

Friona ★ Star

VOL. 87, NO. 50

FRIONA, TEXAS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011

TWELVE PAGES

Retirement reception set for Ted Osborn

A retirement reception will be held for city employee Ted Osborn at the city hall, 623 Main, Wednesday, December 21, 2011 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by and wish Ted all the best.

Speech & Drama blood drive at FHS

The speech and drama students at Friona High School are sponsoring a blood. Anyone from the community can donate. It is scheduled for Monday December 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the high school band hall.

Donors are asked to come by the high school, call 806-382-8596, or see your favorite speech and drama member to schedule an appointment. It is not necessary to have an appointment to donate.

Books available at the Chamber

Need a gift with Friona flavor? Copies of "Recipes to Remember" cookbooks are still available at the Chamber of Commerce for only \$10. Also, copies of the Parmer County Brand Book are still available for \$15.

Grief support group meeting

The local Grief and Bereavement Support Group meeting will be held Tuesday December 20 at 6 p.m. at the Bluebonnet Home Health office, 304 East 11th in Friona. The topic will be Grief and the Holidays. Extra material will be available about dealing with grief during the holidays. This is a community service open to the public. For more information call 806-247-0057.



ron carr photo

Christmas is getting closer and children everywhere are hoping Santa visits. During a recent Santa stop at the Old Depot in City Park, Ellie McEuen, no doubt charmed Santa into lots of presents on Christmas morning. Ellie is the daughter of Melodee and Dusty Hansard. More photos from Santa's Depot visit at frionaonline.com.

Council approves 911 move to Farwell

The Friona city council met in regular session Monday December 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 619 Main St. All members were present. Mayor J.B. Douglas presided.

A resolution to transfer the 911 emergency service dispatch to the Sheriff's office in Farwell was discussed. The 911 service in the Panhandle is coordinated by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) in Amarillo. Mike Peters, the PRPC 911 coordinator was present to answer questions posed by council members.

Peters told the council he thought 911 service was started in Friona about 1989 or 1990. He indicated that in the future, as technology develops, there will likely be future local dispatch offices throughout the Panhandle as offices will be consolidated into larger operations. After discussion, the council voted to approve the

transfer of the Parmer County 911 dispatch to Farwell. The cost of \$2,000 to \$3,000 will be paid by the county.

Fire Chief Jim Taylor asked to council to reimburse the fire department about \$900 in travel expense spent to send two firemen to California to bring back a new tanker truck. The city had already paid over \$500 in related expense to get the truck DOT inspected and repair three valves that froze during the drive back when the firemen ran into a snow storm in Flagstaff, Arizona.

City manager Patricia Phipps told council members the city had paid \$73,000 in fire department expenses this year and had received \$27,000 from the county commissioners fire fund. The council approved the \$900 reimbursement to the fire department. The tanker is currently being lettered and outfitted for use by the local fire department.

Reappointed to the Friona planning and zoning board were Carroll Cook and Doug Kelley. The council approved the November accounts payables and financial statements.

A discussion was held about locating a used tire recycling trailer in Friona. The PRPC representative said the \$7,000 trailer would be provided free to the city. Citizens will be able to dispose of used tires of all sizes in the trailer at a per tire fee yet to be determined. A recycling company from Denver City, Texas, will come to Friona and haul away the used tires for \$1,100, paid by the fees collected. The council approved a resolution to apply for the grant, through PRPC, to fund the tire recycling operation.

The next meeting of the city council will be Monday, January 9, 2012. All city council meetings are open to the public.

Well owners need to make initial readings for 2012 water use

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District reminds owners/operators of certain wells or well systems that it is time to make initial readings to determine a "starting point" for 2012 groundwater use reporting.

Recent High Plains Water District rule amendments now require flow meter readings or readings from alternative measuring methods to be recorded from December 15 to January 15 of each year. This information is needed to report annual water use to the district by March 1 of the following year.

"In preparation for reporting in the 2012 calendar year, well owners and operators first need to determine if they are going to use flow meter readings or alternative measuring methods for their information," said Gerald Crenwelge, field data collection group supervisor.

Alternative measuring methods may be used for existing wells in lieu of flow meters during the transitional period from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2015. The three approved alternative measuring methods include electricity consumption, natural gas consumption, and nozzle packages/hour meter readings on center pivot systems.

Once the reporting method is determined, Crenwelge said well owners and operators have the option to

provide their initial information now via a printed form available on the district's web site or they may choose to wait until a new database with reporting on the Internet is activated. Parts of the database will become active within the next 30 days and additional parts will become active in stages after that for recording/reporting of meter readings.

"Well owners and operators are encouraged to visit the High Plains Water District web site (www.hpwd.com) on a regular basis for announcements about the district's new reporting database and instructions on how to submit data. We hope this new database will make it as easy as possible for well owners to provide required data to the district. In addition, it will help us track those who have reported information and those who have not," Crenwelge said.

The metering/reporting requirements apply to all groundwater use within the High Plains Water District including agriculture, livestock and dairy operation, manufacturing, municipalities, oil and gas production, public water supply systems, and steam-electric generation.

It is important to note that the reporting requirements do not apply to wells producing less than 17.5 gallons of water per minute (25,000 gallons per day) OR wells that are used solely for do-

mestic use. However, wells that are part of a well system that has a total aggregated capacity to produce more than 17.5 gallons of water per minute (25,000 gallons per day) are included.

Additional information regarding the reporting re-

quirements and alternative measuring methods are found in the Rules of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District and the district's Meter Specifications and Approved Meter List Manual. Both are available as PDF files for

viewing/downloading on the water district web site.

"The High Plains Water District Board of Directors approved a 50/50 Management Goal which establishes a desired future condition for the Ogallala Aquifer within the district. This goal is to

have 50 percent of the saturated thickness of the Ogallala Aquifer available for use 50 years in the future (2060). We encourage persons with questions to call the Lubbock office at (806) 762-0181," said Jim Conkright, general manager.

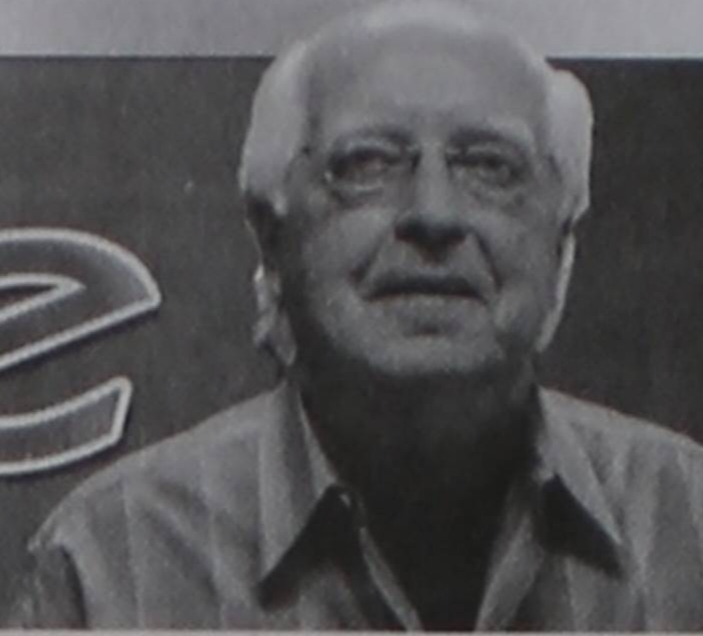


ron carr photo

The Friona Chamber of Commerce board held a ribbon cutting at the new Chieftain Self Storage business on Main St. Owner Allan Haile provided sausage wraps during the open house. From left, Chris Alexander, David Barnett, Mark Haile, John Gurley, Allan Haile, Britny Pope, Julie Mason, Jimmy Maynard, Trish Etue, Patricia Phipps, Bryan Johnston, Chris Keathley, and Mark Collier.

Out Here

By Ron Carr



by the numbers

Trillions, billions, millions, thousands.

If you watch enough TV news channels or try to stay informed about government, like I do, you soon get dazzled by all the numbers they throw around.

Let me say upfront that I do not trust most government number claims. There are poll numbers, unemployment numbers, retail sales numbers, budget deficit numbers, stock market numbers, and on and on. This week it was reported that retail sales rose by 0.01%. I wonder who computes that particular percentage and how they do it.

I'm pretty sure retail sales at Ingram's and Ivy Cottage were not included. I suppose they gather sales tax figures from the states and sift them through some magic software program to compute the retail sales figures, which are

meaningless if you are an avid shopper. Statistical averages are overrated.

Another number that confuses me is the weekly "first time unemployment filing" figure. It has been over 400,000 a week every week for a couple of years. Pundits were applauding when it dropped below 400,000 a couple of times. It means that 400,000 people lose their jobs every week and apply for unemployment. It is always issued as a round number like 420,000. How can it come out even every time? Guess we will settle for an estimate.

They say the unemployment rate is 9%. Then it went down to 8.6% and everyone was rejoicing. But in some states like Nevada and Michigan the rate is as much as 15%. How do they compute the number of unemployed people into a percentage?

Another number they like

to throw around: 3,000 young people start smoking everyday. Nobody knows that for sure. Maybe it is an average, or perhaps a wild guess. Secondhand smoke kills 25,000 people a year. I don't believe that number has ever been proven, but the people who want to believe it are happy (or sad).

This week I received a postcard from the Nielsen TV rating people. More numbers needed. Said they were sending me a large blue and white envelope with a brief television survey inside. The Nielsen folks provide TV networks with ratings numbers of their shows so they can sell advertising. I don't need Nielsen to tell me when a show is bad. I won't be filling out the survey either.

