

Sherman County Museum 7 / 05
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Stratford, TX 79084

The Stratford Star

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Number 18 May 5, 2005

SCDC Update

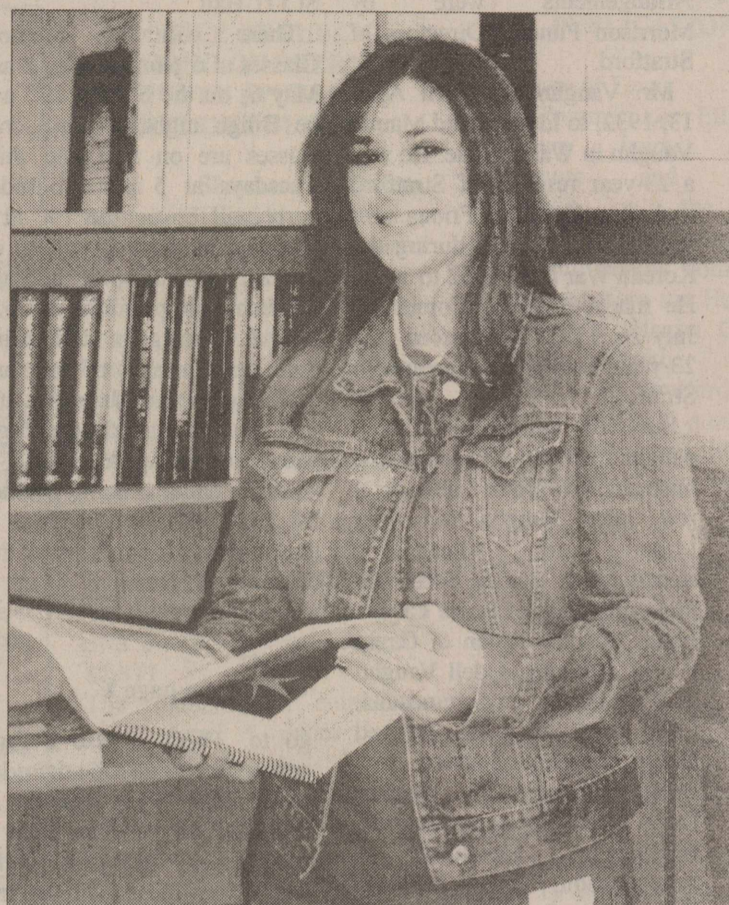
By Kathy Allen

For the past month I have received many visits and phone calls from community members upset about Duckwalls closing. When a corporation makes up their mind to do something, there is no negotiating with them. But our next move is clear-find a replacement business. From the very first day that Duckwalls notified us that they would be closing, the SCDC office has been working on this project. We have been in contact with four chain stores and two of them have already visited Stratford and looked at the store. This is not an overnight process and these companies take their time and explore all areas related to the proposed store and the community itself. So even if the store sits empty for a while we wanted to make sure you know that we are working on bringing another business to Sherman County. As with most things, it just takes time.



Golf Team Advances to State

The boys golf team placed 2nd at the Regional Golf meet held in Lubbock April 25 & 26 and will advance to the State Golf meet on May 9th & 10th in Austin. Shown from left, Coach Dusty Stewart, Robert Seawright, Josh King, Walter Spurlock, Tyler Haynes, and Scott Hudson. Congratulations and Good luck!!



Haile Advances to State

Evan Haile placed 3rd at the Regional UIL Academic Meet held April 22nd in Levelland, TX and will advance to the State UIL Academic meet this week in Austin. Good Luck Evan!

Flowers Needed

If you are cleaning out your flowerbeds and have some starts or bulbs, Coldwater Manor would love to have some to fill in some of their flowerbeds. They thank you in advance.

Mary Allen Elementary Has Started Registration for Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten

Mary Allen Elementary started registering children for Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten for the school year 2005-2006, beginning on April 25, 2005. You may come to the Mary Allen Office and get a packet to fill out. Please bring your child's social security card, birth certificate, and current shot record. To enroll in Kindergarten, your child must turn 5 by September 1st, 2005. A child is eligible for enrollment in Pre-Kindergarten if the child is at least 4 years of age by September 1, 2005 and is

- *unable to speak or understand the English language
- *educationally disadvantaged
- *homeless

Mary Allen Elemental-Comenzaran las registraciones para niños para el Kindergarten y el Pre-K para el año escolar del 2005-2006, comenzaran el 25 abril de 2005. Usted puede venir a la oficina de Mary allen y obtener un paquete para llenarlo. Traiga por favor su tarjeta de seguro social y certificado de nacimiento, y el registro de las vacunas del niño. Para matricularse para el Kindergarten debe de tener 5 años para el primero de Septiembre del 2005. Un niño tiene derecho a matricularse para el Pre-K si el niño tiene por lo menos 4 años de la edad para el 1, de septiembre de 2005 y es:

- *incapaz de hablar o entender el idioma ingles
- *educativamente disavilitado
- *sin hogar

Medical Fund for Mandy Helmuth @ 1st State Bank

There has been a medical fund set up at First State Bank for Mandy Helmuth, daughter of Jimmy and Tammie Helmuth. After the birth of her baby daughter she was diagnosed with Peripardum Cardiomyopathy (heart failure). If you would like to help with medical expenses please contact the 1st State Bank.

