



Schedule of Events

4:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

- Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive at the City Park with Miss Friona Kitzy Welch and Little Miss Arribelle Hernandez
- Mayor Lewellen's welcome speech
- FFA students gather children's letters to Santa
- Choir will sing Christmas carols
- Vendors and Food Trailers in the Park

6:00 p.m.

- Christmas Parade of Lights participants line up on Euclid between 10th & 7th Streets

6:15 p.m.

- Santa & Miss Claus finish greeting children

6:30 p.m.

- Christmas Parade of Lights begins



The Friona Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Board of Directors would like to invite everyone out to the Annual Christmas In the Park & Light Parade. What a sight it will be to see all of our trees lit up so shiny & bright! There is always so much hard work that goes on behind the scenes to get this put together and we are so thankful to have a hard-working board and crew that comes together to bring fun events to our community. A Big "Thank You" to our 2022 Christmas Tree Sponsors for their generosity and support!

Templo De Adoracion • Frio Draw Driving School • TW&M, LLC • West Texas Protein • State Farm, Homer Haile • Texas Farm Bureau Insurance • La Casa De Magaly • SitePro • Bi-Wize Pharmacy • Southwest Cheese • FNB of Hereford, Friona Banking Center • Calmaine Foods • Fisd - Vocational AG Dept. • Cargill Meat Solutions • Hi-Pro Feeds • Fisd - Student Council • A-Tex Dairy • Fisd • Sea Scrolls • United Amigos • Ivy Cottage Flowers & Gifts • Karla Rector, Ward Kellner Properties, Inc. • FFA - Sponsored by Optima Dairy

Commissioners extend agreement for wind energy project

Parmer County Commissioners Court met in regular session on Monday November 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom of the Parmer County Courthouse in Farwell, Texas. The meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Texas Flag.

There were no comments from the public during the open forum. Minutes from the November 14th meeting were read and approved. Commissioners approved the payment of the accounts payables as presented by County Treasurer Sharon May. The Treasurer's Payroll Report was also approved.

Danny Campbell, Fire Chief of the Friona Volunteer Fire Department, presented an updated request for thermal imaging cameras. At the October 24th meeting, Commissioners approved \$16,736.00 in ARPA funds to purchase 2 thermal imaging cameras for the department. Campbell told the Court that the camera company was offering a special deal on 9 cameras which met the department's needs but did not include all of the "bells and whistles" of the original 2 cameras. Commissions approved the revised amount of \$21,936.00 in ARPA funds to purchase the 9 cameras.

Commissioners approved an Interlocal Agreement with PRPC to proceed with plans to open a Dispute Resolution Center for the Texas panhandle. There is no added cost to the county and the fees that are currently sent to Austin will now go to fund a new local Dispute Center.

A public hearing was held concerning the intention of the county to adopt amended Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria, pursuant to Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code. After the hearing, Commissioners approved extending a previous agreement with Lazbuddie Wind Energy, LLC that was set to expire at the end of the year. The renewed agreement, with updates and amendments, was extended through 2023 and stipulates that the project will be completed and operational by December 2025.

Parmer County Sheriff Eric Geske informed the Court that the Parmer County Law Enforcement Center is currently housing 40 inmates of which 11 are paying customers from Deaf Smith County and 10 are paying customers from Dawson County. The Sheriff's Office is currently looking to fill one deputy position and 2 dispatcher positions.

Call 806-481-3303 for information.

Agenda items regarding the consideration of funding for a Bovina splash pad and a request from county employees for payment on unused vacation hours were tabled. In other business, a water line under County Road M was approved, an invoice from SPAG regarding Llano Estacado Region O Water Planning Group was denied, and the December 26th meeting was rescheduled for Monday, December 19th.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, December 12th.

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



The Zellers (l-r) Philip & Tawanna, Makena, Lakota, and Ayaisha.

On Tuesday night, the Parmer County Cancer Coalition hosted their 2022 Survivor Dinner at the Senior Citizen Center and the event was catered by Holy Smokes

Barbecue. The catering business is owned by Philip & Tawanna Zeller and they serve Friona as well as many other small towns in the Texas panhandle. They worked with

the City of Dalhart to raise funds to help the families who suffered tragedies during the past few months. The Zeller's love small towns and their loyal customers.

Texas Christmas tree industry expecting tree-mendous year

Written by Paul Schattenberg

It looks like the Texas Christmas tree sales will be getting a boost this year, said a Texas A&M AgriLife expert and others associated with the industry.

Fred Raley, tree improvement coordinator with the Texas A&M Forest Service, is among those anticipating an increase in Christmas tree purchases in Texas, and elsewhere, this year.

"Since COVID, there have been far fewer family gatherings around the Christmas holidays," he said. "As a result, there has been an increased desire for families to get together — and to have a Christmas tree as a centerpiece of that gathering. Even with COVID still around and CDC guidelines in place, the desire — and



Texas Christmas tree growers are expecting another good year for live tree sales. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Laura McKenzie)

demand — is still there." But not just any Christmas tree, Raley said. There will be a much greater demand for live Christmas trees, as many people consider them the quintessential symbol of the holidays.

"People like to select their own Christmas tree, and there are many loca-

tions throughout the state where they can choose their tree and have it cut," he said. "For many families, there is nothing like choosing your own tree and having the smell and feel of a live Christmas tree. It's part of a Rockwellian view of a family Christmas that many people seem to be wanting to

continue or recapture." He also noted that almost all artificial Christmas trees are imported, and live trees have the benefit of being entirely biodegradable.

Texas Christmas tree production and pricing According to the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association, TCTGA, there are 175 Christmas tree farms in Texas producing some 200,000 trees annually on about 2,500 acres statewide.

This year, the live Christmas tree industry in Texas has had its challenges from drought to rising production input costs, but TCTGA executive secretary Stan Reed said he does not expect to see any drastic price increases on Texas-grown trees.

