



One-Act will Play another day!

Director Shawn Farrar and the FHS One Act Play cast and crew were all smiles Tuesday Night after their performance earned them a spot in the next round of UIL OAP competition.

Humberto Cruz and Moises Piña were named to the All Star Cast. Karlee Osborn was chosen as Best Performer and Melody Hernandez earned Honorable Mention recognition. Also, Audrianna Trevino was awarded Best Lighting.

The Friona Cast & Crew are performing "A Clearing in The Woods" by Arthur Laurents. Crew members include: Amy Montana, Yvonne Legarreta, Tim Ally, Breanna Godinez, Lizett Garcia, Leah Hernandez, Michael Bautista, Magdalena Licerio, and Audrianna

Trevino.

Cast members include: Melody Hernan-

dez, Breanna Rivera, Litzy Gonzalez, Dieter Ally, Karlee Osborn,

Moises Piña, Autumn Fletcher, Mario Bautista, Humberto Cruz, and

Alternate Riley Davidson.

The Area OAP compe-

tition is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31st in Seminole.



"The Show Must Go On" as the Friona High School OAP cast, crew, and director enjoy the ride.

Free COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

hosted by Parmer Medical Center

Ages 16 and up

Wednesday, March 24th
Thursday, March 25th
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friona Community Center

Call for an appointment
(806) 240-1562
(806) 240-1761
(Para Espanol llame a este numero de telefono)



It's in the bag!

Farm Bureau of Parmer County officials took a field trip to the Elementary school on Tuesday to deliver red "nap sacks" to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The totes will be used by the students to carry their

textbooks and/or chromebooks. Farm Bureau representatives included Board of Directors VP J'Lond Jarecki, Agency Manager Mitchell Smiley, and Agent Veca Masters.



L-R (back row) Mrs. Jarecki, J'Lond Jarecki, Mitchell Smiley, Veca Masters, Mr. Garcia, Mrs. Hatley (front row) Jayleigh Contreras, Kamila Moreno, Isael Guzman, Jace Jarecki, Eli Rosales, Annison Steelman



Holly Campbell, treasurer of the Friona Cemetery Association, and City Manager Lee Davila presented checks to Richard Bermea last Friday to kick-off the Cemetery Chapel Parking Lot Project. The Cemetery Association contributed \$25,000 and the City of Friona's first check was for \$6,113. The City will fund the balance of the \$62,000 project. Bermea Construction has already begun dirt work. Please see photos and exhibit on page 2.

Parmer County COVID-19 stats as of March 23, 2021



Confirmed Cases
858

Probable Cases
345

Fatalities
35

Active Cases
12

Recoveries
1156



Chapel Parking Lot
Page 2

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Sports
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Classifieds
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Obituary
Page 8

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 March 25-31	T 61 36 WSW 15-25	F 66 35 WSW 20-30	S 63 33 NNE 10-20	S 66 39 E 10-15	M 73 44 SW 15-25	T 76 38 W 15-25	W 66 33 NNE 10-15	Precipitation March 0.50 Year 1.17	Burn Ban Yes
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Community Calendar

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

- March 25**
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center
- March 29**
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center
- April 1**
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center
- April 4**
• Easter
- April 5**
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center
• Friona Noon Lions Club meeting at The Farmwife Kitchen
- April 6**
• Snack Pack for Kids at Friona United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. (volunteers welcome)
- April 8**
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center
- April 12**
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center
- April 15**
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center



Ivy Cottage
Bridal Registry
Stephen Albarado
& Kendra Harman

Join our Bridal Registry Free of Charge!
Inquire at Ivy Cottage - 1100 N Prospect Ave
or call us at 250-8073

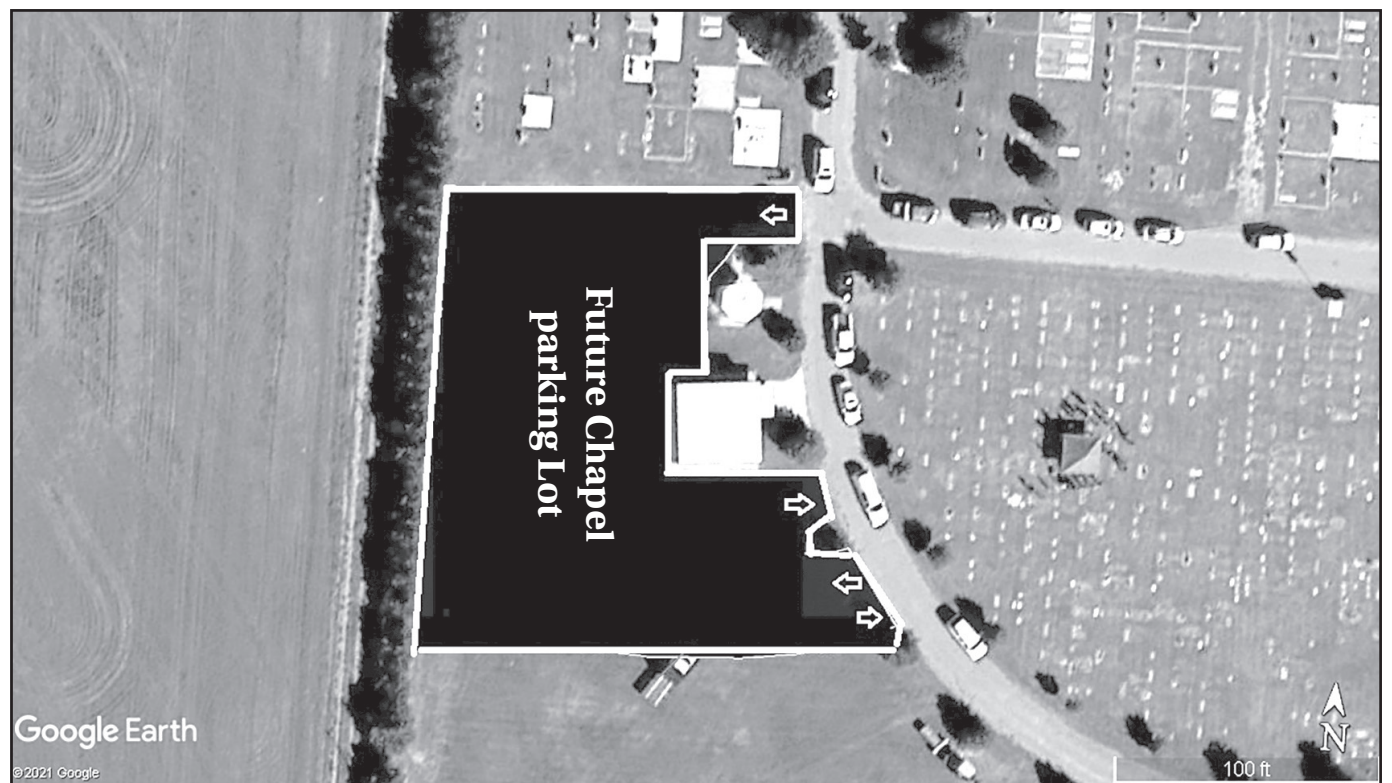
Milk House Market
Wedding Registry
Josh Barnett & Rachel Box
Macey Thurman & Justin Brown

Hours:
Thursday 11-5
Friday 11-5
Saturday: 10-3

Call:
602-739-0813

Farmhouse to Your House

New Chapel Parking Lot



Bermea Construction has already begun dirt work for the new Chapel parking lot at the Friona Cemetery. The photo above shows the area the parking lot will encompass. The bottom photos show grading and leveling already underway at the site.