Just this week the National Association of Realtors announced that their "number of homes sold" during the period of 2007 to 2011 were wrong by

as much as 20%. Their statistics affect the value of housing in America. How did they get it wrong? I'm sure they will say they are sorry and shrug it off. That's what numbers people do when the numbers don't add up.

Our Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the value of all goods and services produced in America in one year, is said to be \$15 trillion. That is the same number as our current \$15 trillion in national debt. (I wonder if they include the Friona Star advertising sales in the GDP.)

Government is a numbers game. Difficult to have much confidence in government numbers. The bad numbers are getting bigger and the good numbers smaller. Here in Friona, America, though, a pretty good cheeseburger is still about \$2.98.

That is a number we can believe in.



cogitations & aphorisms of jodok

By Uncle John White • 1868 - 1965

Santa Letters from 50 Years Ago

Santa letters from the December 21, 1961, Friona Star. You may recognize some of these "kids." Requests for Santa were much simpler 50 years ago. No electronics mentioned here, just BB guns, dolls, and trucks. Merry Christmas from 1961.

Dear Santa Claus,
I've been good, I hope. I would like some stuffed toys for my bed such as a monkey, a skunk, and a French poodle. I hope you will give the poor and sick children what they want. I would like a doll. I am 8 years old. How are you and Mrs. Santa? I will have something for you to eat.

Love,
Susan Floyd
P.S. If you don't have these things it will be O.K. Get my dog a bone.

Dear Santa,
How are you feeling? I want a big doll that walks and talks, doll clothes, a set of dishes, desk and table set. Joy wants a baby bed, a new doll, and pull toys.

Joy and Judy Massey
Dear Santa Claus,
I want a portable TV and a electric ball game and a bee bee gun and a station set.

Love,
Dennis Anthony

Dear Santa,
I am a little girl 5 years old. I have been a good girl this year. I would like a Nurses kit. My little brother Jay would like to have a truck for Christmas. Please remember all the other boys and girls and help them all to have a Merry Christmas.
I love you Santa.
Janine Jarboe

Dear Santa Claus,
I am a boy 9 years old. I would like a gun that shoots shells, and a Road Race track, a shoot gun, and a real wacht.
Your friend
Donnie Lewellen

Dear Santa,
I want a record player and some records and a Thumbelee doll and please get my cousin a stuffed bear and my sister wants a camera. Please think of the poor children too. Well I guess I better go now.
Love,
Debra Mears

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a Barbie doll. I would like to have some dresses for my doll. Please bring me some candy too.
Love,
Patricia Ailene Phipps

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Ken doll. I am 8 years old. I have a Barbie doll. and I like to play with her too. How are you and Mrs. Santa and your elves. I guess I don't want anything else. I will have something for you to eat Christmas Eve. Happy Christmas.
Love,
Susan Spring

Dear Santa,
I want a watch. I have been a quiet girl.
With love,
Veca Welch

Dear Santa,
I am in the second grade. I would like a tiny tears doll, a sewing machine, and an apron.
With love,
Kathy Horton

Dear Santa,
I am 8 years old. I want a Thumbelee doll and a magic drawing set, and a cooking set.
Love,
Lana Gail Renner

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a stove, a refrigerator, a kissing doll, and doll bunk beds. A doll high chair and a doctor set. Please bring my little brother a musical toy.
Love,
Connie Lindeman

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a gun rack and a wach, horky game and a truck. I ges that's all.
Your friend,
Don Fortenberry

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. I want a B.B. gun and football sout.
Randy Terry

Dear Santa,
I have been good I hope. I would like to have a stuffed purple monkey and a transistor and some more stuffed animals.
Love,
Cindy Campbell

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. I want a BB gun. Do not forget all the other boys and girls.
Chuck Rector

Dear Santa Claus
I been a good girl. I want a Deputy doll and Nurse kit, and a suitcase please.
Thank you,
Jill Riethmayer

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. I want a pick-up. I want a truck. I want a filling station.
With love,
Carroll Cook

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2011 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

- this Harper was in "Tender Mercies" ('83) with TX Buckley
- prefix for "against"
- TX Janis album: "Dem Ol' Kozmic Blues Again Mama!"
- TXism: "walking dandruff"
- Fort Worth money-making plant uses green
- TXism: "clear as Red River mud" (confusing)
- Rockport is "where the fun never"
- East TX tree (2 wds.)
- TX Buddy sang "___, Boy!"
- a Great Lake
- "neither's" sidekick
- Mexican beer liked by TXns
- TX-based '91 film comedy: "Roughness"
- this agcy. operates TX veteran hospitals
- this nat'l grocer has a dairy in TX
- snakelike Gulf fish
- this TX Billie Sol had a highly publicized fraud trial in '64
- TXism: "she has to sneak up on ___ her hair" (homely)
- large fishing net
- Glen Rose, TX was briefly known as "Glen ___"

DOWN

- dir. to Dallas from Hico
- personal retirement acct.
- city of AL East Blue Jays
- TX has about 560 species of
- this Randolph was in '51 film "Fort Worth" (init.)
- TX band: "ZZ ___"
- TX Trini had a hit with "If ___ a Hammer"
- TXism: "___ gravel" (fell)
- TX cyclist Armstrong
- TXism: "don't get your shorts ___ knot"
- TXism: "couldn't lick his upper ___" (weakling)
- dir. to Waco from Fort Worth
- locomotive
- Fort ___ TX
- "Fort Griffin State Historic ___"
- TXism: "old ___ dirt" in Matagorda Co. off hwy. 35
- boat propellers?
- national "public diplomacy" agcy. from '53-'99
- TXism: "___ more of them than liars in Texas"
- TXism: "guilty as ___"
- TXism: "three ___ the wind" (drunk)
- Catholic 9-day devotions
- obliterates
- this TX Kite has 19 PGA Tour wins (init.)
- stat for Ranger Colby Lewis
- in Hopkins Co. on 11
- TXism: "never look ___ horse in the mouth"
- Mexican holiday: "Diez ___ Septiembre"
- truck rubber
- "bear" south of the border
- lease
- landscape needing little or no water
- gem found in TX
- weeder (2 wds.)
- ABC reporter from TX, Donaldson
- TXism: "happy as a dog with two ___"
- in Ellis Co. on I-45

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33 Mexican holiday: "Diez ___ Septiembre"
38 truck rubber
40 "bear" south of the border
41 lease
42 landscape needing little or no water
48 gem found in TX
50 weeder (2 wds.)
51 ABC reporter from TX, Donaldson
56 TXism: "happy as a dog with two ___"
57 in Ellis Co. on I-45

1041 solution on page 4

Yearbook discount deadline is Dec. 20

FHS yearbook sponsor Allison Johnston says the deadline for ordering a yearbook at the reduced price of \$45 is fast approaching. Yearbooks must be ordered and paid for by December 20 in order to receive the special price.

Order forms are available from Mrs. Johnston at the high school. You can also order and pay for your yearbook online at www.frionaisd.com. Click on the yearbook widget on the Friona ISD homepage.

Mrs. Johnston said, "You can also share your photos with us from that widget." The yearbook will have 208 pages of memories in full color. The theme for this year's book is "Still Good Looking in 2012."

Johnston said, "We are collecting baby pictures from everyone in Friona ISD. We are hoping to use at least one baby picture on each page of the yearbook. Don't miss out on ordering the first ever full color yearbook at this incredible price."

If you have any questions please contact Allison Johnston at Friona High School, 250-3951, or email her at ajohnsto@frionaisd.com.

Letters to the Editor

Sent to Friona Chamber members:

This office received this letter today. You may have representatives from this company calling for advertising. We do not sponsor these maps of Parmer County and Friona in any way. We have them in our office to give out or send in relocation packets. This email is to inform you that whether you decide to advertise or not is up to you. We do not receive any compensation from the advertising or from the maps. Thank you.
Friona Chamber of Commerce

Dear Friona (and I truly mean Dear)-
About a month ago, my Grandmother Neill passed away. I got the call on Monday morning and within a couple of hours was on my way home (and I do mean home...as in Friona). Before I got on the road, I posted on Facebook about Grandmother's passing and by the time I got to Friona there were over 50 posts with sympathy, prayers, love and memories of her.

I have tried for a month to come up with a word to describe how AWESOME this made me and the rest of the family feel, but don't feel like there is a word to do it justice. As I began to reflect on this, I realized that it just isn't in time of need that my hometown is quite possibly the greatest place on Earth (please don't sue me Mr. Disney) but Friona is great in all times of your life. There were so many people who brought food, sent flowers or just came by to visit and it made those few days so much more tolerable.

When I got back to Dallas, I was trying to explain this to my coworkers. Most of them were born and raised in the "city" so this phenomenon of small town unconditional love was hard for most of them to comprehend, which is very sad to me. There is not a single day that goes by that I don't recognize a piece of me that was truly molded and groomed by this amazing community. Most people in the Metroplex area don't understand my love and overall peace that comes with and from Friona.

Generally no one knows where it is on a map but all they need to know is that if ever there was a place for me to call home, God truly blessed me by placing me in Friona. Thank you to everyone who taught me anything! Thanks to everyone who sent messages of peace (in person or virtually) because you truly gave the family something more amazing than money could buy!! Mostly, thank you to my Grandparents for moving to Friona and to my Parents for staying there. My heart is full!! I love you all!! Merry Christmas!!

Lisa Weatherly
P.S. - I am now officially the second generation of Neill's that write letters to the editor. HAHA!!!

