

Friona Star

VOL. 90, NO. 49

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

TEN PAGES

\$1.00

FBC Christmas Musical Dec. 14

The First Baptist Church will host a special evening of worship beginning at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 14. The Adult Choir will be performing an inspiring Christmas Musical that will touch your heart.

The Church will gather in their annual missions offering, sing with candles lighting the auditorium and fellowship with one another at a Birthday Party for Jesus.

All are invited to attend this spirit-filled and amazing evening.

FFA Toy Drive underway

Tracy Blount, Friona FFA instructor, announced that the Friona FFA is sponsoring a Toy Drive this year. Students and members of the community can bring new or slightly used toys to the FFA Ag Shop at any time until Monday, December 15. Toys will be distributed to needy children in the community as well as the Toys for Tots Drive in Amarillo.

Free pre-natal classes Dec. 13

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 one 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 13, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. 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.

Love fund for Saiz family

A love fund has been established at Friona Interbank to assist with expenses for the Robert Saiz family. Robert passed away unexpectedly recently. All donations will be appreciated.

Bigs in the Classroom seeks volunteers

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hereford is planning to start a "Bigs in the Classroom" program in Friona. It is a mentoring/tutoring program for students in grades 3-5. Retired Friona teacher Connie Slagle has been participating in the "Bigs" program in Hereford. This is her second year.

The "Bigs" program in Friona is looking for volunteers. It is one day a week during the child's lunch/recess time. For more information contact Connie Slagle or call 806-364-6171. Plans are to begin the program in January.

Here are some points Mrs. Slagle has furnished about the program:

-- All materials are provided. First priority is helping student with homework or reading but there is also a grade level workbook of fun papers and occasionally games or puzzles. Students choose small prizes after completing a given number of assignments.

-- Meet once a week, following the school's calendar. You do not have to be there every time but you wouldn't want to miss too frequently. The day of the week in Friona has not been determined but it will not be Friday. Takes less than one hour a week.

-- Eat and tutor in the library. You do not have to get a cafeteria tray. You can bring your lunch or just skip lunch. (It seems to me that the kids are more comfortable if you eat while visiting with them instead of just sitting there.)

-- There is an application process which requires references.

-- A match specialist will choose a child for you. You can request boy or girl, grade level, personality type, but they are trained to choose a good match for each child.

-- There is a short training, which you can do online. If you don't like the online part they can print it for you.

-- There is no cost to you but many Bigs choose to give their Little small gifts for birthday, Christmas, etc. And of course you would pay a small amount for your lunch if you get a cafeteria tray.

-- This is a very easy way to make a difference in the life of one child, which will lead to improving his classroom and therefore our school system. And it is lots of fun.



dana jameson photo

The Ivy Cottage Santa greets visitors as Christmas lights appear across the city. It is definitely the Christmas season in Friona. Shop local too.

Council makes Chief Jimenez official

The city council met in regular session Monday December 8 in council chambers, 619 Main St. Councilman Greg Lewellen was absent. Mayor Rick White presided.

Bi-Wize owner Josh Moore and pharmacist Andy Alexander spoke during the public comments portion of the agenda. Mr. Moore expressed several items of protest that Prairie Acres awarded a one-year contract to K & K Pharmacy of Muleshoe to fill prescriptions for the nursing home's skilled patients. A skilled patient is short term patient that stays in Prairie Acres for rehab, similar to the swing bed program.

Both Bi-Wize and K & K Pharmacy had submitted contract proposals to Prairie Acres. K & K asked for a one-year contract. Bi-Wize asked for a 5-year contract. K & K's contract bid for the skilled patient prescriptions was \$10 per day. Bi-Wize proposed \$19 per day. In addition, Prairie Acres administrator Billy Ray Johnston said K & K agreed to provide free flu shots for residents and provide a new medication cart.

Prairie Acres residents still have the option to purchase their prescription medicines from the pharmacy of their choice, including Bi-Wize. Josh Moore said Bi-Wize still provides the nursing

home with a stocked meds kit and provides direct billing to residents. They also remain available to provide emergency and after hours prescriptions and delivery.

In other business the council: -- heard the police department report. In November the department made 18 arrests, issued 68 traffic citations and 164 warnings.

-- A variance request from Homer Haile to build a carport at the State Farm office was discussed and action was delayed until the January meeting, awaiting final approval from adjacent property owners.

-- A permit for a December

18-19 sidewalk sale at Interior Expressions on Main St. was approved.

-- Accounts payable and financial statements for November were discussed and approved.

-- The council went into executive session about 7:30 p.m. to discuss the Chief of Police position. When they returned to open session, Isidro Jimenez, who has been serving as interim police chief, was officially appointed as Friona's Chief of Police.

The next meeting of the city council is Monday January 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. All council meetings are open to the public. Happy New Year!

-- A permit for a December



ron carr photo

Miss Friona Kendall Barnett, Santa Claus and Little Miss Friona Ariana Vasquez wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



ron carr photo

Arianna Moreno scores a basket while surrounded by the entire Melrose team. The Squaws lost to Melrose and will participate in the Farwell tournament this weekend.

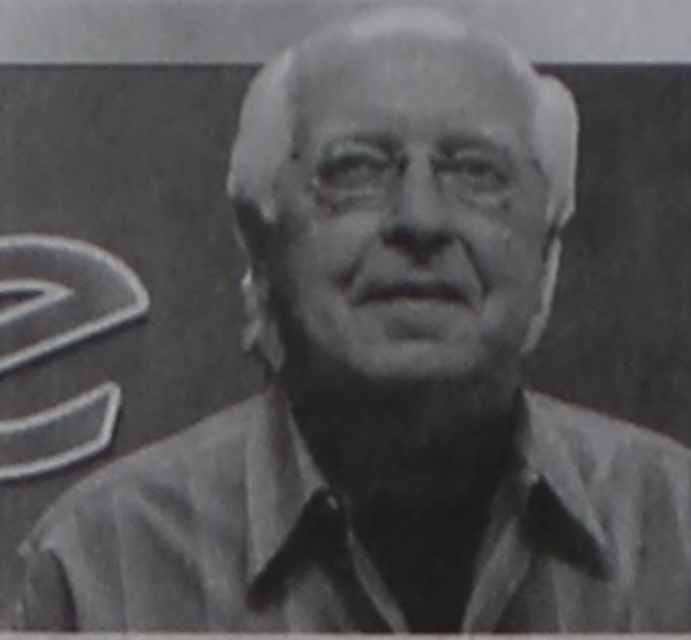


dana jameson photo

Simple decorations deliver a simple holiday message: Merry Christmas to all.

Out Here

By Ron Carr



"I care about one thing and one thing only and that is how to use every minute of the remaining 1,276 days of my term to make the country work for working Americans again. That's all I care about."
President Barack Obama
July 24, 2013 Galesburg, Illinois

can we talk

Some say we need a national conversation.

I don't even know what that means. With over 330 million Americans a national conversation would likely be loud and noisy and take a long time for everybody to have a turn to talk.

Politicians and self-proclaimed intellectuals like to spout phrases like "have a national conversation" because it makes them seem concerned and important. I doubt they even know what it means.

Protesters and looters don't seem too interested in talking. They do a lot of walking and laying down in the street and on railroad tracks. Theirs would be a one-sided conversation.

What if we have a na-

tional conversation and still can't agree on anything?