ACROSS

- song: "Texas When ___"
- TX-born Tracy Lawrence tune: "Today's Lonely ___" (1992)
- state where TX Buddy Holly died
- prepare for a test?
- TX V.T. Hamlin created "Alley ___"
- "legal eagle" assn.
- TX Gary Morris tune: "One Fall ___ It Takes"
- TXism: "he'd be ___ in a battle of wits" (stupid)
- Grandpa and Little Luke on old TV
- Stephens of Cowboy Cheerleader films
- TXism: "hot enough to sunburn ___ toad"
- TXism: "sounded like a rip saw running through pine knots"
- Corpus Christi TV
- TX Wilson who is Lightning McQueen on "Cars" series
- TXism: "___ necklace" (barbed wire)
- deadly
- TX Joan Severance film: "See no ____, Hear no ___" (1989)
- "I" in TX DWI
- underground pool of oil
- residential bush
- TXism: "the pot calling ___ black"
- tune of TX Henley group Eagles: "Take ___"
- TXism: "he believes all the people all the time"
- heavy beers
- TXism: "___ light" (dawn)
- TXism: "bite a biscuit" before TX 7-11's Slurpee
- daring feat
- TX baled crop
- hesitation sounds
- Tex Ritter's "___ Whiskey"
- Gov. Hogg's daughter
- academic
- TXism: "scarce as grass around ___ lick"
- TX oral traditions
- noted TX pitcher ___ Nolan Ryan
- "petticoat" actress TX Meredith Mac___
- 'Niner QB Young who rarely beat the Cowboys (init.)
- TX Sandy (init.)
- dir. to Junction from Rocksprings
- TXism: "just ___ yonder" (not far)
- copper buttons on blue jeans
- Gov. Pease
- tree chopper
- TX electronics co.
- car cooler (abbr.)
- TX Strait's "___ Come to Expect It From You"
- "___ chance"
- book identifiers
- TXism: "he ain't all ___" (slow)
- TXism: "wipe the slate clean"
- TXism: "cut the ___" (drink)
- King Ranch founder (init.)
- TXism: "run it ___ a lawyer" (finalize)
- river mouth
- TXism: "sling it on the wall and see ___ sticks"
- exchange for many TX stocks (abbr.)

DOWN

- TX Vassar Miller poem: "___ Deeply Enough"
- TXism: "useless as a screen ___ submarine"
- city near Wichita Falls (2 wds.)
- this Jack starred in TV series "The Texas Wheelers"
- in the middle of
- TXism: "hell ___" (determined)
- citrus drink ending

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41
42 43 44 45
46 47 48
49 50 51 52 53
54 55 56 57 58

solution on page 3

ON YOUR PAYROLL
U.S. Government

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

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

Senator: Ted Cruz B40B Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-5922.

Representative: Jodey Arrington, 2019 Longworth, House Office Building, 202-225-4005. Lubbock District Office, 1312 Texas Ave. #219, Lubbock, TX 79401. Abilene District Office, 500 Chestnut St. #819, Abilene, TX 79602

State

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

Senator: 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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MEMBER
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

SHERIFF'S REPORT

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

(3/16/21) Dony Velarquez, 32, of Friona was arrested by the Friona Police Department on a charge of DWI, pending County Court.

(3/18/21) Broc Crochet, 37, of Louisiana, was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a MTR (Theft, Burglary of Habitation), pending District Court.

(3/18/21) Joe Luis Herrera, 35, of Friona was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a charge of Possession of CS Pg1 < 1g, pending Grand Jury.

(3/18/21) Cody Voggeser, 28, of Friona was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a charge of Theft of Livestock, pending Grand Jury.

(3/19/21) Melissa Gonzales, 30, of Friona was arrested by the Friona Police Department on a MTR (Manufacture/Delivery of CS), pending District Court.

(3/19/21) Javier Monzon, 27, of Friona was arrested by the Department of Public Service on an El Paso County Warrant, posted bail and released.

(3/19/21) Gilberto Gonzalez, 32, of Pampa was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on 4 Gray County Warrants, pending transport.

(3/20/21) Jose Vasquez, 25, of Friona was arrested by the Friona Police Department on a charge of Assault, pending County Court.

(3/20/21) Javier Rodriguez, 18, of Friona was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a charge of Evading Arrest with Vehicle, pending District Court.

COURTHOUSE NOTES

Susie Spring, County Clerk

Warranty Deeds recorded at the Parmer County Clerk's Office from March 11, 2020 to March 18, 2021

(3/15/21) Nora Rose — Linville Rose — Lots 36 Blk 1 Western Addition City of Friona in Parmer County

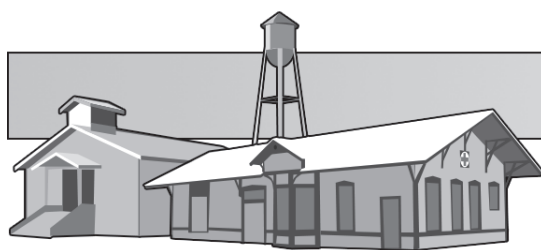
(3/15/21) Esmeralda Garza, Isidro Castillo — Amarillo National Bank — The W 79.3 of Lot 12 Blk 12 McMillian Fergus Addition City of Friona in Parmer County

(3/16/21) Marissa Marquez, Robert Marquez — Rogelio Dominguez Jr, Cecilia Garza Dominquez, Isidro Castillo Ramirez, Esmeralda Magaly Garza, Alex Mendoza, Maria Amparo Mendoza, Raul Licerio Cruz, Denise Licerio, Diego Gonzalez Licerio, Mariza Marie Licerio — All of L 5 Blk 63 Original Town of Friona in Parmer County

(3/16/21) Wilfredo Regalado, Claudia Regalado — Roy K Vielman Rodriguez, Ana D Lopez Calderon — All of Lot 1 of Blk 6 of Drake Revised Subdiv an addition to the City of Friona in Parmer County Vol 104 Pg 209 in Parmer County

(3/17/21) Play A Lake Farm and Ranch LP — Caleb Christian, Jordan Christian — All of the N/2 of Sec 36 Township 7 S R 2 E in Parmer County

(3/17/21) James Benton Glaze Jr, James B Glaze, Betty J Glaze, Harriet Ann Bynum, Sondra Kay Feagley — Billie June Saylor — All of the SE/4 of Sec 29 Blk X W.D. and F.W. Johnson Subdiv in Parmer County and the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Sec 26 of Blk Y W.D. and F.W. Johnson Subdiv in Parmer County and W/2 of SW/4 of Sec 26 Blk Y W.D. and F.W. Johnson Survey in Parmer County



TOWN TALK

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

Friona received its second "Wednesday morning winter storm" in a row this week. We sure need the moisture since Friona and Parmer County are still listed by the Texas Development Board's "Water Weekly" as being in an exceptional drought.

Tuesday is National Doctors Day. It honors the professionals for their dedication and contributions to society and the community.

Friona and Parmer County residents say "thank you" to our physicians for all that you do for us and our loved ones.

National Days
March 25: Medal of Honor Day
March 26: Spinach Day

March 27: Medical Science Liaison Day
March 28: Weed Appreciation Day
March 29: Mom & Pop Business Owners Day
March 30: Doctors Day
March 31: Crayon Day

FRIONA FLASHBACKS

From the Friona Star Archives



Passing the time at Tuesday's West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative annual meeting at the Bull Barn in Hereford were Colton Riethmayer, left, and Sloan Osborn. The youngsters entertained themselves with Legos during the business meeting. Their dads, Corbin Riethmayer and Ben Osborn, are WTRTC board members. Ron Carr photo. (Friona Star, March 31, 2011)



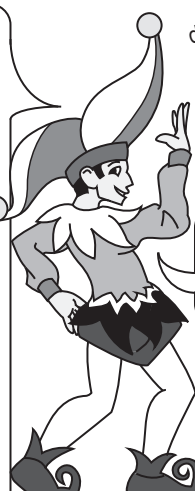
April Fool's Day Surprises

The first day of April is April Fool's Day. It is a time for lots of fun. People like to play harmless jokes and pranks. One favorite trick is to point out something that's not really there!

