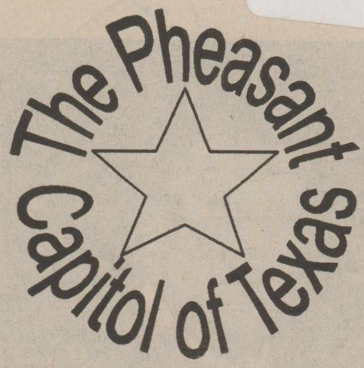


Sherman County Museum 7 / 06
Box 1248
Stratford, TX 79084

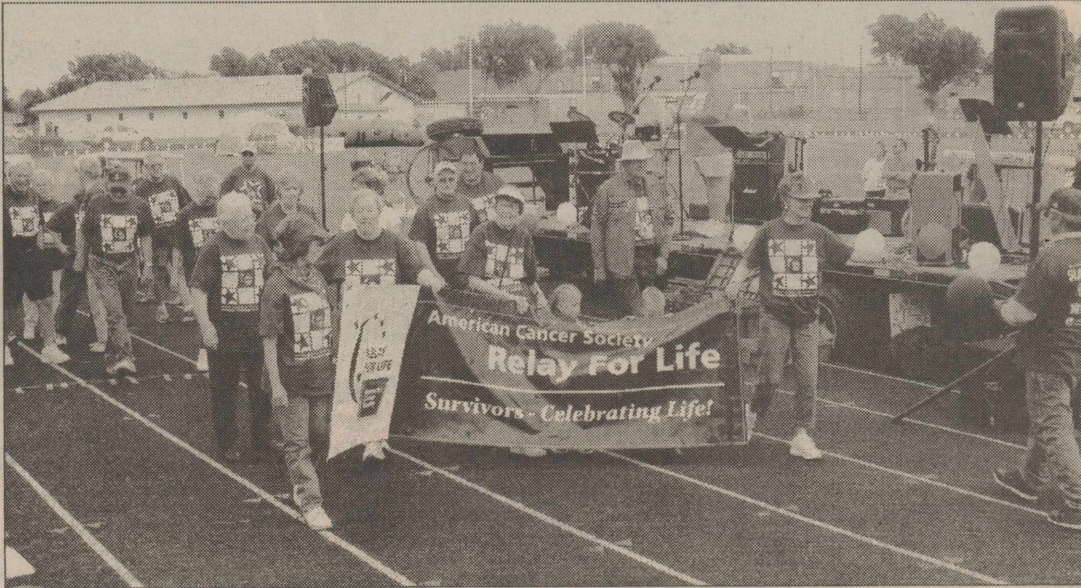


The Stratford Star

75 cents

Published for over 100 years in Stratford, Sherman County, Texas 79084 usps 523

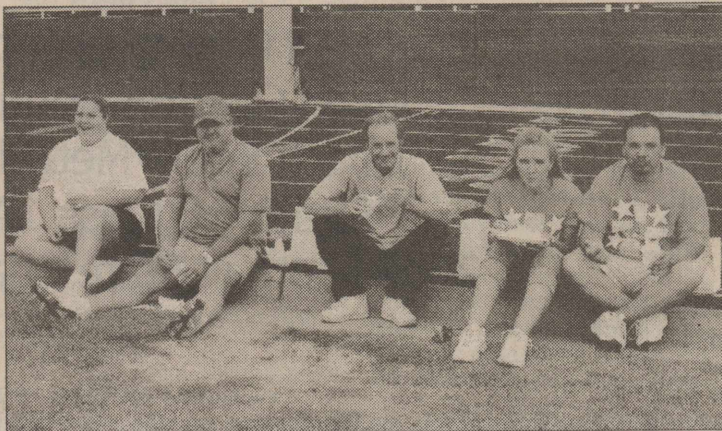
Number 23, June 8, 2006



Relay for Life Held Friday, June 2, 2006

Helping to Kick off Relay for Life on Friday, June 2, 2006 was survivors of cancer getting ready to start their Survivors lap.

Shown at right resting between laps are Sabrina Melton, Travis Melton, Jerry Melton, Desine Garza and Jamie Garza.



City to Start Tagging Abandoned and Junked Vehicles

The City of Stratford will begin tagging abandoned and junked vehicles for impoundment as defined by the Texas State Statute. The definition of a "junked vehicle" is one that has unexpired license plate, an invalid inspection certificate, wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled, or inoperable. The entire statute can be obtained at City Hall for your convenience. After the vehicle has been tagged, the owner will have 72 hours (if on the public right of way) or 10 days (if on private property) to remove the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle can request a public hearing be held to the City Council. Let's all help to clean up Stratford and make it a cleaner and safer place to live. If there are any questions, you can contact Sean Hardman at City Hall at 366-5581.

Main Street Art-June 16

Main Street Art at the Imagination Station, June 16, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. "Pinch a Pot", "Sculpt a Cat" working with clay with instructor Millie Hacker. Budding artist 5 and up should register with Laurie Spurlock 366-2772 or Gayle Harding 366-2206. Cost is \$5.00 per person for supplies.

Circus Tickets

The Culpepper and Merriweather circus will be in Stratford Sunday June 11. There will be two performances 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM. Tickets are available at Dairy Queen, Brooks Video, Moore's Food Pride, West Texas Gas any Chamber Member and Chamber of Commerce Office 366-2260.

This is your last chance to get tickets at the reduced price.

CHEER CAMP NEXT WEEK

REMINDER: Cheerleading camp Tuesday, June 13th - Friday, June 16th from 9:00 a.m.- 12 Noon at Stratford High School.

Keynote Speaker at Stratford's Relay for Life held on Friday, June 2, 2006 was Denise Cummins.

Stratford Jamboree 2006 Entry Forms Available

Stratford Jamboree 2006, parade entry forms can be picked up at West Texas Gas or Stratford Chamber of Commerce.

For more information contact Shannon Sellers at 366-2296 or Jolie Asher at 396-2136.