First Christian Church Fish Fry Sunday, May 8th 12 noon

ACT Registration Deadline

For those high school students who would like to take the ACT Test, the next administration will be on Saturday, June the 11th. The postmark deadline to register for this test is Friday, May the 6th. Registration packets may be obtained in the Counselor's office or by calling 366-3322.

Brisket & All the Fixins-May 15th

It's "brisket and all the fixins" Sunday, May 15th at Sherman County Barn! GFWC/Prospectus Study Club will be serving from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The menu is brisket with Haile's Barbeque Sauce, potato salad, beans, cole slaw, assorted desserts, relishes, bread, drinks. Money raised goes toward scholarships and other projects. Freewill donations will be accepted.

Stratford Hospital Board To Hold An Election for Two Directors

Stratford Hospital District will hold a Directors election on May 7, 2005 to fill two positions.

Early voting by personal appearance will begin Wednesday, April 20, 2005 and will end Wednesday, May 4, 2005. Early voting will be conducted in the Business office of Coldwater Manor during regular business hours each day.

Board members whose terms will expire are Wayne Smith and Betty Brown.

Candidates for the two positions to be filled are Wayne Smith, Kathleen Altman, Dwayne Plunk and Patty Tims.

"Miss Beyond Imagination" Crowned

The new "Miss Beyond Imagination" was crowned Saturday evening April 30. The audience of approximately 50 persons were royally entertained by the four pageant contestants. Picture and more information in next edition.

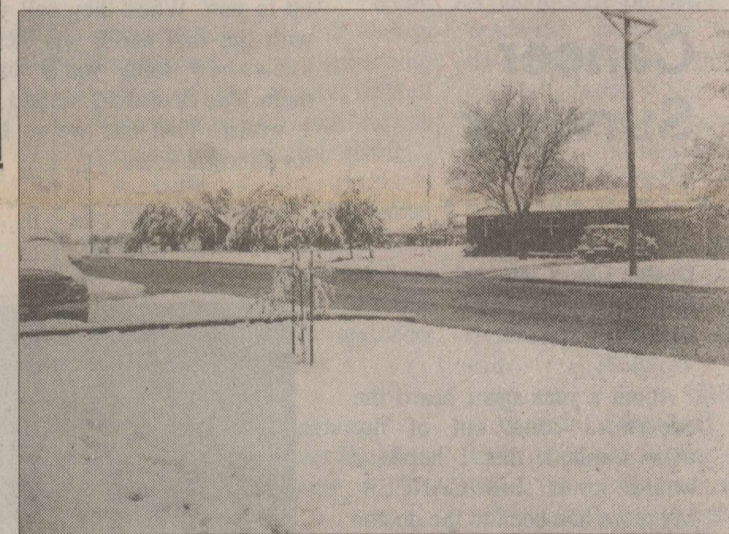
EARLY DEADLINE For May 12th edition of the Star is FRIDAY, MAY 6 at 4:00 p.m. Due to State Golf Meet

List For Treat'n Troops

Our troops need our thoughts and prayers...and care packages. These items will be packaged and sent to a specific local soldier who will in turn distribute them to troops in his platoon/unit.

- Camouflage Aqua Cool Scarf
- White crew type socks (packages in mens & ladies sizes)
- Small packs
- Gatorade/tea/Crystal Lite etc. (this is a powder)
- Travel size packages of wet wipes
- Lotion/shampoo/soap-hotel size (conditioner is not needed)
- Disposable razors
- Travel size toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Eye drops (small)
- Hand sanitizer (travel size)
- Lip Balm (Carmex in a tube is preference)
- Paperback books & playing

Cont. on page 5



Winter Returns to the Panhandle

Stratford residents and surrounding communities awoke Monday morning to a return of Old Man Winter. Guess he wasn't ready to let go. It was a heavy wet snow, as many tree branches and limbs were brought down.

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

May is Foster Care Awareness Month. Children are placed in Foster homes when they are removed from their families because of abuse, neglect, or other family problems that endanger their safety. These children range in age from infants to 18 years. They may have special medical, physical or emotional needs or be part of a group of brothers and sisters who need to be placed together. There are different levels of care, according to the needs of the child, and foster homes are trained and certified for these various levels.

According to Darla Ingram, foster-adopt coordinator with Children's Protective Services, There is an increasing need for foster care homes in the Texas panhandle. Child abuse investigations, as well as removals, are increasing. If a child is removed and there are no local foster homes available, he/she must often be placed in facilities as far away as Dallas or Houston. This makes the job of his social worker much harder and much more expensive, as well as complicating the chance of reunification with the birth family.

Sherman County is fortunate to have 1 certified foster home. The Sherman County Child Welfare Board would like to

express our appreciation to Jennifer and Frank DeAnda for their service to children of this area. They were interviewed recently to help acquaint Sherman County residents with the Foster Care Program.

