

Friona Star

VOL. 92, NO. 48

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

TEN PAGES

\$1.00

December pre-natal classes

The Healthy Baby Coalition of Parmer County provides free education to expectant mothers in Parmer County. The classes are for not only first time moms, but mothers who already have 1 or more children. Classes are available in both English and Spanish.

To sign-up for classes, please stop by the Parmer Medical Center conference room Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Classes are typically held on Saturday mornings once a month, but times can also be customized to meet special needs.

Mothers who participate in the classes earn points to use for free baby items for their newborn. The "Baby's Bin" has a great selection of items from car seats to diapers. Mothers who have been through the classes have a wide selection of items to choose from.

For more information about the coalition, see a HBC Board member or contact Heidi Eichenauer at 806 250-2754 or JoDonna Terry at 295-8291.



dana jameson photo

These two little boys spied on Santa while waiting in line to visit with the jolly, old elf. Santa arrived at the Friona City Park at 5 p.m. and stayed busy hearing the wishes of the children of Friona until 7 p.m. While waiting for a visit with Santa visitors to Christmas in the Park got to enjoy the first Lighted Christmas Parade.

Statewide cap on city budgets proposed

The Texas Municipal League today denounced a state Senate committee's recommendation to restrict city budgets as "a direct assault on public safety, economic development and transportation that will produce no noticeable tax reduction for homeowners."

The committee, appointed by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and chaired by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston), has recommended placing a state-imposed cap on the property tax revenue of every city and county that could only be exceeded by holding an election.

"The largest budget item for every city in Texas is public safety - police, fire fighting and emergency medical services," said Bennett Sandlin, Executive Director of the Texas Municipal League. "Politicians can't proclaim their support for first responders and then turn around and vote to restrict the funding that pays for the salaries, equipment, vehicles, health insurance and pensions of the men and women who protect our communities."

Also, among the first items to be cut from city budgets would be economic development incentives and city funding for state highway projects leading to fewer jobs and more traffic congestion in the future, Sandlin said.

"Their statewide cap on city budgets would not produce meaningful tax relief. Hypothetically, under their proposal, some average homeowners in some cities in some future year might possibly have the increase in their property tax bill reduced by \$2 or \$3 per month. What's more, elderly and disabled homeowners would have the smallest hypothetical tax savings because of the exemptions they currently receive. Any legislator who tries to convince Texans that is real tax relief will look foolish."

"Cities are not the cause of high property taxes in Texas," Sandlin said. "Cities get only 16 percent of the property taxes paid by Texans while 55 percent is levied by school districts. Legislators don't want to deal with the real cause of high property taxes - the school finance system - because the legislature depends on rising school property taxes to balance the state budget. Under the "Robin Hood" funding scheme, 230 school districts are forced to send part of their property taxes to the state treasury this year."

Sandlin also accused the Senate committee of misleading Texans about city property taxes by making deceptive "apples-to-oranges" comparisons with household income while

ignoring the fact city property tax collections increased at less than half the rate of state taxes from 2009 to 2014.

"Locally elected officials are accountable to voters for taxing and spending decisions every time they run for election.

Politicians in Austin should not impose arbitrary and punitive state restrictions on the ability of locally elected city officials

to budget for the needs of their communities, especially when the safety of our citizens is at stake," Sandlin said.



dana jameson photo

The Friona Police Department ushered in the Christmas season with their Blue Santa lighted float for the Christmas parade in conjunction with Christmas in the Park. Thanks to everyone that worked to make the Christmas in the Park celebration a big fun success.

Council agenda for Monday

The Friona City Council will meet in regular session at 6:30 p.m. Monday December 12 in council chambers, 619 Main St. All council meetings are open to the public.

A board member to serve on the Friona Economic Development Corporation board of directors for a two-year term will be discussed and appointed.

A police department monthly report will be given. Accounts payable and financial statements for November will be considered for action.

An agreement between Bovina and Friona for professional services with Brandt Engineering for 2017 sealcoating project will be considered for approval.

They will consider property on two sections of land farmed by Michael Rushing and Rex Wells for the 2017-2018 crop years.

Consider a resolution approving settlement agreement between the Alliance of Xcel Municipalities and Southwestern Public Service Company for authority to increase rates submitted by Southwestern Public Service in February 2016.

This is a tentative agenda and subject to change. By law the official agenda is posted on the window at city hall 72 hours prior to the meeting.



dana jameson photo

Milk House Market was the place to be last Thursday. Hannah Alger held a DIY class to make NOEL banners to decorate for the Christmas season. Milk House Market owner Crystal Moroney served up good food and atmosphere to complete the evening.

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

December 8

3rd Grade program 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Holy Day of Obligation services-St. Teresa of Jesus in Friona 8 a.m. (English) 7 p.m. (Spanish)

Holy Day of Obligation services-St. Ann's in Bovina 5:30 p.m. (Bilingual)

December 8-10

JVG/JVB/VG/VB Basketball at Farwell Tournament

December 9

Santa Letter deadline for Friona Star

December 10

Area Choir Clinic at Wayland Baptist University

Friona Fire Department Christmas Party at Senior Citizens 7 p.m.

December 11

FUMC Kidz Khoir will sing during worship service at 11 a.m.

FBC Christmas Cantata at 6 p.m.

December 12

FHS Choir Christmas Concert at First United Methodist Church

Friona City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers

FISD Board of Trustees meeting at FISD Administration Building 7 p.m.

7th/8th Boys Basketball at Dimmitt 5 p.m.

7th/8th Girls Basketball at home vs. Dimmitt 5 p.m.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe services-St. Teresa of Jesus in Friona 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe services-St. Ann's in Bovina 5:30 p.m. (Spanish)

December 13

Prairie Acres Resident Christmas party at 6:30 p.m.

JVG/VG Basketball at Idalou 5/6:30 p.m.

JVB/VB Basketball vs. Lorenzo at Home 6:30/8 p.m.

December 14

InterBank Christmas Tea 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

December 15

Friona Noon Lions meet at Headquarters at noon

December 16

JVG/VG Basketball vs. Shallowater at Home 5/6:30 p.m.

December 18

FUMC church-wide breakfast at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

FUMC Choir and Handbell Choir Cantata at 7 p.m. in Sanctuary

FBC morning worship will observe the Lord's Supper followed by a brisket fundraiser for missions

FBC Christmas Caroling around Friona and at Prairie Acres & Heritage Estates 6 p.m.

