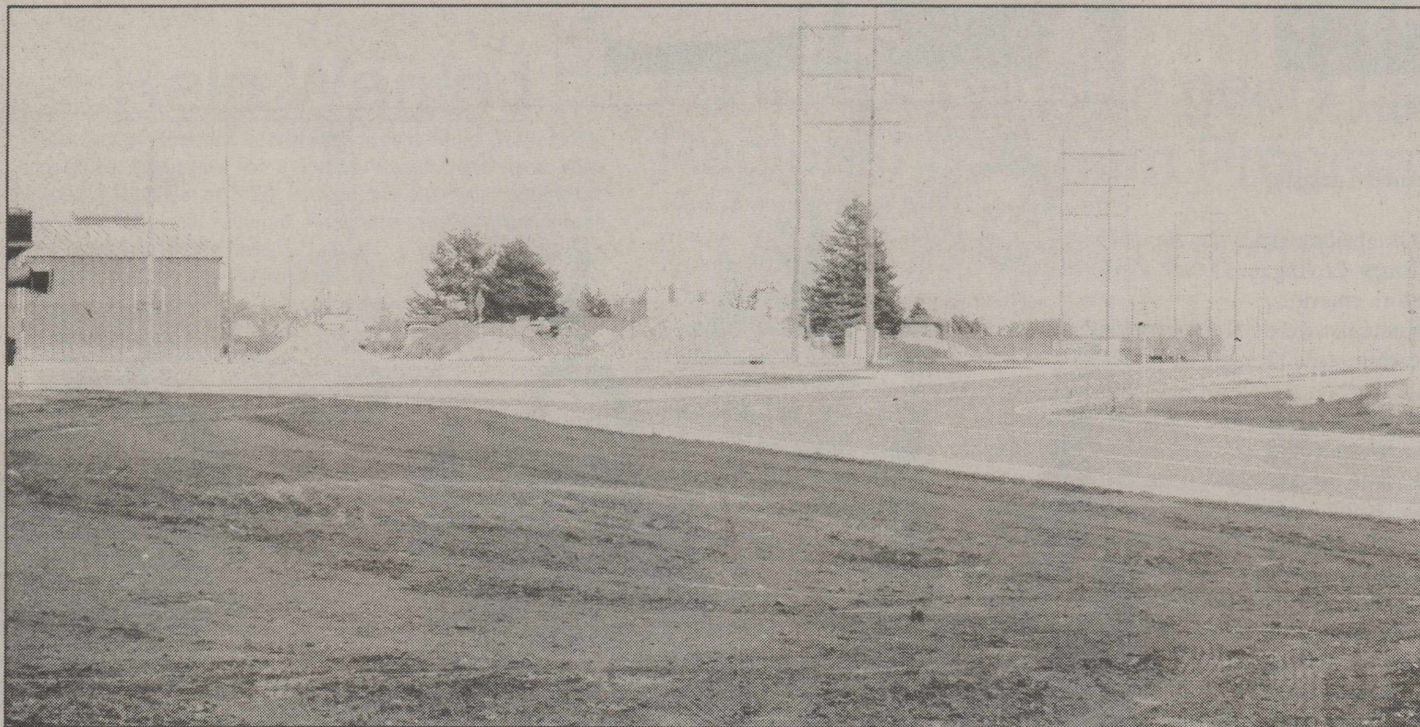


Melvin Mitts 06/16
PO Box 523
Stratford, TX 79084

The Stratford Star

75 cents Published for over 100 years in Stratford, Sherman County, Texas 79084 usps 523 Number 7 February 18, 2016



New connection from Hwy 15 to US 287

By Gaynelle Riffe

Remember when Hwy 15 to Gruver connected with US 54 at Main Street and trucks turning off US 54 nearly ran you up in the Dairy Queen parking lot.

Trucks from the Feed Yard used the road from Hwy 15 past the county barn to US 287 and it was always torn up because half the road belonged to the county and half belonged to the City and there was always a dispute in who should maintain it. In 1999, the Stratford Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee started a discussion with TXDOT on upgrading Stratford transportation for the City Centennial with the Main Street Project, upgrading North US 287 to 4 lanes and connecting Hwy 15 directly to US 287.

Main Street and 4 lanes for north US 287 was completed in 2010 and now to US 287 completed in 2016. Transportation projects are much like watching melting glacier and then all of a sudden it happens. Projects must be shovel with all the planning, permitting, right of way, to have plans ready just in case money comes available. Plan ahead and try to avoid transmission, gas, water lines and other obstacles in place that are costly to move when the shovel is ready.