Attention-Anyone Wanting to Purchase a Headstone

Anyone wishing to purchase a headstone to mark a grave for a relative, friend, or for someone who has no apparent family still living, may do so at a nominal fee. Wallace Monument will prepare a 12"X 12 "granite stone on a concrete base. The marker will be engraved with the decedent's name, date of birth, and date of death. Cost is \$65. If you are interested, call Mr. Mark Wright at 806-874-2442

Alcohol Awareness Program for Minors to be Presented

The 69th Judicial District CSCD will be conducting an ALCOHOL AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR MINORS (MIC or MIP) on Wednesday June 14 and Wednesday June 21, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Cost of the program is \$50. All persons needing to attend the program may register at the Adult Probation Office, 412 Denver Suite 501, Dalhart, TX 79022, by 4:00 p.m., Monday, June 12, 2006. Enrollment is limited to the first 25 students.

*** A companion's words of persuasion are effective. ***

—Homer



Sladek Recognized for her Service

The UMC accepts the programs of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies as contributing to the church's goals in its ministry with children and youth. The Office of Civic youth-Serving Agencies/ Scouting of the General Commission on United Methodist Men and the National Association of the United Methodist Scouters recognizes men and women who give unusual amounts of time and energy in dedicated service with children and youth. The Cross and Flame program gives recognition to adult leaders who have given exceptional service in the use and promotion of programs for young people. Janice is an active member of our church and chair of our missions committee. She has always looked out for, cared for, and challenged us in active participation in missions, in scouting, and in ministry. Through many years of service and dedication Janice Sladek has not only met the criteria for the Cross and Flame Award but has exceeded it. Pastor Gene Weinette presented the award to Janice and said on behalf of the First United Methodist church her in Stratford, Texas, "It is my honor and privilege to present to you the Cross and Flame Award and say thank you for all you have done over the years."

Stratford EX-Students Reunion July 28-29

Is anyone out there interested in continuing the Ex-Student Reunion?? The last meeting of about 25, only two showed. The Class of 1956 has their plan and corrected addresses. The Class of 1946 is including the Classes of 1947 and 48. The Class of 36, 66,76,86,96 has not sent any information or corrected address. I guess we get so busy with our own little world we don't have time to include the larger picture or we just don't want to make a commitment.

Foster/Adoptive Parent Informational Meeting June 13th

When abuse and neglect occurs, and children are no longer able to safely remain in their own homes, we are fortunate enough to have individuals willing to provide care and support to them in licensed foster homes. Foster care provides a temporary safe haven for children as Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers and foster parents work toward uniting children with their families. These children, through no fault of their own, were placed in abusive or neglectful situations by their biological parents. In some situations, they are not able to return home and deserve a chance for a new life with adoptive parents who can teach them that family can be a safe place.

There is an urgent need for more families to open their hearts and homes by becoming foster and adoptive parents. To learn more about fostering and adoption, attend an informational meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the CPS office located at 62001-40 West, in Amarillo.

Staying on the Road and Independent will be Topic of Monthly Senior Seminar

Contact: Sue Church, (806) 373-0713,

AMARILLO - "Wheels to Independence" is the topic of discussion at the next Senior Seminar, scheduled for 1:30 p.m. June 8 in the Amarillo Senior Citizens' Center, Meeting Room 115. "Wheels to Independence" is a program offered at Northwest Texas Hospital that evaluates an individual's ability to drive safely and/or determine the need for adaptive equipment in the car, said Sue Church, Texas Cooperative Extension agent in Potter County. The program also conducts training with the adaptive equipment.

Presenting Thursday's program will be Casey Carter Billingsley, occupational therapist at NWTX in acute care and outpatient therapy settings.

She will discuss: changes (physical and cognitive) that occur to affect driving; state laws and driving;

and strategies to continue to drive safely and other driving options.

The program is sponsored by the Potter County Extension Coalition on Aging and Amarillo Senior Citizens' Association. Door prizes provided were donated by Scott's Flowers and Amarillo Senior Citizens' Association.

For more information, contact Church at (806) 373-0713 at the Extension office in Potter County.

*** History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon. ***

—Napoleon

*** Do not, for one repulse, forego the purpose that you resolved to effect. ***

—William Shakespeare

*** The greatest mistake is trying to be more agreeable than you can be. ***

—Walter Bagehot

Xcel Energy Seeks Increase in Texas Base Rates

AMARILLO - For the first time since 1986, Xcel Energy's Texas-based operating company, Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), is proposing to raise its base rates for electric service in Texas to help offset the higher cost of doing business.

The overall rate increase proposal will raise revenues by \$47.1 million a year, or 6 percent. The company is also proposing changes in how it collects certain fuel costs and is proposing to reconcile its past actual fuel costs for the years 2004 and 2005.

The residential rate would rise by 7.4 percent, or \$5.18 more per month

for an average household using 800 kilowatt-hours (kWh). Other rate classes would see different percentage increases, but the overall increase for all customer classes, including residential, commercial and industrial, is 6 percent.

The proposals were filed today with the 81 Texas municipalities that

Xcel Energy serves and with the Public Utility Commission of Texas. If approved,

new base rates - the rates the company charges for depreciation, operations and maintenance expenses of electrical generation, transmission and distribution systems - could take effect in July.

Between 1986 and 2005, the only changes in pricing have been two decreases in the base rates, plus many changes both up and down in the cost of fuel used to generate power in area generating facilities. The fuel costs are not figured into the base rate, and are passed from the suppliers through to customers without any markup for the company. Xcel Energy makes no profit on fuel expense. The most recent adjustment in fuel costs occurred at the beginning of May, when fuel

Cont. on page 6

Chamber News

By Ann Wells

The Memorial Day Ceremony last Monday at the Stratford Cemetery was very well attended. The cemetery looked beautiful with all the flowers and flags. Many people helped to snake the ceremony a success, I especially want to thank Piper Bennett and the 4-H Horse Club. The horses and riders were a tremendous addition. Some people that made it special were Courtney Shields, Ryan Pendergrace, Nathan Bennett, Ray Hauser, and Claude Fedric, The members of the Cemetery Board who take care of the cemetery, put out flags and take them down are to be commended.

