



## Commissioners receive annual fire reports

Parmer County Commissioners Court met in regular session on Monday December 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom of the Parmer County Courthouse in Farwell, Texas. The meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Texas Flag.

There were no comments from the public during the open forum. Minutes from the November 28th 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.

Daniel Kaltwasser of the Farwell Fire Department and Weldon Kube of Farwell EMS presented requests for ARPA funds to purchase needed equipment. For the Farwell Fire Department, Commissioners unanimously approved \$20,033.00 for the purchase of bunker gear (personal protective equipment used by firefighters) and a special washing machine to clean the gear. For the Farwell EMS, Commissioners unanimously approved \$19,323.12 for the purchase of a CPR machine.

Commissioners received an annual report from the fire departments operating in Par-

mer County. Bovina Fire Department responded to 37 calls; Farwell Fire Department responded to 69 calls; Friona Fire Department responded to 81 calls; Lazbuddie Fire Department responded to 27 calls; and the Rhea Fire Department responded to 12 calls. All of the fire departments, except Rhea, will be reimbursed by the County at a rate \$186.92 per call.

Parmer County Sheriff Eric Geske informed the Court that the Parmer County Law Enforcement Center is currently housing 37 inmates of which 8 are paying customers from Deaf Smith County and 8 are paying customers from Dawson County. A new vehicle for the SO arrived last week and is being outfitted for service.

In other business, requests from county employees for payment on unused vacation hours was approved. Also, Judge Trey Ellis said that the Lazbuddie 1 Wind Project appears to be picking up steam. He noted that requests for road use policies is a strong indication that the project is moving forward.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, December 19th.

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



Mayor Greg Lewellen and Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Moreno dropped by Friona Junior High School Wednesday morning to present three Junior High students with Certificates of Appreciation. The awards were in recognition of their volunteer work for the City of Friona and Chamber of Commerce at the Christmas in the Park event last week. In the photo: (l-r) Chamber President Cindy Moreno, Stevie Herring, Leonardo Hernandez, Carlos Rios, and Mayor Lewellen.

## Friona will receive a \$53,697.04 tax allocation payment for December

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced last week that he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.1 billion in local sales tax allocations for December. The amount is a 12.4 percent increase over the total distributed in December 2021. These allocations

are based on sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly.

The City of Friona will receive \$53,697.04 in sales tax allocation for the month of December. This payment is a 25.52 percent decrease compared to the \$72,101.66 received in December

of 2021. However, the year-to-date total of \$746,053.21 is 20.37 percent higher than the \$619,750.69 received last year during the same time frame.

The Friona Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) will receive \$13,424.26 of the allocation for its operating budget.

## Farm Credit Bank of Texas announces board election results

AUSTIN, Texas - Farm Credit Bank of Texas stockholders recently elected Dennis Anthony of Friona, Texas, and re-elected Linda Floerke of Lampasas County, Texas, to the Farm Credit Bank of Texas board of directors. Both will serve three-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

Anthony succeeds longtime board member Ralph "Buddy" Cortese of Fort Sumner, New Mexico, who has completed 27 years of service on the board and did not stand for re-election.

Anthony owns and operates Anthony Farm & Cattle, which produces stocker cattle, milo, wheat and corn in Parmer and Deaf Smith counties. He has served on the boards of Farm Credit lending cooperatives since 1993, including as chair of the AgTex-



Dennis Anthony

as Farm Credit Services board since 2015 and the Great Plains Ag Credit board from 2009-14. He also serves on the boards of the Parmer County Hospital District and Parmer Medical Center. He holds a degree in agricultural economics from Texas Tech University.

Floerke has served on the Farm Credit Bank of Texas board since 2017 and has been its vice chair since 2021. She also serves on the bank's audit and compensation committees

and is a member of the Tenth District Farm Credit Council. Floerke raises cattle and hay in Lampasas County, and co-owns Agro-Tech Services. In addition, she serves on the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Leadership Advisory Board for Lampasas County and is a member of the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council board.

In addition to Anthony and Floerke, members of the seven-person bank board as of January 1 will be Chair James F. "Jimmy" Dodson, Robstown, Texas; Dr. Larry Boleman, College Station, Texas; John L. "Jack" Dailey, Extension, Louisiana; M. Philip "Phil" Guthrie, Dallas, Texas; and Dorothy Nichols, Reston, Virginia.

About Farm Credit Bank of Texas: With



Linda Floerke

\$35.3 billion in assets, Farm Credit Bank of Texas is a cooperatively owned wholesale bank that finances agriculture and rural America. Headquartered in Austin, it funds 14 local lending cooperatives so they can make loans to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and rural property owners in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas. The bank is a part of the Farm Credit System, the nation's oldest and largest source of rural financing.



Shout out to the FHS art students for our window art at WT Services! I said I was a "Peanuts" fan and they painted the cutest Snoopy and Woodstock to go with our Christmas trees, snowflakes, snowmen, lights and bells! We love it! Job well done! — Annette Loflin via Facebook

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

Friona Weather December 15-21	T ☀️ 43   20 E 10-15	F ☁️ 39   19 NE 5-10	S ☀️ 45   23 WSW 5-10	S ☁️ 52   23 SW 15-25	M ☁️ 44   19 N 10-20	T ☁️ 49   28 SSW 20-30	W ☁️ 47   13 WSW 15-25	Precipitation December 0.10 Year 10.70	Burn Ban <b>No</b>
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# TakeFive

## A Friona Star Interview

Jose (Joe) Mejia

### Faith, Family, Friends, & Friona

When Joe Mejia first arrived in Friona in 1972 one of first things he noticed was a sign that encouraged travelers to "Visit Friona...Stay Awhile". Joe took that advice to heart and this November marks 50 years that he has called Friona home. The "old-timer" dropped by the Star and reminisced about the past half-century and what Friona means to him.

emotional support. My friends from St. Teresa's Church and Friona Noon Lions Club also contributed to my benefit and growth. One of my favorite Bible verses is Philipians 4:13 which states, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."