Mary Allen Elementary School will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair beginning Monday February, 29th and ending Friday, March 4th. Students from Mary Allen Elementary and Stratford Middle School will be able to buy books, posters, pencils and other items. Parent Night will be Thursday, March 3rd from 4 pm to 6 pm in the Mary Allen Elementary Library.

CASA 69, Inc. Receives National Certification Recognizing the Quality of Its Work for Abused and Neglected Children

The CASA 69, Inc. serving Dallam, Hartley, Moore and Sherman counties has just been awarded certification by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. This certification recognizes that CASA 69, Inc. is in compliance with National CASA's high standards for quality child advocacy.

According to Tara Perry, Interim CEO/Chief Operating Officer of the National CASA Association, "The National CASA quality assurance process is very rigorous, and reflects our commitment to ensure every child served has a powerful volunteer advocate working on their behalf and a strong program supporting their work. This certification says CASA 69, Inc. has demonstrated to us the capacity to provide excellent advocacy to the abused and neglected children within their community."

CASA 69, Inc. was started in 1986. We have sixteen members on our Board of Directors with representatives from Dallam, Hartley, Moore and Sherman counties. In 2015 CASA 69, Inc. served 50 children and 9 are hoping to be adopted by a forever family. In January we began the year with 38 children and as the year progressed we received new cases adding 12 children. We currently have 15 trained volunteers advocating for 50 children.

In 2015 we were honored to assist 3 young children being adopted and one infant be placed with their grandparents. For more information about volunteering, contact: Edye Cunningham - 806934-4417/Evinn Wyatt, Assistant Director - 806-244-2684 or email us at casa69@xit.net.

About the National CASA Association

In 1976, concerned over making decisions about abused and neglected children's lives without sufficient information, a Seattle judge conceived the idea of using trained community volunteers to speak for the best interests of these children in court, helping to ensure that they will live in a safe and loving environment. So successful was this Seattle program, that soon judges across the country began utilizing citizen advocates. In 1990, the U.S. Congress encouraged the expansion of CASA/GAL with passage of the Victims of Child Abuse Act. Today, there are more than 950 National CASA member programs across the country, with more than 70,000 men and women serving as CASA or Guardian ad Litem volunteers.

**CHILI & ALL THE FIXINS'
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
EVERYONE IS INVITED-FREE WILL DONATION**
Christian Women's Fellowship is hosting their annual Chili dinner with all the fixings'. It will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2016 at the First Christian Church. There will be homemade chili, beans, baked potatoes, hot dogs, cornbread, Frito pies & desserts. Everyone is invited. We will be serving from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm. Please come and bring your appetite. Your gifts will help support Basic Mission Finance, a work of the General Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Dinner Theater

The Stratford High School one-act play cast and crew will host a dinner theatre on March 21 featuring a performance of the play Unexpected Tenderness. The meal--a salad, pork tenderloin, macaroni cheese, green beans and cupcakes--will begin at 6:00, followed by the play at 7:00. A silent auction will be open for the duration of the evening. Tickets are \$15. For tickets, contact Taylor Aduddell, Bret Barnard, Juan Carlos Camberos, Brendan Campbell, Blake Griffin, Courtney Griffin, Nicole Law Matalin Mace, John McBroom, Carlee Metcalf, Branson Palmer, Brenda Portillo, Val-mari du Plessis, Russell Spurlock or Daniela Valdez.

Advisory: This year's play contains brief instances of spousal and child abuse.

Texas History

Sherman County Historical Commission

By Gaynelle Riffe

The new Constitution of the State of Texas was ratified by the people on February 15, 1876. Young and Bexar Territories were divided into counties and the counties were named. The county of Sherman is named in honor of Sidney Sherman, a distinguished soldier of San Jacinto. The county of Moore is named in honor of Commodore E. W. Moore, of the Texas Navy. The county of Hansford is named in honor of John M. Hansford, one of the Judges during the Republic. The county of Dallam is named in honor of James W. Dallam, a laborious lawyer of the Texas Republic.

(Gammel, Hans Peter Mareus Neilsen. The Laws of Texas, 1822-1897 Volume 8 Book 1898)

Medical Benefit Account has been set up at Happy State Bank for David Acosta

Stratford Cemetery Plans

By Gaynelle Riffe

Sherman County Historical Commission is working to place permanent stone markers on unmarked graves. Some graves have only metal name plates that sometimes get removed. "Out of site out of mind". However it is never too late. In October a monument was placed for two children who died in 1960. The Commission is trying to contact relatives as a reminder and get permission to arrange for a permanent stone.