December 19

Ho! Ho! Home for the Holidays drawings

Project Christmas Card deadline

hug your favorite democrat

The left-leaning, progressive Democrats should love Melania Trump.

After all she is an immigrant. They tried to claim she did illegal modeling without a work visa but now she is the First Lady. Must be driving them even crazier.

Other high handed elite Dems have said that we are in deep trouble because Trump is a "diplomatic rookie." They do not see that he is a political rookie which is why he won and they lost.

Nancy Pelosi, who still be-

lieves the Democrats have done more for the middle class than anybody else, told a TV news reporter that they do not need a new direction. She says the Democrats still believe in the direction they are going.

When Trump made some kind of deal with Carrier then announced an agreement with a Japanese businessman to invest \$50 billion and create jobs in the U.S., Democrats made fun. They said President-Elect Trump has a long way to go to match Obama's 15 million jobs he has created during his eight years in

office.

I do not personally know anybody who has a job because of Obama. On the contrary, many are fortunate to have a job because of the Obama administration. If you or someone you know has a job thanks to Obama I would really like to hear from you.

It was reported this week that President Obama is planning a three city Farewell Tour in January. I will listen with great interest to what he has to say. No doubt he will be patting himself on the back for all of his accom-

plishments. And he will tell us everything wrong with a President Trump.

The Obama Farewell Tour will be after his final taxpayer funded Hawaii vacation. He and the family will leave December 16 and return to D.C. January 2. Judicial Watch reported that the Obama 2015 Christmas in Hawaii trip cost taxpayers \$4.8 million. During their years in office the Obamas have spent over \$85 million for vacations, not including Secret Service hotels, car rentals, etc.

Now comes President Trump.

No one knows where he will spend Christmas and vacations. He has plenty of Trump Hotels to choose from. In fact, no one knows what Trump is likely to do or say during the next four years.

One thing is for certain. The Democrats will disagree and criticize everything Trump does. Instead of buying in to make America better they will continue with no real plan to revive the Democratic party or America.

Their message is 'we are all doomed'. After all we may have a guy named "Mad Dog" as Secretary of Defense. How much worse can it get.

Maybe because I am an old person, I am astounded by all of the young people protesting against America. I'm astounded by someone that would burn an American flag. And I am equally astounded at how little they know about history, politics, and capitalism.

When Trump said \$4 billion was too much for a new Air Force One it was reported that Boeing stock value dropped one billion dollars. That should have made the anti-big corporation Democrats happy.

Oh, I forgot. For the next four years nothing is likely to make a Democrat happy.

School Menu
Dec. 12-16

Monday

Breakfast-Cereal, cinnamon roll, apple juice, pears, milk.
Lunch-Roasted chicken, roll, fresh tomatoes, mashed potatoes, peaches, milk.

Tuesday

Breakfast-Cereal, Holland burrito, orange pineapple juice, apples, milk.
Lunch-Fish, roll, corn, green beans, Mandarin oranges, milk.

Wednesday

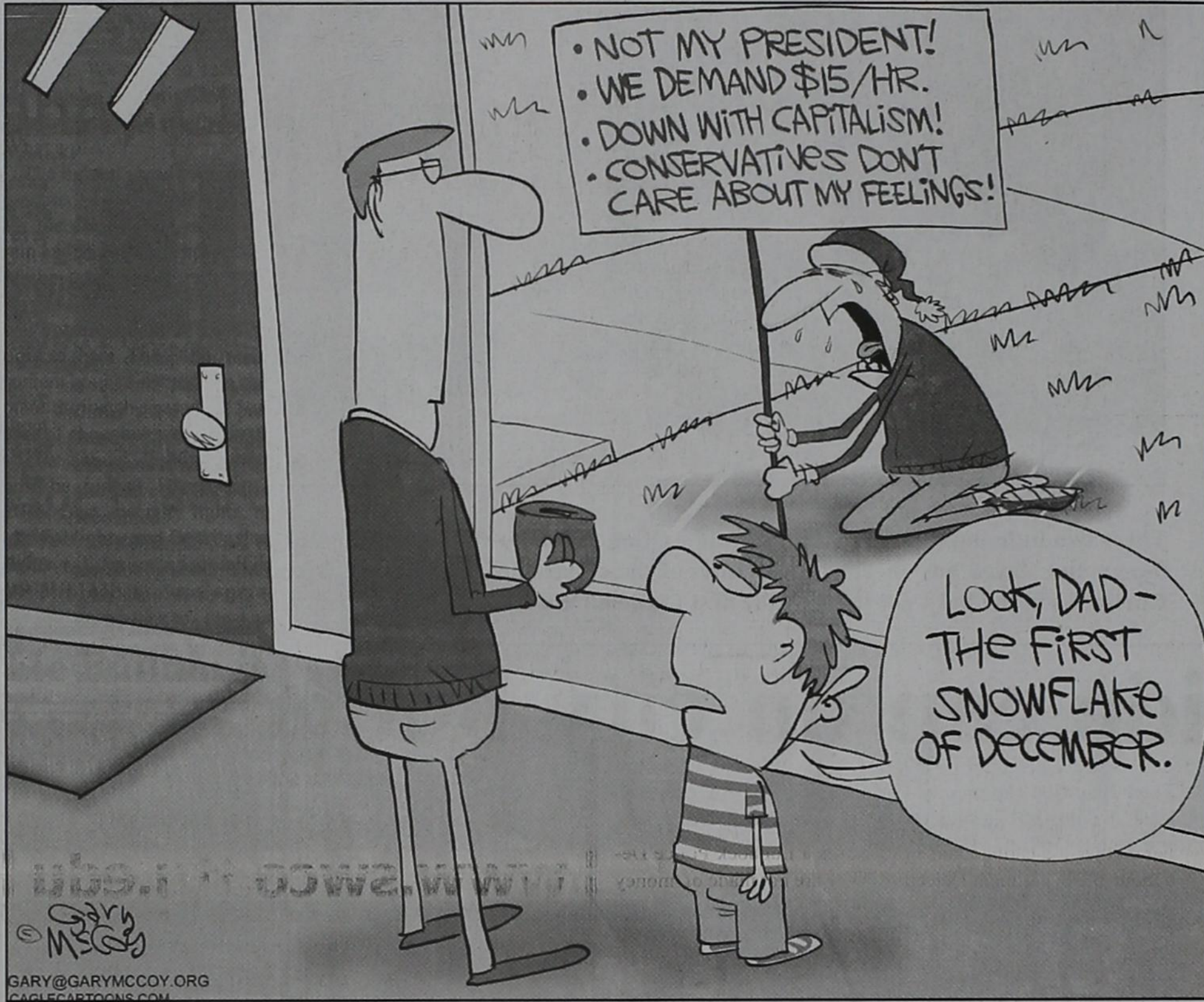
Breakfast-Cereal, grape juice, banana, milk.
Lunch-Chicken patty sandwich, cheese cauliflower, broccoli, apples, milk.