The Service men and women and their families who have sacrificed for our country deserve more than we can ever repay. You have made this country great You have defended our freedoms and given as things not even imagined by people in some other countries, 10 this small way we can make a feeble attempt to show our appreciation. Hats off to you.

Letters to The Editor

Letters to Editor Policy
Letters to The Stratford Star are always welcome and will be published if they are signed, and cannot be considered libelous. Comments in the letters are strictly the view of the writer, not the newspaper. They must always have a signature. We will not publish anonymous letters under any circumstances. Letters must be received by noon on Mondays.

Please mail letters to The Stratford Star, Box 8, Stratford, TX 79084 or fax to 806-366-5885 or e-mail stardm@xit.net

Dear Editor,

The Stratford Cemetery really looked nice for the Memorial Day Service thanks to the hard work of the City employees, volunteers on clean-up day and to the many families who remembered loved ones with flower arrangements. I don't believe I have seen so many of the graves decorated.

It has been so dry that the grass isn't green but native grass will hang on until the next rain and it is very costly to water the grass.

Some of the graves have not been water packed and excess water will cause them to fall in. Even those with grave covers will collapse so think twice before watering the grass.

The trees are another matter. I try to water the trees once a month with newer trees some times more often depending on rain, and the new, new trees every other day for a while.

The hose that I furnished have small sprinklers on the ends so I can adjust the water to a slow flow. If you need to use the hose, please return it to the faucet with the sprinkler attached.

As the wind blows, flower arrangements are displaced and sometimes end up in the fence and are disposed of. Please keep the cemetery staff, that keep the area trimmed, in mind when placing decorations. The care of the cemetery says a lot about the care of the community. Thank you for caring.

Gaynelle Riffe

Blissful Pear Sorbet Makes 6 Servings

2 cups water
1 cup sugar
1 can (15 ounces) Bartlett pears, well drained
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

In saucepan, heat water and sugar until sugar is well dissolved. Cool syrup to room temperature. In blender container, combine up to one-half of the syrup and pears; blend until smooth. Stir in lemon juice and remaining syrup. Freeze in small (1-quart) ice cream freezer according to manufacturer's directions.

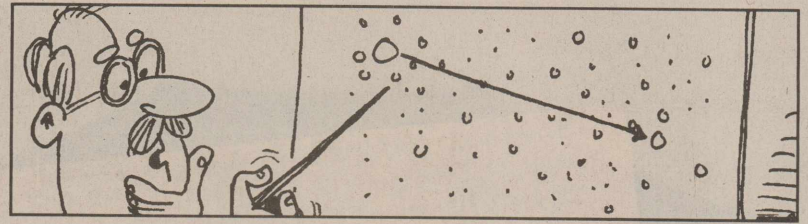
Nutritional Information (Per Serving): Calories 166; Carbohydrate 0g; Fiber 0g; Protein 0g; Fat 0g; Sodium 7mg.

How cunningly nature hides every wrinkle of her inconceivable antiquity under roses and violets and morning dew!

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

There was no respect for youth when I was young, and now that I am old, there is no respect for age—I missed it coming and going.

—J.B. Priestley



Our solar system is located about 30,000 light-years from the center of the galaxy.



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has been serving the needs of Texas families for more than 50 years. We proudly support you, your family and your community involvement in High School athletics.

Sherman County Branch Manager, Jason Cantrell, congratulates Coach Eddie Metcalf on the Stratford, Class 1A, Div I 2005 Football State Championship!

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The Stratford Star

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College Rate

The Stratford Star Box 8

1-806-366-5885

FAX-1-806-366-5885

A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools.

—Douglas Adams



Prices Good : 6/4/06-6/17/06

ALLSUP'S DRINKING WATER REG. 69¢

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.5 LITER BTL.

Crystal Light 2 OZ. . . 3 FOR \$1.00 REG. 39¢

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GATORADE ASSORTED FLAVORS 32 OZ. BOTTLE / REG. \$1.95	2 FOR \$3.00
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FRENCH'S SQUEEZE MUSTARD 14 OZ. / REG. \$2.09	\$1.59
KELLOGGS GO-TARTS FAMILY SIZE	\$3.79

TRY OUR NEWEST CHUCKWAGON ITEM

BBQ Chicken Bites

HOT DOG OR HAMBURGER BUNS TENDER CRUST BUNS REG. \$1.19

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COMBO NO. 4 HOMESTYLE POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69	COMBO NO. 9 CHIMICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.39
COMBO NO. 5 SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69	COMBO NO. 10 2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59

BUY 12 GALLONS OF FRESH ALLSUP'S MILK... GET ONE FREE!

Collect Sell Back "Moo" Sticker Today & You Could Win FREE Milk For A Year!

Kerrick News
By Marylou McDaniel

Brenda Taylor, Littleton, CO., was in Kerrick for Memorial weekend. Coming with her was Robin Rothschild. Mrs. Rothschild is a sister-in-law of Bonnie Miller Altman, Amarillo, formerly of Kerrick. Bonnie and her mother, Nadine Miller, Stratford, visited.

Do you remember when the holiday was called Decoration Day? Patti McDaniel Aurora, CO., Clifford Abbott, Lubbock, Mike & Marylou McDaniel were in Colorado to open cabin for the summer, was deliciously cool Memorial evening they were supper guests of Donna Baker at Colorado City along with some other guests.

Barbara & Terry Schoonover attended Barbara's 40th High School Class Reunion in Guymon Saturday.

Chandra Hawkins and her mother Peggy left Monday morning for Rosenberg, Texas where Chandra will be participating in the state 4-H Shooting contest on Wednesday.

Others on the team are Caleb Horsford, Rustin Russell, and Nathan White. Congratulations on going to State!

