



Sherman County Museum 07/11
 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 11 March 17, 2011



Lions Club donates for purchase of TV

Stratford Lions Club donated \$489 for the purchase of a TV for the Stratford room at the Medical Center League House in Amarillo. Lions Club Secretary/Treasurer Terri Carter presents a check to Amber Glawe, Executive Director of MCHL.

SHS OAP DINNER THEATRE

The Stratford High School One Act cast and crew will perform their OIL competition play at a dinner theatre on Monday, March 21 at the Mary Allen Cafetorium at 6:00. This year's play, *The Women of Lockerbie* by Deborah Brevoort, is centered around the seven year anniversary of the bombing of Pan-Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. A mother from New Jersey roams the hills of Lockerbie looking for her son's remains that were lost in the crash. She meets the women of Lockerbie who are fighting the U.S. government to obtain the clothing of the victims found in the wreckage. The women, determined to convert an act of hatred into an act of love, want to wash the clothes and return them to the families. The play is loosely inspired by a true story, and ironically, due to recent events the bombing has again captured the attention of the world. A delicious dinner of beef tips and sides will be served at 6:00 with the play to follow. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for students and are available from any cast or crew member or directors Ronna Riffe and Stacy Metcalf. Seating is limited so secure your tickets soon.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Stratford has contracted with Panhandle Sweeping and Maintenance to sweep and clean the streets of Stratford on April 1, 2011. In order to assist in this effort, the City of Stratford is asking that all citizens, to the best of their ability and within reasonableness, try and keep the street clear of any obstructions so that Panhandle Sweeping and Maintenance can do the best job possible. In addition, the City of Stratford would like to invite all citizens to participate in a city-wide cleanup effort that will occur on Friday, April 1, 2011 to Sunday, April 3, 2011. The purpose of this cleanup effort is to clear your yards or alley-ways of any unused or junked items. The purpose of this is to enhance the beauty of the City of Stratford. The City will be placing extra dumpsters, yard waste, and roll-off containers around town to provide extra places to dump. The locations of these containers will be revealed in the next couple of publications of the Stratford Star so stay tuned. If you have questions or would like additional information regarding the City-wide cleanup effort, please contact City Hall. Thank you all for your commitment to the City of Stratford and for your efforts in keeping Stratford beautiful.

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

(a) 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.

(b) In this section, "motor vehicle" means a passenger car or light truck as those terms are defined by Section 502.001, Transportation Code.

(c) 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.

(d) 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.

Benefit for Historic Murdock School

Kerrick Community Committee will host a Benefit German Supper Saturday, March 19 at 6 PM at the Murdock School (Kerrick Community Center). Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 10 years of age. You may purchase tickets at the door or from Happy State Bank in Stratford, Bill Gillenwaters, or Roy Harris. The proceeds from the benefit are for the repair of the roof and windows. Murdock School was established in 1932 at the beginning of the hardest of times in history for the people living in the area. Now the school building itself is going through hard times, the Committee has a vision for the future of the old school but we cannot accomplish our vision without your help. There were five schools built in this era in Dallam County three are still standing, North Ward Elementary now a private resident, Conlen School now used to store fertilizer and the Murdock School now used as a community center, South Ward and Kella Hill have both been demolished. Please help us reach our goal and save a historic building from the demise as these other old schools.

Storm Spotter Class

A storm spotter class will be held on Thursday April 7th 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 it, please plan to attend the training. For more information contact Margaret Ewers Sherman County Emergency Management Coordinator at 366-2021

Venue Change for Boys State/Girls State Fundraiser

The American Legion Boys State/Girls State Fundraiser that was scheduled to be held at SCOT Hall has been changed to the Sherman County Barn. Repairs to SCOT Hall will not be completed in time for the fundraiser to be held there by March 20, 2011. Please make note of the venue change to the Sherman County Barn. The fundraiser will be held from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on March 20, 2011. All funds raised will be by free will donations and will be used for the expenses of David Acosta and Adrian Caldera to attend the Boys State and Girls State programs this summer.

ATTN: FARMERS & LANDOWNERS

If you have land that came out of CRP in 2009 or 2010, 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, 2011 for any land reclassifications to take effect for the 2011 tax roll. Sherman County Appraisal District, 402 N 3rd Stratford TX or call 806-366-5566.

Tax Deferral Available for Elderly Homeowners

Texas 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.

The American Legion 4th Annual Hamburger Feed Fundraiser For Boys State & Girls State

Delegates
David Acosta
And
Adriana
Caldera
Sunday, March 20, 2011
11:30 Am To 1:30 Pm

Note Change In
Venue:
Sherman County Barn

Free Will Donation

Exemption Information Available From Appraisal Office

Sherman County Appraisal District offers property owners a pamphlet called "Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities". Published by the State Comptroller's Office in Austin, The "Remedies" pamphlet explains how the Texas property tax system works, and offers ways for possible tax savings. The pamphlet also describes exemptions available such as those for disabled veterans, other disabled persons or senior citizens. The pamphlet and all exemption forms are available at the Appraisal District office, 402 N. 3rd in Stratford or by calling (806) 366-5566.

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 pamphlet explains 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.

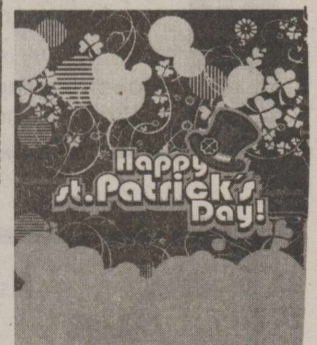
Disabled Veterans with a service-connected disability may present the Appraisal District with proof from the Veterans Administration to qualify for exemptions based on their percent of disability.

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 all possible property tax relief. Remember, taxpayers must file an exemption application with the Appraisal District office no later than April 30.

Sherman County Depot Museum

Hours
Open Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday
2 till 4 p.m.
For more
information call
Ann Wells 396-2527
Pat Hartman 366-7644
Dick Bachman 366-7679

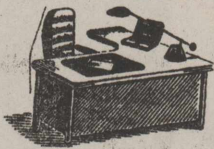


Reminder
Stratford Star
Fax number is
366-5884
Office phone
366-5885

Attention to all subscribers!!