Thursday

Breakfast-Cereal, sausage pizza, orange juice, diced peaches, milk.
Lunch-Chili meat, Fritos, mixed California veggies, pinto beans, fruity gelatin, milk.

Friday

Breakfast-Cereal, pancake sausage stick, fruit punch juice, oranges, milk.
Lunch-Burrito, carrot sticks, lettuce & tomato salad, fruit salad, milk.



It isn't Christmas without milk! A-Tex Dairy decorated a tree in the City Park for Christmas in the Park on Monday.

ACROSS

- 1 TX newspaper: "___ County Enterprise"
- 5 "Hill Country State Natural ___"
- 6 flat floater
- 7 profession of TX Dick DeGuerin (abbr.)
- 8 this chemical company has a plant in Freeport, TX in Matagorda County on FM 1468 and FM 2431
- 16 this Lindros finished his career with the Dallas Stars
- 18 TXism: "skinny ___ - ___-eating cat"
- 21 "___ way, José"
- 22 HIV/___ pandemic
- 23 Chester, TX was named after this president (init.)
- 24 TXism: "he couldn't ___ egg" (weaking)
- 30 historic Highlands Mansion in Marlin has stained-___
- 34 TX Willie wrote "Hello Walls" for this Faron (init.)
- 35 memory maker
- 36 this Cheney was TX George W's VP
- 37 TXism: "we're seein' ___ eye" (in agreement)
- 39 former Cowboys' arena (2 wds.)

- 43 this Phil was Astros' 1st pick in 1992 rather than Derek Jeter
- 44 Amarillo High mascots
- 45 former First Lady of TX, Connally (init.)
- 46 HOV ___
- 47 TX Jaworski was special prosecutor during Watergate
- 49 punting, e.g. ___
- 52 headquarters (abbr.)
- 53 dir. from Abilene to Iowa Park
- 54 "___ of fun"
- 55 square dance strides
- 58 iron alloy
- 59 2,000 pounds
- 60 "Attila the ___"
- 61 TX TV Tarzan, Ron ___
- 1 1925 film directed by TX King Vidor: "The Big ___"
- 2 "speechifier"
- 3 Dallas Stars position or liberal politics (2 wds.)
- 4 TX birth town of Renée Zellweger
- 9 first female governor's nickname
- 10 TXism: "as welcome ___ at a picnic"
- 11 surprise attack
- 12 Laredo Spanish TV

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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solution on page 4

ON YOUR PAYROLL

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

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By the time our paper goes to press this week it is supposed to be deep-freeze around here. A couple of days of be-

low freezing highs. Guess that goes along with our Christmas season. It was a nice night for Christmas in the Park Monday.

Great week to travel I guess. JP Jo Beth Gipson is at a justice of the peace conference in Galveston, several Friona and area residents are attending the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, and my son Casey and his wife Jen are spending the week escorting a tour group to Iceland. He is a chip off the old block if he can sell 40 people on the idea of touring Iceland in December.

The electronics recycle trailer will be parked at the city park daily until Dec 15 to accept your old computers, printers, modems, cell phones, and any other old electronics you don't need anymore. We took advantage of it this week to clean a bunch of old stuff out of the office. They take the trailer to the barn at night and put it back out the next morning. For questions call city hall at 250-2761.

The city council is considering annexing properties in the city that are not officially in the city limits and do not pay city taxes. Consideration for this has been discussed by the city council for several months and will likely be on the January council agenda.

Thanks to Joel Duffield of Xcel Energy for installing the

Christmas lights on every pole on Main St. again this year.

President Obama and family will be flying to Hawaii December 16 and back to D.C. January 2. One last expensive taxpayer paid vacation. No telling how expensive Trump will be.

Crystal Carrasco is the Administrator in Training for Prairie Acres/Heritage Estates. She will be testing for her license between now and mid-January. There is a bunch of remodeling going on at Prairie Acres right now. The Prairie Acres Christmas party is next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. The Heritage Christmas party is Friday December 16.

The Prairie Acres resident of the month for January is Sue Procter. The employee of the

month is Patti Widner. She is the supervisor for environmental services and has been employed since September 1984.

Two local young ladies will be dancing in the Nutcracker this weekend at the Civic Center in Amarillo. They are Kamryn Riethmayer and Reese Stowers. Kamryn is a 6th grader, daughter of Jenny and Corbin Riethmayer. Reese is a 5th grader and the daughter of Jeff and Heather Stowers. They have been rehearsing very hard the past few weeks and especially this week before the performances.

There are two performances Friday and Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., then two performances Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Good luck girls.

The Christmas in the Park celebration went very well Monday evening. The weather was mild and no wind. The line for Santa was long, long. Hot chocolate, cupcakes, and tamales were on the menu. The primary school's tree received the most canned goods and won first place. The National English Honor Society earned second place. All together 50 pounds of canned goods were collected and donated to the Senior Meals program.

We took many, many Santa and lighted parade photos. We will be sharing them and Santa Letters in the next two issues of the Star to wrap up the Christmas season. We will be closed here and not publish a newspaper the week of December 26-30. Until then!



courtesy photo

Reese Stowers, left, and Kamryn Riethmayer will be dancing in the Nutcracker at the Amarillo Civic Center this weekend. Reese is in 5th grade and is the daughter of Jeff and Heather Stowers. Kamryn is in 6th grade and is the daughter of Corbin and Jenny Riethmayer.

Country Thoughts

dana jameson

Susan's great idea

My youngest brother, Jim, is married to a delightful woman, Susan, which has harnessed her ability to purchase the perfect gift for anyone.

Before she even met Jim, Susan and her mother had started collecting gift ideas throughout the year and they were never caught scrambling for the perfect birthday, anniversary, or Christmas gift.

She learned early that when stores would have clearance sales on items for children, adults and everyone between it was best to buy these items and store them until they were needed.