Today there is a lot of conversation about the release of what the Democrats like to call the CIA Torture Report. Democrat Senator Dianne Feinstein, who will soon be relegated to Senate obscurity, ordered the report released as a lame duck final salvo intended to make Republicans look bad to liberal information voters. To make Republicans look like torture monsters. Bush and Cheney were the criminals.

The Obama administration is in an all-out campaign to taint and degrade Republicans and conservatives. The Obama administration has done more to resurrect rac-

ism in this country and divide us all than any other administration in recent history. They are having a one-sided biased conversation with the American people. Don't think a conversation with Al Sharpton would have any positive results.

Then there is the Eric Garner situation in New York when a bunch of cops jumped on this giant black guy and he ended up dead. Now the national conversation seems to be that all cops are the bad guys.

Eric Garner was 6'5" and weighed 360 pounds. (His mother's name is Gwen Carr. No relation.) Eric did not look like a bad guy in the video. The local merchants called the police because

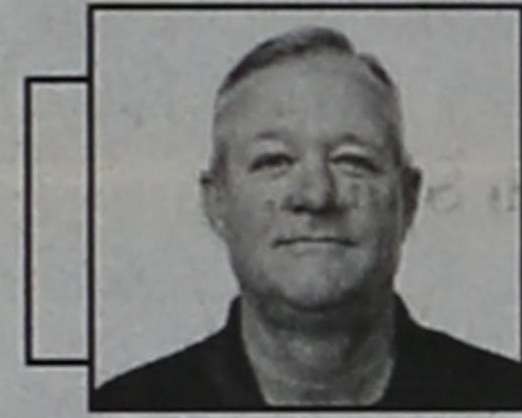
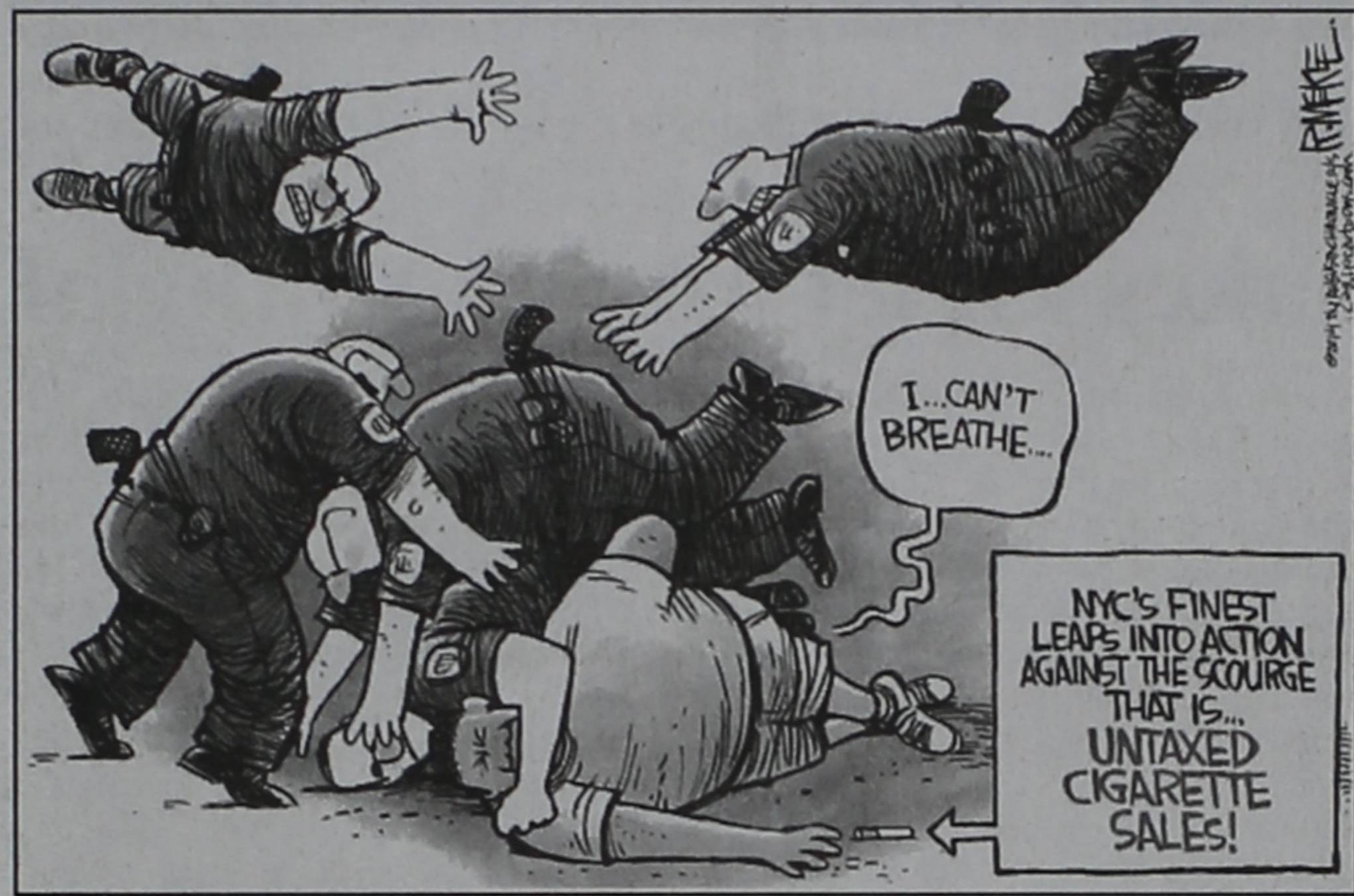
big Eric was in front of their stores hustling people to buy a cigarette for a dollar. They are called loosies.

In New York a pack of cigarettes costs \$14-\$15, including a \$6 New York City tax. A carton of cigs would cost around \$150. (In Texas a carton is \$50 - \$75.)

To make some money and help out the poor folks, Eric sold single loosies for \$1.00. One report said he sold untaxed cigarettes illegally smuggled into the state. In any case, he had been arrested 31 times for the misdemeanor activity. There are 20 cigarettes in a pack so he wasn't exactly getting rich selling loosies.

The cops showed up, Eric resisted another arrest, they jumped on him, wrestled him to the sidewalk, and now he is dead. It is a sad case and unnecessary but life on the streets of New York City is like no other. There are characters and crooks and con artists and good law abiding people just trying to get along. Eric was a little of all of that. Everyone shares some responsibility. Talking doesn't seem to help.

Instead of a national conversation maybe we should do like the song says: go tell it on the mountain.



Mayor's Minutes

by Ricky White

Christmas at the park went very well. Chris Alexander and the chamber members do a good job each year organizing and planning this community event. Thanks to the High School Choir for entertaining the community during this wonderful event. The weather was a bit cold but many families weathered the cold for a chance to see Santa. A special thanks to all of the businesses that participated in decorating the park.

Judge Campbell had 93 new cases for the month of November (92 out of 93 cases pled guilty) and 12 cases were dismissed. She collect-

ed \$16,112.25 and court costs were \$6,575.62.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) had a total of 16 runs for 9-1-1 calls, 12 transfers and 5 no transfers. Collected \$8,194.08 and the city wrote-off \$5,513.55. There was a total of \$35,625.20 billed.

The Volunteer Fire Department was very busy in the month of November. There were a total eight emergency calls (2-wrecks, 1-truck fire, 1-residential fire from an electrical outlet and 4-grass fires).

The City of Friona pumped 12,388,900 gallons of water,

sold 11,484,000 gallons and billed \$56,748.57.