Effective immediately The Stratford Star will 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 \$30.00 and out of the area \$37.00. If you are paying for someone else's sub, you will be billed for that person. Due to the rising cost of postage, etc. we feel this is the best solution for us at this time. Thanking you in advance.
Marty

From the desk of Chief Powell



From The Desk of Chief Powell:

As some of you know, I was out last week. I spent the week at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. I attended the Chief Development Program with 55 other Chiefs of Police from around the state, to include the Chief of Dallas, Houston ISD and many others. The course was very intense and put on by the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas. I am returning with a wealth of knowledge and ready to get back to serving the community.

When I am required to leave for training, the city is covered by Detective Gabehart and Officer Powell. The Sheriff's Office also deserves a thank you for always being there to act as support if needed.

I have to say, I am very proud of the dedication my officer's display in my absence. This week, I would like to allow Detective Gabehart to give you a glimpse of her background and education in law enforcement as she has been an asset since taking over the CID (Criminal Investigations) portion of our office.

www.stratfordpd.com

From the desk of Detective Gabehart

From The Desk of Detective Gabehart:

I would like to introduce myself for those of you who haven't met me yet. I am Detective Gabehart. I have been with the Stratford Police Department approximately a year and a half and thoroughly enjoy my profession, especially since Chief Powell assigned me to the Criminal Investigations Division. What this means is, I work with our officers and numerous outside agencies to investigate crimes, potential crimes and criminals. I have experience in collecting evidence and analyzing crime scenes. This experience is gained through my time spent as a police officer. I help determine the cause of a crime, or people of interest, in order to ensure prosecution.

I have received extensive investigations training, including but not limited to; Crime Scene Investigations, Family Violence, Sexual Assaults, Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation, Identity Theft, Oil Field Theft, Cybercrimes and numerous amounts of other training as well.

I graduated from the 97th Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy in August 2008. My time, altogether as an officer will be 3 years. Community policing makes my job worthwhile and I enjoy my position as detective. Even though my position requires mostly work within the office, I am also available to handle incoming calls for service and you may see me regularly working the school zones and looking out for the safety of our children and daily commuters.

www.stratfordpd.com

Stratford Hospital District is seeking bids for lawn care at Stratford Family Medical Clinic, 1220 Purnell. The contract will run from April 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011. Requirements available at SHD offices 1111 Beaver Rd. Please submit bids to David Boggs, 1111 Beaver Rd., Stratford.

Scot Hall Scuttle

By Cindy Jackson

Happy St. Patrick's Day! St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in America in 1737 by those of Irish descent and since then has become a holiday celebrated by all. In Ireland St. Patrick's Day is a religious holiday. Patrick was a young boy who had been taken from his home in the British Isles and forced into slavery in what is now Ireland. He eventually escaped but went back to Ireland in the hopes of converting the people there to Christianity. It is believed that he passed away on March 17 461 AD. Most businesses are shut down excluding pubs and restaurants and attending mass is quite common. March 17th is not a national holiday in America. One of the reasons that one wears green on St. Patrick's Day is because the Catholic side of Ireland is identified with green, and St. Patrick is a Catholic Saint accredited with converting the island to Christianity.

Dues are due! The dues are \$24.00 for a year. Give a SCOT membership as a gift. It's truly the gift that keeps on giving, all year long.

All luncheons will be Potluck. Charlene Oquin will be redoing the luncheon hostess list, so if you prefer a month please let her know. The hostess's will still be responsible for putting the luncheon together.

Birthday hostess for March is: Betty McMillion
March 22, 2011 SCOT Board Meeting 5:15 p.m.
March 24th-Luncheon NOON Potluck

Thank you for being a part of the SCOT Hall family.

Fashion

(NU) - Swim and athletic wear are meant to stay comfortable during activities, but the wrong wash cycle or dryer setting can cause swim and other athletic gear to lose its strength or stretch.

The right laundry machine can make all the difference. For families who plan to spend long weekends near the water, the Maytag Performance 2000 may be the ideal fit. Its cleaning action wipes out common summer stains, like sweat and fruit juice, while being gentle on lightweight fabrics.

For more information, visit www.instituteoffabricscience.com.



Health

(NU) - Migraines - those chronic, severe headaches that cause intense, crippling pain that is often accompanied by nausea, and sensitivity to light and sound - have triggers, or a variety of factors and events that make them more likely to occur.

Women can't always avoid migraine triggers like weather changes or too little sleep, so it's a good idea to keep a migraine treatment on hand. One all-natural migraine remedy, Lipigesic M, uses feverfew and ginger to reduce the inflammation that causes migraine headaches.

For more information, visit www.lipigesic.com.

Education

(NU) - Want to change careers? Even those who need to support themselves can find ways to set the foundation for a career change. Online courses, for example, allow full-time workers to learn on their own schedules and without the expense or inconvenience of commuting to campus. One accredited online university, American Public University, offers 76 degree programs and 51 certificates, including programs in business, criminal justice, sports and information technology, as well as grants to reduce textbook prices. For more information, visit www.studyatapu.com.

Don't get hit with a penalty! "Render" your taxable property by April 15.

A "rendition" is a report to your county appraisal district that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year.

Who must file a rendition?

You must file a rendition if you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income—such as the inventory and equipment used by a business. If you render late, don't render or file an incomplete or false rendition, a 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed. In Sherman County all personal property must be rendered.

Are there any advantages to you?

The advantages of filing a rendition are:

- You give your opinion of your property's value. The appraisal district must notify you in writing of any value change and explain how you can protest that value to the appraisal review board.
- You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address. If your bill is mailed to the wrong address, the law still holds you responsible for paying your taxes on time or paying extra charges for late payments.
- You can also file a "report of decreased value" to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of the value of your property in 2010. The district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2011.

What's the deadline?

The last day for filing 2011 renditions is April 15. You can get an automatic extension to May 15 (or the next business day if a weekend) if you ask for it in writing on or before the April 15 deadline. The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after the deadline for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

Where do you file?

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:
Sherman County Appraisal District
PO Box 239, 402 N 3rd
Stratford TX 79084
806-366-5566

In Sherman County all personal property must be rendered (including non-income producing vehicles).

