



Friona FFA at State



Carlos Rios finished 7th in the State in Greenhand Spanish Creed Speaking. At the state level, there is a preliminary round with two heats of 12 students representing Class 1A to 6A schools. Out of the 24 total competitors, only 10 make it to the finals. Great job, Carlos!!!



Mario Molina received a plaque as a Semi-Finalist in Greenhand Creed Speaking at the FFA State LDEs. Congratulations Mario!!!



St. Nick Chills in Friona — Santa was welcomed to Friona by Mayor Greg Lewellen to kick off the Christmas in the Park festivities on Monday afternoon. Miss Friona Yvonne Legarreta, Little Miss Ayva Lozoya, and the Elves assisted Mr. Claus as he visited with the kids to listened to their ideas for the perfect present. Santa was on his way back to the North Pole to prepare for Christmas Eve.



Awards announced at Fire Department Banquet

The Friona Volunteer Fire Department held its annual Christmas Banquet last Friday night at the Friona Senior Citizens Center. Pope Boys BBQ catered the meal for the attendees which included firefighters, family, friends, and invited guests.

After the meal, Fire Chief Gary Stowers announced three service pins recipients. Maddie Sharrock

earned a 5-year pin, Chance Lewellen a 10-year pin, and Terry Sharrock a 35-year pin.

The first major award, the Jim Taylor "Rookie of the Year" Award was presented to Efrain Roacha. Next, The Ralph Shirley "Firefighter of the Year" Award went to Juan Samarron.

A special "Retirement Award" was presented to John Taylor. John is retir-

ing after 40 years of service. He joined the department in 1983 and during his 40 year tenure served as Lieutenant, Captain, Training Officer, and Secretary/Treasurer. "All I wanted was to grow up and become a policeman and fireman," John remarked, "I was very fortunate to be both."

Chief Stowers also announced a \$400 donation to Created With Pur-

pose of West Texas. The pregnancy resource center is located in Bovina and serves all of Parmer County and the surrounding area.

The Friona Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank everyone for their support during the past year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! (see more photos at www.frionaonline.com)



Fire Department Awards — (l-r) "Rookie of the Year" Efrain Rocha, Fire Chief Gary Stowers, "Firefighter of the Year" Juan Samarron.



John Taylor Retirement — (l-r) Andrew Stowers (grandson), "Retiree" John Taylor, Fire Chief Gary Stowers (son-in-law), and Jim Taylor (brother).

	Town Talk Page 3	Church Page Page 5	Sports Page 6	Classifieds Page 7	Christmas in the Park Pages 9 & 10	
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Emergency Siren System: Alternating tone • Firefighters only | Weather Warning: 1 long tone • take cover — 3 short blasts • all clear | Tested 1st & 3rd Thurs. at 7 p.m.

Friona Weather December 7-13	T 74 42 WSW 20-30	F 67 30 W 20-30	S 46 23 N 20-30	S 58 27 WSW 15-25	M 57 27 S 10-20	T 52 27 SW 10-20	W 48 25 N 10-20	Precipitation December 0.00 Year 17.40	Burn Ban No
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Community Calendar

Send Calendar information to:
frionastar@wtrt.net or call (806) 250-5200

December 7

• Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center

December 11

• Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center

December 12

• Christmas Band Concert at Jr. High Auditorium
• Prairie Acres Christmas Party

December 13

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

December 14

• Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center
• FHS Choir Christmas Concert
• Ready, Set, Thrive! Meeting at 10:30 ar Legacy Pointe

December 18

• Senior Citizens meal at noon at Senior Citizens Center

ON YOUR PAYROLL

U.S. Government



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



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



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



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

State

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



Senator: Kevin Sparks, P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, Tx 78711. 512-463-0131. Amarillo office: Historic Federal Building, 620 S. Taylor St., Suite 203, Amarillo, TX, 79101.



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



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News articles and photos are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Deadlines may be altered for holidays or special issues.

Advertising

Open Display rates and Classified Ads are \$5.00 per column inch. Thank You Notes are \$15 each. Wedding, anniversary, graduation and birth announcements are \$15 each. Obituaries are published at no charge. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

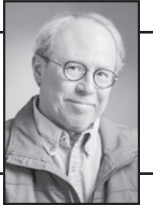
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State Capital Highlights

By Gary Borders



Food banks under extreme pressure

A study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that 15.5% of Texas households are “food insecure,” meaning they lack consistent access to health and affordable food – the second-highest rate in the nation. Food banks across the state are warning those challenges could get worse, the Texas Tribune reported.

About 3.3 million Texans receive assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with the number of older Texans getting SNAP benefits rising. From January 2020 through October 2023, the number of Texans aged 65 and older rose 28%, while the increase was 19% for those aged 60-64.

Operators of food banks, which are nonprofit organizations, blame rising housing costs during the pandemic for the increase in demand for its services.

“The rising cost of housing is

the problem,” said Teresa Jackson, founder and CEO of Sharing Life, a Mesquite charity that offers food, clothing, medicine, and educational programs. Sharing Life distributes food to more than 100 food pantries around southeast Dallas.

Adding to the distress is that thousands of Texans are waiting for months to receive new food stamp benefits, according to the Statesman. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is supposed to process applications within 30 days but is only hitting that target about 75% of the time. That leaves about 138,000 unprocessed applicants who must wait longer for benefits.

Food stamp recipients are required to work unless they are elderly, disabled or caring for children. Nearly 80% of Texas food stamp recipients are in families with children.

Real Christmas trees boost state economy

More than four million real

Christmas trees are sold in Texas each year, providing nearly \$400 million in direct contributions to the state’s economy, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Texas Christmas tree industry employs nearly 4,000 people with a payroll of more than \$97 million.

“The process of going as a family to pick out a tree is a fun activity that supports rural economies across the state,” Aaron Stottlemeyer, with the service, said.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, with the first recorded tree planting in Texas occurring in Jasper in 1935. Texas ranks second in the South in Christmas tree production.

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

Commissioners approve Interlocal and Mutual Aid Agreements

Parmer County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom of the Parmer County Courthouse in Farwell, Texas. The meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Texas Flag.

