



GONE ...but not forgotten

The Primary School building may be going by the wayside, but bricks from the building will be made available to the public for those who wish to keep the memories of their early school days alive.

Xcel Energy sets new regional wind energy records

Wind turbines provide half the electricity in Texas-New Mexico service area in March

Boosted by strong production from Xcel Energy's new Sagamore Wind Project in New Mexico, wind energy accounted for more than half the region's electricity supply in March and reached a new hourly peak production of more than 86% of the supply on April 11.

"Wind energy is a major component in the generating resources that produce clean, low-cost energy for a growing economy," said David Hudson, president, Xcel Energy - New Mexico, Texas. "The integration of such a large amount of wind energy was not possible two decades ago, but investments in our transmission grid have enabled us take on more of these valuable energy resources for the benefit of our customers across our Texas-New

Mexico region." Xcel Energy has been adding wind energy into the regional generating mix for more than 20 years, primarily by purchasing the output of area facilities owned by other wind energy producers. In the last two years, Xcel Energy added 1,000 megawatts of new wind generation from facilities the company built and owns - the Hale Wind Project near Plainview, Texas, in 2019 and the Sagamore facility near Portales, New Mexico, which came online in December 2020. Together these two facilities generate enough electricity to power 378,000 typical homes.

Xcel Energy's regional energy mix was 51.1% wind energy in March, the highest monthly wind numbers yet re-

corded. While March is typically one of the best months for wind energy production, wind is coming on strong throughout the year, and for all of 2020 (before Sagamore came online), wind energy accounted for 32% of the electricity delivered to Xcel Energy's Texas-New Mexico customers. Accounting for Sagamore production, Xcel Energy expects that 40% of the region's electricity supply will be derived from wind energy in 2021.

"We invested close to \$2 billion in Hale and Sagamore, which had large positive impacts on the rural economies in their respective areas," Hudson said. "These fa-

cilities will continue to enrich the rural economy by boosting tax revenues to counties and school districts and paying production royalties to farmers and ranchers. In turn, our customers benefit from 100% of the federal production tax credits associated with this production and by lower fuel costs since the fuel for wind turbines is free of charge."

The fuel savings and tax credits combined are more than outstripping the annual cost to pay for the investments in Hale and Sagamore and keep them operating, and are now providing a net savings to customers, Hudson said.

Additionally, wind en-



ergy requires no water in the production of electricity, helping to preserve the area's precious groundwater for municipal and agricultural use. This renewable energy resource is also a critical component in Xcel Energy's plans to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2030, an effort Xcel Energy aspires to con-

tinue until its electricity is 100% carbon-free by 2050.

More information on Xcel Energy's renewable resources, electric vehicle initiative and investments in the capacity and reliability of the regional power grid can be found at www.xcelenergy.com/OurEnergyFutureSW.

Friona police officer arrested by Texas Rangers

Friona police officer Delia Ruiz, 31, was arrested on June 15th by the Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Rangers and processed into the Parmer County Law Enforcement Center. Officer Ruiz was arrested on three counts of sexual assault of a child, which is a second degree felony.

The arrest was the result of an ongoing investigation by the Texas

Rangers at the request of the Bovina Police Department. Ruiz posted bond and was released. The Parmer County District Attorney's Office is in charge of the case.

Ruiz graduated from the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy in March 2020, and had been a Friona police officer since April 20, 2020. She is no longer employed by the Friona Police Department.

Wheat harvest is high quality, low quantity

Darrin Gilley, assistant manager at Friona Wheat Growers, said the wheat harvest will be very limited again this year. As usual, weather was one of the culprits including the big February freeze-out and the ongoing drought the area has endured the past year. Most of the wheat was either grazed out or cut for wheatlage because of the high demand for feed from feedyards and dairies. Also, wheatlage provides an opportunity to harvest early and go back with a second crop of summer silage.

Test weights for the wheat this year have been excellent with results in the 63-64 lb. range. Protein levels have also been above average in the 13.5-14 range. So far, reported yields have been running around 20 bushels per acre. The total amount of wheat received by the elevator this year will probably be around 30,000 to 40,000 bushels. The elevator has also received barley from area producers.

The cash price for wheat has been hovering around \$6.35 per bushel and Friona Wheat Growers manager Greg



O'Brian said the price should remain strong since "protein wheat" is in limited supply this year due to drought conditions in other parts of the country. He also said high demand from

food producers should help keep upward pressure on the price and explained that improved genetics is the main reason the quality of the wheat is so high even in drought conditions.