**[FS] How did you find your way to Friona?**

In 1972 my mom, Dora Mejia, moved our family from California to Texas hoping that the Texas panhandle would bring endless opportunities for her children. Even though she was a widow and illiterate, she knew that education was the key to success.

**[FS] What are some of your favorite memories from the past 50 years?**

Sometimes things change and we just take them for granted. For example, the "new" St. Teresa Catholic Church and the "new" hospital. It took a lot of hard work to make those dreams a reality. Also, the new Primary School, Post Office, Library, and two new Allsup's stores didn't just happen. A lot of effort has been expended to make Friona a nicer place to live and I appreciate those who have done the heavy lifting.

We lived with a relative at Black when we first arrived and then moved to 1307 Walnut in Friona which became our family homestead.

**[FS] Where does your passion for education come from?**

Two main sources. First, it was my mom's awareness of the importance of education that inspired her to bring us to Texas. Second, it is the first-hand experience of how education can improve your life. I am living proof that education

**[FS] Who have been the biggest influences in your life?**

No logré mis metas solo. I did not achieve my goals alone. I had help. In 1974 Robert Neelley and Gary Brown took a chance on a young high school graduate and hired me to work at Friona State Bank. That job gave me a steady income and helped me earn a banking degree. My 21 years at FSB gave me the skills necessary to later own and operate Pepitos Burritos for 13 years, SACAME Bail Bonds for 10 years, and currently JSM Financial & Joe's Income Tax. Also, Baker Duggins, Cecil Maddox, Raymond Adams, and W.D. Buske were there at the right place and time to provide me with financial and

does make a difference! I am proud to say that my siblings Marcos, Maria, Miguel (Mickey), and Martin are all Friona High School graduates. Antonio (Marines), Osvaldo (Army), Marcos (Marines), Martin (Air Force) are also veterans. My siblings Benito, Antonio, Osvaldo, and Juanita did not attend Friona schools.

Furthermore, my daughters, Rachel & Jessica are high school graduates and have earned college degrees as well as postgraduate degrees. My grandchildren Gabriel, Angela, and Jonis also have college degrees. I even have nieces and nephews who graduated from Friona High School. They are Veronica Mejia, Benito III Mejia, Denora Mejia, Roy Flores, Raymond Flores, Richard

Flores and Antonio Mejia Jr.

**[FS] What does the future look like?**

I remember another slogan the Chamber of Commerce used back in the 70s. It said "If you lived in Friona...you would be home". I did not think that would ever apply to me but after 50 years it seems to have happened. I would like to encourage everyone to support and pursue education for themselves and their family. Also, look around the community and find those in need that you can help. You will be helping yourself in the process. I live in Friona and I am HOME. Time may march on, but at least we will always have our memories. Thanks to all who made it happen!!!



Joe Mejia & daughters (l-r) Rachel and Jessica

### Community Calendar

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

- December 15**
  - Early release from school for students
- December 16**
  - Early Release from school for everyone
- December 17**
  - Local Stock Show at Community Center
- December 19**
  - Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center
  - Friona Noon Lions meet at The Farmwife Kitchen
- December 21**
  - Library Book Shop at 618 Euclid is open from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- December 22**
  - Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center
- December 25**
  - Christmas Day
- December 29**
  - Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center
- January 5**
  - Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center

### Ivy Cottage Bridal Registry

Carly Drake & Christopher Brian Rodriguez

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

Come check out our greenhouse!

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FRIONA, TX

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Friday 11-5 • Saturday 10-3

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Tyler Schilling & Justana Tate  
Kendall Barnett & Oyama Buchanan

Call: 602-739-0813

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#### 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](mailto: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 CAPIW.10, Capitol P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Tx 78768. 512-463-0702. fax 512-476-7016. Amarillo office; 320 So. Polk, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lobby Box 28, Amarillo 79101. 806-372-3327, fax 806-342-0327.

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## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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P-1616  
solution on page 3

### ACROSS

- belch
- TXism: "beats anything I \_\_\_ saw"
- space agcy. in Houston
- Pickens of film "Streets of Laredo"
- TXism: "a horse of a different color"
- male mail carrier
- TX Kenny Rogers' "I Don't \_\_\_ You"
- TXism: "he could put a loop \_\_\_ on a mule's back" (good roper)
- TX Nolan threw seven \_\_\_-hitters
- Muslim ruler
- UH basketball team from 1982 to 1984: "\_\_\_ Slama Jama"
- TXism: "jumpy \_\_\_ on ice"
- TXism: "movin' \_\_\_ fiddle" (dance fast)
- former Cowboy star RB Emmitt (init.)
- "Hell \_\_\_ Fury Like a Woman Scorned"
- stats for Astro Yordan Alvarez
- Texas "wheeler dealer" Billy Sol
- TXism: "confused as a petrified forest"
- make fun of
- Kia Sedona, e.g.
- in Winters, "\_\_\_ Hale Museum"

### DOWN

- Dallas-born actor Robby
- Texas birth town of Dale Evans
- Houstonian is a Houston \_\_\_
- flat-bottomed boat
- O'Brien of Texas-based "The Over-the-Hill Gang" (init.)
- bigger than normal TX Dan Jenkins book: "\_\_\_-Tough"
- Texas baseball great, Speaker
- Texas drink: \_\_\_ tea
- injury for Astro or Ranger pitchers: \_\_\_ cuff
- joins the army
- dir. from Weatherford to Quanah
- this Pilgrim co-founded "Pilgrim's Pride" in Texas
- black-\_\_\_ pea
- when the water level stops falling on the Texas coast (2 wds.)
- word used with "flea" or "farmers"
- Austin band: "Asleep \_\_\_ the Wheel"
- small drink of liquor
- TXism: "dumb as a \_\_\_"
- cheddar & provolone
- TXism: "we locked lips"
- \_\_\_ Belo started The Dallas Morning News
- slasher film: "The Texas Chain \_\_\_ Massacre" (1974)
- small unit of matter
- groups of singers at church or school

- Diez \_\_\_ Septiembre"
- diplomacy need
- \_\_\_dale, Texas
- TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse \_\_\_"
- age of college freshmen, mostly
- cinnamon \_\_\_
- TX Don Henley co-wrote "\_\_\_ Eyes"
- terrorist's roadside bomb (abbr.)
- said when a child falls: "\_\_\_-daisy"
- joint between hand and arm



# Small Town Cookin' By Jeri Lynn White

## Oatmeal Muffins

December 19th is National Oatmeal Muffin Day. This recipe has blueberries, because I can't resist a good muffin recipe with blueberries. The oats are just a bonus.