Continued on page 10

	Town Talk Page 3	Church Page Page 5	Volleyball Wrapup Page 6	Classifieds Page 7	4-H Banquet Page 9	
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Emergency Siren System: Alternating tone • Firefighters only | Weather Warning: 1 long tone • take cover — 3 short blasts • all clear | Tested 1st & 3rd Thurs. at 7 p.m.

Friona Weather December 1-7	T 59 39 SSW 15-25	F 71 37 WSW 20-30	S 53 39 ESE 10-15	S 64 48 SW 15-25	M 63 35 WSW 15-25	T 51 30 S 10-15	W 51 29 SW 10-20	Precipitation November 0.38 Year 10.60	Burn Ban No
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State Capital Highlights

By Gary Borders



Community Calendar

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

December 1

- Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center

December 5

- Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center
- Friona Noon Lions meet at The Farmwife Kitchen
- Christmas in the Park at 4:30 p.m.

December 7

- Library Book Shop at 618 Euclid is open from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

December 8

- Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center

December 13

- Packing bags for Snack Pak at 2:30 p.m. at the north entrance of Friona United Methodist Church and volunteers are always welcome!

Changes urged in funding community colleges

A report submitted to state leaders ahead of the 88th legislative session's opening in January urges lawmakers to develop "an innovative new model" to fund community colleges.

The Texas Commission on Community College Finance, established last year by the Legislature and consisting of 12 lawmakers, business leaders and community college leaders, offered three sets of recommendations for supporting the state's strategic plan for higher education:

- Reward community colleges for positive student outcomes
- Increase affordability and financial aid
- Increase capacity at colleges to meet changing workforce needs

"We need a funding model for our 50 community college districts that is bold, strategic and fully aligned with our emerging workforce needs," said Woody Hunt, a member of the commission and long-time business leader.

The commission also recommended the state make community colleges more affordable by increasing financial aid provided by the state, more aid for dual-credit courses and supporting work-based educational opportunities, such as internships and apprenticeships.

Under the state's current system for funding community colleges, most revenue comes from tuition and property taxes levied by the college district. The state also contributes some funding.

New power grid market draws skeptics

The state Public Utility Commission is proposing an untested structure for the state's power grid after legislators ordered its overhaul in the wake of the 2021 winter storm. The Dallas Morning News reported the proposed "performance credit mechanism," or PCM, "offers power producers a financial reward to have their plants available during times when Texans are consuming the most energy."

Some lawmakers are skeptical. State Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, questioned why the PUC would create a new, untested market mechanism, according to

The Morning News. In addition, a consulting firm hired by the PUC did not recommend the PCM.

The public and stakeholders have until Dec. 15 to submit comments on the proposal.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what the marketplace and people tell us," Texas Public Utilities Commission chairman Peter Lake said.

Feds provide disaster aid after storms

The federal government has approved a request by Gov. Greg Abbott for disaster aid for a dozen Northeast Texas counties hit by severe weather and tornadoes earlier this month.

The U.S. Small Business Administration granted access to its loan program to businesses and residents in Lamar, Morris, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Marion, Red River, Titus, and Upshur counties.

"Northeast Texas residents and business owners will now have access to critical financial support as they rebuild, repair and recover from the physical damage and economic injury caused by this storm system," Abbott said.

Applicants may apply online at disasterassistance.sba.gov or by calling 800-659-2955.

Search and rescue drone program proves useful

The use of drones by game wardens with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has helped to find two missing persons recently and assisted in the arrest of a man in East Texas wanted in a shooting and assault. Game warden Michael Hummert responded to a report of an elderly man who had gone missing the night of Nov. 3.

"The setting sun prevented us from locating him through usual means," Hummert said. "The thermal drone picks up body heat, which is necessary to locate someone at night. With the cold creeping in, it was imperative to find him quickly."

The Erath County sheriff's department used cell phone records to determine a general location. Hummert mapped out a search area and located the man with the drone using a thermal scan and led to deputies to the location. A similar situation occurred nine days lat-

er in Bell County. Hummert again used his drone to locate the missing person.

Heading farther east, another TPWD drone operator, Doug Williams, was called to assist authorities searching for a suspect who shot at and assaulted two people, then fled into the woods. Using another thermal drone, Williams found the suspect hiding in the brush during freezing weather. He was arrested and later treated for hypothermia.

"Empowering our division with the drone program in cooperation with Gear Up for Game Wardens donations creates a lifeline where there wasn't," said TPWD's Lt. Matthew Bridgefarmer. "Game warden drone operators arrive first on scene to locate lost boaters and hikers. We search in the aftermath of natural disasters. At the end of the day, this program saves lives."

No COVID-19 vaccine mandates for students

Abbott has told the Texas Education Agency and school superintendents that the COVID-19 vaccine cannot be mandated as part of school entry requirements. This overrides a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control that added the vaccine to immunization schedules for adults and school-aged children.

"Regardless of what the CDC may suggest, in Texas, the COVID-19 vaccine remains voluntary. Texas schools shall not require students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for any reason," Abbott's letter to TEA and school chiefs said.

COVID-19 cases decrease across state

The number of new cases of COVID-19 reported in Texas during the past week dropped to 9,836, with 40 deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations rose to 1,259 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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@texa-spress.com.

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Christopher Brian Rodriguez

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U.S. Government

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

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

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

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

State

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

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

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

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ACROSS

1 Astros, Cowboys, or Spurs

5 TX B.J. Thomas sang "___ Lone-some I Could Cry"

6 TXism: "___ mama" (waitress)

7 TXism: "costs ___ arm and a leg"

8 horse mouthpiece

9 TXism: "it ___ big loop to rope him" (obese)

15 TX Oveta ___ Hobby was 1st U.S. secretary of HEW

16 item to fasten a horse to a plow, e.g. (2 wds.)

