

Christmas Parade

Shown at left and below are two of the entries that were entered in the Christmas Parade on Wednesday, November 28, 2007. Lots of folks braved the cold temperatures to watch the parade, get something to eat at the Imagination Station and visit with Santa.

### HUNTER'S SAFETY **EDUCATION COURSE DECEMBER 14 & 15 By Susie Spurlock**

Hunter's Safety Education Course will be offered in Stratford December 14th and 15th. Lee Morris of Dumas will be conducting the course open to all interested individuals age 12 and older.

The State of Texas requires that all individuals age 17 and older to who plan to participate in any outdoor hunting activities to complete the safety education course.

The course will be conducted at

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Texhoma Independent School District 211-901 will have a public hearing on the Academic Excellence Indicator System at the Office of the Superintendent (4th & Denver) on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, December 6, 2007.

## **Angel Tree** Project

The Angel Tree will provide clothing only this year. Please submit toy wish list to Happy State Bank Toy Drive due to time restraints, no applications will be accepted after December 1, 2007. Please bring donations, to First State Bank wrapped and labeled with Childs. number by December 15th. Angels will be hung on tree on December 3, 2007.

Este ano, El Arbol de Angeles regabra unicamente ropa. La list para los jugetes deber ser entregada a Happy State Bank. Debido al corto tiempo, aplicaciones no seran aceptados despues del 1 de Diciembre. Los angeles calcifications seran colgados en el arbor el 3 de diciembre. Por favor traigan los regales a First State Bank envelops con el numero del angel apuntado en el regalo. Todos los regales seran entregados para el 15 de Diciembre.

### **Ten Reasons** to Love Your Library

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways," begins one of the best loved poems of English Published in The Stratford Star, literature. The Sherman County Public Library is sharing ten reason why the citizens of Sherman County should love their library: 1) Use the library's 12 computers free of charge; 2) Check out the latest bestsellers; 3) Find biographies of the great and the average; 4) Enjoy story time with you child; 5) Ask your library to-arrange an interlibrary loan of a book or other resource from another library free of charge; 6) Take a practice test for becoming a policeman, fireman, graduate student, and more; 7) Check out a couple of great books on CD that the whole family can enjoy on the drive to Grandma's and other distant places; 8) Research your health concerns; 9) Get live homework help from Tutor.com; and 10) Help your library by volunteering, assisting with special projects. Your investment in time and ideas will pay off big time to your community and to yourself.

> This Christmas season show your love for the Sherman County Public Library by contributing to Project Christmas Card sponsored by the Prospectus Study Club and the Stratford Star. The project is very simple, instead of sending individual Christmas cards to your friends and neighbors in Sherman County, you are asked to make a donation to the library. Calculate the costs of cards, postage, time and your effort and take your donation to the First State Bank of Stratford or the Sherman County Public Library. Your family's name or your name will be placed on a full page Christmas card in the Christmas edition of The Stratford Star wishing everyone a "Very Merry Christmas."

If a man had as many ideas during the day as he does when he has insomnia, he'd make a fortune.

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### **Red Hat Society to Meet December 6th**

The Red Hat Society will meet on Thursday, December 6th at 6 p.m. at Elk Junction. Please bring a dozen cookies (your choice) of Peanut Butter, Chocolate Chip or Oatmeal.

You will also need to bring a white elephant gift for exchanging gifts. See you there.

### **Presley Fund** Set Up At Bank

A medical fund for the son of J.B. & Amanda Presley has been set up at the First State Bank of Stratford. Fore more information contact the First State Bank 396-5521.

### **News from Depot Museum**

The Shorman County Depot Museum welcomes Christmas displays to go with nice ornaments this year. Due to shortness of volunteers the Museum will be closed Dec.-March. May call phone numbers on the door to

get in.

Weather Line 366-2000 Sponsored by **Stratford Grain &** ADM/Alliance **Nutrition** Greg Wright -7 days a week, updating as needed

### Donations The Stratford ISD Education

Foundation would like to thank the many people of the -Griff Niblack community who have donated to the foundation this year. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that without your donations the fulfillment of grants for the students of Stratford would not be possible. Please remember the foundation when you are thinking of making your end of year donations. You never know when your donation is going to touch the life of a child.