**Blueberry Oatmeal Muffins**  
www.sallysbakingaddiction.com

### Ingredients

- 1 cup (240ml) milk
- 1 cup (80g) old-fashioned whole rolled oats
- 1 and 1/4 cups (156g) all-purpose flour (spoon & leveled)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (115g) unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
- 1/2 cup (120ml) honey
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup (190g) fresh or frozen blueberries (see note if using frozen)



### Instructions

Combine milk and oats. Set aside for 20 minutes so the oats puff up and soak up some moisture. This is crucial to the recipe! (I usually melt the butter now so it has a few minutes to cool.) Don't do this the night before as that's too long for soaking. If you find the oats haven't soaked up any moisture after 20 minutes, give it a stir and wait 10 more minutes. Preheat oven to 425°F (218°C). Spray a 12-count muffin pan with nonstick spray or use cupcake liners. Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda,

cinnamon, and salt together in a large bowl until combined. Set aside. Whisk the melted butter, honey, egg, and vanilla extract together in a medium bowl until combined. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients, stir a few times, then add the soaked oats (milk included, do not drain) and blueberries. Fold everything together gently just until combined. Spoon the batter into liners, filling them all the way to the top. Top with oats and a light sprinkle of coconut sugar, if desired. Bake for 5 minutes at 425 then, keeping the muffins in

the oven, reduce the oven temperature to 350°F (177°C). Bake for an additional 16-17 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. The total time these muffins take in the oven is about 22-23 minutes, give or take. (For mini muffins, bake 11-13 minutes at 350°F (177°C).) Allow the muffins to cool for 5 minutes in the muffin pan, then transfer to a wire rack to continue cooling. Muffins stay fresh covered at room temperature for a few days, then transfer to the fridge for up to 1 week.

## Happy Birthday

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Dec. 15</b><br/>Sylvia Ingram<br/>Connie Willard<br/>Deena (Willard) Sellers<br/>Luke London<br/>Haden Smiley<br/>Deven Black<br/>Don Reeve<br/>Caitlin Bronniman<br/>Jennifer (Smith) Jolly<br/>Brenda Patterson<br/>Lori Holcomb<br/>Sarah Correa</p> <p><b>Dec. 16</b><br/>Michael Stanberry<br/>Megan Carr<br/>Kyle Jamerson<br/>Travis Stewart<br/>Rhett Houston<br/>Paul Graham<br/>David Carranza<br/>Cheri Williams<br/>Toby Martinez<br/>Abayomi Salinas</p> <p><b>Dec. 17</b><br/>Mary Joyce Barnett<br/>Jason Hankins<br/>Jim Schlenker<br/>Cynthia Silva<br/>Vanessa Hernandez<br/>DeeDee Davila<br/>Michael Prokop</p> | <p><b>Dec. 18</b><br/>Bud Rainey<br/>Logan Loflin<br/>Maxwell Moroney<br/>Wade Procter<br/>Brittany (Anthony) Field<br/>Michael Scott<br/>Stephanie Madrigal<br/>Amanda Zapata</p> <p><b>Dec. 19</b><br/>Wes Drake<br/>Jason Rector<br/>Lonnie Busch<br/>Noah Houston<br/>Jazmin Bautista<br/>Jaxson Peace<br/>Elian Aguirre</p> <p><b>Dec. 20</b><br/>Maria Davila<br/>Rocky Nichols<br/>Deloris McNeely<br/>Faith Cooper<br/>C.J. Tamez<br/>Abigail Rodriguez<br/>Michael Bautista<br/>Kyndal Moyer<br/>Staci Hand<br/>Craig McCloy<br/>Harper Pack</p> <p><b>Dec. 21</b><br/>Robert Sandoval<br/>Lindsey Pitsch<br/>Chip Stevenson</p> |
|---|---|

## Holiday motorists will see lower prices

By GasBuddy

Average gasoline prices in Texas have fell 5.0 cents in the last week, averaging \$2.66 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's survey of 13,114 stations in Texas. Prices in Texas are 39.8 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 19.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas was priced at \$2.09 while the most expensive was \$4.49 per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 14.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.21 per gallon. The national average is down 56.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 11.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 14.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.91 per gallon.

"Not only has the decline in gasoline prices lasted five straight weeks, with again every state seeing a weekly decline in its average, but average diesel prices have fallen in 49 states over the last week as well. The relief is saving Americans roughly \$20 per fill-up compared to six months ago," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

De Haan added, "On the previously hard-hit West Coast, average prices have fallen nearly \$2 per gallon since October. Fifteen states now have average gasoline prices of \$2.99 or less, with several more to join this week. We remain on schedule to see the national average gas price fall below \$3 by Christmas, with diesel set to fall 50 cents to \$1 per gallon over the next six weeks or so. While the Keystone Pipeline shutdown has been getting some attention, motorists need not worry much about the oil-carrying pipeline for now. There is no expected impact to gasoline prices as of now."

GasBuddy data is compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

## Check Your Mirrors

By Sue Jane Sullivan



### Support your local news by giving a subscription for Christmas

This is not self-promotion for my column. Even though I feel I can hold my own with Tumbleweed Smith, I come cheap. So, this is not a plug for me.

Surely you have family and friends who have left Briscoe County, Dickens County, Fisher County, and Parmer County and other communities in your area. Just as surely, they might enjoy keeping up with things back home.