Addie Wells had her first birthday recently. It was a family gathering. Addie is the daughter of Roger and Brandi Wells.

The Schoonovers, Trisha, Reed, Rett & Rese went to Trevor Bell's third birthday party Saturday.

Stratford Grain Bowling Team bowled in San Antonio last weekend. Stephanie Kohen, a first year bowler, with a 115 average, rolled & 200 game. Other team members, all from Dalhart, were Laura Baker, Dorinda Dashnow, Daisha Simmons, Lauren Carter.

Pat Boren went along as their coach. She is a former team member. They enjoyed the Alamo and a river cruise. They also saw the capital m Austin, a first time for several.

A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty.

—Author Unknown

FRIENDS DAY
JUNE 13

By Susie Spurlock

SouthStar and Lunch and Learn Extension Education Clubs will be hosting a Friend's Day on Tuesday, June 13.

Members are encouraged to invite a friend for lunch and learn from Stratford Emergency Services on "What to Do Before the Ambulance Arrives."

Friend's Day will be held from 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the County Exhibit Building in Stratford. Lunch will be catered by Tip Top Caterers for \$8.00 per plate.

For more information or to reserve a seat at Friend's Day, call Jean Everett at 966-5346 or the Sherman County Extension Office at 366-2122.



The word "telegraph" comes from the Greek words "tele," which means "afar," and "graphein," meaning "to write."

Sherman County Library
Kids are Reading
Champs! Public Library
Announces Summer
Reading Program for
Stratford Children

The 2006 Texas Reading Club, "Reading: The Sport of Champions!" provides opportunities for children of all ages to enjoy reading. It begins with a kickoff movie at the library on Wednesday, June 7 at 1:30 p.m. and a reading program on Wednesday, June 14 at 1:30 p.m. This free program is co-sponsored by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and includes weekly events alternating between afternoon movies and reading programs.

"More than 200 children read for over 1000 hours last summer," said Library Director Sandy Baskin. "This year we anticipate that the children of Sherman County will break that record and read for at least twice as many hours." Local school officials applauded the public library for its efforts to help local school children maintain and improve their reading skills through die summer months.

Information about the Texas Reading Club is available by calling 366-2200. Programs will run through July 26, 2006. The Sherman County Public Library is

open Monday from 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and on Saturday morning from 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

—P. J. O'Rourke

A good novel tells us the truth about its hero; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its exercise is to the mind what tells us the truth about its exercise is to the body.

—G. K. Chesterton

—Sir Richard Steele

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Movies Beginning June 9

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- The Omen
R Julia Stiles
- The Breakup
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- X-Men: The Last Stand
PG-13 Hugh Jackman Halle Berry
- United 93
R Tim Bevan
- The DaVinci Code
PG-13 Tom Hanks
- Over the Hedge
PG Animated
- RV
PG Robin Williams

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TICKETS: In Advance **Circus Day**

Adult...\$8
Child...\$6 (ages 2-12)

Adult...\$9.50
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To purchase tickets with credit card call 866 BIG TOP 6 • M-F 8-5

STRATFORD
Sunday • June 11
Sponsored by The Stratford Chamber of Commerce

Sherman Country Public Library
Presents
"Reading the Sport of Champions"

Afternoon Movies	Reading Programs
June 2	June 14
June 21	June 28
July 12	July 5
July 26	July 26

All Programs start at 1:30 p.m. Call 366-2200 for more details.

REMINDER:
FREE HOT DOG
FEED AT
STRATFORD GRAIN
CO.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2006
11:30-1:30

- First Assembly of God**
Kevin Anderson, Pastor
921 Fulton
Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm
- First Christian**
Rev. Walter Reed
5th & Main
Sunday School 9:45 am (nursery)
Morning Worship 10:45 am (nursery)
No Sunday Evening Worship Service
Wed. : Youth Choir 3:45 pm, Chi Rho 5 p.m.,
CYF 6 p.m., Bell Choir 6:50 p.m., Adult Choir 8 p.m.
- First United Methodist**
Rev. Gene Weinette
520 N. Main
Sunday School 9:20 am
Morning Worship 10:30 am
Junior High UMY 5:00 pm
Senior High UMY 6:00 pm
- St. Joseph Catholic**
Rev. Dr. Johnson, Reiki Master
6th & Pearl
Rectory - 366 - 5687
Sunday morning: 8:00a.m. (English), 12 noon. (Spanish)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before Mass. or by appt.
Christian Formation Classes: K-6th Grade, Wed. afternoon
Jr. & Sr. High, Wed. - 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Church of Christ**
Ernie Maiwald
N. 3rd & Chestnut
Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:30 am
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
- Calvary Baptist**
James Washburn
302 S. Main - 806-396-5335 lv. message
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wed. Service - 7:30 p.m.
- First Baptist**
396-5554
702 N. 3rd
Sun.—Coffee - 8:30 Sunday School - 9:30
Worship Service - 10:30
Wed. -Adult Choir Practice - 6:00
Children—6:00, youth—7:00
- La Mision Bautista**
Mision Bautista
401 S. Wall 396-5376
Domingo-(Sunday)
Estuela Dominical 9:45 am
- Miercoles (Wednesday)
Servicio De Adoration 11:00 am
& Servicio De Oration 6:00 pm
Servicio De Adoration 6:00 pm
Susninios Durante El Servicio.

The Churches of
Stratford
Welcome You

CONFESSING CHRIST

To be assured of a place in heaven with God and to be saved from the awful wrath of God against your sins, you must confess Jesus Christ as Lord. "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved" (Romans 10:9).

To truly confess Jesus as Lord means several things. You must believe the divine Son of God came into the world to die on the cross in payment for sin (Mark 10:45). You must believe God raised Him bodily from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:4). You must believe this same Jesus ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9). You must also believe Jesus Christ now reigns as Lord of heaven and earth (Matthew 28:28, Acts 2:33).