April Fool's Day used to be called All Fool's Day. It is thought to have started in France. A long time ago, March 21st was the date of the New Year. A little over a week of parties and fun followed. On the last day of the festivities, April 1st, formal visits were paid and gifts exchanged.

In the 16th century, the Gregorian calendar was introduced. March 21st was no longer New Year's Day and April 1st was no longer the right day to visit and give gifts. News traveled slowly in those early times, so many people continued to celebrate April 1st as the last big day of the holiday season. Many others did not like the change of date and refused to change their ways. People who clung to the old ways were called "April fools."

Today, on April 1st, you might hear someone call out, "Poisson d'Avril!" They have fooled someone and are calling them an "April fish." The person took the "bait" and was easily "caught." April Fool's Day is a day for tricks that hurt no one. It is a time for laughter.



disguises
behave
costumes
I put "eyes" on all of the fruit to freak out my brother.
jesters were people who would entertain crowds at marketplaces or festivals.
Read the clues below to learn about jesters and to fill in the puzzle:

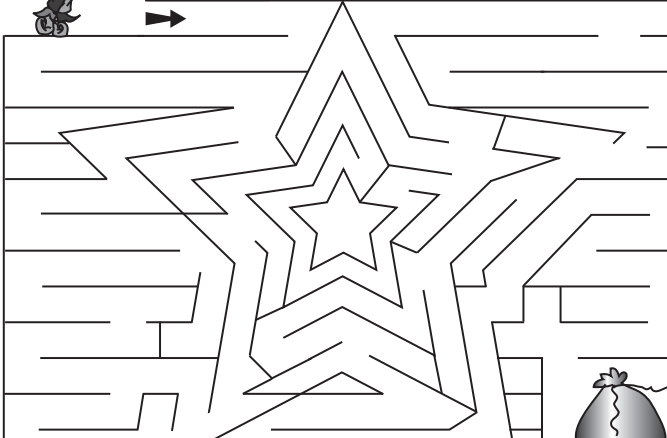
1. _____ jesters entertained the king
2. _____ jesters entertained crowds of people in marketplaces or at festivals
3. some people thought jesters were "unlucky" and others thought they would bring good _____
4. jesters might wear _____ to surprise people
5. they told stories and _____

6. some jesters used _____ or props
7. sometimes they were allowed to _____ in ways that were not allowed for other people
8. dressed in many kinds of _____
9. sometimes they helped people or a king to _____ what was going on by telling stories
10. a man or a _____ could be a jester
11. the _____ day of April is April Fool's Day
12. it is a day to play fun, harmless _____

1 love to make people laugh!
woman
gestures
tricks
first
jokes
court
traveling
understand
Today we have clowns to entertain us.
Aw! C'mon, I'm not that easy to "hook"!
fortune

Jester's Bag of Tricks

Help me find my bag of pranks. Then find and circle the words in the puzzle that describe jesters and some of the talents or skills they display.



- trickster
- clown
- magician
- jester
- fool
- joker
- prankster
- buffoon
- entertainer
- actor
- acrobat
- puppeteer
- juggler
- storyteller
- fire-eater
- contortionist
- tightrope walker
- animal trainer

Friona Star

www.frionaonline.com

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Puzzle Solution

S-1525

All in Good Fun!

April Fool's Day is a lighthearted celebration. Many countries around the world have special days of fun, with people playing good-natured jokes on one another. These surprise-filled days almost always occur when the season of spring is coming. Do you think that the sunnier, warmer weather puts people in a lighter mood? Below are some things we like to use to fool or kid our friends. Can you match each item to its description?

Hey! A spaceship is landing on the school parking lot!

Really? Can I see it?

Boy, little kids are easy to fool.

1. joke
2. riddle
3. hoax
4. wisecrack
5. pun

- A. a puzzling question or problem posed: the answer is hard to figure out
- B. a "fresh" or "smart" remark
- C. a false story told in such a way as to make people think it is real
- D. something done for fun; a jest
- E. clever use of a word to have more than one meaning

Small Town Cookin' By Jeri Lynn White

Spinach

National Spinach Day is this Friday, March 26. If I eat spinach, I like to eat it raw in a salad or on a sandwich. I am not really a fan of cooked spinach, but in case you are, I've included a couple of recipes to satisfy both of our tastes.

LOADED SPINACH SALAD

By How Sweet Eats @ under500calories.com

Ingredients

- 3 cups spinach
- 1 ounce crumbled gorgonzola
- 2 slices bacon, fried and crumbled
- 1/4 sweet onion, cut into slices and caramelized
- 2 tablespoons chopped, toasted pecans
- 1/4 avocado, chopped

Instructions

Add spinach to a large bowl and top with ingredients. Toss with favorite dressing.

Spinach Bacon Crumble

tastykitchen.com

Ingredients

- 5 slices Bacon
- 1/4 Large Onion, Diced
- 1/2 packages (10 Oz. Size) Frozen Spinach, Thawed And Liquid Squeezed Out
- 6 Eggs
- Sea Salt, to taste

Preparation

Chop the bacon and put it in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Cook the bacon for about 10 minutes, then add the onion. Cook everything until bacon reaches desired crispness, about 15-20 minutes. Add the spinach to the skillet and cook until everything is heated through. Move everything to one side of the skillet and crack the eggs into the empty side of the skillet. Scramble the eggs, keeping them mostly separated from the bacon spinach mixture until they begin to clump up. Mix everything together and sprinkle with a couple generous pinches of salt. Serve.

Pasta with Ham, Leeks, and Spinach

www.pioneerwoman.com

Ingredients

- Kosher salt, to taste
- 12 oz. fettuccine
- 4 tbsp. salted butter
- 1 c. chopped ham steak (6 to 8 ounces)
- 3 leeks, thinly sliced
- 1 1/4 c. heavy cream
- Black pepper, to taste
- 1/3 c. grated parmesan cheese, plus more for topping
- 1 10-ounce package baby spinach

Directions

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook according to the package directions. Drain and set aside. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the ham and cook, stirring, until it starts to brown, about 3 minutes. Add the leeks and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 8 minutes. Reduce the heat to low, then pour in the heavy cream. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in the parmesan and then add the spinach. (You may need to add the spinach in batches until it wilts enough to add more.) Add the hot pasta to the skillet and toss until everything is well coated and combined. Serve with more parmesan on top.

Happy Birthday Friona Folks



March 25
Sydney Frye
Owen Daniels
Val Casas

March 26
Joan Grimsley
David Smith
Dylan Tyler
Joni Lyn Graham
Bryan Blake Stover
Brock St. Clair

March 27
Keven Clark
Jon Goddard
V'Lesha (Wilcox) Pelton
Macy Diane Reeve

March 28
Robert Osborn
Alan Clark
Kay O'Brian
Jo Osborn
Kaleb Steen
Gaylene Hyde
Joel Van Valkenburg
Rylan Reyes
Gaylene Young

March 29
Lisa Neill
Ryan Potts
Loy McLellan
Briar (Barnett) Reyes
Stephanie Williams
Samuel Schueler

March 30
Jana Barnett
Annette Loflin
Feller Hughs
Margie Bridges

March 31
Billy Jackson
Kathy (Boeckman) Steen
Jeremy Schueler
Leslie Wright
Rev. Joe Schulte
Trisha (Gibson)
WhiteEagle
Jose Grado
Carolyn Shipp

Gas prices up slightly

By GasBuddy

Texas gas prices rose 1.7 cents per last week, averaging \$2.64 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 stations in Texas. Gas prices in Texas are 31.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 77.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas is priced at \$2.32, while the most expensive is \$3.49 per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.3 cents in the last week, averaging \$2.86 per gallon. The national average is up 22.2 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 78.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"With oil prices finally sagging over the last week on inflation fears and worries about a surge in COVID-19 cases in Europe impacting oil demand, motorists filling their tanks may soon see a brief respite from rising gas prices," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "While gasoline demand last week rose

to its highest level since the pandemic began, concerns that oil demand growth will stall with COVID-19 cases surging in Europe are eroding oil's recent rise. While gas prices still rose in a majority of states last week, we may see some price decreases in the week or weeks ahead, even as U.S. gasoline demand continues to rally to the highest level since the pandemic started nearly a year ago. It'll be a bumpy road the next few weeks as markets sort out the bearish and bullish factors, but I still believe prices will likely experience more upward momentum ahead of Memorial Day."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

Commissioners approve cybersecurity training

The Parmer County Commissioners Court met in regular session on Monday, March 22nd, 2021 at 10 a.m. in the County Courtroom of the Parmer County Courthouse in Farwell, Texas. The meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Texas Flag.