With a subscription to any of the papers for whom I write, your gift recipients can learn about happenings in Old Glory and Matador. Why miss out on the local Christmas parades that still have homemade floats tossing candy canes? The people in your life who have moved away might want to be aware of who died, who won the school's basketball tournament, or who took home the Grand Champion banners.

For the past two years now, I have done the easy part of writ-

ing a short column and covering some football games (for Floydada). Behind the scenes are publishers, editors, reporters, photographers, sorters, stackers, printers, and those assigned to deliver the papers. Many times, in small towns these people are one in the same performing multiple duties. All just to bring you news. Local news about people you know and love or people you are keeping an eye on in public office.

Below is information for the papers with whom I am associated. I encourage you to consider buying at least one subscription other than your own. My Double Mountain Chronicle goes to Wilmington, North Carolina, where my 40-year-old daughter is reading her mother's column among other things. She gets it—she grew up in a community with only 176 residents.

When you can, shop local. And that includes your hometown newspaper.

**Double Mountain Chronicle** \$44 yearly subscription rates for Fisher and surrounding counties; \$47 within Texas; \$50 for out-of-state; \$34 for online subscription (online is free when purchasing a print subscription)

**The Caprock Courier** \$40/yr for Briscoe, Motley, or Hall Counties; \$50/yr elsewhere in Texas and out-of-state; and \$39/yr or \$5/mo for online subscriptions; \$60/yr combo subscription for print and online

**The Friona Star** \$30 yearly subscription Rates in Parmer County; \$40 for out of county; \$24 digital e-Star subscription

**The Texas Spur** \$40/yr for mailing addresses with Dickens and Kent Counties (\$35/yr for residents 65 and older); \$50/yr elsewhere in Texas and out-of-state; and \$39/yr or \$5/mo for online subscriptions to www.thetexaspur.com You can pay online with this website or send payments to The Texas Spur, P.O. Box 430, Spur, TX 79370

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# Jesus Had a Step-dad?!?!?

By Brett Hoyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church

It can be a bit discouraging when the family structure in our culture could aptly be labeled “dysfunction junction,” but when you look at Jesus’ earthly family, the same could be said. In fact, Jesus belonged to an unwed mother and even had a step-father! I hope that didn’t destroy your high and holy Christmas pedestal, but it does get your attention to the reality that Jesus came into our world of sin and dysfunction to save us from it. On the

outside, Mary and Joseph looked like freaks who were living a lie in the name of God, but in reality they were following the Lord and His will for their life. Can you imagine the family relationships and friendships that broke down after the announcement that Mary was carrying the “Son of the Most High” (Luke 1:32-33), but can you also imagine the great honor and blessing is was to be so near to God’s plan to “save His people from their sins,”

(Matthew 1:21)?

God was willing to send Jesus into a scandalous situation, have Him born in a lowly manger, and grow up without the frills and luxuries of the rich, so that sinners could be saved from their sins and have life with God. Praise God that Jesus, even in His life didn’t shy away from “dysfunction junctions” like my life and yours, but He offers forgiveness of sin, life abundant and life eternal to all who follow Him.

## Panhandle Parables

### Eyes of a Child

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

Christmas stirs the child in most of us. I am sure there is a Grinch or Scrooge out there, but they just need reminded they are loved too. It is fun to see the excitement that fills this season of the year. Some folks decorate every inch of their house inside and out, others just a little tree. Cards are displayed as memories of the one who sent them flood the mind. Songs are sung of the birth of Christ, a reindeer and Santa, as well as a snow man. Hot chocolate is poured, and of course the Christmas candy, who could forget that? Kids operate on best behavior and love pours freely.

Let me come back to the children for a minute. The energy they expend during this time could light a small town for a year. Christmas break looms in the distance and I know the teachers are ready for a break too. This can all be seen if we step away from the commercialization of the Christmas season and just enjoy the gift of each other’s presence.

I am reminded of Jesus talking of the

faith of a child. A child’s faith lacks sophistication, it is simple and clear. A child’s faith believes because it wants to believe, not because some theologian has proven it to them, or some scientist has explained it all to their satisfaction. It is a faith that pleases God because it comes from a heart not burdened with worldliness. It is the faith that all believers are called to have, but many miss because adulthood is often accompanied with disappointment and struggle.

My encouragement to you this holiday season, as you remember your childhood, and reflect on special memories. As you smile at your children’s faces come Christmas morning that you too will restore to yourself the gift of a child’s faith. Drink from His Word and be refreshed in spirit that the King of Kings will receive that one gift from you that only you can give Him, your heart. This is possible but only if you will view Him with the wonder through the eyes of a child.

## Joy

By Teena Hughes

Years ago, while preparing a talk for a Walk to Emmaus, I spent quite a bit of time thinking about the difference between happiness and joy. I came to the conclusion that being happy is temporary; you can be happy one minute, and then sad, unhappy, angry the next; joy is everlasting. Pope Francis said, “To be happy is good, yet joy is something more. It’s another thing, something that does not depend on external motivations, or on passing issues: It is more profound. It is a gift.”

Hope Bolinger reminds us that Biblical joy comes from God alone. When I think about what God has done in my life, I feel joy. When I think about God giving us a Christmas Eve grandchild, I feel joy. When I think about the way I came to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I feel the joy and wonder I felt when I knew God was choosing me to be His child. These are just a few examples of joy that I have not earned; that I did not deserve; that I never knew would mean so much to me, but they were given to me by God. And, when God gives you joy, He doesn’t take it back; John 16:22 says no one can take joy from us. We may, for whatever reason, decide to lose our joy, but that is

a choice we make.

This is the third week of Advent, and after two weeks of introspection, contemplation of our sins, repentance, and getting our hearts right with God, we are getting closer and closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Methodist minister Kathy Brumbaugh points out that the closer we get to the celebration of the Nativity, “the songs and hymns sung in churches across the world become more and more joyful and expectant. Each week, as we draw closer to celebrating Christmas with family and friends and invited guests, it is joy that should be leading the season.”