A Public Hearing was held to allow interested parties to address the Court in regard to the countywide voting procedure that was used during the last election. All those who addressed the court spoke favorably of the new voting process.

A Joint Primary Resolution was passed to allow Democrat Primary and Republican Primary voters to utilize the same polling locations. Justice of the Peace,

Pct. 1 Rhonda Wilkins presented a report in which she reviewed citations that were 10-15 years old and still on file. She is considering dismissing those citations.

Sheriff Geske reported to the Court that the Parmer County Law Enforcement Center is currently housing 36 inmates of which 18 are from Lubbock County. Interlocal Agreements between Parmer & Lamb County and Parmer & Bailey to house inmates were approved. Also, a Mutual Aid Agreement between Parmer County and the City of Friona was approved. The county will seek grants for the sheriff’s office, county attorney’s office, and district attorney’s office as a result of the passage of State

Senate Bill 22 which provides for grants to sheriff’s offices and legal representatives.

In other business, an Open Records request from a Right to Life group concerning any discussion involving said group will be complied with by the county. Also, the regular meeting scheduled for Monday, December 25th was moved to Thursday, December 21st.

There were no comments from the pub-

lic during the open forum. Minutes from the November 13th meeting were read and approved. Commissioners approved the payment of the accounts payables as presented by County Treasurer Sharon May. The Treasurer’s Payroll Report was also approved. The next regular meeting is on December 11th.

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

Friona ISD Notice of Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held during the Friona ISD Board Meeting on Monday, December 18, at 7 p.m.

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

ACROSS

- 1 soreness pain
- 5 former name for Fort Cavazos near Killeen
- 6 TXism: “split ___” (laughed hard)
- 7 TXism: “___ tight he squeaks when he walks” (miser)
- 8 O.J.’s judge
- 9 chili flavorers
- 15 fishing method: “___ line”
- 16 environment scientist
- 19 Italian artist POW who painted mural in Castro County
- 21 TXism: “risky as ___ a sailor”
- 22 1st US military flight took place at Fort Sam Houston by Lt. Benjamin ___
- 27 ___ Star State
- 28 TXism: “___ a hen, she’ll cluck”
- 29 TXism: “running around like a chicken with its head ___”
- 30 Texas pink granite with interspersed sky blue quartz
- 32 ___ Pleasant, TX (abbr.)
- 33 Texas state flower in Mexico (2 wds.)
- 36 Texas Blue Bell ice cream holder
- 37 Irving is the headquarters of this nat’l scouting org.

- 38 in Victoria County on U.S. 87
- 39 immensity
- 41 stat. for Astro Verlander or Ranger Eovaldi
- 42 gets whiffs of
- 45 LBJ took ___ of office on Air Force One
- 46 ___ Rio, TX
- 47 Jesus’ saying on the cross (Aramaic)
- 48 S-shaped curve

- 49 derision
- 52 TXism: “so many you couldn’t ___ ‘em with a stick”
- 53 TXism: “burn the midnight ___” (work late)
- 54 Texas case: “___ v. Wade”
- 55 TXism: “heavy as the front ___ of a John Deere”

DOWN

- 1 shout of triumph
- 2 gear tooth
- 3 home of the NFL Texans
- 4 this Cowboy was 6’ 9” (4 wds.)
- 8 colored eye part
- 9 genre of TX Gene Roddenberry’s “Star Trek” (2 wds.)
- 10 mail place (abbr.)
- 11 birth state of TX Goodnight (abbr.)
- 12 Starbucks, e.g. (2 wds.)
- 13 these are big on some Texans
- 14 weary exhale
- 15 triple strong eyewear
- 16 Jackson County seat
- 17 Buchanan Dam ___ flow of the Colorado River
- 18 “I told you ___ out of it!”
- 20 storytelling cowboy, “___” Trevino
- 22 this Couples won 1987 Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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solution on page 3

- 31 charged atoms
- 34 dir. to Gonzales from Pleasanton (abbr.)
- 35 TX Perot’s old co.
- 37 TXism: “wouldn’t ___ a biscuit” (harmless dog)
- 40 sporty ___ wheels
- 43 this Loetscher was South Padre Island “Turtle Lady”
- 44 TXism: “a sight quality ___ eyes”
- 50 TXism: “took sick”
- 51 TX George H.W. to TX George W.

COURTHOUSE NOTES

Susie Spring, County Clerk

Warranty Deeds recorded at the Parmer County Clerk's Office from November 23, 2023 to November 30, 2023

No Warranty Deeds recorded this week—

SHERIFF'S REPORT

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

(11/14/23) Denis Ray Willard, 65, of Clovis, NM was arrested on a Denton County Warrant on a charge of Indecent Assault.

(11/15/23) Victor Alvarado, 42, of Friona was arrested by the Friona Police Department on charges of Unlawful Possession of Firearm by Felon and Possession of CS ≥ 4g < 200g.

(11/16/23) Yuri Llanet Mendoza, 39, of Friona was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a charge of Possession CS PG1 < 1g, and on a Lubbock County Warrant on a charge of Possession CS PG1 < 1g.

(11/16/23) Eloy Daniel Trevino, 43, of Friona was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a charge of Possession CS PG1 < 1g, on a Parmer County Warrant for Theft of Property < \$2,500 2 or more Previous Convictions, a Deaf Smith County Warrant of Forgery Financial Instrument, and a Austin County Warrant for Dangerous Drugs.

(11/19/23) Sebastian Contreras, 26, of Farwell was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on charges of Possession CS PG1 < 1g, Tamper/Fabricate Physical Evidence w/Intent of Impair, and DWI.

(11/19/23) Jacob Tyler Thurman, 36, of Farwell was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a charge of Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, and on a Curry County NM Warrant as a Fugitive from Justice.

(11/19/23) Larry Glenn Widner, 67, of Bovina, was arrested by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Warden on charges of Unlawful Possession of Firearm by Felon and Taking Wildlife resources w/o Consent.