Chief Jimenez and the police department had a busy November. There were 279 calls for officer assistance. There were 58 citations issued and 164 warnings. There were 18 arrests, nine no driver's license, one driving while license invalid, one driving while intoxicated, five warrants served, one failure to identify, and one bribery. The officers drove 5218 miles during the patrol of the city in the month of November.

The city council met with Chief Jimenez during the

city council meeting and expressed their appreciation for the job he is doing and all of the officers. We are very fortunate to have a police department that cares and makes our community safer.

The Public Works employees are in the process of making a few renovations to the city offices. The carpet in the city chambers will be removed, a wooden floor installed, other areas are receiving a fresh coat of paint, and walls are being repaired. Several alleys around the city have deep ruts that are being filled with dirt. There are many potholes in the streets

that are being filled in with asphalt. In November, employees were busy installing several sewer taps and water taps.

Larry Martin will be retiring at the end of this month and we would like to thank Larry for his many years of service and the great job he has done.

Prairie Acres has 35 residents, Heritage Estates has 15 residents, and both are doing well. The roof on Prairie Acres has been replaced. There was water damage in the kitchen to the ceiling, the walls and floor due to the leaking roof during the most

recent snowstorm. Fortenberry Construction has been hired to make the necessary repairs and revisions to the kitchen.

The Friona Public Library was busy in the month of November. There were 967 patrons that visited the library. This is an average of 60 visits per day. Darla Bracken and the staff continue to do a great job serving the community and assisting in the book needs of many people. The Library staff will miss Terry Hunt and the great job she did as the President of the Friends of the Library.

Your Mayor

Friona Star is online at www.frionaonline.com

ACROSS

1 TXism: "___ in your own juice"

5 TXism: "___ and watch" (observe)

6 flightless birds on some TX farms

7 TX group: "Asleep ___ the Wheel"

8 ex-Astro mgr. Howe

9 TX Neiman-Marcus has "His ___" X-mas gifts

15 Eldorado FM radio

16 TX Nolan Ryan held opponents to many ___ innings

19 TXism: "packed like cows in ___"

21 "Texas" became the term for a steamboat captain's ___

22 ex-Astro pitcher (1990-93)

27 TXism: "___-loop man" (good cowboy)

28 Tex-Mex food

29 jumped

30 TXism: "does a bear ___ the woods?" (yes)

32 this Ames was "Mingo" on TV (init.)

33 in NW Cameron Co.

36 between Garza & Stonewall Cos.

37 this Gussie created the famous Kilgore Rangerettes (init.)

38 TXism: "laid ___" (buried)

39 TXism: "don't hang your dirty ___ on the line"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2014 by Orbison Bros.

41 Valley plant

42 TXism: "skinny as ___"

45 TXism: "como ___?" (How are you?)

46 TXism: "that'll ___ nicely"

47 TX soldier shelter

48 King toppers in poker

49 TX Kite short club (2 wds.)

52 entrances

53 regret

DOWN

1 TX George Jones' "___ Thinks I Still Care"

2 Notre Dame Heisman winner Brown from Dallas

3 Mexican bobsledder Tames from Dallas

4 former name of A&M's University in Canyon

8 in Wood Co. on 69

9 TXism: "up ___ paddle"

10 TXism: "leave ___ stone unturned"

11 ___ Pepper

12 TXism: "so deaf ___ thunder"

13 actor Jack of old TV series "The Texas Wheelers"

14 singer McEntire

15 leaping mammal

16 mentally sound

17 TXism: "___ a mummy's tomb" (quiet)

18 this Sam won the '45 Dallas Open

20 soft drink

22 TXism: "happy ___ a dog with two tails"

23 TX Willie "platters"

24 TX Mickey Gilley's "A Headache Tomorrow ___ Heartache Tonight"

25 San Jacinto loser: ___ Anna

26 Bayless book ('93): "The ___ Story of the Dallas Cowboys' Season on the Edge"

28 TX fruit cake containers

31 loud bell ring

34 TX ABC news-woman: Lisa Mc___

35 "JFK" director Oliver (init.)

37 UT's Harry Ransom Center has a rare ___burg Bible

40 Jewel ___

43 Nolan's son or TX artist Ace

44 SW Texas mohair goats

50 TXism: "___ it with kid gloves"

51 TXism: "turn about ___ fair play"

E-STAR

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for more information.

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Town Talk II

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At Monday's meeting the Parmer County Commissioners reinstated the burn ban effective midnight December 8 until January 8, 2015. No outside burning during the period. Violators are subject to a fine.

Merry Christmas is on the way. I'm hoping for good weather during the Christmas travel times. My two youngest kids, Zac and Megan, will be driving out to spend Christmas with me. Got turkey and brisquet ordered from Gilbert at Hereford Meat Market. Ordered some Christmas fudge from Sandra Berend. We'll have a small family gathering with brother Rick and his wife Sherry on Christmas day. Hope your plans are coming along.

A love fund for the Robert Saiz family has been established at Friona Interbank. Donations will assist the family with recent funeral expenses.

First Baptist Church will have a special evening of worship beginning at 6:00 p.m. Sunday December 14. The adult choir will perform a Christmas musical, sing with candle lighting the auditorium, collection of a special missions offering, followed by a birthday party for Jesus. All are invited to attend.

Haden Smiley earned 3rd chair baritone at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) large school choir competition. Haden and Brooklynne Johnston will be off to audition for state choir January 10 in Abilene.

Friona high school coach and teacher Daniel Hutchins will walk the stage at Lamar University in Beaumont this weekend to receive his Masters in Educational Leadership degree. He recently received a passing score on his Principal's Certification exam. Congratulations Coach Hutchins.

Congratulations to the Friona FFA Radio team. Finished 10th at state out of over 600 teams from across Texas. They are Gavin Douglas, Brandon Berend, Brayden Pope and Cole Stowers. Ag instructor is Tracy Blount. Congratulations Tracy and boys.

The Prairie Acres resident Christmas Party is scheduled for December 16 at 6:30 p.m. Gifts for the residents and Santa makes an appearance. If you can adopt-a-resident contact Elizabeth Romero at 250-3922. The resident of the month is Dickey Garner and employee of the month is Yesenia Ortiz. She works

in the nursing department and has been employed since May 2014.

Merry Christmas and Happy Retirement to Shirley Ferguson. She will be retiring from Friona Interbank, a/k/a Friona State Bank, after 47 years.

Free pancake breakfast from 8 - 11 a.m. Saturday December 13 at the Bovina XIT Recreation Center. Sponsored by the City of Bovina. Everyone is invited and you don't even have to bring your own syrup.

The Friona High School choir's Christmas concert is Monday December 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The date Saturday will be 12-13-14, a day to do something memorable. Friona grad Whitney Ellis, daughter of Trey and Tracy, is getting married in Lajitas/Terlingua that day, hopefully an easy anniversary to remember.

Friona's Ricky Rector played a trumpet solo with the Clovis Community Band's Christmas concert at the Methodist Church in Clovis.

Interesting city council meeting Monday night. The council made Police Chief Isidro Jimenez's position

official. He had been serving as interim chief since the resignation of former chief Frank Mooney. It was the right thing to do and well deserved. Chief Jimenez has been the most publicly visible police chief in many years here in Friona. In my estimation he is a fine young man and knows his business.

During his council report he said the department issued 9 citations in November for driving without a license. When will people (parents) learn that you run a risk of a big fine, impounding the vehicle, and being transported to the police station if caught without a license?

He said during one such stop the driver attempted to bribe the officer by offering him a gift card, which compounded his situation into a bribery arrest. Read Rick White's Mayor's Min-

utes on page two for what else is happening in the city.