ON YOUR PAYROLL

President
Barack Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500; (202) 456-1414

U.S. Senate
Kay Bailey Hutchison, 284 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510-4304; (202) 224-5922; email, senator@hutchison.senate.gov
John Cornyn, 517 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510; (202) 224-2934

U.S. House District 19
Randy Neugebauer, 429 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; (202) 225-4005; e-mail is through Website <http://www.house.gov/neugebauer>. District Office: 611 University Ave., Suite 220, Lubbock 79401; (806) 763-1611 or toll-free (888) 763-1611

Governor
Rick Perry, Room 200, State Capitol, Austin 78711; (512) 463-2000 or (800) 252-9600

Texas Senate, District 31
Kel Seliger, P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin 78711; P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo 79106; (512) 463-0131 or 374-8994; e-mail, Kel.Seliger@senate.state.tx.us

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Thursday, Dec...

Congrats to Kyle...
cretia Morgan. Th...
comed baby girl Jay...
Morgan last week...
will no doubt be com...
grandparents Vickie...
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is the second great...
for Ron and Melba...
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had baby boy Br...
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Bowl parade in Pa...
California on January

Also in the Lubbo...
Band and marching...
Rose Bowl parade an...
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granddaughters of...
and Pat Fleming. Co...
a Lubbock High ser...
the band's twirler...
is a sophomore and...
drums. They are dau...
David and Dawn Fle...
Another Fleming...
daughter, Jenae Flem...
at Lubbock M...
High School. She...
one of the dancers...
halftime show at...
back Bowl in Tampa...
January 2, 2012...
the daughter of An...
Judy Fleming and...
granddaughter of Jo...
McLellan of Friona...
be a busy TV day...
at the Fleming and...
households.

Congratulations to...
Barnett Reyes, RN...
graduated nursing sc...
week with honors, or...
three in her class. I

Jamie Lewellen...
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Town Talk II

By Ron Carr • Phone: 250-2211 • Fax: 250-5127 • Email: frionastar@wtrt.net

Congrats to Kyle and Lucretia Morgan. They welcomed baby girl Jayden Gayle Morgan last week. Details will no doubt be coming from grandparents Vickie and Dennis Field soon. Great grands are Ron and Melba Smiley. It is the second great grandchild for Ron and Melba this year. Kristin and Casey Meeks had baby boy Brogan a few months back. Kristin is the daughter of Jerry and Cindy Butman. She and Casey (and Brogan) recently moved to Lubbock from Hobbs, New Mexico.

one of the great nurses that looked after my mother at the Friona hospital. Mother loved Briar. Now she is a proud RN. Congrats young lady, you have a bright future.

Sam Mears is scheduled to have back surgery in Oklahoma City this week. It is a new laser procedure said to be less invasive than typical surgery. All the best to Sam and Donna and the family.

FHS athletes are raffling a 50" TV to assist the Martinez family with medical expenses. Mrs. Martinez is battling cancer. The tickets are \$1 and the drawing will be held Tuesday, December 22, during halftime of the Chieftains - Idalou basketball game. See Coach Mike Herbert for tickets or attend the games next Tuesday. Don't have to be present to win.

Alan and Nita Clark's granddaughter Ashton Lafuente is a student at Lubbock High. She is in the Lubbock High Band and will be marching with the band in the Rose Bowl parade in Pasadena, California on January 2, 2012.

Also in the Lubbock High Band and marching in the Rose Bowl parade are Courtney and Savanna Fleming, granddaughters of Howard and Pat Fleming. Courtney is a Lubbock High senior and the band's twirler. Savanna is a sophomore and plays the drums. They are daughters of David and Dawn Fleming.

Another Fleming granddaughter, Jenae Fleming, is a junior at Lubbock Monterey High School. She will be one of the dancers during the halftime show at the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Florida January 2, 2012. Jenae is the daughter of Andrew and Judy Fleming and also the granddaughter of Joe and Loy McLellan of Friona. Going to be a busy TV day January 2 at the Fleming and McLellan households.

Congratulations to Briar Barnett Reyes, RN. Briar graduated nursing school this week with honors, one of only three in her class. Briar was

A number of Friona folks were in Las Vegas last week for the National Finals Rodeo. That is the excuse they gave anyway.

Two of those attending were Greg and Jamie Lewellen. Jamie's brother, Chandler Bownds, was a rookie in the bull riding competition. He won two rounds and placed 2nd in another round. He earned over \$50,000 in the 10-day rodeo. He finished 8th in the world standings and his 91-point ride in the 2nd round was the highest point ride of the rodeo. As Jamie says, not too bad for a rookie, we are very proud of him. Photo elsewhere on the page. Greg and Jamie attended the American Country Awards at the MGM Grand during their Vegas stay.

Kory Koontz of Sudan, Texas, and his partner, Erich Rogers, stopped the clock at 3.7 seconds in the 7th round of the NFR team roping competition and won \$17,885 each giving them a total earnings

of \$34,615 through seven rounds. This is Koontz's 18th year to compete at the National Finals Rodeo.

As a year ends, retirements happen. Carolyn Dement will retire from Friona State Bank and City of Friona employee Ted Osborn will retire too. A retirement reception for Ted will be held at city hall Wednesday December 21 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Carolyn's retirement reception will be December 29 from 2 - 3 p.m. at the bank. All the best to you both.

A story in the Amarillo newspaper December 1 said farms in Texas Panhandle counties collected more than \$64 million in direct payment subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2009. The article said western Panhandle counties raked in the highest in the area. Parmer County farms collected the highest with \$8.65 million, followed by Castro with \$7.98 million and Deaf Smith with \$7.6 million.

Donations made to Friona's Project Christmas Card are used to purchase equipment for the hospital. PMC assistant administrator Rhonda Wilkins said this year's fund will go toward the purchase of a specialty mattress to help prevent patient skin problems. Donations to Project Christmas Card can be made at Friona State Bank or in the canisters at many local businesses. Monday, December 19, is the deadline to be listed in the Star's special Christmas ad December 22.

Thieves broke into Chuck Mills' barbershop last week and stole all his new clippers. He had recently purchased the shop from Lee Gibson. He was out of business for a few days until he could replace

his clippers. If you know anything about this crime call the Friona police at 250-2711 or Crime Stoppers at 800-774-8477.

Peggy Monroe, coordinator of the Empty Stocking Fund, says they have received names of 57 needy children to serve this Christmas. They provide clothes, socks, shoes, sweaters, and a toy to each child based on info received from the schools. Donations can be made at Friona State Bank or contact Peggy Monroe.

The local Grief and Bereavement group will meet Tuesday, December 20 at 6 p.m. at the Bluebonnet Home Health office, 304 East 11th. The topic will be Grief and the Holidays. This is a community service open to the public. For more info call 247-0057.

My former wife Cindy, mother of Zac and Megan, underwent a kidney transplant at a Dallas hospital Sunday morning. She is diabetic and has been on the transplant list and going through dialysis three times a week for several years. The call came Saturday of a kidney available, donated by the family of a young child. Doctors say the kidney will grow to adult stage in time. My kids say she is doing well and will stay in a special hotel next to the hospital for six weeks to be cared for and guarded against infections, etc. What a great Christmas present for Cindy and the family.

Friona volunteer firemen Heath McElreath and Albert Trevino flew to California to bring back a tanker truck purchased for the fire department. They were caught in a freezing snowstorm near Flagstaff, Arizona. Three water valves on the tanker froze and busted but

they made it home just fine. Repairs have been made. The tanker is being detailed and will be added to the fleet soon. Gratitude to our volunteer firemen and EMS personnel especially during this holiday season, and to the community for supporting them.

If all goes well, the city will soon have a place to dispose of used tires. For a small fee, yet to be determined, a big trailer will be made available to dispose of used tires, all the way up to semi-truck size. Details when plans are final.

Thanks to the young carolers that came by to sing carols to my mom Monday night. Sorry I was at the city council meeting and missed it. Dana Campbell enlisted some friends and their kids and went to the nursing home and the homes of several grandparents to carol. Mom enjoyed it very much. Nice gesture. Thanks. A photo of the kids in this Star.