Windy Spring is on the way and the tumble weeds are with us again. The wind also misplaces flowers to the fence. Sometimes they are placed somewhere, so if you find them on another plot, please feel free to place them where they should be. It is about time to remove winter and damaged decorations. Look for a Cemetery Clean Up the first of May.

SCOT HALL ACTIVITIES

Men's Pool-daily 1 p.m. M-F

Ladies Mexican Train Dominoes-Mondays 1:30 p.m.

Ladies Chair Exercises-M-W-F 10:00 -10:30 a.m.

Ladies Yoga-Tuesdays 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Bingo-Second Tuesday 7 p.m.

4th Thursday Immediately following noon luncheon

Monthly Luncheon-4th Thursday-12 noon (covered dish luncheon)

Stratford Country Club Membership Drive

The Stratford Country Club is having a membership drive from February 1 - June 15.

New members will be assessed only \$100.00 membership fee and \$65.00 monthly dues during this time instead of \$150.00 membership fee.

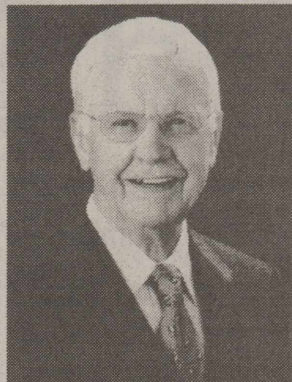
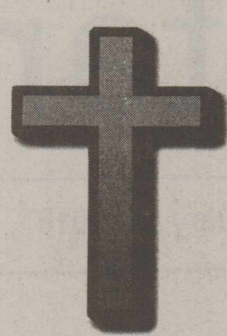
Please contact Suzanne Ashly at First State Bank 396-5521 for more information or to enroll.

**SAVE THE DATE:
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
ANNUAL SAUSAGE DINNER
Sun. February 21st, 2016**

**At the
Sherman County Barn
From 11:00am - 2:00pm
Adults: \$9.00 & Children (5-12): \$6.00
Children 4 & under eat free!!
Sausage (reg. & spicy) by the lb. will be available: cooked & uncooked**

Call for pre-orders to:
Jasmin Rios: (806)339-4842- habla español
Annie Duran: (806)570-4744- habla español
Heather Braden: (806)366-3224

Obituaries



Jack Erwin Fuqua Jr.
1930-2016

Jack Erwin Fuqua Jr., 85, of Amarillo died Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016.

Memorial services were held at 11 a.m. Friday in First Christian Church with the Rev. Barry Loving, pastor, and Dr. John Bridwell, pastor emeritus, officiating. Burial was private. Arrangements were by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors, 2800 Paramount Blvd.

Jack was born in 1930, in the middle of the Great Depression, in Amarillo to Jack Erwin Fuqua and Sada Dodson Fuqua. Fuqua's paternal side of the family were ranchers starting in the 1890s and maternal grandfather, Dr. Fred W. Dodson, was an early-day dentist in Amarillo starting approximately in 1902-1904.

After Jack attended Amarillo College and spent two years at University of Texas, he sailed abroad to work in the accounting department of a construction company in Chester, England. This was all arranged by a family friend and Texas legislator, Grady Hazelwood.

Fuqua started his career in the early 1950s as a salesman with Dodson Chemical Co. in Roswell, N.M. He learned about the sales business by calling on businesses in Roswell and the Pecos Valley area. In 1959, he moved back to Amarillo to work for Southland Life Insurance Co. Fuqua's life insurance career spanned more than 55 years working with Southland Life, Provident Life and Accident Co. and MassMutual Financial Group since the early 1990s.

During his life insurance career, he was a life member and active as a member, board member and past president of the local life insurance association. He also was president of a statewide insurance organization, Texas Leaders Round Table, and a 30-plus year member of the national organization, The Million Dollar Round Table.

His civic activities included forming in the early 1980s, with Cliff Craig of Neely Craig Insurance Co., a Thursday morning Men's Breakfast Club for the purpose of sharing leads and tips, and learning about business activity in the community with other business owners and managers.

Also about this time, Fuqua, along with Jack Little, vice president of First National Bank, Winston Smith, attorney for Underwood Wilson Law Firm and CPA Merwin Island of PMM Accounting Firm, started Amarillo Area Estate Council.

Keeping his business in Amarillo, Jack expanded his business to Lubbock for several years. Fuqua and auto dealer, Gene Messer, started a Christian-based high school organization, Young Life, with Boyce Cairns as the first club leader.