There were no public comments. Minutes from the March 8th meeting were read and approved. Commissioners approved the payment of the accounts payables as presented by County Treasurer Sharon May. The Treasurer's Payroll report was also approved.

Commissioners discussed and approved Line Item transfers and Budget amendments for Year 2020. There was also a discussion on moving the "old" generator at the Law Enforcement Center to the Courthouse. Commissioners learned that the existing concrete pad would need to be enlarged before work could commence. Since the Court had already approved installing the generator for use at the Courthouse, no action was needed.

Approval was given for Cybersecurity Training through the Texas Association of Counties. State law requires that the Court

approve such training activities before they can be utilized.

Sheriff Randy Geries reported that he was currently housing 23 inmates in the Parmer County Law Enforcement Center which includes 4 for Deaf Smith County. The Sheriff also reported that last week a son-in-law/father-in-law truck driving team from Georgia were involved in a single vehicle accident just outside of Farwell. The duo was headed west towards Farwell when the driver left the roadway, crossed the median, and crashed into some trees. The passenger was in the sleeper portion of the truck which

was crushed during the mishap and he did not survive. The driver is listed in serious condition. The accident is still under investigation.

The next scheduled Commissioners Court meeting is Monday, April 12th.

All meetings are open to the public. The Commissioner's Court reserves the right to go into Executive Session at any time. The agenda may be found on the Parmer County website. Information in this article is only a summary. Any questions concerning specific actions should be directed to the Commissioners Court.



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Panhandle Parables

Meaning of the Cross

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

As we approach Easter, I think it important to think as a believer about the significance of the cross of Christ. If we think about it from the point of the first century, Jesus is just a little over a week away from the sacrifice that would change the world. This coming Sunday, Jesus would have made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the cheers and praise of the crowds shouting Hosanna. By the end of that week the crowds will be yelling "CRUCIFY."

God established in the OT a sacrificial system that basically allowed God and His people to coexist. Without such a system a Holy God would be incompatible

with an unholy people. This system was limited in that the blood of bulls and goats could only do so much, in fact, it merely rolled the sins of the people forward one year and they would have to sacrifice again next year and the next and so on, but when the Messiah came, he would end this sacrificial system by offering himself to die for the people (us). Hebrews in the New Testament would declare this sacrifice superior to all others and fulfill the law to the extent that there would be no longer a need to sacrifice animals because, the Son of God being sacrificed paid for all sin for all time.

So as Jesus carries His

cross to Golgotha and is nailed to it, hung for all to see, he would suffer on that Cross for six long hours before he died. The cross is the symbol of His execution and our salvation. Because of His willingness to die in MY place for MY sin, I would now have an avenue to God that had not existed before His death. So as despicable and despised is the cross with the blood of my Savior running down its length, I rejoice in knowing there is hope for me because He chose to die on that tree. May you prayerfully be humbled as you acknowledge the truth of the cross. May you for ever be changed because of the meaning of the cross.

Jesus is the Light of the World

By Brett Hoyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church

Have you ever been in desperate need of light? Maybe it was fixing a flat on the side of the road at night, organizing things in the cellar, or maybe you were in an unknown place in need of illumination to help you find your way. Just as darkness is self-evident, how much more evident is the light that pierces through darkness. The stars glimmer in their brilliance through the darkness of the universe, and even the tiniest flashlight in a dark room is of great assistance.

Spiritually, there is also a tremendous need for light. Without spiritual Sonlight, from Jesus Christ, there is only darkness, despair and death. In John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jesus Christ is the light of the World, light of truth, the light of life, and the light that shines in the darkness of our sinful, broken world. Jesus' light gives truth, hope, healing, peace and joy, be-

cause he himself is the light and those who find him live in his light and blessings.

Further, notice that the invitation to walk in Jesus' light extends to "whoever," and those who do come to him "will not walk in darkness." Following Jesus begins with a saving faith in him alone, which compels you to live in his heavenly Sonlight. Living in his light demands full surrender, just as the darkness surrenders to the light when the light shines forth.

A Christian's Dilemma Part 2

By Teena Hughs

Since last week's column, people have asked me if the border situation is really as bad as I described. So much is involved with this whole border crisis, and it is worse than what I wrote last week. I mainly listen to "Warroom" twice a day on Real America's Voice (Dish 219) and Newsmax (Dish 216), and last week, I heard stories about nearly everything I wrote about.

So, what to do??? As a Christian, we are to love and show mercy to all people because we are all, legal or illegal, created by Jesus. But, we are also supposed to obey the laws of the land we are in, whether we are in the USA or a foreign country; and today, therein lies the problem. People are entering our country illegally. Some are harming people and their property, thus creating fear, anger, and a belief that if it takes harming an illegal to protect themselves and their property, they will do it. Some are coming here with the intent of harming America. Drugs, human trafficking, sex trafficking, covid, and many other evils are coming across the border. And, have you seen or heard about the living conditions of some of the illegals now here in the USA? I promise you, if this were happening under a Trump administration, it would be all you are hearing about in the media. Sadly, we have people in both political parties that are happy about this invasion for their

own personal reasons, whether it be for future voters or cheap labor.

We need members of Congress to put down their political ambitions and desires, come together, and really study immigration: what is causing this invasion; what works, what doesn't work trying to manage the border. Then, we need to come up with a bi-partisan comprehensive immigration bill that works for everyone involved. With the divisiveness in our country and government today, this will need a tremendous amount of prayer.

We need to work with other countries to make living and working conditions better for people so they want to stay in their countries and prosper. Just giving countries money and letting leaders do with it as they choose does not do anything to help the people, or they wouldn't be wanting to come here. We need to get to the root of the problems, and work to help solve those problems. Especially, we need to eradicate the cartels that are making untold amounts of money from all of this chaos and evil they are bringing to our country.

Friona native, Debbie Reeve Lascelles, posted that her husband Chris is taking a team to the border to minister to people. We need many teams like the one Chris is leading down on the border, ministering to people and teaching them about Jesus. We also

need people ministering to and encouraging the law enforcement assigned to the totally overwhelming task of protecting our border. With all the evil activity going on with the cartels, and with what is coming across the border, if you can change the hearts and minds of some of the people, we might be totally amazed at the positive changes that can happen to this situation. Please pray for Chris and his team, as well as any other group you may know of that is trying to minister to people.

You may be thinking you can't do anything to help in this situation; after all, Friona is a long way from the border. But, you can; you can pray. You can pray that someone in the Biden administration will surrender their pride and hatred for Donald Trump, and be willing to stand up and admit that the border was very manageable under the Trump administration. You can pray for Congress to do what is right in God's eyes for our country. You can pray for the hearts and minds of the evil people to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. Pray that God thwarts the plans of those who intend to harm our country and its citizens. Pray whatever God tells you to pray. Just pray! And, if you can financially support a group or someone ministering to people on the border, please do. Take care, have a great week, and please pray for our country!!!