Peggy Monroe and several lady volunteers went to J.C. Penny in Amarillo Monday to purchase the clothing gifts for needy children through the Empty Stocking Fund. They bought individual gifts for 47 children. They shopped and checked out one child at a time, sacking each individually. A nice lady employee kept her cash register open for several hours to process the purchases. Many good people do many good things in our town. Thanks for your donations and for the unselfish volunteers that assist with the Empty Stocking Fund each year.

Along the same theme, a group of teens sponsored by the Friona Methodist

Church went to BSA Hospital in Amarillo Sunday to distribute gifts to children in the hospital. Their photo is included in this Star. Nice gesture and a great experience for the young folks.

Tuesday Friona Squaws/Chiefs hosted Melrose NM in basketball. Squaws lost, Chiefs won. An interesting sidelight. Friona coaches Bryan Masse and Mike Prokop once coached at Melrose. And FISD superintendent Kenny Austin is a native and graduate of Melrose. He said there were 18 students in his graduating class, 16 girls and 2 boys. Melrose is 54 miles from Friona.

That's it for another week. Christmas is closing in. Keep on caroling. Until then!



This little guy didn't seem too happy with Santa.

ron carr photo

Country Thoughts

dana jameson

Starving issues

I guess you could say I have a burr under my saddle.

Why are we bombarded in November and December by advertisements that are aired to raise our awareness to the hungry masses and then follow those ads showing tables heavily laden with every kind of food imaginable and happy families?

Are people not hungry the other ten months of the year? I know I get hungry from time to time other than during the holidays.

Have we become so hardened as a society that we have to have starving children flashed on our television screens between breaks from our favorite sitcom or football games?

Do we not know that there are less fortunate people out there that need our help?

There is a difference between being one of the hungry masses and one of those that are siphoning off the system because they are, for lack of a better term, lazy.

I have also noticed that from January to the end of October the faces of starving children in other countries seem to take the place of those hungry children right here in America. Why do they get ten months of advertising?

Do the starving children in America only become "starving" during the holidays?

I am not sure what kicked off this firestorm in my mind about starving children but most of it doesn't make sense to me.

We are taught in school that America is the land of plenty and the streets are paved with gold.

However, the reality of all of this is that the streets need work and there is no money to make needed repairs. For some, there is plenty and for others they are left behind to fend for themselves.

Unfortunately, many that are fending for themselves are much too young to have good paying jobs or are just babies born into an already difficult situation.

There are those out there that will never have managerial level, high-paying jobs. The reality is when one is looking for a job there are hurdles to jump that in some cases are extremely too high. If you have a wife/husband and children, those hurdles become even higher.

We live in a country where freedom is screamed from every rooftop but sometimes freedom just to become more than we can be is illusive.

As you go about your holiday decorating, baking and planning keep in mind that somewhere there is a child that does not know the true meaning of the holiday and will not be having pretty sugar cookies with cups of steaming hot chocolate.

Also, remember that American children are only hungry for two months of the year.

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Contrasts of Greatness

BRETT HOYLE, Pastor, First Baptist Church

As you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, may you remember that His birth depicts a vast contrast of greatness.

Luke 2:1 says, "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered." Then in verse 7 we read, "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

Caesar, the ruler of the Roman world looked to display his greatness by counting the people that he ruled, but God, the supreme ruler of the universe showed His greatness by becoming one of His people.

Wow, what a vast difference!!!

Your greatness is not found in the control you have, or wealth you command, but in the love you pour out on others and the lives you touch.

We all have a Caesar inside of us, calling us to display our greatness via power, popularity and prestige, but this is not true greatness in God's sight. Greatness is not found in exalting yourself, but humbling yourself so that others will see how great God is.

Unexpected gifts are the Best

By **TEENA HUGHS**

Last March, a businessman in another town sent Feller and me a handwritten thank-you note for doing business with him. The next time I was in his business, he was there. I introduced myself and told him how much I appreciated his note. We had a nice conversation, talking about Texas Tech football and an upcoming fundraiser that I knew we all attended.

At the fundraiser, I went to visit some friends in between activities. When I returned, a Texas Tech helmet, autographed by Kliff Kingsbury, was sitting at my place. I asked Feller what it was doing there, and he told me the businessman had bought it and given it to me. I was completely overwhelmed! I couldn't believe someone would do something like that for me.

Surprises and unexpected gifts...they are the best, simply because they ARE unexpected! Months later, I am still overwhelmed at the kindness of that businessman.

A few Christmases ago, Feller and I were in Amarillo going through a drive-thru window. The people in front of us paid for our meal, which prompted us to pay for the meal for the people in back of us. Unexpected blessings prompt doing unto others as others have done unto us!

Yesterday, God encouraged me to do random acts of kindness to people, especially people I don't know. It can be as simple as wishing someone a Merry Christmas, holding a door open for someone, giving someone a little money so they can get a tree for Christmas, or whatever God lays on your heart to do.

Christmas is an especially good time to do something unexpected for someone else. It not only blesses the person you are giving to, but it blesses you, the giver. Jesus is the greatest gift any of us will ever receive. How about going out and being Jesus to others, especially people you don't know? Everyone should get to experience Him and His love, grace, peace and mercy every day, but especially at Christmas.



courtesy photo

The Friona United Methodist youth group delivered gifts to the children in the hospital at Baptist St. Anthony in Amarillo on Sunday, December 7. Pictured are, l-r, Antonio Adame, Adrianna Carrillo, Kendall Barnett, Kambree Kimbrough, Graci Stallings, Gabbi Douglas, Emma Rector, Bailey Pope, Mariah Trevino, Amelia Sandoval, Rebecca Schlinker, MaCayla Courtney, Arlisa Denton, and MaKenzy Courtney.

Panhandle Parables

Pheasants and Family

By **JEFF PROCTER, Minister, 6th Street Church of Christ**

As a boy growing up in Friona there were a few dates throughout the year that kept you going. The last of May, because school was out, the 4th of July because you could legally light stuff to watch it explode, Maize Days, with the parade and carnival in the park, then you would survive school until the double bonus December came along. December meant two things Christmas break and even before that the 2nd weekend in December meant the opening of pheasant season.

I loved it. For the first few years I hunted with a trusty Daisy air rifle (aka BB gun). I shot most of the birds, but since my uncle Larry and cousin Jon had driven all the way from Weatherford to hunt, we usually let them take the pheasants home. (wink)

Opening weekend was full of excitement starting with the arrival of Uncle Larry and crew. I would listen to all the stories of great hunts past, then get up before sunrise, eat biscuits and sausage gravy that Pop made, put on 15 layers of

clothes required by my mother and with a cardboard tube of BBs we were off.

Pheasant hunting was great, however, you still did more walking than shooting. What I cherished most was the time spent with family.

Jesus seemed to always be investing in people. He valued people. He spent time with people. People were the reason He came to earth. People were worth His time, worth His effort, worth His life.

I encourage you this time of year to find the brakes, slow down worry less about gifts and spend a little more time with people whether family or not those memories will outlast the gifts unless its fruit cake.

December 20th my family will travel to Weatherford to pay our last respects to my Uncle Larry. He is now at rest in the Lord. I enjoyed the time spent chasing pheasants, but I cherish deeply the time with family, because that is what makes this journey we call life worthwhile.

The Glory of the Lord ... Graciously Revealed!

We cordially invite you to our Christmas Candlelight service Sunday, December 21, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church of Lariat
725 County Road DD
Farwell, Texas

We're also celebrating the birth of our Savior:
Christmas Eve Children's Service, 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Please join us!