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

Friona Weather	T 99 761 SSW 15-25	F 98 65 SSW 10-15	S 86 61 NE 10-20	S 82 60 NE 10-15	M 82 59 NE 10-15	T 86 60 SE 5-10	W 89 64 SSW 10-15	Precipitation June 0.90 Year 4.10	Burn Ban Yes
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Community Calendar

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

June 24
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center

June 28
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center

July 1
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center

July 4
• Independence Day
• Firework show at Reeve Lake beginning at dusk

July 5
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center
• Noon Lions Club meeting at The Farm Wife Kitchen at Noon

July 5-17
• Summer Drama Workshop

July 8
• Senior Citizens meal at noon in the Senior Citizens Center

PTSD Awareness Day is June 27th

June 27th is National Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Injury Awareness Day. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness around the signs, symptoms, and stigma, associated with PTSD. As a former Infantry Officer with two deployments to Afghanistan this issue is deeply personal to me. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reported that somewhere between 10-15 percent of Veterans have a clinical diagnosis for post-traumatic stress. That number is likely far greater. A recent survey suggests at over a quarter of our population believes PTSD is incurable and those who have it are dangerous and mentally unstable - it is for this reason that so many Veterans refuse to seek help. 22 Veterans will take their own life today, two thirds of them will have never stepped foot inside a VA facility - 15 Veterans will die today without ever asking for help.

The redeployment process was like an assembly line, 2,600 soldiers going from office to office getting their checklist signed off by each office (dental, vision, finance, etc.). The mental health station was no different, walk in, answer a few questions, get your sheet stamped and leave. It was June of 2006, I had returned a week earlier from a 16-month deployment to Afghanistan. I walked into the mental health office and without looking up a man asked, "what was the worst thing you experienced while you were deployed?" I proceeded to tell him, in detail, about the suicide bomber attack on my platoon that resulted in every member of the platoon being awarded the Purple Heart. He looked up at me and said "Lieutenant, that is the worst story I've heard all day." He left me with one question "am I still me?" I said yes, partially because I thought it was true, but partially because if I knew if I said no it would mean an early end to my career. Over 30 soldiers would recount the same attack that day, 30 soldiers would answer "Yes, I'm good" and walk out of the office with their paper stamped "cleared MENTAL HEALTH" and start preparing for the next deployment.

Fast forward a few years, I left the military, used my GI bill to get a master's degree, and had started a new career in management consulting. The guidance most people gave to Veterans starting civilian careers was to not talk about being a Veteran, so I did not. During a conversation with a colleague, I happened to mention my service because it was related to the topic at hand. My colleague stopped and said, "I didn't know you were in the Military, you're remarkably well adjusted." Not exactly a compliment but also not far from the truth - from the outside I was a normal business-

man, from the outside you could never tell that had it not been for an Afghan guard who grabbed the suicide bomber at the last minute I probably wouldn't have seen my 26th birthday, from the outside I was still me. On the inside, these memories are defining moments, "you can't unsee a suicide bomber attack" or all the other memories associated with combat. Again, from the outside for the most part you can't tell what another person has experienced but these memories tend to pop up at the unexpected times. A child's nosebleed triggers a memory you're not equipped to deal with as you comfort the child in the middle of the night. That's PTSD. Its your past fighting with your present and no one on the outside can see that battle.

I cannot describe the weight of command, especially in a combat environment. As a junior officer I was given the responsibility of leading an amazing team of men and women. The mantra of "mission first, people always" was a heavy reminder that it was my job to maintain a balance of keeping my soldiers safe and accomplishing our mission. I wasn't always successful at either, but we all came home alive.

Today, my office is built for our "zoom world" behind me hang the awards and pictures that represent the proverbial "T-shirt" as in been there, done that, I've got the T-shirt to prove it. In front of me, out of view of the camera, a collection of bracelets, each inscribed with the name of a friend or colleague I've lost, either to our enemies abroad, or the demons within. So, while the world sees all my accomplishments I am confronted with my why - the friends I've lost. There is one in particular that inspires me to do more every day - the one I couldn't save.

Every loss is painful. As I mentioned I was lucky, I had amazing NCO's and soldiers, they are truly exceptional and many continue to serve our great nation. During our deployment in 2006 I honestly lost count of how many times we came into contact with the enemy, the suicide bomber was the worst, but not the only attack. We were lucky, we lost friends while we were out on mission, but when those wheels touched U.S. soil, we had all made it back.

June 16, 2019, it was Father's Day, and I was up early, partially because I don't sleep well, and partially because I enjoy the peace of the early morning. I learned through Facebook that I had failed. That night one of my soldiers had taken his own life. This was not my first, second, or 10th time dealing with suicide, but it was by far the most personal.

There is a certain power and resolve that comes with acceptance of

a great loss. After that day it became clear that while I couldn't change the past we could do more moving forward. We have a running Facebook message - which is mostly filled with the type of dark and profane humor that only an Infantry Soldier would understand but it connects us, a constant reminder that there's always someone there who "gets it." In the Ranger's Creed there is a line "I will always shoulder more than my fair share of the task, whatever it may be;" with every loss, whether by combat or suicide, it's our responsibility to shoulder their load and to carry the memory of them forward.