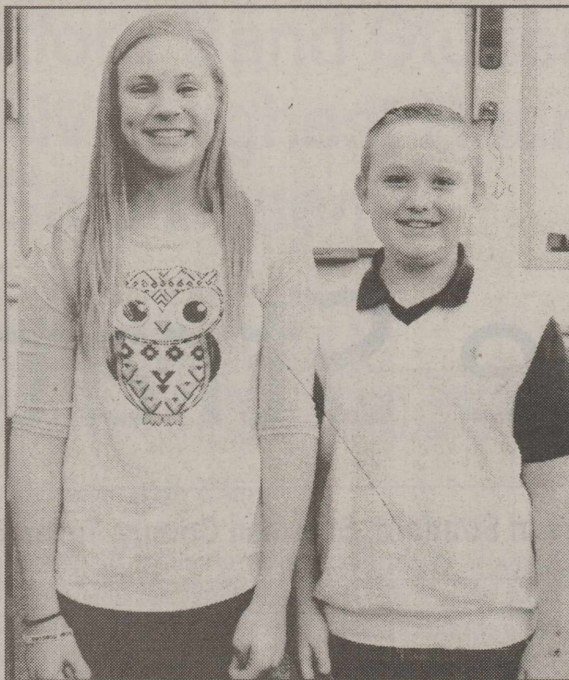
As a young man, Fuqua was baptized in the old First Christian Church at Seventh Ave. and Taylor St., and was an active member of that church his entire life and serving in various capacities in the church.

Fuqua was first married to Yvonne Helstetler, and later Cynthia Hayhurst for five years, and following her death, married Kay Spurlock Hudson and they were married 20 years until his death.

Fuqua is survived by his wife, Kay Fuqua; his children, Michelle Fuqua Bryson and husband Neil, Jack "Winn" Fuqua III and wife Debbie, Gregg Hudson and wife Shari and Michael Hudson; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be to First Christian Church, 3001 Wolflin Ave., Amarillo, TX 79109; or a favorite charity.

Sign the online guest book at www.boxwellbrothers.com.



Max Engelbrecht finishes first place in Spelling Bee

Max Engelbrecht, right, was the winner of the Amarillo Globe News Sherman County Spelling Bee held on Monday, February 8, 2016 and Holly Sladek was the runner-up.



Sherman County Spelling Bee Held Monday February 8, 2016

The Sherman County Spelling Bee for the Amarillo Globe News was held on Monday, February 8, 2016 with six students participating. Standing in back from left: Sydnee Palmer, Holly Sladek, Emma Franklin, Max Engelbrecht, Joslyn Burton and in front JoJo Salas.

USDA Invests Rural Energy for America Program Funds in Texas

TEMPLE, TEXAS, February 4, 2016 - Rural Development Texas State Director Paco Valentin today announced that USDA is investing more than \$141,100 in nine renewable energy and energy efficiency projects statewide. "Rural Development is pleased to offer funding through the REAP program to nine Texas recipients," said Valentin. "By reducing energy costs, these businesses become more competitive, allowing them to expand, create jobs and serve a larger rural population."

Nine recipients throughout Texas will utilize \$141,107 of awarded funding to install renewable energy equipment that is projected to save \$38,254 each year in use. From the installation of photovoltaic solar systems and a geothermal system, businesses throughout Texas will use their grants to modernize their facilities with renewable energy equipment. The awards list announced today is contingent upon the recipients meeting the terms of the grant agreement.

Eligible agricultural producers and rural small businesses may use REAP funds to make energy efficiency improvements or install renewable energy systems, including solar, wind, renewable biomass (including anaerobic digesters), small hydroelectric, ocean energy, hydrogen and geothermal.

Rural Energy for America Program Grant requests for the next funding cycle are due in the Texas State Office by May 2, 2016. For additional details on how to apply, please contact the Texas Energy Coordinator, Billy Curb at 254-742-9775 or emailing billy.curb@tx.usda.gov. Additional information may also be found on page 60349 of the October 6, 2015 Federal Register (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-06/pdf/2015-25321.pdf>).

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. For information on this and other USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/tx>.