Since Christmas and New Year's fall on Sunday this year, Friona State Bank and

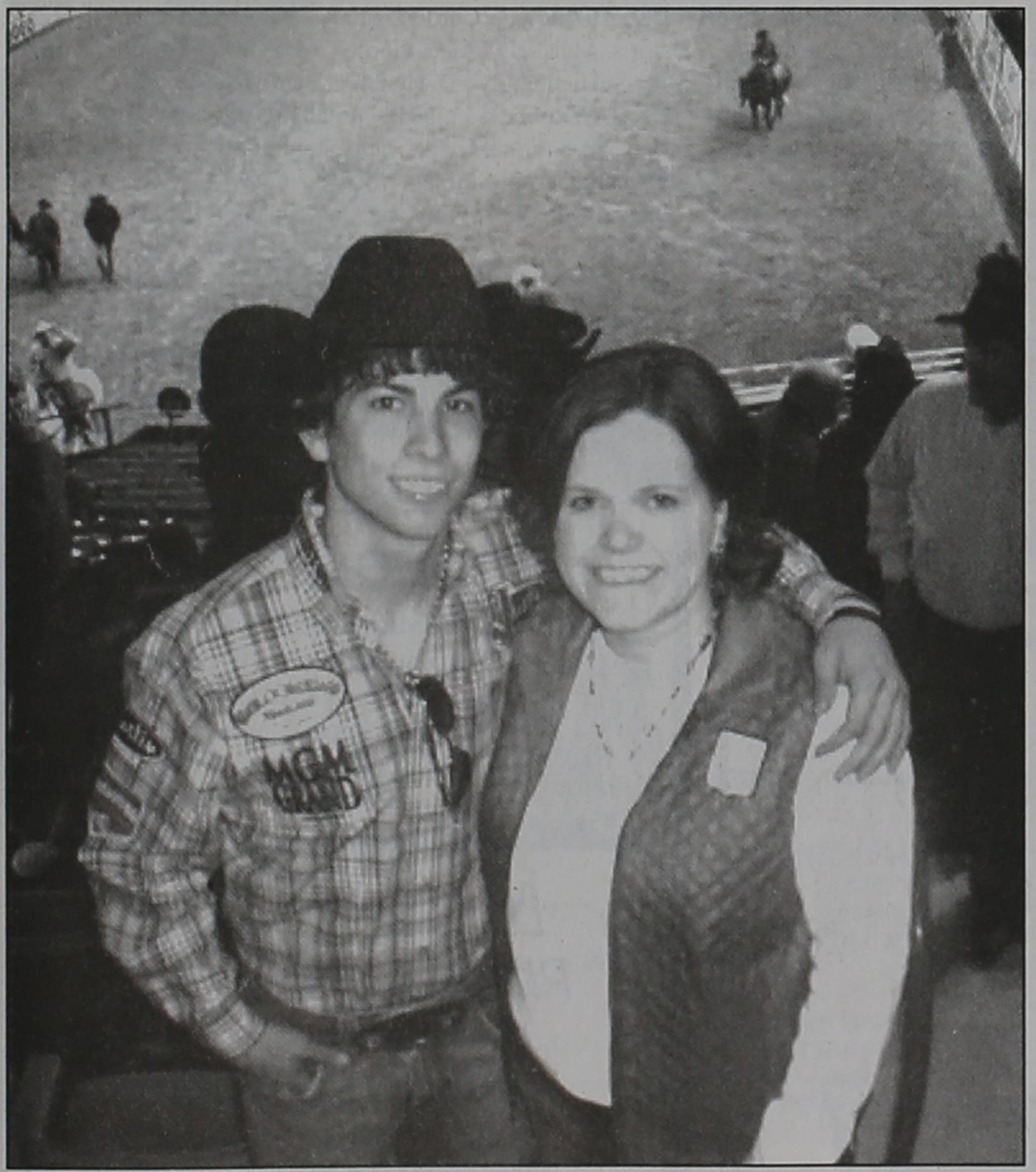
First National Bank will close at noon December 23 and be closed Monday December 26 and January 2. City hall will also be closed Friday December 23 and Monday December 26 and Monday January 2.

I realize it is a ways off but the 56th annual Chamber of Commerce banquet is scheduled for Tuesday March 6, 2012 at the community center. This is a good time to remind you to get a 2012 calendar.

I attended the Friona State Bank Christmas Tea and the Farm Bureau open house on Wednesday. Nice goodies at both. Will be attending the Heritage Estates Christmas dinner Thursday evening and the Fire Department banquet Saturday evening. Lot of opportunities for gathering and sharing this time of year. I hope you finish your shopping this weekend and enjoy the holidays with family and friends. We will see you next week with our annual Christmas issue. Lots of Santa letters and Santa photos. Until then!



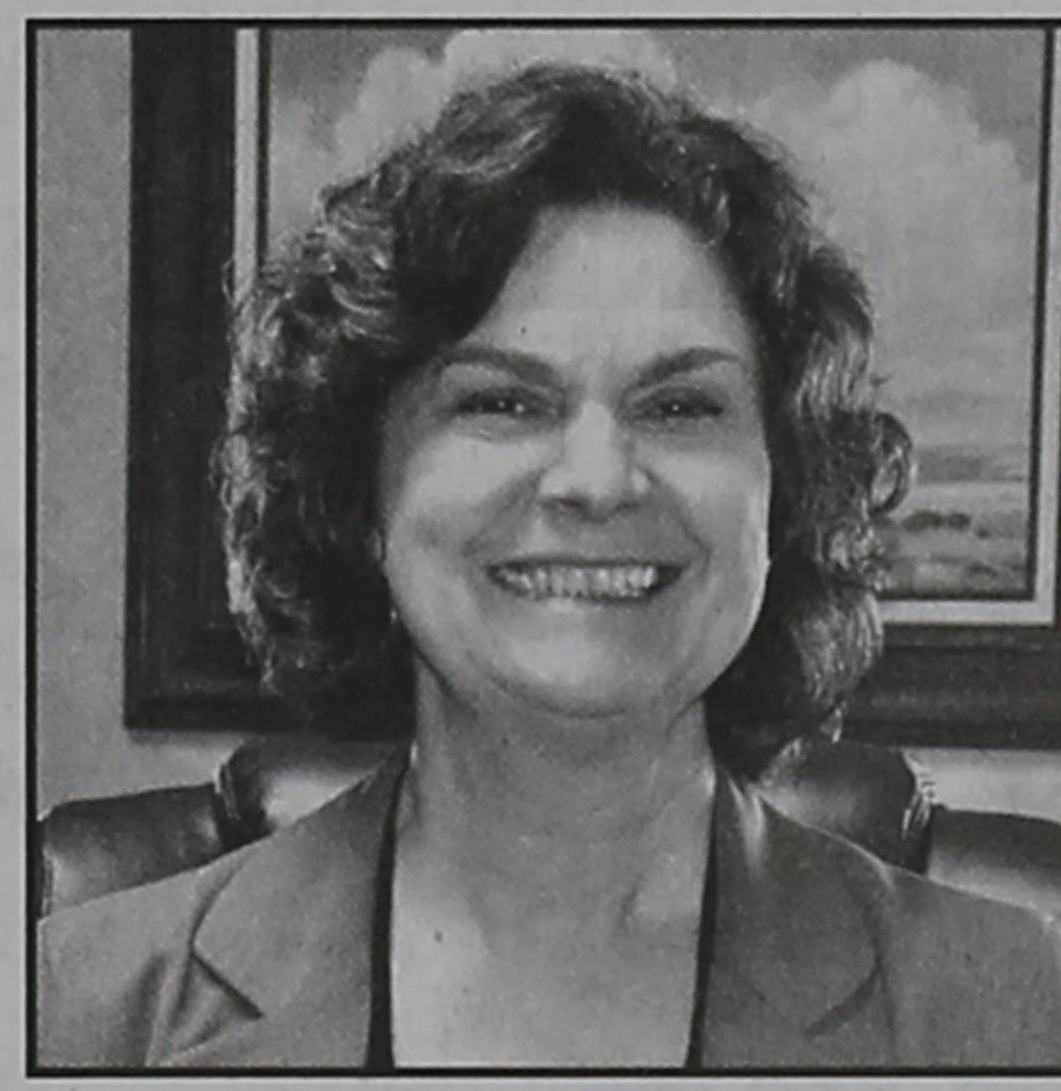
Charlie Brown and friends bring Christmas greetings from this home on W. 9th Street.



courtesy photo

Jamie Lewellen and her brother Chandler Bownds, are shown at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. Bownds entered the competition for the first time in the bull riding event and finished in 8th place in world standings and won over \$50,000.

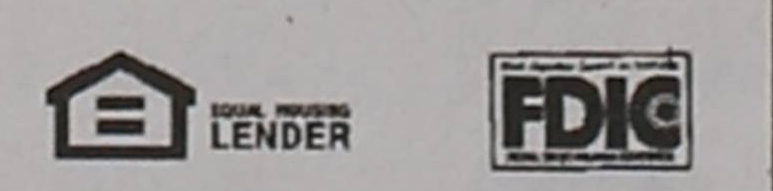
Carolyn Dement announces her retirement



Senior Vice President, Carolyn Dement, has announced that she will be retiring from her duties at Friona State Bank at the end of the year.

Carolyn has been with Friona State Bank for 30+ years and has worked in the Consumer Loan Department for many of those years. She has carried on the bank's tradition of putting the customer first and has always greeted you with a cheerful smile. We at Friona State Bank appreciate Carolyn for her years of dedication, efficiency and service to our customers and we will dearly miss her.

We will be hosting a Retirement Tea on December 29th from 2-3pm and we invite all of our customers and friends to stop by and congratulate Carolyn and wish her well.



FRIONA STATE BANK

A Division of InterBank
 Phone 250-5000 1105 N. Cleveland
 "Where People Come First" www.frionastatebank.com

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 Don't you hate it when you dash to the phone, but still miss the call? With call return, it's easy to automatically call them back!
 After you miss a call, pick up the phone and dial *69. An announcement will tell you the phone number of the party who last called you. Dial 1 if you want to return the call. If the line is busy, hang up. Call return will continue to try the number. When the line is available, you will be alerted by a special ringing pattern.
 If you dialed *69 and the line was busy and now you decide you don't want to call the number back, pick up the phone and dial *89 to cancel your request.
 To add CALL RETURN to your existing telephone service, or for information on our other phone features, call us at 250-5555.

WT Services Inc.
 1010 Columbia, 250-5555, Friona, Texas 79035

Panhandle Parables

What Child is this?

BY JEFF PROCTER, Minister, Sixth St. Church of Christ

Christmas is here and the debate begins again as to Nativity scenes, whether to say "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays" yata yata yata ... The sad reality is that in the ever increasing commercialization of this holiday, the political correctness gone crazy, and the simple insanity of shopping all hours of the night for stuff that rarely makes it to the next holiday, Jesus gets lost in all of it.

We know not the date of His birth, but we believe Him to have been born in the most humble of situations, a feed trough in a barn. I suspect it was a crazy time in Bethlehem as everyone was trying to get home and be counted, and in all that hustle and bustle a Child is born, born of a virgin and for the most part unnoticed by the world. Yes, there were the angels and yes, those shepherds had quite a story to share, but born not in the home of a King, but a stable for service animals.

