



Prairie Acres Birds

Friona Star

VOL. 82, NO. 47

FRIONA, TEXAS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2006

TWELVE PAGES

Parmer County cotton bale count

As of Monday, December 4, cotton gins in Parmer County reported a total of 65,590 bales ginned.

Reporting for the bale count are Friona Farmer's Co-Op, West Hub Gin, Clay's Corner, North Lazbuddie, Bovina Gin, Lariat Gin, Farwell Gin. Parmer County Cotton Growers was not counted.

Prairie Acres/Heritage Estates Christmas party

Prairie Acres and Heritage Estates will celebrate Christmas for the residents Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Families are urged to bring a large snack tray and at least one gift to go under the tree for your family member.

Livestock show time in January

The schedule for the annual junior livestock shows has been set. January brings a whirlwind of activity from county ag students, sponsors, and volunteers as the livestock show circuit begins with a flurry of local shows before students move on to larger venues in San Angelo, San Antonio, and Houston.

The Friona livestock show is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 4, at the Friona Community Center.

The Farwell show will be January 6 in Farwell. Lazbuddie will hold its livestock show at the Friona Community Center Saturday January 13.

The Parmer County Junior Livestock Show will be held January 18-20 at the community center.

Junior high band Christmas concert

The Friona junior high school bands will present their annual Christmas concert Thursday December 14 at 7 p.m. in the junior high auditorium.

Along with a selection of holiday favorites such as Silent Night, Jingle Bells, and I'll Be Home for Christmas, a special introduction of the students who qualified for the ATSSB All-Region junior high band is also planned.

The concert is free and the general public is encouraged to come out and enjoy an evening of music performed by our young people of Friona.

Catholic Daughters to give away coats

The Catholic Daughters of America will be distributing coats December 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Teresa's parish hall just north of the Calvary Baptist Church.

They have coats for adults and children. Anyone in need of a coat can come by. For information call Nellie at 250-5377 or Olga at 247-0041.

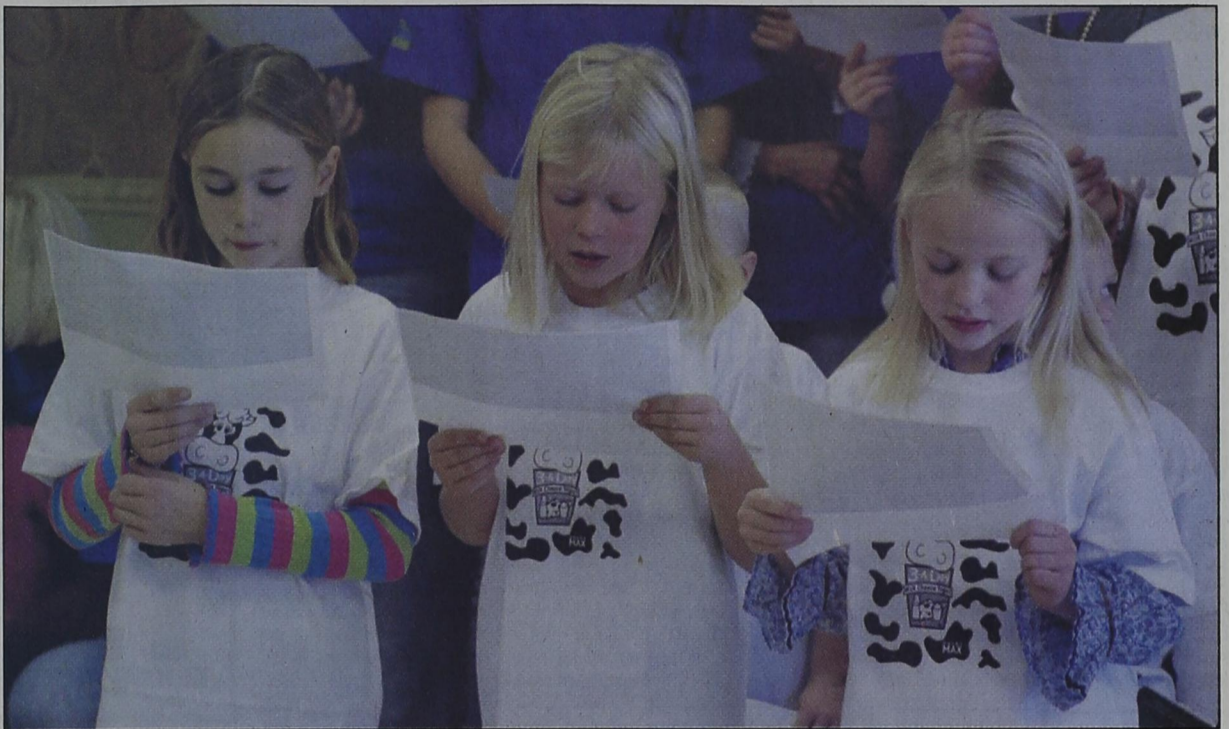
Texas Christmas ornaments available

A spokesperson for the Depot Heritage Society says that sales at the Country Jubilee Christmas bazaar were off quite a bit due to the weather.

The Depot Heritage Society still has a limited number of official Texas State Christmas ornaments left over.

The ornaments are now available at Donna Baker's Gift Shop across from the city park. Shop hours are 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11-2 on Saturday.

Ornaments are \$20 and a portion of the proceeds go for the upkeep of the Depot. The Depot Society also has a few ornaments from past years if anybody needs one to complete their collection.



ron carr photo

The Panhandle Dairy Women and their children entertained Prairie Acres residents Saturday afternoon December 2 with refreshments, Christmas carols, and gift bags for each resident. Above, l-r, Kim DeWit, Ellen Schilderink, and Michelle Ruyne join in the caroling.

Senate rejects \$4.8 billion farm disaster aid

The U.S. Senate rejected \$4.8 billion in disaster aid for U.S. farmers and ranchers on Tuesday, despite pleas that tens of thousands of producers could go broke without help.

Advocates vowed to try again next year, when Democrats control Congress and lawmakers try to wrap up work on bills to fund most of the

federal government. The White House has threatened to veto disaster aid.

Budget Committee chairman Judd Gregg, New Hampshire Republican, criticized the disaster package, saying it would send money to some growers who did not need it. But supporters said the legislation was critical to help those whose crops were hurt by

drought or other damaging weather this year.

"I will do everything I can," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, North Dakota Democrat, to attach the disaster aid package to a mammoth government-funding bill expected in late winter. Gregg derailed the package by objecting that it violated spending limits.

Senators voted 57-37 to exempt it but 60 votes are needed under Senate rules, so the package failed. Gregg said the package amounted to a 23 percent increase in farm subsidies for this year. The bill's

lead sponsor, Democrat Kent Conrad of North Dakota, said the high level of support indicated success is within reach in 2007.

The package would cover weather-related losses in 2005 and this year. Roughly half of the money would go to crop producers and an additional \$1.7 billion would compensate ranchers for livestock losses and higher feed costs. Aid would be paid on crop losses that exceed 35 percent of normal yields and at a fraction of market prices.

Drought scalded the Plains,

western Corn Belt and parts of the South this year. Wheat output was down 14 percent from 2005 but growers reaped bumper crops of corn, soybeans and cotton.

During debate, Gregg criticized a provision that would allow producers to collect up to \$10,000 if their net farm income declined in 2005 from 2004. There was no requirement, he said, to prove that weather damage was to blame so aid could go to farmers who "didn't do as well in 2005" for any reason.



ron carr photo

Can you spot the birds? The Prairie Acres bird aviary is a colorful and entertaining attraction for residents and visitors.

Enter the Chamber lighting contest

The Friona Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Christmas lighting contest for area residents. There is no entry fee required and prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 in Friona Bucks will be awarded.

Residents who have decorated for the season and wish to participate need to submit an entry form to the Chamber of Commerce. Forms are available at the Chamber office. The only requirement is name, address, and phone number. The entry form has a map of Friona on

the back and you are asked to draw a star on the map where your home is located.

Christmas decorations will be voted on by the public. For those who want to help with the judging, the Chamber will have marked maps available at the office. For more information go by the Chamber office or call 250-3491.

The deadline for entering your home in the lighting contest is 5 p.m. December 15.

Wind energy symposium held Monday in Friona

BY RON CARR

About forty local residents attended a wind energy meeting Monday December 4 sponsored by the Friona Economic Development Corporation. The focus of the meeting was potential growth of wind farm production of electricity.

Oldham County Judge Don Allred and West Texas A&M University professor Ken Starcher conducted the three-hour session held at the senior citizen Friendship House. Starcher is the Director of WT's Alternative Energy Institute.

Judge Allred advised attendees of Oldham County's venture into wind farm energy. Presently, a 70-windmill farm is being constructed in Oldham County to generate electricity for Xcel Energy's grid system. The cost to construct will be more than \$70 million and according to Judge Allred will add \$269 million to Oldham County's tax rolls.

The judge answered questions about what to look for in land leases, contracts, tax implications, and payments to land owners. He and Professor Starcher talked extensively about the future of wind as an alternate energy source and its

benefits to the Panhandle.

The major problem for expansion of wind farm energy in the Panhandle is lack of a power grid market to sell the electricity. The Panhandle and a part of Eastern New Mexico uses electricity produced by SPS/Xcel Energy. The rest of Texas is served by ERCOT. Until transmission lines can be built to carry electricity from the Panhandle over to ERCOT's grid there is a limit on how much market there is for wind farm electricity.

The two gentlemen stated the Panhandle has enough wind energy potential to furnish electricity not only to the state of Texas but to the entire United States. However, that depends on the approval, construction, and availability of transmission lines to carry the electricity from the wind farm to the power grids.