It is this week that the rose pink Candle of Joy was lit in churches and homes. It is also known as the Shepherd Candle, because according to Bolinger, “this candle reflects the joy that comes through Jesus’ arrival, and through the salvation He has gifted us...It is an eager anticipation about wonderful things to come. The shepherds experienced this as they ran to Bethlehem to see Jesus.”

There are several reasons why this candle is pink rather than purple. First of all, pink is a liturgical color for joy or rejoicing.

Brumbaugh offers that, “In the Catholic church and Anglican Communion, it is known as Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday, because it is representative of the beginning of the mass in which the priest enters saying, ‘Rejoice! Rejoice in the Lord always!’ Again, I say rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4).

Brumbaugh notes the pink candle marks the halfway mark of the Advent Season, and it is a “time to be joyful in the coming of the Christ.”

Bolinger makes the point that, “Joy is essential to the Christian experience. We cannot get far without it, and we need it as we, like the shepherds, anticipate the coming of our Savior.”

According to Brumbaugh, rather than worrying about getting ready for Christmas, we need to take a break in this Advent season to be joyful about the many ways God has blessed us this year. We need to remember God’s love is an eternal love based on His goodness and mercy, no matter what the circumstances are, and that should always bring us joy!!!

Take care, everyone, and I hope you are filled with more and more of God’s joy as we near the celebration of the birth of Jesus and anticipate His Second Coming!!!

Send your church news to the

**Friona★Star**

frionastar@wtrt.net

# Area Church Directory

## Friona

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Pastor D.J. Lewis  
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Pastor Brett Hoyle  
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Website-www.fbcfriona.com

**FRIONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
8<sup>th</sup> & Pierce • 806-250-3045  
Pastor David McGaughy  
Email-frionaoum@wtrt.net  
Website-www.frionaumc.com

**IGLESIA EVANGELICA NUEVA JERUSALEN**  
701 E. 11th • P.O. Box 655 • 806-346-9725  
Pastor Benito Mejia  
benitomejia@live.com

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

**SIXTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
502 W. 6<sup>th</sup> • 806-250-2769  
Jeff Procter, Minister

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

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

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

**TENTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
10<sup>th</sup> & Euclid • 806-250-5236  
Gerall Wyly

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
1601 Euclid • 806-250-3635

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

**FRIONA PARA CRISTO LLAMADOS A CONOCERLE**  
411 Ashland • 806-247-2217  
Pastor Aurelio & Cynthia Silva



## Bovina

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
308 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
806-251-1632  
Pastor Frank Landry

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

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
205 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
806-251-1124  
Pastor Larry Mitchell

**ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
401 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
806-251-1511  
Pastor Gregory Bunyan

**LA IGLESIA DE DIOS DEL PRIMOGENITO**  
The Church of God of the Firstborn  
102 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

**IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA**  
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806-251-5232  
Pastor Rafael Marin

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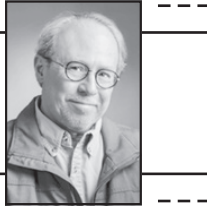
**“We Live by Faith, Not by Sight.”**  
2 Corinthians 5:7

**Friona★Star**

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**State Capital Highlights**

By Gary Borders



**Retiring senator named Secretary of State**

Retiring state Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, has been named the next secretary of state by Gov. Greg Abbott. She replaces John Scott, who announced his resignation effective at year's end.

Scott was the third nominee for the post not confirmed by the Senate. He was appointed in October 2021, and the Legislature has not met since then. Nelson, who is completing 30 years in the Senate, should be a strong candidate for approval because of her lengthy tenure there. A new legislative session convenes in January.

The secretary of state's office, among other duties, oversees the state's election process.

"I look forward to this new chapter of public service and appreciate the confidence Governor Abbott has placed in me to serve as Secretary of State," Nelson said in a statement. "Voters expect fair elections with accurate, timely results, and I am committed to making that happen. Texans with all political views should have faith in our election system."

**TikTok banned on all state-issued phones**

Abbott last week ordered all Texas state agencies to ban use of the social media app TikTok on any government-issued device, saying it risks allowing China to gain access to "critical U.S. information."

The popular video-sharing application is owned by a Chinese company and is used by an estimated 85 million people in the United States.

TikTok maintains the Chinese government has never tried to access the data of its users, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Abbott said he is prepared to work with state lawmakers to make the ban permanent during the next session, and to extend the ban to devices issued by local governments, such as cities and counties.

"We must work together to stop the Chinese government's efforts to collect, store, and distribute Texans' data and personal information," Abbott wrote in a letter to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan.

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.

**★ Scoreboard ★**

**Varsity Boys Basketball**

*Tuesday 12/6*

<b>Clovis Christian</b>	16	13	16	2	<b>47</b>
<b>Friona</b>	4	4	11	8	<b>27</b>

*Kaden Jeter 14 points  
Jose Luis Saucedo 5 points*

**Smyer Tournament 4th place finish**

<b>Southcrest Chri.</b>	8	1	11	5	<b>25</b>
<b>Friona</b>	6	10	12	11	<b>39</b>

*Kaden Jeter 27 points*

<b>Smyer</b>	12	12	4	10	<b>38</b>
<b>Friona</b>	6	1	17	10	<b>34</b>

*Jose Luis Saucedo 14 points,  
Kaden Jeter 8 points*

<b>Lubbock Roos.</b>	27	22	17	15	<b>81</b>
<b>Friona</b>	7	9	4	8	<b>28</b>

*Kaden Jeter 13 points, Justen Trevino 7 points*

**Kaden Jeter named  
ALL-TOURNAMENT Team**



The Friona Chieftains finished in 4th place at the Smyer Basketball Tournament last week. The Chiefs were 1-2 in the tourney and Kaden Jeter had a total of 48 points for the 3 games. He was named to the All-Tournament team.