My simple point is this: If you want to join the debate on word choices and nativity scenes, you go right ahead. If you like the shop 'til you drop and the midnight madness, more power to you. My prayer is that people would simply stop and be thankful for this Gift, to remember God's great love that He would give himself to put on the limitations of humanity and walk among us to show us God.

My prayer would continue with the desire for people to want to give THIS GIFT above all other gifts. That His steps would matter so much to us that we would follow them, as He leads us to those who need Him most, that we would actually live the lives we sing about on Sunday and that Jesus would be seen, felt and heard by the choices we make. What Child is this? This is Jesus, "and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us'."

Merry Christmas Carols

BY BRETT HOYLE, Pastor, First Baptist Church

Charles Wesley wrote over six thousand five hundred hymns, and this Christmas hymn by him was first published in 1774 as a small collection of poems for the Christmas season, and was later put to music. This prayer anticipates the coming of Jesus who was "born to set Thy people free". Wesley exalts the longing that Jews experienced as they waited for the Messiah to be sent, which is similar to the longing Christians have for Christ to return to the earth. Jesus is proclaimed as the "child and yet a king" and the one who has "all sufficient merit" which is a reference to Christ's atonement, the only sufficient payment for our sins which satisfies God's justice and brings us forgiveness.

Do you know this carol? "It is Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus". Do you long for Jesus' return? This song can be sung by be-

lievers as a prayer for Christ to return. Sadly, though, we believers are too consumed with this world's delights, that our citizenship in Christ's Kingdom is ignored. This Christmas, worship the babe in the manger, but also worship Jesus who is coming quickly, and when He returns will bring salvation for His flock and judgment for those who reject him as the Messiah. Invite Jesus into your heart and home this Christmas.

(Song information gleaned from Kenneth W. Osbeck, *Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions*; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel Publications, 1990.)



Lions Club News



courtesy photo

The Evening Lions Club met Thursday December 8. From left, Lion Dean Eichenauer, club sweetheart Rachel Dickson, Eva and Mike Mullins, owners of Blackwell-Mullins Funeral Home. The Mullins' gave a program about laws and burial insurance. They also own a funeral home in Dimmitt. The Evening Lions meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at the Congregational Church.

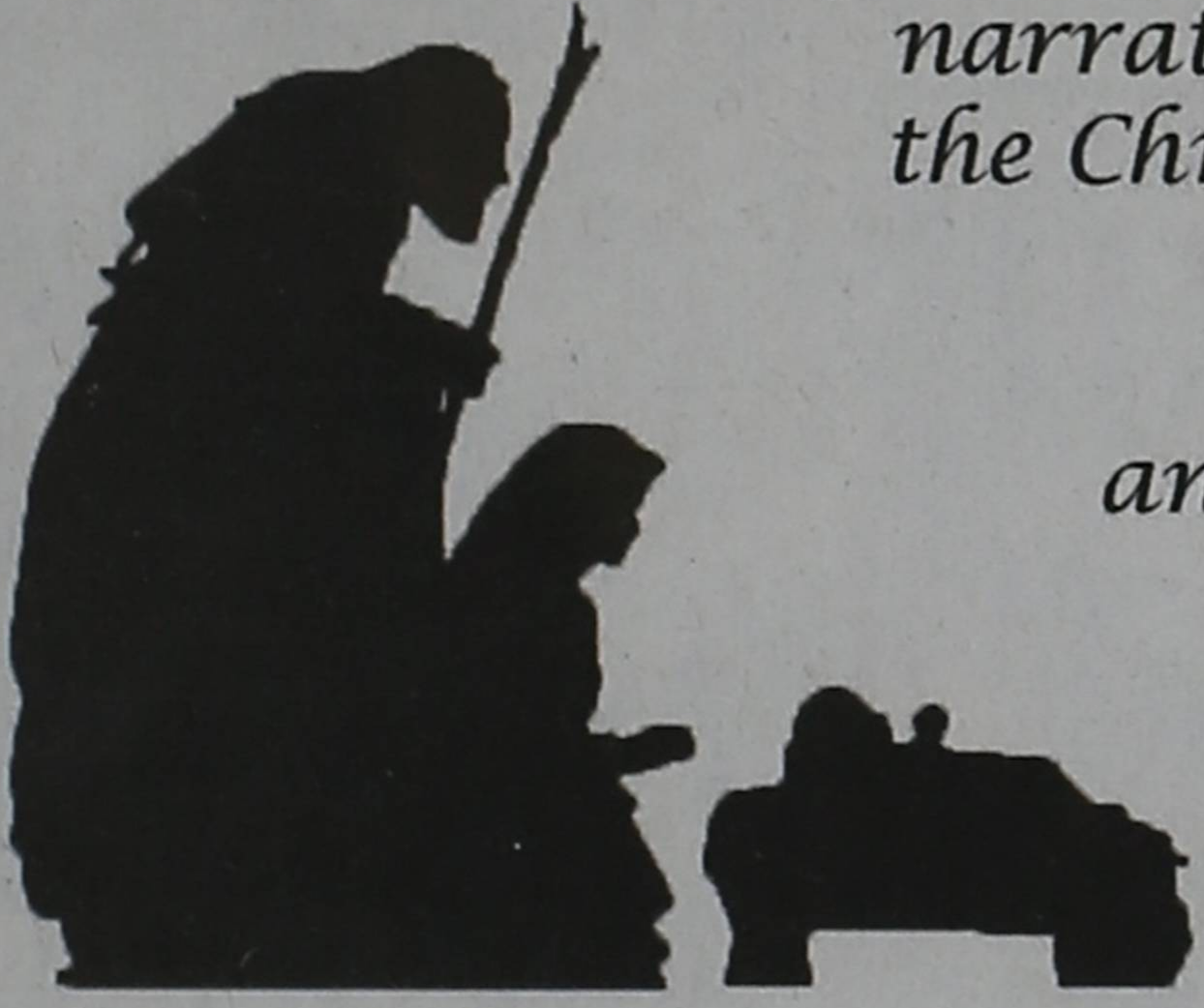


Christ Carols and Candles

A Musical Evening of Christmas Celebration
Sunday December 18 at 6:00 P/M
Calvary Baptist Church

Everyone is invited to come and celebrate the season with us.

Come join First Baptist Church, Sunday, December 18th, at 6:00pm for a special Christmas worship service. The choir will perform "Mary Did You Know," a narrated musical of the Christmas story, followed by ingathering and candlelight worship.



250-3933
www.fbcfriona.com

Area Church Directory

Friona VICTORY FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER 9TH & WASHINGTON PASTOR ROBERT KERBY 250-2207 EMAIL: www.thevictory.tv FIRST BAPTIST SIXTH & SUMMITT 250-3933 PASTOR BRETT HOYLE WWW.FBCFRIONA.COM EMAIL: firstbc@wrtt.net	CALVARY BAPTIST 15TH & CLEVELAND PASTOR RICK BURTON, 250-3000 CHILDREN'S CHURCH 3 yrs - 6th grade GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH NORTH END OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PASTOR GARY JOHNSON 1601 EUCLID 575-693-6381 TEMPLO BAUTISTA Pastor Antonio Rocha 403 WOODLAND 250-3472	ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC 16TH & CLEVELAND FATHER WILLIAM 250-2871 SIXTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST 502 WEST SIXTH JEFF PROCTER, MINISTER 250-2769 TENTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST 10TH & EUCLID RON SMILEY 250-3213 GERALL WYLY 295-6774	FRIONA UNITED METHODIST 8TH & PIERCE REV. KURT BORDEN 250-3045 EMAIL: frionaum@wrtt.net WEBSITE: frionaumc.com TEMPLO DE ADORACION 620 WASHINGTON 250-5929 PASTOR ROY DOMINGUEZ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 1601 EUCLID REV. BUCK MALONE 250-3635	Bovina FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 308 3RD STREET PASTOR BRIAN MULLINS 251-1632 CHURCH OF CHRIST 500 AVE. E MIKE PRATHER, MINISTER 251-1334 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 205 4TH STREET PASTOR LARRY MITCHELL 251-1124	ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 401 3RD STREET 251-1511 LA IGLESIA DE DIOS DEL PRIMOGENITO THE CHURCH OF GOD OF THE FIRSTBORN 102 2ND STREET IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA 103 1ST STREET PASTOR RAFAEL MARIN 251-5232
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 Friona State Bank Phone 250-5000 "Where People Come First" 1105 N. Cleveland www.frionastatebank.com	 West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc. Phone 364-3331 Hereford, Texas 79045	First Bank Bovina Member, FDIC Equal Housing Lender 101 North Third 251-1442	 250-3913 1205 Hwy. 60 West Friona Texas	 East Highway 60 Box 519 Phone: 250-2791 Friona TX 79035



ron carr photo
Chieftain Gabriel Avalos (2) puts up a jump shot against the Portales, New Mexico, Rams Tuesday evening at Friona gym. Looking on is Weston Wylly (10). The Chiefs won 54-47. More game photos at frionaonline.com.



ron carr photo
Cole Stowers (5), Jake DeWit (25), and Kadyn Hicks (22) form a defense under the Portales basket. The Chiefs beat Portales 54-47.



ron carr photo
Maddie Murphree (21) grabs a rebound against the Floydada Lady Winds. Looking on are Squaws Marisol Posada (24) and Dakotah Hicks (14). It was the district opener. The Squaws and Chiefs will be at home next Tuesday vs. Idalou. Basketball action photos are available at frionaonline.com.



ron carr photo
Kendall Kimbrough (23) follows through on a jump shot over the Floydada Lady Winds Tuesday at Friona gym. The Squaws lost the district opener 49-43. More photos from the game at frionaonline.com.



ron carr photo
Kadyn Hicks (22) and Jake DeWit (25) combine to block a shot by a Portales Ram player. More action photos available at frionaonline.com.



ron carr photo
Chieftain senior post Ryan DeWit (31) hovers over a Portales Ram under the basket during Tuesday evening action. Gabriel Avalos (2) is at right. The Chiefs open district next Tuesday here with the defending state champion Idalou Wildcats. Boys game time is 8 p.m.