In their old home, she used an ordinary coat closet to store these treasures. I always called it "Fibber McGee's Closet" but that was misleading. She is very organized and everything was stacked accordingly.

She not only collected gifts but wrapping paper, tissue paper, ribbon, gift bags and anything else she may need to get the gift ready to go out the door to a lucky recipient.

They have built a new home and she had the builder put in an extra large closet with shelving to accommodate the contents of her gift closet.

When their two daughters were younger, they knew that if they had a birthday party to attend, the answer was always, "Go look in the closet and pick something out."

We were talking a few weeks ago and she said she had finished her Christmas shopping back in September.

I must mention that they live in Lubbock and according to Susan, there are sales every day in every store if you are willing to look. (Susan is a cardiac nurse and Jim is a Lubbock Police Department Detective. They are not made of money but know how to spend wisely.)

She has already started collecting for next year and will have purchased 75 percent of next year's gifts by the second week of January.

While I was trying to find a place to live in Lubbock a few years ago, I stayed with them and came to understand the concept behind "the closet". The concept was to cut down on stress and last minute rushing to the store for a gift.

Susan is planning for so much more than just filling the closet. She is ready to put together the perfect gift with a little stress, fuss and muss and then go on to enjoy the time spent with the person to whom she is gifting.

Her girls are growing up. One is in college and the other is a junior at Coronado High School. They have learned to go to the closet on their own but best of all they have learned to follow in their mother's footsteps and cutting down on stress by planning.

Some would call her a 'packrat' but I think she is much more than that. She is a visionary that can plan to enjoy the time spent with loved ones and not spent stressing over the perfect gift.

I cannot wait to see what I get from the closet. Bed, Bath & Beyond has nothing on Susan.

*Friona, which was acknowledged "Snow Capital" of the area last winter with a couple of larger than normal snowfalls, got after defending its title this winter with a whopper of a snow for the first one of the season last week.

Official measurement was nine inches on Thursday morning. Another half-inch was measured on Sunday morning.

The Wednesday night snow was one of the most spectacular snows this area has witnessed

in years. Falling straight down, without any appreciable wind, residents awakened on Thursday to find a beautiful Christmas-card scene all around them.

*Reigning Maize Queen Kathy Horton reminds area residents to support Project Christmas Card. Miss Horton made a tour of Friona stores this week to see what's available for Christmas.

*First Call...Mayor R.L. Fleming was shown making the first Direct Distant Dialing call

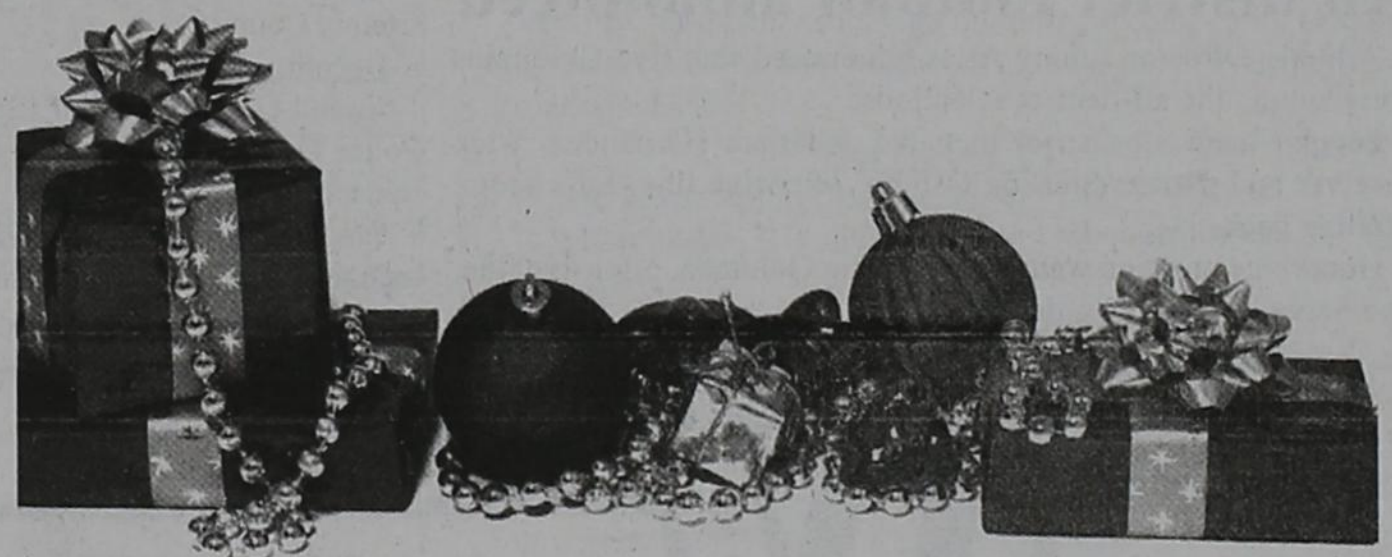
at the City of Friona office. The DDD went into effect last Saturday.

*December 12, 1941...Little excitement greeted the declaration of war on Thursday against Germany and Italy, certainly not the stunned silence on Monday when the United States answered the Japanese challenge.

The country is settling into a grim determination to back up what the president terms the greatest challenge ever made to life, liberty and civilization.

*December 6, 1956...History turned a page last weekend, when the City of Friona occupied its new quarters in the just-completed city hall adjoining the fire station on Main Street. The shift from the Legion Hall, which has been the city's home for years, was accomplished without fanfare.

Past issues of the Friona Star are archived at Texas Tech University www.swco.ttu.edu



The employees of Friona Interbank would like to invite our Customers and Friends to our annual Christmas Tea, Wednesday, December 14 from 9a.m. to 3p.m. at the bank. Come by and enjoy the goodies and Holiday Spirit with us.

We'd also like to take this time for you to congratulate Amelia Taylor on her retirement.



We welcome you and hope you will stop by and enjoy the Christmas Season and also wish Amelia well.

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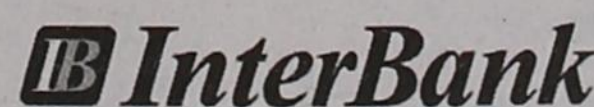


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New Arrival



Brooke Taye Gammon

Anita Gammon announces the birth of her sister, Brooke Taye Gammon. Proud parents are Heath and Sharleen Gammon.