Three elements are involved in attracting a wind farm company: land, contract, and access. Several thousand acres are needed for the construction of the massive windmills; a contract to sell the electricity produced; and access to a power grid to transport the produc-

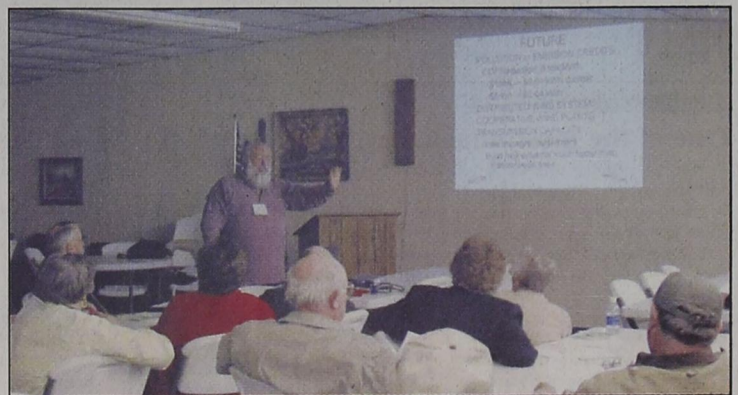
tion. Without these three elements in place, a wind farm company is not going to be interested in investing the millions to construct a wind farm.

Professor Starcher gave an interesting discussion on the science of wind energy and at what wind velocity, etc., the most electricity would be pro-

duced. Maximum efficiency depends on feet above sea level, sustainability of the wind velocity, and the mass of the wind. To the surprise of most of those present, he said the best electricity is produced through moderate winds. Most people tend to think the stronger the wind the more electric-

ity but that is not necessarily true, he told the audience.

Producers presented showed a lot of interest in the wind farm potential in Parmer County. Jim Bob Swafford of Bovina said he had already begun a wind research study analysis through the Bovina Economic Development Corporation.



ron carr photo

West Texas A&M professor Ken Starcher addresses the gathering at Monday night's wind farm energy meeting. Starcher, director of the WT Alternative Energy Institute, explained many issues related to construction and operation of Panhandle wind farms.



OUT HERE

by Ron Carr

hi it'll be your new chancellor

Being a chancellor seems like a pretty high calling.

Not many of us get to run around with the title of chancellor on our business cards. My dictionary says a chancellor is the chief minister of state in some governments (like Germany), or the chief administrative officer in some universities.

For many of us who look at the world from down here at ankle level, a chancellor is a pretty high-falutin' job. At least that is the way they are treated. The position, office, or department of a chancellor is called a chancellery. The places where they live are called castles or mansions.

In the case of Kent Hance, the new Texas Tech chancellor, the university bought him a cozy 9,000 square foot, \$1.65 million mansion. They have to fix it up some. When the remodel is done Tech will have about \$2 million in it and chancellor Kent won't have to worry about making monthly mortgage payments. We need

our chancellor to be comfy and content or else he might resign and we'll have to find another chancellor and hope he likes the nice mansion we bought.

They reason that the Tech chancellor needs a home large enough to entertain important rich people. The chancellor's main job, if I understand all I've read about it, is to wring money out of the state government and the wealthy Texas Tech alumni. His target is around \$500,000,000.

I don't mean Mr. Hance and other chancellors any disrespect. Wringing money is a tough job and somebody has to do it. You can't entertain wealthy donors on the deck of a doublewide.

Not being a college graduate I'm not sure what Texas Tech needs \$500,000,000 for. Guess I don't understand the intricacies of higher education. I'm also not sure how a mom and dad down in Tioga County who have scraped and saved to send Lucy to Texas Tech feel when

they see the Kentster moving into a \$2 million mansion.

Yes I know I just don't appreciate the finer aspects of keeping the doors open at a major university. It takes big bucks to furnish Lucy an education. In the meantime she is working part time as a waitress at the Bacon & Egg Diner and Bowling Alley just to pay for her books.

Yes I know the university needs big buildings, big laboratories, expensive research, and a nice gymnasium. In the meantime Lucy has to wash her only undies every three days and wear the same blouse at least twice a week so she can hold on long enough to get her education and move on in life.

Don't worry honey, help is on the way. The chancellor is connected all the way from Lubbock to Austin to Washington D.C. and he will be dragging bags of cash back real soon. No doubt most of the money Mr. Hance raises will go towards offsetting tu-

ition increases and helping students like Lucy who really want an education.

Mr. Hance started his chancelloring December 1, not in Lubbock but in Austin. According to a Lubbock Avalanche-Journal story, Mr. Hance was pitching the university and Health Sciences Center's budget to legislators. He has served before as a Tech business law professor, in the state legislature, and as a congressman in Washington. It was those "connections" that landed him the chancellorship.

Now it is time to produce. They are giving him a big house, a fat expense account, and a multi-million dollar salary. The article in the Lubbock A-J offered this as Mr. Hance's job description: "the system-governing board has made fundraising, political and private, his charge." Pretty simple: we'll pay you a lot of money to go raise a lot more money. (Where does all the tuition money go?)

Texas A&M, the University of North Texas, and Texas State University all have new chancellors. They will all be asking legislators for building funds and to offset the need for tuition increases by directing more money from state coffers.

We don't have to understand the high finance and the high falutin' society a chancellor moves around in. Let's just hope Mr. Hance's efforts are successful and that he doesn't lose sight of the real goal.

Her name is Lucy from Tioga County.

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**MEMBER
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Letters To The Editor

Dear Ron,

Until I read in the Star I didn't know why the service men in my house, all in Parmer County, wasn't listed. Charlie Wise was living in Parmer County when he was inducted in Army for 2 years. He fought in Italy in World War II.

My oldest boy James Russell Widner was in Navy and went to the Antarctic. Second son, LeRoy Widner, was in Army in Germany 2 years. I think 3 from one family is important enough to thank.

Wilma Wise

(We agree Mrs. Wise. Thank you for letting us know and thanks to your family for their service to our country.)



Medicare Part D saves dollars and lives

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

A government program that exceeds customer expectations while generating cost savings is rare indeed. The Medicare prescription drug benefit, or Part D, is one of those programs. Last January, Medicare began offering a prescription drug insurance program, and over 22 million seniors, including over two million Texans, have enrolled in Medicare Part D. Many of these enrollees previously did not have prescription drug benefits, but now 90 percent of Medicare recipients do have prescription drug coverage.

Private research and development by the pharmaceutical industry is revolutionizing medical care, as ailments are increasingly treated with medications instead of operations. By investing millions of dollars in the development of new medicines and therapies, manufacturers continue to introduce breakthrough treatments. Competing market forces keep the costs of these products down, and consequently, millions of Americans benefit from disease prevention and reduced recovery periods.

It is imperative for those who rely on Medicare to have access to affordable prescription drugs. When Congress first passed the law creating the drug benefit, estimates projected that seniors would pay an average monthly premium of \$37. Instead, the average premium is \$24, and there is no expected change for 2007. Statistics show enrollees have saved an average of \$1,200 this year on their prescription drug costs. Not surprisingly, a survey of current enrollees revealed that more than 80 percent are satisfied with their plans.

The program is also costing the government much less than originally estimated. Medicare recently reported a \$200 billion reduction in projected outlays over the next decade. Allowing insurance companies that offer prescription drug plans to negotiate with drug manufacturers provides significant savings — nearly \$7 billion this year alone. Lower-than-expected drug price growth has resulted in an additional \$3.7 billion in savings. With lower prices for consumers, the program is an

example of a successful partnership between the public and private sector.

Currently, Medicare Part D has a window for enrolling in or changing plans this year. Open enrollment is available until December 31, which provides an opportunity for new Medicare beneficiaries to take advantage of this valuable benefit and avoid paying a penalty in the future, or for current beneficiaries to change to a new plan to fit their needs. Those satisfied with their coverage do not have to do anything to maintain their current plan. Everyone with Medicare is eligible for this coverage, regardless of income and resources, health status, or current prescription expenses.

Competition among private insurers also leads to comprehensive prescription drug plans for beneficiaries. For those looking to switch plans, there are additional choices for coverage in 2007. In Texas, Medicare recipients can now choose from 60 prescription drug plans, up from 47 in 2006. More plans are also offering coverage for the period between a drug

plan's standard level of coverage and the catastrophic coverage level, also known as the doughnut hole. In 2006 most seniors participating in Part D had the opportunity to choose from six plans offering full or partial coverage of the gap. The number of plans offering gap coverage in 2007 has increased to 17.

Prices for prescription drugs are also declining — especially for generics. Several retail chains have recently introduced \$4 monthly generic prescriptions for over 300 drugs in their pharmacies across the United States.

I will continue working with my colleagues in the Senate to improve the Medicare program for all seniors and, most importantly, educating them on how to utilize the benefits it offers. With lower prices for brand-name drugs, proliferation of generic drugs, and more competition between private drug plans, benefits are enjoyed by both customers and taxpayers.

Please consult the website www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE for more information about the program.

Tumbleweed Smith

One of the most unusual events in Texas

"Has any reporter ever asked you about your unique festival?" I asked one of the organizers.

"No, you're the first," came the reply. "We've thought about it, but have never done anything about it. Every once in awhile we send out fliers to people who come every year. We think if we get too much publicity we'll be overrun with people."

We're talkin' here about The Texas Testicle Festival. It takes place between Jacksonville and Rusk the second Sunday in March every year and is a benefit for Cal Farley's Boys Ranch.

"It started about twenty years ago, just a few families would get together and do a little cooking," says Charles Yarborough, one of the cooks for the event. "It just got bigger and bigger and bigger. People come from Louisiana, Oklahoma, just everywhere."

About 400 people showed up this year to feast on calf fries and other things.

"We cook brisket, fish, wild pig and people bring side dishes like potato salad and beans. We end up with just about anything you'd want to make a meal out of."

