79101. 806-372-3327, fax 806-342-0327.

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Friona Flashbacks

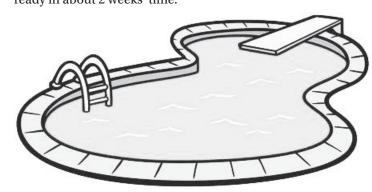
The Friona Independent School District board of trustees approved the purchase of the M&M Welding building located at 8th and Euclid south of the primary school. The building will be used for additional classroom, storage, and office space. The board approved a \$60,000 budget amendment for the purchase. Ron Carr photo (Friona Star, July 19, 2007)





Phone: 806-250-2211 • **Fax:** 806-250-5127 **Email:** frionastar@wtrt.net

Not safe to go back in the water...yet. The City of Friona has decided not to open the swimming pool this summer. City Manager Lee Davila said, "After researching best practices for pools amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we don't think we can meet the best practice standards." The recent rise of coronavirus cases in the county was also a factor in the decision. Davila continued, "If things change later in the summer, we could have the pool ready in about 2 weeks' time."



Sign up is now underway for the 12th Annual Pudge Kendrick Memorial Golf Tournament to be held July 25th and 26th at the John Pitman Golf Club in Hereford, Texas. The annual event is a 36-hole two-person scramble and space is limited to the first 80 teams that register. Proceeds benefit the Parmer County and Hereford Cancer Coalitions which provide grants for local cancer patients. The entry fee is \$300 per team and you can call the John Pitman Golf Club at 806-363-7139 to sign up.

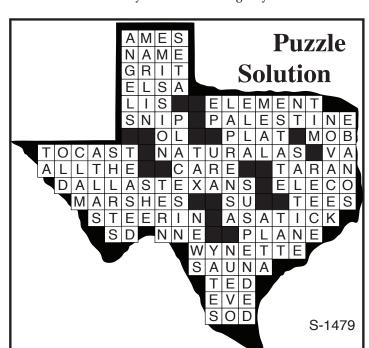
A "Retiree Parade" will be held on Tuesday, May 19th to honor seven FISD employees who are retiring this year. The parade will start at 10:00 a.m. on Euclid Street and will encompass 5th St., Grand, 9th St., Arrah, Western Edition, Springfield and Etta, Cottonwood Apartments, the City Park, and conclude back at the Primary School. Employees to be honored include Karen Barns (15 years), Judy Rhodes (40 years), Kathi Miller (30 years), Linda Welch (19 years), Loy McLellan (45 years), Beverly Ingram (27 years), and Lupe Shelby (15 years).

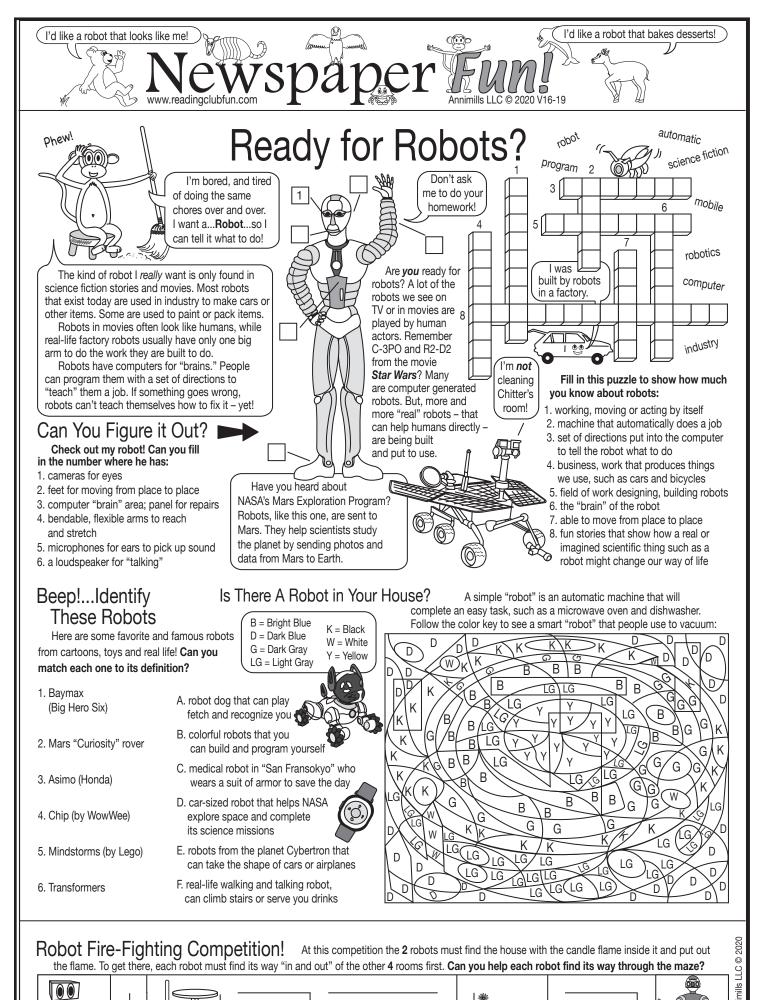
The Friona Noon Lions Club has created a Dale Houlette Scholarship Fund at Friona InterBank to accept donations in honor of Dale. He was a founding member of the Noon Lions Club in 1968. Proceeds from the fund will provide scholarships for Friona High School graduates. Donations will also be made to the Texas Lions Camp in his memory.

Texas Lions Camp offers a number of types of camps each summer, which are divided into three categories: Camps for children who have physical disabilities, camps for children who have Down Syndrome, and camps for children who have type-1 diabetes.

* * * National Days

May 14 — Dance Like a Chicken Day
May 15 — NASCAR Day
May 16 — Armed Forces Day
May 17 — Cherry Cobbler Day
May 18 — Visit Your Relatives Day
May 19 — Devil's Food Cake Day
May 20 — Rescue Dog Day





Store

Hours:

Mon-Fri:

9am - 6pm

Saturday:

9am - 12pm

Closed

Sunday



Bi-Wize is open!

However, to prevent the spread of coronavirus we are offering limited access to the store.

- Only the front part of the store is accessible
- Prescriptions are available for pickup at the front
 We can get your over the counter products for you
- Please, no more than 1 person in the store at a time
 Preferably, stay in your car and we'll bring your pre-
- Preferably, stay in your car and we'll bring your prescription out to you!
- If you are staying home, call us about delivery

You can even still purchase furniture, but the show-room is closed. All of our fine Ashley selections can be seen at www.biwize.com

Thank you for your trust in us. Rest assured, we are constantly monitoring the Covid-19 situation and taking prudent steps to guard your health and safety.

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Gas Prices increase again

By GasBuddy | May 11, 2020

For the second consecutive week, the national average price of gasoline has increased, rising 6.4 cents over the last week to \$1.83 per gallon according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million individual price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country. The average price of diesel, meanwhile, fell 1.6 cents to \$2.41 per

"Gasoline demand continues to rebound across the U.S. as more states reopen, with a week on week rise of nearly 5%, according to data from GasBuddy's free payments card. The boost in demand has led oil and gasoline prices to rally, and as long as states continue to loosen restrictions, it'll mean more motorists on the roads and filling their tank," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "Most states saw prices rise last week, but yet again Great Lakes states, which were the largest beneficiaries of ultra-low prices, saw the most pain as retail gasoline prices fall back into their normal territory against the national average. For now, the continued recovery in gas prices will nearly completely depend on improvement in the coronavirus situation, as so long as refineries boost production again as demand continues to rise again."