2-2A all-district announced

The all-district selections for District 2-2A football have been announced.

Chieftain senior quarterback Caleb Monroe was named to 1st Team Offense. Junior Diego Licerio was 2nd Team Offense as a running back. Offense honorable mention went to Sawyer Osborn, tight end, and Yurban Salinas, offensive line.

Senior Alan Tafoya was named to the 2nd Team Defense as a linebacker. Defense honorable mention was Gabriel Avalos as a defensive back.

The District Most Valuable Player was Tracy Huseman of Littlefield. The Offensive Most Valuable Player was Beau Avila of Muleshoe and the Defensive Most Valuable Player was Isaac Baca of Muleshoe.

SCHOOL MENU December 19 – December 23

Monday, December 19

- B) Cereal, breakfast toasters, apricots, orange-pineapple juice, milk
- L) Chicken nuggets, hot rolls, mashed potatoes, green beans, mousse, milk

Tuesday, December 20

- B) Cereal, breakfast pizza, scooby treats, orange juice, milk
- L) Pepperoni pizza, fresh veggie dippers, cauliflower, cool treat, milk

Wednesday thru Friday December 21-23

Christmas Holidays

B) Breakfast L) Lunch

Dec 21st - 29th

 Sugarland Mall 400 N. 25 Mile Ave - Hereford, Texas
 Business Office: 364-9101 - Movie Hotline: 364-8000

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn
 PG13
 12:50 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:40

New Years Eve
 PG13
 12:50 - 3:00 - 5:10 - 7:20 - 9:30

Mission Impossible Ghost Protocol
 PG13
 1:30 - 4:10 - 7:00 - 9:30

Adventures of Tintin
 PG
 1:00 - 3:05 - 5:20 - 7:15 - 9:05

Alvin & The Chipmunks Chipwrecked
 G
 1:20 - 3:20 - 5:20 - 7:15 - 9:05

Sherlock Holmes - A Game
 PG13
 1:30 - 4:30 - 7:10 - 9:35

Wed 21st - Fri 23rd - All Showings
 Sat Christmas Eve - All bu 9's
 Christmas Day - All bu 1's
 Mon 26th - Thurs 29th - All Showings
 www.pcmovies.com for Showtimes
 Search "Premiere Cinemas"
 on Facebook!

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of Friona ISD is requesting qualifications for architect/engineer services relating to 2012 Bond Improvement Projects, including renovation and improvements of existing facilities, construction of a new activity center and roofing/HVAC work at the High School campus. Qualifications will be accepted until 3:00 pm on January 3, 2012 (the "deadline"). Interested parties may request an information packet and questionnaire from Kenny Austin, Superintendent, at (806) 250-2747. Please enclose ten (10) copies of your completed response with the appropriate annotation. All responses are due no later than the deadline at the following address:

Friona ISD
 ATTN: Kenny Austin, Superintendent
 909 E. 11th
 Friona, TX 79035-1416

All responses must be annotated with the following:

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER SERVICES
RFQ #2012-01

Failure to have a response physically in the possession of the school district by the deadline shall result in the response not being considered.

The selection of the architect shall be in accordance with Texas Government Code §2254.004.

WAIVER OF CLAIMS: BY TENDERING A RESPONSE TO THIS RFQ, THE RESPONDER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IT HAS READ AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING A RESPONSE AND THE PROCESS USED BY THE DISTRICT FOR SELECTING A HIGHEST AND BEST RESPONDER. FURTHER, BY SUBMITTING A RESPONSE, THE RESPONDER FULLY, VOLUNTARILY AND UNDERSTANDINGLY WAIVES AND RELEASES ANY AND ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THE DISTRICT AND ANY OF ITS TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, AGENTS AND/OR EMPLOYEES THAT COULD ARISE OUT OF THE ADMINISTRATION, EVALUATION, RECOMMENDATION OR SELECTION OF ANY RESPONSE SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THIS RFQ.

Thursday, D

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- 8am to 3

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Deadline: Tuesday @ 5 p.m.



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HELP WANTED

Job Announcement

The City of Friona will accept applications for the following position:
Utility Maintenance Worker II
Salary: Depends on qualifications
Job description and application forms may be picked up at Friona City Hall, 623 Main St., Friona.
Applications will be accepted until December 22, 2011.
2tc-12.8-12.15

The Parmer County Sheriff's Office is currently taking applications for a full time dispatcher/corrections officer. The primary duties will be communications. Full benefits apply. For more details and an application contact the Sheriff's office at 806-481-3303 or at 300 4th Street, Farwell, Texas.
Sheriff Randy Geries.
2tc-12.8-12.15

Cargill Cattle Feeders, Bovina, Texas Maintenance Purchasing Administrator position available.

Responsibilities include development and implementation of maintenance program, ordering and purchasing of parts and supplies, and other duties as assigned. Applicants must have computer skills and excellent communication skills. Position includes full benefits package including 401K and Health Insurance. Interested applicants should apply in person at Cargill Cattle Feeders, 600 US Hwy 60, (806) 225-4400. 1tc-12-15

OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES

Has immediate opening for **Providers** to care for the elderly and disabled in their homes in the BOVINA area . 7 days a week 25 hours total a week Must be 18 +. Will train the right candidate .Great 401K Plan available to all employees. Please call JEN at 1-800-800-0697 806-373-0986 EOE
3tc-12.1-12.15

Now hiring qualified **Drivers - Local Haul** 2 years experience & good driving record. **Texas AgriPlex** 109 Pine St. Hereford, TX 806-363-2366 Mon. thru Fri. - 9 to 4 tfnc-12.15

Prairie Acres Skilled Nursing Facility is accepting applications for: **LVN-MDS Coordinator** Please apply in person or send resume to: 201 E. 15th St. Friona, TX 79035 E.O.E. tfnc-11.17

OT Feedyard & Research Center Currently seeking feed truck/loader operator. We are located 8 miles south on Hwy 1055. Please apply in person. Ask for Tony Olmos. 2tc-12.8-12.15

Prairie Acres is accepting applications for: **Certified Nurses' Aides** Please apply in person or send resume to: 201 E. 15th St. Friona, TX 79035 E.O.E. tfnc-8.4

BID NOTICE

The Parmer County Sheriff's Office is accepting bids for medical services for the Parmer County Jail. These services are to be provided at the Parmer County Jail on a yearly contractual basis. A list of requirements are available at the Parmer County Sheriff's Office. Bids should be received at the Parmer County Courthouse at 401 3rd Street, PO Box 506, Farwell, Texas 79325, Office of the County Judge. Bids for this service will be accepted until 5:00 PM, January 20, 2011 with the contract to be awarded on January 23rd, 2011. Parmer County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals as it shall deem to be in the interest of Parmer County. 2tc-12.15-12.22



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Sales Associates:

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806-265-7605
George Rushing
806-265-7037

New Listing

Apartment Complex (includes 4 apartments) + empty lots.....\$219,000

Residential

REDUCED: 4/3/2 Brick country home w/16 acres, central heat & air, fireplace, metal roof, large kitchen, lots of extras.....\$185,000

3/2/2 Brick w/central heat & air, fireplace, two living areas, landscaped backyard w/storage bldg. close to High School. VERY NICE.....\$135,900

3/3/2 Brick w/central h&a, fireplace, detached carport, cellar, covered patio, large fenced backyard with storage, large lot, NICE.....\$135,900

4/2/1 Brick w/fireplace, central heat & air, lots of furnishings, two living areas, extra covered parking, storage bldg in fenced area.....\$129,900

REDUCED: 3/2/2 Brick w/cent.h&a, ceramic tile, covered patio, storage building, sprinkler front & back, corner lot, close to High School.Cont. Pend.