(11/20/23) Monica Lynn Garcia, 44, of Friona was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on charges of Possession CS PG1 < 1g, Prohibited Substance/Item in Correctional Facility, DWLI, Operating Motor Vehicle w/o Financial Responsibility, and Expired Motor Vehicle Registration.

(11/22/23) Trinidad Ashley Rodriguez, 34, of Lubbock was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on a Warrant for Theft of Property ≥ \$750 < \$2,500, and Theft of Property ≥ \$100 < \$750.

(11/30/23) Kevin Armando Cisneros, 24, of Bovina was arrested by the Bovina Police Department on a Parmer County Warrant for Terroristic Threat of Family/Household.

(12/3/23) Stephen Taylor Dubay, 21, of Portales, NM was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on charges of Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle and Burglary of Habitation.

(12/3/23) Marina Martinez Vega, 26, of Portales, NM was arrested by the Parmer County Sheriff's Office on charges of Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, Burglary of a Habitation, and Possession of CS PG2-A ≤ 2 oz.

Come have Fun with us at Malouf's Fabric
These are the classes scheduled this fall

December 9:
"Quilt as You Go"
Tablerunner

Call 806-250-3575 to register • like us on Facebook

Edward Jones | edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates
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6-Month	1-Year	2-Year
5.35% APY*	5.10% APY*	4.85% APY*

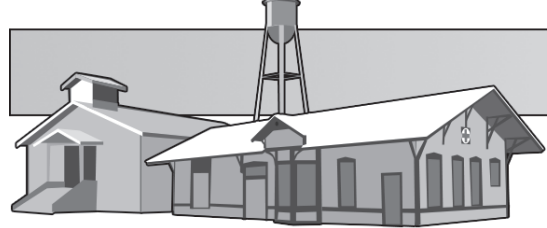
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205 W 4th St Suite 101
Hereford, TX 79045
806-364-0041

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Puzzle Solution

S-1666



TOWN TALK

Phone: 806-250-5200
Email: frionastar@wrt.net

In Concert — Check out the two Christmas Concerts next week. The first one is the Jr. High Band Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High Auditorium. Next is the FHS Choir Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the FHS Auditorium.

Hit It Out of the Park — Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, City of Friona, and all of the volunteers, vendors, and participants for making this year's Christmas in the Park and Parade of Lights a huge success!!!

Prairie/Legacy News — Mario Gavina is the Prairie Acres Resident of the Month for December and the Employee of the Month is Jenika Ortiz. The Christmas Party with the residents is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m. It will be a time of fun, finger food, and family. Legacy Pointe is getting another tenant. Only a few rooms left, so check them out before they are gone!

Empty Stocking Fund — Donations are being accepted for the Empty Stocking Fund which provides clothing and a toy to local needy children. School officials are consulted to determine the recipients. So far, about 140 children have been selected. Donations may be made at Friona InterBank or given to project co-chairs Holly Campbell or Jyl Grimsley.

Project Christmas Card — The Parmer County Hospital Auxiliary is accepting donations for the 68th Annual Project Christmas Card. Proceeds will be used to purchase medical equipment for Parmer Medical Center. Canisters/boxes are placed around town in various businesses for the collection of donations. The names of donors will be included in a special Christmas Greeting Card in the Friona Star newspaper. Please make sure you put your name with ALL donations. You can contact Connie Neelley at 806-250-2542 for more information.

National Guard Birthday — On December 13th, 1636, the Massachusetts General Court established an official militia for the first time in the American Colonies. A component of the United States Army, the National Guard is primarily composed of citizen-soldiers who hold down full-time, civilian

jobs, attend school, or as is often the case, both. At the same time, they are available to provide support and protection for the states' civilians or be called for military operations at a national level.

★★★
Pun Fun — If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is not for you. Source: www.pun.me

- National Days**
- December 7 — Pearl Harbor Day
 - December 8 — Brownie Day
 - December 9 — Christmas Card Day
 - December 10 — Nobel Prize Day
 - December 11 — Stretching Day
 - December 12 — Poinsettia Day
 - December 13 — National Guard Birthday



Parmer Paws Drawing — Santa drew the winning ticket for the cooler, Stanley cups, and candy in the Parmer Paws fundraising raffle. The winner was Casey Sharrock!!!

We make gifts for the holidays... and donate them to different groups.

Newspaper Fun!
www.readingclubfun.com
Annimills LLC © 2023 V46
Kids: color stuff in!

The holidays are here! It's great fun to surprise family or friends with gifts. If you like to make gifts, it's time to start planning and working on them. Gifts that you make and give from your home, kitchen, garden or artistic skills are from your...

(Hint: There are 2 parts to this picture. Find '1★' to start the first puzzle...then follow the numbers. Next, find 'A★' to start the second puzzle... then follow the alphabet.)

When done, color in the picture.

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

and your

The Art of 'Gifting'

If I have...

- yarn, I can make a doll or mittens or a _____
- evergreen branches, I can make a _____ to hang or a table centerpiece
- balloons, newspaper and paste, I can make a bright _____ for a party
- loom and loops, I can make a _____ or a set of placemats
- playdough or clay, I can make small ceramic animals or a _____
- camera and a computer, I can make a _____ from photos of family pets
- photos, paper and glue, I can make a _____ to keep track of memories
- dye and rubber bands, I can make a colorful _____ to wear
- popsicle sticks and glue, I can make a _____ to hold knick-knacks
- paper, glue and glitter, I can make a _____ to mail
- wood, nails, hammer and paint, I can make a _____
- beads and string, I can make a _____ or a necklace

Giving a World of Color

When done with the puzzle, color in the pictures too.

Everyone likes a dash of color to brighten up the day! You can make a wonderful gift by painting something. How about building and painting a birdhouse or feeder? Maybe you can decorate or paint someone's name on an item.

Can you find and circle these things that you can paint?

- tote bags
- lunch bags
- notebooks
- footstools
- school boxes
- gift wrap
- stones
- sneakers
- models
- shirts
- aprons
- hats

(Hey! It's dark in there.) (But, cozy warm!)

Crunch! Crunch!