Charles's wife Thyra says the calf fries are the most popular item.

"We have a banner that we put on the side of a cattle trailer that says 'WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL TESTICLE FESTIVAL. HOPE YOU HAVE A BALL.' We have people stop on the side of the road and take pictures of it. For the last couple of years if we see them, we'll go down and invite them."

Charles has a special recipe he uses to prepare the delicacies. "Spice cornmeal up and put the fries in the cornmeal and then deep fry them."

The festival takes place on land owned by Chris and Patti



Holman. Patti says the event, which started small, has become a big attraction.

"I've got two bathrooms in my house and after church I came in and I looked at my house and I had these two long lines with about 40 people in each line. Both toilets overflowed and it was a big mess. Now we have porta-potties."

The cooking is done in horse stalls in the Holman's combination barn and shop. People eat some 200 pounds of calf fries on tables under canopies furnished by funeral homes.

The meal is served after a cowboy church service. Charles says this year visitors voluntarily donated \$3,000 for Boys Ranch.

"We put everything on out of our pocket. Boys Ranch gets all the money. The last few years Boys Ranch personnel have come down to sell T-shirts and Caps. They sell out every year. The T-shirts have the words 'Texas Testicle Festival. Have a ball with Jesus' on them."



ron carr photo

Megan Van Adrichem looks on as her mother and other Panhandle Dairy Women prepare refreshment plates for residents of Prairie Acres last Saturday. The Panhandle Dairy Women provided refreshments, caroling, and gift bags for Prairie Acres residents.

Students prove reading is giving

Friona junior high students of Debbie Martin are helping others while helping themselves this school year. They are participating in Scholastic Book Club's ClassroomsCare program, a philanthropy based literacy program designed to teach children about the joys and importance of reading and giving.

From the beginning of

school through December 31, 2006, students in Mrs. Martin's class were challenged to read 100 books and the Scholastic Book Clubs will donate 100 books to disadvantaged children nationwide.

So far Mrs. Martin's 65 students have read 300 books. "Through ClassroomsCare, the students of Friona junior high aren't just reading, they're

reading to give," Martin said. "The program offers both students and teachers an opportunity to celebrate the importance of reading and to demonstrate our spirit of service and sharing."

Scholastic Corporation is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books and a leader in educational technology.



ron carr photo

Irene Trevino, right, of the Prairie Acres activity department, assisted these children of Panhandle Dairy Women in delivering gift bags to each resident at Prairie Acres Saturday December 2. The Panhandle Dairy Women organization hosted a Christmas party for Prairie Acres residents.

Junior high all-region band

Nineteen Friona junior high students were named to the ATSSB 2A/3A Feeder Schools All Region Band. They will perform with the All Region Band on Saturday, January 13 at the Amarillo Civic Center auditorium beginning at 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Band director Allison Johnston said, "We are very proud of these young people. All of the 57 students from Friona junior high that tried out are to be highly com-

mended. They made the effort to go above and beyond what is required. In our eyes they are all winners."

Students and their positions are: Karina Trevino 4th chair flute; Laci Austin 5th chair flute; Amber Roberson 11th chair flute; Brittany Herbert 5th chair clarinet; Caitlin Bronniman 8th chair clarinet; Catalina Ortega 15th chair clarinet; Christian Rangel 7th chair cornet; Kirby Frye 2nd alternate cornet.

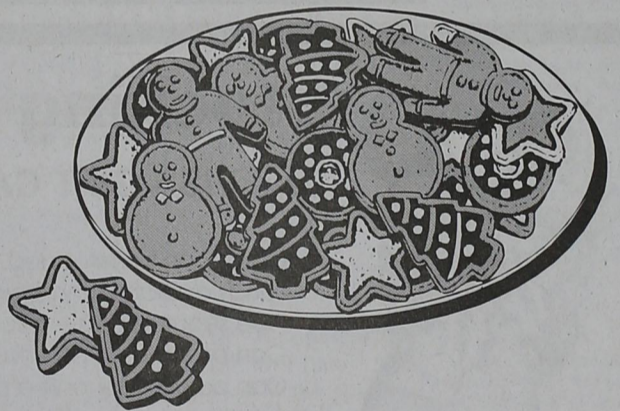
Rachel Dickson 6th chair french horn; Ryan DeWit 8th chair french horn; Collin Thompson 2nd chair baritone; Matthew Teague 1st alternate baritone; Alex Gonzalez 2nd alternate baritone; Nicolas Ortiz 2nd chair trombone; Sergio Mendez 7th chair trombone; Devin Brown 6th chair tuba; Dakota Hernandez 8th chair tuba; Clayton Smiley 1st alternate tuba; Elizabeth Trevino 1st alternate percussion.



tyler jameson photo

Friona city employees brought out the heavy equipment Monday as they put the finishing touches on Christmas decorations at Friona City Park.

Friona State Bank Wishes You The Best This Holiday Season



The employees at Friona State Bank would like to invite you to join us for our annual Christmas Tea.



We'll be serving home-made goodies and punch, or tea, depending on weather, from 9am-3pm, Wednesday, Dec 13th. An added bonus is you'll be treated to special music performed by Clint Mears.

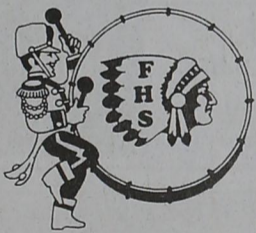
Stop by and help us celebrate this Christmas season as we show our appreciation to you, our valued customers.



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FRIONA ON PARADE

The Academic and Athletic History of Friona ISD 1908 - 2005

By Bill Ellis

2006

Published in Conjunction With Friona's Centennial 1906-2006

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WTRT scholarship apps available in January

(Reprinted from the December WTRT Co-op Connection newsletter)

West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative will mark a decade of assisting the education of deserving applicants when it awards scholarships funded through unclaimed capital credit checks once again in 2007.

Application forms for these academic scholarships to be awarded by the Cooperative should be available at the WTRT business office by mid-January.

Those applying must be high school seniors who will graduate in the spring of 2007, have completed high school or have received their GED.

High school seniors who will be graduating in May, college students or college-minded individuals whose parents or guardians are WTRT members, or who are WTRT members themselves, are eligible to apply.

Applicants, their parents, or guardians must be WTRT members and have residences served by WTRT telephone prefixes. These include Tharp-225; Dawn-258; Frio-276;

Hub-265; Westway-289; Parmer-295; Summerfield-357; Milo Center-578; and Oklahoma-Lane-825.

Bovina and Friona customers of WT Services, Inc. who do not receive phone

service from one of the WTRT exchanges are not eligible.

Schools in Hereford, Friona, Farwell, Lazbuddie, Dimmitt, Adrian, and Vega could have students eligible to apply.

The Cooperative will be supplying application forms to counselor's offices at Adrian, Bovina, Dimmitt, Friona, Farwell, Lazbuddie, and Vega.

Students in the Hereford school district and post-high school applicants will need to pick up application forms at the WTRT business office two miles south of Hereford on Highway 385.

Forms may also be picked up at the Hereford office by applicants from any of the above listed school districts.

Each application should be accompanied by two letters of recommendation.

If the applicant is a graduating senior, one letter of recommendation should be from a teacher, principal, or counselor from the high school that the student is attending or recently attended.

If the applicant has been out of high school for a number of years, or is currently enrolled in a college or trade school, a letter from a college or vocational instructor is acceptable.

Full rules of the program are provided with application forms.

Scholarships awarded by West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative may be used at any state or church-sponsored college or university, or at any accredited vocational or technical school.

Registration for the spring classes at the South Plains College Muleshoe Extension Center will be November 13-January 4. Pre-registration through CampusConnect at www.southplainscollege.edu is available.

Courses in history, speech, English, math, arts, and government will be offered. There will also be a certified nurse's aide class and a computer class. For admissions and online registration information contact 806-894-9611, ext. 2374, 2375, or 2372. For distance education information contact 806-894-9611, ext. 2340.

Sheriff's Report

The following is reported weekly by Parmer County Sheriff Randy Geries office:

November 28, 2006, Amador Rocha, 20, of Friona, Texas, was arrested by the Farwell Police Department and charged with driving while license suspended, pending County Court.

November 30, 2006, Kenny Davis, 45, of Clovis, New Mexico, was arrested by the Sheriff's Office and charged with driving while intoxicated 2nd, pending County Court.

December 1, 2006, Ana Dominguez, 33, of Clovis, New Mexico, was arrested by the Texas Highway Patrol and charged with a Ward County warrant, posted bond and released.

December 3, 2006, Nestor Mendoza, 17, of Friona, Texas, was arrested by the Friona Police Department and charged with resisting arrest, pending County Court.

In 287th District Court, with Judge Gordon Green presiding:

—On November 13, 2006, Joshua B. Dunigan, 19, of Amarillo, Texas, charged with violation of community supervision (evading arrest), had the supervision revoked and was sent to state jail division for 9 months; \$1,128 court costs, and \$750 fine.

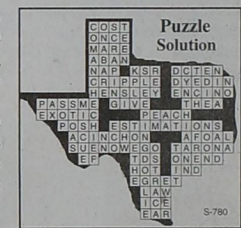
—On November 20, 2006, Larry Lee Guerra, 41, of Friona, Texas, charged with indecency with a child (Case No. 1), was sentenced to 8 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; \$541 court costs; \$2,500 fine; \$225 attorney fees; \$326 restitution; for indecency with a child (Case No. 2), he got the same judgment as with case No. 1; and for aggravated assault (Case No. 3), he was sentenced to 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; \$541 court costs; \$5,000 fine; \$225 attorney fees; \$326 restitution.