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

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Attention to all subscribers!! Rate change

The Stratford Star is no longer 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

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Stratford Family Medical Clinic

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"Compounding Available"

366-5505 Randall Orcutt, RPH

Coldwater Manor Nursing Facility

396-5568 Mark Moore, LNFA

Stratford EMS

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

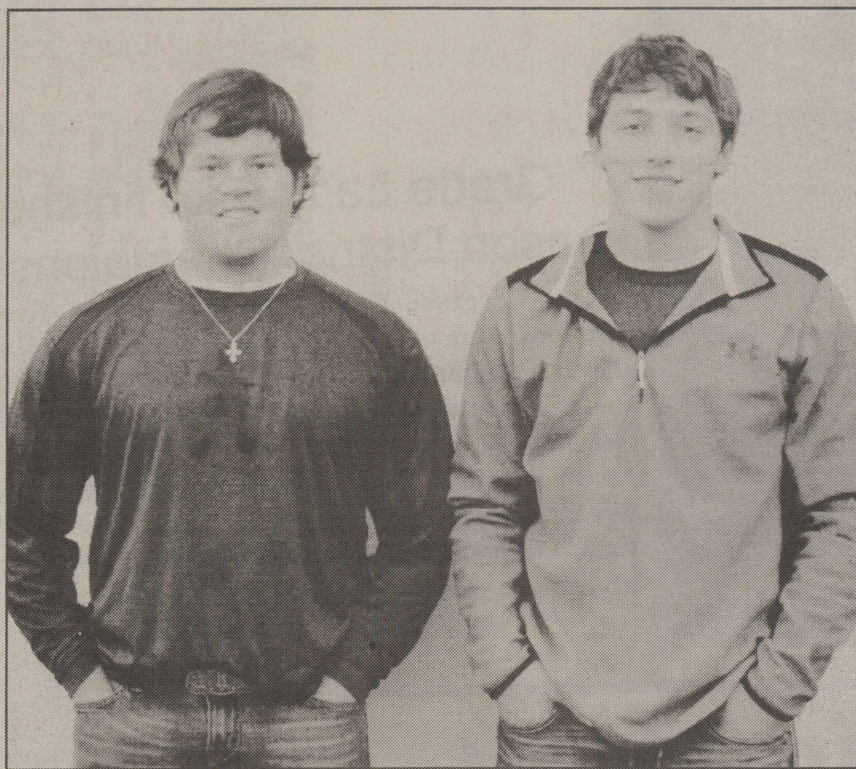
The Stratford Hospital District operates on a non-discriminatory basis, giving equal treatment and access to services without regard to sex, race, religion, age or ethnicity.



Mariscal Congratulated

The Texas Department of Transportation, Amarillo District would like to congratulate Jesus Mariscal of the Stratford office on his 5 years of service with the Department. His dedication to the citizens of Texas is greatly appreciated. He was recognized at the TxDOT District office on January 14, 2016 for his accomplishments.

Pictured from left to right: Interim District Engineer Marty Smith, Jesus Mariscal, and Stratford Maintenance Supervisor Jerry Ewers.



Stone & Brooks named to All-State Football Team

Named to the Texas Sports Writers Association 2-A All-State Football Team are Tanner Stone and Gage Brooks. Tanner Stone, left was selected 2nd Team Defense – linebacker and Gage Brooks was selected 3rd Team Offense – fullback. Congratulations to these young men!

Home Country By Slim Randles

Billy slowly raised one eyelid and looked around. Boots and Desdemona, Aunt Ada's cats, were curled up, one against his belly and one against his back. Billy hated to wake the cats, but when a guy has to go find a tree, well, call it collateral damage. He got up, stretched and yawned and trotted out to the kitchen. Aunt Ada greeted him with ear rumples and a bowl of kibble, and then opened the door so he could go to work.

Being the official town dog isn't always the easiest job, Billy thought. I mean, not if you take it seriously.

Billy went down to where his dog house was by the elementary school. He cleaned up some scraps that some good soul had left for him, then rested his chin on his paws and waited. The blue car came, and Martin', the crossing guard, emerged with his smile, his sign and his whistle.

Billy greeted Martin' and the two of them waited. Two third graders arrived. Martin' walked to the center of the street, held up the sign and blew the whistle. Billy walked the children across the street, and then returned. Martin' returned to the safe shore with his paddle.

There wasn't a car in sight, but you never can tell. Half an hour later, all the kids were safely at school and the blue car went away.

Billy wasn't sure, but he thought this might be sale day down at the cattle auction. It seemed... like that kind of day, so he headed toward the edge of town. He stopped at the back door of the Soup 'R Market and scratched. Sure enough, Annette opened the door, gave him an ear rumple and a bone, and went back in.

Yes, it felt like sale day. You know something in the air. But what if it isn't sale day? What if none of the other dogs show up today? Oh well, there's always a nap at the dog house and before you know it, the kids would need his help crossing the street to go home.

Life is good.

Like dogs? Especially coonhounds? Read the award-winning children's book, *01" Jimmy Dollar*, available now at www.lpdpress.com.