Or contact:



Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
Property Tax Assistance Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, Texas 78711-3528
or call: (800) 252-9121, Ext. 2

or on the Web at: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

Sherman County 4-H, Stratford FFA and the Sherman County Livestock Association would like to thank the following people for their contributions

2011 Sherman County Stock Show

Contributors Fund

Better Harvest
High Plains Auctioneers
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Metcalf
T L Irrigation
Oglesby Seed
Dumas Co-op
Richard Ragsdale Broxson's
Dalhart Consumers
Rita Blanca Electric
Gaskil, Pharis, Pharis
Mr. & Mrs. Jess Willard
Mr. & Mrs. Brent Spurlock
Mr. & Mrs. Rex Christian
Smith Agency
Family Farm Store
Billy Cox
Coffee Tire
XIT
Barnard's Crop Care
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Birdsong
Mr. & Mrs. Steve McAdams
West Plains Veterinary Hospital
Stratford Auto Electric
Sunray Co-op
Elk Junction

Capital Farm Credit
Judge Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Engelbrecht
El Rancho
Mr. & Mrs. James Spurlock
C&D Body Shop
Ann Wells
Warren Cat
John & Laurie Ewers
E.R. Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Max Christian
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Gillenwaters
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Hart
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Hauser
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Hauser
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Horsford
Mr. & Mrs. Lance Horsford
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. Kenton Kimball
Stratford Star
Mr. & Mrs. Sandy Tillery

Scholarship Fund

JBS 5 Rivers
Ivy Insurance
First State Bank
Modern Woodmen
Stratford Feedyard
R-Way Farms-Joe Reinart
J & S Joint Venture
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Hauser
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Hauser
Mr. & Mrs. Sandy Tillery
Mr. & Mrs. Sandy Tillery

Buyers Appreciation

Meal
Gustin Equipment
Stockmen's Feed Bunk
Jim Berry
Aurora Dairy

Top Hand Award

Big R - Dumas

Stratford Hospital District

Elk Pharmacy
Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM
366-5505
Angie Hipp, RPh

Stratford Family Medical Clinic
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
396-5583
Tommy Brian, ANP

Coldwater Manor Nursing Facility
396-5568
Karl Punch, LNFA

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

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

The Stratford Star
(USPS 523-108)
Published for over 100 years
805 Purnell
Stratford, TX 79084
Telephone: 806-366-5885
Fax: 806-366-5884
E-Mail: stardm@xit.net

The Stratford Star is published weekly
Editor & Publisher Martha Robertson
Advertising & Photographer Shari Hudson

Subscription rates
\$30.00 per year in Sherman & Adjoining counties
\$37.00 per year all others
\$25.00 per (9 months) College rate

The Stratford Star-PO Box 8-Stratford, TX 79084
Periodicals postage paid at Stratford, TX
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Stratford Star,
PO Box 8-Stratford, TX 79084

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® Electrogator® II and Alumigator® 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 "dare to compare" the electrical energy requirements of electric and hydraulic driven machines. 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.

TEXAS ELECTRIC CO.
Stratford, TX 79084
Charles & Chuck Harbour
301 N. Poplar
Office 806-396-2300

Reinke
www.reinke.com

It takes approximately 12 hours for food to entirely digest.

Boing!

It takes 63 feet of wire to make a Slinky.



Engagement Announced

Malcolm and Amy Long of Stratford would like to announce the engagement of their daughter Hailey to Edgar Girdner - son of Laurie Gray and Dale Bramlett of Wolfforth, TX and Gary and Patti Girdner of Choctaw, OK. Hailey and Edgar live in Amarillo. Hailey is a dental Assistant in Canyon and Edgar is a warehouse manager in Amarillo. The wedding is scheduled June 25, 2011 at Whitaker Ranch in Canyon. The couple plan to honeymoon in Jamaica and reside in Amarillo following the wedding.

ELK JUNCTION RESTAURANT

Serving
Turkey and Dressing with all the
Trimmings on our
Sunday Buffet

Sunday, March 20th
From 11 a.m.—2 p.m.

**Come eat with us and enjoy
Home-cooked food!!**

Kerrick News

By Marylou McDaniel

Kerrick Community will have their German Supper Saturday night beginning at 6:00 p.m. Come eat and visit.

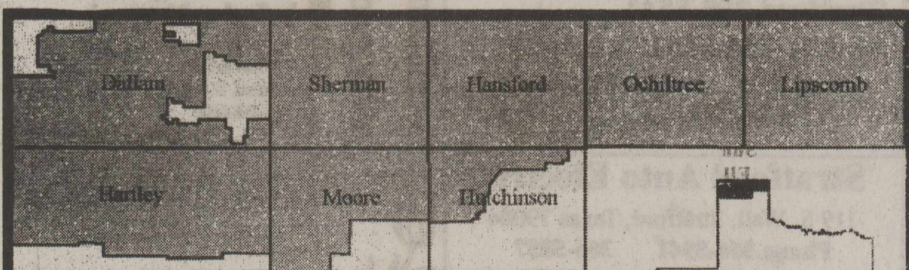
A table full of Kerrick people attended the XIT Rural Telephone Annual meeting March 9th. Enjoying the day were Bill and Donna Gillenwaters, Marylou and Mike McDaniel, Florencia Eslinger, Kenna Collums and baby Jackson.

Study Club News

Michelle Lutes, Prospectus Study Club president, gave the interesting program March 2 of her trip to the Ukraine last year.

Top of Texas Spring convention is April 16th hosted by The University Study Club at the University Church of Christ, 3400 Conner, Canyon.

Registration is \$7.00, Lunch \$14.00. After April 11 or at the door registration is \$10.00.



NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thank You!

The Board of Directors and staff of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District would like to thank all of the producers of groundwater in the District who completed their production reports prior to the March 1st Deadline.

Approximately 97-percent of the 2500-plus reports were turned-in on time. Timely reporting allows taxpayer resources to be used to provide service to the District's stakeholders, rather than following-up on delinquent reports.

For more information about North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, log on to www.npwd.org or call 806-935-6401.

Express Lane

119 E. Texas

Spring Break Specials March 9-25

Buy any 2 Breakfast Sandwiches
for \$3.98 get 2-12 oz. coffees free
All breakfast from
6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Any Personal Size Pizza, get 1
Cinnamon Street Cookie Free

Buy Any Topping Large Regular
crust pizza for \$16.00-get order of
cheese bread & 2-liter soda

Free delivery on Friday
March 18th and March 25th.
inside City limits....