Not only so, you must personally trust in the death of Christ as the only adequate payment for your sins. You must trust in Christ's resurrection as proof that God accepted His death as adequate payment for your sins. You must commit yourself to serve Jesus Christ as your Lord. Finally, you must confess with your mouth before other men and women, preferably in a local Bible believing church body, what you believe in your heart before God (Matthew 10:32).

Do you trust Christ as Lord? Have you confessed Jesus Christ as Lord?

Sponsored by

- Stratford Grain 396-5541
- Lautz 769-4485
- Stratford Star 396-5885
- Walter Lasley & Sons, INC. 753-4411

Templo Hispano Eben-Ezer
Pastor Roberto Frescas
205 N. Poplar - Hwy 287
Escuela Dominical 10 a.m.
Servicio De Adoracion 5 p.m.
Meir Co Les Serv De Ador 5 p.m.

Kerrick Community Church
Pastor Roy Harris
Community Building
Sunday Morning - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening-6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

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We call life at The Craig LOL! It means *Love of Life* because we're serious about helping each resident achieve a greater Quality of life. Call us today for your loved one or yourself. We'd love to have you over for lunch!

352.7244
The Craig Methodist Retirement Community
5500 W.9th Ave. Amarillo

A member of SMRS, Inc., Sears Methodist Retirement System, Inc. has developed admission criteria without regard to the resident's race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, age or political beliefs.



**Bell & Perez
Graduate from
Amarillo College**

Amarillo College awarded degrees and certificates to 1,049 students at the 76th Commencement ceremonies recently at the Amarillo Civic Center Cal Parley Coliseum. Dr. Steven W. Jones, AC president, provided comments and introductions before the presentation of the John F. Mead Faculty Excellence award by Steve Dutton, faculty senate president, and Nichole Terry, Student Government Association president. Receiving the award was Michael Kopenits, D.M.D., Biology assistant professor. Dr. Paul Matney, vice president and dean of instruction, presented the graduates.

Viviana Perez graduated with an Associate in Science degree. Margaret Bell graduated with a Certificate of Completion. These students are graduates of Stratford High School.

Amarillo College, a two-year community college, is located in the Panhandle of Texas. It served more than 10,573 academic credit students during the fall semester, 2005, and 10,401 enrolled in Continuing Education courses. AC has six campuses; four in Amarillo, one in Dumas, Texas and one in Hereford, Texas.

**60th Annual Dumas
Noon Lions Club Dogie
Days June 7, 8, 9 & 10**

The 60th annual Dumas Noon Lions Club Dogie Days barbecue and celebration will be held on June 7, 8, 9, & 10 at McDade Park in Dumas. Pride of Texas shows will have games and rides beginning at 6 PM on Wed. June 7; Lions club food and game booths are also open at that time.

The picnic will again feature authentic pit cooked barbecue, along with all the trimmings; serving will be from 11 AM to 1:30 PM on Thursday, June 8. Tickets for the barbecue are \$8 on the day of the picnic, but can be purchased through June 7 from any Lions club member for \$7. The picnic location is directly north of the football field in south Dumas.

Saturday's activities begin with a giant parade, beginning at 11 AM. Call 935-2123 to register your entry at no charge. Prizes of \$100 will be awarded in 3 separate categories. The evening will be capped off with the naming of the winner of a 2006 "Screaming Yellow" Mustang at 9 PM. Tickets can be purchased every evening and weekends at the Dumas Super Wal-Mart from now until June 7th.

Proceeds from the annual event are distributed to area charities, including Meals on Wheels, Moore County Senior Citizens Center, American Cancer Society, Make - a - Wish, Boys Scouts, and Crime stoppers, just to name a few.



Ray Lermon and the Sherman Co. Dept. of Transportation have built a new rest area with a covered picnic table west of Texhoma. The Iris Garden Club has put out a row of little trees and flowers around the picnic table. On the night of May 31-someone stole 2 trees from the row of trees. The Club purchased the trees and flowers and worked to put them out. They are saddened and disappointed that someone would act like that.



New Texas Marker at picnic site-Sherman Co. Texas Dept. of Transportation built covered table and benches. Iris Garden Club put out flowers and trees. L-R Ray Lermon, Grace Schafer, Margaret Russell.

There is nothing wrong with today's teenager that twenty years won't cure.
—Author Unknown

**Student
diplomats- to
serve in
ambassador
program**

On June 7, Red Oak High School incoming sophomore Alexis Rife and Ovilla Christian incoming senior Wayland Griffin will join about 30 students in a once-in-lifetime adventure to Australia with the People to People student ambassador program. During the 18-day trip, the students will travel beyond their schoolbooks and experience the culture and environment first hand.

The People to People student ambassador program, founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, strives to offer students the unique opportunity to travel and explore the world, and in turn, gain respect for other cultures and lifestyles.