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Website-www.thevictory.tv

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Pastor Brett Hoyle
Email-firstbc@wtrt.net
Website-www.fbcfriona.com

QUALITY OF LIFE BIBLE STUDY CHURCH
301 Grand Ave.
806-240-0826
Pastors Mark & Mary Goff

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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575-693-6381
Pastor Gary Johnson

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16th & Cleveland
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Father Anthony Swamy
Aakula

SIXTH ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST
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806-250-2769
Jeff Proctor, Minister

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10th & Euclid
Ron Smiley
806-250-3213
Gerall Wyly
806-250-5236

FRIONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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806-250-3045
Rev. John Woody
Email-frionaum@wtrt.net
Website-www.frionaumc.com

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Pastor Roy Dominguez

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Union Congregational Church
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Pastor Brian Mullins

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OBITUARIES

Wanda Pearl Jones

Wanda Pearl Jones, age 83, of Shallowater, Texas, formerly of Spearman, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014. Services were held Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Shallowater. The Rev. Mitch Wilson officiated. Arrangements were by Boxwell Brothers of Spearman, Texas.

Wanda was born May 24, 1931, in Friona, Texas, to Dudley and Jewell Robason. She graduated from Friona High School in 1949 and West Texas State University in 1953. Wanda married Hershel Lee Jones on June 18, 1954, in Friona. Hershel and Wanda began their life together in Spearman, where Wanda worked as a school teacher in Gruver, Morse, and Spearman. Wanda was very active in the school system, sponsoring all types of student activities throughout her



career. She also supported Boy Scouts of America and attended First Baptist Church. Wanda's greatest joy was her family. She loved family outings and being involved in all the activities of her children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Patsy. Her beloved husband, Hershel, passed away in March of 2011.

She is survived by her daughter, Rhonda Wheeler and her husband Brent of Dalhart; son, Roger Jones and his wife Dianne of West Des Moines, Iowa; son, Jim Jones and his wife Martha of Shallowater; and ten grandchildren, Kailee (and Damian) Maguire, Justin Jones, Clint Wheeler, Jill Jones (and Brent Yontz), Jacob Jones, Savannah (and Zachary) Maberry, Rebekah Jones, Grant Wheeler, Don Jones and Cy Jones; and great-grandsons, Samuel and Thomas Maguire. She is also survived by her siblings, Lila Wall, Jim Robason, and D.O. Robason.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Wanda Jones Memorial Fund at First State Bank, P.O. Box 160, Shallowater, TX 79363. The funds will be used in the support of autism, specifically in honor of Grant Wheeler.

Swisher County Ag Day set for Dec. 16

By Kay Ledbetter

The annual Swisher County Ag Day will be hosted by the Swisher County Ag Committee on Dec. 16 at the Swisher County Memorial Building located at 127 S.W. 2nd St. or State Highway 86 in Tulia.

The program will begin with registration from 8-8:30 a.m. This event is the largest one-day educational program in Swisher County, providing agricultural information for producers and others employed in agribusiness across the Panhandle, said John Villalba, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agriculture and natural resources agent in Swisher County.

"The theme for the day's activities centers around the past, present and future of agricultural water use and other current hot button issues which are pertinent to farmers in the area," Villalba said.

A lunch sponsored by Hap-py State Bank will be served, along with updates from the Texas Sorghum Producers, Texas Corn Producers, Texas Wheat Producers, Plains Cotton Growers and Farm Service Agency.

Topics and speakers include:

- Fertigation and Drip Irrigation Practices, Trey Hillger, Eco-Drip Inc., Abernathy.

- Weed I.D. and Chemical Modes of Action, Dr. Peter Dotray, AgriLife Extension weed specialist, Lubbock.

- Water Saving Conservation Approaches, Texas Alliance for Water Conservation project director, Lockney.

- Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update, Casey Summers, TDA, Dimmitt.

- Texas Water Law and Current Hot Topics, Tiffany

Dowell Lashmet, AgriLife Extension ag law specialist, Amarillo.

- 2014 Residual Herbicide Trial Summary, Blayne Reed, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management agent for Hale/Swisher counties, and Villalba.

- UAVs and Emerging Technologies in Agriculture, John Mark Gibson, CropQuest Inc. precision ag specialist, Dodge City, Kansas.

The cost of the program will be \$10 and six continuing education units from the Texas Department of Agriculture and six certified crop advisor units will be offered.

Those planning to attend should RSVP by Dec. 9 to the AgriLife Extension office for Swisher County at 806-995-3726, or for more information, call the same number, Villalba said.

HPWD making annual water level measurements

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) personnel are now in the field making annual water level measurements to determine the effect of 2014 pumping on groundwater levels of the aquifers within the district's 16-county service area.

These measurements are made in a network of more than 1,400 privately-owned water wells. These observation wells are spaced at a density of about one well per nine square miles throughout the district.

After the measurement is made, a blue vinyl sticker with the observation well number, the depth-to-water level measurement, and the date of the measurement is affixed to the well equipment or other appropriate surface near the well site.

High Plains Water District personnel mea-

sure the same wells in the observation well network each year as long as the individual wells are accessible and continue to provide satisfactory data.

The current depth-to-water level measurements in individual wells are compared to those of previous years to determine the average annual change in water levels of the aquifers within the district.

These water level data are made available to the public through an interactive observation well map on the district's web site as well as publication in an annual water level measurement report.

Additional information about the water level measurement program is available by contacting HPWD at (806) 762-0181 or by visiting the district's web site at www.hpwd.org.



A Christmas tree and an old wood stove celebrate the Christmas season at the Old Depot in Friona city park.

ron carr photos

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Parmer County Commissioners Court is currently accepting bids for (1) 1986 3/4 ton 4-wheel drive Chevrolet Pick-up. Transmission is bad. Bids must be brought or mailed to Trey Ellis, County Judge at 401 Third Street, Room 104, PO Box 506, Farwell, Texas 79325, to be received no later than 10:00 a.m., Monday, December 22nd, 2014. Bids will be considered Monday, December 22nd, 2014 during regular session of Commissioners Court. Please include an original and four copies in your bid packet.

All questions concerning the 1986 Chevrolet Pick-up should be addressed to Lloyd Bradshaw, Commissioner, Precinct #4 at 806/946-8255.

The Parmer County Commissioners Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

By order of the Parmer County Commissioners Court, Trey Ellis, County Judge.

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250-2211
Deadline: Tuesday @ 5 p.m.



BUSINESS

MOVIES
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Business Office: 364-0101 - Movie Hotline: 364-8000

Dec. 12 - Dec. 15

Big Hero 6
PG
11:45 • 2:15 • 4:45 • 7:15 • 9:45

Penguins of Madagascar
PG
12:05 • 2:35 • 5:00 • 7:10 • 9:40

Horrible Bosses 2
R
11:45 • 2:15 • 4:45 • 7:15 • 9:40

Dumb and Dumber to
PG
11:45 • 2:20 • 4:50 • 7:20 • 9:45

Exodus: Gods & Kings
PG13
12:15 • (3:30) • (6:45) • 10:00

Hunger Games: Mockingjay
PG13
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Fri 12th: 7's & 9's Only
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Experience is Preferred but not required.
Strong work ethic and dependability in all Candidates.