18 subjugate

20 backs of necks

22 defensive wall

27 a few female sheep

28 Jacqueline of film "The Deep" with UT grad Wallace actress Trevor of 1941 film "Texas"

30 flight photos

32 "Alamo City" abbr.

33 with "Mae," "Cow-Cow Boogie" singer from Texas (2 wds.)

36 TX Freddy Fender's "Before the Next Tear ___ Falls"

37 once, International Telephone & Telegraph: "___, Inc."

38 in Fannin County, on highway 34

39 "___ ___ run" (fast food)

DOWN

1 TX Brown who won Heisman at Notre Dame in 1987

2 "La ___" (Mexican prison mafia)

3 TXism: "hard ___" (tough)

4 seat of Titus County (2 wds.)

8 gentle tap a pitch by an Astro batter

9 TXism: "couldn't hit ___" (bad shot)

41 fish appendage

42 TXism: panting like a lizard ___ ___ rock"

45 TX Freddy Fender sang "You'll ___ a Good Thing" (1975)

46 Chinese sauce

47 thankfully, it's almost the weekend (abbr.)

48 Kampground found in Texas

49 resident of "Gem State"

52 rich person

53 corporate community in Irving: "___ Colinas"

54 graduate school entrance test (abbr.)

55 TXism: "fits like scales ___ ___ fish"

10 Coleman h.s. class founded in Dallas: SMU, 1947-50 (init.)

12 on Memorial Day weekend: "___ Festival"

13 oceans

14 Egyptian vipers

15 most Texas colleges have a graduation ___ in May

16 assert something

17 "he ___ writing on the wall"

19 young Scot: "just ___ lad"

21 "Lone Star ___"

22 ___ Cola

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2022 by Orbison Bros.

P-1614
solution on page 3

34 TX Buddy Holly 1958 hit: "Rave ___"

35 border river: "___ Grande"

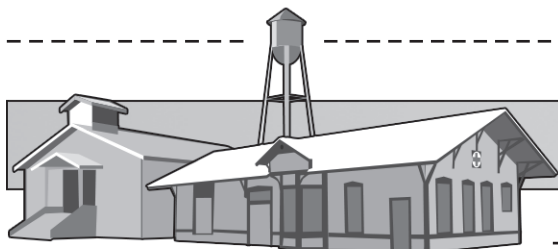
37 "___ ___ girl!"

40 classic 1952 western: "High ___"

43 TXism for "against" Edinburg is the seat of this county

50 this TX Taylor was a UH All-American defensive end

51 25th governor of Texas, Colquitt (first two initials)



TOWN TALK

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

About December — The name December comes from the Latin word ‘decem’ meaning ten. On the Roman Calendar, December was the 10th month. However, Numa Pompilius adjusted the calendar when January and February were added. December became the twelfth month

and the calendar more accurately reflected the actual length of a year.

During December, the winter solstice tips the Northern hemisphere its furthest distance from the sun. Through most of the month, we lose about 2 minutes of sunlight per day until

the winter solstice. The winter solstice marks the start of winter and the shortest day on the calendar. However, from that day forward, the days will slowly lengthen. They may not be warmer, but the Earth is tilting on its axis back toward the sun.

elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

★★★
Time 2 Laugh — (1) Why did the Oreo go to the dentist? Because he lost his filling. (2) What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoiled milk. Source: <https://www.rd.com/list/short-jokes>.

★★★
FSA News — The 2022 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections began on November 7, 2022, when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is December 5, 2022. Andy Carthel is nominated in LAA1, Parmer County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Carthel resides in Friona and has produced wheat, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, and cattle for over 10 years. He is an active member of the current FSA committee. More information on county committees, such as the new 2022 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/

★★★
Rainy Day News — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced this week that he has completed the transfer of about \$7.3 billion into the State Highway Fund (SHF) and the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF; commonly known as the “Rainy Day Fund”). Each fund received nearly \$3.64 billion, or 50 percent of the total transfer. “In order to meet the needs of these new Texans and continue to attract business investment, it is critical that we invest in the infrastructure needed to keep our state fiscally healthy. The ESF and SHF are critical assets for the people of Texas, and these transfers represent a tremendous op-

portunity to continue to invest in Texas’ future and safeguard our state against uncertainty,” Hegar said.

★★★
All I Want for Christmas — According to [candystore.com](https://www.candystore.com), the three most popular Christmas candies in the State of Texas are Reese’s Cup Minis, Peppermint Bark, and Candy Canes. You can visit <https://www.candystore.com/blogs/holidays/christmas-candy-popular-states> to view an interactive map that shows the top 3 most popular Christmas candies in each state.

★★★
Christmas Candy Quick Facts
Source: www.candystore.com

- 93% of people gift chocolate and candy for the winter holidays.
- 1.76 Billion candy canes are produced every year for the holiday season.
- 31% of gift givers plan to give candy.
- LEGOs are a top 4 Christmas gift for both boys (#1) and girls (#4).
- Approximately 150

million chocolate Santas are produced annually.

- 60% of Holiday shoppers started by the beginning of November.
- 72% of people eat a candy cane starting on the straight end, the rest start on the curved end.
- The largest candy cane in the world was made in Switzerland. It was 51 feet long.
- December 26th is National Candy Cane Day.
- Canada spent \$362M (US\$) in Dec. 2014 on candy, confectionery, & snack foods.
- 56% of holiday sales are expected to be online.

★★★
National Days

- December 1: Pie Day
- December 2: Special Education Day
- December 3: Play Outside Day
- December 4: Cookie Day
- December 5: Repeal Day
- December 6: Microwave Oven Day
- December 7: Cotton Candy Day or Pearl Harbor Day

★★★

COURTHOUSE NOTES

Susie Spring, County Clerk

Warranty Deeds recorded at the Parmer County Clerk's Office from November 17, 2022 to November 24, 2022

(11/18/22) Cecilia Giron Tresban, Sandra Gay Howard — Brandon Foster, Jalaina Foster — A Tract of Land in the Southeast Part of Lot 50, Section 31, T9S, R1E, Capitol Syndicate Subdivision, Parmer County, Texas

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Reported by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office:
Eric Geske, Sheriff

(11/21/22) Juan Quixan Castro, 21, of Friona was arrested by the Friona Police Department on a charge of Criminal Trespass.