Q: Why did you choose to become foster parents?

A: We wanted kids in our home. One of our options was to become foster parents. For those wishing to adopt this is one way through CPS. This is

why we initially started to be foster parents.

Q: What was the process for becoming foster parents?

A: We took a 10-week course in Amarillo which went through all of the areas for certification as foster parents certifying your home, studying different types of cases we might see, the whole certification process. We went once a week for 10 weeks. After the initial classes, a very thorough home study was done. This included a home inspection on various occasions, a couple interviews individual interviews and an FBI check.

Q: Was there any other training that you received?

A: You have to have continuing education hours. Your first aid and CPR have to be current. Your training can be online, or articles to read, or speakers to

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PRAISE SERVICE
7:30 P.M.
Each Wednesday
County Barn

Red Hat to Meet Thursday for Supper at Etter

Red Hat Society will meet at First Christian Church on Thursday, May 5th at 5:45 p.m. Then we will leave the church at 6 p.m. for Etter to eat at El Rancho.

Trustee Election May 7, 2005

The Stratford Independent School District will hold a trustee election May 7, 2005 to fill two positions.

Early voting by personal appearance will begin Wednesday April 20, 2005 and will end Tuesday, May 3, 2005. Early voting will be conducted in the Business office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day

Board members whose term will expire are Ricky Reed and Joe Reinart. Holdover members are Gared McBryde, Patti Vincent, Brent Spurlock, Steve Hays, and DeWain Trayler.

Candidates are Joe Reinart, Ricky Reed, and Barney Wilborn.

Military Photos Needed

Express Lane #5 needs photos of our local soldiers. If you have a son, daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew serving in the military please bring a 5 x 7 photo that we can post on our "Hero Wall". We will also want some info regarding your soldier. Please see Mellonee York at Express Lane #5 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Obits

Haywood Vaughn

Haywood Vaughn, 73, died Wednesday, April 27, 2005. Memorial services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday in First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Gene Weinette, pastor, and the Rev. Tom Milbern, pastor of First Christian Church of Boise City, OK, officiating. Flag detail and firing squad will be provided by VFW Post No. 7092 in Boise City. Arrangements were by Morrison Funeral Directors of Stratford.

Mr. Vaughn was born April 13, 1932, to Elwood and Mamie Vaughn in Waxahachie. He was a 23-year resident of Stratford and also lived in Friona. He served in the Army during the Korean War from 1952 to 1954. He married Eunice Combs on July 26, 1982, in Stratford. For 23 years he was a hairdresser in Stratford.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Denette Sweeney and husband, Edward of Lubbock; a son, Jason Vaughn and wife, Midori, of Allen; a stepdaughter, Bonnie Borth and husband, Keith of Boise City; a sister, Dorothy Rolon of Camp Wood; a brother, Odell Vaughn of Waxahachie; two grandsons, Cody Ruth of Lubbock and Duran Vaughn of Allen; two stepgranddaughters, Desiree Davis of Stratford and Mechele Borth of Hereford; a stepgrandson, Anthony Hayworth of Alvarado; and eight stepgreat-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be to Cowboy Church in care of Doak Crabtree, Stratford, TX or Memorial Hospice, 224 E. Second St., Dumas, TX 79029.

Cancer Survivor Spotlight

Desine Garza wrote this article for her best friend, Kathy Melton.

About a year ago I heard the one word come out of my mom's mouth that I hoped I would never hear-CANCER. My mom had been to the doctor a few weeks earlier and through various tests that were being run on her, a tumor was found on her kidneys. She had no symptoms of anything being wrong with her kidney so it was really by accident that it was found. I still remember the day my mom and dad broke the news to us. When she told us that it was cancer tears immediately began to stream down my face. I sat there in disbelief. This was not what I was hearing. My mom came to my side and very calmly told me she was going to be all right. Here she was faced with the possibility of dealing with this horrendous disease and she was comforting me. She was so courageous and strong. My mom never once doubted that God would take care of her. She underwent surgery and they were able to remove the tumor without having to take her kidney. She also would not have to go through any treatments. That day I also saw the love that my dad had for her and how concerned he was for his wife. The surgery lasted a couple of hours and my dad never once left the seat where he was sitting. The relief on his face was so evident when the doctor came out to tell us that

everything went well. I know that God heard my dad's prayers that day. If you ask my mom about her bout with cancer today, she plays it down. She doesn't think hers is as big an ordeal as others. But if the doctors had not found it when they did things could have been much worse. We were very fortunate. She is the type of survivor that the American Cancer Society hopes for. If cancer is not something we can completely rid the world of, then God willing, it can be a

disease that is cured easily. That is why I am involved in the Relay for Life. The work being done for research may someday make cancer not a word that puts such fear in our hearts but causes us to be optimistic, just like my mom. I have always admired my mom but watching her go through this made my admiration for her even more. I love you Mom. I hope that if I am ever faced with this disease I can be as brave as you were and that my daughter will look up to me the way I do to you.