F K I P N D F E S A S I
O K Y T H G T E D S R O
O J G O G S F S H F E T
T K O T H F T N K O K P Y
S G V E I H R O Y E A G S A
T J G B G D S R N U E G D C S
O K L A G F E P N E N K O U F N
O V D G U T D A N D S U F E S O
L O J S G A B H C N U L S G S T
S B H Y R D F S A C N P L M J E
V H I Y T R E F G H N A P L M I B
G I F T W R A P G H K J H G R O
Q S E F R G T H S K O A B E T O
N J I U H Y G T F R E D W S S K
S C H O O L B O X E S M O U P S
J I Y G R E S C M O D E L S D O
N Y M O K P L J U G T R F D E A

'Put Together' a Special Gift for Someone

Have you ever "put together" a gift? It's easy. Just collect a few things that go well together and place them nicely in a container, such as a bag, box or basket. Use your imagination to decorate your gift: a bow, a flower or card would add a nice touch. If you want to be a little fancy, add a piece of tissue paper or make a nest of shredded paper in the bottom of your gift container. Very nice!

Here are some ideas to get you started, but you will have to fill in the blanks with vowels to read them:

o o o e
u a u a
o e e a i

- r _ bber stamps, _ nk pads, paper
- cheese, crackers, j _ lly
- soaps, bubble bath, small t _ wels
- dried fl _ wers
- c _ ndies, c _ kies
- coffee, t _ _ , muffin mix
- fruit, n _ ts
- p _ ns, envelopes, stationery
- pet toy, pet sn _ cks, and shampoo

Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2023

Small Town Cookin' *By Jeri Lynn White*

Healthy Soups

Since the temperatures are sure to stay cold one of these days, I found some soups to warm us up. I have actually made this first soup, and it is pretty tasty. I will say adding the crispy bacon to the top in the last step makes all the difference. Hope you enjoy.

Healthy Broccoli Cheddar Soup

allthehealthythings.com

Ingredients

- 4 strips bacon
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 2 carrots, grated
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes, optional
- 2 cups cauliflower florets
- 4 cups chicken stock, divided
- 6 cups broccoli florets, chopped
- 8 oz sharp cheddar cheese

Directions

Heat a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the bacon lardons, sauté until crisp, and then remove from the pot. Add the minced garlic, diced onion, cauliflower florets, salt, nutmeg, and red pepper flakes to the pot. Sauté for 3-4 minutes. Next, add three cups of chicken stock to the pot and bring the soup to a simmer. Let the soup simmer for 15-20 minutes until the cauliflower is tender. Carefully transfer the soup to a high-powered blender and puree until smooth and creamy. Carefully pour the pureed soup base back into the pot. Next, stir in the remaining chicken broth, grated carrot, and chopped broccoli florets until well combined. Let the soup simmer for 5-10 minutes until the broccoli is tender. Lastly, stir in the shredded cheese until well combined and thoroughly melted. Serve the soup warm topped with crispy bacon and sliced green onion.

Check Your Mirrors

By Sue Jane Sullivan



Cowgirl judge: herstory not history

I think the women hoped that she would be a voice for women's rights, that she would be a voice against discrimination against women and other protected groups. I think women expected that she would be supportive of women's groups and issues.

And she was. — Ruth McGregor, former Supreme Court clerk, speaking of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, (PBS American Experience, September 2021)

Perhaps because the notable women who have passed recently are my mother's ages, my sensitivity radar to such moments

is keen.

After writing about Rosalynn Carter last week, it is only "just" that Sandra Day O'Connor's legacy be commemorated this week.

For one thing, the first woman ever to sit on the United States Supreme Court was someone we in these parts might find relatable. Born in Texas and raised on a ranch, she co-authored a book about her experiences living on the New Mexico-Arizona border until she returned to live with her grandmother in El Paso in order to get a more traditional education.

In the Lazy B: Growing

Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest, a book that Justice O'Connor and her brother co-authored, she recalled that her mother never had to get someone to watch her firstborn baby girl. Ranch cowboys took the reins.

"My babysitters were tobacco chewing, unshaven, unbathed, Levi-clad and tough as nails, but they would baby talk and try for hours to keep Sandra happy."

She also included in the autobiographical writings about water well and pump repairs that demanded immediate attention and how she, not yet strong enough

to manage the heavy work, would serve "as an operating room nurse" handing tools to her father.

On the court O'Connor was considered a pragmatist, probably influenced by her upbringing. Often a swing vote, she sided with the more liberal justices on some cases involving equal opportunities and women's rights. In the historic case which ultimately decided the outcome of the 2000 presidential election, she voted with the conservative majority in the 5-4 decision that made George W. Bush the 43rd president of the United States.

So many women in their 90s whose obituaries are a daily read were our modern-day pioneers. They had to plow against the wind and ride rough terrain in order to navigate traditional norms of marriage, motherhood, and career.

"It's all right to be the first to do something, but I didn't want to be the last woman on the Supreme Court. If I took the job and did a lousy job, it would take a long time to get another one," O'Connor said at a Supreme Court Historical Society event in 2011.

Since Justice O'Connor's appointment, five more women have served on the Supreme Court, including four current Justices.

I'd say this Texas-born Arizona cowgirl branded her mark clearly.



Lions Club News



FHS 1993 grad Britt Conklin (center) was the special guest speaker at the Noon Lions Club meeting on Monday at the remodeled clubhouse. Britt is involved with the Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine in Amarillo and the construction of the new Vet Clinic west of Hereford. Fourth year vet school students will have the opportunity to intern at the Hereford facility in order to obtain valuable experience working with large animals. Also in the photo is 1994 FHS grad Jason Rector (left) and the newest Noon Lions Club member, Logan Palmer.