Crude oil prices continue to march higher as demand for gasoline weighs on the market, with a barrel of West Texas Intermediate crude oil fetching \$24.99, up from \$19.19 a week ago, an increase of over \$5 per barrel. Brent crude oil was last at \$31.11 per barrel, up from \$26.01 a week ago. Oil's rally has come as OPEC and other oil producing countries limit production and as U.S. gasoline demand has rallied as motorists in re-opened states and others alike take to the road. GasBuddy demand data showed a weekly increase in U.S. gasoline demand of nearly 5%, leading gasoline prices higher as supply remains lower as refiners slowly respond to the rise by raising refinery utilization to 70.5%.

Data from the Energy Information Administration last week showed a rise of 4.6 million barrels in crude oil inventories, to levels 14% above a year ago, while gasoline inventories fell for a second straight week by 3.2 million barrels. Gasoline inventories stand just 9% ahead of the five-year average for this

time of year, meaning surplus oil inventories have not translated into refined products as refiners were quick to stifle production back in March, responding to a steep dropoff in gasoline demand. Distillate inventories, however, continue to skyrocket, posting one of their largest weekly increases on record last week, rising 9.5 million barrels. Distillate inventories now stand 12% above the fiveyear average, a dramatic and large turn around from the deficits that were commonplace just a few weeks ago. Refinery utilization increased slightly (0.9%) to 70.5% as refiners likely see the bottom and begin cautiously increasing crude oil inputs.

The most common gas price across the country stands at \$1.89 per gallon, up 30 cents from a week ago. The average cost at the priciest 10% of stations stands at \$2.67 per gallon, up 3 cents from a week ago, while the lowest 10% average \$1.35 per gallon, up 8 cents from a week ago. The median U.S. price is \$1.75 per gallon, up 9 cents in the last week and about 9 cents lower than the national average. For cities and state data, visit http://fuelinsights.gasbuddy.com.

COURTHOUSE NOTES

Susie Spring, County Clerk

Warranty Deeds recorded at the Parmer County Clerk's Office from April 23, 2020 to April 30, 2020

(4/30/2020) Brock W. Field, Deniss Field — Charles Nathan Matson, Emily B. Matson — Lot 4 B 4 First Installment Staley Addition No. 3

(4/30/2020) Brandon Kirkland, Carl Kirkland, Rhonda Kirkland — Tyler Brown, Tyler K. Brown, Tiffany Brown — W 1/2 of Garden Lot 42 Capitol Syndicate Subdivision Sec 31 T9S R1E

(5/1/2020) Sagebrush Construction, Ruben Lopez, Carmen Lopez — Security State Bank — NW 1/4 of Section 10 Block E

(5/1/2020) Robert Lepard, Kay Lepard — Caprock Dairy LLC — All SW/4 of Section 4 Block W Edward K (5/1/2020) Texana Bank NA — Elveda Cantu — Lot 1 and N

20' Lot 2 Block 2 Ridgelea Subdivision City of Bovina

(5/4/2020) Michael Nieto — Michael Dewitt, Chelsea Dewitt — Lot 4 B 97 Original Town of Bovina in Parmer

(5/4/2020) Agri Plan Inc — Agri Pan LLC — Lot 1 and Lot 2 Block 4 Original Town of Bovina in Parmer County

(5/5/2020) Doris Barnett, David Barnett, Richard Barnett, Wesley Barnett — David Barnett, Chris Barnett, Barnett Family Trust, Richard Barnett — All of that certain tract of land in Parmer County all of S 1/2 of Section 6 of Herrah Subdivision of Capitol League 467 306.35 acres of land, The W 221 acres of the S 1/2 of Section 20 Township Number 1 N R Number 5 E of Capitol Syndicate Subdivision of Parmer County, The W 1/2 of N 320 acres of Section Number 29 Township N 1 N Range 5 E of Capitol Syndicate in Parmer County, All of Section 17 B C of Capitol Syndicate Subdivision in Parmer, the SE/4 The NW/4 and SW/4 of Section Number 2 Township 4 1/2 SRE and NE/4 of Section Number 21 Township 4 1/2, The same Land conveyed by Newman Jarrell Jr. ET Vol 125 Pg 244 and multiple tracts See Doc.

(5/5/2020) Doris Barnett — Doris Barnett, Ricky Barnett, David Barnett, Doris Barnett, Doris Barnett 2019 Revocable Trust — All of Lot 20, 21, and 22 of Block 3 of the Western Addition to the City of Friona in Parmer County

(5/5/2020) Javier Trevino, Benigna Trevino — Diversified IRA LLC — 0.430 acre tract of land out of Section 1 Township 3 S R 3 E Capitol Syndicate Subdivision in Parmer County

(5/6/2020) Baudelio Almeida, Onesima Almeida — Manuel Salinas, Claudia G. Salinas — A tract of land out of Lot 1-7 and NE half of B 79 Original Townsite City of Bovina in Parmer County, A tract of land of L 1-7 and NE half L 8 B 79 Original Townsite of Bovina in Parmer County

Comptroller Glenn Hegar Distributes \$824 Million in Monthly Sales Tax Revenue to Local Governments

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced that he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$824.1 million in local sales tax allocations for May. This amount is 5 percent less than in May 2019. These allocations are based on sales made in March by businesses that report tax monthly, and sales made in January, February and March by quarterly filers.

Widespread social distancing requirements were not in place across much of

the state until late March, meaning the impact of those measures affected only a portion of allocations for this month. The agency expects next month's allocations, based on April sales, will show steeper declines compared to a year ago.

The City of Friona will receive \$46,217.47 for May which is 14.46% higher than the \$40,378.06 payment made last May. The year-todate payments for 2020 total \$200,424.26 which is 18.12% higher than the YTD total of \$169,675.70 for 2019.

Cornyn: USDA Approves Texas' Plan to Provide SNAP Benefits to Families with Kids on Free and Reduced School Lunches

WASHINGTON-The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved Texas' plan to provide SNAP benefits to

households with children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) announced today. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which Sen. Cornyn supported when it passed in March, required states to submit

their plans for expanding SNAP benefits to these families to USDA. Texas officials will distribute Pan-We're Here For You!

demic - Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) cards to families with children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals. Because distribution of school meals is limited due to school closures, families with children in the school

meals program will now

be able to use EBT cards at grocery stores and online through the SNAP EBT program.

"During an already stressful time, many families find themselves without school meal benefits meant to provide nutrition and financial relief," said Sen. Cornyn. "Now, thanks to a coronavirus relief bill Congress passed in March, families of the two-thirds of Texas schoolchildren who receive school meals will get additional help putting food on the table."

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(5/7/2020) — Esperanza Mondragon, 24, of Clovis, New Mexico, was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a charge of Possession Marijuana < 2 ounces, pending County Court.

Randy Geries, Sheriff



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May 15

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May 16 Mariana Pina

Ruthie Hardin Ron Procter Lisa Lane Deirdre (Johnston) Long Gloria Reves Shirley Prokop

May 17 Glen Herring Kristen Holland Dario Hernandez Tom Alger

May 18 Danny Carthel

John Crozier Jacob Landrum Jared Taylor

May 19 Lindsey Hoyle

Ramey Beene Lynn Nelson Carol Ellis Naruby (Schlenker) Bollom Blair Burney Dillon Pool

Mike Ortiz Junior Jiminez Tyler Hough Calvin Gee

May 20 Kim Barnett

Sherrie Baxter Larry Manuel Graham Edelmon **Beverly Ingram** Edda Preyer

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

Send your church news to the Friona *Star

frionastar@wtrt.net

Book Blessings

By Brett Hoyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church

Renowned pastor, author and cancer survivor, John Piper recently wrote the small book Coronavirus and Christ, which addresses the current pandemic from a scriptural viewpoint. The call of the book is not to answer the difficult questions regarding when to reopen schools and the economy, but it is a tremendous work calling us all to consider God's hand and sovereignty through this pandemic. Piper says, "This book is my invitation for you to join me on the solid Rock, Jesus

Christ. What that means will, I hope, become clear. My aim is to show why God in Christ is the Rock at this moment in history—in this pandemic of the coronavirus—and what it is like to stand on his mighty love," (page 19).