Texas to open COVID-19 vaccination to all adults on March 29

DSHS directs providers to continue to prioritize older adults

All adults will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas beginning Monday, March 29. The Texas Department of State Health Services expects vaccine supplies to increase next week, and providers in multiple parts of the state have made great strides in vaccinating people in the current priority groups. The state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel recommended opening vaccination to everyone who falls under the current Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorizations to protect as many Texans as possible.

"We are closing in on 10 million doses administered in Texas, and we want to keep up the momentum as the vaccine supply increases," said Imelda Garcia, DSHS associate commissioner for laboratory and infectious disease services and the chair of the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel. "As eligibility opens up, we

are asking providers to continue to prioritize people who are the most at risk of severe disease, hospitalization and death - such as older adults."

DSHS has directed vaccine providers to prioritize people 80 years old or older when scheduling appointments and accommodate anyone in that age group who presents for vaccination, whether or not they have an appointment, by immediately moving them to the front of the line. That will ensure vaccination of anyone 80 or older with as small a burden on themselves as possible.

Also next week, DSHS will launch a website to allow people to register for a shot through some public health providers. The public will be able to enroll in the Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler to identify upcoming vaccine clinics hosted by DSHS or a participating local health depart-

ment and be notified when new clinics and appointments become available. People can continue to find additional providers through the DSHS Vaccine Information page at dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine.

Online registration will be the best option for most people. For those for whom that is not an option, DSHS will launch a toll-free number to provide assistance making an appointment with a participating provider or locating another provider that has vaccine available.

To date, Texas has administered more than 9.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, equating to more than 6 million people with at least one dose and more than 3 million fully vaccinated. Most vaccines are authorized for people 18 years old and older; the FDA has authorized the Pfizer vaccine for use in people 16 and older.

Send your church news to the **Friona★Star** | frionastar@wtrt.net

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Website-www.fbcfriona.com

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Rev. Skip Hodges
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Mike Prather, Minister

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
205 4th Street
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Pastor Larry Mitchell

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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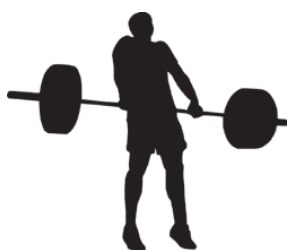
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SPORTS



Giovanni Ponce finished in 3rd place at the Boys Region 1 Division 2 Regional Meet in Sundown. Magdalena Licerio finished in 13th place at the Girls State Powerlifting Meet in Corpus Christi. Congratulations to both! See results at right.



Powerlifting Results

Region 1 Division 2 Regional Meet - Sundown, TX							
Wt.	Place	Athlete	BWT	Squat	Bench	Dead	Total
123	3	Giovanni Ponce	122.6	370	215	350	935

3A State Meet - Corpus Christi, TX							
Wt.	Place	Athlete	BWT	Squat	Bench	Dead	Total
132	13	Magdalena Licerio	129.4	200	135	255	590

Steady Rise In Pedestrian Fatalities Rings Alarm Bells

Pedestrians now account for 1 in 5 traffic deaths in Texas

As spring approaches, more and more Texans will take to the streets, and TxDOT has an important message for both drivers and pedestrians: watch out for each other.

State officials warn that pedestrian deaths are continuing to rise in Texas, and now account for 1 in 5 of all traffic fatalities. In 2019 alone, 5,975 traffic crashes involving pedestrians occurred in Texas, resulting in 669 deaths, a 5% increase in fatalities over the previous year. Another 1,317 people were seriously injured.

“From 2015 to 2019, traffic crashes claimed the lives of 3,150 pedestrians,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. “To reach our goal of zero deaths on Texas roadways we need all drivers to obey the rules of the road, stay alert and take responsibility for looking out for pedestrians, and for pedestrians to follow safety tips.”

Since 2015, TxDOT has spent \$153 million in federal and state funding to upgrade sidewalks, curbs and striping for pedestrian accessibility, safety and mobility. In addition, during that same time, TxDOT awarded \$116 million in grant funding to support more than 120 locally spon-

sored projects that provide safe routes to schools, multi-use pathways, sidewalks and bike paths in rural and small urban areas.

Crash reports from law enforcement indicate the two leading causes for pedestrian fatalities are: 1) pedestrians failing to follow traffic safety laws and being struck when crossing streets and roadways, and 2) motorists failing to yield the right of way, driving distracted or driving too fast. Alcohol also is a factor in pedestrian-related crashes, deaths and injuries.

Pedestrians are among the most vulnerable road users because they aren't equipped with protective equipment, such as airbags, seat belts and bumpers. This month TxDOT is launching a unique, socially distanced outreach campaign near intersections and high traffic areas in the state's major cities to call attention to this reality and deliver messages where people most need to see them—at street level. This “walking billboard” public education effort will use stark, attention-grabbing visuals reminding motorists and pedestrians that “pedestrians don't come with airbags” and “you can't fix a pedestrian at a body

shop.” TxDOT offers these safety tips to prevent a deadly encounter:

- For drivers . . .**
- When turning, yield the right of way to pedestrians.
 - Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
 - Be cautious when passing stopped buses or other vehicles.
 - Pay attention and put your phone away—pedestrians may enter your path suddenly.
 - Obey the speed limit and drive to conditions.
- For pedestrians . . .**
- Cross the street only at intersections and crosswalks. Look left, right, then left again before crossing.
 - Make eye contact with drivers before crossing. Don't assume drivers see you.
 - Obey all traffic and crosswalk signals.
 - Use the sidewalk. If there isn't one, walk on the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.
 - When walking, put away electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road.
 - Wear bright clothing during the day, and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night



YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!!!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension needs your help. Please take a few minutes to complete this online survey about our community. The data will be used to help make sure

needs are identified at the local level. Please go to https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/.../SV_3CMdFuyfmKhpjSu to complete the survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

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April Fool's Day Surprises

Did you match each word to its definition?

- joke
- riddle
- hoax
- wisecrack
- pun

A. a puzzling question or problem; the answer is hard to figure out
B. a “fresh” or “smart” remark
C. a false story told in such a way as to make people think it is real
D. something done for fun; a jest
E. clever use of a word to have more than one meaning

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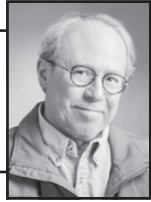
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State Capital Highlights

By Gary Borders



PUC chair resigns in wake of call to energy investors

Arthur D'Andrea, the chair and sole remaining member of the Public Utility Commission, resigned late last week at the request of Gov. Gregg Abbott. D'Andrea pledged to remain on the PUC until Abbott names a replacement. In the announcement Abbott said in part, "Texans deserve to have trust and confidence in the Public Utility Commission, and this action is one of many steps that will be taken to achieve that goal."

Texas Monthly obtained a recording of a March 9 call D'Andrea had with investors to discuss the fallout from the mid-February power crisis, in the midst of a fierce statewide winter storm. In that 48-minute call, D'Andrea promised to put the "weight of the commission" in opposing efforts to reverse skyrocketing power rates during the blackouts.

Those efforts are being spearheaded by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who in effect controls the Texas Senate. That body passed SB 242 last week, calling on the PUC and the Electrical Reliability Council of Texas to correct what Patrick called "billions in pricing errors that occurred" during the winter storm.

However, House Speaker Dade Phelan has called repricing "an extraordinary government intervention into the free market, which may have major consequences for both residential and commercial consumers going forward." The House is holding hearings on restructuring ERCOT and related issues this week.

Rise in pedestrian fatalities rings alarm bells

With spring arriving and COVID-19 restrictions easing, state officials warn that pedestrian deaths continue to increase each year. They urge both drivers and pedestrians to watch out for each other. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, pedestrian fatalities account for one in five of all state traffic fatalities.

In 2019, the latest year for which figures are available, 5,973 traffic crashes involved pedestrians, resulting in 669 deaths and 1,317 serious injuries.