Scot Talk

By Mary Hill

On this snow-covered May 2, let me just jot down a few reminders of May activities at SCOT Hall.

There will be Memory Classes at 6 p.m. on May 2 and May 6; on the 5th and 19th will be Bingo night, 7 p.m.; craft classes are on first and third Tuesdays at 5 p.m.; birthday party will be on the 19th at 2 p.m.; board meeting will be on the 24th at 5:30 p.m. and the luncheon will be on the 26th.

Line dancing is still being done on Mondays at 5 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m. This is a good way to get some exercise and have fun.

And, a dance is being planned for May 28th. If you like to dance, this is for you! Mark this on your calendar.

See you around.

Foster

Cont. from page 1

go to. There is also a foster parent club. You are advised by mail about what classes are available, so you can keep up your hours. Our own worker has also worked with us in a discussion group.

A: What kind of commitment did you initially make?

A: There is no contract, nothing, permanent that says you will be a foster parent for a certain length of time. It's really up to you. When they call you with the first child, you never know how long you'll have them. The first child we had for 2 weeks. This one we've had for almost 2 years.

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Happy 50th Mayor Brown

Mayor David Brown was honored with a Surprise "50th" birthday party on Friday, April 29th at City Hall. Happy Birthday David and hope you have another 50+ years.

LET'S MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

Wants to remind you that Mother's Day is May 8th. Call now for a corsage; dozen roses or store special for the Moms in your life.

366-7673

EARLY DEADLINE

For May 12th edition of the Star is FRIDAY, MAY 6 at 4:00 p.m. Due to State Golf Meet

"Brisket and All The Fixins" May 15

Sherman Co. Barn!

GFWC/Prospectus Study Club will be serving from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Menu: Brisket, Haile's Barbecue Sauce, Potato Salad, Beans, Cole Slaw, Assorted Desserts, Relishes, Bread, Drinks

Money Raised goes toward Scholarships and other projects. Freewill Donations will be accepted

"Thank God for the Harrington Cancer Center."

THE STORY OF
Monserrath Cervantes
with son, Jaime

HEREFORD, TEXAS

AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED WITH STOMACH CANCER IN 1991, Monserrath Cervantes underwent surgery to remove the tumor. Eight months later, the tumor grew back and he began to get very ill. After a second surgery, Monserrath was sent to Harrington Cancer Center to receive chemotherapy treatment.

At Harrington, Monserrath found a treatment program with physicians and nurses who cared for him like family. He also found a facility dedicated to providing outstanding care, exceptional education, devoted social services and timely clinical research.

Today, Monserrath feels better than ever. He is thankful to God... and he is also thankful to The Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer Center.



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1-800-377-4673
1310 Wallace Blvd.
Amarillo, TX 79106

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35187-0404 For costs, benefits, exclusions, limitations, and renewal terms, call Wayne Smith or Sharon Brown, independent insurance brokers offering plans underwritten by Golden Rule Insurance Company and other insurers. Policy Forms: P-006.3 or P-006.4.



This Mother's Day,
Capture
the moment!

\$29.95* • Nokia 3200
Nokia 6200

*Take an additional \$10 off when you trade in your old phone.

Choose from either the Nokia 3200 picture phone or the Nokia 6200 and receive a two piece accessory pack with a two year contract.

Sale dates start April 25th and end May 6th.

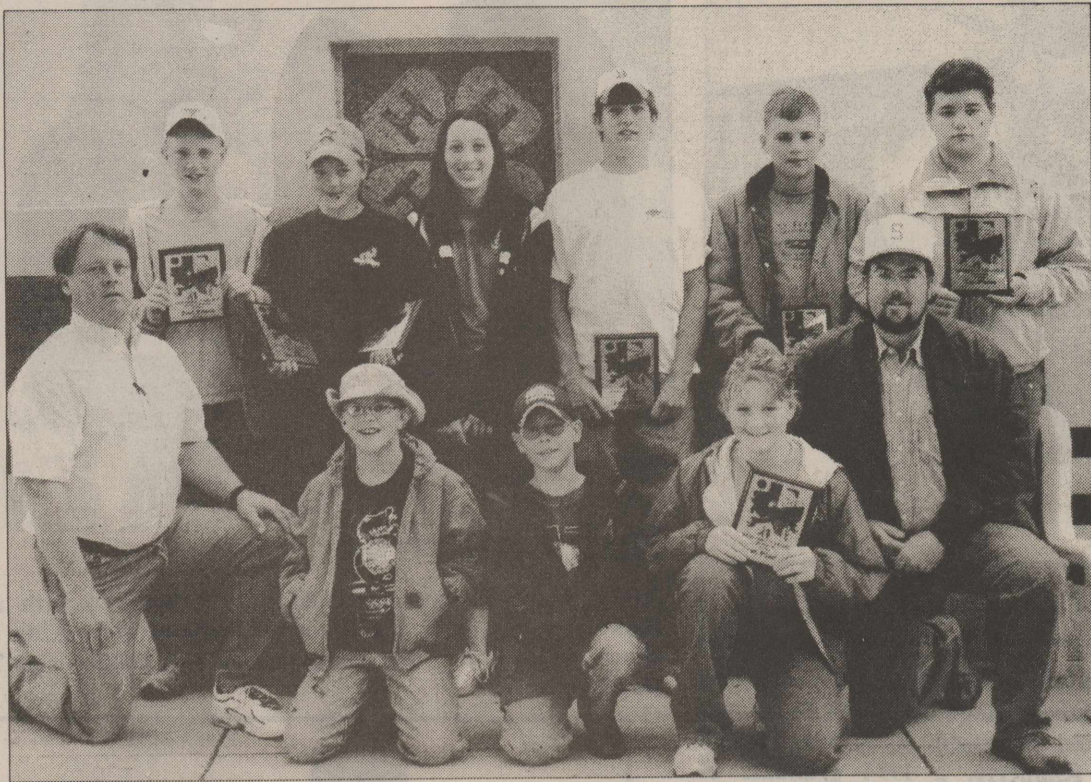
Accessory Pack includes a car charger with retractable cord and a carrying pouch.