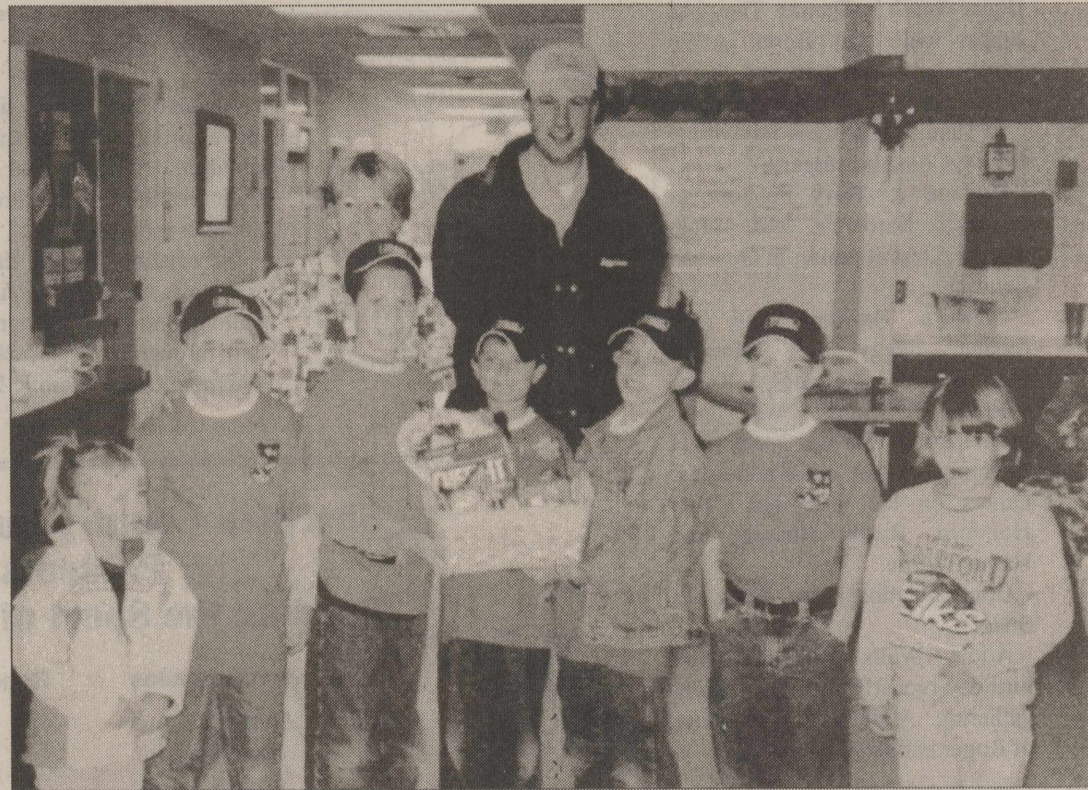
Alexis and Wayland received letters in January, notifying them that they had been selected to enter the People to People student ambassador program. Teachers, friends, family members or community members nominate students into the program: neither Alexis nor Wayland knew who nominated them for the program.

Wayland explained that he receives similar invitations and usually doesn't pursue them further. However, his mother felt they should look into the People to People program. "This time we looked at it as something beneficial."

Wayland said. Alexis and Wayland, accompanied by their mothers, attended an international meeting at Southern Methodist University. At the meeting, the students and parents were presented with details of the program and trip, which include a dive at the Great Barrier Reef, a tour of the Australian Parliament and a stint living with an Australian family.

"After the first meeting, I really started to get excited, Wayland Said. However a student's nomination into the program did not guarantee each student would board the plane in Australia. Students were required to complete essays, collect three recommendation letters and go through an interview process with representatives from the People to People program. The students also had to fund their own way through the program.

In the end, Wayland and Alexis met all the requirements, and now must decide how to pack 18 days worth of clothing and toiletries in once suitcase and one carry on. The fact that the students cannot bring any electronics for entertainment, except cameras, should cut down on how much each student packs. "They have to interact with people," said Anne Griffin, Wayland's mother.



Local Groups Participate in National Volunteer Day

Each year, adult and youth organizations across the country become partners for Join Hands Day. Join Hands Day is sponsored by America's fraternal benefit societies, including Modern Woodmen of America. Locally, Tiger Cub Pack 38 and Modern Woodmen of America joined hands on May 6th. They made a goody basket for the employees of Coldwater Manor. They also sent along a note of appreciation for the great job these employees do. The ladies of Coldwater Manor were very surprised at the gift. We sure had a super time visiting, eating donuts and joining hands for such a great cause!! Shown are Payton Berry, Bret Barnard, Russell Spurlock, Francisco Barajas, Gage Brooks, Tristan Weinette, Katelyn Berry and Walt Berry with a very appreciative Coldwater Manor employee.

**LADY ELK
BASKETBALL CAMP 2006**

ELIGIBILITY: FIRST-EIGHTH GRADE (the grade you will be in at the start of the 2006-2007 school year)
WHEN: June 19th - June 22nd (Monday-Thursday)
TIME: SESSION I (First-Sixth Grades) 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
SESSION II (Seventh-Eighth Grades) 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: HIGH SCHOOL GYM
COST: \$30.00
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, June 9th
(You must pre-register to receive a camp T-shirt and basketball)

GENERAL INFORMATION

*EACH PRE-REGISTERED CAMPER WILL RECEIVE A CAMP T-SHIRT
*EACH PRE-REGISTERED CAMPER WILL RECEIVE HER OWN BASKETBALL
*EACH CAMPER MUST PROVIDE HER OWN PROPER APPAREL - SOCKS, SHORTS, SHIRT, AND BASKETBALL SHOES
FIRST - SIXTH
*THE FIVE FUNDAMENTALS OF BASKETBALL (DREBBLING, PASSING, SHOOTING, REBOUNDING, AND DEFENSE) WILL BE TAUGHT
*THERE WILL BE DRILLS AND COMPETITION AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN
SEVENTH - EIGHTH
*THE FIVE FUNDAMENTALS OF BASKETBALL AND MORE WILL BE TAUGHT. SHOOTING AND TEAM SKILLS WILL BE EMPHASIZED, AND WE WILL BEGIN PREPARING FOR THE 2006-2007 SEASON.
*WE WILL CONCLUDE EACH DAY BY SCRIMMAGING

**LADY ELK
BASKETBALL CAMP 2006
REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME: _____ AGE: _____
SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____
PARENTS: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____
WORK PHONE: _____
CIRCLE ONE: SESSION I SESSION II
SHIRT SIZE: _____
 YOUTH SMALL
 YOUTH MEDIUM
 YOUTH LARGE
 ADULT SMALL
 ADULT MEDIUM
 ADULT LARGE
 ADULT X-LARGE

PLEASE MAIL REGISTRATIN FORMS WITH PAYMENT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
Johnny Hudson
P.O. Box 445
Stratford, TX 79084