Move up. You're sitting too far back while driving if you can't drape your wrists over the steering wheel without lifting your Educational programs of the shoulder blades from the seat Texas Cooperative Extension are back. You should also be able to open to all citizens without regard depress the clutch and brake to race, color, sex, disability, pedals without straightening religion, age, or national origin. your legs all the way.

the Sherman County Exhibit Building in Stratford from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday. Cost' of the class will be \$15.00 per person. Individuals who would like to

register for the course may do so by calling the Sherman County Extension Office at 366-2122.

### **Rodriguez Family Fund Set Up**

A fund has been set up at First State Bank to help the family of **Elizabeth Rodriguez who** was in an accident on September 6, 2007 and pasted away Friday November 23, 2007.



## It's time to cook turkeys again!!

More than ever we need to honor our service men and women and their families during the holidays. We'll be firing up the cookers on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the same place as before - Wesley & Susie Spurlock's barn. If you know of a service man/woman's family in Sherman County email their names and addresses to lallen6423@aol.com or call 806/753-7979 and leave a message. If you'd like to donate turkeys, chickens, beef or any type of meat use the same email & phone number. The cooks will also be glad to deep fry or smoke your holiday meat for you.



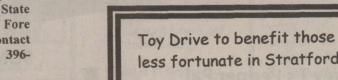
### SANTA LETTERS Hey Kids,

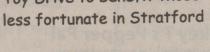
It's time to get your Santa letters in to The Stratford Star to be printed. We will send them on to the North Pole!

### **Deadline for letters:**

Thursday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m.

**Mailbox located at Mary Allen Elementary** or call 366-5885 for more information





There will be a hamburger fundraiser lunch for Jason Elerick on Sunday,

December 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 1:30

at the **Sherman County Barn Free Will Donation** 



Please bring new toys to Happy State Bank by December 12th

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THE STRATFORD STAR Thursday, December 6, 2007 Page 2



#### **Margie Lewis** 1922-2997

Margie Lewis - 85 passed away Monday, November 26, 2007 in Dumas, Texas. Services were held at 2:00 PM, Thursday, November 29, 2007 at North Plains Christian Church with John Green, family friend officiating. CHEERLEADING Burial was in Dumas Cemetery under the direction of Morrison GYM TO OPEN IN Funeral Directors.

Margie was born August 5, 1922 in Lamar, Nebraska to Mary Christmas git' for that special Helen and David Francis Steele. On March 21, 2002 she married Vic Lewis. She had been a resident of Dumas since 1932 and was actively involved in the community. Margie was a homemaker and a member of North Plains Christian Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, Shirley Daniels and Detta Fears; brothers, jumps, Robert L. Rice, John Cook and Jerry Meador.

Survivors include; her husband sisters, Darline Berg of New husband, Doyle, Rhea Hatfield and husband, T.G. all of Dumas; Berg and husband, Phil all of available per age group. Corona, Calif., Brenda Long and husband, Tommy of Stratford, instructor will be a new face Beckey Seals and husband Jerry you may have already seen of Florida; step-son John (Bo) Cook and wife Valerie; several grandchildren, greatgrandchildren and two greatgreat-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Memorial Hospice, 224 E. 2nd-

Dumas, TX 79029 or the American Cancer Society, 403 Pear, Dumas, TX 79029.

**Ask the Geek By Kevin McDonald** 

No Strings to Hold You Down - Wireless Networking



# STRATFORD

Looking for one more little girl? How happy would she be to find that she would get to go to chee. camp every week?! A cheerleading gym is opening in Stratford this January and enrollment begins as of today.

This gym will be offering classes that teach aspiring young cheerleaders motions, cheers, dance, and Joy Steele and Delwin Steel; son gymnastics. They will learn Delmar Rice; and three husbands, cheerleading routines that they will get to perform in front of crowds and even get the chance to go to a real competition. A Vic of the home; son, Bobby Rice Hip-Hop dance class will also and wife, Sally of Dumas; three be offered. The classes will promote a healthy active Braunfels, Laverda Hughes and lifestyle and will be given on a weekly basis. Ages 4 and up are welcome to sign up. Classes will four step-daughters, Sonja Cerni be limited and only a certain and husband, Don, Kathline "Jo" amount of spots will be

The owner and head

McKenzie Talcott and she is currently teaching science at Stratford High School. owns 3 other McKenzie cheerleading gyms in Oklahoma and Kansas and is excited about bringing her program to our area. She is a former NCAA Division II college cheerleading captain and Cheer Coach from **OPSU** where last year they won National Championship competition in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The cheerleading gym will be

called "Miss Kenzie's" as it is in Guymon, Elkhart, and Hugoton. Registration Day and Open House will be on Wednesday, December 19, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at 209 N Main. You are encouraged to call ASAP to reserve your child's spot. The paperwork will be available to be filled out and registration completed on the registration day. Please come by and see the facility and meet Health is...a blessing that money Miss Kenzie and her staff on cannot buy. the 19th.