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2tc: 12.4-12.11

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NEW: 3/2 Brick w/central heat & air, (2) fp's, (2) living areas, Class 4 Metal shingled roof, close to Hospital, corner lot, fenced backyard...\$159,900

REDUCED: 4/2 Brick Country Home w/3 acres, central h&a, (2) fp's, gameroom, hardwood flooring, shop/barn, screened in patio.....\$154,900

3/2 Stucco Country Home on 11.95 acres, metal roof, storage shed, 3 run horse barn w/tack room & auto waters, city water, no well.....Cont Pend

REDUCED: 3/2 Brick w/central h&a, fp, all electric, sunroom, new roof w/ siding on eaves, fenced yard w/storage bldg., Western Add.....\$135,000

4/2 Brick w/central heat & air, sunroom, new roof, sprinkler system, fenced backyard with (2) storage bldgs, close to High School.....\$130,000

REDUCED: 3/2 Brick w/cent. h&a, fp, sunroom, 2 blds. in fenced backyard, close to Hospital, Will Rent w/\$100 move-in + Deposit.....\$127,000

REDUCED: 3/2 Brick w/cent h&a, fireplace, remodeled with hardwood flooring, lots of extras including cellar, patio, 4x27 pool.....\$125,000

3/2 Brick w/central heat & air, fireplace, sprinkler front & back, fenced backyard w/partial new 8' fence, new carpet and tile.....\$124,900

3/2 Brick w/central h&a, fp, hardwood flooring and ceramic tile, covered patio & stor. in fenced backyard w/partial new fence.....\$122,900

3/2 Brick w/central h&a, new roof, large utility room, storage bldg in fenced backyard with partial new fence, close to H.S.....\$120,000

REDUCED: 3/3/2 Brick w/central heat & air, fireplace, sunroom, (2) living areas, new roof, sprinkler system, close to H.S. fenced backyard....\$119,900

3/2 Brick w/central heat & air, fireplace, two living areas, ceramic tile and laminate flooring, fenced backyard, close to High School.....\$110,000

REDUCED: 4/2 Brick w/central heat & air, fireplace, two living areas, marble tile throughout, fenced backyard, new roof.....\$109,900

3/2 Brick w/dbl cp, cent.h&a, corner lot, fenced backyard with stor, new metal roof, new windows, new driveway, close to High School.....\$98,750

3/2 Brick w/central heat & air, fireplace, sprinkler system in front, covered patio in fenced backyard, Western Addition.....Cont Pend

3/2/1 Brick ww/central heat & air, remodeled bath with updates, large kitchen, fenced backyard w/storage, close to High School.....\$82,500

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1706 W. 9th SOLD

3/2/2 Brick w/Central heat & air, fireplace, fenced backyard w/storage, sprinkler system, Western Addition

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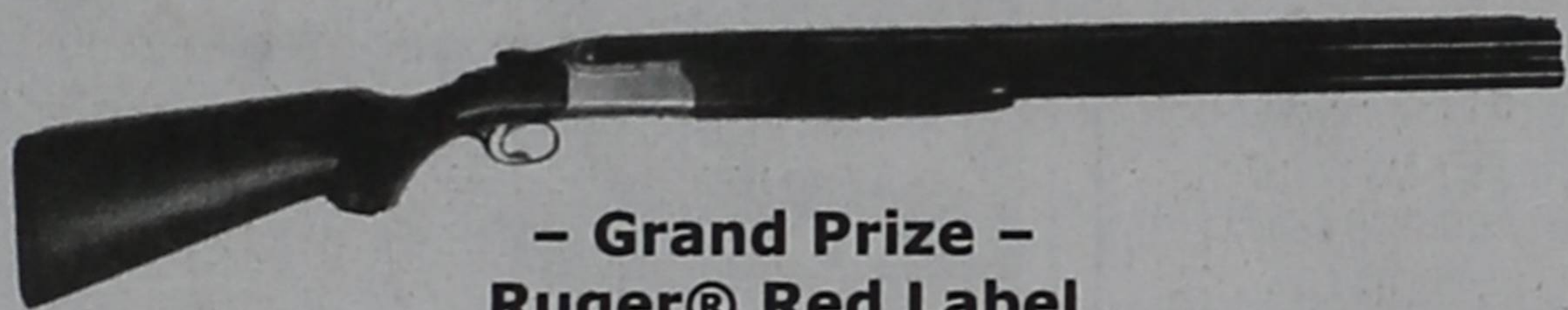


Santa Letters



Dear Santa, How are you? Love you I want tablet. I want a American doll. Love, Katia Legarreta	Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want a crpit. Love, Miranda Pina	Dear Santa, Yo quiero un play station que tenga un c de elhomre Ayana. Yo me a portado bien. Con Amor. Alan	Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want swimming pool. Love, Alizuh Dominguez	Dear Santa, I beltpie love tent jaktet irrek peis bbli laf, Juliana	Dear Santa, Ez bake oven. Love, Abgail.
Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want a tablet. Love, Catalino Tzunux	Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want i-pat. Love, Heriberto Gallegos	Dear Santa, How has Rudolph been? Has he been good or bad? By the way I've been good and for Christmas I want a four wheeler and a xbox one. Love, Azriel	Dear Santa, I've been good and on Friday it is my birthday. Turning seven years old. How have you been doing I want a Barbie and a loloopse baby and a baby stroller. Love, Jaquelyn	Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. I want bor esu mvthe. Molly	Dear Santa, I would like a tablet for Christmas. I have always been wanting one. I would also like a computer. Love, Angelina Esparza
Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want a mtrsikr. Love, Kayla Viemann	Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want a wiycas toy. Love, Eden Mills	Dear Santa, I want some Ninja Turtles and a race car. Love Carlos	Dear Santa, Whow have Ms clos been. I'm going to give you a present I,want a punchr bag that rileu hard and glavs that are shape fist ive had been rillea good. Love, Thomas	Dear Santa, I have been very good this ybia year. I want _____ Love Anahi	Dear Santa, I want a toy gun for Christmas. I want a little stuffed dog too. I've been a good boy. Love, Giovanni Santiago
Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want a cr. Love, Angie Hernandez	Dear Santa, How do you make the toys? I love you so much. I want fou Christmas a bunny a computer my one cookie jar. Love, Shelby Lewellen	Dear Santa, How has Rudolph been? I will make you and your wife some chocolate chip cookies and leave you some milk. I will give you a present. By the way I've been good. I want a Nobl and a 3ds. Love, Deysy	Dear Santa, I want kpurr ad a krismiss arimish Christmas. Love, Amberly	Dear Santa, I have been over good the year. Soanmul. I have been I want Bedgal days panmul. Breanna	Dear Santa, I want a dinosaur game and a wolf game and a Donkey Kong game. I've been really good! Love, Octavio Arias
Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want a ras kr. Love, Carlos Canoles	Dear Santa, How are you? I love You. I want wii u toad Turtles. Love, Christian Flores	Dear Santa, How have you been? Santa do you wont cookies? Can you get me a 4 wheeler and an xbox ps4 and a spider man toy? Love, Elijah	Dear Santa, I have been very is goody the year. Alit, dog, god, I Loz santa. Love, Mariela	Dear Santa, I love you. I like toys. I want racecar. Love Anneliese	Dear Santa, I want Strawberry Shortcake boots. I would like an electrical baby wher you just push a button and it starts walking. Thanks for the presents from last year. Love, Ivy Schueler
Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want for Chistmas a i-pod. Love, Maite Vega	Dear Santa, What have you been doing since last Christma? How are the reindeers doing? I want a intendo 3ds for Christmas. I have been good. I want another ps4 controller. Love, Rafael	Dear Santa, Do you want me to put cookies and milk? Do you have a wife? I've been good. I want craze sand. Love, Evelyn	Dear Santa, I want kpurrt ad a krismiss arimish Christmas. Love, Amberly	Dear Santa, I like toys. I want racecar. Love Anneliese	Dear Santa, I want a baby doll. I wish it to look like me. I want a book about a bear. Say hi to Mrs. Claus and the reindeer. Love, Harley London
Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want toy catilikes. Love, Olivia Pascual	Dear Santa, What are the reindeers doing? I was good Santa. Do you want some cookies? I want a doll from frozen It is going to be Elsa and Anna and I want a Ipad and some clothes. Love, Karen	Dear Santa, Do you want me to put cookies and milk? Do you have a wife? I've been good. I want craze sand. Love, Evelyn	Dear Santa, I have been very is goody the year. Alit, dog, god, I Loz santa. Love, Mariela	Dear Santa, I love you. I like toys. I want roze norlhcess. Love, Natalie	Dear Santa, I want the Transformer Bumble Bee. I like you, Santa. Love, Jesus Mendoza-Campos
Dear Santa, How are you. How do you make the toys? F Christmas goat. Love, Alex Wells	Dear Santa, What are the reindeers doing? I was good Santa. Do you want some cookies? I want a doll from frozen It is going to be Elsa and Anna and I want a Ipad and some clothes. Love, Karen	Dear Santa, Do you want me to put cookies and milk? Do you have a wife? I've been good. I want craze sand. Love, Evelyn	Dear Santa, I have been very is goody the year. Alit, dog, god, I Loz santa. Love, Mariela	Dear Santa, I love you. I like toys. I want roze norlhcess. Love, Natalie	Dear Santa, I want the Transformer Bumble Bee. I like you, Santa. Love, Jesus Mendoza-Campos
Dear Santa, How are you? I love you. I want I want for a scor. Love, Servando Soltero	Dear Santa, I've been good. I wish you can come to my house. I wish you can gi a rascor. Love, Steven	Dear Santa, My birthday is in july the 6. I love presents. When ae you getting me some presents? I want a xbox 3. I have been good. Love, Isaiah	Dear Santa, I want kpurrt ad a krismiss arimish Christmas. Love, Amberly	Dear Santa, I love you. I like toys. I want princess purse. Love, Aaliyah	Dear Santa, I want a remote control race car. I want a remote control helicopter too. I've been a good boy. My sisters are being bad. Love, David Tafoya
Dear Santa, Have you been good to Mrs. Claus? I have been good. I want a NObi. Love, Aurora	Dear Santa, Have you been good to Mrs. Clous. I've been acting good. I want lots of presents and a puppy. Love, Isabela	Dear Santa, I want a pizza for Christmas. I want lots of presents for me and my sisters. Love, Rojelio Larios	Dear Santa, In good lood morsm quk tafmrn simi. Love, Andrew	Dear Santa, I love you. I liket toys. I want. Love, Amber	Dear Santa, I want a truck and a car to play with. I want a guitar to play. Love Gabriel Castillo