Brooke was born November 24, 2016 and weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. Her grandparents are Rick & Elaine Yellen of Corpus Christi and Mark & Tammy Gammon of Friona. Her great-grandmother is Paula Fairchild of Adrian.

Chiefs in Naz Tourney

From Coach Jake Ebeling

The Friona Chieftains basketball team took part in the Nazareth Tournament this past weekend. We finished 0-4 but had some really close games. We played Highland Park and Nazareth both on Thursday and dropped both of those games.

We then played Sundown to double OT on Friday before getting edged out by 7 points. Ivan Gallardo made a huge 3-pointer to force overtime and Johnny Ojeda made two clutch free throws with one second left to force another extra period.

The final game of the tournament was against Plainview Christian Academy and finished 52-57. Ivan Gallardo scored a game high 30 points and Johnny Ojeda pitched in 19.

We really grew as a team and learned how to handle close games while missing key players. Our total points per game have increased every game and I really feel like we are starting to turn the corner.

All district football announced

Athletic Director Jimmy Arias announced that five Chieftains were among the all-district selections.

Second team all-district included Jonathan Hernandez, wide receiver and punter; Sterling Osborn, offensive line; Luis Trejo, running back.

Honorable mention went to Guillermo Quintana, offensive line, and Salvador Santiago, defensive back.

Lions Club News

The Friona Noon Lions met Thursday December 1 with 7 members and 4 guests present. Many of our members were busy stripping cotton and unable to attend.

We were pleased to welcome our two basketball coaches, Adam Nix and Jake Ebeling, and our athletic director Jimmy Arias as guests, along with club sweetheart Kendall Barnett. Coach Nix is the Squaws basketball coach and Coach Ebeling is the Chieftain coach. Each gave a short rundown of their teams. Coach Arias said Friona will host a powerlifting meet here in Friona January 7.

Next week, at our December 15 club meeting we will draw the two winners of the rifle and pistol. We thank everyone that purchased tickets for our fundraiser raffle and appreciate the community support.



ron carr photo

Guests at the December 1 Noon Lions meeting were, l-r, Adam Nix, Squaws basketball coach, athletic director Jimmy Arias, and Jake Ebeling, Chieftain basketball coach.

Sheriff's Report

Reported by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office:
November 28, 2016

Kyle Reese, 29, of Lubbock, TX was arrested by the Friona Police Department on a charge of criminal trespass. The case is pending in County Court.

November 29, 2016

Edgar Hernandez, 23, of Earth, TX, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety on a charge of possession of a controlled substance PG2-A less than two ounces. The case is pending in County Court.

Brandy Welch, 28, of Bovina, was arrested by the Sheriff's Office on a Deaf Smith County warrant. Welch posted bond and was released.

December 1, 2016

Edgar Hernandez, 23, of Earth, TX, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety on a charge of possession of a controlled substance PG2-A less than two ounces. The case is pending in County Court.

Justin Rainey, 26, of Clovis, NM, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety on a charge of possession of a controlled substance PG2-A less than two ounces. The case is pending in County Court.

Anthony Nunley, 30, of Friona, was arrested by the Friona Police Department on a charge of unlawful restraint. The case is pending in County Court.

December 4, 2016

Joseph Gallegos, 23, of Clovis, NM, was arrested by the Bovina Police Department on a Curry County warrant. Gallegos is pending transport.

Clayton Glover, 20, of Muleshoe, TX, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety on a Lamb County warrant. Glover is pending transport.

Courthouse Notes

Warranty deeds are reported by the County Clerk's Office from the week of November 24 through November 30, 2016:

Amador Rocha and Judith E. Rocha-Amador Rocha and Judith E. Rocha, L1 B8 B1 Drakes Revised Friona.

Lincoln Inspection Service, Inc.-Olen Cole, L17-18 B2 OT Farwell.

Notice of Public Meeting

To discuss Friona School District's
"Superior"

State Financial Accountability Rating

December 12, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Friona ISD Board Meeting Room

909 East 11th

Friona, Texas 79035

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Friona ISD rating on the Texas financial accountability system.

Christmas Hours

Milk House Market
Thursday & Friday 11-5:30
Saturday 10-4

Ho! Ho! Home for the Holidays! participating merchants:

- A-1 Service Center
- Bi-Wize Pharmacy
- Blackburn Hardware
- Carniceria Hernandez
- Creative Chaos
- Fast Stop
- 5 Star Bistro
- Headquarter's Restaurant
- Hunan's Restaurant
- Interior Expressions
- Ivy Cottage
- Kendrick Oil Farm Store
- Lowe's Supermarket
- Malouf's Fabrics
- Milk House Market
- Subway of Friona
- Tasty Cream
- Veterinary Industries

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Christmas Life Change

BRETT HOYLE, Pastor, First Baptist Church

Is Christmas about more than Santa and sugar, trees and tinsel, presents and poinsettias? Biblically there is so much more to Christmas than those things, especially when you see that Christmas is about glorifying God and changing your life. Luke 1:26-38 depicts this so clearly as God revealed His plans for Mary to be Jesus' mom. This high and holy honor is a very special place in God's redemptive plan, but it is so easy to miss how life changing this was for her. Mary was a young woman on the brink of marriage, having a family, raising kids and living the ideal life. In fact, she was already engaged to an amazing man named Joseph! What we often overlook is that when God allowed Mary to carry Jesus, this radically changed her life. God's plans were inconvenient, surprising and a shock, but through this He offered Mary and Joseph so much more through Jesus Christ.

In light of the massive changes before her, would Mary resist or submit? Mary wasn't a robot, and she could either run from God's plan or trust and obey. Scripture says, she chose to trust and obey with a willing and tender heart. Her life turned upside down, but that was okay because she knew the Lord who was holding her together. Jesus is the greatest gift of all, and the purpose of His coming is to change sinners like Mary, you and me, into Christ followers who trust and obey. This is not easy or convenient, but it is always worth it.

FBC Christmas Cantata Dec. 11

The First Baptist Church of Friona will present a special Christmas service on Sunday, December 11 at 6 p.m. Jesus will be exalted as the choir performs a Christmas Cantata entitled "Adore." The evening will also have a focus on international missions, and will close with candlelight worship. A Christmas fellowship will follow the worship service. The community is invited to come and be part of this special evening.

It is Worth It

By TEENA HUGHS

Do you ever wonder if a ministry you are involved in is worth your time and effort?