—On November 21, 2006, Irene M. Garcia, 36, of Portales, New Mexico, charged with forgery, was sentenced to 180 days to 2 years in a state jail facility, probated for 2 years; \$316 court costs; \$500 attorney fees; \$1,231 restitution.

—On November 21, 2006, Ernesto Garcia Ramos, 22, of Friona, Texas, charged with possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), was sentenced to 180 days to 2 years in a state jail facility, probated for 2 years; \$316 court costs; \$750 fine; \$2,350 attorney fees; \$140 restitution.

—On November 21, 2006, Serafin Garcia Vasquez, 30, of Friona, Texas, charged with DWI 3rd or more, was sentenced to 3 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, probated for 4 years; 10 days in county jail; loss of driver's license for 18 months; \$416 court costs; \$750 fine.

—On November 21, 2006, David Cardanus Esparza, 30, of Friona, Texas, charged with DWI 3rd or more, was sentenced to 3 years in the Texas Department of Corrections, probated for 4 years; 10 days in county jail; loss of driver's license for 18 months; \$416 court costs; \$350 attorney fees; \$1,000 fine.



Sarah Rushing
Rushing graduates from Texas Tech

Sarah Rushing, a 2006 graduate of Texas Tech University division of Allied Health, received her Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Studies. She will be employed with internal medicine at Scott and White in Temple, Texas.

Sarah is the daughter of George and Leslie Rushing and the granddaughter of Mildred Cooper, all of Friona, Texas.

Breast cancer screening clinic January 15 & 22

The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center Comprehensive Breast Center will conduct a breast cancer screening clinic at Parmer County Hospital at 1307 Cleveland Avenue, in Friona on January 15 and 22, 2007.

Breast cancer affects one in eight women. The key to winning the battle against cancer is early detection by having an annual breast exam, mammogram and performing a breast self-exam each month.

Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are done by appointment only. Call 806-356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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So. Plains Muleshoe registration opens


Registration for the spring classes at the South Plains College Muleshoe Extension Center will be November 13-January 4. Pre-registration through CampusConnect at www.southplainscollege.edu is available.

ATTENTION!!
Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan Re-enrollment begins November 15-December 31, 2006

If you have a drug plan or want to change or begin one, you need to come see me! I can help you decide which plan is best for you.

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High School News

By Hannah Stovall

The entire Friona High School campus is on a journey to the past...the "roaring twenties" to be exact. From ninth grade to twelfth, every English class is currently reading *The Great Gatsby*. Set in the 1920s, surrounded by high society and money, *Gatsby* offers many avenues for learning.

While only in the first chapters of the novel, my AP English IV class has already held discussions, illustrated descriptive passages, and made written predictions that we will revisit at the end of the novel. While involving countless symbols and motifs, *The Great Gatsby* covers many if not all the facets and challenges of life and love. Containing extraordinary imagery and word usage, this novel gives free imaginative range to the reader. Drawing on detailed descriptions, it is easy to create each of the characters vividly in the imagination.

As we progress through this literary masterpiece, the high school has an entire *Gatsby* day planned for the conclusion of the novel, consisting of a 1920s inspired dinner for the daily lunch break and a viewing of *The Great Gatsby* film.

As the entire Friona High School embarks on this classic novel, we encourage you to join us in uncovering the magic and mystery of *Gatsby*.

Chiefs stomp Farwell 98-31, edged out in Vega tourney

The fans in the stands were chanting "we want 100" but the Chiefs came up two-points short as they overwhelmed the Farwell Steers 98-31 in a Tuesday November 28 contest at the Friona gym.

Led by Sawyer Reed's 30 points, including six 3-pointers, the Chiefs were never tested by the Steers. Friona led 33-5 at the end of the 1st quarter and it became a matter of how many points the Chiefs could put up. The boys had twelve 3-point goals in the game. In addition to Reed's six, Caleb Miller put in

two 3-pointers and Kaison Graham, Ryan Geries, Hector Sanchez, and Alex Gurley had one each.

Rounding out the scoring were Gurley 14, Chance Lewellen 13, Geries 11, Miller 8, Jared Boyd 7, Graham 5, Sanchez 5, Tolby Wilcox 3, and Ryan Schwab 2.

After an icy start postponed the first day of the Vega tournament (Thursday), the Chiefs were off to a roaring start, handing Happy an 80-38 whipping, followed by a 74-55 thumping of district foe Highland Park. But

the momentum didn't last as the Chiefs lost the championship match to Amarillo San Jacinto by only one point, 47-46.

In the Happy game, Caleb Miller led scoring with 15 points, including three 3s. The game was highlighted by 13 three-point goals from the hot shooting Chiefs. Sawyer Reed scored 14, Alex Gurley 9, Ryan Schwab 9, Hector Sanchez 8, Ryan Geries and Kaison Graham 6, Chance Lewellen and Tolby Wilcox 5, and Jared Boyd 3.

Game two saw Reed with 18 points, Lewellen 15, Boyd 11, including three 3s, Gurley and Geries 8, Sanchez 6, Schwab 5, and Miller 3 as the Chiefs blitzed Highland Park.

The hot shooting cooled in game three as the Chiefs managed only 15 points in the first half, eventually losing to San Jacinto by the narrow margin of 47-46. Miller led with 10 points, Lewellen, Reed and Geries 9, Sanchez 7, and Schwab 2. Sawyer Reed and

Caleb Miller were named to the all-tournament team.

8th Braves 53
8th Dobbbers 17

The 8th Braves stomped the Tulia 8th Dobbbers in Tulia, Monday, December 4, 2006, 53-17.

"We played good defense and we shot the ball well," said Coach Greg Hazelwood.

Kirby Frye led the scoring with 13 points, Nick Ortiz 12, Clayton Smiley 10, Zack Fair 9, Duncan Welch 3, and Ernesto Monreal, Brenner Barnett and Dominique Kellum 2 points each.

JV Squaws 75
JV Hale Center 11

The JV Squaws participated in the Muleshoe tournament. They defeated the Hale Center Lady Owls 75-11 in the first game, leading 21-0 at the 1st quarter break and 44-9 at halftime.

The Squaws were led by a game high 26 points from Hollis Gurley. Michelle Martin had 13, Diana Bolivar 11, Heather Sandoval 9, Sasha Estrada 8 and Stephanie Aguirre 8.

JV Squaws 51
JV Tulia 27

The junior Squaws continued their winning ways, storming past the JV Lady Hornets, 51-27 in the Muleshoe tournament. Up by 24-6 at the half, they continued with a 27-21 run to win easily.

Gurley was high again with 10 points, Martin had 9, Melissa Gallego 7, Erin Anthony 6, Ashley Ingram 5, Estrada 5, Sandoval 5, Stephanie Aguirre 2, and Bolivar 2. The girls had seven 3-point goals in the game.

JV Squaws 74
JV Farwell 31

The junior varsity Squaws kept their winning ways with a 74-31 win over Farwell at Friona gym.

Three girls, Stephanie Aguirre, Erin Anthony, and Hollis Gurley, each had 13 points to lead the team scoring. Ashley Ingram had 9, Michelle Martin 8, Heather Sandoval 8, Sasha Estrada 6, and Diana Bolivar 4. The team recorded 12 of 16 free throws and had two 3-point goals.

The JV Squaws will be participating in the Tulia tournament this weekend, December 7-9, starting with an opening game vs. the Tulia 9th at 4 p.m. Thursday. Others in the tournament are Dimmitt, Boys Ranch, Lorenzo, Abernathy, Silverton, and Tulia JV.

JV Chiefs 59
JV Farwell 36

It was a close game until the second half when the JV Chieftains went on a 38-20 run to defeat the Farwell JV Steers 59-36.

Chris Haile poured in 23 points to lead scoring. Chris was foul bait as he drained 7 of 9 free throw attempts. Gerardo Garza had 10 points, Irving Huerta 10, Justin Dominguez 9, Justin Echevarria 5, and Rolando Castanon 2.

JV Chiefs 28
JV Sudan 25

In a low scoring basketball game at the Muleshoe tournament, the junior Chiefs edged Sudan 28-25 thanks to a 7-3 run in the 4th quarter. Sudan led 22-21 after the 3rd quarter.

Gerardo Garza and Justin Dominguez led scoring with 6 points each, Castanon 5, Echevarria 5, Haile 4, and Huerta 2.

JV Chiefs 53
JV Dimmitt 19

It was a one-sided game as the outmanned junior Bobcats fell to a solid effort by the JV Chiefs. Haile again led scoring with 15 points, Dominguez 12, Garza 12, Echevarria 4, Eric Martinez 3, Castanon 3, and Huerta 2.

Squaws beat Farwell, lose at Midland

The Friona Squaws handily took care of business, defeating the Farwell Lady Blue November 28 by a 46-31 margin.

The girls shot 10 of 11 from the foul line and had 3-point goals from Erica Davila and Lucretia Field. Briar Barnett was high point in the game with 12, Field had 10, Staci Murphree 8, E. Davila 6, Miranda Frye 4, Kambree Davila 4, and Krista Graham 2.

The Squaws made the trip to Midland Friday for a match with Midland Lee. They lost a 48-40 decision, giving Lee 15 of 25 free throws while managing only 5 of 17 attempts

from the free line themselves.

Staci Murphree carried the load as she scored 25 points, including 5 of 8 free throws. Krista Graham, Lucretia Field, and Erica Davila completed the Squaw scoring with 5 points each. All three Squaws had one 3-point goal.

Squaws limp past Floydada 49-44

Senior guard Shayli Reed was not supposed to return to action until the Farwell tournament coming up this weekend. She is on the mend from knee surgery.

But after a couple of injuries and some foul trouble, Coach Richard North had to

put Shayli in the Floydada game Tuesday for the last two minutes. She responded with a couple of free throws as the Squaws beat the Lady 'Winds 49-44.