This two hour long read is free from desiringgod.org in pdf form in many languages. As you read through the reality of God's sovereignty in the midst of this massive sickness believers are reminded of God's hand in the midst of a pandemic. The focus of the

Census News

book, though, is not a grim focus on the challenge of the coronavirus, its origin theories or even examining the economic and social impact, but the book is steadfastly focused on Christ in the midst of this storm. The reader wrestles through tough questions of God's goodness in the midst of worldwide tragedy, and is led to a place of greater trust, joy and strength in the Lord because of who he is and what he is doing in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Forgiveness

By Teena Hughs

Last week, I was reading Psalm 25, a psalm of David. In verse 7a. David says. "Forgive the rebellious sins of my youth"; in verse 11, he says, "For the honor of your name, O LORD, forgive my many, many sins." When I read what David said in verse 18b, "Forgive all my sins," I had to wonder if David was having trouble believing God was actually forgiving him of his sins.

I am no Bible scholar, and I am not saying that is what David was dealing with, but it did speak to me.

Sometimes we all do or say things that we cannot imagine God forgiving us for. We don't feel like we deserve forgiveness from God

or anyone else. Worst of all. we cannot forgive ourselves for what we have said or

Scripture assures us that these are all wrong premises and feelings. 1 John 1:9 tells us that, "if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." Hebrews 8:12b goes a step farther and says, 'I will never again remember their sins.' Isaiah 43:25 sums it all up: 'I--ves. I alone--am the One who blots out your sins for My own sake and will never think of them again.'

Just because God forgives our sins and forgets them, responsibility does not end there for you and me. We have to repent. We have to turn around, turn away from our sin and change our life. so that, hopefully, we will not commit the same sins over and over.

God doesn't want us to hold on to our sins; He gave up His Son so that we don't have to. God also doesn't want us to feel like we don't deserve forgiveness, especially from ourselves.

God is a very compassionate, loving, merciful, and gracious God to forgive us of our sins. Let us honor and respect God by repenting of our sins; by leading a new, better life; and, by becoming more and more like Jesus every time we truly repent.

Panhandle Parables

Are We There Yet?

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

2020 Census Self-Response Rate Information - May 6, 2020
National Response Rate56.8%
Texas Self-Response Rate51.5%
Parmer County Self-Response Rate31.6%
Friona Self-Response Rate47.1%
Bovina Self-Response Rate5.0%
Farwell Self-Response Rate15.7%



Friona Community Helpline 806-250-3933

Senior Adults or people with serious medical conditions, if you need help picking up essential goods such as groceries or medicines, call the Friona Community Helpline. Volunteers with the Helpline can pickup your groceries, medicines or other essential goods and deliver them to your home. There is no cost for this service, we just want to help take care of our community during the coronavirus crisis. Further, if you need prayer, encouragement or other assistance we will do our best to help meet your need or get you connected to the right person or agency who can.

BC Friona, fbcfriona.com

"Are we there yet?" has come from many a back seat as the journey sometimes seems longer than we want. I remember as a kid throwing that question towards the front seat only to have it lobbed back over as a statement, "No, no yet we still have a way to go." Then would begin the games of slug bug or car bingo or playing with the little water toys where you push the button and try to float the rings onto a hook. (Needless to say, trips were longer before the invention of the DVD player from the ceiling of your car)

Some trips require a little more perseverance than others. Some trips feel like they will never end, yet the reality is they always did in about the same time they always took. I am beginning to feel the test of patience with the whole Covid 19 challenges. Folks are starting to wear a little thin and I can understand, media bombards us with the play by play, rules constantly changing and you can find a doctor to agree with whatever you think. Like many of you I am weary of numbers, getting tired of the face mask and ready for some normalcy.

Which brings me to my point. There is no doubt the disruptive nature of this virus on our lives, but getting back to normal means what to you? There has been opportunity to stop whether we wanted it or not. There has been opportunity to help others whether we did or did not. There has been opportunity to reflect on what is important...the list could go on. If getting back to normal means neglecting those important to us or focusing solely on ourselves or moving further away from a walk with Jesus, then maybe you shouldn't go back to that. Everyone has an opinion and I have read enough on social

media that concerns me that

we are not focusing on our relationship with Jesus.

God remains on His throne this will come to pass, and you will have a choice. What will you take from this time of shelter at home, quarantine, face masked journey? So, although we may not be there yet remember, others are struggling with all this too and it may be that you are who they need right now. So, spend a little more time in God's Word, pray for those who have lost someone dear during this time, and become what the Lord needs you to be that you will be able to serve with the same heart as Christ's. Be steadfast, persevere and continue moving forward. God bless.

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

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

Bovina

"We Live by Faith, Not by Sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

Friona

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 6th & Summitt • 806-250-3933 Pastor Brett Hoyle Email-firstbc@wtrt.net

Website-www.fbcfriona.com FRIONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8th & Pierce • 806-250-3045 Rev. Skip Hodges

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH North end of Congregational Church 1601 Euclid

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Jeff Procter, Minister

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

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

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

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

Gerall Wyly UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 1601 Euclid • 806-250-3635

VICTORY FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER 9th & Washington • 806-250-2207 Pastor Robert Kerby

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308 3rd Street 806-251-1632 Pastor Brian Mullins

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

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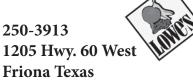
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Obituaries



Judith Beck

Judith Elaine Sylvestor Fesser Taylor Beck, 77 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, formerly of Friona passed away May 5, 2020 in Albuquerque. Celebration of Life Services was held 2:00 P.M. Wednesday May 13, 2020 in the Ron Smiley Memorial Chapel of HANSARD FAMILY Funeral Home with Rev. Brett Hoyle, officiating. Burial following in the Friona Cemetery by HANSARD FAMILY Funeral Home of Friona.

Judy was born in Clovis on Jan. 11, 1943. She was raised in Bovina and Friona. She talked about knowing Dr. Paul and Lee Spring when they were young.

She went to Friona High School, and was a member of the honor society. She got to go Austin to the capitol building and see how government works.

She married Harold Taylor, of Friona, in Jan. of 1961 while she was a senior in high school. Debra Elaine (Debbie) came along in Dec of that same year. In Sept. of 1965, Jeffrey Blaine (Jeff), was born. That following Jan. (1966), Harold and Judy divorced. Judy, Debbie, and



Jeff went to live with Grandma, Ruby Wood, of Friona. During that time, Judy went to college in Canyon, TX to be a nurse. She did her nurse's training in Amarillo. Because of a family situation, She had to quit Nurse's Training and move back to Friona. She only lacked 6-9 hours completing her RN certification. Judy went to be a floor nurse in the Friona hospital.

In 1974, she met Robert Beck who was, at the time, a Lab Tech at the hospital. They married in Jan. of 1975, and in Apr. of 1976, their son, Christopher Lynn was born. Judy and Bob moved to many places in the Texas panhandle. When Christopher was young, she became a den mother for his Boy Scouts troupe. She continued being his den mother for many years.

Bob died in 2011, while they were living in Plainview. Then in 2016, Debbie and her family, of Albuquerque, moved Judy to live with them.

Judy had one brother, Lynn Fesser, of Amarillo. She had two sisters, Janice Fesser and Sheily Fesser Hunley of Canyon. Janice died many years ago of complications from having Down's Syndrome.

Judy had 6 grandchildren, Genise, PJ, & Bethany Gregory, Kelsey &Katie Taylor, and Leola Beck.

