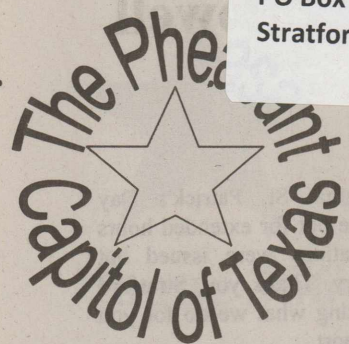


Sherman County Museum 07/12
PO Box 1248
Stratford, TX 79084

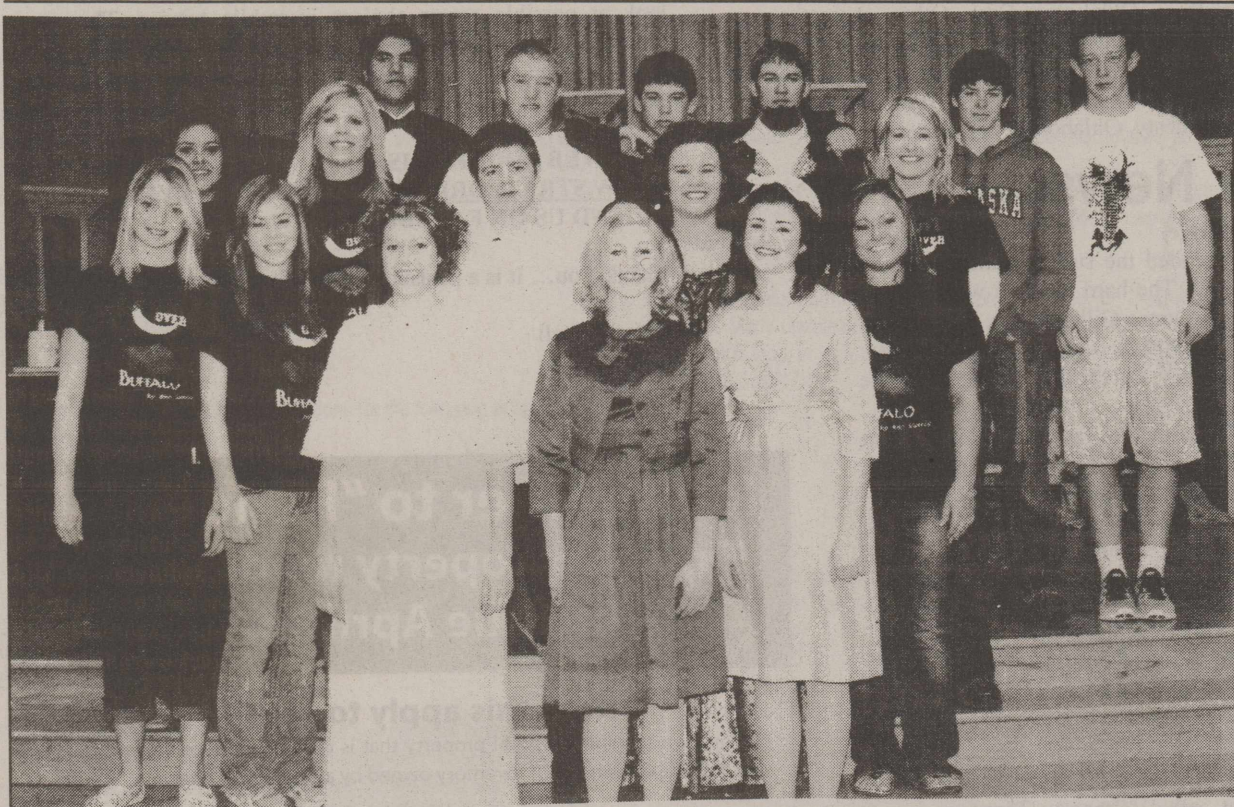


The Stratford Star

75 cents

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

Number 12 March 22, 2012



The SHS UIL One Act Play under the direction of Ronna Riffe and Stacy Metcalf performed their play *Moon Over Buffalo* for the high school and faculty on Monday morning, March 19 and then performed for the public at their annual dinner theater that same evening. They did an outstanding job! This year's play is dedicated in memory of Blaine Killian. They go to contest on Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Cast and crew shown above B/F - L/R are Derek Vasquez, Chase Lutes, Preston Burr, Jordan Johnson, Tyler Seward, Logan Uttley, Perla Reta, Stacy Metcalf, Adrian DuPlessis, Kammi Birdsong, Ronna Riffe, Allissa Palmer, Jacie Seward, Mary Ann Spurlock, Shyanne Acker, Katy Moore and Macy Everson.

More Pics of play on page 6

Sales Tax Funds available to assist businesses

If you lived here in 1996 you may remember City of Stratford voters approved the 1/2 cent sales tax called the 4B Tax; recently the name 4B tax was changed to Type B tax by the State Legislature. The 1/2 cent sales tax is added to any taxable purchase in the city limits and is used to help with economic development. The Stratford Sales Tax Board (SSTB) was appointed by City Council in 1996 and when there are vacancies, Council appoints replacements.

Since the SSTB does not have an active office, they maintain a contract with the Sherman County Development Committee (SCDC). The SCDC Office is paid a fee by the SSTB to handle inquiries, applications, etc. for Type B funds. These funds are available as loans to new businesses as well as current operating businesses. There are guidelines that applicants must follow and they are required to have an investment in their project also. After all "legwork" is completed by the SCDC Office the application is presented to the SCDC Board for their approval or disapproval, then the application and the recommendation from the SCDC Board is taken to the Sales Tax Board. This process is similar to a bank's loan application and is handled as privately as possible. Both boards are required to sign Confidentiality Agreements before the information is presented to them.

If you have an idea for a new business or would like to expand your current operation check into the funds that are available through the Type B Economic Development Funds. Applications are available at the SCDC Office at 301 N. Main St. You can call the office and ask for the information and/or application to be mailed to you; office phone number is 806.366.2897 or 806.753.6897 and you can email your request to scdc@xit.net.