XIT
Wireless

366-3355

Stratford - 401 North 3rd Street

Some restrictions apply. See store for details.
Offer valid while supplies last.



Youngsters Attend Shooting Sports

Back row-Tyler Gilliland, Eric Burton, Jennie Spurlock, Hunter Buckles, Matt Correll & Rustin Russell. Front-Scott Buckles, Rhyon Burton, Garrett Ely, Sunny Russell and Sherwin Burton.

Matt Correll, Rustin Russell, Sunny Russell, Jennie Spurlock, Eric Burton, Rhyon Burton, Tyler Gilliland, Garrett Ely, and Hunter Buckles attended the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Extravaganza April 22-24th at the Texas 4-H Center located at Lake Brownwood. Volunteer leaders Cindy Russell, Sherwin Burton, and Scott Buckles also attended.

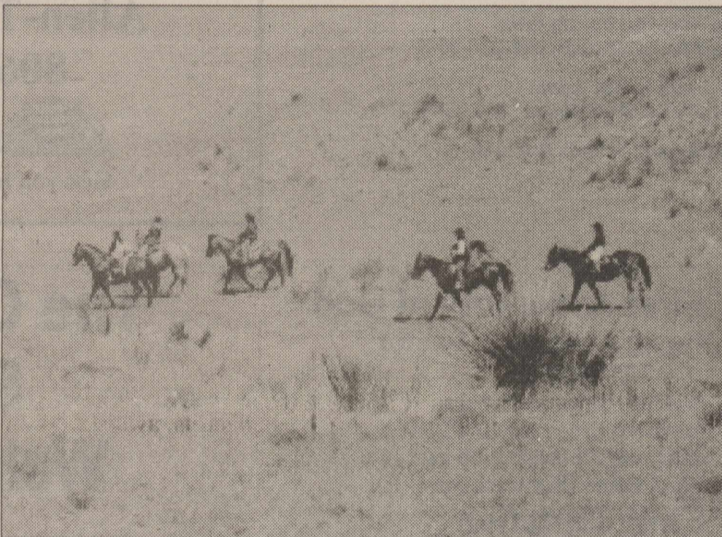
SHERMAN CO. 4-H HORSE CLUB TREASURE HUNT

Saturday, April 23rd, about high noon, the Sherman Co. 4-H Horse Club discovered a note left by Miner 49er giving clues to the whereabouts of the treasure he hid back in 1860 while being chased by desperados. This took place in the Coldwater Creek west of Stratford. These riders loaded up and headed west. Once there, they mounted their trusty steeds and were off on the hunt. The riders traversed expansive terrain and along the way discovered various wildlife. There were buffalo, cattle, rabbits, I believe a rattlesnake! and even a rhino!! There were also a couple of not-so-wildlife along the way including a greyhound, a heeler, and a few silhouettes. Finally, about an hour later, the riders came upon Miner 49er's treasure. It was a cache of \$100,000 Grand (candy bars, that is!!). After the loot was discovered and collected the riders headed back to the chuckwagon for some burgers and drinks. And brownies! It was a great day had by everyone who came west and the 4-H Horse Club would like to give special thanks to Andy Riffe for supplying the story, the land, the hospitality, and especially the burgers and brownies!!