Perhaps you teach a class, and you wonder if it is making any difference in the lives of your students. Maybe you try to be the mouth, hands, and feet of Jesus to someone who doesn't know Him, and it doesn't seem to produce any change in the person's life.

Our church has a Wednesday Night Live program for children. It takes many dedicated people to coordinate WNL, teach a lesson, lead music, do arts and crafts and recreation, and cook. Psychologically, toward the end of a semester, I think I am tired and need a break. I don't remember what happened last week, but I found myself saying I thought I was glad it was our last week, also causing me to wonder if what we do is worth the time and effort we put into WNL.

Sunday was a great day in our church! Our Cherub Choir and Kidz Choir each sang two songs during our worship service. I believe it was the best performance I have ever seen by these choirs. It was one of those special times where you knew God had a smile on His face. And, it made you realize that all your time and effort is definitely worth it.

Times like Sunday are a gift from God. Seeing the fruit Sunday morning provided that little bit of encouragement I needed to refresh my soul with renewed energy for next semester.

We may never see any fruit from our efforts, while sometimes we do things without thinking that are life-changing for someone, and we do get to see it. Sometimes our efforts pay off quickly while at other times it takes forever to see any fruit.

My point is, whether we are blessed to see fruit or not, whether we are successful or not, we can't quit working for God. He doesn't call us to be successful, He calls us to be obedient and serve Him with our best efforts. God is in control, and He will take care of the rest.

It is an honor, blessing, and privilege to be called by God to serve Him. And, yes, it is worth the effort!!!

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:38

OBITUARY

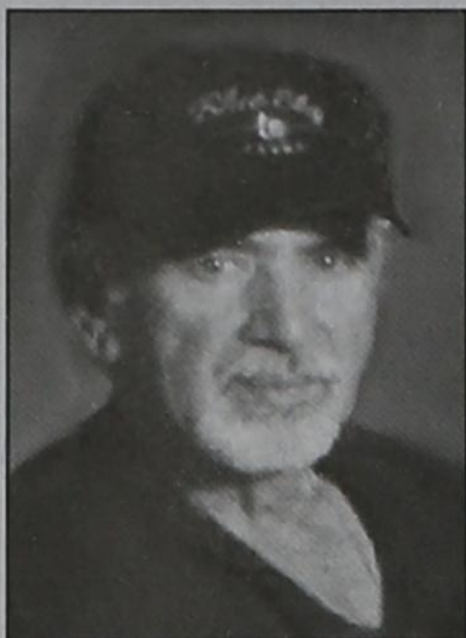
John Lawrence Victoria

John Lawrence Victoria, 60, of Friona died Sunday, December 4, 2016 in Amarillo. Viewing will be from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on December 8, 2016, at Colonial Funeral Home in Dimmitt. Chapel services are scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. at the Colonial Funeral Home in Dimmitt with Ed Joy officiating. Burial will follow in the Castro Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Dimmitt by Blackwell-Mullins Funeral Home of Friona.

John was born May 21, 1956 in Portugal to John M. and Maria Lourdes Vitoria. He was manager of High Plains Dairy and Blue Sky Farms. He loved to play poker, watch football, and horse racing, loved the ocean and scuba diving.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include three daughters, Suzie Victoria of Friona, Liz Joy and husband Ed of Dublin, Diana Elkins and husband Steve of Austin; one son, John Victoria of Friona; five brothers, Frank Victoria, Paul Victoria, Fernando Victoria, Tony Victoria, and Joe Victoria, all of Hilmar, California; and one sister, Maria Victoria of Hilmar, California.



You may sign the online register book at blackwellmullins.com.



Panhandle Parables

Olive: The Other Reindeer

By JEFF PROCTER, Minister, 6th Street Church of Christ
Author's note: My inkwell is running a little low and so I hope that you will enjoy a few reprints over the last 4 years of other articles I have written about this time of year. God bless and thanks. ~Jeff

For most of my life I thought that all of the other reindeer were not very nice to Rudolf. Then I learned it wasn't all of the other reindeer, but one Olive. He was the bad guy. He was the one who gave so much grief to Rudolf. I did a little research (not really) but I learned we don't know much about Olive. So my guess is this sinister reindeer, infiltrated the ranks of Santa's elite and belittled, mocked and who knows what all he might have done. I am very suspicious, besides who names a reindeer, Olive. In fact, I feel a bit threatened by the whole affair, I think this calls for aggressive action, we must protect our children from the beast with sharp antlers and evil eyes. He may not stop with tormenting other reindeer. This evil must be brought to justice and eradicated before Olive influences others to do what he does. Down with OLIVE!!!

Isn't it interesting what we do with information or the lack thereof and how we can create out of nothing something that we fear? We see someone at a street corner and we try not to make eye contact. We might judge a person in the checkout line according to their purchases. Satan wants us to fear others, because fear keeps us from doing good. Fear gives us the excuse to say or act in a way that is not consistent with Who we claim to be. Even at the birth of Jesus, others felt threatened. (Ask Herod) Throughout his life and ministry those who claimed to be religious feared Him and not in a good way. They feared his influence, they feared what they could not understand and ultimately that fear stirred a mob to have him crucified, yet Jesus would offer even them forgiveness as he hung innocently on the cross. No, Olive is not real, but neither are most things I fear about others. We need to engage in the lives of others, like Jesus for they are all precious to Him. It's always the season of LIGHT.



courtesy photo

The Friona Primary School won the "Traveling Christmas Tree Trophy" by collecting the most canned goods for the best decorated tree at Christmas in the Park on Monday. Pictured are, l-r, FSA Claudia Castillo, Principal Ashley Smith, and Secretary Fabiola Godoy.

Christmas Church Services & Programs

December 8

Holy Day of Obligation services-St. Teresa of Jesus in Friona 8 a.m. (English) 7 p.m. (Spanish)
Holy Day of Obligation services-St. Ann's in Bovina 5:30 p.m. (Bilingual)

December 11

FUMC Kidz Choir will sing during worship service at 11 a.m.
FBC Christmas Cantata at 6 p.m.

December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe services-St. Teresa of Jesus in Friona 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe services-St. Ann's in Bovina 5:30 p.m. (Spanish)

December 18

FUMC church-wide breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
FUMC Choir and Handbell Choir Cantata at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary
FBC morning worship service will observe the Lord's Supper. A brisquet fundraiser meal for missions will be served after the service. Everyone is invited.
Join FBC at 6 p.m. as they go out into the community to sing Christmas Carols to their neighbors in town and at Prairie Acres & Heritage Estates

December 24

FUMC Come & Go Communion 4-5 p.m.
FUMC Children & Family Christmas Service at 5:30 p.m. for all children
FUMC Candlelight Christmas Service 7 p.m.