**District 2 4-H Food Show - Saturday, December 3, 2022**



**Delynda Wium (Friona)**  
2nd place Senior Side Dish



**Millie Nichols (Farwell)**  
4th place Intermediate Side Dish



**Madelyn Wium (Friona)**  
2nd Place Junior Side Dish

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Don't throw away your empty aluminum cans. Please place any cans you have in the trailer located on the north side of the Friona Fire Department building on Main Street. Proceeds from the sale of the cans will go to the FHS Senior Class and help fund the graduation party.



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- 2.) Click on the "newspaper archives" link
- 3.) Search

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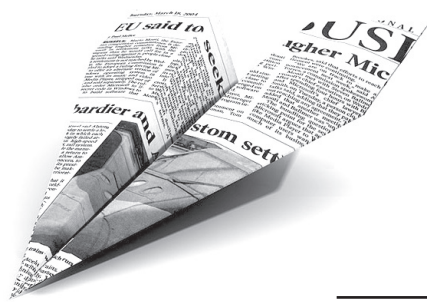
## FRIONA FLASHBACKS

From the Friona Star Archives



It was a big day for Friona Banking Center's grand opening celebration last week. Above, Ab Hendley is interviewed by Captain Billy of Hereford's KPAN. The radio station did a remote broadcast from the bank throughout the day. Ron Carr photo. (Friona Star, Friday, December 20, 2002)

## Advertise in the Star Classifieds



Call 806-250-2211 or email [frionastar@wtrt.net](mailto:frionastar@wtrt.net)

**Plants at Christmas Time!**

Do you know where the spices we use come from? How about the nuts and oils?

I've got it...err...almost!

Oooh, these cinnamon sticks smell wonderful!

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3. green leaves, white berries; custom says people kiss under this
4. round, made from evergreen branches; decorated with red bows, pine cones
5. decorated with lights, ornaments, star
6. placed as bedding in a manger or made into ornaments for the tree

**In the Kitchen**

Oh, I see...wreaths #1 and #10 are exactly the same.

**Two Just Alike!**

1 10

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Sid Felan was honored at a Retirement Party last Friday at the Bailey County Coliseum Meeting Room. The event was in recognition of his 32 years of dedicated service to Bailey County and Parmer County as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. Helping to celebrate his legacy of achievements were: (l-r) Probation Officer Jose Martinez, Bailey County Judge Basil Nash, Parmer County Judge Trey Ellis, Sid Felan, Izzy Carrasco, Judge Gordon H. Green (retired).

## ★ Jr. High News ★



Congratulations to the FJH November/December Students of the Month! They embody FJH's mission and exhibit good character, leadership, and personal academic growth. In the photo: (l-r) Jaretzi Saucedo (6th), Araceli Gonzalez (7th), Stevie Herring (8th), Noah Aguilar (8th), Giovanni Santiago (7th), Blake McKimmy (6th).

## Early Voting

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

Most American women did not nab the vote until 1920, except those residing in Wyoming. Their rights were bestowed on December 10, 1869.

History.com tells us that “though some men recognized the important role women played in frontier settlement, others voted for women’s suffrage only to bolster the strength of conservative voting blocks. In Wyoming, some men were also motivated by sheer loneliness. In 1869, the territory had over 6,000 adult males and only 1,000 females, and area men hoped women would be more likely to



settle in the rugged and isolated country if they were granted the right to vote.”

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends *New Women in the Old West: From Settlers to Suffragists*,

*an Untold American Story* by Winifred Gallagher.

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



## Obituaries



### Donna Mears



Donna Mears, 86 of Friona passed away December 8, 2022. Viewing was held from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM with family visitation from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Tuesday, December 13, 2022 in the Ron Smiley Memorial Chapel of HANSARD FAMILY with Celebration of Life Services scheduled for 2:00 PM Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at the Union Congregational Church of Friona with Rev. Gary Johnson, officiating. Burial following in the Friona Cemetery by HANSARD FAMILY Funeral Home of Friona.

Donna was born October 15, 1936 in the family home in Norman, Oklahoma, to Roy Virgil Miller and Eva Geraldine Roysden Miller. She married William Sam Mears on May 31, 1958 in Friona, Texas. The couple’s first home was in Borger, Texas. Sam and Donna returned to Friona in 1962 and lived there for the rest of their lives. They were happily married for 61 1/2 years.

Donna attended her first three years of school in New Orleans. She graduated from Friona High School in 1954 and from Texas Tech University in 1958 with a BS in Education with a major in Physical Education and a minor in Math. Her first job was teaching high school math at FHS for four years. Later, she served as Music Secretary at First Baptist Church for five years. She was the office manager at In-

theden Graphics since 1986. She was also active in the Women’s Modern Study Club including serving as President. The service organization supported community activities including Project Christmas Card. She taught Sunday school for many years and was actively involved in WMU (Women’s Missionary Union) which supported mission work in the U.S. and around the world.

Three of her favorite activities were reading, cooking, and sewing. A conservative estimate is that she read over 5,000 books during her lifetime. Zane Grey was her favorite Western author. Her culinary talents included not only meals but also canning, freezing, homemade jellies and jams, as well as Butter Pecan ice cream for Noon Lions Club members when they cooked fries for the cheeseburger festival. She sewed clothes for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even for her great’s dolls. During the past year, she made baby blankets that were

donated to hospitals, churches, and family resource centers.

One of her greatest joys the past few years has been communicating via email, texts, and FaceTime with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren on her Apple iPad and iPhone.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Sam; her parents; three brothers, Roy V., Ross, and Johnny; and two sisters, Mary Lou and Janice.

Those to carry on her legacy include son Clint Mears of Friona, and daughter Sarah Mears Gerles and husband Randy Gerles of Friona. Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren include Randy and Sarah’s children: daughter Mandy, husband Nathan Rigler, and sons Noah and Nash of Abernathy, Texas; daughter Amy, husband David Bridges, and daughters Rowyn and Rylee of Carrollton, Texas; daughter Andrea, husband Rhett King, son Ronin, and daughter August of Frisco, Texas; son Ryan Gerles, wife Lindsey, and sons Ethan and Jordan of Plano, Texas.