Call 806-366-7000- if busy 806-366-5602

Food Court Store hours

Sunday-Thursday

6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday

6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SHS OAP DINNER THEATRE

The Stratford High School One Act cast and crew will perform their OIL competition play at a dinner theatre on Monday, March 21 at the Mary Allen Cafeterium at 6:00. This year's play, The Women of Lockerbie by Deborah Brevoort, is centered around the seven year anniversary of the bombing of Pan-Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. A mother from New Jersey roams the hills of Lockerbie looking for her son's remains that were lost in the crash. She meets the women of Lockerbie who are fighting the U.S. government to obtain the

Clothing of the victims found in the wreckage. The women, determined to convert an act of hatred into an act of love, want to wash the clothes and return them to the families. The play is loosely inspired by a true story, and ironically, due to recent events the bombing has again captured the attention of the world. A delicious dinner of beef tips and sides will be served at 6:00 with the play to follow. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for students and are available from any cast or crew member or directors Ronna Riffe and Stacy Metcalf. Seating is limited so secure your tickets soon.

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 8:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 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.
Senior High UMY 5:00 p.m.
Youth High UMY 6:00 p.m.

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

Church of Christ
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. p.m.



Heritage Bible Baptist
Pastor Rick Carter
302 S. Main
For more Info-Call 396-2212
Morning Worship-11 a.m.
Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wed. Service-7:30 p.m.

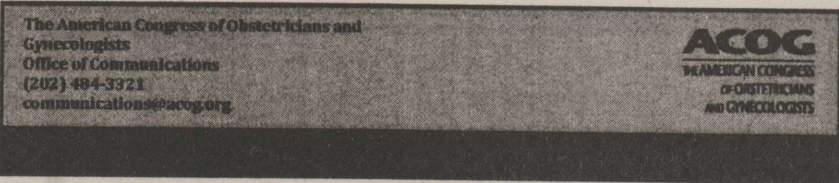
First Baptist
Pastor Jason Stone
702 N. 3rd
Sun.-Coffee-8:30
Sunday School-9:30
Worship Service-10:30
Wed.-Children-6 p.m., youth-7 p.m.

La Mision Bautista
Mision Bautista
401 S. Wall 396-5376
Domingo-(Sunday)
Estudios Dominical 9:45 a.m.
Muestras (Wednesday)
Servicio De Adoracion 11 a.m. Estudio
Biblico & Servicio De Oracion 6 p.m.
Servicio De Adoracion 6 p.m. en Castellano
Sesiones Durante El Servicio

Eben-Ezer Templo Hispano
Asamblea De Dios
Pastor: Juan M. Valenzuela
806-366-3071
205 N. Poplar-Hwy 287 200-2100
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

Sponsored by
**Stratford
Grain
396-5541
Lautz
769-5541
Walter Lasley &
Sons, Inc.
754-4411
Stratford Star
366-5885**



Ditch the Junk and Whip Your Diet Into Shape

By Richard N. Waldman, MD
President, The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

It's no surprise that the American diet needs work: Our portion sizes are out of control, our calorie intake is too high—and it shows. More than 64 percent of adult women in the US are overweight or obese. But despite eating more, we are getting less nutrition.

Many American women are deficient in nutrients such as iron, potassium, and dietary fiber. This is understandable when you consider that the typical American gets roughly 35% of her daily calories from added sugars and solid fats (such as butter and shortening).

The top five sources of calories for the average adult (in order) are grain-based desserts such as cakes and cookies; yeast breads; chicken and mixed chicken dishes; soda and energy/sports drinks; and alcoholic beverages. These and other low-nutrient foods are loaded with excess calories, sugar, solid fats, and sodium. Overconsumption of these types of food contribute to some of the main causes of death and chronic illness in the US, including heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

To help get us back on track, the US Department of Agriculture just released revised Dietary Guidelines. They offer specific advice on how to eat a healthier diet and maintain a healthy weight to reduce the risk of chronic disease and promote overall wellbeing.

The recommendations include:

- Balance the calories you eat with the calories you burn. Depending on age and individual activity levels, women should eat between 1,600-2,400 calories each day. For example, a 35-year-old woman who gets 30-60 minutes of daily exercise should eat roughly 2,000 calorie a day. Women who move less should eat less.
- Reduce salt intake. According to the Guidelines, no one should consume more than one teaspoon (2300 milligrams) of salt each day. African Americans, children, people age 51 and older, and those with high blood pressure, diabetes, or chronic kidney disease should consume 1500 mgs or less each day.
- + Replace solid fats with oils such as canola and olive.
- Eat more vegetables, fruits, fat-free and low-fat dairy products, and whole grains.
- + Cut back on added sugars and refined grains.
- + Drink more water and avoid beverages sweetened with added sugars.
- + Increase seafood servings in your diet by choosing it instead of some meat or poultry servings.

Sticking to these guidelines may be challenging at first, but once you become used to eating fresh, tasty, and healthy foods, it will start to become second nature. Give it a try—your body will thank you now and in the future!

To see the full Dietary Guidelines for Americans document, go to www.cnpp.usda.gov/dietaryguidelines.htm.

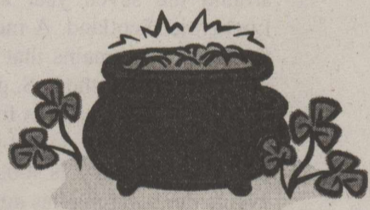
STEVENSON & SONS
PEST CONTROL
Termite & Pest Control • Rat Control • Bird Control
Yard & Tree Spraying

Residential • Commercial • Farms • Ranches

"Professionals in Pest Control Technology"

249-4202 Jim Stevenson
Owner

Dalhart • Stratford • Hartley
Licensed & Insured



15 Years, 4500 Babies in Dumas
Women's Health Center
Normal and high risk pregnancies
Gynecologic cancer screening
Breast cancer screening
Infertility and family planning
Menopause and hormone problems

Dr. Turhan I. Baykan, M.D.
Specializing In
OBSTETRICS-GYNECOLOGY
110 S. Bliss Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon

WATLEY SEED COMPANY

Watley Seed Company offers immediate quotes and usually can ship custom blended gra within 24 hours.