3rd Grade Lady Elks



3rd Grade girls go undefeated

These girls participated in the Amarillo Kids Inc. League and went undefeated! They played 2 games every Saturday for 4 weeks. Top Row: Michelle Lopez, Jasmine Moczygema, Lynley Albert, Addison Bell, Makenzie Bell, Faith Tims. Bottom Row: Alli Jo Roberts, Mireya Zapata,

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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
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. Steve Ulrey 396-2178
520 N. Main
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Junior & 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.

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Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Children 6 p.m. youth 7 p.m.

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Miercoles: Servicio De Adoracion 6-8 p.m.

Kerrick Community
Pastor Roy Harris
Community Building
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Church of Christ
Raymond Glendinning
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.

8th Grade Lady Elks finished season District Champions

8th Grade Lady Elks finished the season District Champions and undefeated and are coached by Renae Horsford. Standing from left: Coach Horsford, Annahi Ruiz, Toni Lopez, Janeht Bravo, Lilia Trayler, Nadia Fierro, Daisy Ruiz. Bottom L/R: Akira Vacio, Kenlee McBryde, Itzel Botello. Congratulations!!



7th Grade Lady Elks finished season District Champions

The 7th grade Lady Elks coached by Renae Horsford were undefeated for the season and the District Champions. Kneeling from left: Hilda Romero, Ashton Lavake, Alexia Guerra, Kori Salas, Reaghan Audrain, Rese Schoonover. Standing L/R: Coach Horsford, Gloria Hernandez, Sydnee Palmer, Payton Berry, Lashala Anderton, Angie Couch, Abby Law, Emma Franklin, Britney Loya, and Morgan Maldonado. Congratulations on a great season!

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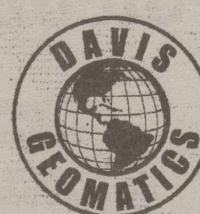
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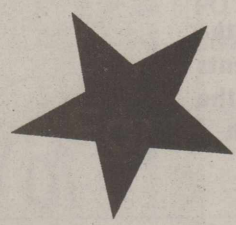
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Submit applications and resumes to:
City of Stratford
PO Box 188
Stratford, TX 79084-0188
ATTENTION: Kathy Rendon
E-mail: KathyRendon@ci.stratford.tx.us

Coldwater Manor in Stratford, Texas is looking for experienced RN's, LVN's and CNA's. If interested please come by 1111 Beaver Road for an application or send your resume to dgross@shdistrict.com EOE 4 wks/128th

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A&I Parts Center located in Stratford, Texas, is currently seeking a full-time Office Manager. Salary is market-competitive and commensurate with experience. Ideal candidates will have experience with QuickBooks, accounting, payroll, A/R and A/P. We offer full medical insurance, Dental, Vision, and 401(k). Please contact us at dratryler@aipartscenter.com ask for DeWain at 806-366-5561. 2-18-tfn

The City of Stratford is accepting applications for a Municipal Court Clerk. High school diploma or GED is required. Computer skills are required. An employment application can be picked up at City Hall. Applications must be received by February 19, 2016 by 5:00 p.m.

Submit applications and resumes to:
City of Stratford
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Stratford, TX 79084-0188
ATTENTION: Kathy Rendon

E-mail: KathyRendon@ci.stratford.tx.us
2-18-c

Help Wanted: Pharmacy Technician or person willing to become a Technician Trainee. Candidate must be detail oriented and willing to work as part of a team. Must have high school diploma or equivalent and be able to pass a background check. Applications available at Elk Pharmacy in Stratford or call 806-396-5505 for more information.
2-18

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AgriLife Extension gears up for second Regional Sorghum Program

Plainview event is set for March 3

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PLAINVIEW - Plans are being finalized for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Regional Sorghum Program set for March 3 in Plainview.

Danny Nusser, AgriLife Extension regional program leader for the North Region, said the free event will start with registration at 8 a.m. in the 0111e Liner Center with the last speaker slated for noon. The center is located at 2000 S. Columbia St.

"This is shaping up to be an outstanding program that will focus on understanding water efficiency and sorghum needs, weed issues and the sugarcane aphid," Nusser said. "This will be our second regional program focusing on sorghum with the first drawing a good crowd and positive reviews late last month in Dumas. Both programs involve top AgriLife experts who are able to provide up-to-date, cutting edge-information."

Session topics, AgriLife Extension speakers and specific talks will include:

- Sorghum Soil and Water Relationships: Dr. Charles Hillyer, irrigation specialist, and Dr. Jourdan Bell, agronomist, both at Amarillo, and Dr. Dana Porter, engineering specialist at Lubbock - crop water requirements, soil moisture management, irrigation technologies and best management practices to improve water-use efficiency, agronomic relationship to water use.