The two leading causes of pedestrian fatalities are: 1) Pedestrians failing to follow traffic safety laws and being struck crossing streets and roadways, and 2) motorists failing to yield the right of way, driving distracted or driving too fast.

TxDOT's pedestrian safety campaign is a component of #EndTheStreakTX, a social media effort to encourage drivers to make safer choices, such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, not texting while driving, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The last deathless day on Texas roadways was Nov. 7, 2000.

COVID-19 vaccinations up more than million in a week

With more than 900,000 additional COVID-19 vaccines arriving in Texas this week, the state has now administered more than 9 million doses, according to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services.

More than 3 million are now fully vaccinated, roughly 10.8% of the state's population.

Nearly one in seven of all Texans at least 16 years of age are now fully vaccinated, according to DSHS. Anyone over the age of 50, health-care workers, long-term care residents, people with chronic health issues, and school and childcare workers are all eligible for the vaccine.

You can find a list of vaccine hub providers at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2u5een4w>

COVID-19 cases, deaths in state still dropping

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped again last week, with 27,672 reported, down about 12 percent from the previous week. Deaths also dropped, with 932 reported, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That's down 16.5% from the previous week.

Hospitalizations of confirmed COVID-19 patients also continue to decrease, with 3,620 in Texas hospitals as of Sunday, according to DSHS. That's down 14.1% from the previous week and 75% lower than the record high of 14,218 hospitalizations in mid-January.

Nature Challenge launched by forest service

The Nature Challenge website has launched, connecting Texans with ways to explore the outdoors, acquire new skills and get involved in their community. The collaboration between the Texas Children in Nature Network, Texan by Nature and the Texas A&M Forest Service encourages Texans to explore nature and earn digital badges to track their progress. The website, naturechallenge.tamu.edu, features an interactive map and resources for users of all ages.

"The Nature Challenge provides the perfect opportunity for every Texan to have fun and learn something new while enjoying the physical, mental and emotional benefits of being in nature," said Joni Carswell, CEO and President of Texan by Nature.

Nature-related organizations are encouraged to use the site to promote their services and opportunities at no charge. Information for providers can be found on the Nature Challenge website.

Webinar slated to help homeowners file insurance damage claims

Folks who need help with an insurance claim for winter storm damage can register for a free online webinar set for 11 a.m. Thursday, March 25. Staff with the Texas Department of Insurance will explain what to expect once a claim is filed and cover the options available if a claimant disagrees with an insurance company's decision. Register for the webinar at: <http://bit.ly/TDI-winter-storm-claim-webinar>.

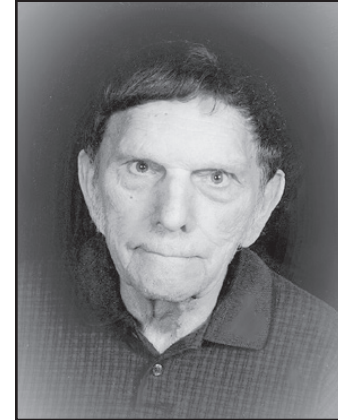
Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.



Obituaries



Roger Roy Menning



Roger Roy Menning, 81 of Farwell, passed away on March 17, 2021 in Clovis. Celebration of Life Memorial Services were held 10:30 A.M. Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at the Hamlin Memorial United Methodist Church in Farwell with Rev. Lupe Acevedo, pastor, officiating. Arrangements by HANSARD FAMILY Funeral Home of Friona.

Roger was born October 10, 1939 in Miller, South Dakota to Henry J. and Agnes Ulmer Menning. He later married Sharon Lee Horsley September 20, 1962 in Miller, South Dakota.

Roger was a veteran of the U.S. Army, and a member of the Hamlin Memorial United Methodist Church. He worked at the maintenance department for several companies over the years and was known as quite a handy man. His crafting of airplanes, helicopters and clocks out of aluminum cans landed him at many craft shows. He also loved fishing and camping.

Those that preceded him in death include his parents, 2 sons, 1 sister and 2 brothers.

Those to carry on his legacy include his wife Sharon of Farwell, 2 sons-Rocky Menning and wife Vivian of

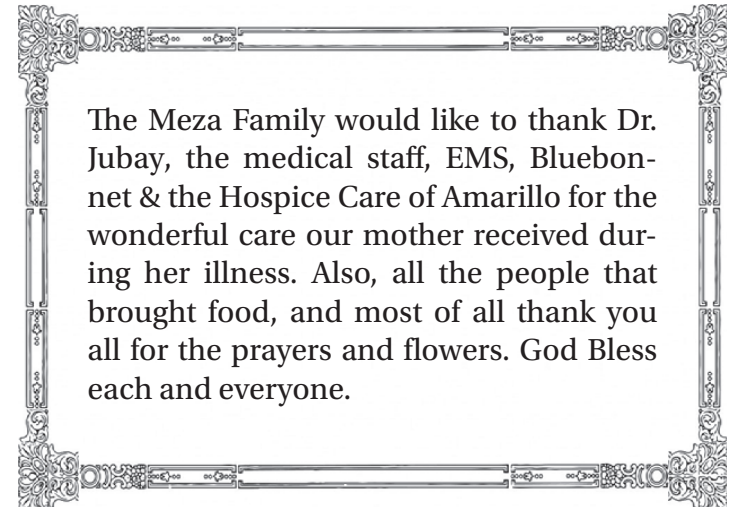
Muleshoe, and Shawn Menning of Elk Rider, Minnesota, 1 daughter Wanna Bock of Farwell, 1 brother Dennis Menning of Missouri, 1 sister-Karol Palmer and husband Marvin of Huron, South Dakota, 10 grandchildren, 11

great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be sent to the Hamlin Memorial United Methodist Church 324 5th St. Farwell, Texas 79325



Funeral Home



The Meza Family would like to thank Dr. Jubay, the medical staff, EMS, Bluebonnet & the Hospice Care of Amarillo for the wonderful care our mother received during her illness. Also, all the people that brought food, and most of all thank you all for the prayers and flowers. God Bless each and everyone.

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Notice of Impoundment of Estray

On the 2nd day of February, 2021, I impounded the following estrays:
 Kind of Animal: Heifer
 Breed: Unknown
 Color: Black
 Sex: Female
 Age: Unknown
 Size/Weight 700-900 lbs
 Brand, Marks, Identifying Characteristics: Brand right hip with "101" with a line through it possibly a brand that was branded over

And, on the 15th day of March, 2021, I filed Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Parmer County, Texas.

I have made diligent search of the register of recorded brands in Parmer County, Texas, for the owner of the said estray, but the search did not reveal the owner.

Notice is hereby, given that, if the ownership of said estray is not determined by the 25th day of March 2021, said estray will be sold at public auction/sheriff's sale at Muleshoe Livestock Auction.

Witness my hand this 15th day of March, 2021.

Randy Geris
Sheriff, Parmer County, Texas

By: J. Schlalis

Notice of Impoundment of Estray

On the 2nd day of February, 2021, I impounded the following estrays:
 Kind of Animal: Heifer
 Breed: Unknown
 Color: Red Bald Face
 Sex: Female
 Age: Unknown
 Size/Weight 700-900 lbs
 Brand, Marks, Identifying Characteristics: Brand right hip with "101" with a line through it possibly a brand that was branded over

And, on the 15th day of March, 2021, I filed Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Parmer County, Texas.

I have made diligent search of the register of recorded brands in Parmer County, Texas, for the owner of the said estray, but the search did not reveal the owner.

Notice is hereby, given that, if the ownership of said estray is not determined by the 25th day of March 2021, said estray will be sold at public auction/sheriff's sale at Muleshoe Livestock Auction.

Witness my hand this 15th day of March, 2021.