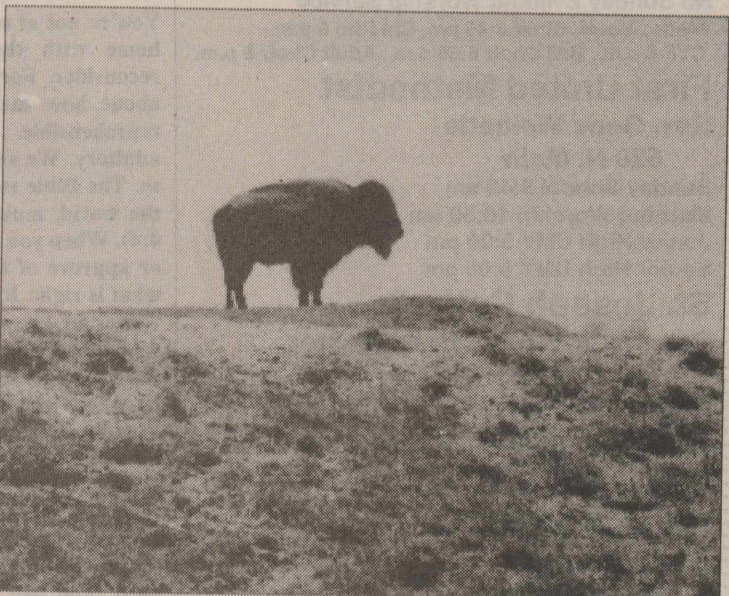
On Saturday, May 21st, the Sherman Co. 4-H Horse Club will once again be off on a Wild West Adventure. There will be a Treasure Hunt, games, prizes, food, and good conversation and we'd like to invite you to join us. The cost is \$5.00 a person. You can contact the Sherman Co. Extension Office at 396-2122 for the location and more details. Please RSVP no later than May 13th so we know how many hamburgers to fix. Don't forget to bring your horse and your lawnchair. Horses eat for free!

Members competed in 3-P, Precision Air Rifle, Running Target, BB Gun, Prone, and Smallbore Silhouette matches. Bringing home plaques for their achievements were: Rustin Russell - 1st place Precision Air Rifle and 1st place Class B Silhouette; Hunter Buckles - 2nd Place 3-P; and Sunny Russell - 1st Place Class A Running Target. Eric Burton - 1st place Running Target and Silhouette; and Tyler Gilliland - 2nd place Running Target.

The weekend experience was enjoyed by everyone. Sponsors of the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Extravaganza are Texas State Rifle Association, Federal Cartridge Company, Winchester-Olin, and National Rifle Association. 4-H is the youth development program of the Texas Cooperative Extension. All programs are serve people regardless of socio-economic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.



Riders enjoying the day.



Buffalo?



Heritage Day Tasting Bee

Mrs. Hand's 6th grade reading class read the novel *Number the Stars* earlier this school year. Following the novel, which was set in Europe during WWII, the students researched name origins. Each student researched each grandparent's surname and traced those names to a European country. Several activities were done with their origin country as the theme. The final activity was a research project of recipes from the countries of Europe. Each student prepared this recipe at home and brought it for a tasting bee. International cookbooks that included each of these recipes were made and distributed. 5th and 6th grade students enjoyed a variety of cuisine from a variety of European countries.

<h3>Business Directory</h3>	<h3>Stratford Hospital District</h3> <p>Coldwater Manor Stratford Family Medical Clinic Stratford EMS Proudly serving the medical needs of Stratford and Sherman County</p>
<p>WALTER LASLEY & SONS INC. <i>THE Feedyard</i> Since 1953 753-4411</p>	<p>folkart ONE Stroke OSCI BOBBIE STRONG 806-396-2802</p>
<p><i>Stratford Grain Co.</i> Stratford 396-5541 Lautz 769-4485 4 North Main</p>	<p>Robert's Service Center 400 S. Poplar 396-2882 <i>Tires & Batteries</i> Auto & Lawn Mower Repair</p>
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<p>Stratford Auto Electric 119 S. Wall, Stratford, Texas 79084 Phone 366-5941 366-5857 <i>Alternator, Starter, Magneto Repair</i> Since 1964</p>	<p>Allen-Tarver Insurance Agency Carolyn A. Tarver Auto • Home • Life • Commercial Bus: (806)396-5810 • Res: (806) 396-2393</p>
<p>Betty Brown's Medical Claim Service 605 S. Main P.O. Box 7 Stratford, TX 79084 806-396-2623</p>	<p>Joe Flores Farm Bureau Insurance 396-5538 office 396-5389 home</p>
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<p>Joan Bell THE TRAVEL STORE affiliated with National Travel Systems A Full Service Travel Agency 396-5958 1-800-753-2792</p>	<p>Joe Taylor, Photography PO Box 27 1305 N Chestnut Stratford, TX 79084 806-366-2459 Weddings, Portraits, Etc.</p>
<p>This space available</p>	<p>DAVID J. CROSS Rockin' C Cross Appraisals Bus: (806) 366-7525 Fax: (806) 366-7515 rockinc@xit.net 401 N. 3rd Suite 8 P.O. Box 1168 Stratford, TX 79084</p>



Summer League Girls Basketball held a Mexican Pile-on fundraiser on Sunday, May 1, 2005 at the High School Cafeteria. Shown serving from left, Merilee McDaniel, Crystal Peregrino, April Peregrino, LaRissa Luna, Shadley Audrain, Jordan Confer, Yadira Ortega & Allison Baskin.

2005 Annual Stewardship & Awards Banquet



Shown above Scott Buckles, Tommy Sangster, Steve Pemberton and Richie Brotherton with County Judge Terri Carter signing the Stewardship Proclamation declaring April 24-May 1, 2005 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week in Sherman County.