Storm Spotter Class

A storm spotter class will be held on Thursday April 5th at 7:00 P.M. at the Stratford Fire Department. This is an opportunity to be trained to recognize tornado clouds as well as other types of clouds. Sherman County has a few volunteers who perform the task of storm spotter but we could use more. If you are currently a storm spotter or are interested in learning about more, please plan to attend the training. For more information contact Margaret Ewers Sherman County Emergency Management Coordinator at 366-2021

Presidential Candidate Visits Stratford

John Davis, Republican Candidate for President, visited Stratford Wednesday, March 14. Mr. Davis from Grand Junction, Colorado, is on the Texas Republican Primary ballot and has visited 254 counties in Texas. John Davis for President, A conservative Republican Choice, Contract to America: 1. Balanced Budget; 2. term Limits; 3. Upholding the Constitution of the United States; 4. Common Sense leadership; 5. Less Government; 6. Border control/work visas/ citizenship for law abiding aliens.

Stratford ISD Old Bus Barns for Sale

The Stratford Independent School District Board of Trustees has resolved to sell the old bus barns on Lots 11-14 in Block Number 2, in the town of Stratford, Texas, recorded in Volume 109 page 456 as per the map or plat thereof on file with the County Clerk of Sherman County, Texas. The property will be sold as one unit. The selected bidder will be responsible for all survey, title policy and closing costs.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., April 9, 2012. Stratford I.S.D. has the right to reject or accept any and/or all bids, to make awards as they may appear advantageous and to waive all formalities in bidding. Bids will be reviewed with possible action at the Board of Trustees meeting on April 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Stratford ISD does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Published in The Stratford Star, Thursday, March 22, 2012 and Thursday March 29

Who is Your Hero???

Page 4

ATTN: FARMERS & LANDOWNERS

If you have land that came out of CRP in 2010 or 2011, you need to contact the Appraisal District Now. The land classification may need to be corrected and could reduce your taxes. You will need to complete a new Ag form prior to June 29, 2012 for any land reclassifications to take effect for the 2012 tax roll. Sherman county Appraisal District, 402 N. 3rd, Stratford, TX or call 806-366-5566.

A Medical Fund has been set up for Jessica Acosta at the First State Bank of Stratford

Special

(Wednesday thru Tuesday)

2 p.m. till closing

Happy Hour 2-5 p.m.

Any size drinks - 85 cents

Hamburger & Small Fries

\$2.99

El Primo's

Call 806-366-3799

1120 E. Texas Hwy 54

Volunteers Needed

Stratford Youth Baseball League needs volunteers. If you are interested, please call Tammy Couch 806-305-2618. We are in need of coaches, coaches, coaches!!! In order to have a successful year we need adults to volunteer their time, knowledge and leadership to our youth. Without your help our kids won't have a team!



American Legion

BOYS STATE-GIRLS STATE

Hamburger Feed Fundraiser

Sunday, March 25, 2012

Sherman County Barn

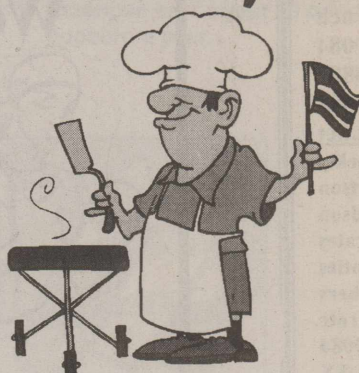
11:30-1:30

FREE WILL DONATION

EVERYONE INVITED

SCDC 2ND ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

JULY 28, 2012



Watch the Stratford Star for details!

Story Time@Your Library

The spring session of "Story Time" will begin on Monday, March 19th at the Sherman County Public Library. Mrs. Yvonne Pittman will be in charge of this session and all children are sure to enjoy the stories and activities. "Story Time" will be held on Monday, March 19, April 2, April 23, and April 30. Please call the Sherman County Library at 366-2200 to enroll your child or if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Laura Bush Keynote Speaker for Power of Purse April 5

By Gaynelle Riffe

The Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health will host the 3rd annual "Power of the Purse" Luncheon and Designer Purse Auction, Thursday April 5 at the Amarillo Civic Center Heritage Ballroom. The Purse Auction will open at 10:30-1:00. Luncheon 11:30 featuring keynote speaker, Laura W. Bush an advocate for women's health.

"Ladies First," the third annual Power of the Purse Luncheon will benefit the programs and research that honor and educate those who care about this Pioneer Spirit and the role of women today and tomorrow everywhere. "Ladies First: *First in Family, First in Health, First in Community*"

Funding from "Power of the Purse" 2010 launched the Infant Risk Call Center in Amarillo and 2011 beneficiary was GIRL Power (Growing Relationships in Life)

Reservations are limited: Call Jennifer Smith in Development 806-356-4614 Sneak a Peek at the Purse Auction

www.laurabushinstitute.org/amarillo/community/PoP.aspx

Action & Acting Set for the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Stage

by Sara Jane Richter

Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell will present an original drama entitled *If Only It'd Rain* on the stage in Centennial Theatre in Hughes-Strong Hall on three separate occasions: Sunday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m., and Tuesday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for all performances.

The play, directed by Tito Aznar and written by Sara Jane Richter, occurs on Black Sunday—April 14, 1935—in the middle of the Dust Bowl on a Cimarron County farm belonging to the DeVoll family: Malcolm, Verda, and their son Harlan.

Familiar OPSU faces have the roles of the DeVoll family members. Mandy Battenhorst of Goodwell and director of the OPSU bookstore portrays wife and mother Verda while her son is played by Jeremy Black an OPSU computer graphics major from Oklahoma City. Other characters include Ray played by Kyler Wheeler, a psychology major from Amarillo, and Ray's wife Red portrayed by Krista Gum, an OPSU graduate and Anchor D Bank employee originally from Hardesty, Oklahoma.

Kerrick News

By Marylou McDaniel

A large crowd attended the supper Saturday at the Community building. The hard workers were Roy & Ciccy Harris, Bill & Donna Gillenwaters.

Leonard & Peggy Hawkins went to Santa Fe, N.M. over the weekend. They a great time taking in all the sights.

Heath, Kenna, Dempsey and Jackson Collums spent spring break in Mississippi. They had a great time visiting family, fishing and seeing friends.