Randy Geris
Sheriff, Parmer County, Texas

By: J. Schlalis

Notice of Impoundment of Estray

On the 2nd day of February, 2021, I impounded the following estrays:
 Kind of Animal: Heifer
 Breed: Unknown
 Color: Black
 Sex: Female
 Age: Unknown
 Size/Weight 700-900 lbs
 Brand, Marks, Identifying Characteristics: Brand left hip appears to be a "R"

And, on the 20th day of March, 2021, I filed Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Parmer County, Texas.

I have made diligent search of the register of recorded brands in Parmer County, Texas, for the owner of the said estray, but the search did not reveal the owner.

Notice is hereby, given that, if the ownership of said estray is not determined by the 2nd day of April 2021, said estray will be sold at public auction/sheriff's sale at Muleshoe Livestock Auction.

Witness my hand this 20th day of March, 2021.

Randy Geris
Sheriff, Parmer County, Texas

By: J. Schlalis

Check Your Mirrors

By Sue Jane Sullivan



What a difference a year makes. Last March, we were shutting down, and now we are cautiously enjoying the coming of spring. For small schools, it is “the season of seasons.”

Basketball in Texas high schools has just completed its last dribble. Small schools have now transitioned seamlessly to what comes next. Unlike the fall semester, when the focus is primarily on cross-country and football with basketball getting underway, March through May finds students and coaches and their families in several venues—sometimes on the same day.

It is a unique situation, foreign to larger school districts in urban areas. There, coaches may have one sport the entire year and teach one subject. Students specialize. Each activity often has its booster club. That is simply a logistical fact and not a criticism, as I attended a larger school. Choir and volleyball were my go-to extracurricular events and provided me many special memories. It never occurred to me, though, to try out for one-act or tennis or run track because my sport and my music were extremely busy with competitions in the spring (UIL volleyball was a spring sport in the 1970s). So, when I got a job in a small school, my eyes were opened as a teacher/coach/parent to the school calendar’s time management rigors—especially in the spring.

The next three weeks alone in Borden County, Friona, and Rotan, the school calendar will look like an ancient general’s battlefield orders. Bi-district One-Act will host and holds the front lines. While district baseball teams are defending the left-field line and using sunflower seeds as ammunition, FFA judging competitions will head north to the Panhandle or east to the Rolling Plains for hand-to-hand combat. The girls’ softball teams intend to dig trenches where the strategic unison chants drive opponents insane. These next few days will see tennis balls flying like bullets. And, brains and speaking performances will determine district academic championships. 4-H members will be traveling to Lubbock for food shows or maybe competing across the states in trap and skeet. Let’s not forget the student soldiers who will run around a track or jump in dirt and leap over bars all while getting either a good tan or a mouthful of West Texas dirt from a poorly timed sandstorm. During this time of year, the cavalry is in place, too, with THSRA and AJRA and other rodeo association competitions held on the weekends.

If I omitted your family’s favorite activity, forgive me. I passed out from exhaustion while typing that paragraph.

During this time, our students are doing homework, working in concession stands, prepping for college

entrance exams or standardized tests, taking care of animals, and learning how to drive. Our teachers and coaches and moms and dads are changing costumes or grabbing bats or track shoes and tennis rackets and making sure the Yeti has plenty of bottled water and Gatorade. (Instead of sunscreen at track meets, we prefer hats and long sleeves because sunscreen and that blowing dirt make for unwanted defoliation—personal experience as a spectator, 1996 jr. high track meet in Lenorah, Texas).

Be patient with each other this time of year. And remember, it was just twelve months ago that all these things were closed to us. As disappointing as lockdowns and changes to school protocol have been, gratitude is a lesson we ought to have learned: (1) thanks for the physical health and opportunities to experience teamwork, (2) a shout out to technological folks who have pulled behind-the-scenes championship rounds for UIL participants in Congress and CX Debate, (3) appreciation for the coaches and teachers who see little of their own families this time of year, and (4) to the students who want to try it all in this brief span of their lives. Small schools do this better than any other educational demographic—welcoming the participant to jump in and try various events.

Sunday is a day of rest—be sure to add that to your calendar, too.

Hospital Announces Scholarships Available

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Parmer Medical Center, the decision was made to once again award four \$2500 scholarships to high school seniors residing in Parmer County. Recipients will be students with intent to study and enter a career in the health care industry. In

addition to satisfying other academic and eligibility criteria, recipients will have demonstrated exemplary leadership in high school and/or civic activities.

The purpose of the scholarship is to support students who wish to pursue health care related professions and to invest in future genera-

tions of health care providers in Parmer County. Interested seniors may receive applications from their school guidance counselor’s office or from Parmer Medical Center. Application deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 23, 2021. For more information, contact Judy Rocha at 250-2754.

Commodity prices favorable for Texas row producers

By Adam Russell

Texas row crop producers might have the luxury of choosing between sorghum, corn and cotton as all three commodities are seeing high prices with the 2021 planting season underway, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Mark Welch, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension grain economist, Bryan-College Station, said farmers will have options in 2021 based on market prices but may make decisions based on soil moisture levels in their location, input costs, past yields and crop insurance protections.

“This year is unusual in so many ways, but virtually every summer crop is looking at strong prices, and every commodity is looking to buy acres of cotton, corn, sorghum and soybeans,” Welch said. “Texas farmers know what works best for them, and it will be interesting to see what they actually plant because there is strong competition among the various row crops.”

Grain sorghum acres have been strong historically in Texas, though acres have dipped in recent years due to better revenue for corn and cotton, he said. But sorghum’s current price premium compared to corn may reverse that trend and help it eclipse planted corn acres for the first time since 2015.

Welch said high prices, low input costs, exceptional drought tolerance and strong export demand for feed grain from China make sorghum a more competitive option for Texas producers than seen in recent years. China’s tariff system increases import costs for corn and wheat when imports exceed certain levels. Sorghum and barley do not face the same tariff restrictions.

This gives U.S. sorghum, which accounts for about 80% of global sorghum exports, an advantage in the market that consumes the most food and feed grain globally, Welch said. China accounts for about 80% of global sorghum imports.

“We have very little export competition,” he said. “So, when it comes to exports, you have basically one buyer and one seller, and that can be scary when tensions are high and you’re dealing with a trade dispute. But recent projections from U.S. Department of Agriculture support exporting consistent levels of sorghum to China for the next several years.”

Row crop competition

Welch said steady exports of grain sorghum to China is a big part of its price surge.

Average cash prices for sorghum are \$6.40 per bushel compared to \$5.90 per bushel for corn, giving sorghum a 50 cent per bushel cash premium over corn, he said. For perspective on how far sorghum prices have come, Welch said farmers were getting \$3.40 per bushel for corn and sorghum was \$2.95 per bushel, a 45-cent discount to corn, in early August.

Sorghum also has an input cost advantage over corn and cotton, he said. Sorghum seed cost for planting can be much less than that of other crops and generally has lower use requirements for fertilizer and water. However, the 10-year average sorghum yield in Texas is about half that of corn, 57 bushels per acre compared to 128 bushels per acre.

Another advantage high-yielding crops like corn and

cotton have in this current environment is crop insurance protection. Higher base prices this spring combined with relatively higher average yields can provide higher levels of revenue protection compared to crops with lower average yields.

In addition, for insurance products with a March 15 sales closing date, the base price for corn was \$4.58 per bushel compared to \$4.40 per bushel for sorghum. These may be important considerations for farmers facing persistent drought conditions that may extend into the 2021 crop year, he said.

“I think we are going to see an increase in grain acres overall, and I think this is a year that we might see sorghum overtake corn in acres planted,” he said. “There are really high cotton prices as well, and we’ve seen that be the crop option preference for a lot of producers in recent years as cotton prices got hot and grain prices were not.”

What follows wheat?

The condition of the Texas wheat crop will also play a role in the acres for corn, sorghum and cotton. For wheat damaged by Winter Storm Uri, especially in areas experiencing increasingly dry conditions, producers could terminate wheat acres early, hope for rain and follow with corn, sorghum or cotton.