Injuries sent Miranda Frye out with a sprained ankle and Erica Davila departed with a damaged arch on her foot. Coach North says both girls will miss the Farwell tournament scheduled December 7-9. Then Tiffany Vazquez and Staci Murphree both fouled out of the game leaving Lucretia Field, Krista Graham, Kambree Davila, Briar Barnett, and Reed to finish the game.

Murphree led scoring with 17 points, Graham had 12 including three 3s, Frye had 7, K. Davila 5, Reed 2, Field, T Vasquez, and E. Davila one each. The girls were 20 of 32 from the foul line and had five 3s. The Lady Winds outscored the Squaws 31-23 in the second half but couldn't overcome Friona's 13-point halftime lead.

Next Tuesday's game at Bushland opens district play for the Squaws. The JV Squaws will play at 5 p.m. and the varsity girls at 6:30 p.m.

7th Maidens 16
7th Tulia 64

The FJHS 7th Maidens fell to 7th Tulia Monday, December 4, 2006, 64-16.

Tenna Montana led the scoring with 7 points, Yari Avilez and Rachel Dickson scored 4 each and Vanessa Vital dropped in one.

7th/8th B Maidens 6
7th/8th B Tulia 18

The B Maidens played two quarters with Tulia and fell to them, 18-6, on Monday, December 4, 2006.

Caitlin Bronniman, Karina Trevino and Kelsey White scored 2 points each in the second quarter.

8th Maidens 49
8th Tulia 9

The FJHS 8th Maidens stomped Tulia, 49-9, on Monday, December 4, 2006 in Friona.

Leading the scoring were Laci Austin 13, Regan Anthony and Ester Sarabia 12 each, Kami Kerby 6, Lisann Davila 4 and Brittany Herbert 2.

7th Braves 32
7th Tulia 28

The FJHS 7th Braves traveled to Tulia Monday, December 4, 2006 and beat the Tulia Dobbbers 32-28. They improved their record to 3-0.

Leading the scoring were Donavon Johnson 11, Michael Ortiz 6, Ryan DeWit and Gabriel Avalos 4 each, Caleb Monroe 3, and Weston Wylie and Dillon Kelly 2 each.

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My Life Story

By W. Alton Talley

Every month, a resident of Prairie Acres Nursing Home or Friona Heritage Estates, writes a story about his/her life's history for the home's newsletter, "The Prairie Times", for printing in this issue. This month we feature W. Alton Talley.

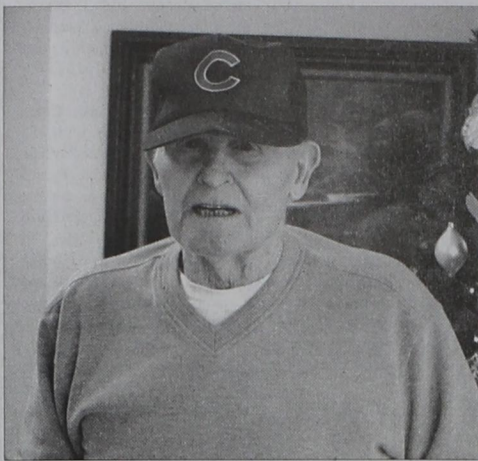
I was born April 22, 1918 to Wallace and Henrietta Talley in Bastrop County, Texas, south of Austin.

My parents were cotton farmers and we all worked in the field as soon as we were old enough. My mother had a big garden as well and raised turkeys.

I had one brother and sister older than I and two brothers and a sister younger. The boys had a cow each, to milk and sold cream to make spending money, as we became teenagers.

I quit school early so I worked on the farm full time. I had two uncles who farmed pinto beans in New Mexico. So in 1938 I went there to make the bean harvest and then worked for a cousin the following year farming beans.

In New Mexico, I met Mary Lee Petross who was to become my wife. We were married on December 21, 1940. We have five children, two sons and three daughters. Both sons are ministers, Leon in Friona and Timothy has been in Kenya and Tanzania for 21 years as a missionary. Sharon



W. Alton Talley

lives near Plainview, Norma lives in Wichita, Kansa and Charlene lives in Hagerman, New Mexico. We have 13 grandchildren and we're expecting our thirteenth great grandchild in the spring.

The first few years we farmed in New Mexico, were good, but began to have less and less rain. Since it was all dry land (no irrigation) the land began to blow away. The situation became more and more critical for the farmers and the land. In the mid-fifties the government started a program known as "Soil Bank". The farmers were paid to sow the land back into native grasses and quit farming, which turned

out to be very successful. At the present time there is no more farming in that area, so it's all in small ranches. In 1954 I started driving a school bus into Corona, New Mexico. About that same time I also started taking correspondence courses to finish High School. It was too far to drive back home to Clauch, so I spent each day in Corona. I ended up taking classes in Corona High School and finally graduated in 1971.

My wife ran a general store-filling station and was Postmaster in Clauch for 19 years and I drove the school bus for 23 years. Our five children all graduated

from Corona before going on to college.

At that time we bought a house and small acreage in Carrizozo and moved there.

We never had a telephone or paved roads while living in Clauch.

A friend who was the jailer in the Lincoln County jail encouraged me to take a job as the jailer and radio dispatcher for Lincoln County. I went to Santa Fe to train for that job. I worked the midnight to 8 a.m. shift.

After working only a short time, two trustees who were not locked up held me hostage, locked me in a cell and took my suburban and escaped. I was in the cell for about six hours until the 8 a.m. shift got there. That was a long night! They abandoned my vehicle in El Paso and were later caught in Oregon and returned to Carrizozo jail, then on to the State pen in Santa Fe. This story made the national news.

I worked as a jailer for six years before retiring.

In 1996 we moved from Carrizozo to Carlsbad, New Mexico to Lakeview Christian Retirement Village and lived there over ten years before I moved to Prairie Acres Nursing Home. My wife lives in an apartment here in Friona also. We chose Friona because our son Leon lives here and is the minister for the 6th Street Church of Christ.

If we both live until December 21 we will have been married 66 years. Early in our marriage we made the decision to become Christians and to raise our family in a Christian Home. God has been so good to us and we Praise Him for his love and mercy.



dana d jameson photo

PRAIRIE ACRES Nursing Home Resident of the Month is Charlie Wise and Employee of the Month is Bertha Mendoza.

Prairie Acres/ Heritage Estates Birthdays

| Residents/Clients | Employees |
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| December 11—Darrell Buske | December 26—Phil Martinez |
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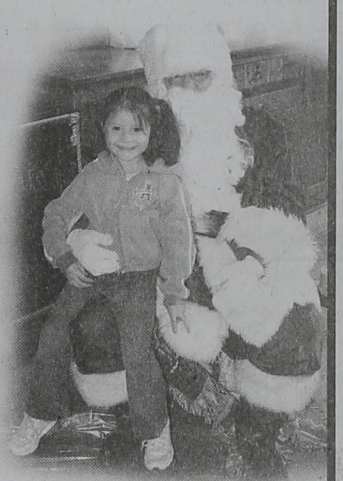


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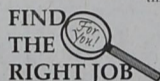
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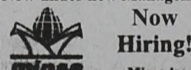
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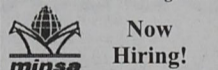
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FRIONA CENTENNIAL MOMENTS

(This is one of a series of weekly articles pertaining to Friona's 100th anniversary, which will be observed throughout 2006)

Death in December

By Darla Bracken

(Note: From time to time over the years I have been asked about this story. I have researched all that I could find about it. I think it is fitting to remember these innocent victims who were killed 80 years ago. So many times the murderer's story is remembered better than the victims'—for instance: I had to dig pretty deep to find out the mother's name. She was referred to only as Mrs. George Hassell even by her own brother—how ironic.)

On a cold and wintry night December 8, 1926 a local family of ten was nestled in their farm home just east of Farwell, Texas. No one knew them very well locally as they had just moved to the area from Oklahoma the year before. The father was actually the uncle who had married his brother's widow four months after his brother's death in July 1925. Susie Ferguson Hassell, age 41, had nine children (her oldest daughter was already married): Alton age 21, David age 15, Maudie age 13, Russell age 11, Virgil age 7, Johnny age 6, Mamie Marina age 4 and Samuel age 22 months. The marriage had taken place upon an agreed effort to try to help raise the children. George Hassell was divorced with only one child of his own. An argument over Hassell's improper relationship with her daughter fueled by

anger and whiskey resulted in tragedy. Before the next sunrise, all of this family would be dead except for Alton, the oldest, who was away from the home working. He later met the same fate as had his mother and siblings when Hassell again got drunk with whiskey. It was noted in Hassell's confession that he had been drinking heavily before all of his major crimes.

This all came to light when Hassell had a farm sale that December stating that he and his family were moving back to Oklahoma. He told locals that his family had already gone on ahead and that he was just staying until he could have the 'moving' sale. 1926 had been a good year for local farmers; cattle prices were good and people were looking forward to Christmas. In fact, the farm belonging to James Hamlin was already rented to the Lindop family and Hassell was boarding with them until after the sale. Neighbors, however, became suspicious at the sale when they saw a suitcase full of baby clothes that a mother would not have left behind especially in those times. Feeling the pressure of being discovered, Hassell made a feeble attempt to take his own life by stabbing himself on Christmas Eve. The Lindop family left the farm and alerted Parmer County authorities in Farwell.