Mike, Patti and Marylou McDaniel met cousins in Laughlin, NV. Dean, Emmalee McDaniel of Sacramento, Norma Royer and daughter Julie if Laughlin.

Exemption Information Available From Appraisal Office

Sherman County Appraisal District offers property owners a pamphlet called "Property Taxpayer Remedies". Published by the State Comptroller's Office in Austin, the "Remedies" pamphlet explains the appraisal protest process.

Homeowners may file for various property tax exemptions offered by taxing units on residence homesteads. In Texas, a homestead is generally the house and yard used as the owner's principal residence. The Appraisal District can explain each exemption and how to apply for it. Homeowners do not need to reapply for the exemption this year if they received the exemption last year.

For example, all homeowners may file for a \$15,000 general exemption from their principal home's value for school taxes. In addition, certain disabled homeowners and those aged 65 or older may qualify for an additional \$10,000 exemption from the value of their home.

Disabled Veterans with a service-connected disability may present the Appraisal District with proof from the Veterans Administration to qualify for exemptions based on their percent of disability. Veterans designated 100% disabled or unemployable may qualify for a 100% homestead exemption.

Productivity appraisal is another type of tax relief available to agricultural landowners. Appraisal District staff can offer more information about special land appraisal, tax rendition and exemptions. We urge all property owners to read the pamphlet and learn about possible property tax relief.

Remember, taxpayers must file an exemption application with the Appraisal District office no later than April 30. The "Remedies" pamphlet and all exemption forms are available at the Appraisal District office, 402 N. 3rd in Stratford or by calling (806) 366-5566.

Multi-use exemption applies to some taxpayers.

Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 11.254, provides for an individual to exempt one passenger car or light truck from personal property taxes if the vehicle is used for both business and personal purposes.

11.254. Motor Vehicle Used for Production of Income and for Personal Activities

- Except as provided by Subsection (c), an individual is entitled to an exemption from taxation of one motor vehicle owned by the individual that is used in the course of the individual's occupation or profession and is also used for personal activities of the owner that do not involve the production of income.
- In this section, "motor vehicle" means a passenger car or light truck as those terms are defined by Section 502.001, Transportation Code.
- A person who has been granted or applied for an exemption under this section may not apply for another exemption under this section until after the application or exemption has been denied.
- This section does not apply to a motor vehicle used to transport passengers for hire.

To qualify for the exemption individuals need to fill out an application form available from the appraisal office at 402 N. Third Street in Stratford. **The exemption form must be filed prior to April 30.** Annual Renewal of this exemption is no longer required (Sec. 11.43c). However the exemption is for a specific vehicle, so if you change vehicles or replace the tag you must file a new exemption form.

Income producing vehicles are and continue to be taxable. The law allows the local taxing jurisdictions to choose to tax personal vehicles. The legislature did not exclude the multi-use exemption in jurisdictions that tax vehicles for personal use.

Attention to all subscribers!!

Rate changed

The Stratford Star is no longer be sending out notices when your paper is due. Check the label on the paper and see what month your subscription expires. **I will be putting "Stars" on the current month" If you have a Star on your label it means that your sub expires that month.** If you are not sure the amount you owe if you live out of the area call 753-7373 and double check. Locally is \$33.00 and out of the area \$40.00. If you are paying for someone else's sub, you will be billed for that person. The Stratford Star, PO Box 8, Stratford, TX 79084
Thanks-Marty

Mitchell Theaters

Northridge 8
Guymon, OK
www.northridge8.com
580-338-3281
Southgate 6
Liberal, Kansas
www.southgate6.com
620-624-5573
Garden City, Kansas
www.sequoyah8.com
620-275-2760



The Stratford Star

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From the desk of Chief Powell



We hope everyone had a great St. Patrick's Day weekend. All of the officers were out for extended hours to keep you safe. Several citations were issued but overall, no arrests were necessary. Thank you, Stratford and Sherman County for respecting what we do for you and we truly appreciate your support.

April 24th is the planned sign-up day for the Public Safety Explorer Program. Ages 16-21 can participate. Young adults will be able to volunteer and get an inside look at possible career choices in public service. The Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, and our local EMS have all jumped on board for this awesome youth program!

OUR WEB ADDRESS IS:
WWW.STRATFORDPD.COM; YOU CAN EVEN FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK!!

Thank You... It is a pleasure for all of us to serve you!!

Chief Powell

Remember to "Render!" Taxable property renditions are due April 16.

Does this apply to you?

If you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income, such as the equipment or inventory owned by a business, it does.

What is a rendition?

A rendition is a report to your county appraisal district that lists all of the taxable property that you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year. This often applies to furniture, fixtures, equipment or inventory owned by a business.

What are the advantages of filing?

- You give your opinion of your property's value.
- You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address.
- If your property's value depreciated, you can file a report of decreased value.

What is the deadline?

- The last day for filing 2012 renditions is April 16.
- An automatic extension is available if requested in writing by the April 16 deadline.
- The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after the deadline for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

REMEMBER!!

Filing is your responsibility. If you render late, don't render or file an incomplete or false rendition, you may face a 10 to 50 percent penalty.

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:

Sherman County Appraisal District
402 N 3rd Street
PO Box 239
Stratford, TX 79084

Or contact:

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
Property Tax Assistance Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

or call: 1-800-252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu and then press "1" to contact the Information Service Team.

Or find us online at: <http://window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax>



A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

Deadline for

The Stratford Star
Deadline for Stratford Star items. Photos by Sundays at 4 p.m. Letters to Editor 9 a.m. on Mondays (typed) and all other articles and ads at 10 a.m. on Mondays. (PLEASE) Thank you

15 Years, 4500 Babies in Dumas

Women's Health Center

Normal and high risk pregnancies
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Breast cancer screening
Infertility and family planning
Menopause and hormone problems

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OBSTETRICS-GYNECOLOGY

110 S. Bliss Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon



XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Celebrates 61 Years...

A warm and sunny day greeted approximately four hundred XIT Rural Telephone members, invited guests, and employees as they gathered at the Rita Blanca Lake Coliseum in Dalhart, Texas, on Wednesday, March 14th to celebrate XIT Rural Telephone's 61st Annual Meeting of the Membership. One hundred and twelve were voting members. Members and invited guests were served a delicious roast beef dinner by XIT's management and employees. The meal was catered by Bar H Steak House of Dalhart.