“With these prices, there could be a lot of double cropping, which is taking wheat to grain, graze out or forage, and

following with a summer crop, if there is time and moisture,” he said. “Sorghum is also a popular choice as a replant option in years in which cotton fields are lost to early season storms.”

It’s still early, but Welch said he would not be surprised if the U.S. sorghum crop jumped from the 6 million acres planted in 2020 to 8 million acres this growing season when considering the various factors. Texas and Kansas account for the vast majority of sorghum acres. But heavy increases to supplies could negatively impact prices even if demand remains strong.

The USDA survey that provides preliminary estimates for crop acres comes out March 31 and might present a better picture of plantings. But Mother Nature could be a major factor with big swaths of grain producing areas in Texas and Kansas experiencing various levels of drought.

“If there is a huge crop, sorghum will rely on exports to maintain the price premium to corn and there might be some reduction, but it looks like it will likely trade right alongside corn and overall strong grain prices,” he said. “We’ll have a better idea about crop potential if we see some good rain events at and after planting, and we’ll have a better idea about prices in June and early July when southern Texas sorghum is cut and enters the market.”

Adam Russell is a communication specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife.

HHSC Updates Visitation Rules for Long-Term Care Facilities Expands In-Person Visits at Nursing Facilities

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is expanding visitation statewide in nursing facilities and other long-term care settings, effective March 23rd. Per federal guidance issued March 10 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, fully vaccinated nursing facility residents are now allowed close, in-person visits with family members and friends who are not designated essential caregivers, as long as proper safeguards are in place.

“Safely visiting with family and friends is vital to the mental health and well-being of long-term care residents,” said Victoria Ford, HHS chief policy and regulatory officer. “We are so pleased these new rules will allow residents to enjoy in-person visits with a wider circle of loved ones.”

For nursing facilities, these updated visitation rules give providers additional flexibilities in accordance with the new federal guidelines.

While continuing to follow all protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including the wearing of face masks, Texas nursing facilities can now permit:

- close/personal contact during any visitation for fully vaccinated residents.
- outdoor visitation at all facilities, even when the facility has an outbreak.
- up to two essential caregivers at the same time to visit a resident with any CO-

VID-19 status.

- all visitation without time limits, while adhering to infection prevention and control measures.
- end-of-life visits for all residents regardless of their COVID-19 status in all nursing facilities, with an expanded definition of end-of-life visits that now includes all residents receiving hospice services; residents at or near the end of life, with or without hospice services; and residents whose prognosis does not indicate recovery.

Nursing facilities no longer need to:

- request general visitation approval from HHSC.
- monitor visits or escort visitors to and from the visitation area.
- limit indoor visitation to areas with a plexiglass barrier or booth.
- require documentation of a negative COVID-19 test result for essential caregiver or salon services visitors.

In addition to nursing facilities, HHSC expanded visitation allowed in assisted living facilities, intermediate care facilities, and Home and Community-based Services providers. The new rules also remove certain administrative requirements for providers, such as the rules to have staff monitor certain visits and escort visitors to and from a visiting area.

Mad in March

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

March Madness is overwhelming the nation. It has been that way since March 27, 1939 when the University of Oregon beat Ohio State University 46-33 in the final game of the very first NCAA men’s basketball tournament.

If the Super Bowl causes the nation to stop and focus on football for one day, the annual NCAA basketball tournament holds the attention of the nation about three weeks. It starts mid-month when the “first four” --or first round games--are played, and last until the “final four” games culminate with the selection of the two teams that will compete in the championship.

In the beginning, eight schools were invited to participate; this year, 68 will face off in the men’s competition.



The inaugural women’s NCAA tournament of 1982 had representation from 32 schools; the 2021 line-up will be generated from sixty-four.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends **How March Became Mad-**

Tournament Became the Greatest Sporting Event in America by Eddie Einhorn and Ron Rapoport.

Courtesy of History Matters, a feature of The Grateful American Book Prize: Showing our children that their past is prelude to their future.

Don’t get hit with a penalty! “Render” your taxable property by April 15th.

A “rendition” is a report to the appraisal district that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on January 1st of this year.

Who must file a rendition?

A person shall render all tangible personal property used for the production of income that the person owns or that the person manages and controls on January 1st. Examples of personal property that shall be rendered are inventory, machinery and equipment, and furniture and fixtures. If you do not render, render late, or file a false rendition, a 10% penalty may be imposed.

Are there any advantages to you?

The advantages of filing a rendition are:

- You give your opinion of your property’s value. The appraisal district must notify you in writing of current appraised value.
- You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address. If your bill is mailed to the wrong address, the law still holds you responsible for paying your taxes on time or paying extra charges for late payments.
- You can also file a “report of decreased value” to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of the value of your property in 2020. The district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2021.

What’s the deadline?

The last day for filing 2021 renditions is April 15. You can get an automatic extension to May 15 if you ask for it in writing on or before the April 15 deadline. The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after May 15 for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

Where do you file?

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:

Parmer County Appraisal District

305 3rd Street
P.O. Box 56
Bovina, TX 79009

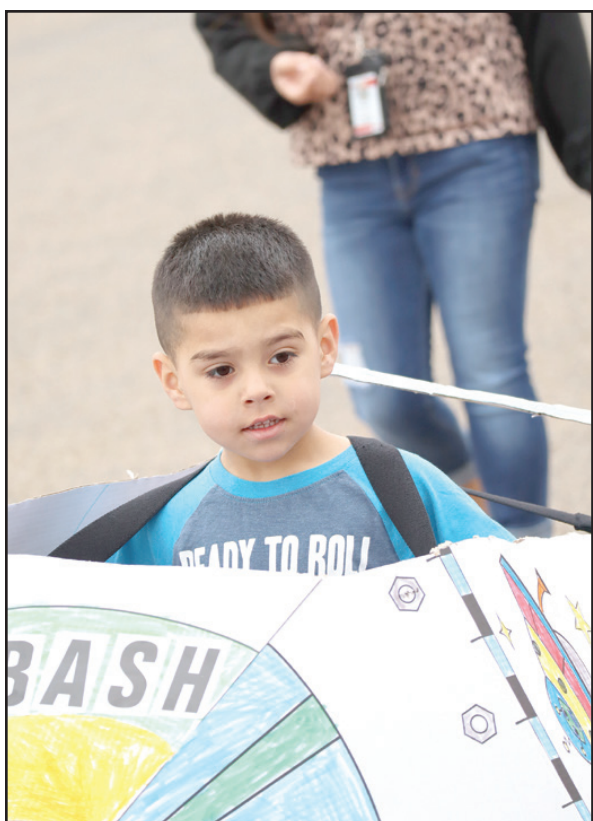
If you have any questions, please call (806) 251-1405; email parmer@parmercad.org

Jill Timms -- Chief Appraiser
Deanna Curtis -- Deputy Chief Appraiser

Special note: The deadline for vehicle exemptions for those who qualify are due by April 30, 2021.

Pre-K Transportation Parade

Photos by Mr. Monk



A banks pre-approval letter must be provided prior to a showing.



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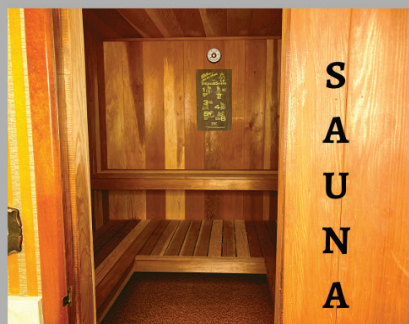
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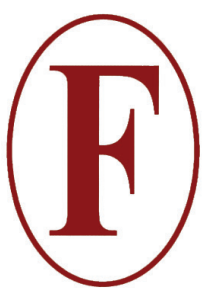
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