Conservation Farmer presented by Scott Buckles went to Dan Carthel.



Coloring contest K-2nd grade shown above Tyler Rouse who received 2nd place. Not pictured 1st place Shay Potter and 3rd place Monica Reyes.

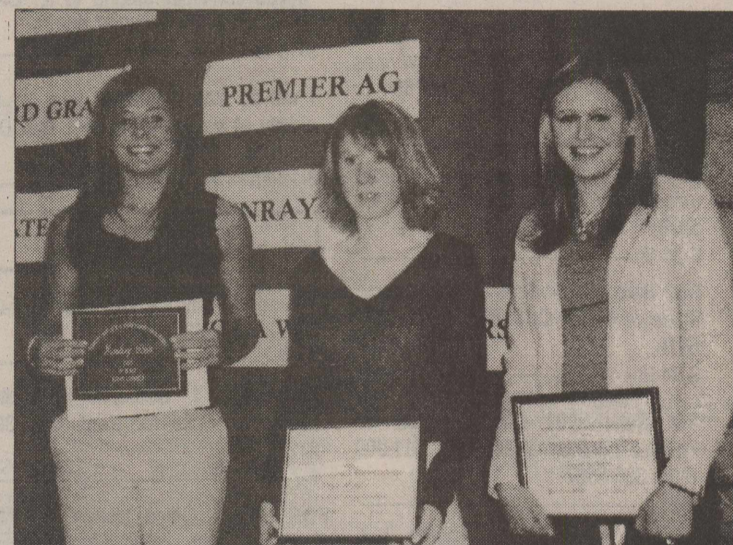


Conservation Homemaker went to Cindy Miller, presented by Scott Buckles.



Poster Contest 3rd-5th was presented by Tommy Sangster to 1st place Mazie Vincent, 2nd place Marcos Garza and 3rd Shannon Maiwald

Shown left to right Mazie, Shannon and Marcos



Essay Contest presented by Steve Pemberton -winners were 1st Lindsey Stein, 2nd Jayme Wilhelm and 3rd place Kayla Willard. Shown left to right, Lindsey, Kayla and Jayme

5-States Playa Lakes Festival

Students grades 3-6th in Sherman County, and adjoining counties in four other states are eligible to register for the Playa Lakes Festival, to be held July 19-21, in Boise City and Kenton, OK. The Festival is a fun way for students to become educated about the High Plains water cycle through the context of playa lakes. During a three-day program, students will be instructed in the main components of our unique water cycle: springs, draws, creeks, playa lakes, and the Ogallala Aquifer.

Darryl Birkenfeld, Director of Ogallala Commons, the main sponsor of the Festival, explains why students in the region need to be knowledgeable about the water cycle. "Water is the lifeblood of human and natural ecosystems. Playas are a unique feature of the High Plains country, and they are a tool to teach students, adults, and communities about a healthy and functioning water cycle."

According to Loren Smith in *Plays of the Great Plains* (Texas Tech University Press, 2003), there are 219 playa lakes covering 5,058 acres in Sherman County. In recent years, numerous studies are demonstrating that Ogallala Aquifer recharge is intricately tied to playa basins. Though long treated as a nuisance, playa lakes are not only important to wildlife, but for the long-term viability of the water cycle as well as human communities.

A well-qualified adult faculty (along with approximately 14 adult sponsors) will supervise approximately 50-60 students working in learning groups of

20. Using an indoor/outdoor format, students will spend 6 hours each day in 3-hour modules that involve science, biology, creative writing, art, photography and local history.

Interested students can pick up a brochure and registration form from Tiffany confer at Stratford Junior High or Stacy Metcalf and Desine Garza at Mary Allen Elementary. These will need to be turned in with a \$20 registration fee to those teachers by May 6th.

Scholarships are available for students in need, and can be obtained by visiting with Kathie Altman.

Transportation will be provided. We will meet at Stratford Junior High parking lot each morning and return late afternoon.

Adult sponsors or students interested in participating in the Playa Lakes Festival may also contact Kathie Altman at 806-366-5611 or Ann Wells at 806-396-2527.

The Playa Lakes Festival is presented by Ogallala Commons, and co-sponsors include Playa Lakes Joint Venture. The Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District. Additional sponsors are still needed, and anyone interested can contact Darryl Birkenfeld at 806-938-2529

Foster
Cont. from page 5
the home office, we usually won't get emergency placements.

Q: What are some of the ongoing commitments as the foster parents?

A: No home visits are done in your home because the parents do not know where their child is placed or who the family is. All visitations would be at the CPS office in the county where the child resided. The visits are at the discretion of the court, and are set up by the social worker. Foster parents never have to have contact with the biological parents. You take the children to the CPS office, and the social worker takes them to the visitation area. It truly is a choice how much you want to be involved with the biological parents. We started with once a week visits, then 3 times a week. It varies according to the child's needs.

Q: Is that unusual to have that many visits per week?

A: The whole philosophy behind foster parenting and CPS is to reunite families when it is possible. You have as many visits as necessary to make that happen, for any bonding to take place.