On any given day there are around 19 million Veterans, living and thriving in communities across the country. Approximately 22 Veterans take their own life, every day. This is nothing less than a national tragedy and we've dedicated an enormous amount of resource to trying to solve this issue. A recent survey found that almost 70 percent of Americans believe that most Veterans struggle with PTSD, while 25 percent of Americans believe PTSD is untreatable, and those with PTSD are violent and dangerous. The truth: PTSD is treatable, and many of those who carry a PTSD diagnosis are able to thrive in their post service life with minimal, if any, clinical intervention. The biggest threat to our Veterans is the stigma we attach to mental health issues like PTSD as it prevents us from seeking help.

As a society, and as Veterans we must do better, this same survey showed the misperceptions about PTSD were even more prevalent among the Veteran community than our civilian counterparts. Steven Ambrose once said that Veterans gave the best years of their lives in the defense of our country, when they leave the service there is a strong desire to make up for lost time. Veterans thrive in civilian life when they are able to find their why, their new purpose. By having these candid conversations, we can break the stigma associated with mental health and make it easier for a Veteran to seek help when they stop being themselves.

Joseph Reagan is the Director of Military and Veterans Outreach for Wreaths Across America. He has over 10 years' experience working with leaders within Government, non-profit, and Fortune 500 companies to develop sustainable strategies supporting National Security, and Veterans Health. He served 8 years on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army including two tours to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is a graduate of Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the country.

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Farmhouse to Your House

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 in Tarrant County on highway 199
- 5 you spit out a watermelon
- 6 "Battleship Texas State Historic _____"
- 7 _____gallon hat
- 8 addition result
- 9 TXism: "critter corral"
- 12 TXism: "smoke ' _____' (expose)
- 17 sleeping noisily
- 19 1962 western: "Young _____ Texas"
- 21 lizards found in the Rio Grande Valley country where former Maverick Roy Tarpley played
- 23 where women get beautified (2 wds.)
- 28 nine Astros or eleven Cowboys
- 29 TXism: "_____ as the bottom of a well"
- 30 spit
- 31 TX's "Naval Station _____ side" was closed in 2010
- 35 football headgear
- 36 TX Larry McMurry wrote "In A _____": Essays on Texas" (1968)
- 42 "P" of POW
- 44 TXism: "new to _____ parts"
- 46 TXism: "dumb as _____"
- 48 UT and A&M started with land _____
- 49 TX George W. to late George H.W.
- 50 TX Dell's 1st smartphone
- 51 TXism: "if it ain't true, there _____ cow in Texas"
- 52 internat'l trade org.
- 53 British boys
- 54 TXism: "he's _____, his boots burned up before he smelled the smoke"
- 56 floral delivery serv.

DOWN

- 1 this happened to JFK in Texas on Nov. 22, 1963
- 2 "New Braunfels Herald- _____"
- 3 "don't _____ of your sight" (keep them close)
- 4 newspaper: "_____ Echo"
- 9 this TX-born Garrison won tenniss gold in 1988
- 10 TXism: "she has to sneak up _____"
- 11 this TX Smith won pole vault gold in 1948 (init.)
- 12 TXism: "active as an _____ suckin' dog"
- 13 Jefferson, TX puts on "The Diamond Bessie _____" every May
- 14 Crowell's 6-man team class (2 wds.)
- 15 computer operator
- 16 clock: tick- _____
- 18 TX-born actress Meredith Mac _____
- 20 Santa _____, TX
- 23 TX Mary Kay _____
- 24 motor oil viscosity number
- 25 "Texas, Our Texas! _____ hail the mighty State!"
- 26 TXism: "_____ a dish rag"
- 27 eat too much, e.g. TXism: "_____ hill for a stepper"
- 33 2nd gov. init.
- 34 this Gray played J.R.'s wife on "Dallas" (init.)
- 36 "neither" sidekick
- 37 this Paul wrote a song for TX Holly
- 38 regenerates
- 39 TXism: "lend _____" (assist)
- 40 AC openings
- 41 TXism: "_____ bien" (good)
- 43 TX Buddy Holly's "It's _____ Easy"
- 45 Mexican "is"
- 47 this fits through a stirrup (2 wds.)
- 48 effrontery
- 55 powerless fire-cracker (2 wds.)

23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

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ON YOUR PAYROLL
U.S. Government

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

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

State

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

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

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

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Dairy Month

Recipes

Dairy MAX
YOUR Local Dairy Council

WHIPPED COTTAGE CHEESE AVOCADO DIP

10g Protein

115 Calories	5 g Total Fat	0 min Cook Time
7 g Carbs	10 min Prep Time	6 Servings



Ingredients

- 2 cups 2% milkfat cottage cheese
- 1 large ripe avocado, pitted and peeled
- 1 cup cilantro, chopped
- 1 (1-ounce) packet dry ranch seasoning mix
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Nutrition Facts

per serving Calories: 115 Protein: 10 g Carbohydrate: 7 g Fiber: 2 g	Total Fat: 5 g Saturated fat: 2 g Cholesterol: 7 mg Calcium: 13% DV Sodium: 723 mg
--	--

Instructions

1. In a food processor or blender, combine the ingredients and pulse until well blended and smooth.
2. Serve with favorite raw veggies or pita chips.