Memorials may be sent to the Friona Public Library 109 W. 7th St. Friona, Texas 79035

You may send blessings to the family and sign the online guest book at: [hansardfamily.com](http://hansardfamily.com)



### Larry Vance Johnson



Larry Vance Johnson passed away Saturday, December 10th, 2022. Larry was born to Truett & Thelma Johnson in Hereford, Texas on August 17th, 1947. He was raised in Friona and later played football for Friona High School as a starting halfback. After graduation he attended West Texas State University where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Larry married Debbie (Jarecki) at the Friona United Methodist Church on August 22nd, 1969.

He went on to work for Diamond Shamrock Refining and Marketing and was a Texas High School Football Official for many years. He later served as Vice President of Bar-F Gas & Oil.

Later in his career Larry was a representative of John Hancock Financial Services and President of the National Life Underwriters Association.

Larry is preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Nathan Johnson; father-in-law, Florian Jarecki; and brothers-in-law, Tom Jarecki and Les Jarecki.

He is survived by his wife Debbie, two sons

and daughters-in-law: Joshua & Kendra Johnson and Jeff & Jourdan Johnson; mother-in-law, Lorraine Jarecki; as well as his sister, brothers, and in-laws: Shirley & Mark Womble, Rick & Toni Johnson, Tony & Lori Johnson, Pam & Mike Steward, Susie & Rob Burton, and John & M’Lynda Jarecki. Larry is also survived by many loving cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The absolute joy of Larry’s life are the grandchildren he shared with Debbie: Atleigh (11), Case (9), Tristan (7), Ayden (7), Nathan (deceased), and Beacon (3).

A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm on Friday, December 16th at Friona United Methodist Church.



# Friona★Star

has an archive of past obituaries at [frienaonline.com](http://frienaonline.com)





# Friona Jr. High UIL Team and Individual Results, 2022-23

## Art SMART

### 6th Grade

\*Brenda Lopez-Pablo, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Karyme Rocha, 4th Place Individual  
 \*2nd Place Team (Brenda Lopez-Pablo, Karyme Rocha, Avril Wells)

### 7th Grade

\*Giovani Santiago, 2nd Place Individual  
 \*2nd Place Team (Isael Guzman, Yahaira Rivas, Giovani Santiago)

### 8th Grade

\*Anneliese Rocha, Tie 5th Place Individual  
 \*Irma Ruiz Mendez, Tie 5th Place Individual  
 \*2nd Place Team (Isabel Hernandez de la Cruz, Aaliyah James, Anneliese Rocha, Irma Ruiz Mendez, Lexi Saldana, Sharon Serrano Tol)

## Chess Puzzles

### 6th Grade

\*Andrew Marquez, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Jalond Rejino-2nd Place Individual  
 \*Darius Gonzalez Rodriguez, 1st Place Individual  
 \*1st Place Team (Darius Gonzalez Rodriguez, Andrew Marquez, Darien Padilla, Jalond Rejino)

### 7th Grade

\*Colt Avalos, 2nd Place Individual  
 \*Cade Stowers, 4th Place Individual  
 \*Rolando Ladezma Gonzalez, 6th Place Individual  
 \*1st Place Team (Octavio Arias, Colt Avalos, Rolando Ladezma Gonzalez, Cade Stowers)

## Calculator Applications

### 6th Grade

\*Kolton Thompson, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*Eli Rosales, 5th Place Individual  
 \*2nd Place Team (Eli Rosales, Kolton Thompson, Angelica Villarreal, Avril Wells)

### 7th Grade

Alyaha Rubalcava, 4th Place Individual

### 8th Grade

\*Amberly Madrid, 6th Place Individual

## Dictionary Skills

### 6th Grade

\*Natalie Achor, 4th Place Individual  
 \*Neylan Lara, 5th Place Individual  
 \*2nd Place Team (Natalie Achor, Neylan Lara, Aylen Moreno, Jaylee Perez)

## Editorial Writing

### 6th Grade

\*Natalie Achor, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Avril Wells, 4th Place Individual  
 \*Fernando Perez, 6th Place Individual

## Impromptu Speaking

### 6th Grade

\*Melanie Estrada, 2nd Place Individual

### 7th Grade

\*Bella Flores, 6th Place Individual

### 8th Grade

\*Shelby Lewellen, 4th Place Individual  
 \*Stevie Herring, 6th Place Individual

## Listening Skills

### 6th Grade

\*Brianna Rocha, 1st Place Individual  
 Maps, Graphs & Charts  
 6th Grade  
 \*Natalie Achor, 2nd Place Individual  
 \*Angelica Villarreal, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*Aylen Moreno-5th Place Individual  
 \*2nd Place Team (Natalie Achor, Aylen Moreno, Angelica Villarreal)

### 7th Grade

\*Denzel Perez, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Bryan Cecena, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*1st Place Team (Bryan Cecena, Fernando Moreno, Denzel Perez)

## Mathematics

### 6th Grade

\*Kolton Thompson, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Darien Padilla, 2nd Place Individual  
 \*Aylen Moreno, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*1st Place Team (Aylen Moreno, Darien Padilla, Eli Rosales, Kolton Thompson)

### 7th Grade

\*Nathaniel Padilla, Tie 5th Place Individual  
 \*3rd Place Team (Fatima Grado

Toledo, Wendy Ha Garcia, Jesus Campos Mendoza, Nathaniel Padilla)

### 8th Grade

\*Andres Gutierrez, 5th Place Individual  
 \*Aaliyah Padilla, 6th Place Individual  
 \*3rd Place Team (Andrew Gutierrez, Aaliyah Padilla, Maite Vega, Yvette Zetino Garcia)

## Modern Oratory

### 6th Grade

\*Natalie Achor, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Aylen Moreno, 2nd Place Individual  
 \*Adrian Diaz, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*Darien Padilla, 4th Place Individual