Happy Birthday

Dec. 7

Carla Sue Scott
Sherri Alger
Darlena Burnett
Karlee Osborn
Audry Rowell

Dec. 11

M'Lynda Jarecki
Jeff Chaney
Lindsey (Neill) Beyers
Carson Geoffry Beyers
Leigh Neelley
Darby Drummond
Chloe Sifford
Juan Diego Salinas

Dec. 8

Mike Beauchamp
Kandace (Frye) Burke
David Lopez
Felissa Dominguez

Dec. 12

Linda Knowles
Paul J. Smith
Dustin Acker
Brittan Bynum
James Wiley

Dec. 9

Bill White
Bella Flores
Heather (Griffin)
Rodriguez

Dec. 13

Taylor Duran
Aubry Snyder

Dec. 10

Jason Berend
Connie King
Michael Johnston
Katy (Baize) Ellison
Brent Hall
Connie (Amezcu) Jiminez



To have your birthdays listed in the newspaper, email them to frionastar@wrtt.net or call: 806.250.5200

Most see gas prices below \$3

By Gas Buddy

Average gasoline prices in Texas rose 4.2 cents last week, averaging \$2.70 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's survey of 13,114 stations in Texas. Prices in Texas are 15.4 cents lower than a month ago and stand 1.2 cents lower than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas was priced at \$1.92 while the most expensive was \$4.00 per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline fell 0.4 cents last week, averaging \$3.21 per gallon. The national average is down 18.9 cents from a month ago and stands 14.9 cents lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel fell 4.7 cents last week and stands at \$4.18 per gallon.

"We've barely eked out a drop in the national average over the last week, extending the streak to 11 straight weeks of decline, even as some states have seen prices jump, while others have seen prices continue to inch lower. Motorists can blame the OPEC+ meeting for causing oil to jump early last week and then plummet late last week for the volatility in gas prices," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"The good news is that as the dust settled, OPEC+ agreed to barely move the needle, deepening their production cuts by an additional 900,000 barrels per day in 2024, with Saudi Arabia extending their own million barrel per day cut through March. However, that wasn't enough to offset concerns of falling global demand, which pushed oil back down to below \$73 in Sunday night trading, giving hope that the national average still could fall to \$2.99/gal by the end of the year."

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

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The Shady Side of Christmas

By Brett Hoyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church

The Gospel of Matthew starts off in what seems to be one of the most unexciting ways inspired scripture could begin an introduction to the Christmas story. Matthew lists the family tree of Jesus, going back to Abraham and following the line of David all the way down to Joseph, Jesus' step-dad. Although such a passage would at first seem like a real sleeper, it is actually filled with scandal and sin, which is why I refer to it as the shady side of Christmas.

One would think Jesus would have a picture perfect family history but that is so far from the truth. In fact, Jesus' family line involves some of the most wicked men in all the Bible, such as Joram, Ahab

and Amos (Amon). These scoundrels promoted idolatry relentlessly, denied God regularly, and some even sacrificed their own children to false gods. Can you believe they are in Jesus' family line!!!

Actually, I can believe they are in Jesus' family tree, because the message of Jesus coming is that He came to save sinners like Joram and Ahab and you and me. That's why the Lord sent word first to shepherds when Jesus was born saying, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord," Luke 2:11. Christmas is about God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ, who brings hope to the hopeless and salvation to all who follow Him.

Panhandle Parables

New Birth

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

It is the time of year when the leaves from your tree end up in someone else's yard and your yard has someone else's leaves. Don't worry, there is enough wind, you may get your leaves back and so it goes. Winter is slowly creeping forward, and everything around puts on its winter look which for most of us looks a little dead. Cold will eventually dip beyond the freezing mark and some days stay there. Christmas lights are popping up all over town, folks around here ushered in the season with a nice little parade of lights and lots of kids telling Santa Claus how good they have been and what they would like for Christmas. You begin to smell fires burning in the evening air and hot chocolate becomes the drink of choice. Shopping becomes a necessity and things become a little chaotic.

Yet in all this, from the slumber of creation to the hectic pace of getting all the little holiday traditions done, it does not escape notice that although we know not the day, a child was quietly born of a virgin, placed in a manger

and the world would learn once and for all, God chose us. In fact, He chose us before the foundation of the earth to be holy and blameless. It would be an impossible task for mere human effort was never worthy enough to accomplish such a lofty goal. Still Jesus came to earth dressed in humanity, walked among us and willingly surrendered to die once for all the sins of the world, offering all who would claim it, a new birth. A new life, a second chance to become what God had always wanted us to be. Holy and blameless. This gift is not thrust upon anyone, but gently offered to all who acknowledge what God has done to alter our fate of being lost and without hope. My prayer for you is that you may notice beyond all the lights, and techno gadgets, puppies, and candy canes, that God chose you for more and the gift He offers comes at the high price of His Son. May you celebrate this gift beyond the birth of Jesus at Christmas and His death at Easter, but through each day graciously given by our Lord until He calls us home.

But God

By Teena Hughs

I have written before about my Community Bible Study friend, Jaci. Her husband battled cancer a few years ago, and shortly after he was declared cancer-free, their oldest son, Gabriel, was diagnosed with cancer. Things have been tough for Gabriel, and it looks like he is nearing the end of his time on Earth. His mom posted this on facebook:

"Last Tuesday Gabriel had a CT scan that showed that the tumors in his lungs had doubled/tripled in size. The palliative chemotherapy that he had been receiving for pain and to give us more time together has stopped working. We are so thankful to God for this time together. When we brought him home in March it was with the expectation that he might not make it to his April birthday....But God. Then doctors thought the chemo would only work a round or two before not having any effect OR that his symptoms from the chemo would be so bad that we would cease treatment....But God. God in His goodness gave our family time. Time to heal from wounds, time to make more happy memories, time to LIVE and be LOVED by the amazing family, church family, and friends in our lives. He allowed us to understand the true meaning of Psalm 27: 13-14: 'I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage. And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!'"

You never know how you will face life's worst adversities. Jaci and her family have faced this tragedy with unbelievable faith and trust in God. From the beginning they have turned to Him and depended on Him for everything, and I do mean everything! I believe that because Jaci and her family have a relationship with God, and they turned to Him at the beginning of this journey, He has blessed them with the extra time they have needed to make memories, to heal, to prepare. They had Christmas in July; they have attended numerous Christian concerts; they have spent time together as a family doing things and

making memories that they can talk about long after Gabriel is gone. Gabriel is 13, I think. He has also been a true example of walking in faith with Jesus. Thankfully, he knew Jesus before his diagnosis, and that made it easier on him and his family. Gabriel knows where he is going; his parents and family know where he is going; and, what peace and joy there is in that!