Round tables were draped with royal blue and lime green tablecloths, the Cooperative's company colors. The stage was set with blue draping and a white banner depicting XIT's organization in 1951. Ficus trees and colorful tulips in white pots helped to create an inviting setting for the meeting.

The invocation was delivered by XIT Director, E.H. Little. XIT Board President, J.W. McClellan, welcomed the members and recognized the guests. Among the guests were former XIT General Manager, Jimmy R. White, who served the Cooperative for nearly 30 years before his retirement, and Ruby V. Smith, who served as office manager/bookkeeper for 33 years.

Board Vice President and Marketing Committee Chairman, Walter E. Lasley, Assistant Manager, Kathy Duggan, and Sales and Customer Relations Representative, Trena Howell, presented the 2012 XIT Rural Telephone Educational Program recipients and their families to the membership. The 2012 scholarship winners are: Sarah Diller, Dalhart High School senior; Rhyon Burton, Stratford High School senior, and Katlyn Boyer, Felt High School senior. Each student received a \$2000 scholarship to the college of his or her choice. The funds will be divided over the number of semesters to be attended by the students. 2012 marks the 13th year for this program, and since its inception, XIT has awarded a total of \$83,750.00 in scholarships.

President McClellan then called on XIT's General Manager, Darrell Dennis, to present his annual report to the membership. Dennis began by expressing his appreciation to the City of Dalhart's employees for their assistance in setting up the tables and chairs for the meeting and to Bar H employees for a job well done in catering the meal.

Dennis continued by saying that it had been a busy year for the Cooperative as it has placed over 206 miles of cable in its rural serving area during the year. He explained that currently over 50% of XIT's rural members are served by fiber optic plant. Dennis relayed to the membership that where the Cooperative has placed fiber, the trouble calls have dropped to almost nothing. He went on to say that fiber provides the best medium for broadband services, and that in the long run, fiber should provide the lowest cost to operate. This, in turn, is in agreement with the Cooperative's mission statement ... "To provide high quality telecommunication services at the lowest possible cost to its members".

Manager Dennis explained that the Cooperative serves high speed Internet services on both fiber and copper plant and that the Cooperative operates about 1900 miles of buried cable, with a density per mile of .6 customers. Dennis further explained that fiber offers the most future proof, reliable means to provide broadband in rural America.

Dennis relayed the importance of Universal Service Funding to the Cooperative. He said that USF has traditionally been a cost recovery mechanism. Rural areas were recognized as expensive to serve, and to encourage investment in rural networks, there had to be a means of cost recovery. Dennis stated that whether you are a Cooperative or an independent family-owned telephone company, no one can afford to invest if it does not make a profit. In short, you have to invest money to make money. In the past few years, this cost recovery has been re-branded as a subsidy.

Dennis went on to say that the issue of USF funding has been in play for years; however, industry dynamics are forcing the issues ... loss of access lines due to the use of cellular phones is one issue; loss of long distance and access revenues based on the fact that many wireless plans include long distance is another, and the overall change occurring in the market place is another. He explained that many of our policy makers have questioned whether or not a terrestrial network is even necessary with the acceptance of wireless. While it is true that wireless has replaced the home phone for many customers, and it is true that wireless can provide data connectivity, it is also true that if it were not for the landline networks of XIT Rural Telephone and its subsidiary, XT&T, and Windstream, not one cell phone would work north of Amarillo. The landline network still provides the largest, most reliable pipe to the Internet and private line circuits for business and utility companies.

Manager Dennis informed that Congress and the FCC must grapple now with how to reform USF. He encouraged the membership to talk with our state and federal representatives to encourage them that they have to get the USF reform right. Their decisions will impact the type of communications services that will be provided in the rural areas in the future, which will impact the livelihood of small communities all across America.

Dennis concluded by telling the membership, "Currently, the Cooperative is in good shape, both financially, as well as technically, since most of our system has been modernized, but changes in the Universal Service Fund may dictate that we make changes in our organization in the future."

Manager Dennis then introduced Doug Schoppe, Comptroller, and asked him to give the financial reports of the Cooperative and its wholly-owned subsidiary, XIT Telecommunications & Technology, Ltd.

President McClellan, called on Jim Gustin, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to present the report on the nominations for directors for the ensuing three-year term. Those nominated were District I, Dallam County — E.H. Little; District II, Hartley County — Gary Finch, and District III, Sherman County — Steven Baskin.

The election process was then turned over to president, J.W. McClellan. McClellan called for nominations from the floor. There being none, he appointed a Canvassing Committee consisting of Jack Haile, Michael Diller, and Cecil McClellan to tally the ballots. The committee declared the election of E.H. Little, Gary Finch and Steve Baskin.

Director E.H. Little then conducted the drawing for the door prizes, which were awarded to attending members and their children. Director Little was assisted by XIT employees, fellow director, Garec McBryde and Kooper Walden, 3 1/2-year-old son of Nathaniel and Keri Walden. The winner of the \$500 cash grand prize was Rita Little. Winners of the \$300 cash grand prizes were: Jack Haile, Jane Murray and Margo Sidwell. Jim Gustin and Marvin Schmidt were \$100 cash grand prize winners.

All the members - children and grandchildren (12 years and under) were given stuffed monkeys with "Don't monkey around, call XIT" written on the monkey's blue t-shirt. After the prizes were distributed, the meeting was adjourned.

Immediately following the conclusion of the annual meeting, the Board of Directors met at the Cooperative's headquarters and held their Organizational Meeting. At this meeting, the following officers were elected: J.W. McClellan, President; Walter E. Lasley, Vice President and Gary Finch, Secretary-Treasurer.

Tax Deferral available for elderly homeowners

Texans aged 65 or older can postpone paying delinquent and current taxes on their homes. They can take advantage of a tax option called "over-65 deferral" by signing an affidavit at the Sherman County Appraisal District office.