FRIONA NOON LIONS CLUB FUNDRAISER



- Grand Prize -
Ruger® Red Label
12 Guage Shotgun

- 10 Runnerup Prizes -
\$100 Giftcard

Drawing at Headquarters Restaurant
Thursday @ 12:00 Noon

December 18, 2014

Need not be present to win
Must be 18 or older

Tickets are \$10.00

available from any Noon Lions Club Member or at
Friona Star • Intheden Graphics • Andy Montana Insurance

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 2015-2016 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 forms.

Forms need to be completed and returned to the principal by January 31, 2015. 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 2015-2016.

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 del 2015. Los estudiantes nominados seran considerados y tomaran evaluaciones las cual determinaran admision al programa.

The Friona Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month

Headquarters Restaurant

Owners: Genevia Brailif & Lupe Taylor

The Brailif family opened a restaurant in 1980 at the golf course called The Tee Box. They operated there for 12 years. In 2011 they reopened Headquarters Restaurant at the same location. The restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch Tuesday-Saturday and for dinner Friday nights only. It is located at 1503 W. 5th St. Phone is 250-2525.



The friendly staff at Headquarters Restaurant!

Dear Santa....



Dear Santa,
I want Ninja Turtles. They are my favorite. I have been a good boy all year.
Love, Pilate Perkins

Dear Santa,
I wan a dirt bike that is made for jumping and a helicopter.
Your Friend, Isaac Mendoza

Dear Santa,
I want to be big like my brother so I can drive a tractor. I would like a truck for Christmas.
Love, Martin Nicola

Dear Santa, I have been good all year. For Christmas, I would like Legos. I want Legos because I like to build things out of Legos. I like to build an airplane of Legos.
Your friend, Mario Garcia

Dear Santa,
I want Monster trucks for Christmas. I've been a good boy.
Love, Isaac Villa

Dear Santa,
I have been good all year for Christmas I would like a parrot some and a boy dog and a girl dog because I like you.
Your friend, Marco Leon

Dear Santa,
Tran Thomas. I love you. I want ipad, yo.
Love, Enrique

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a puppy, because they are cute.
Your friend, Aubree Bunker

Dear Santa,
Frozen games, zebra sticker, princess, ipad.
Love, Jocelyn

Dear Santa,
I have been good all year for Christmas I would like a cat. I want a boöm cogun because I want it so much.
Your Friend, Jonathon Vasquez

Dear Santa,
I love you. I like toys. I want cowboy stickers.
Love, Mireya

Dear Santa,
I have been good Christmas I would like a boon c one. I want a car because they are cool
Your Friend, Andy Ordonez

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me Lightning McQueen game.
Love, Domingo

Dear Santa,
I have ben good all year because for Christmas I would like you to bring me a xbox and legos and a puppy and cars and handcup.
Your frind, Pablo Martinez

Dear Santa,
Why do you hev to deliver all the esents? I have een a little good. Dear Santa, you are the basi! How have you been? For Christmas I want a D-s and a touch phone a Barbie doll and a jump rope.
Perla

Dear Santa,
Pri. Pel, pepirtpe, pederepe, peperepi.
Love, Tatiana

Dear Santa,
I have been good all year for Christmas, I would like doll because I love dolls.
Your friend, Dannelle Arguelles

Dear Santa,
I have been good all year. For Chrismise I want a dream house. I been wanting it for a long time.
Your friend, Yaslene Fau-doa

Dear Santa,
I want a tablet and ear-phones and clothes.
Your Friend, Johuari Villacana

Dear Santa,
I will be a good grl. I want a panda Fur Real pet and a pek Barbie rv. I love you Santa. Hos Rudolph. I love Rudolph.
Taylor Campos

Dear Santa,
I have been good all year. For chritmas, I would like legos to build a home and an airplane.
Your friend, Erik Trejo

Dear Santa,
I would like a wii and a new Super Mario Bros. 2 3D and a dog.
Your Friend, Lionel Gardea

Dear Santa,
I have been good all year for Christmas would like an Elsa dress. I want it because it is pretty.
Your Friend, Kayla Potter

Dear Santa,
I wot a fhone wes a hooing erenes pink.
Sincerely, Alonara

Dear Santa,
I have been good Christmas I would like a boon c one. I want a car because they are cool
Your Friend, Andy Ordonez

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I want a ipad thak you for my present last year merry cristmas.
Sincerely, Rene Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
I want a dog walk with me and my dog.
Your friend, Ivette Fraire

Dear Santa,
I want a rael 22 rifle. Marry Chriatmas and tank you for my prezint from last year.
Sincerely, Bo Reed