God has sent people to meet the needs of Gabriel and his family, even complete strangers. Shortly after Jaci's husband was transferred to Florida, so was Jaci's best friend's husband. Anna and her family have done so much for Jaci and her family, because that is what true friends do for each other.

One thing I want to add: since Covid, church attendance has dropped off, and many people have not returned to church. If you are one of those people, I beg you to start attending church again. If you don't attend church, I beg you to start attending churches and find the one where you can grow more into the likeness of Jesus. Because Jaci and her family have attended church, her son knew Jesus when the worst possible thing could happen to him. He and his child-like faith know Jesus is in charge, and everything is going to be just fine!

We all need people in our lives whether we think we do or not. Their church family has provided for them; taken care of them; been there for them. A church family will do the same thing for you. Sometimes people don't realize the need for going to church and for a church family until it is too late. Please don't let that happen to you!

Please say a prayer for these good people who help defend our country. Jaci is asking God for "more time, one more birthday for Isaiah with his big brother & one more Christmas together"; as they spend their final days together, please pray Gabriel's days will be happy and full, and as pain-free as possible. You may not know these people, but the greatest gift we can give them right now is prayer. Thank you for yours!!!

Send your church news to the

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December Bible Verse

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NIV

14 Y el Verbo se hizo hombre y habitó entre nosotros. Y contemplamos su gloria, la gloria que corresponde al Hijo único del Padre, lleno de gracia y de verdad. Juan 1:14 NVI

Friona★Star

has an archive of past obituaries at frionaonline.com

★ Sports News ★

2023 District 1-3A Volleyball All District Honors



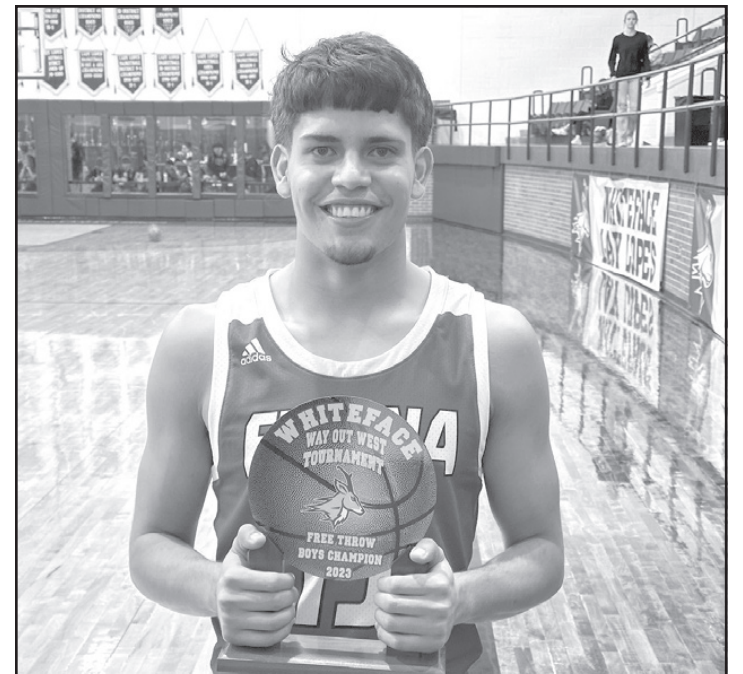
Aubree Bunker
First Team



Jacee Burney
First Team



Reese Stowers
First Team



Jose Luis Saucedo
Free Throw Champion
Whiteface Basketball Tournament



Saraya Luna
Second Team



Kitzy Welch
Second Team



Angelica Reyes
Honorable Mention



Ivory Shelby
Honorable Mention



★ Scoreboard ★

Basketball

Junior High

- 12/4 Maidens 7A vs. LBK Christian55-6
- 12/4 Maidens 8A vs. LBK Christian ...46-47
- 12/4 Braves 7A vs. LBK Christian24-5
- 12/4 Braves 8A vs. LBK Christian27-20

High School

- 11/28 Squaws vs. Hart66-59
- 11/30 Squaws vs. Whiteface 15-66
- 11/30 Squaws vs. Lockney44-36
- 12/1 Squaws vs. Springlake-Earth51-69
- 12/5 Squaws vs. Adrian49-25
- 11/28 Chieftains vs. Hart56-40
- Jose Luis Saucedo (17) Carson Seaman (13)

Whiteface Tournament:

- 11/30 Chieftains vs. Whiteface45-49
- Jose Luis Saucedo (10) Justen Trevino (9)
- 11/30 Chieftains vs. Lockney52-71
- Cade Seaman (18) Carson Seaman (11)
- 12/1 Chieftains vs. Springlake-Earth 39-63
- Carson Seaman (15) Jose Luis Saucedo (11)
- 12/2 Chieftains vs. Kress57-39
- Jose Luis Saucedo (26) Cade Seaman (13)

Volleyball News

PressPass Sports released their 2023 Volleyball Team last week on their website. Three Friona Squaws made the list which includes players from all classifications in the Texas panhandle. Aubree Bunker, Jacee Burney, and Reese Stowers were on the Honorable Mention roster. Jacee and Reese were also selected to play in the Golden Spread Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, December 16th at River Road High School. This tourney also features players from all classifications in the Texas panhandle.



The Friona Maidens and Braves played Lubbock Christian on Monday, December 4th at the FHS Gym. The 7A Maidens played well and came up with a strong win 55-6. Scoring for the Maidens were D'Nasha Shelby (22), Ivanna Guevara (16), Jaylee Perez (12), Aylene Moreno (4), and Emery Rangel (2). The 7th A Maidens record is 4-0.