Tips:
For a chunkier dip, mash the avocado and mix all ingredients by hand.

Stays fresh for about 4 days in the refrigerator.

Happy Birthday Friona Folks

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>June 24
Mitchell Smiley
Bethany Rushing
James Anthony
Janet Buske
Britten Avery Irwin
Helen Pharis
Diane Walser</p> <p>June 25
Duran Vaughn
Sydonia McDaniel
Christopher Kemple</p> <p>June 26
James Peace
Cade Brewer
Bristol Barnett
Jim Ellison
Jacquelyn Buchanan</p> <p>June 27
Andy Alexander
Jo Osborn
Chad Wilkins
Kelly Cash
Ruben Rivera
Kathy Carthel</p> | <p>June 28
Sherry Atwell
Bill Hardin
Leslie (Wilkins) Ware
Jackie Stowers
Dwight O'Brian
Holly (Jack) Noble</p> <p>June 29
Aleyda Lechuga
Andrew Stowers
Elizabeth Gore
Jim Varner
Tristan Gonzales
Taysha Huckins
Dewayne Procter
Tracy Bunker</p> <p>June 30
Brook Stevick
Karene Cass
Keegan Neill
Jayden Madrigal
Dallas Reeves
Zack Fair
Dalton Surman
Jana St.Clair
Martin Lopez</p> |
|---|---|



Gas prices edge down

By GasBuddy

Texas gas prices dropped 1.3 cents in the past week to an average of \$2.75 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 stations in Texas. Gas prices in Texas are 1.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 91.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas is priced at \$2.14 while the most expensive is \$3.49 per gallon. The national average price of gasoline fell 2.1 cents in the last week to an average of \$3.05 per gallon. The national average is up 2.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 93.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"The ferocious rise in gas prices has finally started to cool as gas prices have eased across a majority of the country for the first time in months," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "There have been some challenges in pockets across the country as demand remains very healthy, and stations in some areas where demand is very high struggle to keep up with demand thanks to the truck driver shortage."

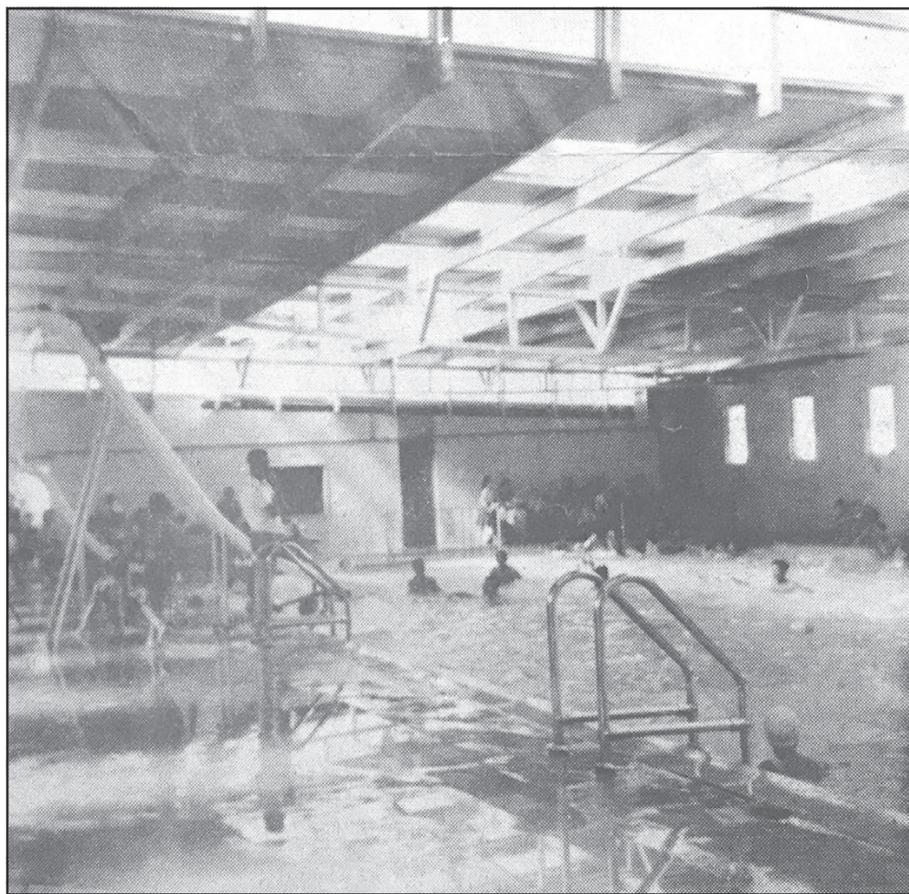
De Hann continued, "As we head toward the July 4 holiday, I'm optimistic that we'll continue to see prices slowly drift lower before possibly rising in later July or August should we see any disruptions from hurricane season. But for now it seems most Americans are simply happy to be getting outside and back to some sense of normal."