December 25

FBC Christmas service at 10:40 a.m.
FUMC worship service at 11 a.m., No Sunday School

Area Church Directory

Friona

- CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**
15th & Cleveland • 806-250-3000
Pastor Bobby Broughton
- CHILDREN'S CHURCH** • 3 yrs-6th grade
www.calvaryfriona.org
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
6th & Summitt • 806-250-3933
Pastor Brett Hoyle
Email-firstbc@wtrt.net
Website-www.fbcfriona.com
- FRIONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
8th & Pierce • 806-250-3045
Rev. Skip Hodges
Email-frionoaum@wtrt.net
Website-www.frionoaumc.com
- GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**
North end of Congregational Church
1601 Euclid • 575-693-6381

- IGLESIA EVANGELICA NUEVA JERUSALEN**
1517 Main St. • 806-346-9725
Pastor Benito Mejia
benitomejia@live.com
- QUALITY OF LIFE BIBLE STUDY CHURCH**
301 Grand Ave. • 806-240-0826
Pastors Mark & Mary Goff
- SIXTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST**
502 W. 6th • 806-250-2769
Jeff Procter, Minister
- ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**
16th & Cleveland • 806-250-2871
Father Anthony Swamy Aakula

- TEMPLO DE ADORACION**
620 Washington • 806-250-5929
Pastor Roy Dominguez
- TENTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST**
10th & Euclid • 806-250-5236
Gerall Wyly
- UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Union Congregational Church
1601 Euclid • 806-250-3635
- VICTORY FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER**
9th & Washington
806-250-2207
Pastor Robert Kerby
Website-www.thevictery.tv

TEMPLO BAUTISTA
403 Woodland • 575-693-6381
Pastor Ruben Rivera

Bovina

- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
308 3rd Street
806-251-1632
Pastor Brian Mullins
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
500 Ave. E
806-251-1334
Mike Prather, Minister
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
205 4th Street
806-251-1124
Pastor Larry Mitchell
- ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**
401 3rd Street
806-251-1511
Father Anthony Swamy Aakula
- LA IGLESIA DE DIOS DEL PRIMOGENITO**
The Church of God of the Firstborn
102 2nd Street
- IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA**
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806-251-5232
Pastor Rafael Marin

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AgriLife discusses big data coming to agriculture

By Blair Fannin

Unmanned aerial vehicles, autonomous tractors and other technologies will continue to emerge as producers meet world food needs in the near and distant future, according to experts.

Those experts believe technology will continue to emerge and make possible giant leaps throughout the next decade as agriculture industries and producers work to meet world food needs in 2050.

Presentations at the 2016 Texas Plant Protection Association addressed the theme of this year's conference: Advanced Technologies for Texas Agriculture. From smartphone apps to unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as UAVs, speakers said there are big changes in how food and fiber is going to be produced.

Bob Avant, program director for Texas A&M AgriLife Research corporate relations, provided an

overview of farming in the next 10 years. He said the "10,000-pound gorilla" agriculture faces is feeding 9 billion people by 2050.

"It's going to affect agriculture greatly in terms of food supply," he said. "We are going to have to increase protein production plus protect how much we waste in terms of spoilage and portions on the table."

He said farmers in the future will continue to rely on data to make decisions. He said larger farms will be more efficient "because the equipment is getting more expensive. We will likely see more sharing or partnering on equipment use and systems."

That's because the price tags on autonomous tractors and related equipment will continue to be more expensive to own, though farmers will utilize the ability to push a button and have an auto-

mous tractor with a grain buggy pull right up beside a harvester when needed.

Precision applications such as planters, sprayers and strip-till cropping systems will play an even bigger role in the next 10 years. He predicts farmers will go from big iron to small iron, in other words using less horsepower tractors as farmers continue to switch to strip till methods rather than conventional disking that requires large equipment.

Technology and new information will help producers increase per-acre yields while reducing the use of natural resources like water, Avant said.

"Ten years ago we were dealing with sorghum lodging, two-bale cotton to the acre and yield

variance on corn," Avant said. "Nowadays corn is much more drought tolerant, we're seeing 100 bushels to the acre, and three to four bales of cotton to the acre is expected. And it's not just the equipment, crop genetics are going to be another exciting thing 10 years from now."

He said soil health and cover crops will be two important areas to watch over the next 10 years.

"There will be a total systems approach to how we farm," he said.

Texas A&M AgriLife currently has more than 40 scientists involved in a UAV project that is evaluating soils, plant stress, insects, and weeds as well as developing decision support aids for farmers and ranchers. Avant

said the program is the largest in the U.S.

"We can take data collected from a UAV and measure plant height, other aspects of plant health and other characteristics far more than just measuring predictive production yields," he said.

These experiments are taking place at the Texas A&M Farm near College Station as well as Corpus Christi and Weslaco.

Avant said the average farmer might not go out and spend thousands of dollars on UAV equipment, but they may see value in the information the technology would make available to them.

"I don't think a farmer will want to become a GIS expert," he said. "Will there be a farmer that wants to know what's going on

in the field and how to remedy it? Yes, there will be some that will go out and spend the money on a simple UAV system. But the remedies will be beyond the scope of farmers because of the sophistication of information. Farmers will likely rely more on crop consultants to translate that information."

The big data collected from UAVs and other sophisticated machinery will lead to dashboard systems, hubs of information that will integrate all facets of crop production concurrently going on in the field, Avant said.

The conference technology theme drew more than 300 attendees consisting of agricultural producers, industry representatives, as well as Extension and research scientists.

Livestock showmanship/feeding clinic Dec. 17

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has set the District 2 Livestock Ambassadors Steer, Swine, Lamb and Goat Showmanship Clinic for Dec. 17 at the Texas Tech Animal Science Facility Arena in Lubbock. The arena is located at 1248 Indiana Ave.

Robert Scott, AgriLife Extension agent in Lubbock County, said the program will last from 10 a.m. until noon and is free to 4-H and FFA members.