Judy loved Britain's Royal Family, Jackie Kennedy and most of all, Elvis. She also loved being outside. She thought often of old friends.

You may send condolences to the family and sign the online guest book at www.hansardfamily.com



Mariana Pina of Friona

Emma Rector of Friona

(79035) graduated with an

AS in Business Administra-

(79035) graduated with an

AA in General Studies.

Local Students Graduate from South Plains College

South Plains College congratulates the more than 1,300 students who received their academic degree or certificate on May 8, 2020.

The following local students earned degrees:

Ruby Flores of Friona

(79035) graduated with an AA in General Studies.

Jacqueline Legarreta of Friona (79035) graduated with an AS in General Stud-

Guadalupe Martinez of Friona (79035) graduated

tion. with an AAS in Culinary Mariah Rivera of Friona (79035) graduated with an

> AA in General Studies. Nancy Rocha of Friona (79035) graduated with an

AS in General Studies. Kassandra Villarreal of

Friona (79035) graduated with an AA in English.

South Plains College is a comprehensive, two-year community college that serves the greater South Plains area of Texas with innovative educational programs that span the arts and sciences, technical education, continuing education and workforce development. Serving a 13-county area that comprises the southern portion of the Texas High Plains, the college's main campus is located in Levelland. SPC also offers educational programs at two locations in Lubbock - the SPC Lubbock Center and the SPC Reese Center - as well as an extension center in Plainview.

The following students are Fall 2019 Graduates:

Damian Rodriguez of Friona (79035) graduated with an AA in General Studies.

2020 in Friona. Viewing was from 3:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Monday, May 11, 2020 at Templo Bautista Damasco in Friona with Celebration of Life Services set for 11:00

Emilio Degollado 79, of

Friona passed away May 8,

A.M. Tues, May 12, 2020 at Templo Bautista Damasco in Friona with Pastor Rafael Cordero officiating. Burial following in the Friona Cemetery by HANSARD FAMILY Funeral Home of Friona. Emilio was born August

3, 1940 in Mexico to Vicente and Maria Gonzales Degollado. He immigrated to the United States at age 22 and began working in Wildorado and then moved to Friona and began farming and helping Louis Welch. Later he worked for Cargill retiring at the age of 73. He was known as a very hard worker and was extremely

Emilio Degollado



active in his church giving his time and finances.

Those to carry on his legacy include his wife Raquel Degollado, 2 sons-Juan Degollado and wife Mandy, and Enrique Degollado, all of Friona. 2 daughters Emily Hernandez of Denver City, Texas and Gabriela Benavides and husband Hugo of Amarillo, 2 sisters-Emelia Degollado and Felipa Degollado, both of Mexico, 5 grandchildren and 1 greatgrandchild.

You may send condolences to the family and sign the online greeting book at www.hansardfamily.com



Tommy Lou Goetz

Tommy Lou Goetz, 77 year old Cleburne, Texas resident and longtime Texhoma resident passed away Sunday, May 10, 2020 in Cleburne.

Tommy was born April 10th, 1943 to her parents Thomas Lewellen and Elva Lou Matlock in Plainview, Texas. When she was 5 years old her family moved to Colorado for 8 years and then to Friona, Texas where she graduated with the class of 1961. She married her husband Gary Goetz on June 10th, 1961 and had two daughters together Tonja and Nicki. They moved to Texhoma in 1964 and she helped on the farm with her husband. In 1990 she opened Tommy's Embroidery. Then they built The Hometown Inn in 1999

before retiring. In 2004 they moved to South Fork, Colorado until 2015 when they began traveling between there and Cleburne, Texas.



Tommy enjoyed sewing and cooking for friends and family, she loved riding ATVs, going skiing and doing anything athletic.

Tommy is proceeded in death by her parents Thomas and Elva Lou Lewellen, her brother Joe Lewellen and her sister Ann Kelley.

She is survived by her husband Gary Goetz of Cleburne, TX. Her two daughters Tonja and her husband Bob Berry of Texhoma, OK and Nicki and her husband

Ronny Korb of Cleburne, TX. Her brother Delton and his wife Betty Lewellen of Friona, TX. Tommy leaves behind 3 grandchildren Britni and her husband Rory Buckmaster, Brody and his wife Erin Berry and Jade Korb. Along with four great-grandchildren Drake and Emersyn Buckmaster and Bennett and Ryann Berry.

Services are set for 9:00 A.M. Thursday, May 14th, 2020 at Henson-Novak Funeral Chapel in Texhoma. Chapel services will be private family due to Covid-19 pandemic guidelines. Visitation will follow open to family and friends following Covid-19 guidelines of 10 at a time. At 11:00 A.M. graveside services will follow at Texhoma Cemetery in Texhoma, Texas open to family and friends.

Friends may sign the online guest book or leave a condolence at www.hensonnovak.com.

2020 Parmer County 4-H **Photography Contest Results** 1st place winners

Clover Buds:

Animals, Domestic - Madelyn Wium Animals, Wildlife - Madelyn Wium Catch -All - Aleta Kube Details & Macro - Madelyn Wium Dominant Color - Madelyn Wium Elements Of Design - Madelyn Wium Enhanced - Madelyn Wium Motion/Action - Madelyn Wium People – Aleta Kube Shadow/Silhouette - Madelyn Wium Theme - The Elements - Aleta Kube

Juniors:

Animals, Domestic - Mckyla Swierc Animals, Wildlife - Ander Pomper Catch -All - Ander Pomper Details & Macro - Ander Pomper Dominant Color - Ander Pomper Elements Of Design - Mckyla Swierc Enhanced - Audrey Rushing Food - Ander Pomper Landscape & Nature - Ander Pomper Motion/Action - Ivy Schueler Night - Ander Pomper People - Mckyla Swierc Plant/Flora - Ander Pomper Shadow/Silhouette - Ander Pomper Theme - The Elements - Ander Pomper

Intermediates:

Animals, Domestic - Jarrett White Animals, Wildlife - Delynda Wium Catch -All - Quay Schueler Details & Macro - Jonathon Vasquez Dominant Color - Jonathon Vasquez Elements Of Design - Delynda Wium Enhanced - Aubrey Schueler Food - Rory Pomper Landscape & Nature - Rory Pomper Motion/Action - Jonathon Vasquez Night - Jacob Vasquez People - Aubrey Schueler Plant/Flora - Quay Schueler Shadow/Silhouette - Rory Pomper Theme - The Elements - Aubree Bunker

Seniors:

Animals, Domestic - Tristan Schueler Animals, Wildlife - TJ Vasquez Catch -All - TJ Vasquez Details & Macro - Tristan Schueler Dominant Color - Tristan Schueler Food - TJ Vasquez Landscape & Nature - TJ Vasquez Motion/Action - Tristan Schueler Night - TJ Vasquez Plant/Flora - TJ Vasquez Shadow/Silhouette - Emma Schueler Theme - The Elements - TJ Vasquez

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Milk Contribution Supports Youth And Farmers

(Madison, Wis.) - Snack Pak 4 Kids is a nonprofit organization based in Amarillo dedicated to ending weekend hunger for kids in local communities. A recent contribution from Vita Plus will help the organization in that mission.

This contribution is part of the Vita Plus Serving Customers & Rural Communities Project. Plus, an employee-owned livestock feed and nutrition company, has committed \$100,000 to support rural food security initiatives. The purposes of the project are to assist those in rural communities during the COVID-19 pandemic while also supporting dairy, swine, and beef producers by purchasing their products as dairy and



Nathan Hrnicek

livestock farms face subsequent market challenges. Through this broad-based effort, local Vita Plus nutrition consultants and facilities will identify opportunities to make a difference in the communities where they and their customers

live and work.