(11/26/22) Adrian Gomez, 43, of Canyon and currently in custody was issued a warrant in connection to being arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a charge of Injury to Child/Elderly/Disabled w/Int Bodily Injury.

(11/26/22) Manuel Jorge-Xon, 26, of Muleshoe was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a charge of Driving While Intoxicated.

Scoreboard

Varsity Boys Basketball

11/18/22

Kress 6 8 14 16 **44**
Friona 13 8 5 12 **38**
Kaden Jeter 34 points

11/21/22

Floydada 35 26 17 16 **94**
Friona 9 8 10 12 **39**
Kaden Jeter 24 points, Justen Trevino 8 points

11/22/22

Sanford-Fritch 11 22 27 19 **79**
Friona 18 7 9 9 **43**
Kaden Jeter 27 points, Justen Trevino 8 points



December Days!

Helping Hands in Our Communities

Wow! You're doing a great job of collecting presents for people in our community!

I really like the hustle and bustle of December days. Clothing and food drives are in full swing. Bells are ringing, choirs are singing and orchestras are stringing together festive holiday tunes.

People are making gifts and shopping for presents. Families are decorating their homes with candles, greens, fruits and flowers. They are baking special treats and sharing meals with family and friends. What is your family doing this month?

Star, here's another stack of donated gifts - a sweater, some candles and gift certificates!

Read these clues to fill in the puzzle with activities that families are doing together:

- _____ with family, friends to celebrate holiday traditions
- _____ stockings, then waiting for Santa to come
- _____ events and selling items to raise money
- _____ coats, hats and gloves to keep others warm
- _____ gifts for friends and family
- _____ and decorating cookies
- _____ holiday books together
- _____ latkes for Hanukkah
- _____ candles on the Kinara (a special candleholder) for Kwanzaa
- _____ stories and teaching their holiday traditions
- _____ joyous songs
- _____ the elderly or ill to bring small gifts and cheer
- _____ their homes with lights, greens, flowers, fruits
- _____ family, friends and neighbors good health and happy holidays
- _____ socks, candy and notes to send to soldiers and sailors serving far away

Ornaments for Charity

December

December is a month chock full of holidays, events, parties, concerts and goodwill toward other people all over the world.

This puzzle is all about December fun! Read these clues to fill in the puzzle:

- _____ eve is celebrated on the last evening of the month (2 words)
- first day of _____ is the twenty-first
- has many _____: Christmas, Hanukkah, Las Posadas and Kwanzaa
- birthstone or gemstone is _____
- includes the _____ day of the year
- is the _____ month of the year
- has football, basketball and _____
- birth flower and traditional plant used during the holiday season: _____
- December means _____, because _____ in the ancient Roman calendar December was the tenth month
- the _____ drops

temperature twelfth winter holly topaz New Year's holidays hockey ten shortest

This mini calendar is for you to decorate with your special days! Look at the month of December on a large calendar to make sure you put the dates in the right boxes.

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.

Friona ISD Notice of Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held during the Friona ISD Board Meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 7 p.m.

The purpose of this part of the board meeting will be to discuss Friona ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

Puzzle Solution

S-1614

A Time to Give

'Tis the season to lend a hand and pitch in at toy, food or clothing drives. With all the holidays in the month of December, it is a time to spread the joy that comes with giving. It is a time to be:

Color Key: B = Blue, G = Green

Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2022

Small Town Cookin' By Jeri Lynn White

Eggnog Month

December is National Eggnog Month so I thought I would start with an easy eggnog recipe for you to try out this month. This recipe does not include raw eggs, but it is thick, creamy, and perfectly spiced. Hope you enjoy.

How To Make Eggnog Without Eggs (Mock Eggnog Recipe)
www.savvymamalifestyle.com

Ingredients

- 8 Cups Cold Milk
- 1 Package (3.4 ounces) Instant French Vanilla Pudding Mix
- 1/4 Cup Sugar
- 1 Teaspoon Ground Nutmeg
- 1 Teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- 1/8 Teaspoon Salt
- 1 Cup Heavy Whipping Cream
- Optional Topping: More Nutmeg

Instructions

In a large bowl, beat milk and pudding mix on low speed for two minutes. Beat in the sugar, nutmeg, vanilla, and salt. In a different bowl, beat cream until thickened (about 3 minutes). Stir the cream into the pudding mixture. Refrigerate until serving. Sprinkle with additional nutmeg, if desired.

Check Your Mirrors

By Sue Jane Sullivan



ISO: Tank That Gets 35 MPG

In search of—the past few weeks of being without my 2015 Honda Civic with 190,373 miles on the odometer have me looking for a tank, as in an M60 Patton or Abrams model. For fuel efficiency, I suppose the latter would be a better fit since I do drive quite a bit.

A deer ran into me five weeks ago. It ran into

me. I was minding my own business and driving a cautious 50 mph at night in order to protect the deer and my car. The thoughtful gesture was not appreciated, and this creature took liberties with my front right bumper which deployed the air bag.

The insurance company called (again) this week. The good news is

that the body damage is repaired. The good news is that the air bag is on its way. The very, very bad news is that it will probably be the first week in January before it arrives. (Insurance will not allow me to drive my car without an air bag and remain fully covered).

Two years ago, I strayed from my insurance-selling father's mandate to

his children: maintain life insurance, health insurance, and car insurance + rental car insurance. I dropped the rental car add-on during an unfortunate season of needing to trim my budget after retirement. That move is now costing me dearly, dear reader.