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



FRIONA FLASHBACKS

From the Friona Star Archives



POOL GRAND OPENING SATURDAY....Two swimming exhibition teams from Amarillo are scheduled to perform at Friona's new indoor swimming pool Saturday night as part of grand opening activities. Truett Johnson, pool owner, has not yet named the new \$60,000 enclosed recreational facility. (Friona Star, Thursday, June 8, 1961)

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Obituary



Wynona Martin

Wynona Martin, 91, longtime Friona resident passed away June 19, 2021 in Friona. Viewing was held Monday, June 21, 2021 from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. with family visitation from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the Ron Smiley Memorial Chapel of HANSARD FAMILY. Celebration of Life Services were scheduled for 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at Calvary Baptist Church in Friona with Rev. Gary Johnson and Chris Storey, officiating. Burial followed in the Friona Cemetery by HANSARD FAMILY Funeral Home of Friona.



Wynona was born July 15, 1929 in Friona to Carl and Martha Alvin Cold-

iron Carter. She later married Clarence Martin June 22, 1947 in Friona, and was married 70 plus years. Wynona's heart was being a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother, truly caring for her family with homemade meals, handmade clothes, a fresh haircut, or her undivided attention

at sports or other events. Preceding her in death are her parents, husband, 1 son-Greg Martin, great-grandson- Cole Jeffcoat, 2 sisters-Glenda Deatherage, and Carol Dean Huggins. Those to carry on her legacy include 2 daughters-Martha Turney and husband Fred, and Kathy Stone and husband JE, all of Slaton, 3 sons-Larry Martin and wife Jeannie of Friona, Mike Martin and wife Reta of Collierville, Tennessee, and Keith Martin and wife Jacque of Amarillo, 1 sister-Zada Milholen of Irving, 16 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

The Holy Spirit's Witness

By Brett Hoyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church

Have you ever witnessed something amazing? I've witnessed my 11 year old son shoot his first two deer with one bullet, witnessed a horny toad shoot blood from its eyes, witnessed a cat charm a snake, and currently we have a cat that likes to sit on top of one of our goats, who graciously obliges. Amazing, right?!? Definitely those are unique things, but the thing I love to see most of all is how God can change a person when they give their life to Jesus Christ and live fully surrendered to him. In fact, it is a joy to see this, and an even greater joy to be a part of through sharing

about Jesus and helping disciple those who come to him. Many times the word "witness" can speak of a passive observance, but it is also very much an act of sharing what you have seen, just as a witness would share on the witness stand in a courtroom. In this sense, Jesus tells us in John 15:26b-27a that the Holy Spirit "...will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness..." The Holy Spirit of God is active in the world today bearing witness about Jesus Christ, so that people will come to know Jesus Christ when they repent of their sin and place faith in Christ alone. In

fact, a huge part of the Holy Spirit's witness is to happen through believers who are sharing the truth of Jesus to their lost friends and family members around them. This is how the Lord grew the early church and continues to expand the kingdom today, through the faithful, Holy Spirit filled witness of believers! Many believers struggle with witnessing about Jesus, but the reality is that when you open your mouth to testify about Jesus Christ to a lost soul, you are being obedient to Christ and opening the door for the Holy Spirit to speak through you in a way that otherwise would not happen.

Panhandle Parables

A Turtle Named Flash

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

As a kid the joys of summer were most evident around the 4th of July. It meant fireworks, cookouts and a turtle race up at the community center by Reeve's lake. As the days of June faded into July it was important to be on the lookout for a turtle to race. I was getting a little desperate because I hadn't seen a turtle in weeks. Then around the first of July, I found "Flash." His name was a true representation relative to turtle speed. Plus I thought it might help him go a little quicker if he had a fast-sounding name. Flash's shell was decorated with red, white and blue paint, a little glitter and a few red feathers glued to the edge, he looked more like a Mardi Gras participant than a racing turtle, but I was hedging my bets that if he didn't win the race maybe he could rank in the best looking category. The race began, and Flash flew (sort of) as he neared the

finish line, a bigger snapping type turtle bumped Flash sending him in his shell, thus leaving us short of first, but he came back out in time for third. That afternoon I took "Flash" back to the tail water pit, no real worse for wear expect he might have caught a little grief from the other turtles until the glitter and feathers wore off.