Soon law officials led by J. H. Martin, Parmer County Sheriff and J.D. Thomas, Parmer County Attorney were searching the farm. It wasn't long before they discovered the bodies of the nine members of the Hassell family buried beneath four feet of prairie sod in the half-dugout. He had wrapped them in sheets and then a blanket before burying them. In a written confession, he stated that "I would have given anything if I had not made the first lick, but I had started it and I finished it." He also told of when his mind had first turned toward crime—that his mother had died when he was about 12 and that his stepmother had poisoned his father just a few years later. He also confessed to the murder of another family in California a few years before in

1917 when he had killed a woman and her three children bringing his chilling circle of death to 13 victims. He had bludgeoned and choked most of them to death although he shot two of his nephews with a shotgun. They found the axe with the bodies, but they never found the hammer he used on four or more of the victims. Susie Hassell and her eight children were laid to rest in the Olivet Cemetery on Christmas Day, December 25, 1926.

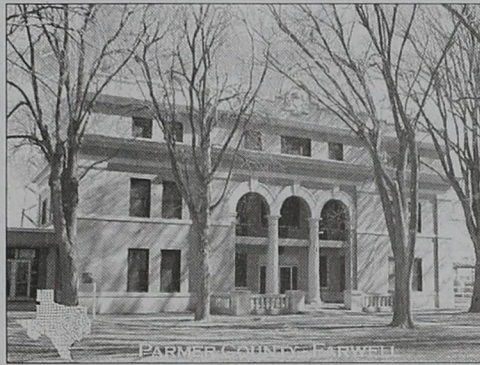
Hassell was cold-bloodedly candid in his details of the murders, a fact that disgusted and revolted local residents. He was adamant, however, in saying that he had not killed his brother! He was moved to Plainview for 'safekeeping' as officials feared mob reaction and violence. At one point, he was housed in the

Bailey County Jail for the same reason. A change of venue was anticipated but not granted, and a Parmer County Grand Jury indicted him on charges of the murder of his own nephew, Alton Hassell, his last victim. (He was only tried for that murder because of the slim chance that he might be acquitted.) An immediate trial was granted to also help appease any angry local reaction. Members of the jury never forgot Mr. Hassell; he certainly did not look like a cold-blooded killer. Texas Rangers H. B. Purvis and C. O. Moore of Borger were called in to help transport Hassell to and from the courtroom during the trial. He made each of the jury members a woven mat while he was in jail during the trial—[eerie]. Justice was swift. George Jefferson Hassell, age 38, was found guilty in District Court with Judge Reese Tatum of Dalhart presiding and was sentenced to death in the electric chair on January 12, 1927. Before hearing his sentence, all Mr. Hassell could concern himself with was the return of some of his personal belongings, "I would like to say a few things. I would like to have my watch and ring, and a few personal stuff that belongs to me, before I am sentenced; or have an affidavit made that I can have it. The watch and ring are in the court's possession and some clothes and stuff that I would like to have." Do you want to say anything else? the judge asked, "No." came the reply. When asked later by reporters why he wanted his watch he said,

"He wanted to know how time was going by until his execution. I'm better off than the rest of you—I know when I'm going and you don't." Following an appeal in June, his execution was set for February 10, 1928 a date that was just shy of what would have been baby Samuel's 3rd birthday.

When he got to death row, he acted like he was 'coming home', greeting other inmates with handshakes and up to that time, being the only death row inmate to ever gain weight while being on the death watch. He ate heartily and showed no signs of remorse for the brutal crimes he had committed. He actually invited Susie's brother, J. B. Ferguson of Perryton, to his execution. He had also told Ferguson that he had not quarreled with Susie before the murder as he had previously stated in his confession, but that he had killed her while she slept. After he was convicted of the Hassell murder however, he drew a map for local officials to send to the Whittier, California authorities telling where he had buried those bodies [under a wooden porch], but he offered no comment when the search actually produced the bodies. After his execution, no one claimed his body.

A history of Parmer County by Nelson Lewis, c. 1974 Nortex Press. Quotes from the *Farwell State Line Tribune* December 30, 1926 and *Clovis Journal* December 30, 1926, January 6 & 26, 1928, February 2, 1928



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Friona School Menu

December 11- December 15

(All meals are served with Ice cold Milk)

Monday, December 11

Lunch – Cheese pizza, fresh veggie dippers, frozen yogurt, peaches.

Tuesday, December 12

Lunch – Fish, combread, rice, mixed vegetables, pudding cup.

Wednesday, December 13

Lunch – Burrito, corn, spanish rice, gelatin w/fruit.

Thursday, December 14

Lunch – Barbeque franks, rolls, macaroni and cheese, green beans, juice bar.

Friday, December 15

Lunch – Chicken nuggets, rolls, mashed potatoes, corn, yogurt.

ACROSS

- 1 TXism: "it a pretty penny"
- 5 TX Martha Hyer '58 film: "Upon a Horse"
- 6 female horse
- 7 in dry months, TX counties have _____ on burning
- 8 TXism: "siesta"
- 9 ex-Ranger pitcher. Kenny who pitched in '06 World Series (init.)
- 12 wide bodied jet used by TX-based American Airlines
- 17 song by TX Nesmith Monkee group: "_____ Creek"
- 19 TXism: "_____ the wool" (genuine)
- 21 "_____ Field" was a TX Army Air Corps air base in Brooks Co. on hwy. 281
- 23 TX Johnny Rodriguez sang "_____ By"
- 28 TXism: "looks good enough to _____ a sermon"
- 29 TX TV actress and comedian Vidale
- 30 intriguingly unusual
- 31 a fruit grown in TX
- 35 fashionable
- 36 educated guesses
- 42 TXism: "tight as _____ a fat horse"
- 44 baby horse (2 wds.)

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

Answers on pg 4
Copyright 2006 by Orbison Bros.

DOWN

- 1 newspaper in seat of Comanche Co.
- 2 TXism: "loud as boot heels _____ floor"
- 3 TXism: "_____ the bottom of the barrel"
- 4 h.s. student
- 9 once a Port Lavaca FM
- 10 TXism: "let a _____ (ignore)"
- 11 Lake El Sal del _____
- 12 Denison born president (init.)
- 13 mother of Quanah Parker
- 14 Texas _____ Univ.
- 15 actress Adams in "Racquet" with TX Lynda Day George
- 16 actress Foch in "Strange Affair" with TX Keyes
- 18 tire pressure (abbr.)
- 20 TXism: "close but _____ cigar"
- 23 sch. exercise (abbr.)
- 24 chopping tool
- 25 dip up gravy
- 26 old Greek porticos
- 27 billiards mistake
- 32 TXism: "play '_____ close to the vest'"
- 33 Hico h.s. class
- 34 George H. named this Thomas to the Supreme Ct. (init.)
- 36 environment prefix
- 37 TX Ranger creator of the Walker Colt revolver (init.)
- 38 TXism: "_____ mark"
- 39 chili: "bowl _____"
- 40 "high _____"
- 41 beach surface
- 43 ex-Cowboy lineman Nate (init.)
- 45 TX Steve Martin film: "_____ Story"
- 47 archaeological fragments
- 48 TXism: "put a pencil _____"
- 55 vase-shaped jug

DID YOU KNOW?

On December 25, 1898 the rail crew building the railroad across Parmer County decided to go to Bovina to celebrate. The engineer of the "Christmas Special" noticed a large buck caught on the cowcatcher of the engine and gave the buck a breeze ride into Bovina where the crew had antelope steak for Christmas dinner.

Parmer Co. History c. 1974

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If you want to go where the fish are, you must first get out of the bait shop

Rewritten from "When Did Caesar Become a Salad and Jeremiah a Bullfrog" by Martin Babb

When I was younger and more prone to eat lunch out of an aluminum can, I was an avid fisherman. If the auids weren't biting, I fished for something else. I religiously practiced the good Samaritan method of fishing by casting my bait on one side of the boat while the fish passed by on the other side.

Most of the action took place in the bait shop, where the owner gave grammar-bashing words of wisdom like "The firsh arghnit bahitne tohudy." Then he would spit and say, "The fish ain't bitin' today." Nevertheless, I was determined to allow as many fish as possible the opportunity to exercise their uncanny ability to avoid my lures at all costs.

I went for the largemouth bass, so named because it had mouth that could swallow a hook, spit it out, and give a Bronx cheer...all in one breath. There are other fish, such as the wheel of fortune fish and jeopardy fish, but they were protected by the game warden.

Despite the heavy dose of frivolity in this article, there is a disturbing trend looming on the horizon among fishermen with asparagus-infused brains. Some of them are jumping into the water, finding catfish with their hands, and wrestling them to the surface. This is called "grappling" or "noodling." I call it "This person has brains on a time-share with a

plant." Grappling or noodling a catfish is not high on my list of inspiring images. One newspaper article had a picture of a recently noodled sixty-three-pound flat-head catfish with his mouth clamped firmly around the fist of his apparent noodler. I can hear the conversation in the garage now:

Proud son: "Dad, why is your picture in the paper. Did you win the Nobel Peace prize or write a best-selling novel or rescue someone?"

Exuberant father: "No. Son. I noodled a catfish."

I do not believe it was the image of the catfish grappler that Jesus had in mind when He told a group of fishermen to follow Him and He would make them fishers of men. Putting a fist into someone's mouth, literally or figuratively, is probably not what Jesus intended. The style of the catfish grappler may be flawed, but the motivation is legitimate. In order to catch fish, he will literally go where they are.

In all my years of fishing, I've never had one single fish come to me just because I was sitting in the boat waiting. It takes effort, all kinds of lures, and various methods to catch fish. It is the same with fishing for men. God expects us to fish. The catch is in His hands. The problem is that we spend too much time in the bait shop arguing over the bait...and while we argue, the "fish" are getting away.

NEW ARRIVALS



Aubree Jo Garner
Aubree Jo Garner

Mason and Maegan Garner, of Tuscola, Texas, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Aubree Jo Garner, Thursday, October 26, 2006 at 3:37 p.m. at Hendricks Hospital in Abilene, Texas.