Nathan Hrnicek is a Vita Plus forage consultant and designated his portion of the funds to Snack Pak 4 Kids, which "provides kids with reliable, nutritious food over the weekend so they can succeed." The contribution was used to purchase 1,100 bottles of Fairlife® milk to be distributed to kids in the Friona and Plainview areas.

"It's important to me that kids have the nutrition they need, and milk is a nutrient-packed food," said Hrnicek. "I am glad we can help put milk into the hands of rural youth because rural America is the backbone of this country, and I wanted to help make a positive impact for those in need in areas that may be

overlooked."

Vita Plus Corporation is an employee-owned company headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, and has been serving livestock producers since 1948. More than just a feed supplier, Vita Plus consultants offer the latest cuttingedge technology, nutrition and management information. For more information about the organization, call 800.362.8334 or go online at www.vitaplus.com.





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Volunteer opportunity. You have skills? Parmer Paws needs you. Bring your talents, whatever they may be, and join us. 806-240-2211 or ParmerPaws @yahoo.com

HELP WANTED

Parmer County Sheriff's Office is taking applications for an Emergency 911 Dispatcher.

You may call (806) 481-3303 or send email to sheriff@parmercounty.net for more information or to obtain an application.

Seeking full-time employee. Must be computer literate. Pick up application at:

Malouf's Fabrics

503 W. 11th, Friona TX

NOW HIRING

Friona ISD is looking for a substitute custodian that could possibly turn into full time. Hours are based on need each day. Interested applications may call Friona ISD 806-250-2747 or Martha Moreno 806-346-2091.

Friona ISD está buscando una persona de limpieza sustituto que posiblemente pueda convertirse en timpo completo. Las horas se basan en la necesidad de cada día. Las personas interesadas pueden llamar a Friona ISD 806-250-2747 o Martha Moreno 806-346-2091.

Friona Interbank is seeking individuals to fill a teller position. To apply online, please go to interbank.com. Thank You.

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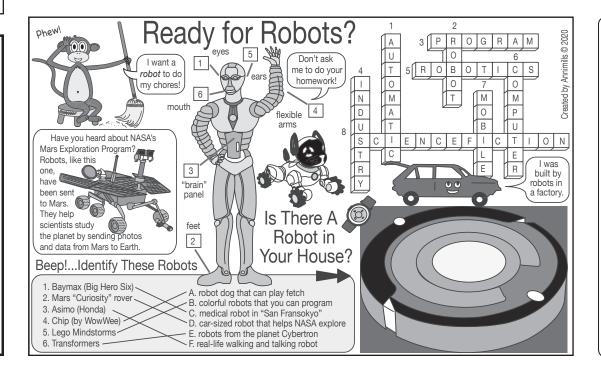


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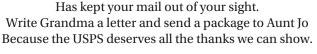
By Sue Jane Sullivan

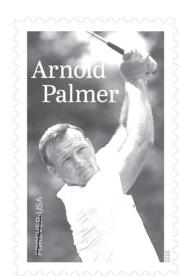


Ode to the United States Postal System

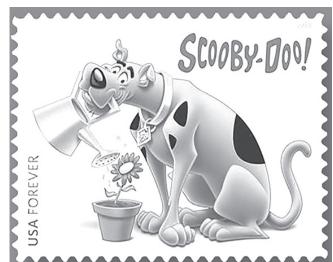
Roses are red, stamps can be, too. In fact, they might be orange or white or blue. The USPS needs our help since email came along; 'Cause fewer people mail letters and that is what's wrong. Happy Birthday or Thank You written on cards in the mail Not only bring joy but gives Hallmark a sale. Those sealed envelopes with hearts are a treasure, I think, And much better than simply a click on a link. A quick check of history tells a really good tale Of how Ben Franklin started a system for colonists' mail. As Postmaster General he cut delivery time in half, And came up with a rate chart and added some staff. Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution was bold. It gave Congress the power to create post offices and roads. But no federal money was sent the USPS way. To deliver the mail meant U.S. citizens must pay.

Today, the USPS funds itself with postage stamp sales, A non-profit organization without government bails. Franklin's brainchild needs our support in many ways. Buy some stamps, mail a package, and do it today. "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night" Has kept your mail out of your sight.









FSA News

In April, USDA announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). CFAP will provide direct support based on losses for agriculture producers where prices and market supply chains have been significantly impacted and will assist eligible producers facing additional adjustment and marketing costs resulting from lost demand and shortterm oversupply for the 2020 marketing year caused by COVID-19.

CFAP will provide assistance to most farms that have experienced at least a five percent loss and will be available to farms regardless of size. We are still working on the final details of the actual payment rates and those details will be determined and included as part of the rulemaking process. Once the rule making process is complete, the application period will be open and subject to the eligibility and payment limit criteria described in

As part of applying for the program, you'll need to contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office to schedule an appointment. Your local FSA staff will work with you to apply for the program, and through forms asking for this type of information:

- Contact information
- Personal, including your Tax Identifica-
- tion Number • Farming operating structure

- Adjusted Gross Income to ensure eligibil-
- Direct deposit to enable payment

Please do not send any personal information to USDA without first initiating contact through a phone call. We take your privacy and security of your information very seriously.

If you are an existing customer, this information is likely on file at your local Service

What Can You Do Now?

While the application process has not started, you can start gathering/understanding

FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed.

How Will USDA Accept Applications?

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only. Once the application period opens, please call your FSA county office to schedule an appoint-

Our staff is working with our agricultural producers by phone and using email, fax, mail, and online tools like Box to accept ap-

Information on CFAP can be found at farmers.gov/CFAP.

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State Capital Highlights

By Ed Sterling



Governor, president spotlight actions in pandemic, economic downturn

AUSTIN — Texas, along with the rest of the nation and the world, continued to battle the COVID-19 pandemic last week as cases and deaths attributed to the novel coronavirus increased.

Gov. Greg Abbott on May 7 met with President Trump in the White House. The president praised Abbott's leadership in handling the months-long medical emergency and in managing the resulting slowdown of the economy in the Lone Star State.

Abbott said Texas has one of the lowest COVID-19 death rates in the country, noting that half of the state's 254 counties have no cases or five or fewer cases of the virus. He said we have the knowledge and resources to contain COVID-19, adding that "It's the people of Texas who have done a great job of slowing the spread" by washing their hands, wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

"Because of that, we are now seeing more and more businesses that are opening up gradually to make sure we don't expand the spread, but we're doing so in a way that we'll make sure Texas will once again reclaim its position as being the number one economy in the United States," the governor

Trump asked about the Dallas-area beauty salon owner who was arrested and jailed for violating one of Abbott's executive orders by prematurely opening for business. "She's free today," the governor said during the Oval Office meeting, adding that authorities should exercise common sense in carrying out his executive orders. In the wake of the beauty salon case, Abbott modified his executive orders related to COVID-19 to eliminate confinement as a punishment for violating the orders.

On May 10, cumulative figures posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed that some 37,860 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19, and 1,049 deaths resulting from the influenza-like virus had been confirmed.

TEA: Graduation guidance

The Texas Education Agency on May 5 announced graduation guidance for the class of 2020. Under the guidelines, ceremonies may take place as early as May 15 as the state continues the reopening of services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While school buildings remain closed to normal in-classroom instruction for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year, the TEA, in coordination with the governor's Strike Force to Open Texas, is providing four different pathways for schools to celebrate their graduating seniors:

- Virtual ceremonies that take place entirely online with the use of videoconference or other technologies;

- Hybrid ceremonies consisting of a compilation of videos of students being recognized in person as they celebrate graduation in small groups;
- Vehicle ceremonies, in which students and their families wait in their cars while other graduates are recognized one at time with their families alongside them; and
- Outdoor in-person ceremonies, which are currently permitted for certain coun-

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said that "by taking the necessary precautions developed by medical experts, we can ensure we appropriately honor our class of 2020 graduates while keeping everyone safe."