Junior High Basketball

The 8A Maidens had a hard fought battle coming up short by a single point 46-47. Scoring for the Maidens were Ellie McGaughey (12), Aimee Jimenez (12), Anni-son Steelman (10) Harley London (8), Peyton McFarland (2), and Kalie Hernandez (2). The 8th A Maidens record is 1-3. The 7A Braves won their game 24-5 with Jesus Salga-

do (6), Eli Rosales (4), Aaden Delgadillo (4) as the leading scorers. The 8A Braves won 27-20 and the leading scorers were Marcelo Leon (8), Denzel Perez (8), and Jeremy Polk (6). The next games are Monday, December 11 against Denver City with the Maidens at home and the Braves on the road.

Friona Elementary School | UIL Team and Individual Results

The Elementary UIL contest was held on November 15th in Muleshoe. Ninety-two 2nd through 5th graders from Friona competed against students from Muleshoe, Dimmitt, and Littlefield. Results for the Friona students are listed below. The (*) signifies a perfect paper.

— 2nd Grade —

- Chess**
- Team (1st)*
- Hailey Carrillo
- Mauricio Moreno
- Ace Tafoya
- Austin Tafoya
- Individual*
- Austin Tafoya (1st)
- Hailey Carrillo (T2nd)
- Mauricio Moreno (T2nd)
- Music Memory**
- Team (1st)*
- Hailey Carrillo
- Luke Carthel
- Perla Concha
- Roman Garcia
- Rodrigo Rodriguez
- Individual*
- Luke Carthel (1st)*
- Roman Garcia (2nd)
- Hailey Carrillo (T5th)
- Rodrigo Rodriguez (T5th)
- Oral Reading**
- Individual*
- Roman Garcia (4th)
- Noah Torres (6th)
- Storytelling**
- Individual*
- Elliot Pate (5th)
- Ariana Balli (finalist)
- 3rd Grade —**
- Chess**

- Team (2nd)*
- Jeremiah Garcia
- Malyk Miller
- Landon Shields
- Kaizen Vasquez
- Individual*
- Malyk Miller (2nd)
- Landon Shields (4th)
- Music Memory**
- Team (2nd)*
- Nyah Cano
- Jocelyn Polk
- Demri Rackley
- Yaslynn Walker
- Individual*
- Demri Rackley (1st)
- Oral Reading**
- Individual*
- Nyah Cano (3rd)
- Kayleigh Juarez (4th)
- Demri Rackley (finalist)
- Ready Writing**
- Individual*
- Paisley Osborn (6th)
- Storytelling**
- Individual*
- Hunter Thompson (1st)
- Yandery Ruiz (finalist)
- 4th Grade —**
- Art Smarts**
- Individual*
- Colt Carthel (1st)
- Chess**

- Team (1st)*
- Tristan Gonzales
- William Gutierrez
- Isael Olmos
- Matthew Zetino
- Individual*
- Isael Olmos (1st)
- Tristan Gonzales (2nd)
- William Gutierrez (4th)
- Music Memory**
- Team (1st)*
- Daniela Jaramillo
- Jay Medina
- Eli Rocha
- Individual*
- Eli Rocha (1st)*
- Jay Medina (4th)
- Daniela Jaramillo (5th)
- Number Sense**
- Team (2nd)*
- Elian Aguirre
- David Carranza
- Colt Carthel
- Myrna Hernandez
- Individual*
- Colt Carthel (3rd)
- David Carranza (6th)
- Oral Reading**
- Individual*
- Jesalyn Jarecki (5th)
- Elian Aguirre (finalist)
- Ready Writing**
- Individual*

- Colt Carthel (T4th)
- Sofia Salinas (T4th)
- 5th Grade —**
- Art Smarts**
- Individual*
- Giovani Gonzalez (1st)*
- Chess**
- Individual*
- Caleb Ramirez (4th)
- Isziah Snyder (5th)
- Listening Skills**
- Individual*
- Kyleigh Juarez (4th)
- Music Memory**
- Team (2nd)*
- Manasseh Licerio
- Jade Mills
- Ermelinda Rodriguez
- Roman Garcia
- Individual*
- Jade Mills (4th)
- Manasseh Licerio (6th)
- Number Sense**
- Individual*
- Francisco Bolanos (T6th)
- Andres Gutierrez (T6th)
- Oral Reading**
- Individual*
- Arianna Rocha (5th)
- Amayah Rojas (finalist)
- Social Studies**
- Individual*
- Noah Busch (6th)

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Title: Client Services

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Description: Responsible for overseeing the volunteers and services they provide, as well as the Lead Client Advocate. High School diploma or GED required. Preferred experience as a volunteer or employee in ministry and experience in marketing and public relations. Bilingual, preferred qualification but not required.

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Thank you to all who stopped by our office during the Christmas in Friona event. Congratulations the winners of the drawing!



Martha Barker won the blanket



Maria Mendoza won the charcuterie board



Lourdes Benavides won the ratchet straps

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A Two-Room School House (Continued)

Part three of a three part series

Black, Texas - Established 1910-1950
Consolidated with Friona Texas

By Ira Parr

One of the more exciting memories was growing up and playing by the railroad tracks behind the playground. There was a double set of tracks there, one of them being a siding for trains to park on, so an oncoming train could pass. It was an almost daily occasion for steam engine to come gliding into the siding. We kids would go running out beside the tracks, and the engineers would often bleed of the steam and shoot it across where we were! Lots of fun and exciting! On occasion the engineers, after coming to stop would let us climb up in the open cabs! I can to this day still in my mind hear the whistle, the steam sounds and the clunk of the steam-powered water pump while the engine was sitting at idle. So much power, the ground (and me) would tremble!

One day a train rolled onto the siding, and one of the boxcars had the doors open. There, sitting in the open door was an honest to goodness hobo!

We kids ran up laughing and pointing at him. He pulled out a knife that had to be ten feet long! We kids ran screaming away. I can still hear him laughing at us! You don't forget things like that!

One thing that we liked to do was lay pennies on the tracks and let the train run over them. If we were lucky to find them after, they were mashed flat. We thought this to be harmless until one day, people from Santa Fe came to the school and made a big deal out of it. I still don't know how they learned of it, unless the engineers saw us and reported it. Nonetheless, we all thought we were going to die! Not sure still why they made a big deal, other than maybe putting a stop to anything being put on the tracks that could possibly cause a problem. Anyway, this was our first encounter with a world bigger than our own little safe world.