Seed Order Hotline 1-800-338-2885
806-659-3838 Spearman, TX

Since 1977

CRP Grass Specialists

- *Custom Grass Drilling
- *Four 30 foot drills
- *Native Grasses, Legumes, Forbes

Health

(NU) - If you experience problems with your vascular system, it makes sense to see the most qualified specialist to manage your symptoms. While most vascular conditions do not require surgery, you will receive the most expert and comprehensive care if you see a vascular surgeon, as they are trained in medicinal, endovascular (minimally invasive) and surgical therapies.

To learn more about your vascular health and to find a vascular surgeon, visit the Society for Vascular Surgery's Web site at www.VascularWeb.org.



Health

(NU) - A 2010 survey of 12,000 people in Scotland found that, over an average of eight years, those who rarely or never brushed their teeth were 70 percent more likely to develop heart disease than those with twice-daily brushing habits. Cleaning your teeth, then, might keep your heart healthy.

Brushing your teeth isn't the only way to take care of your mouth. For example, oral care probiotics, or good bacteria, like EvoraPlus (www.myevoraplus.com) adhere to tooth surfaces, where they leave less room for harmful bacteria to grow.

**Stratford High School
2010-2011**

Yearbook Order Form
ALL COLOR BOOK - \$55.00

DEADLINE TO ORDER MARCH 23, 2011

AFTER DEADLINE ALL BOOKS ARE \$70.00

After deadline - personalization not available
YOU MAY ORDER ONLINE AND PAY WITH CREDIT CARD BY
CLICKING ON YEARBOOK ORDER FORM LINK AT
www.stratfordisd.net

Name of Student _____
Grade _____ Phone _____
Date _____ Ordered by _____

	Quantity	Total
2010-2011 Yearbook @ \$55.00		
Personalization One Line @ \$5.00		
Icons @5.00 each (Limit 4)		

Total \$ _____

Personalization (One line, 25 spaces maximum)

Must order one line of personalization to order Icons

Icons: 1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____

Paid by Check# _____ Amount \$ _____

Please return to campus secretary or give to Mrs. Shari Hudson @ SHS Library. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Hudson @ 366-3347

Business Directory WALTER LASLEY & SONS INC. THE Feedyard Since 1953 753-4411	Stratford Hospital District Coldwater Manor Stratford Family Medical Clinic Stratford EMS Elk Pharmacy Proudly serving the medical needs of Stratford and Sherman County
Stratford Grain Co. Stratford 396-5541 Lautz 769-4485 4 North Main	Vincent Insurance Agency Sabrina Melton P.O. Box 739 Office: 806-396-2456 Stratford, TX 7908 Home: 806-396-2512 email: vinceins@xit.net
Stratford Auto Electric 119 S. Wall, Stratford, Texas 79084 Phone 366-5941 366-5857 Alternator, Starter, Magneto Rep. Since 1964	Joe Taylor Photography PO Box 27 1305 N. Garland Stratford, TX 79084 806-366-2489 Weddings, Portraits, Etc.
This space available Call 366-5885 for more information	Structured Touch Massage Therapy Cecce Yelak CMT LMT 401 N. 3rd #3 (XIT Bldg) Stratford, TX 806-366-2444 (AHHH) 9-5 M-F Saturday by Appointment
A&I PARTS CENTER AUTOMOTIVE AND INDUSTRIAL PARTS 201 N. 2nd Street - Stratford, TX 79084 Tele (806)366-5592 • Toll-free 800-624-5494 Fax(806)366-2583	Duncan Chevrolet P.O. Box 610 Stratford, TX 79084 Phone 806-366-5667 www.duncanchevrolet.com E-mail duncanch@xit.net
C&M Furniture 1702 E 1st Dalhart South of the Elks Lodge 806-244-4663 New Furniture, and mattresses for your home Monday-Friday 9-5 Saturday 10-4 Visa, Master Card, Discover & Debit Cards FINANCING AVAILABLE "HARD TO FIND, TOUGH TO BEAT"	Joe Flores AGENT P.O. Box 25 Hwy 287S, Stratford, TX 79084 Office Phone: 806-396-5538 Res. Phone: 806-396-2422 Residence: 806-396-5389 Fax: 806-396-2113



It Pays To Look In The

Star Classifieds

Phone 366-5885

..The Best Salesperson Around

Help Wanted

JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding- Cimarron Feeders is accepting applications for a Part-time Feed Truck Driver. Excellent facilities, team atmosphere & respect for refined skills and quality performance. Flexible hours. Apply in person at Cimarron Feeders. Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE MF1-13-tfn

JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding- Cimarron Feeders is accepting applications for a full time Feed Truck Driver. Excellent facilities, team atmosphere & respect for refined skills and quality performance. Great benefits that include: Medical & Dental Insurance as well as 401 K and paid time off. Apply in person at Cimarron Feeders. Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE MF-2-10-tfn

Coldwater Manor is seeking full time RN and LVN. Please apply in person at 1111 Beaver Road, Stratford, TX Phone # (806) 396-55682-17-tfn

Lollipop Junction daycare is seeking a motivated, loving individual to care for children. If interested, please inquire at Lollipop Junction or call 366-5886 ask for Breo 1-20-tfn

For Sale

Used Parts for Sale at Duncan Chevrolet. Tool Boxes, Grill Guards, bed liners, etc. Duncan Chevrolet 366-5557. 11-8-tfn

St. Joseph's Catholic Church still has sausage for Sale, Call Heather Braden at 366-3224. \$4.00 a pound (Cooked and uncooked)

Houses for Sale

Home located 2 miles West of Stratford, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spare room, large open floor plan, 2 car garage, acreage and 36 x 36 horse barn and roping arena (optional). Call 806-396-1156 or 753-7709 leave a message. 2-3-tfn

For Sale: 3 lg. bedroom, 2 baths, lg. kitchen with new flooring, basement, central A/H, 2 car garage with shop attached, fenced in yard, sits on 3 lots. 806-366-5997. 1-3-tfn

Nice 4 bedroom house located right outside of Stratford city limits. The house sits on approximately 10.5 acres with horse stalls and tack room. Both bathrooms and the kitchen have been renovated within the past three years. The house also features a beautiful stone fireplace and new carpeting. Please call 806-249-6759. 6-10-tfn

For Sale by Owner-218 Purnell-3 Bdrm-1 bath, brick-single garage. Central H/A 366-7664 or 753-6677. 6-10-tfn

For Sale by Owner-319 South Main, 3 bdrm-1 bath Stucco Corner Lot-Central H/A 366-7664 or 753-6677. 2-18-tfn

Card of Thanks

I would like to tell all those that donated to the Contributors Fund for the Sherman County Stock Show THANK YOU! I really appreciate your support in helping with my project.