### 7th Grade

\*Jett Jerden, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Annisson Steelman, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*Peyton McFarland, 4th Place Individual  
 \*Leah Salazar, 5th Place Individual

### 8th Grade

\*Stevie Herring, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Noah Aguilar, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*Kyleigh Stephens, 4th Place Individual

## Music Memor

### 6th Grade

\*3rd Place Team (Analee Aragon, Ivanna Guevara, Avril Wells)

### 8th Grade

\*Kyleigh Stephens, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Stevie Herring, 3rd Place Individual

## Number Sense

### 6th Grade

\*Eli Rosales, 6th Place Individual

### 7th Grade

\*Nathaniel Padilla, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Ivy Schueler, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*1st Place Team (Jesus Mendoza Campos, Nathaniel Padilla, Ivy Schueler)

### 8th Grade

\*Aaliyah Padilla, 2nd Place Individual  
 \*3rd Place Team (Noah Aguilar, Aaliyah Padilla, Alessander Vega)

## Oral Reading

### 7th Grade

\*Alexis Pharis, 5th Place Individual

### 8th Grade

Abigail Marquez, 2nd Place Individual

## Ready Writing

### 6th Grade

\*Fernando Perez, 3rd Place Individual

### 7th Grade

\*Fatima Grado Toledo, 5th Place Individual

### 8th Grade

\*Abigail Marquez, 3rd Place Individual

## Science

### 7th Grade

\*Cade Stowers, 1st Place Individual

### 8th Grade

\*Amberly Madrid-4th Place Individual  
 \*2nd Place Team (Noah Aguilar, Heriberto Gallegos, Amberly Madrid, Yvette Zetino Garcia)

## Social Studies

### 6th Grade

\*Fernando Moreno, 1st Place Individual  
 \*Porter Gilley, 4th Place Individual  
 \*Dustin Shields, 6th Place Individual  
 \*1st Place Team (Porter Gilley, Fernando Moreno, Dustin Shields)

### 7th Grade

\*Kaylani Rodriguez, 6th Place Individual  
 \*3rd Place Team (Araceli Gonzalez, Fatima Grado Toledo, Liandra Ramos, Kaylani Rodriguez)

## Spelling

### 6th Grade

\*Luis Grado, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*Jayce Polk, 4th Place Individual  
 \*Fernando Perez, 6th Place Individual  
 \*1st Place Team (Luis Grado, Fernando Perez, Jayce Polk, Avril Wells)

### 8th Grade

\*Kailey Jaramillo, 3rd Place Individual  
 \*3rd Place Team (Kailey Jaramillo, Kyleigh Stephens, Alessander Vega)

## Calling All Panhandle Residents: Newly Released Fcc Maps Need Public Input By January 13!

Region 16, The City of Amarillo, Amarillo Area Foundation, Connected Nation, local businesses, vested business partners, and nonprofit organizations have been working together in “the Panhandle Spirit” to build what we call “Panhandle Connected.” We understand that everything works together as an ecosystem. We need to attract, train, and maintain local talent, but we can’t do this unless there are strong business development and educational opportunities. Furthermore, business development and education opportunities can’t exist without modern means of connectivity which is why we need to work together for the benefit of all. The goal of “Panhandle Connected” is to ensure that all students and cities in the Panhandle of Texas have access to sustainable, low-cost, and equitable internet connectivity.

**On November 18, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released the first**

**draft of a new National Broadband Map, that displays where broadband internet services are - and are not - available across the country.**

### Why Is Public Input So Important?

The recently released National Broadband Map will help the federal government decide where it should direct many millions of federal dollars under the national Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. Identifying inaccuracies in the maps produced by the FCC will help Texas get its full share of funding. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is encouraging entities and individuals to submit their challenges before Jan. 13 to give the FCC time to process them and to make sure they are included in the final version of the map that will be used to set funding allocations for states—which will be announced June 30. Community voice is critical

as the process for submitting challenges.

### Understanding the Map & Challenge Process

To improve the accuracy of these data sets, the FCC created the challenge process for states, local com-

munities, and the general public to challenge both the accuracy of the physical map and service availability data.

Since Sept. 12, the FCC has been accepting feedback on the data from providers and state, local, and Tribal governments. **How-**

**ever, the FCC’s newly published map does not yet include results from these location challenges and is now taking input from all community members. We have already heard feedback from communities that these maps contain multiple**

**errors. Once challenges are resolved, the updated data will be distributed to providers before the next round of reporting, which starts on December 31.**

*For more information, visit [panhandleconnected.org](http://panhandleconnected.org).*

**PANHANDLE CONNECTED**

**NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

**CHECK THE MAP!**

The FCC recently released new maps that will determine funding for broadband projects for many years to come. We need your help to make sure these maps are correct so that the Texas Panhandle is not left out of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand highspeed internet for all.

**Look up your resident and business to see how the map describes your internet service. If it is not correct (speeds not accurate, etc.), then file a challenge by following the easy directions on the site. You can do this from your cell phone!**

[panhandleconnected.org](http://panhandleconnected.org)



WISHING YOU A VERY

*Merry Christmas*

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PEACE, AND JOY

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**Empty Stocking Fund / Kiddie Drive**

Season's Greetings from a small group of FSIS-USDA at Cargill Meat Solutions. There are approximately 30 inspectors, which include a PHV, SCSIs, CSIs, & Food inspectors, located here in Friona, Texas. This year in our District we had a variety of Drives to reach out and help those in need in our communities. We have

enjoyed this year's Kiddie Drive/ Empty Stocking Fund knowing that some children will have gifts and toys to brighten their day. We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and may your hearts be filled with Joy and Happiness! Natividad (Neeto) Perez, USDA CSI and Carlos Martin, USDA Food Inspector for FSIS.



Decorative globe lights were recently installed along the fence on the north side of the Friona Junior High campus that faces Highway 60.

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  - Home Equity Loans
  - Consumer Loans

**We would like to invite you to our Christmas Tea for goodies and cider at our Friona location from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21.**

**"The bank designed with YOU in mind."**

**THREE LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU**

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