Since the deer attack, I rented a car for one week. My daughter and son-in-law offered their minivan for 14 days, and a family friend has been gracious enough to cover me the past two weeks. I have now saved enough to return to the car rental place to fork over my hard-earned cash on a week-to-week basis. To my dismay, Enterprise does not rent tanks.

"We do have a nice Nissan Versa, Ms. Sullivan, that will run you only \$40.99 a day."

In this season of holiday cheer, I am going to maintain my joyful spirit by being grateful that I do have a job that will help me cover the cost.

This week I will pick up the vehicle that will have no chance against a deer—but will get 35 mpg.

This week I will be adding rental car insurance back to my policy. For the rest of my life, I will avoid driving when dark.

If you know of any tanks—or grill guards for Honda Civics—please contact me.

Too Big to Bathe

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

Elizabeth Jaffray was a White House housekeeper during the presidency of William Howard Taft; in a November 27, 1911, diary entry, she expressed concern about his health, noting that she'd had a talk with him and the First Lady "about the Commander-in-Chief's ever-expanding waistline," says History.com.

"Taft's 5' 11" frame carried anywhere between 270 pounds and 340 pounds over the course of his adult life. According to his biographers, he had to have his shoes tied by his valet and often got stuck in the White House bathtub and had to be lifted out by two or more men. Once, while visiting the czar of Russia, Taft split his pants seam while descending from a carriage."



Even so, he completed his one term presidency, jettisoned to Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1921, and lost weight but never recouped his health. Taft died in April 1930, one month after vacating the Bench.

For more information, the Grateful American

Book Prize suggests *William Howard Taft: The American Presidents Series: The 27th President, 1909-1913* by Jeffrey Rosen.

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

Happy Birthday

Dec. 1
Virginia Cleveland
Dr. Ryan Sifford, PhD
Kyle Hurst
Connie Cumpston
Robin Renner

Dec. 5
Teena Hughes
Charles Wilkins
Allison Johnston
JR Ortiz

Dec. 2
Meredith Edelson
Abbey Cramer
Mallory Kemple
Bernie Lennon
Phoebe Upton
Courtney London
Richie Perez

Dec. 6
Roy Dominguez
Roy Don Smith
Allison Jones
Tim Mercer
Alisia Rando

Dec. 3
Randie Hamilton
Cheryl Cunningham
Corben Baxter
Thomas Maricle
Terry Davis
Timothy Schueler
Kinsey Barnett
Molly Rector
Sam Perez
Ashleigh LeRoy

Dec. 7
Carla Sue Scott
Sherri Alger
Darlena Burnett
Karlee Osborn
Audry Rowell



Dec. 4
Erin Barnett
Brock Field
Deniss Field
Myrna Barraza
Daniel Cretsinger
Alejandra Arreola

To have your birthdays listed in the newspaper, email them to frionastar@wtrt.net or call: 806.250.2211

A gift for the holidays

By GasBuddy

Average gasoline prices in Texas fell 10.2 cents last week, averaging \$2.83 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's survey of 13,114 stations in Texas. Prices in Texas are now 31.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and 11.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas was priced at \$2.00 while the most expensive was \$4.49 per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline fell 12.4 cents last week, averaging \$3.52 per gallon. The national average is down 22.7 cents per gallon from a month ago but still stands 14.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 7.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.20 per gallon.

"As millions of Americans hit the road for Thanksgiving, we saw gasoline prices continue dropping coast to coast last week, and a new record was set for the largest single day decline in the national average. In addition, 47 of the nation's 50 states have seen diesel prices falling as well, providing well-needed relief ahead of the holidays and helping to stem the rise in inflation," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"All the metrics look very positive for motorists as this week is likely to continue seeing falling gasoline prices, with many areas falling to the lowest level since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. It's entirely possible the national average price of gasoline could fall under \$3 per gallon by Christmas, which would be a huge gift to unwrap for motorists after a dizzying year at the pump."

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

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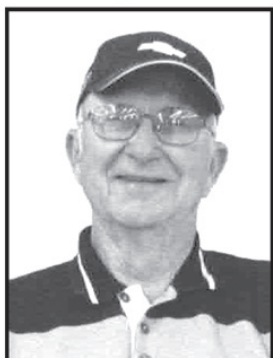
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Favor, Responsibility, Blessing

By Brett Hoyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church

It is Christmas time and I am looking forward to this most wonderful time of the year as we get to make much of Jesus in our homes, Churches and community. In looking at the Christmas story in the scriptures, Luke 1:30-33 caught my eye as the angel Gabriel told Mary, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Notice in these verses that Mary had found favor with God. This favor with

God was not a license to float around, do nothing and be super spiritual, but it led to great responsibility that the Lord had called Mary to. The humbling responsibility was to be a mom, of Jesus, God's own son! Such an important task was entrusted to this daughter of Israel, and would change the course of her life forever, and impact the world. The favor of God led to responsibility from God, which resulted in great blessing in v32-33. This great blessing was not just for Mary, but for all who would trust in Jesus alone as their Savior and Lord. Christmas is a huge reminder that the greatest gift there ever will be is Jesus Christ, and my hope is that you will make much of Him this month!

Panhandle Parables

Darkness Fell Over The Land

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

Throughout history there have been times where darkness seemed to prevail against God's people. At the close of the Old Testament, Malachi looks to the future and the need for his people to return to those things set out by God through Moses in the law. In the traditional canon of the Bible you turn the page and it is Matthew. But in that page turn 400 hundred years have passed with them living, dying and waiting for a Messiah. The whole of humanity living in darkness in some sense.