- Sugarcane Aphid: Dr. Pat Porter, entomologist, Lubbock, and Blayne Reed, integrated pest management agent for Floyd, Hale and Swisher counties - biology and history, control options both chemical and cultural, resistant/tolerant varieties, effects on forage and silage production, future research.

- Weed Management Options: Bell and Reed - problem weeds and biology, a plan for success to include tillage and pre-emergent control, herbicide options and mode of actions, effective timing and application, rotational considerations.

- Risk Management/Profitability Outlook: Dr. Jackie Smith, economist, Lubbock.

Two Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units in the integrated pest management category will be offered.

For more information, contact Nusser at 806-677-5600 or dnusser@ag.tamu.edu.

AgriLife Extension offers management options for sugarcane aphids in the High Plains

Writer: Kay Ledbetter, 806-677-5608, skledbeUer@ag.tamu.edu Contact: Dr. Ed Bynum, 806-677-5600, ebynum@ag.tamu.edu

AMARILLO - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologists are trying to help producers prepare for the likelihood of the sugarcane aphid on the Texas High Plains in 2016.

Dr. Ed Bynum, AgriLife Extension entomologist in Amarillo, said after 2015's infestation, the agency's entomologists in areas impacted by sugarcane aphid got together to determine what needed to be done to prevent as much damage as possible.

The first step will be to make sure all producers are able to identify the sugarcane aphid and know the difference between other insects out there that look very similar, such as the greenbug, Bynum said. The sugarcane aphid has dark cornicles, tips of antennae and feet, and no stripe down its back; the greenbug doesn't.

He said all sugarcane aphids are females. They live an average of 28 days, are born pregnant and have a live birth. The new aphids only take four to 12 days before they become an adult and can start giving birth to one to three offspring a day.

Their damage is caused by the piercing sucking mouthparts, Bynum said. This action puts the plant in poor health and can keep it from fully developing. Excess plant sap during feeding is bypassed out on to the leaves as a sticky substance called honeydew. A black sooty mold will grow on the honeydew causing a reduction of photosynthesis.

Excessive feeding can cause significant yield loss and weakens the stalk, predisposing it to lodging, he said.

Persistent populations can exist on sorghum, johnsongrass, Sudan grass, pearl millet and broomcorn. Non-persistent populations can be found on sugarcane, corn, large crabgrass, barnyard grass, Japanese millet, napier grass. It does not establish on wheat, oats and rye.

Bynum said arrival time of the insect determines the risk. If the sugarcane aphids show up in the pre-boot stage of the crop, 8-100 percent yield loss can be expected if not treated. If the arrival occurs at the boot stage, the potential yield loss could be 52-69 percent; at panicle emergence, 67 percent; and at soft dough stage, 21 percent.

It is still uncertain whether sugarcane aphids overwinter in the southern High Plains, so AgriLife Extension has nine overwintering monitoring sites set up from Dalhart down to San Angelo. He said they will begin checking the cages in April in both the South Plains and the Panhandle. If no aphids are found, the cages will be checked again in May and June.

Bynum said in field trials at Lubbock last season, there was a 74 percent yield loss between treated and untreated sorghum at the boot stage.

"If you start seeing physical damage to the field or crop canopy, you have a heavy infestation already," he said.

The options to avoid damage are: plant outside the normal planting window; use insecticide seed treatments; plant resistant hybrids and determine when to treat.

"If you plant early, the field could be in later growth stages when aphids arrive, which would have less risk of being severely damaged," Bynum said.

The early planted sorghum would be in the whorl to pre-boot stage, he said. An August to September aphid arrival would allow early planted sorghum to escape damage until grain filling, while a standard planting would have the crop in the boot to flowering stage. Late-planted sorghum would be in the whorl stage.

The later the infestation, he said, the more beneficial insects might be out, lessening the need for chemical control. Also, the aphid reproduction may slow with shorter days and cooler nights.

"Our best recommendation is to plant early," Bynum said. "Use insecticide seed treatments on all sorghum, regardless of planting date. And then be ready to treat if needed."

He said there are some commercial hybrids that have shown to be less susceptible to the sugarcane aphid than other hybrids, but this level of resistance may not prevent aphids from causing yield losses.

So producers need to monitor and treat just like susceptible hybrids. However, Bynum said if the resistant or tolerant hybrid is a good yielding hybrid and fits in the farming operations, then it could provide enough protection to prevent significant yield loss and reduce the number of insecticide applications compared to a susceptible hybrid.

"We have not been able to evaluate the tolerant or resistant hybrids being sold to know just what level of protection they provide," he said. "So, contact your seed dealer to find out which of these hybrids they recommend for the highest yield potential."