A simple childhood memory that reminds me we are in a race. Life is a race towards home. We may get some decorations or bumps and bruises along the way, but we keep going. So, if you see a little box turtle north of town with a worn out red feather, a little glitter with red, white and blue paint, that is Flash. He placed 3rd on July 4th, 197?? and is still going. It is not about finishing first, but finishing. You keep going too! Run the race before you, Jesus laid out the course follow it Home.

What Makes You Smile?

By Teena Hughs

June is one of my favorite months. It is filled with Camp New Dawn, Feller's family reunion, my junior college reunion, the College World Series, and 100 rodeos in 100 days on the Cowboy Channel. Since I have officially moved to Barksdale, I have gotten Feller interested in America's Real Voice; he likes it because Steve Bannon and the people on his shows are positive and encouraging about the truth coming out about what is going on in our country.

Now, I know that the things I have just listed here are not very exciting to very many; but, they are the things that reflect my roots: God, family, friends, politics, and sports. I saw a meme on facebook today that said, "Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world

change your smile!" That is why I choose to love the things I get to experience and enjoy during the month of June! These are the things that make me smile! But, I am not going to watch or participate in the things of this world that will change my smile!

I do not watch shows that go against God's Word; I can't list the top 10 actors and actresses in Hollywood; I can't list the most popular musicians in Nashville today; I have no idea who is playing in the NBA playoffs; I have no idea what the record of the Texas Rangers is today; the list goes on and on. Things like these used to be so important to me. I can remember the first year I didn't pay a lot of attention to the Dallas Cowboys' season; I never dreamed that would ever happen, but having a

baby does change things, doesn't it?

We all have to choose what makes us smile, and hopefully Jesus agrees with our choices. If you aren't sure, you might look at what you are spending your time and money on and ask Him about it. What do you need to be devoting more time to, or less time to?

I know I need to be spending more time with Jesus, but I have been consumed by getting our house in order, and I have been neglecting my relationship with Him. I have my biggest smile when I am praying and studying like I should, and that hasn't been happening. I need to get back to praying and studying so that the world won't slip up on me and change my smile without me realizing it! Take care and keep smiling!!!

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

Friona

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Rev. Skip Hodges
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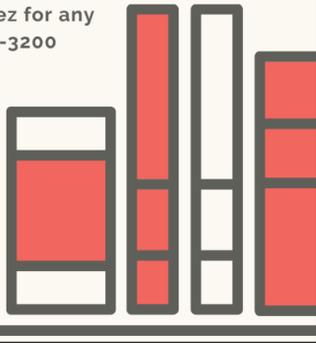
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Summer is...

1. **a n t s** at a picnic

2. a **b u t t e r f l y** fluttering by

3. **c a m p i n g** in the backyard with friends

4. picking **b e r r i e s**

5. chasing a **f i r e f l y** that glows in the dark

6. thunder and **l i g h t n i n g** during storms

Hot Expressions:
1. D, 2. A, 3. F, 4. B, 5. C, 6. E

A Lazy Summer Day...
Sorry, Gone

Check Your Mirrors

By Sue Jane Sullivan



Upon the advice of a former student, I watched the award-winning film *Nomadland* last week.

Nomadland, written and directed by Chloé Zhao, is based on a book of the same name by Jessica Bruder. The 2017 nonfiction book is a sweeping account of post-recession contemporary nomads like the fictional Fern. While researching the book, Bruder spent years following nomads across the country, and in doing so, showcased an invisible but significant portion of the American workforce. The author spent months living in a secondhand van, which she named "Halen," in an effort to better understand her subjects, like Linda May and Swankie, who play themselves in the movie. (www.time.com 2-15-2021)

This is not going to be a review of the movie, though I enjoyed it immensely. Actress Frances McDormand, already a multiple Oscar winner, delivered another real performance similar to what she did in *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* (2018) and *Fargo* (1997).

It is the theme of the story that struck close.

Being itinerant or displaced or homeless are not situations easily explained. In *Nomadland*, McDormand's character Fern has been widowed and then laid off due to a plant closing after the recession. She is forced to move out of the company housing as the small community essentially shuts down. An old, converted van becomes her home. One of the movie's most memorable lines: "I'm not homeless," Fern says. "I'm just... houseless. Not the same thing, right?"

Another character Dave travels the country, too, working jobs at national parks. The audience is led to believe he has chosen the itinerant route for the temporary adventure. He also has a lovely house and adult children and returns there to stay when his first grandchild is born. Fern is invited to come and live—and she makes a valiant attempt—only to find herself sleeping in her van and then leaving after awhile without saying good-bye to Dave and his family who have grown fond of her.

Here is the where the movie became a little too real for me. Sometimes I just have to get in my car and go. Not the short trip to the grocery store for a break from anything, but the kind where I lose myself on the horizon. Wandering, I call it.