AG joins in crackdown

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on May 4 joined a coalition of 52 attorneys general in a letter to the Washington, D.C.based broadband industry association USTelecom, urging the association's members to continue developing robocall traceback and other capabilities suited to law enforcement needs.

Paxton and his colleagues said they anticipate an increase in enforcement and a need for increased investigative support from leading voice service providers.

"Texans' private phones are bombarded by constant calls that invade their privacy and often attempt to defraud them of their hard-earned money," Paxton said.

Preparedness week proclaimed

Gov. Abbott Abbott on May 4 issued a proclamation declaring May 3 through May 9 as Hurricane Preparedness Week in Texas.

In his proclamation, the governor asks all Texans to take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones from the danger and destruction that hurricanes can bring.

"There are no substitutes for having emergency supplies and a well-prepared emergency plan to protect yourself, your family," Abbott said. He encouraged Texans to visit the Texas Ready webpage, texasready.gov, to learn more about the steps they can take now to prepare for hurricane season. Hurricane season starts on June 1 and ends on Nov. 30.

Five Early Lessons the Pandemic Has Taught Us about Texas Schools

By Margaret Spellings

Texas has learned a lot about itself - and its education system — through the coronavirus crisis.

We've learned how critical education is to parents' work schedules, to civic engagement, to children's security and wellbeing, and to sports and culture. Texas' schools and universities have proven to be foundational to economic and community life — our society will not feel truly reopened until students return to school.

In the meantime, educators and administrators have scrambled to ensure students can learn without being in school. Many districts have been creative in connecting students with high-speed internet connections and hardware. Teachers have worked to provide remote instruction and structure. Kitchen staff and other workers have provided food and other needs for out-of-school students. And parents have stepped in to support day-to-day teaching, filling a critical gap at a critical time.

In all of these ways, Texas has responded to the coronavirus with determination. Now, Texans everywhere from the Governor's Mansion to family dinner tables — are beginning to chart a course to the future. We must learn from the pandemic's lessons and work to address the weaknesses it has exposed.

Our schools are a good place to start.

First, the coronavirus has revealed stark gaps in how thousands of children in urban and rural settings access help, resources, dependable meals, safe places, consistent schedules, counseling, and special education attention. Our state should redouble its efforts to address these gaps, and the pandemic should be viewed as our opportunity to do so - not an excuse to ignore them.

Secondly, access to broadband internet - connections strong enough to support video classes from home - has often determined whether students could continue learning through the pandemic. Millions of Texans live in houses without high-speed internet connections, meaning those households that do not have access to, or cannot afford, the infrastructure students need right now to learn online.

Third, there is no longer any doubt about the powerful impact of teachers. Sadly, they are in a baptism by fire, as the pandemic fundamentally alters their roles and responsibilities. Thousands of teachers have stepped up to the challenge, working to reach their students. It's important that Texas build on efforts to ensure our teachers are as effective as possible with additional tools.

Fourth, in restarting the education system, Texas must think about how to best use the school calendar and consider adding school days next year to help students make up for lost time and learning. I encourage Texas officials to build in more school days next year -

180 days probably will not be enough for most students, particularly as experts predict the coronavirus' return next fall.

Finally, this crisis has reaffirmed the importance of understanding how students are doing through assessments that evaluate learning. This year, for the first time in over a generation, students will not be given a state-administered test measuring what they learned during the school year. Texans already knew that achievement gaps were wide — but this year, it's impossible to know how wide, where students are, or where improvements are needed. When schools finally reopen their doors, I urge Texas officials to administer diagnostic tests to determine learning loss and which students need further instruction and help catching up.

We cannot let this crisis undermine progress and learning - the stakes are too high. Steps taken over the coming months have the potential to propel our next generation forward; doing nothing will cause too many students to fall behind.

Texans must seize this moment to support our schools, hold ourselves accountable, and do what's right for the future of Texas.

Margaret Spellings served as Secretary of Education under President George W. Bush and is executive director of Texas 2036, a nonprofit group focused on longterm, data-driven planning through Texas' bicentennial year.

Small Town Cookin'

By Jeri Lynn White

Apple Pie

The saying "as American as apple pie" first appeared in print around 1920. However, apple pie did not originate in America. The first known pies were made popular in Britain in the early 1300's. These pies were usually some kind of meat wrapped in a hard, sugarless crust called a coffyn. It wasn't until later that a pie recipe with fruit was published. The earliest known apple pie recipe was written by Geoffrey Chaucer in a cookbook complied around 1381 A.D. This recipe did not contain sugar and was still wrapped in a hard shell. It wasn't until 500 years later

that apple pie made its way to the United States.

Since the only apple native to America is the crab apple, the apples we know today came from seeds and cuttings brought by the colonists in Jamestown around 1607. The original apple varieties did not flourish, but soon the seeds began to produce new varieties. While this apple was not the sweet version we enjoy today, it was good for cider. And apple cider was critical since clean water sources were hard to come by.

Although most apples were used for cider, as sugar became more available, apple pie recipes began to surface. The cookbook, American Cookery by Amelia Simmons, featured two recipes for apple pie. As often happens in America, cultures combined to create something new. These recipes showed the fusion of the British coffyns and German strudels producing a sweet, flaky crust filled with apple and cinnamon filling. John Chapman, otherwise known as Johnny Appleseed, traveled across the country planting apple trees and made the fruit more available throughout the United States. Apples remained the most popular fruit in the U.S. until recent years. Apple pies became a delicacy during the Civil War when both Union and Confederate soldiers raided houses in search of apples and flour in hopes of making apple pies. By 1902, a New York Times editorial announced that the apple pie had become "the American synonym for prosperity."

Every time I think I could not possibly say much about a topic, I begin searching and I am amazed at what I find. This is what happened when I discovered that May 13 is National Apple Pie Day. Who knew what history was behind the apple pie?

Air Fryer Fried Apple Pies

By Paula Deen

Directions

To make filling, in a large sauté pan, 2 tablespoons butter 4 McIntosh apples, peeled, cored, melt butter. Add apples, granulated and sliced sugar, cinnamon, and lemon juice. Sau-1/2 cup granulated sugar té over medium heat until apples are 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon soft, about 15 minutes. Remove from

> heat and cool. On a lightly floured surface, roll out biscuits into 7- to 8-inch-diameter circles. Place 2 or 3 tablespoons of the apple filling on each circle and brush

shape. Seal by pressing edges with tines

Working in batches of 2, spray pies on both sides with oil and place in air fryer basket lined with parchment paper. Set air fryer temperature to 350 degrees, and air fry for 5 minutes. Flip pies, spray with oil, and air fry for 5 minutes more. Repeat with remaining pies. Dust pies with powdered sugar.

Cook's Note: For quick and easy pies, use one 21-ounce can apple pie filling instead of making your own.