For further information, contact Johnny Hudson at 806 366-3584 or 806 290-2239

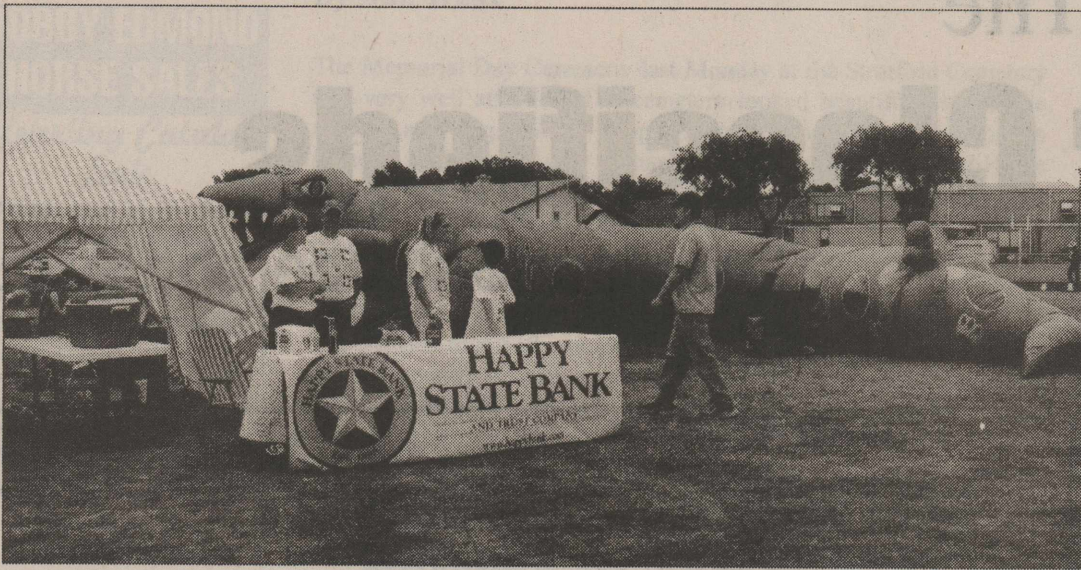
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JUNE 5TH



A hat should be taken off when you greet a lady and left off for the rest of your life. Nothing looks more stupid than a hat.
—P. J. O'Rourke

The world's greatest tea drinkers per capita are the Irish, averaging about 1,600 cups each a year.

<p>Business Directory</p>	<p>Stratford Hospital District Coldwater Manor Stratford Family Medical Clinic Stratford EMS Proudly serving the medical needs of Stratford and Sherman County</p>
<p>WALTER LASLEY & SONS INC. THE Feedyard Since 1953 753-4411</p>	<p>TRCC # 11427 PALMER CONSTRUCTION New Construction Remodeling Roofing Free Estimates 610 E. Taylor P.O. Box 217 Texline, TX 79087 806-333-4253 806-362-4253</p>
<p>Stratford Grain Co. Stratford 396-5541 Lautz 769-4485 4 North Main</p>	<p>Joe Taylor, Photography PO Box 27 1305 N Chestnut Stratford, TX 79084 806-366-2459 Weddings, Portraits, Etc.</p>
<p>Stratford Auto Electric 119 S. Wall, Stratford, Texas 79084 Phone 366-5941 366-5857 Alternator, Starter, Magneto Repair Since 1964</p>	<p>Allen-Tarver Insurance Agency Carolyn A. Tarver Auto • Home • Life • Commercial Bus: (806)396-5810 • Res: (806) 396-2393</p>
<p>Betty Brown's Medical Claim Service 605 S. Main P.O. Box 7 Stratford, TX 79084 806-396-2623</p>	<p>Joe Flores Farm Bureau Insurance 396-5538 office 396-5389 home</p>
<p>Brown's Meat Locker Custom Wholesale & Retail Meat Federally Inspected Hwy 287 South 396-2513</p>	<p>Jesse's Gun Shop Gun Repairs • Sales • Cleaning Hours: Mon. - Fri. - 1730 - 2000 Sat. - 0800-1600 Jesse Resendes (806) 769-4454 111 S. Maple Stratford, TX 79084 (806) 366-3134 Shop</p>
<p>A & I PARTS CENTER AUTOMOTIVE AND INDUSTRIAL PARTS - THE CAR CARE PEOPLE Jerry Ewers Manager P.O. Box 1146 201 N. 2nd-Stratford, TX 79084</p>	<p>Your Home Town Pharmacy. ELK PHARMACY 317 N. Main P.O. Box 380 Stratford, TX 79084 806-396-4505 Major Prescription Plans Accepted Gayland Vandiver, R.Ph. Debbi Vandiver/ Owners Carlton Cards...Millionaire Candy, Gifts • Cookie and Balloon Bouquets</p>
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Happy State Bank had a booth at the Relay for Life held on Friday, June 2, 2006 at the Stratford Football field.



First State Bank of Stratford also was represented at the Relay for Life held on June 2, 2006. Lots of entertainment and food was on hand.

Xcel
Cont. from page 1

costs were reduced 17.5 percent to reflect lower natural gas prices. Consumer prices over the past 20 years have risen almost 80 percent, even as Xcel Energy lowered base rates twice. Accounting for the increases in fuel prices, the total amount customers pay has risen only about 8 percent since 1986. Adjusted for inflation, today's total electric bill is about 40 percent lower than it was in 1986.

"We have worked hard to keep prices down, in spite of inflation, because our low costs are a chief economic driver in this region," said Gary Gibson, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company. "But in order to fund capital improvements to our system, we must take a step toward offsetting increased costs and focus on the needs of a growing customer base."

Electric usage in the Texas and New Mexico territory Xcel Energy serves has risen by more than 50 percent since 1986, Gibson pointed out, and the company must keep up with this growth by investing in power generation, transmission capacity and a host of other system-wide improvements.

Although Xcel Energy is requesting an increase in base rates, it will remain one of the state's lowest-cost suppliers of electricity, Gibson said. The current Xcel Energy price per kilowatt-hour in Texas is around 8.45 cents, including fuel costs. Electric customers in the Houston area pay as much as 15.8 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Another aspect of the upcoming rate filing is the simplification and consolidation of more than 40 rate structures into eight well-defined classes of service that include only one residential rate.