3/2/2 Brick w/central heat & air, corner lot, newly painted, storm cellar in fenced backyard, lots of trees and flowers, \$2000 allowance.....\$96,500

3/2 Siding w/dbl. carport, metal roof, central heat & air, two living areas, newly remodeled with carpet, paint, etc. cellar.....\$79,900

4/3/3 Brick Country Home w/central h&a, fireplace, sunroom, landscaping w/trees and flowers, 2.82 acres, shop.....SOLD

Bovina

4/3/2 Brick w/central h&a, fireplace, two living areas, fenced backyard with in-ground pool, pond, storage bldg, sprinkler system.....\$171,000

For Sale or Rent - \$129,000



570 FM 3333

4/2 Country home on FM 3333 between Bovina & Farwell on 1.82 acres, 3 car detached garage, new roof, 2 living areas

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Friona Star

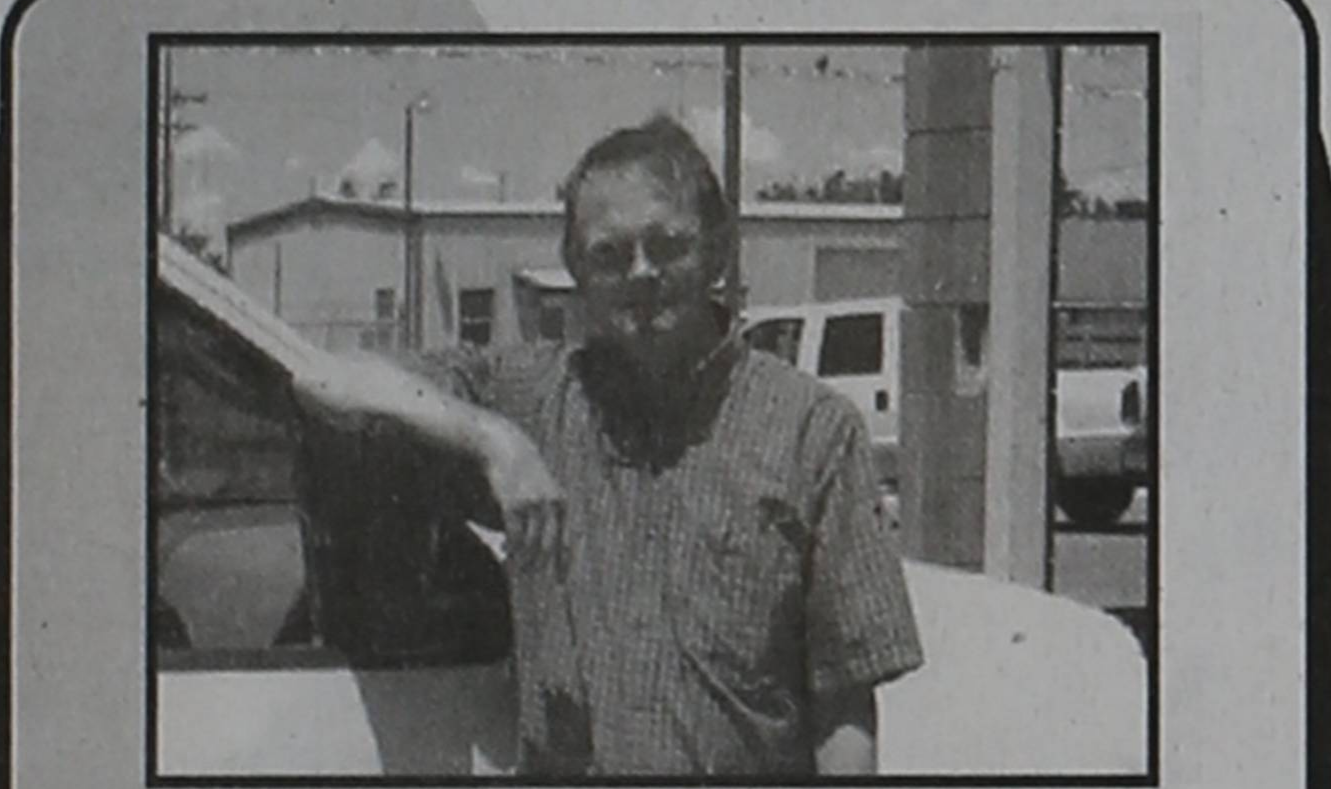
PHONE NUMBER IS
806-250-2211

E-MAIL ADDRESS IS
frionastar@wtrt.net

WEBSITE ADDRESS IS
www.frionaonline.com

FARMS/RANCHES FOR SALE

Check our websites for other properties.
1530 S HWY 385 - Historic Home on the edge of Dimmitt, home of an accomplished musician. This home would make a charming bed and breakfast or just a quaint place to reside. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, with much room to expand, parlor/living room, dining room, office/workroom, wonderful gardens and outbuildings.
PARMER CO., TX. - 320 cow dairy, on 80 ac., double 12 parallel parlor, on Hwy. 60, all weather road, 3 br./3 bath 16X80 newer model manufactured home, near Friona. Cows & rolling stock included.
LEA CO., NM - 1400 cow dairy on 136 acres, side by side double 20 parlor, beautiful 5 bdrm./4 bath home, on pvmt.
TOM GREEN CO., TX. DAIRY - capable of milking 1500 in a parallel double 16 rapid exit parlor, large brick home recently remodeled, 171 acres, additional adj. land available, pavement & all weather road, near San Angelo.
HEREFORD CITY BLOCK - 15th Street - adjoining cleared lots near YMCA.
100 ACRES - +/- South edge of Hereford City Limits, CRP, irr. well.
UNION CO., NM - Amistad area, 960 ac. w/612 ac. formerly under pivot irr., presently in CRP program balance in native grass, 6 irr. wells in shallow pumping area.
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CASTRO CO., TX., on pvmt., 1845.6 acres +/-, sprinklers, irr. wells, employee housing, barns, cattle pens w/covered working area, hydraulic chute & truck/cattle scale.
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Ben G. Scott - Krystal M. Nelson - Brokers
800-933-9698 day/eve 1tc-12.15

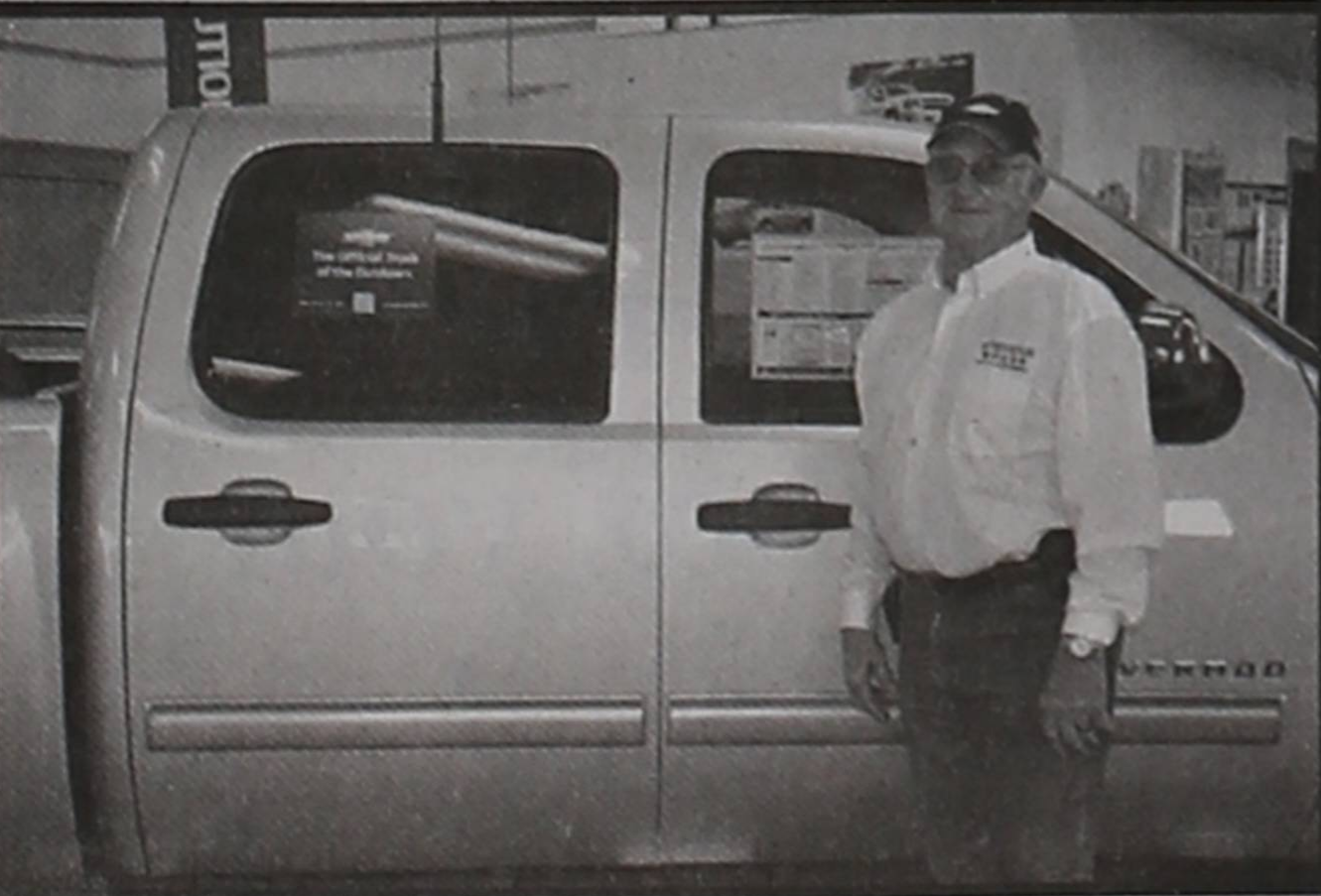


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Nazareth Christmas Pageant is December 22-23

BY JIM STEIERT

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born— African-American Spiritual

They may not be able to sing it from the mountain-top here in the Texas Panhandle, but members of the Holy Family Church will certainly give voice to the good news from the lofty heights of Nazareth hill as the 18th run of this community's much beloved Christmas Pageant is presented December 22 and 23.

Performances will be at 7:30 on both nights, marking the second staging of the Pageant since its revival in 2009 after a 15 year hiatus. Those planning to take in a performance are advised to get there early if you want to find a seat, as pew space is limited and attendance is routinely good.

Due to the time demands of putting on the production on virtually everyone in the community, parishioners are carrying the Pageant forward as an every-other-year event. After finding that the huge crowd in attendance couldn't see all of the scenes clearly in the Pageant's 2009 return, crew members have labored over adding heightened perfor-

mance platforms for this year's presentations that should allow for a better viewing experience in the Holy Family Church where the homegrown event is performed.