Double-Crust Apple Pie

edges with water. Fold half of each

circle over filling to make a half-moon

newengland.com

Ingredients

Ingredients

1 ½ pounds (about 3 large) firmtart apples, such as Granny Smith or Northern Spy, peeled, cored, and cut into ½-inch-thick wedges

1 teaspoon lemon juice

1 (8-biscuit) package refrigerated

flour, for dusting

oil, for spraying

jumbo flaky biscuits

powdered sugar, for dusting

- 1 ½ pounds (about 3 large) firm-sweet apples, such as Pink Lady, peeled, cored, and cut into ½-inch-thick wedges
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons firmly packed lightbrown sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 ½ tablespoons cornstarch ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- All-purpose flour (for work surface)
- 1 recipe Double-Crust Pastry, prepared and chilled
- Milk (for brushing crust)
- Sharp cheddar cheese (for serving)

Instructions

In a large bowl, toss the apples with the sugars, lemon juice, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Set aside. Preheat your oven to 425° and set a rack to the lowest position. Unwrap the larger disc of dough. On a floured surface, roll it out from the center to form a 13-inch cir-

cle about 1/8 inch thick. Transfer to a pie plate and press the crust into the sides, draping any excess over the edge. Fill the crust with the apple mixture, making the pile a bit higher in the center. Set aside. (If it's a warm day, transfer to your refrigerator to chill while you roll out the top crust.) Unwrap the smaller disc of dough and roll out as before into a 10-inch circle. Transfer the dough to the pie. Using a sharp knife, make two 3-inch slashes in the top crust, to let steam escape. Fold the bottom crust up over the top crust and crimp to seal. (For a fancier look, cut the dough into even strips and arrange in a lattice pattern, as we did here.) Brush the crust all over with milk. Put the pie on a baking sheet and bake on the lowest rack 10 minutes. Reduce the heat to 350° and bake until juices are bubbling, and the crust is golden brown, another 40 to 50 minutes. Let cool on a rack at least 45 minutes before serving. Serve with a wedge of sharp cheddar cheese. Additional Notes:

You may prepare the dough in advance and refrigerate it for up to five days or freeze it for up to three months. Defrost it overnight in the refrigerator before us-

Double-Crust Pastry

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for work surface
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 18 tablespoons (2 ¼ sticks) chilled unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
- 6-8 tablespoons ice water

Instructions

In a medium-size bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, and salt until well combined. Sprinkle the butter cubes over the flour mixture, and use your fingers to smear them in. Stop when the mixture looks like cornmeal with some pea-sized bits of butter remaining. Sprinkle 6 tablespoons of ice water on top, and stir with a fork until the dough begins to come together. If needed, add 1 to 2 more tablespoons of ice water. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead three times, or just enough to make it cohesive. Don't overmix! Gather the dough into a ball; then divide it into two pieces, one slightly larger than the other if you're using both crusts for one pie. Press each piece into a disc and wrap them in plastic. Refrigerate 30 minutes.

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

By Emma Rector

Nacho Man, that's what us girls would call him.

Always eating nachos in the high school hall-

way before any sports game. Waiting to cheer

the home team on. Little did I know that was

Dale Houlette until my senior year. While I was

the Lions Club Sweetheart I had the privilege of

getting a better insight into who he was. Always

kind and wanting to help the community. From sitting by him repeating what was said by the group so he could understand during meetings,

answer all his questions about how sports were

going, to riding in the parade while he drove and Chris rode in the passenger seat. I'm thankful

for all the sweet memories I have with him. And

what a wonderful community member we had in

him. He was loved my many and will be missed.

PARMER CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT **2020 PROPERTY TAX PROTEST PROCESS**

Parmer Central Appraisal District will mail notices of appraised value for all real property on May 11th, 2020. Appraisal Notices represent property values as of January 1, 2020 pursuant to Property Tax Code Section 23.01 (a). Any impact on property values caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will be reflected in the 2021 property valuations. The tax code does not contain provisions to allow for reduced values for 2020 based on a situation such as the COVID-19 health crisis. There are currently no waivers or extensions pertaining to this year's ad valorem appraisal process.

In past years, our office has offered an in-person (walk-in) informal review process after appraisal notices are mailed. For 2020, the property owner walk-in informal review process will be eliminated. To comply with the current and potential future requirements of social distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, all informal reviews will be conducted by telephone or by email (see filing options below). Property owners who have questions, or want to discuss the value placed on their property should contact the appraisal district office using one of the methods listed below. If you believe the proposed market value of your property is incorrect, contact the appraisal district prior to your deadline.

It is important to ask questions or call to our attention unusual facts about your property. In the case of value questions, property owners should present conclusive evidence regarding the market value of their property. Such evidence consists of closing statements, listing agreements, fee appraisals, pictures, and surveys. Income and expense statements are useful when reviewing commercial property.

Our goal is to treat all property owners in a fair and equitable manner; and, this can best be accomplished when you provide evidence to us about your property as soon as possible. If after filing an Inquiry/Protest you are not able to resolve your concerns informally, you will automatically be scheduled for a formal Appraisal Review Board (ARB) protest hearing.

All formal ARB protest hearings will be held via telephone or by written affidavit. Affidavits with evidence for a hearing by telephone conference call or a hearing by written affidavit must be notarized and submitted to the ARB before the hearing begins. You will receive a copy of the ARB's Hearing Procedures along with a copy of the ARB's Telephone Conference Call Guidelines which detail the steps related to a telephone conference hearing by mail with your hearing notice once a date and time for your hearing has been scheduled.

Informal Inquiry filing options (Available May 11-June 9):

Online: This is for property with homstead or over 65 exemptions. Our website is www.parmercad.org. Click on the Online Protest in the upper right hand corner. You will register a new account. You will be asked for your online inquiry/protest ID which will be included on the upper right hand corner of your notice and then follow the steps.

Phone: Call (806)251-1405. Email: pcad@parmercad.org

pcad@parmercad.org.

All informal inquiries will receive a response from an appraiser within 7 business days. If your inquiry is not settled informally, you will automatically be scheduled for a formal Appraisal Review Board telephone protest hearing.

Formal Protest filing options (make sure to file before the protest deadline included on your appraisal notice):

Online: This will be the same as creating an informal inquiry (see option above).

Mail: Protest forms may be submitted by mail to P.O. Box 56, Bovina, TX 79009. Email: Protest forms may be submitted by email

DEADLINE FOR FILING PROTESTS WITH THE ARB ON OR BEFORE JUNE 9th (OR 30 DAYS AFTER A NOTICE OF APPRAISED VALUE WAS MAILED TO YOU, WHICHEVER IS LATER).cli

Apple Pie with Crumb Topping newengland.com

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 pounds (about 3 large) firmtart apples, such as Granny Smith or Northern Spy, peeled, cored, and cut into 1/2-inch-thick wedges or
- 1 1/2 pounds (about 3 large) firm-sweet apples, such as Pink Lady, peeled, cored, and cut into 1/2-inch-thick wedges or slices
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar 2 tablespoons firmly packed light-
- brown sugar 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt All-purpose flour (for work surface)
- 1/2 recipe Double-Crust Pastry, prepared and chilled (see above recipe)

Instructions

In a large bowl, toss the apples with the sugar, brown sugar, cornstarch, lemon juice, and salt. Set aside. Preheat your oven to 400° set a rack to the lowest tion. Make the streusel, set aside. On a floured surface, roll out one disc of dough (freeze the other disc for later), working from the center, into a 10-inch circle, about 1/8 inch thick. Carefully transfer the dough to a 9-inch pie plate and press into the sides. Drape any excess crust over the edge; then fold under and crimp. Fill the crust with the apple mixture, then top evenly with the streusel. (Press down a bit to make the topping as even as possible.) Put the pie on a baking sheet and bake on the bottom rack 15 minutes. Reduce the heat to 350° and

bake until the topping is golden brown, and juices are bubbling, 50 to 60 minutes. Let cool on a rack at least 45 minutes before serving; the apples stay very hot for quite a while, and the pie slices better if you give it a chance to set up.

For the Streusel Topping:

Ingredients 1/2 cup pecan halves, chopped fine

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup packed light-brown sugar 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

7 tablespoons salted butter, melted

Instructions

Stir together the pecans, flour, brown sugar, and salt in a small bowl. Add the melted butter, and stir with a fork until small clumps form.