Back to the schoolhouse: to everyone's delight, one day it was discovered that there was



School Bus at Black, TX 1920

a skunk under the floor in the crawl space. It was happily minding its own business and not creating a big stink. (Pardon the pun.) However, it changed its tune when, out of nowhere, there was a deluge of clods. Needless to say, school was dismissed for several days. Yours truly especially felt the sting of the outcome, as my father was on the school board. And, believe it or not, at one time there were actually bats in the attic!

I bring this to a close to say that I would not in a million years take for my education at the Black School House. I even

learned a few of the Three R's. Although my spelling never seemed to jive with the Texas phonics I was raised with and it necessitated that spell checker suffered near burn down in this composition.

And yes, I did ride my horse to school on occasion.

The Black School District consolidated with Friona in about 1950, so no classes were held there after that. I went to Friona for my sixth grade.

Years later, the old school house did get remodeled. A restroom was added to the side with real running water and toilets! (I'm not sure but what

this took from the learning experience) The stage was removed and a nice kitchen was added in its place. (Wish I knew where the beautiful rollup curtain got off to) Space heaters were installed. Quite mysteriously, at least to me, another wonderful thing happened. The community started coming together. Folding table with sponsor's names all over the top (I have a set I salvaged) and matching chairs were ordered. Parties were organized. Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Valentine's Day (I still to this day have a box of homemade valentines.) All of

those days. Any excuse for a get-together! They were all well attended! 50 or 60 people coming together for fun and fellowship. Box lunches were bid on. Pie suppers! Card games. Boy Scouts Troop 54 was organized. (I still have some things I salvaged.) The community organized and joined the Texas Rural Beautification Program. Street signs were put up at rural intersections. A drive was started to install shields on all irrigation wells after a local farmer was killed by one! There was a short movie made (I have a copy) to compete at the state level in the program. The committee was on KGNC TV with Cotton John in Amarillo.

Then, all of a sudden, it all died! You know what killed it?! TELEVISION. What can I say?! Black Schoolhouse went to pot and was torn down. No one cared any more. I have some chimney bricks I saved. So, so sad! I so miss those days! I think it is a big, big loss!

If you would like to ask a question or share a story with the author, send your emails to iparrirawin@aol.com and he would be happy to respond.

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$4.1B in November

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced that state sales tax revenue totaled \$4.1 billion in November, 3.7 percent more than in November 2022. The majority of November sales tax revenue is based on sales made in October and remitted to the agency in November.

"State sales tax revenue growth resumed in November, after slightly declining on an annual basis the previous month," Hegar said. "Remittances from sectors driven by business spending were mixed — receipts from the mining and construction sectors rose significantly from year ago levels, while receipts from the manufacturing sector declined slightly. Receipts from the wholesale trade sector dropped significantly — the seventh decline from prior year levels in

the last eight months.

"Remittances from the retail trade sector were again down overall, with the largest declines from home improvement centers and furniture and home goods stores. Receipts from big box general merchandisers, as well as mall-based department and specialty stores, were down from year ago levels for a second consecutive month. But receipts from online merchants increased, as internet shopping continues to gain market share from physical stores.

"Service sector receipts increased significantly, propelled by spending for concerts, sporting events and fitness clubs. Receipts from restaurants were up just slightly from a year ago, at less than the rate of inflation for food away from home."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months

ending in November 2023 was up 2.1 percent compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections.

Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes: (1) motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$561 million, up 7 percent from November 2022; (2) motor fuel taxes — \$327 million, down 1 percent from November 2022; (3) oil production tax — \$575 million, up 1 percent from November 2022; (4) natural gas production tax — \$211 million, down 48 percent from November 2022; (5) hotel occupancy tax — \$74 million, up 2 percent from November 2022; and (6) alcoholic beverage taxes — \$152 million, up less than 1 percent from November 2022.

Arrington announces re-election bid

Jodey Arrington announced he will seek re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 19th Congressional District of Texas in 2024. Arrington has represented the 19th Congressional District of Texas since 2017 and is Chairman of the House Budget Committee.

"It has been my highest honor and privilege to represent the people and values of West



Texas in Washington. With the support of my wife and family, I'm proud and excited to announce that I'm run-

ning for another term to continue fighting to secure the blessings of liberty and defend the God-given, constitutional rights of We the People," Arrington said.

"West Texans expect their leaders to fight for them, follow through on their promises, and deliver results; and, that's exactly what we've done and - with your support - will continue to do," Arrington added.

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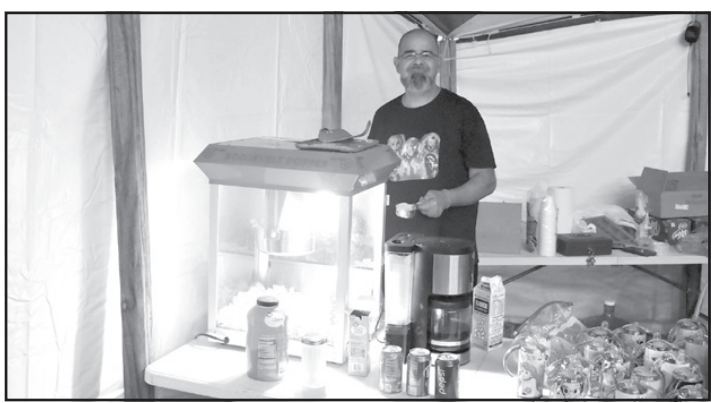
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Christmas in the Park 2023



See more photos at frionaonline.com





Christmas Parade of Lights | First Place Winner | Cargill | Jurassic Park



Christmas Parade of Lights | 2nd Place Winner | Friona FFA | Nativity Scene



Thanks to Emma & Mari and their volunteers for a great Christmas in the Park!!!



FHS graduate Xavier Guerra has been busy painting windows and doors around town with holiday themes. He was joined by Mr. Grinch (Triston Hernandez) for a very appropriate artwork unveiling.

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