I do not have a home. I am not sure I want a home. Roots, yes. But after my divorce many years ago, an inexplicable sense of homelessness invaded me. I had everything I wanted and needed in Austin after retiring, but the need for seclusion returned. I can assure you that relocating to the country tiny home I will soon inhabit will not quench my restlessness, but I suspect the solitary setting will help ward off the next inevitable need to move. Having a writing project will help, too. There are no guarantees that I will find myself in the same place five years from now. Sidenote: the fact that I taught school and lived in the same community for 41 years is remarkable knowing my nature.

We are a strange lot, we nomads.

Sad not to feel the need to belong but scared to settle down. Anxious to have a bed on which to rest but often unable to sleep because it's not our pillow.

I think we are much like cats—creatures who want to mill about at our own pace and be left to our own devices yet returning for the occasional human contact.

The thing is, I can't stand cats. Give me a dog's loyalty, love, and companionship.

The paradox is my cross to bear.

State Capital Highlights

By Gary Borders



Heat wave prompts conservation call

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas urged Texans to cut back on power usage last week when an unusually large number of power plants shut down for unexpected repairs as temperatures soared. ERCOT officials announced Friday that Texans could resume normal levels of electricity use, however.

ERCOT came under fire after widespread outages during the winter storm in mid-February, resulting in the CEO being forced out and much of the board replaced.

Saturday marked the official first day of summer.

Border wall construction plan unveiled

Gov. Gregg Abbott last week announced several key facets of his plan for the state to build a wall on its border with Mexico. Abbott and other state leaders signed a letter during a press conference, allowing the transfer of \$250 million to begin construction and to hire a program manager and contractors. The program manager will hire contractors and subcontractors needed to build the wall and will identify available state land, as well as private land whose owners are willing to volunteer space for the wall.

Meanwhile, Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced approximately 591,595 acres of state-owned land will receive emergency authorization to be used to build part of the wall. Texas and Mexico share 1,254 miles of common border, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

The governor is also seeking donations for building a wall via www.borderwall.gov. State lawmakers allocated \$1 billion for border security in the recently passed budget, but Democratic

officials have pointed out most of that money goes to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Abbott appoints Cobos to PUC

Abbott last week appointed Lori Cobos to the PUC. She fills a term scheduled to expire on Sept. 1, although she could be reappointed. Senate confirmation is not required since the Legislature is not in session. The PUC will have a full complement of commissioners for the first time since February.

"I am proud to appoint Lori Cobos to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, and I know that she will draw upon her wealth of experience and knowledge to faithfully serve the people of Texas," Abbott said.

Cobos has served in several senior-level posts at the PUC and ERCOT, including as chief executive and public counsel for the Office of Public Utility Counsel. As a commissioner, she will draw a salary of \$201,000 annually.

Forest service firefighters sent to aid other states

Texas A&M Forest Service has sent 25 firefighters, including two engine crews, to wildfires in Colorado, Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico and Florida.

"Texas state resources are supporting wildfire suppression efforts in multiple roles, including firefighters, engine support, prevention team members, aviation operations and support roles," TFS said in a press release. The release said TFS remains dedicated to protecting the state's natural resources from wildfire while assisting other states, a common practice.

Across Texas, the potential for wildfires remains low due to the copious amounts of rain this spring. For current conditions, visit the Texas Potential Outlook site: <https://tinyurl.com/3j84sr7>

Vaccine rate continues to slow

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 has hit 11.4 million, about 39% of the state's population, according to Texas Department of State Health Services.

Across the United States, 45% of the population is fully vaccinated. Texas ranks in the lower tier of states in percentage of population that is fully vaccinated. However, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped considerably from the previous week, with 8,414 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center

at Johns Hopkins University, along with 186 deaths. Hospitalizations dropped slightly, with 1,564 lab confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals, according to DSHS.

STAAR tests show drop in math results

Results from the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, which measures students' knowledge of several subjects, shows a sharp drop in math scores, the Texas Standard reported last week. The new scores came after a school year unlike no other, with many students taking classes online at home because of the pandemic.

Only 42% of high school students who took the primary high school math test were considered to be "at grade level," down from 66% last year. This year's STAAR results don't include all students, since some did not return to school in-person to take the exam.

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



Lions Club News

Lions learn about fiber

Amy Linzey, CEO of WTRT/WT Services, was the guest speaker at the Noon Lions Club meeting last Monday at The Farmwife Kitchen. Shelby Axe, Business Solutions Manager, was also present to answer any and all questions. One of the main topics discussed was the exciting news that within the next year the entire WTRT/WT Service area, including Friona, will



Shelby Axe & Amy Linzey

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4-H News

Local Teams compete in the Texas 4-H Roundup at Texas A&M

The Texas 4-H Roundup is a qualifying and invitational event for 4-H youth who placed in a district level roundup or signed up to compete in one of the invitational events. The Texas 4-H Roundup has around 50 diverse competitions that tie in with the many projects that 4-H has to offer.



The 4-H Senior Meats Judging team finished in 8th place. (l-r) Janelle Duffy, County Agent, Gabe Abarca, Emma Schueler, and Tristan Schueler.