To help customers manage costs, Xcel Energy is publicizing energy saving tips through a brochure called "60 Simple Ways" that details simple and mostly inexpensive steps customers can take to reduce home energy consumption. The brochure can be downloaded at www.xcelenergy.com, or customers may request copies by contacting customer service at 1-800-895-4999.

"While we're proposing a little more than \$5 in increased costs to residential customers, it is possible for customers to save that much and more by taking steps to conserve power in the home," Gibson said.

Xcel Energy will continue to work with customers who need extra time in paying bills, and also will continue working with area nonprofit agencies in finding assistance for customers who cannot pay their bills. In October 2005 the company donated \$250,000 to relief groups in Texas who help pay utility bills for customers needing financial assistance. Customers who need payment arrangements or help in paying bills should contact Xcel Energy at 1-800-895-4999.

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and

natural gas company with regulated operations in 10 Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.3 million electricity customers and 1.8 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at www.xcelenergy.com.

This news release includes forward-looking statements that are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Such forward-looking statements are intended to be identified in this document by the words "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "projected," "objective," "outlook," "possible," "potential" and similar expressions. Actual results may vary materially. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, but are not limited to: general economic conditions, including their impact on capital expenditures; business conditions in the energy industry; competitive factors; unusual weather; changes in federal or state legislation; regulation; risks associated with the California market; currency translation and transaction adjustments; the higher degree of risk associated with Xcel Energy's non-regulated businesses compared with Xcel Energy's regulated business; and the other risk factors listed from time to time by Xcel Energy in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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Diplomats
Cont. from page 4

Alexis and Wayland agree that the trip will change their view on life outside of the United States.

"I think I will be more appreciative of other cultures and regain a new perspective," Alex said.

"It will help me relate to other people," Wayland said.

Jilanne Rife, Alexis's mom and Anne are only slightly hesitant to send their children on a 17-hour flight halfway around the world. They realize the benefits that Alexis and Wayland will reap from this trip that takes them away from their home, family, friends and ultimately away from their comfort and places them in a complete different country.

"It's always scary sending your child away, but it's a one time opportunity," Anne said, think for Wayland, it will be a chance to see and do other things."

"This is a chance to go and see another part of the world," Jilanne said. "It is good on college resumes, builds leadership skills, I think it will change them forever."

Wayland is the grandson of Wayland and Betty Brown of Stratford.

This article appeared in the Ellis County Citizen, Wednesday, May 24, 2006.

Cleaning Secrets Your Grandma Forgot to Tell You

(NU) - While Grandma remembered to pass down many of her recipes, she may have forgotten to tell you how she managed to keep her house so spotless.

Here are a few old-fashioned but tried-and-true cleaning tips:

• **Kitchen:** To help make kitchen cleaning more manageable, focus on one part at a time. For example, clean the refrigerator first, and then move on to the counters and floors.

Don't forget the small details like the garbage disposal. To freshen, put a few citrus rinds in the disposal, turn it on and flush with water. A freshly cut lemon can also be rubbed on the sink to remove stains. If your drains are clogged, use vinegar and baking soda to clean them out.

• **Laundry:** Using a natural laundry booster such as 20 Mule Team Borax in addition to your regular detergent will make laundry a breeze. Add a half cup of 20 Mule Team Borax to the laundry to fight stains, eliminate odors and keep your clothes and linens looking their best. In addition, it acts as a hard water conditioner, which also helps prevent fading. If you have tough stains, get removal tips from the stain guide at www.purex.com.

• **Furniture:** Keep your furniture looking like new by spraying furniture polish on a toothbrush and using it to clean the hard-to-reach crevasses. Also, use iodine to touch up scratches

on dark furniture.

• **Glass:** Glass cleaners often leave streaks and can be expensive. Instead, try using ammonia to clean windows and mirrors. Another tried-and-true method is to use vinegar and water, and plain old crumpled newspaper works just as well as paper towels.

• **Trash cans:** Deodorize all your household garbage cans to eliminate unwanted odors. Just toss a little Borax in the bottom of the can. For immediate air freshening, throw in a fabric sheet.

• **Bathroom:** A thorough, deep cleaning from time to time will help keep your bathroom clean longer, making weekly touch-ups less work. Make sure to scrub your porcelain enamel and fiberglass surfaces.

Deodorize your toilet by letting the cleaner soak in the bowl for 30 minutes. While you're at it, throw your toilet brush in the bowl to deodorize that, too. Instead of expensive cleaners, try lemon juice to clean the soap scum off shower curtains.

Health

(NU) - Better sleep may help you beat the blues, according to a new survey by the Better Sleep Council. The national poll compared the quality and quantity of people's sleep to their reported mood levels over a one-week period. The results showed that those who received the recommended amount of sleep per day (seven to nine hours) were much more likely to report their mood as "excellent" than those who received six hours of sleep or less. The quality of your mattress can have a dramatic effect on how well you fall and stay asleep. It is important to evaluate and replace your sleep set on a regular basis, and always buy the best mattress you can afford. For more information, visit www.bettersleep.org.

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Film

(NU) - Most girls her age are busy. There's homework, boys, fashion, music. So much to do, so little time. All of that is on Natasha Gill's agenda — as well as her movie. The 17-year-old is co-executive producer of the feature-length motion picture, "Americanizing Shelley." Responding to a pitch by family friend and film producer Naomi Cooper, president of American Pride Films Group, and with the help of her clinical psychologist father, Natasha saw that the film's \$5 million budget got funded. The film tells the story of a wannabe Hollywood talent manager's quest to Americanize an Indian girl from the Himalayas. To learn more, visit www.americanizingshelleythemovie.com.

Perpetual devotion to what a man calls his business is only to be sustained by perpetual neglect of many other things.

—Robert Louis Stevenson