Then God sends an angel to talk to Mary and Joseph. Both are asked in essence to trust

what God is doing. They would, but I can only imagine as to how difficult a thing that would be...not yet married, Mary with child (The Child), the journey to Bethlehem, staying in a barn, yes trust God, I am sure a doubt or two crosses their mind, but then it happened. God came, in the form of the Christ child. No need of a prophet or an angel. Light dispelled darkness and all eternity paused. Because of that Light, there will always be light. Darkness will never prevail, because darkness cannot put out the light that became the Light of men.

We know the story well. John said, "...

and the Word became flesh..." Jesus was born, and Jesus would die as a ransom to purchase the sins of the world. Once sins were purchased in the sacrifice, God completed His plan with Jesus by resurrecting Him, never again to die. Thus, ushering in not only light but hope.

If you know this story and believe all that Jesus did to restore us to Himself, then you know hope. The world that likens this to fairy tales and mythology not only remains in the dark, but does so without hope. We eagerly await His return, he will not come as a child, but as the King and darkness will never again fall over the land.

Advent and Hope

By Teena Hughs

I have a man in my Sunday school class who challenges me. He is always asking me questions about what I teach, and that is good for me, because it usually shows I don't know everything I need to know about the subject I am teaching. It is also good for all of us, because Paul KNOWS the Bible, and many times, he ends up teaching us.

When I announced we would be studying Advent until Christmas, he told me he wanted to know everything I could find about Advent, because he didn't know anything about it. So, I have been trying to educate myself. Paul is one that if it doesn't come from the Bible, then he really questions it. Plus, it is a challenge to present a lesson where he doesn't have any questions; I don't think it is ever going to happen, LOL, but I am going to keep trying. So, here is a very short "Cliff's Notes" version of Advent, the season that marks the beginning of the liturgical church calendar.

Advent is a very special time of year that sometimes gets lost in the bright lights of the Christmas season. We get so caught up in doing things, like decorating our houses, buying gifts, attending Christmas programs and parties, sending out cards, etc., etc., etc., that we don't have time to celebrate the reason for Christmas, the advent, or coming, of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Advent invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties and shopping to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith.

One of the ways many Christians focus on the birth of Jesus is to light a candle at the beginning of each church service from the first Sunday after

Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve. There are five candles in a wreath, three purple, one rose pink, and one white candle. I will talk about the candles and what they mean each week until Christmas Eve.

Last Sunday, the candle that was lit in churches and homes was the Candle of Hope or the Prophecy or Prophet's Candle that stands for hope, specifically the Israelites' hope that the promised Messiah would come. When Jesus was born, that hope was finally fulfilled after centuries of waiting for Him to arrive.

Like the prophets in the Old Testament, we hope for a Messiah to save us from the sin in the world. So, we remember Jesus' promise of His future coming, also known as the Second Coming, when the reign of God will come to its fullness. In this day and age, where evil abounds and all seems lost, we can also hope that the prophecies about Jesus' second arrival to earth will also be fulfilled. That is our HOPE!

As we wait and hope for Jesus' return, we wait expectantly for the Christ Child to come again, just like the people in the Old Testament waited expectantly for Him to come the first time. Just like them, we don't know what it will be like.

In an article by Marina Berzins McCoy, "Three Characteristics of Advent Waiting", McCoy waits "with an anticipation that it will be something wonderful and maybe surprising. Will it be a gift in prayer? A moment holding a real baby? An encounter with family or friends where we know Christ is present among us? Only God knows."

McCoy says Advent waiting requires making space in our busy lives for the Christ Child.

Continued on page 8.

Send your church news to the

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Area Church Directory

Friona

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has an archive of past obituaries at frionaonline.com

2022 Volleyball Awards and Team Photos



7th Grade A-Team



7th Grade B-Team



8th Grade A-Team



8th Grade B-Team



Junior Varsity



C-Team



Friona Squaws Volleyball Team — Back Row (l-r) Jacee Burney, Emma Schueler, Reese Stowers, Aubree Bunker, Jacquelyn Falcon; Middle Row (l-r) Lizbeth Toledo, AJ London, Ivory Shelby, Reyna Arias; Front Row (l-r) Hiromy Quiroz, Saraya Luna, Breanna Rivera.



Bi-District Champions



Area Champions

2022 District 1-3A Volleyball All District Honors

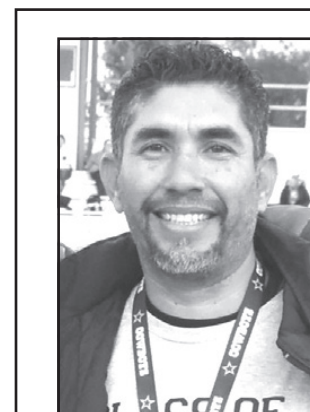
Newcomer of the Year
Aubree Bunker

Second Team
Reyna Arias
Saraya Luna

Friona Squaws Season Record
22-15 (5-3 District, 2-1 Playoffs)

First Team
Jacee Burney
Reese Stowers
Kitzy Welch

Honorable Mention
Ivory Shelby
Emma Schueler



Photos
Courtesy of:
Eric Gonzalez
EG Photography
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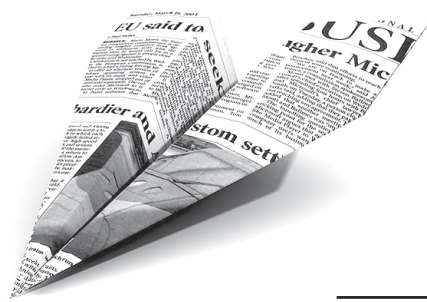
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December Days! Helping Hands in Our Communities

December is a month chock full of holidays, events, parties, concerts and goodwill toward other people all over the world.

Remember to spend time with your pets too!

Thanks!

Generous

December is a time to spread the joy that comes with giving. It is a time to be:

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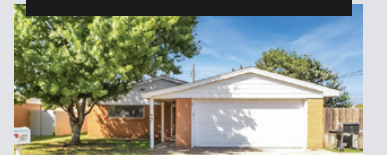
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Updates to school safety standards proposed by TEA

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) proposed an update to its school safety standards that would target three key areas: facility, operating, and maintenance requirements.