Exhibitors may bring their steers, heifers, lambs, goats and swine, said Scott. For more information, contact Scott at 806-775-1740, rj-scott@tamu.edu or Wade Howard, AgriLife Extension agent in Lynn County, at 806-561-4562, wade.howard@ag.tamu.edu.

"This event led by Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassadors has become a very popular event," Scott said. "All the ambassadors have a lot of show ring experience themselves, which will give youth and their families a chance to gain experience from older 4-H members. This system has worked very well for us."

Scott said the Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador program involves high school-aged 4-H members who receive in-depth instruction before serving as representatives of the agricultural industry in Texas. Each ambassador is required to complete a minimum of 40 hours service annually. And in many cases that service centers on helping novice 4-H members with their livestock projects.

"We've selected 12 top young livestock exhibitors from Lubbock and surrounding counties as our teaching mentors," he said. "They are all longtime 4-H/FFA members with firsthand experience and the skills necessary to successfully compete in the show ring. This is a prime opportunity for youngsters new to showing to learn from experienced youth in a hands-on setting."



courtesy photo

frionastaronline.com

The FHS National English Honor Society took home the "Tomahawk Award" for their decorated tree at Christmas in the Park. Pictured are, l-r, front row, Alexsia Amaya, Sandra Gonzalez, Kory Caywood, Taylor Stallings, Briana Alvarado, Jasmin Salas and Rosa Macias; back row, Stephanie Corrales, Kendall Barnett, Mason Fleming, Alexa Garcia, Hadley White and NEHS sponsor Kathy Eppers.

FRIONA ISD NOMINATIONS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

Friona ISD students in Kindergarten-12th grade are eligible for parent or teacher nominations to the Gifted and Talented Program offered by Friona ISD for the 2017-2018 school year.

Parents who desire to nominate their child for this program may contact the principal or counselor in their child's building for the appropriate form.

Forms need to be completed and returned to the principal by January 31, 2017. A certified Gifted and Talented teacher will administer the necessary tests for admission to the program.

Los estudiantes de Friona ISD en los grados de K-12 tienen el derecho de ser nominados por padre o maestro para el programa que se ofrece en nuestro distrito de niños Talentosos por el año escolar 2017-2018.

Los padres que desean de nombrar a su niño para este programa pueden hablar con consejera o el principal de la propia escuela para pedir las formas necesarias.

Las formas necesitaran ser completadas y entregadas a la oficina del principal para el 31 de enero de 2017. Los estudiantes nominados seran considerados y tomara evaluaciones las cual determinaran admision al programa.

Friona on Parade

A history of Friona sports, academics, and Fisd history with 1,000 photos written and produced by retired Friona Star publisher Bill Ellis.

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Interested applicants should apply in person at Bovina Cattle Co., 600 US HWY 60, Bovina, Tx. 806/225-4400 Itc:12.8

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courtesy photo

Fedora Theatrx will perform "A Charlie Brown Christmas" Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17 at the Bovina United Methodist Church. Members of the troupe are, front row, l-r, Paige Cowart, Jera Scott, Melissa Struthers, Sam Kramer, Cheyanna Underwood, and Leigha Friend; second row, l-r, Logan Waters, Curtis Walsh, Robin Palmer, Kari Baker, and Ethan Friend; and back row, l-r, Adam Stancell, David Struthers, Zach Shover, Jaden Scott, and Jonathan Palmer.

Fedora Theatrx to perform in Bovina

Fedora Theatrx, a homeschool theatre company, is set to perform "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at the Bovina United Methodist Church on Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 17 at 3 p.m. Admission is free, donations are welcome. A portion of the donations will go to the Wounded

Warrior Project. The audience will not only enjoy the classic Charlie Brown story but they will get to hear classic Christmas songs performed.

The drama group, made up of teens from Parnier County and surrounding area, have been doing shows since 2010.

Don't let stress dampen the holiday spirit

By Paul Schattenberg

Financial pressure and time restrictions are often the top stressors during the holidays, but there are ways to reduce that stress, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"You can reduce your holiday stress by making a budget and adequately planning your holiday shopping and family time," said Dr. Joyce Cavanagh, AgriLife Extension family economics specialist, College Station.

Cavanagh said one of the best ways to reduce holiday stress is to commit to making and sticking to a holiday spending plan.

"Most people think about planning for gift buying but forget about all of the other holiday-related spending such as entertainment, decorations, holiday meals, donations and travel," she said. "All of these should be factored into your holiday spending plan to reduce your chances of being surprised and overspending."

She said as a guideline some personal finance experts suggest limiting holiday spending to 1.5 percent of annual income.

"That's \$600 for someone with a \$40,000 annual income," Cavanagh said, "Setting that spending limit and using only cash can keep you from overspending. If you decide to use credit, don't charge more than you can afford to pay off when you get the bill. And know what the interest rate is on your credit cards."

She said to make a list of everyone to receive gifts and decide how much to spend on each person.

"Have gift ideas in mind before shopping so you aren't making impulse purchases," she said. "Keep track of what you spend and who you bought it for. It will help reduce your stress when you can look at your list and know exactly what you still have to buy. And knowing what gift wrapping and party supplies you already have on hand can keep you from buying more than you need."

Preparing a list and shopping early allows for more time to watch for sales on specific items, she noted.

"If a gift is this year's 'must have' item, shopping early means you may get it before they are sold out. Waiting until the last minute often means buying any gift rather than the right gift."

Cavanagh said those with large extended families might consider giving a family gift instead of individual gifts.

"Or the extended family members could draw names so each person is giving one gift instead of many," she said.

She also suggested "thinking outside the gift box" when giving.

"Some of the best gifts a person could receive aren't things you can buy," she said, "Give the gift of yourself - either as time or talent. Homemade gift certificates redeemable by the recipient can be valuable but inexpensive gifts."

"For example, teenagers can provide babysitting services. If you like to bake, providing a dozen homemade cookies every month or a birthday cake later in the year would be welcome gifts. If you knit or sew or are a woodworker, consider making gifts rather than buying them."

She said if hosting a holiday meal, one way to lessen the expense and stress is by asking others for help.

"Plan your menu and ask your guests to bring specific items, or ask them to bring a side dish or dessert and let them choose their favorite dish."

Cavanagh said it's important to remember the best gift is the gift of time.

"Incorporate games or other family activities to make your holiday gatherings special," she said "Gifts are soon forgotten, but memories last a lifetime."



dana jameson photo

Friona Elementary School decorated a tree in the City Park for Christmas in the Park on Monday.

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