Thank you
Bret Barnard

health hints

Worried About Picking Up Cold And Flu Germs This Winter? Stop And Scrub For 20

(NAPS)—With last year's swine flu epidemic still on the minds of Americans, many are getting flu shots and stocking up on anti-bacterial products in an attempt to ward off infection. Despite all these proactive steps, it remains to be seen if we are doing the single best thing to prevent infection and illness—proper hand washing.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), up to 80 percent of all infections, including the flu, can be spread by hand contact. In an effort to cut down on the spread of cold and flu germs, Seventh Generation, the nation's leading brand of environmentally responsible household and personal care products, and maker of a new Hand Wash featuring purely plant-derived cleansing ingredients, is encouraging Americans to learn and adopt proper hand-washing techniques all year long.

"Many people think that antibacterial soaps are the only way to prevent the spread of cold and flu. Seventh Generation's new Hand Wash, which doesn't contain triclosan, synthetic fragrances or dyes, will do the trick if hands are washed properly," said Dr. Alan Greene, practicing pediatrician and best-selling author.

Here are several precautionary steps that Dr. Greene recommends taking to prevent the spread of cold and flu germs:

Wash hands properly: Rub hands together for 15 to 20 seconds (long enough to sing "Happy



Proper hand washing can fight flu and other germs.

Birthday" twice) to make a rich, foamy lather that covers all hand surfaces.

Know when to wash: The most important times to wash hands are after nose wiping or sneezing, after visiting the restroom, before meals and before food preparation.

Watch where you touch: Avoid touching areas of the body where germs can enter, including eyes, nose or mouth.

Go for the elbow: Refrain from coughing or sneezing into your hand. Sneeze and cough into your elbow, to prevent hands from becoming contaminated with germs.

If you can't wash, sanitize: Hand sanitizers are a convenient way to kill germs on hands when you can't get to a sink. A little dab will kill 99.99 percent of germs without any water or towels.

For more hand-washing tips or for more information about alternatives to traditional hand-washing products, visit www.SeventhGeneration.com/Hand-Soap.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

The City of Stratford, Texas is accepting bids for the possible sale of the real property located at the northwest intersection of South Spruce Street and Highway 54 (Texas Street), comprising approximately 0.482 acres, and described as Lots 6 through 10, Block 88, Original Town of Stratford, Sherman County, Texas.

Sealed bids should be submitted by 12:00 PM on, Tuesday, March 29, 2011 to, Kathy Rendon, City Secretary, 518 N. 3rd Street, Stratford, Texas 79085. In order to be eligible to bid, all prospective bidders are required to obtain a copy of the "Notice of Bid Opening for Real Property" which contains detailed bidding instruction requirements. This can be requested at City Hall which is located at the above mentioned address.

The City may award the bid that is determined to be the best value to the City. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Published in The Stratford Star, Thursday, March 10, 2011, Thursday, March 17, 2011 and Thursday, March 24, 2011.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Notice is hereby given that the Panhandle Water Planning Group (Region A) is seeking input from the public on the scope of planning activities to be considered during the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning.

The Public Hearing will be held at 5:30 PM on May 9, 2011 in conjunction with the upcoming regular Region A Planning Group Meeting, to be held at the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission at 415 W. 8th. Written and oral comments (not to exceed five (5) minutes per speaker) regarding the scope of activities to be considered during the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning will be accepted at this meeting. Written comments will be accepted for 15 days preceding the Public Meeting. Comments should be submitted to:

Panhandle Water Planning Group c/o Kyle Ingham
415 W. 8th
Amarillo, TX 79105

Or
kingham@theprpc.org

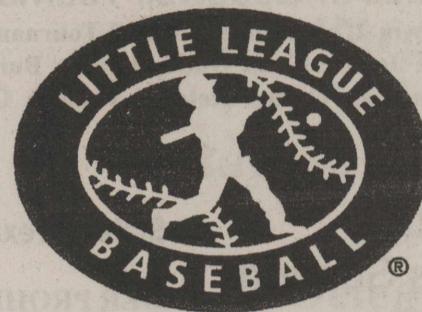
The Panhandle Water Planning Group (Region A) includes the following counties: Armstrong, Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman & Wheeler Counties.

For additional information, please contact Kyle G. Ingham, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, 415 W. 8th, Amarillo, TX 79105; kingham@theprpc.org
Published in The Stratford Star, Thursday, March 17th, 2011.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Notice is hereby given that the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission will submit by April 8, 2011, a grant

Stratford Little League Baseball Registration Night



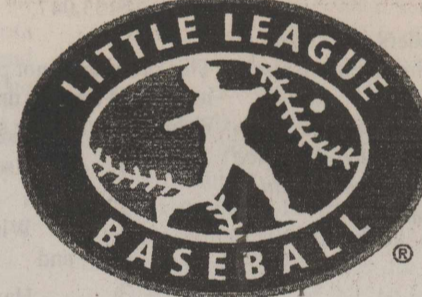
Tuesday, March 22nd

Mary Allen Elementary Gymnasium

6:00-7:30pm

Completed Registration Form, Medical Release Form, Birth Certificate, Uniform Order and Fee are due at the time of enrollment

Stratford Little League Baseball Registration Night



Tuesday, March 22nd

Mary Allen Elementary Gymnasium

6:00-7:30pm

Completed Registration Form, Medical Release Form, Birth Certificate, Uniform Order and Fee are due at the time of enrollment

application for financial assistance to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on behalf of Region A, to carry out planning activities to develop the 2016 Region A Regional Water Plan as part of the state's Fourth Cycle (2012-2016) of Regional Water Planning. It is anticipated that the application will be considered by the Texas Water Development Board at a May 19, 2011 board meeting.

The Panhandle Water Planning Group (Region A) includes the following counties: Armstrong, Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, and Wheeler Counties.