The proposed rule would require that all facilities have access points

that are secured by design, maintained to operate as intended, and appropriately monitored.

Based on these new changes, school districts will be able to apply for grants from TEA over the next two years. These will be based on pupil count with districts receiving at

least \$200,000.

The public will be able to weigh in on these proposed changes from November 11 through December 12 and if adopted, the rules will go into effect within two days of submission to the Texas registrar.

Here is a breakdown:

Exterior doors, exterior classroom doors, and portable doors

- All doors are to remain closed, latched and locked, and allow for emergency exit from the inside while remaining locked.

- Roof doors should remain closed and locked when not in use.

- Doors can be unlocked during the instructional day if they are actively monitored or within a secured area.

Windowed doors

- Doors on the ground level or windows that are adjacent to or near a door and are large enough to allow someone to enter if broken must be reinforced with entry-resistant film unless within a secured area.

Panic alert system

- All schools must have a panic alert system that can be manually triggered by campus staff. When set off, the system would immediately call 911 with a location of where the alert was triggered, alert administrators who can also direct

law enforcement, and can simultaneously send an alert to all staff.

Other facility components

- All exterior doors must be numbered.

- Radio signal repeaters must be placed where needed.

- Schools must ensure

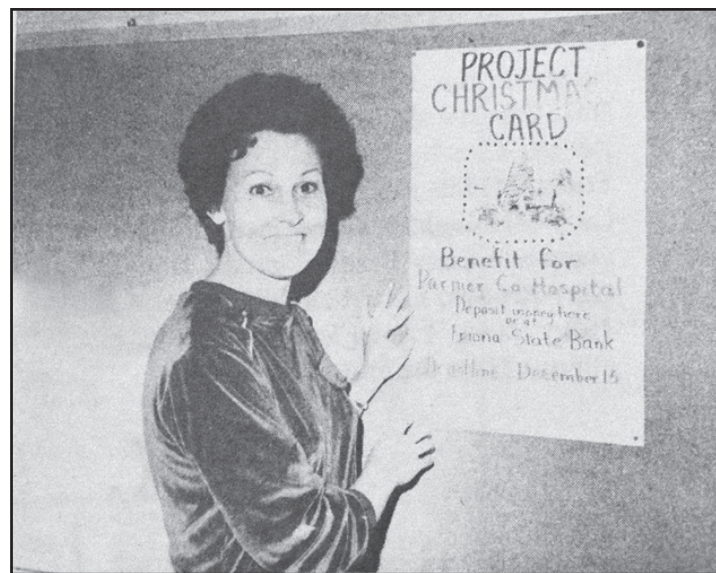
there is an exterior secure master key lock box.

Schools will also be required to update their operations and maintenance protocols.

Source: *The Texas Government Insider*, a publication of Strategic Partnerships, Inc., www.spartnerships.com

FRIONA FLASHBACKS

From the Friona Star Archives



PROJECT TIME...Linda Murphree, chairman of Modern Study Club's Project Christmas Card, is shown putting up a poster promoting the annual project, which raises money to benefit Parmer County Community Hospital. Donations to the fund need to be made by December 15. (Frona Star, Sunday, December 5, 1982)

Advent and Hope

By Teena Hughs

Continued from page 5

"The stable where Jesus was born was poor and simple but had space for them to take shelter. Is my heart open to God? What are the superficial concerns or worries to let go, in order to make room for Jesus to come again this Christmas? Is my life too rushed and busy with holiday preparations, or am I building in time to make space for the Christ Child?"

Finally, Advent waiting is hopeful. "God has already given us the One who loves, redeems, and heals the world." Most of us are blessed to have a church community that has experienced Jesus to give us hope. We have our own life experiences where Jesus has helped us. "God's light and love always shine through whatever kinds of darkness that we might encounter: illness, grief, injustice, worries about work or relationships, spiritual aridity or darkness. So, we wait with hope. We wait with one another and not alone."

Hope in a biblical sense is very different from wishful thinking. Hope, in the Bible, exists as a secure assurance, a trust placed in a trustworthy God. God has never failed us in the past, and if He claims He will do something in the future, we can have a hope that He will fulfill that claim. We can expect that because if God makes a promise, He will fulfill it.

Only five of us were at church Sunday. Our preacher was sick, so I used the Sunday school lesson as the sermon. Afterwards, I asked Paul if I answered all of his questions. To my disappointment, he said NO. We have three more Sundays to talk about Advent and light candles of peace, joy, love, and then the Christ child candle on Christmas Eve. My hope is that by Christmas Day, we will all experience the birth of the Christ Child in some life-transforming way as we await His second coming!

FAFSA Night for FHS Seniors

On Monday, Friona High School, the City of Friona, and the Friona Public Library hosted a College Readiness Night for FHS Seniors. Before

each year of college, students can apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

form. Colleges use FAFSA data to determine federal aid eligibility. Many states and colleges use FAFSA data to award their own aid. In fact, the State

of Texas requires students to complete the form before they can graduate from high school. FHS Counselor Matt Tucker and Library Director

Anahi Gomez welcomed everyone to the event and introduced the special guests representing area foundations and colleges/universities.



Library Director Anahi Gomez



FHS Counselor Matt Tucker



65th Annual 4-H Gold Star Banquet

On Monday evening, November 21st, Texas AgriLife Extension held its 65th Annual 4-H Gold Star Banquet at the Eberly Brooks Event Center in Lubbock.

Two individuals from Parmer County were recognized at the banquet.

Mary Kube, of Farwell, received the Distinguished Leader award and Senior 4-H member Emma Schueler, of Friona, received the 4-H Gold Star award. The Gold Star Award is the highest achievement award given by the Texas 4-H Youth Development

Program through the county 4-H Program.