Aubree weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz. and was 18 inches long. She is the couple's first child. Aubree's grandparents are John and Beverly Ingram of Friona, Texas, Don and Julie Garner and Tim and Ronda Newberry, all of Tuscola. Her great-grandparents are Dorothy Ingram and Wade and Amelia Wright, all of Friona.

Happy Birthday

December 10, 2006-December 16, 2006

- Dec. 10-Kelli Coffey, Jason Grant Berend, Ross Roden, Don Ready, Connie King, Kenneth Wilkerson, Sharon Newton, Michael Johnston, Sabina Schilling
- Dec. 11-Chris Hamil, Leigh Neelley Boatman, Libby Procter, M'Lynda Jarecki, Jeff Chaney, Lindsey Neill, Louise Bynum, Whitney Jo Dean, Darby Drummond
- Dec. 12-Nelda Ellis, Mark Ready, Sheila Gresham, Linda Knowles, Chad Stevick, Paul J. Smith, Sheldon Burleson, Mark Taylor Wood, Lavem Black, Jim Bob Swafford
- Dec. 13-Leroy Cox, Laura Alice Irvin, Taylor Duran, Guadalupe Nieto.
- Dec. 14-B.K. Buske, Joe Tongate, James Procter, Shana Taylor, Trey Cozier, Dorothy Sorley, Victor Espinoza, Troy Benton
- Dec. 15-Don Reeve, Crispin Buchanan, Deena Willard, Connie Willard, Sylvia Ingram, Luke London, Lana Allemand, Juan Perez, Haden Smiley, Deven Black, Marion Carson, Linda Marshall, Carol Ortiz
- Dec. 16-Michael Stanberry, Gerald Floyd, Lisa Guerra, Megan Carr, Kyle Jamerson, Travis Stewart, Rhett Houston, Rosalie Lopez

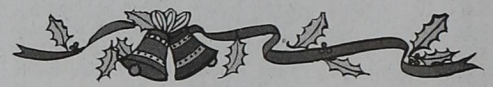
Think about this

God is a God of design

BY T. LEON TALLEY, Sixth Street Church of Christ
The whole creation around us has been uniquely and carefully planned. To observe God's planning is one of the most intriguing experiences one can have.

For example, take prison flowers that trap and feed on insects. The best known perhaps is the Venus Flytrap and there's another member of the prison flowers that is called the "Jack In The Pulpit" The "Jack In The Pulpit" has two kinds of flowers. One male and one female. When a fly crawls into one of these flowers, it depends upon the sex of that particular flower if it dies or lives. If it is a male, the fly crawls in and the flower constricts around him just enough to cause it to panic and attempt to get free. The frantic insect buzzes around until covered with pollen then the flower opens enough to release the fly. If the next flower visited is male, the same thing happens. However, if it is female, once again it is trapped just enough to cause it to dust the female flower with pollen from the male flower. This time the fly cannot escape. It will die right there in the female flower and will be consumed. Question: How did the plant, which has no brain, figure out how to do that?

The answer, of course is that the plant didn't figure it out. The plan is a product of a Wise Designer.



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Jeri D'Lynn Carr & Thomas Massey II
Marissa Prieto & Frank Estrada



The family of Joyce Barker Coffman would like to express gratitude and appreciation for each act of kindness, food, cards and prayers given on our behalf. The precious friendship of this community is a treasure to our family. A special thank you to the nurses, aides, physicians and friends at Prairie Acres for all your loving care and friendship you gave Mom. **Jesus Only Brings Comfort (JOBC) Mothers initials.** Thank you again for all your love and support now and through the years. **God Bless you.** Love, Sharon Gallon, Owen and Melody Drake, Hob Coffman, Brian and Alice Ewald, Robert and Gaye Klump, & April King

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OBITUARIES

John Reese Hays

John Reese Hays, 87, of Vernon, Alabama, passed away Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at Northwest Medical Center in Vernon. Services were held Friday, December 1, 2006 at 11 a.m. at Chandler Funeral Home with Eddie Finch officiating. Burial followed in Lamar Memory Gardens in Vernon under the direction of Chandler Funeral Home.

Mr. Hays was born September 27, 1919 in Iowa Park, Texas. He was a farmer and was a veteran of World War II.

He is preceded in death by his parents, A.B. and Eunice Hays.

Mr. Hays is survived by his wife Louise Hays of Vernon; one son John Reginald Hays and his wife Donna, of

Bedford, Texas; one daughter Deborah Plain and her husband John of Fort Worth, Texas; four grandchildren, David Michael Hays and his wife Michelle of Bedford, Texas, John Thomas Hays of Bedford, Laura Hunter and her husband Robert of The Woodlands, Texas, and Sarah N. Greif of Fort Worth; and eight great-grandchildren.



George "G.W." Bridges

George "G.W." Bridges, 76, of Friona, Texas, passed away Friday, December 1, 2006 at his home in Friona. Graveside services were held Monday, December 4, 2006 at 2 p.m. at the Friona Cemetery with Jerry Lanier, son-in-law, officiating. Services were under the direction of Hereford Heritage Funeral Home of Hereford, Texas.



George "G.W." Bridges

Mr. Bridges was born in 1930. He married Elizabeth Peacock in 1961 in Morton, Texas. He was a longtime farmer in the Friona area. Mr.

Bridges was a veteran and served in the U.S. Army.

He is preceded in death by one son, Gary Bridges in 1968.

Mr. Bridges is survived by his wife of the home; one son Jerry Bridges of Friona; three daughters, Patricia Lanier, Debbie Miller and Margie Bridges, all of Friona; one sister, Inez Johnson of Clarendon, Texas; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be to a favorite charity.



Celio Tafoya

Celio Tafoya, 109, of Friona, Texas, passed away Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at Hereford Regional Medical Center in Hereford, Texas. Funeral mass will be at 3 p.m. Thursday, December 7, 2006 at La Iglesia de San Jose with Rev. David Contreras, Celebrant. Burial will follow at West Park Cemetery under the direction of Rix Funeral Directors. Rosary was at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at Rix Funeral Chapel.

Mr. Tafoya was born on July 7, 1897 in Jalisco, Mexico to Florencio Tafoya and Maria Bosquez Tafoya. He moved to Friona in 1989 from Zacatecas, Mexico. He married Elvira Nava in 1934 in Zacatecas. She preceded him in death in 1986.

Mr. Tafoya had been employed by the government as a

police investigator. He was a Catholic.

Mr. Tafoya is survived by six sons, Isidro Tafoya of Hereford, Jesus Tafoya, Abelino Tafoya, Tereso Tafoya and Juan Tafoya, all of Black, Texas and Marcelo Tafoya of Mexico; 32 grandchildren; and 31 great-grandchildren.

To register online visit www.rixfd.com

TOWN TALK II

by ron carr

Every Christmas season someone that doesn't have much else to do figures out the cost of the all those items "my true love gave to me" during the Twelve Days of Christmas, turtle doves, maids-a-milking, etc. This year's total, according to the Fox News Channel, is \$18,926. Guess we will just stick with socks. Hope you have a nice, safe shopping season. Don't forget to shop in Friona too and sign up at local merchants for the Home for the Holidays promotion. You could win Friona Bucks.

Friona has a new police officer. Her name is Cassie Brawley. She comes to Friona from Dalhart but is actually from Hereford so she is getting back closer to home. We will track her down later and get her picture for the paper. In the meantime, join in welcoming Cassie Brawley to Friona and the police department.

The winner of the Bitty Baby Twins dolls in the Friends of the Public Library drawing was Claudia Alexander, daughter of Cindy Alexander. Librarian Darla Bracken says thanks to all for your gracious support of the project.

The water crane machine that was across from the police station has been moved. The water crane is now located on the east side of the City Park on Washington Street.

Our get well wishes go out to Gary Stowers. Last week Gary's horse fell on him and he suffered a broken pelvis. He was in the Amarillo hospital until Saturday when he got to come home but he can't try to walk for at least a couple of weeks. He has to be either in bed or in a wheelchair, not a good situation for an active guy like Gary. We also extend our thoughts to his wife Carolyn who has to put up with him during his recovery.

Gertie Murphree was in the hospital for a couple of nights last week after she had a mild stroke. Son-in-law Kevin Wiseman says Gertie came home Saturday and is doing well. A speedy recovery to you Gertie.

Sergio Correa, the young man from Friona who suffered burns a few months back, is still recovering in the Lubbock Burn Center. Relatives say he has been in intensive rehab and is trying to recover enough to be home for Christmas. Burns to his chest area were most severe. Doctors want him to remain in the hospital but he is determined to be home by Christmas. We wish Sergio well and ask that you remember him and his family in your thoughts and prayers during the Christmas season.

There were a lot of pheasant hunters in town the last few days. Pheasant season opened last Saturday. I spotted Kyle and Cody Grimsley with dad Jimmy having lunch at Fast Stop Saturday. Both boys are Friona grads and ex-Chiefstains who live and work in Lubbock. Kyle was quarterback on the 1996 state semi-finals team. It was good to see them. John Gurley had a couple of old school chums from Sherman in town for some hunting too.

At the senior citizens lunch Monday, we enjoyed the monthly Mexican pile-on buffet but those jalapenos Nora puts in the pico de gallo are still too darn hot. It was noted that Jim Johnston is now in Triumph Hospital in Amarillo. The address is 2828 W. 27th Avenue Amarillo 79109. The phone number is 806-351-1600. His prognosis is not good but Jim is a tough guy. Also it was said Don Huckabee is seriously ill and in an Amarillo hospital. Our sympathy and hope goes out to both families.