Stay safe and informed during spring storm season

"Our system is more resilient than ever before thanks to investments in new and improved power lines and substations, but storms can still cause outages," said Brad Baldridge, director of Customer and Community Relations for Xcel Energy in New Mexico and Texas. "We are prepared to respond quickly and keep customers informed with the latest information on outages in their area."

The "My Account" feature at xcelenergy. com includes an outage map that shows where outages are occurring, how many customers are affected and when power is expected to be restored. Customers may also report outages online and sign up to receive email, text or voice message updates on power restoration times. These

same features are also included on the free Xcel Energy app that can be downloaded from Apple Store or Google Play. The app also shows past electric use information and provides a secure payment portal.

"Our customers want convenient ways to communicate with us, and they like the freedom of servicing their accounts from anywhere," Baldridge said. "Our electronic customer service tools have improved the customer experience significantly, and we hope to make these features better every year." Customers may also call an Xcel Energy customer agent at 1-800-895-1999 to report outages or downed lines.

Outages caused by spring storms can also present hazards to Xcel Energy employees and the public.

Customers should always assume an electric line, even one that is on or near the ground, is energized and therefore dangerous. Customers should never touch or move a downed power line. Xcel Energy crews are prepared to deal with the worst types of storm damage and outage situations. The company routinely stages employees and supplies in key locations ahead of storms when possible, and has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in upgraded power systems to improve reliability and provide more options to reroute power on the expanded network.

"Safety is our core value, and once we've established a safe zone in which to operate, we can move very quickly to restore power," Baldridge said.

New report estimates Texas' agricultural losses from pandemic could be \$6-8 billion

By Paul Schattenberg

Continued from Page 1.

"These commodities are currently selling at substantially lower prices than prior to the pandemic," Outlaw said. "Agricultural producers marketing products now are losing money, and if this pandemic persists, there may be even greater losses than what we have currently estimated."

Row crops

The report notes row crops such as corn, cotton, wheat, sorghum, rice and soybeans have been especially hard hit.

"Farmers are going into this crop year with crop insurance price elections that are lower than in the past two years," Outlaw said. "This means farmers could lose 20% to 30% of their crops before getting any benefit from insurance."

He said row crops in Texas are either planted and growing in most regions or are about to be planted in the northern part of the state.

"The only losses row crop farmers would currently be incurring are from the sale of 2019 crops from storage," Outlaw said. "And while Texas producers typically do not store commodities this far into the marketing year, many continue to work through carryover stocks from the 2019 crop year."

He said while all row crops are affected, wheat and rice may fare somewhat better due to their being consumer

Outlaw said risk management strategies, crop insurance and farm bill program provisions will play a key role in providing relief for depressed prices, but absent additional aid, the financial stress producers were already facing is likely to grow significantly.

"Row crop producers are now being asked to take on a lot of risk to grow crops that very well may lose them a lot of money," Outlaw said.

For Texas row crop agriculture, the most immediate and visible impact is on commodity market prices, he said, but effects can reasonably be expected to ripple through the industry supply chain from production inputs to retail consumers.

Livestock and dairy

Many of the losses related to livestock are a result of shifting demand from food consumed away from home to food consumed at home. Processing plant closures also threaten to drive prices paid to producers even lower in the wake of reduced demand. At the same time, retail prices are increasing due to reduced supply.

"While a lot of losses have yet to materialize, for those producers marketing now, including dairy products, which are marketed daily, the pain is immediate," Outlaw said.



McKyla Swierc - People (Junior Div.)



Ander Pomper - Food (Junior Div.)

Specialty crops

Similar to livestock, many

of the losses in specialty

crops-primarily composed

of fruits and vegetables-are

"The specialty crop sector

has been one of the hardest-

hit sectors of agriculture due

to the COVID-19 pandemic,"

Outlaw said. "Most fruits and

vegetables are consumed

fresh and are highly perish-

able, and as a result of the

COVID-19 pandemic, the clo-

sure of most restaurants and

schools has caused a major

He noted while the reduc-

reduction in demand."

related to shifting demand.

Texas is the fifth-largest milk-producing state in the U.S., and the shift from restaurants to grocery store sales has hit the industry especially hard. A large share of milk products, including cheese and butter and other products, goes through food service outlets and with the loss of those outlets, milk processing quickly found themselves with more milk than they could sell as finished prod-

On the livestock side, the report notes both futures and cash prices of stocker cattle, feeder cattle and calf prices have dropped dramatically as the societal impacts of CO-VID-19 took hold.

"Stocker cattle producers are facing significant price losses as calves purchased in the autumn, long before the COVID-19 pandemic, have been selling at much lower prices. The impacts of CO-VID-19 on individual ranches will depend on the production system but will eventually accrue to all cow-calf producers."

The COVID-19 pandemic has created substantial economic losses across all livestock agriculture, Outlaw said. This impact will be felt over the course of the year as sales occur, production responds to financial losses and more long-term economic effects become apparent.

different packaging requirements, changes in volume demanded, altered consumer purchasing habits and overall uncertainty are all having a negative effect on produce prices-mainly at the farmgate level.

tion in demand in some ar-

eas has translated to higher

demand at grocery stores,

If COVID-19 issues persist, Texas fruit and vegetable producers could be left without outlets for their highly perishable products and ultimately could lose over \$397 million.

Financial relief for farmers and ranchers

The report also notes the federal government has responded with a series of three stimulus or relief acts agricultural producers may benefit from — the most useful likely being the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act. Along with authorizing additional funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture so it may provide direct assistance to agricultural producers, the CARES Act established the Payroll Protection Program.

A detailed description of all three legislative responses can be found in the "Initial

COVID-19 Response for Agricultural Producers" publication recently issued by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center.

"While farmers and ranchers are grateful for the assistance the federal government is providing, many of their financial difficulties are immediate, and if not quickly addressed could have long-term negative effects on much of the state's agricultural production," Outlaw

How Texas A&M AgriLife is

Along with providing useful information on federal relief provisions from which agricultural producers may benefit, Texas A&M AgriLife has provided online trainings for its statewide network of agents and for government officials and others involved in disaster response.

Collaborating with Gov. Greg Abbott, AgriLife is working to help local officials understand, acquire and administer federal assistance available to help their communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly through the CARES

Photos from Parmer County *4-H Photography Contest*



Emma Schueler - Shadows & Silhouette (Senior Div.)

This photo was posted May 11th by Debbie Wium on her facebook page. The picture was taken by her husband, Manie Wium, looking east from Jason Wright's barn 2 miles west of Friona.



The family of Heritage Estates resident Mrs. Lorraine Jarecki hung this banner outside her window while visiting for Mother's Day through the window. It certainly made her Mother's Day!

Friona Rainfall Data January - April 2020 2017 2018 2019 2020 10 year avg January 1.63 0.00 0.13 0.60 0.57 **February** 0.58 0.00 0.12 0.42 0.671.85 0.62 March 1.61 0.18 2.10 2.36 0.70 1.63 0.81 0.50 April Total 5.60 1.00 4.03 2.61 3.84



Proceeds benefit the Parmer County and Hereford Cancer Coalitions, which provide grants for local cancer patients







July 25-26, 2020 John Pitman Golf Club Hereford, Texas

Two-Person Scramble Entry Fee \$300 per team

Space limited to 80 teams

Saturday tee times: 8 am or 1:30 pm Sunday's round is flighted. Tee times same as Saturday.

Free practice round Friday (cart not included) ✓ Saturday evening meal for player and one guest ✓ Player evaluation Saturday following meal

> To sign up, contact: John Pitman Golf Club 806-363-7139

Pudge Kendrick Memorial Golf Tournament PO Box 788 Friona, Texas 79035