Commissioners Kirk Frye (Pct. 1) and his wife Annette, and Charles Wilkins (Pct. 2) and his wife Rhonda attended the event along with FCH agent Wendy Case and Ag agent Janelle Duffey.



FCH agent Wendy Case, Mary Kube, Emma Schueler, Ag agent Janelle Duffey



Commissioner Pct. 2 Charles Wilkins, Emma Schueler, Commissioner Pct. 1 Kirk Frye



Commissioner Pct. 2 Charles Wilkins, Mary Kube, Commissioner Pct. 1 Kirk Frye



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How the money received will be spent? (Give examples): _____

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How did your organization utilize last year's donations from the United Way? _____

How will this organization advertise for the United Way? _____

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 or jimmydalene@gmail.com Forms available at FISD

United Fund of Friona President Signature: _____

Approval: _____

Non-Approval: _____

Date: _____



Schueler Family (l-r): Wade, Ivy, Aubrey, Emma, Candice



Kube Family (l-r): Weldon, Aleta, Mary, Matthew



Yes They Can! — On Saturday, November 19th, these FHS Seniors collected the empty cans at the trailer just north of the fire department. The cans will be “cashed in” and the funds will help support the “Drug & Alcohol Free” All-Night Graduation Party next May. Make sure to take any empty cans you may have and place them in the trailer.



Marvin Kramer, of Skellytown, took this photo while he was out hunting near Turkey, Texas. Marvin is a cousin of Friona Star editor Clint Mears.

The Spirit of Giving

Empty Stocking Fund

Donations are being accepted for the Empty Stocking Fund which provides clothing and a toy to local needy children. School officials are consulted to determine the recipients. Donations may be made at Friona Interbank or given to project co-chairs Holly Campbell and/or Jyl Grimsley.

Project Christmas Card

The Parmer County Hospital Auxiliary is accepting donations for the Project Christmas Card. The proceeds will be used to purchase medical equipment for Parmer Medical Center. Canisters/boxes are placed around town in various businesses for the collection of donations. The names of donors will be included in

a special Christmas Greeting Card in the Friona Star newspaper. Please make sure you put your name with ALL donations. You can contact Connie Neelley at 806-250-2542 for more information.

Santa's for Seniors

If you would like to adopt a resident for Christmas, the list is ready at Prairie Acres. Please contact the Activity department @ 806-250-3922. It's an opportunity to bring JOY to a resident at Prairie Acres.

Give to the United Way

You can bring your donation to Friona Interbank at 1105 N. Cleveland or mail it to Friona Interbank, P.O. Box 549, Friona, Texas 79035.

Texas Christmas tree industry expecting tree-mendous year

Written by Paul Schattenberg

Continued from page 1

"Prices will vary depending on the size and type of tree and may be a little higher than last year," he said. "But generally, there should be no big price increases. However, where you may find higher prices is for those trees that are grown out of state and then brought into Texas, as they will have additional costs associated with transportation."

Spring Creek Growers, a family operation in southwestern Montgomery County, grows and harvests Virginia pine and Leyland cypress trees for the Christmas season on about 30 acres. It offers choose-and-cut, pre-cut and live trees. Bob Jones, co-owner of

Spring Creek Growers with wife Carla, said the drought did not significantly affect production this year.

"We have about 12,000 trees on site," he said. "And because we irrigate, there was no real impact on production from the drought, but we did have additional water costs from the irrigation."

Jones also noted the increase in costs over the past year for herbicides and other chemical inputs such as fertilizer.

"Our chemical input costs generally went up about 15% across the board and the cost of fertilizer has doubled," he said. "But we are doing what we can to con-

tinue to make our live trees affordable, even if that takes away from our profit margin."

Jones said trees grown at his farm will likely have a 5-6% increase over last year, while trees brought in from out of state to his operation will have higher price increases.

"We bring in some Frasier pines and nobles from out of state to give the consumers more variety," he said. "These trees will likely cost 10-12% more this year, due to higher input costs combined with the rising cost of transportation."

Jones said based on the number of phone calls and emails Spring Creek Growers has received to date, he expects this year to be a very strong one for consumers to purchase live trees.

"We had a banner year last year and expect to have another really good year this year," he said. "People choose a live tree for Christmas so they can have variety from year to year instead of pulling out and putting up same artificial tree every year. They also enjoy coming to the farm and choosing their own tree. In that regard, we provide more than just Christmas trees, we provide a complete experience for the family."



Despite the drought, Texas Christmas tree production was good, but increased input costs are expected to make tree prices a little higher this year. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Laura McKenzie)

Christmas tree popularity

The most widely grown live Christmas tree species in Texas are the Virginia pine, Leyland cypress, Afghan pine and Arizona cypress.

Raley said the best-selling and most popular live Christmas tree species is the Virginia pine because it grows well throughout the state.

"Virginia pine trees were selected by the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association for their survivability, growth and form," he said. "They are also favored for their ability to grow across the state, which is crucial in Texas as more than 90% of all forested land is pri-

vately owned."

However, he said, there has been an increased interest in other tree species, particularly the Afghan pine.

"Afghan pines grow well in Central Texas, and that's the area from where most of the increased consumer interest has come," he said. "But there has also been growing interest in other species as live Christmas tree selections."

Raley said the Tree Improvement Program is working with industry and growers to provide seeds and technical assistance in finding additional tree species that may be grown successfully in the state and

offer consumers even more options when selecting their live Christmas tree.

Reed said for those wanting to buy a live Christmas tree, his best advice is to shop early.

"If you wait until the second or third week of December to buy, you'll have a limited selection of Christmas tree types and sizes," he said. "It's best to buy early. If you properly water and maintain your live tree, it will easily last through Christmas."

Paul Schattenberg is a communications and media relations specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Communications.



The Virginia pine is the favorite among Texas Christmas tree growers because it grows well in many areas of the state. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)



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