If the affidavit is on file, an older homeowner cannot lose a homestead because of delinquent taxes. Once a homeowner files an over-65 tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit for delinquent taxes as long as that person owns and lives in that home. The tax deferral only postpones paying delinquent taxes on the home; it does not cancel them.

The form and more information are available at the Appraisal District office, 402 N. 3rd Street in Stratford or call (806) 366-5566.

Attention Stratford: prom decorations needed: we need clear lights, any greenery. If you want it returned after the prom please put your name and phone number on it and deliver to Crystal Pitti at her house. All junior parents are meeting Tuesday's at 7 p.m. at the high school for decorations.

Sherman County Historical Commission hosted Guest Speaker

Bob Fleming, Texoma, is a volunteer who has listed over 1400 entries for the Stratford Cemetery on the Find a Grave website. He gave a very interesting program on genealogy websites and will be willing to share his knowledge. The Imagination Station will host a workshop using the computer lab or laptop connections if there is an interest. The Historical Commission is interested in preserving history at the Cemetery by encouraging permanent grave markers and providing permanent markers for unknown or no family members to contact. Guests present; Bob and Sue Fleming, Joyce Wells, Christine Brandvik. Commission members: Alfred Pronger, Jill Killian, Ginger Roach, Ann Wells, Gaynelle Riffe.

The next Commission meeting will be April 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sherman County Commissioners Court Room.

A burn ban is in effect for Sherman County as of February 14, 2012. Please help prevent fires. Violation of the burn ban is a Class C misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500.

Una prohibicion de quemar es vigente para el Condado de Sherman el 14 de febrero de 2012. Por favor ayude a prevenir los fuegos. La violacion de la prohibicion de quemar es una Clase C delito con una multa hasta \$500.

Stratford Hospital District

"Proudly serving the medical needs of Stratford and Sherman County."

Stratford Family Medical Clinic

Mon. - Thurs. 8 AM - 5 PM, Fri. 8AM - 3 PM
396-5583 Tommy Brian, ANP

Elk Pharmacy

Mon. - Fri. 9 AM - 5:30 PM
366-5505 Angie Hipp, RPH

Coldwater Manor Nursing Facility

396-5568 Karl Punch, LNFA

Stratford EMS

9-1-1 or 396-2844 Jimmy Lanning, Director

The Stratford Hospital District operates on a non-discriminatory basis, giving equal treatment and access to services without regard to sex, race, religion, age or ethnicity.

The Churches of Stratford Welcome You

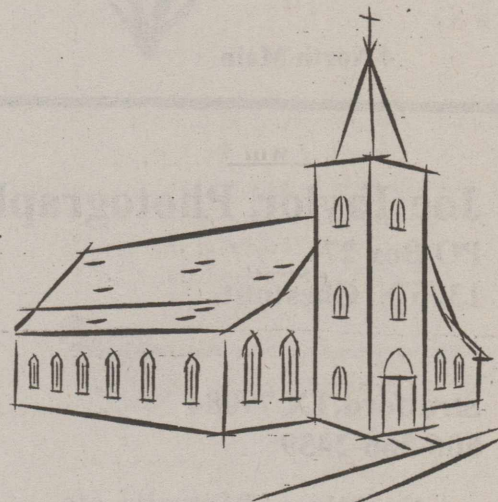
First Assembly of God
Kevin Anderson, Pastor
921 Fulton
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
Pastor Gary Smith
5th & Main
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. (nursery)
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. (nursery)
No Sunday evening Worship Service

First United Methodist
Rev. David Terry
520 N. Main
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Junior High UMY 5:00 p.m.
Senior High UMY 6:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
6th & Pearl
Rectory 366-5687
Sunday morning 8:00 a.m. (English) 9:30 (Spanish)
Sacrament of Reconciliation Before Mass or t.
Christian Formation Classes K-6 Grade Wed. Afternoon
Jr. & Sr. High. Wed. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Pastor Jason Stone
702 N. 3rd
Sun.-Coffee 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Children 6 p.m. youth 7 p.m.



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Stratford Grain 396-5541
Lautz 769-5541

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Stratford Star
366-5885

Church of Christ
Brad Beckett
N. 3rd & Chestnut
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Heritage Bible Baptist
Pastor Rick Carter
302 S. Main
For more info-call 396-2212
Morning worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wed. Service 7:30 p.m.

Eben-Ezer Templo Hispano
Asambleas De Dios
Pastor: Juan M. Valenzuela
806 366-3071
205 N. Poplar-Hwy 287 268-2188
Escuela Dominical 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Servicio De Adoracion 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Miercoles: Servicio De Adoracion 6-8 p.m.

Kerrick Community
Pastor Roy Harris
Community Building
10 a.m. Worship Service

La Mision Bautista
Mision Bautista
401 S. Wall 396-5376
Domingo (Sunday)
Estuela Dominical 9:45 a.m.
Miercoles (Wednesday)
Servicio De Adoracion 11 a.m. Estudio
Biblico & Servicio De Oracion 6 p.m.
Servicio De Adoracion 6 p.m. se Cuidamos
Susunos Durante El Servicio

Who is Your Hero??



Last week a family member of ours, who lives in Kansas, saved an elderly man from a burning car. Everyone is calling him a hero. He said he just reacted, like anyone would do. I don't know if everybody would have done the same thing, we like to think we would. But it got me to thinking, who are our everyday "Hero's" People we admire or look up to. Not doing anything as dramatic as saving another one's life, but maybe how that person conducts his everyday life may have an influence on someone else. So I am asking my readers to tell us about someone they may have as a hero. Write me a letter 350 words or less if you know someone you consider a hero. We will publish the letters in the newspaper. It does not matter what your age is, we want to hear from you. I believe at this most difficult time in our nation and country, we need some feel good stories. Something to make us smile and remind us why we are here on earth. Please share with our readers who you may think of as a "Hero" to you. As I told my niece about her husband, who said he is not a hero, I told her the 94 year old man he saved I bet considers him his hero.