By April 8, 2011 copies of the grant application may be obtained from the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission when it becomes available or online at www.panhandlewater.org

Written comments from the public regarding the grant application must be submitted to the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission and TWDB prior to TWDB Board action on this application (date stated above). Comments can be submitted to the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission and the TWDB as follows:

Kyle G. Ingham
Administrative Agent for Region A Panhandle Regional Planning Commission 415 W. 8th
Amarillo, TX 79105

Executive Administrator
Texas Water Development Board P.O. Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711-3231
For additional information, please contact Kyle G. Ingham, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, 415 W. 8th, Amarillo, DC 79105;

kingham@theprpc.org
Published in The Stratford Star, Thursday, March 17, 2011



Girls take 2nd place in Goodwill Tournament
5th/6th grade girls team win 2nd place in Goodwill Tournament. Back row: Coach Scott Law, Allie James, Cami Guest, Laynee Burr, Nicolle Law. Front row: Mattie Fangman Carlee Metcalf, Vanessa Gonzalez, Libby Uttley. Good job girls!!

**STRATFORD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION
March 8, 2011**

The Stratford ISD Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. President Joe Reinart established a quorum of members present and called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Board members present: Joe Reinart, DeWain Trayler, Greg Wright, Michelle Lutes, Tres Hess, Chet Everett and Barney Willborn.

Staff present: Paul Uttley, Clint Seward, Misti McBryde, Dinah Horsford, Lynette Kautz and Elida Gonzalez.

Dr. Uttley led the invocation.

Mr. Birdsong introduced the guests. They were Wendy Branstine – Region 16, Sylvia Borunda – Gruver ISD Migrant Coordinator, Jesus Lopez – student –Gruver ISD, America Terrazas – student-Stratford ISD, David Acosta –student –Stratford ISD, and Erica Chavez – student-Stratford ISD.

The students gave a presentation on the Bert Corona Leadership Institute that they attended in Washington, DC this past summer. A short power point presentation was presented.

Mr. Birdsong gave the superintendent report. He went over the district enrollment. He reported on the Winter Governance Conference that he and the board attended in Corpus Christi. He told the board that the bank deposit resolution would be presented at the next board meeting. He discussed school finance with the board. He showed the board a short video on The Seven Project. This program addresses abstinence, bullying, substance abuse, integrity and making choices. They come present 3 assemblies to the district. He reported that he had talked to a few companies about bleacher quotes for the football field. The Spring TASB workshop will be on May 18th. The employee appreciation luncheon will be at noon on May 27th.

Lynette Kautz gave the business manager report. Monthly expenditures are at 43.18%, revenue 96.7%, and all taxes collections are at 97.53%. Cost for transportation for the month was \$1.17. She gave the quarterly investment report.

Dr. Uttley gave the high school report. He reported on the recognition for the month. The varsity girls finished their season with a record of 14-16(4-6 in district). Making 1st Team All District was Ragan Foss and Jessica Ibarra. Brianda Chavoya, Kelsie Keener and Rubi Rueda were honorable mention. Making the Academic All District team was Meghan Brooks, Brianda Chavoya, Ragan Foss, Jessica Ibarra, Kelsie Keener, Karen Lozoya, Perla Reta, and Rubi Rueda. The varsity boys finished their season with a record of 19-8 (8-2 in district). Bryce Cummings was the Co-Offensive MVP and Kyle Horsford was the Co-Defensive MVP. Trevor Christian was on the 1st team and Casey Lantelme, Edgar Guerrero and Michael Ortega were honorable mention. Making the Academic All District team was Trevor Christian, Bryce Cummings, Kyle Horsford, Michael Ortega, Tyler Wright, Marcos Garza, Casey Lantelme, and Braiden Palmer. The JV boys finished with a record of 9-7 (6-4 in district). Several students participated in the UIL academic practice meet in Canadian. Gabriel Tarango placed 5th in headline writing, Erin Wilkins placed 2nd in Editorials, Ellie Daniels placed 5th in News, Ransom Lermon placed 6th in Computer Applications,

Shyanne Acker placed 4th in Poetry, and Mary Ann Spurlock placed 5th on Prose. He commended the Student Council for the blood drive they sponsored on February 14th. 36 individuals attempted to donate blood. He reported on the One Act Play festivals that we have attended. The One Act Dinner Theater will be on Monday, March 21st at 6:00 PM in the Mary Allen cafeteria. The District OAP contest is March 23rd. The band competed in the UIL Concert/Sightreading contest today in Panhandle. They received a I in concert and a II in Sightreading. Cheerleading tryouts will be Friday, March 11th. He reported a campus enrollment of 176.

Mr. Seward gave the junior high report. He reported on the recognition for the month. Rael Leigh Willborn placed 6th at the San Antonio stock show with a hamp pig. Allie James placed 10th with a Chi steer. At the Fort Worth stock show, Allie James placed 10th with a Chi steer and Blaine Killian placed 2nd with a Hereford heifer. At the San Angelo stock show, Rael Leigh Willborn placed 8th with a hamp pig and 11th with a duroc pig and Blaine Killian placed 7th with a Hereford heifer. He reported a campus enrollment of 161. Track season has begun. The 7th grade boys were 2nd, the 8th grade boys were 3rd, the 7th grade girls were 3rd and the 8th grade girls were 2nd. The 5th graders went to see a play on the life of Anne Frank at the AC Lamplight theater on February 16th. This was part of the WOWW program. Open house was held on March 7th. He reported that the TAKS tests that were taken went well. He went over a cyber-bullying prevention video that the 8th graders watched and gave back feedback on that.

Mrs. McBryde gave the elementary report. She congratulated Katelyn Berry for placing 3rd in her class at the San Angelo stock show with her Maine-Tainer heifer. She reported that her campus had a great turn out for open house. The students and staff worked really hard on the TAKS tests that were recently taken. The 1st and 2nd grade students will be taking the Stanford Achievement test in early April. She reported a campus enrollment of 252.

Mr. Birdsong gave a report on the safety and security audit that was conducted in the fall.

Tres Hess made the motion and Michelle Lutes seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Birdsong explained the contract with Sherman County for a joint election. Chet Everett made the motion and Greg Wright seconded to approve the contract as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Birdsong went over TASB Legal update 89. Greg Wright made the motion and Barney Willborn seconded to approve the update as presented. Motion carried.