Q: Did you have any choice as to the age, sex, etc. of the children you would take?

A: You have the choice of age, sex, race of the child, even down to why they were removed. For example, you might prefer that sexually assaulted children not be placed in your care, and that would be your choice.

Q: Are you a member of the decision making team? Do you have input into what you feel would be the best outcome for the child?

A: You have some input. The child's social worker meets with you on a monthly basis. They can ask your opinion and take that into consideration. For the final decision, No.



Shown above Lollipop Director-Cheryl Jones and Extension Agent Susie Spurlock.

LOLLIPOP JUNCTION SMALL TALK #3

Reading with your children is a great opportunity to interact with them in a positive way, while helping them grow intellectually and socially. While recognizing the importance of reading with children and seeking a parental involvement activity that would provide such an opportunity, Susie Spurlock of the Texas Cooperative Extension Service suggested the FRED, program to Lollipop Director Cheryl Jones.

On April 19th Susie Spurlock, in conjunction with Sherman County Librarian Sandy Baskin

Q: What is the hardest part of being a foster parent?

A: Having to give the babies back and being in an uncertain situation. You never know what the outcome will be for them.

Q: What is the best part?

A: Everything else is the best part. You know that you are helping kids and putting them in a safe place. That's the best part. (Watching this young couple interact with their foster child makes one happy for all 3 of them)

Q: Can you think of anything else that you want to tell prospective foster parents?

A: Services that are available to the foster parents include: Medicaid, WIC, childcare expenses, and a monthly stipend to help with expenses. Some foster parents borrow baby beds etc. from the Rainbow Room or the foster parenting group. Child Welfare Boards also provide extras like Christmas presents when a foster family needs help

and Mrs. Jones, held a parent meeting on the FRED program. FRED is a 4 week program designed to encourage you to read to your children everyday.

The staff at Lollipop knows that reading stimulates a child's imagination, enhances vocabulary, introduces the components of stories and increases the potential for success. Reading is an everyday activity at Lollipop. Wanting to encourage reading at home was only natural. The FRED program is off and running with children and parents to reap the benefits that last a lifetime.

April birthday was Brody Wheeler. We hope you had a great day!

with this.

Also, truly know that it is a commitment. You have to have the heart to do it. There have been times when we have thought 'what did we do?'. It's hard. You can try to prepare yourself for everything, but you don't know until it happens. It's the hardest thing that we've loved getting to do.

If YOU would like to find out more about becoming a foster parent, contact Foster Adoption Worker Lynn Schisler at 806-354-6213 for a packet further explaining the program. There is also an informative meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Texas Dept. of Protective and Regulatory Services, 6200 I-40 West, Amarillo. This meeting is informal, informational, and without commitment. You may also go to

Thank you for supporting our Texas Children.

ELK JUNCTION

Open for Lunch

Mother's Day 11 - 2:30

Call for Carry-Out

366-3400

Sherman County Emergency Management

To All Interested Parties:
We will be hosting an Awareness Level Weapons of Mass Destruction Training on May 7, 2005 at the Stratford Fire Department, 101 N. Pearl.

This is very important training opportunity for all first responders and local officials responsible for the public safety.

WMD Awareness Level Training will provide a basic understanding of the hazards we face today as first responders and public officials.

The main objectives of the course are:

*To gain a working knowledge of terrorism prevention and deterrence

strategy, to recognize the signs of a potential terrorist act and to identify potential terrorist targets.

*To learn the RAIN techniques: Recognize,

Avoid, Identify, Notify

*To understand the nature of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CRRNE) event.

This course is intended for the following groups or individuals:

- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Management Agency
- Public Works
- Health Care
- Medical/Hospital Staff
- Public Safety
- Communications
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Service
- Government Administration
- Public Health
- CERT-Volunteer Citizens

A certification will be issued upon completion of course from Office of Domestic Preparedness. Law enforcement officers will receive TECLOSE credit.

ELK BASKETBALL CAMP

May 23 - 26

Cost: \$30.00 includes camp T-Shirt

Purpose of Camp: To learn and improve in the fundamentals of basketball

Camp Staff: Lance Horsford - Stratford Elk Varsity Basketball Coach

Site: Stratford High School Gym

Time: 3rd - 5th grade 9:00 - 12:00
Grade placement for the '05-06 school year
Deadline for Registration: May 5, 2005

Complete this portion and return to: Lance Horsford P.O. Box 1041 Stratford, Texas 79084

Camper's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Grade for '05-06 School Year _____

T-SHIRT Size (circle one)

Adult	S	M	L	XL
Youth		M		

We as parents or guardians of the above named boy, hereby grant permission for him to participate in the Elk Basketball Camp and acknowledge that he is physically able to participate in camp activities. We hereby release the Camp, its employees, and Stratford ISD from all claims for injury or illness which may be sustained by our son and authorize the director or his designee to seek a physician's care and authorize treatment of the above named camper on an emergency basis in the event such treatment becomes necessary while attending the Elk Camp.

Signed: (parent or guardian signature) _____