Business Directory

Vincent Insurance Agency

Sabrina Melton
 PO Box 739 Office: 806-396-2456
 Stratford, TX 79084 Home: 396-2512
 Email: vincins@xit.net

Great Lengths Salon



Walk-ins always welcomed

Melissa White
 (806) 396-5004

Stratford Auto Electric

119 S. Wall, Stratford, TX 79084
 Phone-366-5941 or 366-5857
 Alternators, starters, Altronic Repair
 Since 1964
 Roy McAlister

A & I Parts Center

Automotive and Industrial Parts
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THE STRATFORD STAR
Thursday, March 22, 2012
Page 5

Help Wanted

The City of Stratford is currently accepting applications for employment within the Public Works Department. High School diploma or GED is required. Previous experience preferred, but not required. An employment application can either be picked up at City Hall or downloaded from the City of Stratford website at www.stratfordtx.com under the "careers" tab. Applications will be accepted until March 29, 2012 at noon. Submit applications and resumes to:
City of Stratford
PO Box 188
Stratford, TX 79084-0188
ATTENTION: Kathy Rendon
E-mail: KathyRendon@ci.stratford.tx.us
3-21-3-29-2x's-c

Cimarron Feeders is accepting applications for the following positions:
-Feed Truck Driver
-Mill Laborer
-Processor
-Penrider
17 Keyes S Keyes, OK on HWY 171
15 miles N of Stratford, TX on HWY 287, then right 5 miles on HWY 171. Apply in person: M-F 8a.m.-3p.m. or call (580) 543-6383
Great benefits for full-time positions that include: Medical, Dental & Vision insurance as well as 401 K and paid time off. Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F

Stratford Feedyard-Looking for a qualified maintenance person to work in feed mill. Duties include: servicing equipment, change bearings, some fabrication and electrical work in mill. Competitive wages, health benefits and retirement. We are located at 14001 CR 9, Stratford, TX Contact Lars Brauer at 806-396-2548 or 806-396-5501. Email at lars.brauer@cactusfeeders.com

Truck driver w/class A or B CDL license w/clean driving record. Employee Insurance & 401 K after 90 days. Call Edward Ned @806-344-7422. 2-9-tfn

Coldwater Manor is taking applications for Dietary. Please apply in person at Coldwater Manor-1111 Beaver Rd. Stratford, TX 79084. EOE 3-1-tfn

Coldwater Manor is seeking a full time certified medication aide or LVN. Please apply in person at 1111 Beaver Rd. Stratford, TX EOE 3-22-tfn

Estate Sale

Estate Sale Saturday, March 24th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Clothes, kids clothes, shoes, household items and furniture. 606 S. Fulton 3-22-c

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Houses for Sale

401 S. Maple, Stratford 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living rooms, laundry room, garage. Includes: 3 lots beside the house. (806) 366-3512 or 753-7513.

House for Sale: 313 N. Pearl-3 Bdr, 2-1/2 Bth 806-930-6920 2-23-tfn

House for sale by owner-611 N. 3rd Street-newly remodeled-1900 sq. ft. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, C/H Call 753-6677 or 366-7664. Possible Owner Finance with Large Down 3-8-tfn

House for Sale-3-bdrm, 1 1/4 bath, approx 2000 sq. ft., 2-car attached garage, Many updates inside in 2008, as well as new 50-yr roof, 12 x 20 storage bldg, privacy fence, 403 Purnell. For appt. call 366-3586 3-15 thru 4-26th 7x's

For Rent

House for Rent: Nice clean updated country home on pavement \$700.00, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, wood burning stove in living room. Will be available April 1, if interested please contact First State Bank Trust Department (806) 396-5521. 3-23-tfn

1 Bdrm house for rent in country, 5 miles from Stratford. \$400.00 a month partly furnished with garage. Call 753-6694 3-22-tfn

Card of Thanks

DEAR FRIENDS,
RANDY AND I WANT TO THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS, YOUR NOTES, THE PHONE CALLS, AND YOUR SMILES AND CONCERNS. THERE ARE SO MANY BLESSINGS IN SUCH A DIFFICULT SITUATION. YOU ARE TRULY THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE RECEIVED. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO STAYED WITH RANDY DURING THE SURGERY. THIS WAS VERY COMFORTING TO BOTH OF US. GARY SMITH, OUR PASTOR, HAS BEEN WITH US EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. THANK YOU SO MUCH. YES, STRATFORD IS TRULY A WONDERFUL PLACE TO BE SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS AND FAMILY. PLEASE KEEP OUR SISTER-IN-LAW AND BROTHER, LAVON AND STEVE WILLIAMS IN YOUR PRAYERS AS LAVON BEGINS MORE CHEMO. RANDY & I LOVE ALL OF YOU.

MARY PAT & RANDY WILLIAMS

Card of Thanks

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS FOR THE PRAYERS AND HUGS AND CONCERNS FOR BOB WHEN HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL. THE GET WELL CARDS AND THE VISITS. ALL THE GOOD FOOD THAT WAS BROUGHT TO THE HOUSE AND VISITS AFTER WE GOT HOME. A BIG THANK YOU TO JIMMY CHESHER AND JOHNNY GARZA FOR FIXING THE CAR. OUR CHURCH FAMILY (FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD) PRAYER WORKS. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

BOB & MARLENE HURT & FAMILY

TAX TIPS

It's Tax Time. Are You Taking All the Deductions Allowed?

NewsUSA

(NU) - Here's a scary number to keep in mind if you're just getting your tax receipts together: \$1 billion.

No, it's not the amount that Warren Buffet's secretary - let alone Buffet personally - paid the IRS in her lifetime. It's how much taxpayers approximately wind up forfeiting each year to the government because of self-inflicted tax errors like: failing to claim tax credits and deductions legally due them; choosing the wrong filing status; and not bothering to send in a return at all.

Well, guess what? A slew of recent changes in the tax law won't make things any easier this year.

"At a time when taxpayers are hurting, it really doesn't make sense to leave money on the table," says Elaine Smith, master tax advisor at H&R Block, the giant tax preparation firm (www.hrblock.com).

Here are some things - good and bad - to watch out for:

- **Casualty losses.** Hurricane Irene, Midwest tornadoes, Texas wildfires, Mother Nature went a little nutty last year, and - if the president declared your area a disaster - you could be able to claim your loss as an itemized deduction on your 2011 return or on an amended 2010 one.