The board took a short recess at 8:30 PM.

The board reconvened at 8:55 PM.

Mrs. McBryde presented her teachers for contract renewal. Mr. Birdsong recommended accepting the contract renewals as presented subject to assignment. Michelle Lutes made the motion and DeWain Trayler seconded to accept the recommendation as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Seward presented his teachers for contract renewal. Mr. Birdsong recommended accepting the contract renewals as presented subject to assignment. Barney Willborn made the motion and Chet Everett seconded to accept the recommendation as presented. Motion carried.

Dr. Uttley presented his teachers for contract renewal. Mr. Birdsong recommended accepting the contract renewals as presented subject to assignment. Tres Hess made the motion and Greg Wright seconded to accept the recommendation as presented. Motion carried.

Joe Reinart read a letter of resignation from Jennifer Wells. Tres Hess made the motion and Chet Everett seconded to accept the resignation with regrets. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

"A world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers and cities, but to know someone here and there who thinks and feels with us, and though distant, is close to us in spirit—this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden."

—Goethe

Local Farm Credit Association Lends Support to Wildfire Volunteers

AMARILLO, Texas, March 11, 2011 — In response to the wildfires that raged through the Texas Panhandle and the imminent danger of more fires in the weeks to come, Great Plains Ag Credit joined forces with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission to provide assistance to rural fire departments and volunteer firefighters in several counties across the Panhandle.

The PRPC created the Panhandle Rural VFD Equipment Repair Fund with the Great Plains donation for rural fire departments to use in repairing equipment needed to maintain readiness during fire season. Great Plains Ag Credit initiated the volunteer relief effort to show its support and appreciation to the deserving volunteers who risk their lives to preserve life, land and property for area residents, farmers and ranchers.

"The recent fires were devastating for so many people. We wanted to reach out and help our friends and neighbors," said Tim McDonald, Great Plains Ag Credit CEO. "Many fire departments suffered damage to their trucks and equipment during the wildfires, and Panhandle residents need the assurance that these volunteers are prepared for the increasing fire danger associated with ongoing, dry conditions." McDonald invited directors and staff to make donations to this relief fund. These personal donations, when combined with the Great Plains contribution totaled \$6,855.

To make a similar donation, readers are urged to contribute to the rural volunteer fire departments in their local communities.

Great Plains Ag Credit is a member of the Farm Credit System, the nation's largest lender dedicated exclusively to agriculture and rural communities. For more information, visit www.greatplainsagcredit.com.

State of Texas-County of Sherman

ORDER PROHIBITING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, the Sherman County Commissioners' Court finds that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated area of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners' Court of Sherman County that all outdoor burning, including fireworks, is prohibited in the unincorporated area of the county for 90 days from the effective date of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code §352.081, and other applicable statutes. This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for:

1. firefighter training;
2. public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations;
3. planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or
4. burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Natural Resources Code §153.048, and meet the standards of Natural Resources Code §153.047.

This order does not prohibit outdoor burning of household trash in unincorporated areas of the county if the following fire safety guidelines are observed;

1. Use of metal screen over trash receptacle;
2. Wind speed below 10 miles per hour; and
3. Have adequate water source available for rapid fire suppression.

In accordance with Local Government Code §352.081(h), a violation of this Order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

EXECUTED this 8th day of March, 2011 by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays, with an effective date of March 8, 2011.

Terri Beth Carter, County Judge

Attest: Gina Gray, County Clerk



Protecting Your Home

Five Reasons To Re-Key Your Locks

(NAPS)—Is your home security at risk? According to FBI statistics, 8,600 break-ins occur in the U.S. every day (that's one every 10 seconds!), and more than half the time, they're happening during broad daylight, entering right through the doorway. But most break-ins are a crime of opportunity, so you have the power to take back control.

According to the Kwikset American Security Study, nearly one-third of homeowners have lived in their current residence for five years or less. And while moving into a new home can be very exciting, it's also a vulnerable time for home security because there's no telling how many people have copies of your house key. That is, unless you've physically changed or re-keyed the locks yourself...which is an affordable, smart and simple way to up your odds of foiling a break-in before it even occurs.

Following are five more important reasons to re-key or change the locks to your home:

1. **You have lost, stolen or unreturned keys:** More than half of homeowners routinely loan out house keys to people who don't live there; e.g., housekeepers, gardeners, babysitters, neighbors and so on.
2. **You've recently moved:** A shocking 47 percent of U.S. homeowners did not re-key their locks upon moving into their home, with about a third having never re-keyed or changed their locks at any point since living there.



A key part of staying safe at home is having quality locks—and knowing who has the keys.

3. **You have tenants:** When tenants move out, they give the key back. But there's no way to know if they're holding on to a copy. Ensure the security of your rental unit by re-keying the lock immediately upon tenant departure. Not only will this ensure no unwanted "houseguests" are staying on the premises while vacant, but it's also important for the safety of your new tenants.
4. **You're remodeling, upgrading or updating:** Even when working with the most reputable contractors, the minute you give them a house key you're relinquishing control over your home security. There's no telling how many copies they could potentially make, and there's no guarantee of the integrity of their subcontractors.

5. **You'd prefer one-key convenience:** Imagine how much easier it would be if one key unlocked all the points of entry to your home. No more fumbling through key rings trying to decipher which key unlocks what.

While it may sound like a daunting project, re-keying your locks can be as easy as 1-2-3. Kwikset, a leader in residential door hardware, developed a ground-breaking lock technology called SmartKey, which allows homeowners to quickly and easily re-key their own locks in a matter of seconds without having to remove the lock from the door.

Providing superior security, SmartKey deadbolts are made with high-quality stainless steel internal parts to ensure smooth operation, increased strength and exceptional durability. These deadbolts are designed to withstand picking, and include the security of BumpGuard™ to protect against lock-bumping attacks. They've even proven their superiority at a recent professional lock-picking competition. Only one of 56 Kwikset SmartKey deadbolts was able to be picked by a professional locksmith in under 10 minutes, compared to 44 out of 56 deadbolts that were successfully picked for the competition.

Learn More
For more information, visit www.Kwikset.com, see Facebook or call (800) 327-6625.