The revised threshold for the Texas High Plains is to treat when: 20 percent of plants have aphids in the pre-boot stage; 20 percent of the plants have no more than 50 aphids in the boot stage; and 30 percent in the flowering, soft dough and dough stages, Bynum said.

"Look for small colonies and patches of honeydew," he said. "It's a numbers game. If you have five aphids one day, by the time you can schedule a sprayer in a week, you have 250. Act quickly."

Producers should check for reinfestation after four to seven days, Bynum said.

"If you only kill 90 percent with the first treatment, they will start building back up on you quickly," he said. "We recommend you scout at least two times per week because of how fast they can build back up."

"At black layer, you don't want them moving into the head and causing honeydew and harvest problems," Bynum said.

Currently Sivanto is the only effective labeled insecticide that is safe for beneficial insects, he said. The label for Transform, also effective, was cancelled by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Texas Department of Agriculture has submitted a request to get a Section 18 for its use in treating sugarcane aphid and provide producers with another option.

Predator and parasite numbers may not be able to initially prevent damaging sugarcane aphid buildup, but they could prevent the need for a second application, Bynum said.

Pump Up the blood supply

Stratford Band Students Receive Highest Ratings At UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest

On Saturday, February 6, 40 Stratford Band students travelled to Canyon to perform in the UIL Regional Instrumental Solo and Ensemble contest. The 7th and 8th grade students performed at Canyon High School and the 9th-12th grade band members performed on the West Texas A & M campus. Of 19 separate events entered, 17 received Division I (Superior) Ratings. This is the highest rating given at UIL music contests.

Below are the results of the Junior High Contest:

Lilia Trayler flute solo, Division I; Melanie Ramirez, Yulissa Romero, and Stephanie Ruiz, clarinet trio, I; Itzel Botello, Janeht Bravo, and Rylie Long, woodwind trio, I; Emma Franklin, Ashton Lavake, and Sydnee Palmer, alto saxophone trio, II; Lily Gonzalez, Carlos Reta, and Oscar Sauzameda, woodwind trio, I; Gloria Hernandez, Morgan Maldonado, woodwind duet, I; Daisy Ruiz and Akira Vacio, alto saxophone duet, I; Hannah Simms, Chloe Watson, and Lara Wells, trumpet trio, II; Patsy Bobadilla, Alondra Camberos, and Jennifer Morillon, trombone trio, I; Dempsey Collums and Arturo Vallejo, baritone duet, I; Angie Couch and Madlyn Kemp, trombone duet, I; Jesus Duran, Nadia Fiero, and Toni Lopez, brass trio, I; Xhander Lewis, Luis Molina, and Jacob Sanchez, brass trio, I; and Jesus Duran, Abi Gomez, Toni Lopez, and Luis Molina, brass quartet, I.

High School results:

Sherridan Powers, flute solo, I; Victor Torres, baritone solo, I; Nadia Ortega, trombone solo, I; Erika Lopez, tuba solo, I; and Juan Camberos, Zachary Lujan, and Nadia Ortega, trombone trio, I.

By earning a Division I rating on their Level I (difficult) trio, the trombone trio qualified for the State Instrumental Solo/ Ensemble Contest held in Austin the end of May.

Congratulations go to all band students for their hard work and effort given to represent Stratford Schools so well at the Solo/Ensemble Contest. Also, thanks go to Marihoward Englebrecht for providing piano accompaniment for the soloists.



High School soloists (Left to Right): Erika Lopez, Sherridan Powers, Nadia Ortega, and Victor Torres.



High School trombone trio (Left to Right); Juan Camberos, Zachary Lujan, and Nadia Ortega.



(8th Band Picture –
8th grade participants (no particular order): Lilia Trayler, Itzel Botello, Janeht Bravo, Rylie Long, Lily Gonzalez, Carlos Reta, Oscar Sauzameda, Daisy Ruiz, Akira Vacio, Jesus Duran, Nadia Fierro, Toni Lopez, Xhander Lewis, Jacob Sanchez, Luis Molina, and Abi Gomez.



7th grade participants (no particular order): Melanie Ramirez, Yulissa Romero, Stephanie Ruiz, Ashton Lavake, Sydnee Palmer, Gloria Hernandez, Morgan Maldonado, Hannah Simms, Chloe Watson, Lara Wells, Patsy Bobadilla, Alondra Camberos, Jennifer Morillon, Dempsey Collums, Arturo Vallejo, Angie Couch, and Madlyn Kemp. Not pictured: Emma Franklin.