- **Reduction in the Energy Savings Home Improvement Credit.** At its height, this was a 30-percent credit on the cost of high-efficiency windows, furnaces, central AC and the like. It's now 10 percent. Plus, the maximum lifetime credit went from \$1,500 to \$500. "That means if you spent a total of \$5,000 on IRS-approved upgrades in 2011," says Smith,



Don't let tax-filing errors cost you extra dollars.

"you can claim a \$500 credit. Unless, that is, you'd already maxed out in prior years."

- **Expiration of the tax credit for hybrid cars.** If you bought a Prius last year, you did so without the feds' help. However, the green cars du jour - i.e., the electric-drive Chevy Volt and Nissan Leaf - will score you a \$7,500 credit. And there are goodies for things like conversion kits, too.

- **New cost-basis reporting requirements.** Apparently, some of you were inflating the price you paid for stocks to reduce the taxes owed on capital gains. Or at least the government fears that was happening. So look out for a mandatory statement from your broker reporting your "cost basis" for stocks and securities held in taxable accounts - as opposed to 401(k)s and IRAs - that you sold in 2011.

Of course, with the April 17 filing deadline approaching, those worried about becoming a member of the \$1 Billion Club might want to consult a professional like those at H&R Block, which offers in-person services at its retail offices nationwide as well as the only face-to-face online preparation through Block LiveSM.

More economical
Differences between electric and hydraulic-driven systems
Have you seen the ads that insist hydraulic-driven systems are the better way to irrigate? Make sure to read between the lines - and we don't mean the oil lines.
Fact is, Reinke's Electrogator[®] II and Eliminator[®] electric-driven irrigation systems are, and have always been, among the safest, most reliable and cost-effective methods available to deliver water to your thirsty crops.
Reinke encourages you to "leave to compare" the electrical energy requirements of electric and hydraulic driven systems. You will be amazed by the dollars you can save by going electric.
Reinke Dealer-Professionals are ready to share other eye-opening reasons why more and more producers are choosing Reinke irrigation systems.
Talk with a Reinke Dealer today.
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Call us to learn more - The Stratford Star

Fuel
Engineering
Catering
Virgin Atlantic Airways says catering is its third-biggest cost after fuel and engineering maintenance.

It's believed that the average American eats about 70 quarts of popcorn a year.

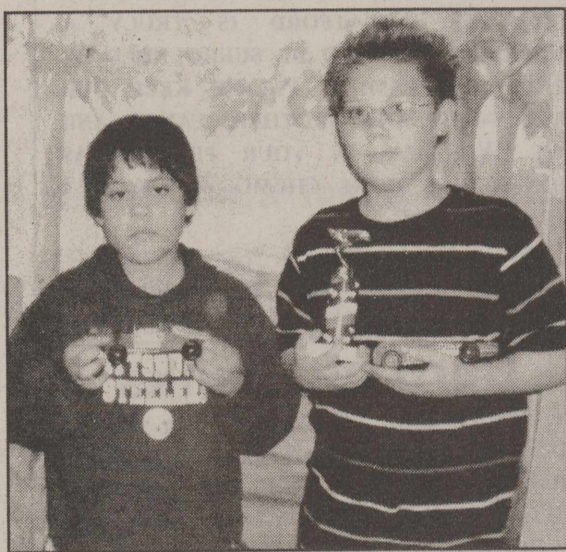
In today's public display shows, computers are used to control the launching of fireworks and the synchronization of the aerial bursts with music.

The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.

Pinewood Derby Race

Cub Scouts, start your engines! Ok, maybe not but the excitement was high at the Imagination Station on March 4, for the Annual Pinewood Derby Race. There was 15 cub scout participates waiting anxiously for their derby car to race down the track after their car was inspected by the cub scout leaders and judged in different categories. There were three different divisions: Tigers, Wolves, and Bears, so each Cub Scout raced against their fellow scout member in a double elimination bracket. Then the winner from each division competed

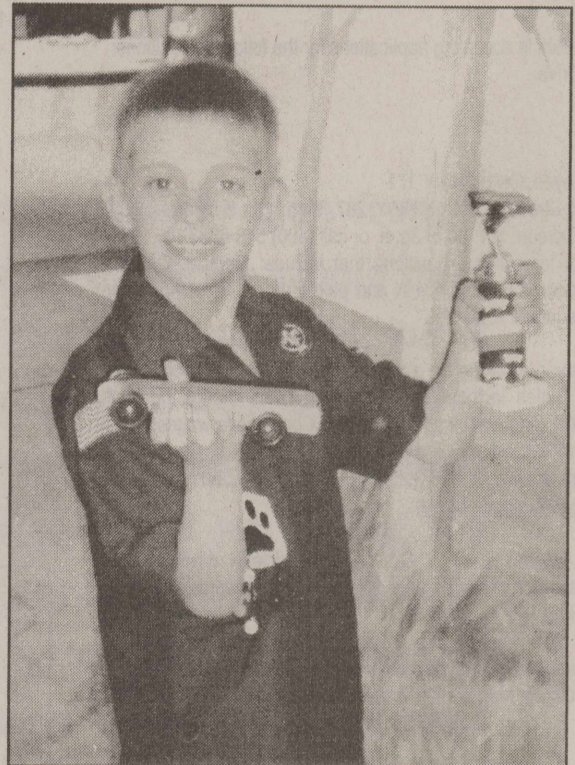
against each other in the Grand Champion bracket. Pack 38 Cub Scouts would like to say a special "Thank You" to Main Street Essentials and Happy State Bank for their donations in prizes and refreshments; Imagination Station for allowing the Cub Scouts to run this event; Curtis Carter and DeWain Trayler for judging the cars; Chief of Police Powell and Heath Collums for starting each race; and some of the Tiger Cub dads being the line judges and car handlers.