I wandered around the Country Jubilee bazaar last weekend. There are a lot of unique people who have the talent to make some unique arts and crafts. I am not one of them since I have zero talent in that area. Parmer County Chief Deputy Wayne Gruben does have an artistic talent. His booth had Texas clocks made from tiles, a coat rack made mainly with horseshoes, a hat rack of the same material, and other hand-made gift items. Lot of neat items on display at the bazaar but they could have used more customer traffic I think. I enjoyed the chicken fajitas the FCCLA girls served at the concession stand.

I have to say a word of appreciation to the Panhandle Dairy Women and their children who so graciously hosted a Christmas party for Prairie Acres residents last Saturday. What a great bunch of people. Since many of the dairy women are from the Netherlands I especially enjoy their accents. The children were very polite and well-behaved.

They brought healthy snacks, including milk of course, for the residents, sang Christmas carols, and handed out gift bags with skin care lotion and other goodies in them. What a nice way to start the Christmas season. Thank you Panhandle Dairy Women. May you and your families enjoy a healthy and prosperous Christmas season.

The annual Friona State Bank Christmas Tea will be all day next Wednesday, December 13. There will be plenty of hot cider, tea, and snacks, plus Christmas music provided by Clint Mears to set the mood for the season. Marca Herring and all the bank employees invite you to stop by and partake of the holiday hospitality.

Keep us posted on any local news and concerns of interest. Thank you.

Electricity may be cheaper for irrigation

By Kay Ledbetter, A&M Extension Center

Producers who irrigate crops can make converting their watering systems to electricity pay at current natural gas prices, said a Texas Cooperative Extension specialist.

Dr. Steve Amosson, Extension economist in Amarillo, told producers attending the Farm Management Symposium during the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show on Nov. 30 that, while several factors must be considered, converting irrigation systems to electricity would be the most economical thing to do at this time.

"It appears to pay to convert to electricity at the lighter lift rates, 200 feet, when natural gas prices reach \$4 per mcf (million cubic feet) and at the deeper lift rate, 500 feet, when gas prices exceed \$5 per mcf," Amosson said.

Currently gas prices are around \$8 per million cubic feet and most producers are looking at a 500-foot lift to bring water to the surface in their irrigation wells, he said.

"While we expect these rates to come down somewhat, the probability of them going below the breakeven is questionable," Amosson said.

The advantages of electricity are lower motor prices; lower lube, maintenance and repair; and a longer useful motor life, he said.

At 500 feet, the electric motor is expected to last for 15

years and cost \$6,600, compared to a natural gas engine that costs \$20,000 with a 12-year life span, Amosson said.

The \$5-per-mcf breakeven includes the cost of conversion, which is expected to be around \$9,000. However, it does not include the cost of line extension fees that may be required if three-phase electricity has to be run to the pivot system, he said.

While the line extension fee varies, Amosson figured a cost of \$15,000 would add another \$1 per mcf to the breakeven figure, making it \$6 per mcf on the 500-foot lift, still well below the current natural gas prices.

"At \$8 natural gas, we would anticipate being able to recover

the conversion costs and that of the new motor in three to four years," he said. The addition of the line extension fee would make cost-recovery time a little longer.

Looking at the natural gas futures, Amosson said the outlook indicates gas prices may fall, but not enough in the next several years to keep this from being the most viable option.

He is, however, looking at the possibility of combining electricity with a wind-powered electric irrigation system.

"We're in the final stages of completing the analysis looking at the feasibility of wind-electric hybrid systems," he said.

Farmer's tax guide released

The IRS has released the Farmers Tax Guide for use in preparing 2006 tax returns. The Farmer's Tax Guide, IRS Publication 225, contains information on the farming business either as an owner or tenant.

"If you cultivate, operate or manage a farm for profit, which includes stock, dairy, poultry, fish, fruit, vegetable and truck farms, this guide would serve you well," said IRS spokesperson Clay Sanford.

In tax year 2004, there were 240,999 farm tax returns (Schedule F) filed by Texans.

The guide explains how the federal tax laws apply to farming, how to figure your tax and complete your farm tax return, and the new tax laws for 2006 and 2007. It also explains the benefits of keeping records, what kinds of records you must keep and how long you must keep them for federal tax purposes.

Other topics include tracking farm income, expenses, employment taxes and sample tax returns.

The Farmers Tax Guide, IRS Publication 225, is available at the IRS Website at www.irs.gov or by calling toll-free at 1 (800) TAX-FORM.



ron carr photo

Gladys Spring, left, Parmer County Historical Commission president, visits with Marlene Drake during the Country Jubilee show at the community center last weekend.



ron carr photo

Local FCCLA students operated the concession stand for the two days of the Country Jubilee arts & crafts show at the community center. Manning the fajitas and mustard bottle are, l-r, Juliassa Saenz, Liliana Palacios, Edlyn Romero, Maria Jurado, Lupita Vazquez, and Melina Vega. They are students of Patsy Allen and Gayle Murdock.



courtesy photo

10-year-old Zack Fisher of Memphis, Texas, bagged this 8-point mule deer at the family ranch over the Thanksgiving weekend. He is the son of Kevin and Cara Fisher and the great grandson of Jack and Ona Patterson of Friona and the Rhea Community.



courtesy photo

S.O.C.S. members, back row, l-r, Sponsor Debbie Martin, John Hinton, Alex Vega, Bianca Trevino, Lenny Sim, Adriana Soltero, Sponsor Sylvia DeLeon and Daniel Soltero. Middle row, l-r, Silvestre Huerta, Liz Chavez, Miguel Soto, Sarah Prieto, Sammy Rojas, Eduardo Rojas, and Alex Escobedo. Front row, l-r, Yari Aviliz, Kristen Gonzales, Lupita Aguilar, Kenia Delgado, Amber DeLeon, Edward Leon and Eddy Hernandez.

Friona Junior High S.O.C.S. busy

Reported by Amber DeLeon and Krystin Gonzales

The Friona Junior High School S.O.C.S. (Serving Our Community and School) Club has had a busy first semester.

Officers were elected in September. President, Mariela Torres; Vice-President, Liz Chavez; Secretary, Eddy Hernandez; Treasurer, Silvestre Huerta; Reporter, Alex Gonzales; Photographer, Jessica Jamerson; and Parliamentarian, Miguel Soto.

The club sponsored a "Welcome Back to School" dance and entered a float in the Maize Days parade showing their first school service activity of painting "trash" on the trash cans around the school and emptying and cleaning them.

They sponsored Red Ribbon Week October 23-27. They passed out "We Have More to

Do than Drugs" red ribbons. Students wore boots on Tuesday to "Kick out Drugs". They wore sneakers on Wednesday for "Don't Let Drugs Sneak Up on You" day. They wore their favorite team shirt on Thursday for "Team Up Against Drugs" day. Friday students were asked to wear red for "Fight Drugs" day. They sponsored a "Drug Free Sock Hop" on Saturday.

In November they planted shrubs in front of the school to make it beautiful. They spon-

sored a school canned food drive. The winner was decided by the most items brought by each grade. The eighth grade collected the most items.

The S.O.C.S. will sponsor Diabetes Awareness. There will be a speaker and they plan to have a walk-a-thon in January. Please help if a member asks for a donation.

The members of S.O.C.S. are, sixth grade, Amber DeLeon, Alex Escobedo, Krystin Gonzales, Eduardo Rojas, Lenny Sim,

Daniel Soltero; seventh grade, Lupita Aguilar, Elda Castanon, Rosa Chavarria, Jonathan Cruz, Rebecca Cumpian, Eddy Hernandez, Jessica Jamerson, Abby Jones, Edward Leon, Bernice Lopez, Teresa Parra, Sarah Prieto, Christian Rangel, Gaby Reveles, Ismael Rocha, Adriana Soltero, Miguel Soto, Bianca Trevino and Vanessa Vital; and eighth grade, Liz Chavez, Alex Gonzales, John Hinton, Silvestre Huerta, Adrian Quintana and Mariela Torres.



Friona Chieftains and Squaws Ornaments

\$10.00

A Great Gift for the Friona Fan!

Proceeds go to funding the All-American Cheerleaders trip to the Orange Bowl

Brooke Herbert

~
Jordan Jamerson

~
Michelle Martin

**Call 250-2334 or 295-6810
Table at Home Basketball games**



Junior High band Christmas Concert

**Thursday
December 14**

7 p.m.

Junior High Auditorium.

Concert is FREE



DEC 8 THRU DEC 14

Unaccompanied Minors PG
1:45 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:00

The Holiday PG
1:15 - 4:00 - 7:00

Happy Feet PG
1:30 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:10

Deja Vu PG
1:15 - 4:00 - 7:00

Deck the Halls PG
1:30 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:00

The Nativity Story PG
1:30 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:10

**MONDAY-THURSDAY: 7PM SHOWING ONLY
WEEKEND & HOLIDAY: MATINEES \$9
ADULTS \$5 KIDS & SENIORS \$5**

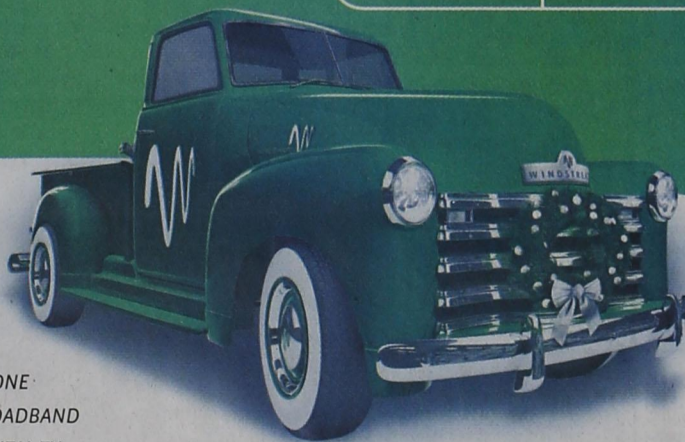
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