The telling of the story of the early life of Jesus Christ is a deep-rooted tradition in this community named for the Galilean village that was the hometown of the Holy Family.

Pride and common purpose are much in evidence in the staging of this lavish production by generations of local residents across decades. Community members of all ages constitute cast, stage crew, choir, and directorial staff. The unique talents of community members from paintbrush wielders to electricians are fully utilized. Even Nazareth Mayor Ralph Brockman has a role to play as a lighting technician, and his wife, Nazareth "First Lady" Sharon Brockman, is choir director this year.

Carpenters, artists, mechanics, seamstresses and makeup ladies all do their bit, as do an array of musicians and pantomime actors. The Pageant and some of

the music used in the production were written and arranged by Nazareth residents. The late Mary Benke Birkenfeld wrote the script and arranged and wrote music for the original Pageant in 1972 and 1973.

Telling of the story begins with the "Annunciation" in the village of Nazareth, through Christ's birth in Bethlehem, the "Flight to Egypt," and the return to Nazareth where Jesus spent his boyhood.

A keystone tradition through the years has been the portrayal of the Holy Family by parishioners with an infant child. Fulfilling that important role this year are Micky and Meredith Hochstein as Joseph and Mary, and their son, Cash.

A host of young angels, along with shepherds, spectacularly robed wise men, and menacing Roman soldiers are all costumed in garb of local creation, thanks to the efforts of an array of creative seamstresses and crafty artists through the years.

Even stage-wary farm boys are believable performers under the watchful eye of Nicole Schulte, who was

director for the revival of the Pageant in 2009 and is back again for this year's effort.

"Only two years ago, a generation of youngsters from this community and across the Panhandle had never experienced the Christmas Pageant, and it was only a vague memory

for others. Now, thanks to people from Nazareth and its broader community, we've brought back the music, the costumes, the wonderful aura and warm feelings that the Pageant evokes. We're blessed to get to share that with the region again this year," said Lisa

Schulte, assistant director and sound technician.

"Some of our residents remember their dads and mothers, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins being in some of the first Pageants years ago. The tradition is now renewed and continues on," she said.



courtesy photo

One of the rich spectacles of the revival of the Nazareth Christmas Pageant is the arrival of the Wise Men, garbed in attire steeped in the history of the Holy Family Church.



Courtesy photo

Some moms rounded up their little ones Monday evening and went caroling. They visited Prairie Acres, Heritage Estates (shown here), and then went to eight homes. They ended the evening at the home of Delton and Betty Lewellen where they were treated to hot cocoa. Their repertoire had only two songs, Jingle Bells and We Wish You a Merry Christmas, which they performed with enthusiasm. The moms said they had a blast.

In time for Christmas, Bovina's McCain Brothers have released a new album, "The McCain Brothers—Best So Far" The country rock 'n roll album has 14 songs and can be purchased through their website, killertumbleweeds.com or you can contact them at 310-313-2919 or email mccainbros@aol.com.

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ron carr photo

A group of Texas Tech architecture students submitted drawings for improvements around Reeve Lake in Friona. It was a college credit class project. The drawings are displayed at the Chamber of Commerce office and the public is invited to stop by and look them over. Friona Municipal Judge Deborah Campbell browsed through the display.

**We're sincere
and grateful as we
send wishes for a
Merry Christmas to all**



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**Merry Christmas
& a Very Happy
New Year to
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Tracy Bunker
Ricky Barnett
Andy Montana
Brent Loflin

*A String Of
Glad Tidings*

Wishing you all things
merry and bright as we prepare
for another spectacular
holiday season.

Thank you for lighting
up our year with your visits.

Merry Christmas!

INTHEDEN GRAPHICS

P.O. Box 536 Friona, Texas Phone 250.5200

Dear Santa,
I want a video game for Christmas and I will try to be nice to my brothers and I will listen to my parents and give presents to my ant, uncle, cousin, and my family.
love,
Mario

Dear Santa for Christmas I would love to have some hightop Jordans that you can find at the Amarillo mall. The Jordans are round and white and gray and the size is 5 in kids ant the store is called champs.
Love u Sant
And take care buddy
Sincerly Rolando Avilez
And u will find cookies at the front door and warm milk.
Have a safe trip
Love u bye.

Dear Santa:
I like PuP
Love, Kaylee

Dear Santa,
I like it if you'd come to my house so would my nephew Tanner he loves you so much. When you come bring him something good please I now it will make him happy if you did.
Love,
Tyler

Dear Santa,
I'd like to meet you in person I like the gifts you give me but this year I'd like to have a new nintendo DS game and a nerf gun and a batman action figure with the joker and thats all I want for christmas.
love,
Angel Villarreal

Dear Santa:
I want aWutc a hours and a Pupp
Love,
Victoria

Dear Santa,
What do you want for christmas I know what I want. I would like to know what your elfs want and you raindeer want I beet your elfs want a hot tub to relax in and your raindeer want a heting blanket that wold by nice. My family wants a temperpedict matres. I know that for shor this is what a want.

- 1 ipad
- 2 Movies
- 3 games
- 4 Zix-Zix
- 5 pet shop
- 6 wedkinz
- and that's all I want
- Love
- Kambree

Sign-up period for Conservation Stewardship program

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Salvador Salinas announced January 13, 2012 as the first ranking cut-off period for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

"CSP gives conservation minded producers the ability to apply and build on their current stewardship efforts," said Salinas. "Farmers and ranchers actively engaged in natural resource conservation practices have the opportunity to earn financial rewards through CSP."

CSP is a voluntary five-year program offered to landowners statewide through continuous sign-up. Producers interested in CSP should submit applications to their local NRCS office by the deadline so their applications can be considered during this first ranking period.

In fiscal year 2011, Texas awarded 206 CSP contracts on nearly 500,000 acres with a total of \$5.1 million in payments to help farmers and ranchers implement conservation practices that provide public benefits, such as cleaner water and improved air quality.

"CSP is a strong program in Texas and we are hopeful more farmers and ranchers with stewardship goals will participate in the 2012 CSP," said Salinas.

Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and nonindustrial forestland and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of

Indian tribes. Individual landowners, legal entities and Indian tribes may be eligible to apply for CSP assistance. Participants will have the opportunity to receive payments for practices that maintain and improve water and soil quality, as well as enhance wildlife habitat.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help potential applicants determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from local NRCS offices and on the CSP Web page.

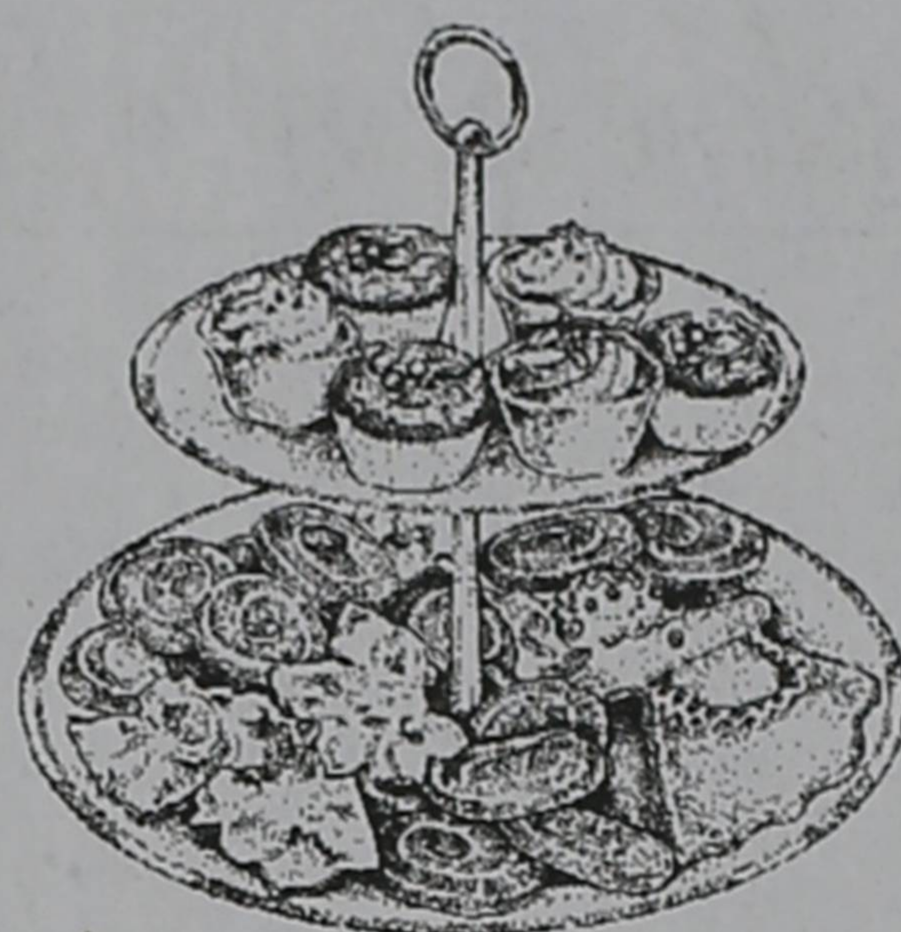
As part of the CSP application process, applicants will work with NRCS field personnel to complete a resource inventory using a Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT), which determines the conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities. The applicant's conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking and payments.

"I encourage farmers and ranchers actively involved in conserving their natural resources to apply for CSP in order to maintain or improve existing conservation activities, and implement additional practices on their land," said Salinas.

Interested producers can obtain the information from the Texas NRCS website <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov> or contact their USDA-NRCS field office.

Hola Amigos and thanks for dining with us at Leal's. Come again often. We join in wishing you a very Merry Christmas

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