Bears Division- Dempsey Collums (1st place) and Ivan Guel(2nd place)



Tigers Division- Luke Braden (1st place) and Ethan Moczygemba (2nd place)

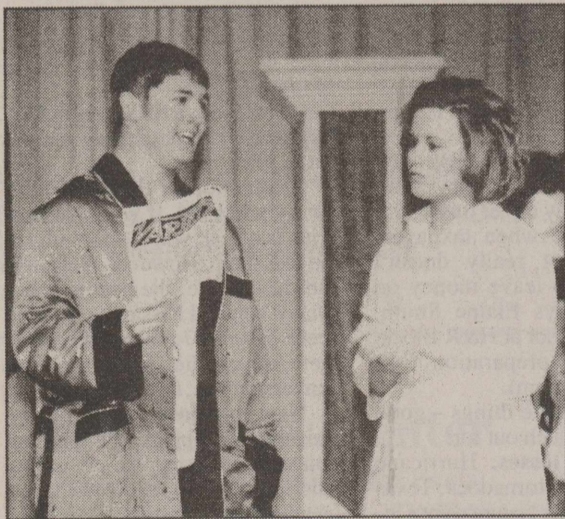


Grand Champion-Luke Braden (Tiger Cub)



Wolves Division- James DeAnda (1st place) and Mason McNeely (2nd place)

Pinewood Derby Photos by Charlotte Moczygemba



Performing in *Moon over Buffalo* George Hay (Jordan Johnson) and Charlotte Hay (Kammi Birdsong.)



Shown in one scene from *Moon over Buffalo* are Shyanne Acker as Rosalind and Mary Ann Spurlock as Ethel.

Newest Lawn Mowers Are A Cut Above

(NAPS)—If your lawn mower is more than 10 years old, it may be time to consider a replacement. In the past decade, engineering advances have produced gas-powered lawn mowers that run cleaner, start easier and are more fuel efficient than ever before, while providing a variety of options that make yard care easier.

Gas-powered mowers remain the No. 1 choice among homeowners, accounting for four out of every five mowers sold in the United States, according to The Stevenson Company, a leading consumer research organization. Lawn care experts say they aren't surprised because gas mowers give consumers so many choices when it comes to power, price and options—something they don't get with electric and battery-powered mowers, which are mainly an option for homeowners with small yards.

"Gas mowers provide a range of power to reliably mow any size yard and even tall, thick grass," explains Rick Zeckmeister, a vice president at Briggs & Stratton Corporation, which engineers and manufactures gas engines for outdoor power equipment.

Today's gas-powered lawn mowers, he points out, are also in tune with today's environmentally conscious lifestyles. Since 1995, Briggs & Stratton has reduced carbon emissions produced by its gas engines by 75 percent. According to EPA statistics, all gas-powered outdoor power equipment combined accounts for less than half a percent of all carbon emissions in the U.S. (Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the U.S. Transportation Sector 1990-2003, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, EPA 420 R06 003, March 2006). Based on EPA statistics, if a family replaced a single 75-watt incandescent lightbulb with an equivalent compact fluorescent bulb in their home, it would more than offset



the carbon emissions from using a gas walk-behind mower for an entire mowing season.

"Gas mowers have improved dramatically over the years in every way," says Zeckmeister. "It would be like comparing a television from the 1990s to a new flat-screen LCD TV you would buy today."

Other innovations and benefits of the newest gas mowers include:

- Easy starting, with a single pull of the starter rope or the push of a button, like in the newest cars;
- Improved fuel efficiency and advanced muffler systems that produce a more pleasant sound quality and less vibration;
- Ample engine power to mulch grass clippings while mowing, turning them into a natural fertilizer for the lawn;
- A variety of options to make mowing easier, from mowers that automatically adjust to the walking pace of the person mowing to digital dashboards that show the time, fuel level, maintenance reminders and other information.

Briggs & Stratton provides an online tutorial on how to select a lawn mower at www.yardsmarts.com.

For information on environmental and product performance considerations when choosing a new lawn mower, visit www.briggsandstratton.com.

NEWS OF NUTRITION

Dress Up Your Diet With Delicious Dressings And Mayonnaise

(NAPS)—Eating a more nutritious diet and maintaining a healthy weight may have more to do with what you add to your daily routine than what you subtract. Adding salad dressings and mayonnaise to your menu could help you achieve your goals.

Many diets cut calories at the expense of flavor, so it's hard to stay motivated. A smarter way to stick to your goals may involve including more vegetables in your diet and using dressings to add a tempting dollop of tasty flavor.



The healthy oils found in many salad dressings can help the body to better absorb key nutrients.

For example, salad is delicious and nutritious. Salad eaters tend to have higher intakes of essential nutrients such as vitamins C and E and folic acid.

Adding a variety of flavorful dressings can add to the appeal of eating salad every day.

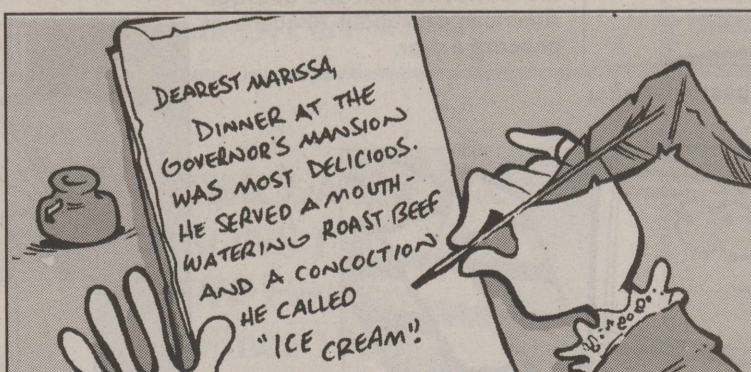
The healthy oils found in many salad dressings can help the body to better absorb key nutrients.

Mayonnaise can also be part of a well-balanced diet, as it's made with healthy oils and contains omega-3 fatty acids.

You can use salad dressings as dips, while mayonnaise adds terrific flavor to deviled eggs, sandwiches and deli salads.

If you must count calories, there are a number of reduced-fat and light options of salad dressings and mayonnaise available.

For more information, visit www.dressings-sauces.org.



The first written mention of ice cream in this country can be found in a letter from the 1700s, which admirably describes the ice cream and strawberry dessert a Maryland governor served at a dinner party.



A recent study found people who ate nuts at least five times a week had half the risk of heart disease as those who didn't eat them as often. Nuts are high in beneficial monounsaturated fat and fiber.