Dear Santa,
I love you. I like toys. I want
Love, Icegeid

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been good. I would like 01 the Transformrs.
Love, Yael

Dear Santa,
I wont the same toy from last Christmas.
Sincerely,
Justin Reveles

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring frozen.
Love, Ana

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a green phone with an fonit. I am leaving you milk and cookies.
Sincerely, Foster Gilley

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me checkers.
Love, Aubree Spiels

Dear Santa,
You are bleepleoseb please brig me a horse.
Love, Alexis

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me love masosbll onn fno fendo.
Aaliyah

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me 2 pkder man.
Love, Niko

Dear Santa,
You are nic. Pleas bring me PH4.
Love, David

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me a zebra.
Love, Yariza

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me TRex.
Love, Dorien

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me horse.
Love, Stevie

Dear Santa,
How are you? I've been good all year. I would like a playstan 3 and a pet guine pig. I lik your reindeer.
Love, Sebastian

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me cross necklace.
Love, Hansen

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want a scooter for Christmas. What do you do at the North Pole?
Love, Kaylee

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me mojhh.
Love, Jordan

Dear Santa,
You are the Best! How Do you like flying in your sled? I hope you can come to my house. I want a X box 3 and a phone. And Dear Santa I want to see you. Because on Monday didn't see you at the park because a was at my house and forget to get a picture with you. I love you.
Kimberly

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring Sonia toy.
Love, Michael

Dear Santa,
You are nice please please bring me transformer.
Love, Joshua B.

Dear Santa,
I love doots. I like hat. I want computer.
Love, Andres

Dear Santa,
You are nice. Please bring me frozen scooter.
Love, Halie

Dear Santa,
How are you? For Christmas I want a bike. I have been good.
Catarina

Dear Santa,
How are you? How elvs. I want a dino zoomer and ipad. I want a my password jaemdl and easy cotton candy.
Love, Betó



ron carr photo
Dallin Woods heads to the basket on a fast break against the Melrose Buffaloes at Friona gym Tuesday evening. Next Tuesday December 16 the Squaws and Chiefs will host Bovina here. Game times are 4:30/6:00/7:30.



ron carr photo
Coach Darrell Ray talks strategy with the Squaws during a timeout in the Melrose game.



ron carr photo
Cole Stowers (23) goes high to score against the Melrose NM Buffaloes Tuesday evening. Trent Hickman (13) and Mason Loflin (3) are in the mix.



ron carr photo
Paige Upton makes a determined drive around a Melrose defender in Tuesday night action. The Squaws lost to Melrose and head over to the Farwell tournament this weekend.



courtesy photo
The Friona FFA Radio Broadcasting Team travelled to Sam Houston State University in Huntsville December 5-6 to compete in the State Leadership Development Event. The team did their broadcast over Texas Wind Energy and the direct effects the wind farm being placed around Friona would effect the tax base and tax rates for taxpayers of Friona ISD. The team made the finals and placed 10th. When this contest started at the district level across the state of Texas there were a total of 647 teams participating. Team members are, l-r, Gavin Douglas, Brandon Berend, Brayden Pope and Cole Stowers.



courtesy photo
James Graves, center, with his senior 4-H Beef Quiz Bowl Team took first place at a contest held in Lubbock on December 6. The team will advance to the State Round-Up in June 2015. Pictured are, l-r, Mason Fleming, Jaqueline Garcia, Graves, Aspen Fleming and Justus Brozek.

Shirley Ferguson retires from Friona Interbank
By Marca Herring

Friona InterBank recently hosted a reception for Shirley Ferguson who will be retiring from the bank after 47 years of service. Her last official day will be December 31, 2014. She joined us in October 1965 right after her graduation from Friona High School.



Shirley Ferguson

Her story goes like this:

It was in January 1965, as a senior at Friona High School that she put in her application at Friona State Bank. She and Fred Ferguson were engaged to be married in July of that year and they had their long-term plans made. Fred worked at Plains Hardware. They married as planned and around the first of October, Charles Allen called Fred and asked if it was the bank! (Those were the days!!)

As best made plans go, in 1966, Fred was drafted into the army and served for 2 years. Shirley spent 8 months with him in Ft Carson, Colorado

before he began a tour in Viet Nam from Feb-Sept of 1968. Shirley moved back to Friona during this time and continued her work at the bank. Shirley started in the bookkeeping department at the bank when the bank was located on 7th and Main. When asked what she remembers about that day she says she was very nervous and she spent the day filling checks in alphabetical order, quite a job in those days.

She later advanced to teller and was promoted to Head Teller in June 1981. Shirley then became an assistant in the

CD Department, serving under Charlene Harper.

In 1984, she was named Assistant Cashier and in 1989 was again promoted to Assistant Vice President.

In Jan 1997, Ferguson was promoted to Vice President and is currently head of the Certificates of Deposits and Individual Retirement Account Departments.

Shirley was born in Waurika, Oklahoma and moved with her family to Friona in 1954-55. Her parents are the late Troy and Lois Hutson. She has one sister, Carolyn Stevick of Friona. Fred and Shirley have two children, Gary, who lives in Amarillo, and Christie of Friona. The Fergusons have four grandchildren.

The employees of Friona Interbank invite you to stop by and congratulate Shirley on her 49 years at the bank and her retirement. We appreciate her loyalty and dedication to the bank and thank her for 47 years. She will be missed.

Comptroller reports on student loan debt and rising tuitions

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs released a report this week examining the growth of college tuition costs and its impact on student loan debt.

In Footing the Bill: Rising College Costs, Deepening Debt, the Comptroller's office details impacts of student loan debt; factors driving increases in tuition costs contributing to this debt; reasons students have remained willing to incur these debts; and potential ways to slow the growth of higher education costs. The Comptroller also makes recommendations for the Texas Legislature to improve transparency in this area.

"A college degree is a basic requirement for many jobs, and a benefit that provides real financial advantages throughout life," Combs said. "That's why it's disturbing that the price of higher education seems to be climbing out of reach for many Texans. If college becomes possible only for the few, our nation will suffer for it. Our kids will find themselves

squeezed out of their best chance for financial success, and America will miss out on the productivity and innovation of many of our best minds."

Student loan debt payments often take a large share of graduates' salaries. For Texas-educated college graduates under 30, the average loan-debt balance was \$22,600, or 46 percent of average yearly earnings (\$49,112) in 2011. In 2012, about 20 percent of student loan debt holders in Texas were more than 90 days delinquent on their debt. The most recent figures indicate that 14 percent of all federal student borrowers were in default within three years of leaving school, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Financial experts say student loan debt could significantly reduce economic activity and demand for mortgage credit and negatively impact the broader economy by inhibiting entrepreneurship and the creation of small businesses.

The growth in student loan debt is mirrored by the growth in the cost of attending college. In Texas, average in-state public university tuition and fees rose by 90 percent between 2003 and 2012. Yet despite rising tuition costs and student loan burdens, enrollment in Texas degree-granting institutions rose 49 percent from 2000 to 2012.

Because college is usually a good return on investment - college graduates earn about twice as much as those without a college degree - this uptick in enrollment is expected to continue, making it imperative for students to know how their tuition and fees are spent, and to have better access to tools to help them get a full picture of college costs.

To help ensure the price of higher education remains in reach for Texas students, Combs makes several recommendations in the report. To learn more, visit the full interactive report at www.win-dow.state.tx.us/specialrpt/student_loan.

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is on the web at frionaonline.com