The 4-H Senior Livestock Skillathon team finished in 12th place. (l-r) Janelle Duffy, County Agent, Charlie O'Bohney, Landry Henderson, and Emma Schueler.



Friona FFA Chapter News



Just wrapped up a week of leadership camp with our officer team! We look forward to this upcoming year as these young individuals take what they have learned on how to work together, be positive and influential leaders, better our program, and to lead us to bigger and better success for years to

come! The 2021-22 Friona FFA officers are: Jaden Phillips, Advisor; Elijah Robledo, Sentinel; Emma Schueler, Treasurer; Caden Bunker, Vice President; Tim Ally, President; Anthony Abarca, Secretary; and Stef Ally, Reporter.

Source: Friona FFA Chapter facebook page



Elijah Robledo, Caden Bunker, Emma Schueler, Jaden Phillips, Stef Ally, Tim Ally



Jaden Phillips, Caden Bunker, Tim Ally, Steff Ally, Elijah Robledo, and Emma Schueler



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Family Picture (l-r): Jennifer Kendrick, Danny Kendrick, Pam Kendrick, Matthew Kendrick, Andy Kendrick, Davy Daniel



Back Row (l-r): Loren Martin, Pam Kendrick, Danny Kendrick, Gay Bridges, Will Eddins, Joe Bob Blackburn, Andy Kendrick, Greg Lewellen, Davy Daniel, Lyle Hale, Neal McCarty, Matthew Kendrick, Jacob Dominguez

Front Row (l-r): Jennifer Kendrick, Liz Pena, Sophie Lewellen, Shelby Lewellen, Jamie Lewellen, Beth Davila, Claire Dominguez, Eva Monreal, Samantha Cruz, Alryna McElreath, Yolanda Olguin, Josie Carrasco

Language Academy learns about business

The Language Academy Crew averaged around 20 students this year. The summer program was directed by Mrs. Mendoza and her assistant, Cynthia Santiago. They took the students on tours of local businesses and taught them how community leaders make the economy work.



Friona Star



A-1 Service Center



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Texas dairy production faring well despite setbacks, processing limits

By Adam Russell

Texas dairy producers are experiencing better prices and improving market conditions as the economy continues to emerge from the pandemic, but processing limitations are holding them back, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Prices have rebounded compared to a year ago, said Jennifer Spencer, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension dairy specialist, Stephenville, and demand continues to be high for milk and milk products from cheese to ice cream.

Spencer said Texas has surpassed New York to become the nation's fourth-leading milk producer with 1.32 billion pounds. But a lack of processing plant capacity has limited dairy expansion.

"It's good and bad news," she said. "Prices are good, but processors are overloaded with milk and a tiered program has been implemented giving producers an allotment of

milk production before receiving a discount, so they've in turn had to pull back on production for now."

Spencer said producers would like to be maximizing on the excellent crop production fueled by rains this spring but will have to wait.

Ongoing expansion of the state's processing capacity with a new cheese processing facility in Amarillo will help to reduce the duration of the allotment program, she said. Spencer suspects the state will quickly move into third place ahead of Idaho for U.S. dairy production once processing volume allows Texas dairy producers to operate at maximum capacity and/or expand.

Texas dairy outlook good after ugly year

The good news is the Texas dairy industry overall emerged from more than a year of adversity, Spencer said. Unfortunately, some

dairy operations didn't. She said there were approximately 400 registered dairies in the state in 2019. There are now 351.

Texas dairy producers faced challenging times as COVID-19 disrupted the market destinations for milk, cheese and butter due to school and restaurant closures. Uniform milk prices fell after March and April and dropped from \$19 per hundredweight to around \$14 per hundredweight. For the year 2020, the average price was \$15 per hundredweight.

Dairies also dumped around 14 million gallons and incurred losses of around \$8 million in February as Winter Storm Uri brought the logistical chain from raw milk pick up to processing and product delivery to a virtual standstill.

Prices slowly recovered as the pandemic wore on but have yet to reach pre-pandemic levels - around \$19 per

hundredweight, Spencer said. Milk prices were around \$17 per hundredweight and could be poised to climb during the summer.

"There are a lot of creative milk products, which helps demand, but there is also that summer demand for ice cream," she said. "That and the drop in milk production by cows

during the summer, and we could see prices climb a bit more."

Increased export demand adds another element to price forecasts being good for producers, Spencer said, adding the future for Texas dairy production appears much brighter than in 2020.

"There have been positive developments lately," she said. "Once

the additional processing is available, it's possible that Texas could move into third place, but the two top producers - California and Wisconsin - are way ahead. But, over the next decade with all the growth in the Panhandle, who knows?"

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



Texas dairy production is being limited by processing capacity, but the market and demand bounced back after disruptions amid pandemic uncertainty. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Kay Ledbetter)



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