Call 806-570-8542 for more information and to get signed

up.

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Martha (Marty) Robertson Editor & Publisher

Shari Hudson-Advertising & Photography

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\$20.00 per (9 months)

College Rate

The Stratford Star Box 8

1-806-366-5885 FAX-1-806-366-5885

### around Stratford. Her name is The Imagination Station News **By Gaynelle Riffe**

We thank those who came to share the China Exhibit and had Stew & Soup. A school group from Gruver will visit Monday, Dec. 3 and a group from Sunray will visit on Wednesday, Dec. 5 The China Exhibit will be available most of December in hopes that we can share it with more Stratford persons. The Imagination Station exhibit can be open to any group 3 to 30 by appointment, call Laurie Spurlock or a self guided tour on the days the Computer Lab is open. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 4-6 and Sunday 2-4. We wish you a Merry Christmas and will wish you a Happy Chinese New Year in February.

-Izaak Walton

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Kaleb Horsford is a member of the Elk football, basketball and track teams. He is also a member of the student council. Kaleb is also active in 4-H shooting sports and showing pigs.



**Kaleb Horsford** 

Let's take a little time today to discuss wireless networking. If you don't have it now, you might have it in a few weeks after you open packages from under the tree. Who knows, right? Wireless networking is not all that mysterious, really, but it's commonly misunderstood. I'll describe the most common components that a home-based wireless network will have, assuming the following scenario:

- A broadband (cable, DSL, etc.) Internet connection .
- One PC that will be wired to the network

One laptop that will connect to the network via wireless Let's also get some of vocabulary housekeeping out of the way:

- A "network" can be as little as two devices (a computer and a wireless router, for example) that are hooked together in a way that allows them to share information and/or resources.
- For purposes of this article's scenario, a "wireless router" is a device that allows multiple network devices (computers, laptops, some printers, etc.) to either communicate with each over a cable or over a wireless radio frequency. In other words, your wireless router is what makes your wireless network possible.
- "IP addresses" are special numbers that identify a device on a network and allow devices to find each other. Every device must have its own, unique IP Address.

Your wireless router is the central piece of your network. In our scenario, we'll plug our Internet connection directly into the wireless router, usually into a special port labeled "WAN" or "Internet." Now, instead of your Internet connection going straight into one computer, it's going to make it's first stop at your wireless router. The router now makes the connection to the Internet, and shares your Internet connection with all of the devices that you attach to the router.

We'll now use an Ethernet cable to plug the PC directly into the wireless router. Your router will assign the computer an IP address. This is another essential function of your wireless router. It must keep track of all the IP addresses that it has assigned to all the devices that are connected to the network, since no two can be alike.

Finally, we'll turn on our laptop. If your laptop came with built-in wireless network device, it should have some kind of software installed already to detect and connect to wireless networks. As long as you're within range of your wireless router, your laptop will see the wireless network, connect to it and get it's own unique IP address.

Now you've got a cabled PC and a wireless laptop sharing your broadband Internet connection. Your wireless router can probably handle many devices connected at once, so you've got room to grow.

This also works for a non-wireless network as well. Just replace "wireless router" with a non-wireless router and do the same thing. \*\*\*\*\*

Kevin McDonald is a professional computer technician and novelist. He lives in Stratford with his wife children. He owns and operates Definition Computers: 806-366-7637. Email Kevin ataskthegeek@definitioncomputers.com with your questions.



**Movies Beginning December 7** 

THEATRES

The Golden Compass PG-13 Nicole Kidman Daniel Craig

Dan in Real Life **PG-13** Steve Carell

Awake R Hayden Christensen Jessica Alba

Enchanted PG Amy Adams James Marsden

**August Rush** PG Robin Williams Freddie Highmor

Hitman **R** Timothy Olyphant **Fred Claus** PG Vince Vaughn Paul Giamatti

**Bee Movie** PG Jerry Seinfeld (animated)

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As early as 4000 BCE, citizens of Mohenjo-Daro in what is now Iraq had houses with private bathrooms and an underground sewage system.



A young partridge is called a cheeper

# hristmas Gifts

mokin' Hot





## Wheeler Honored with Baby Shower

Colby and Sandi Wheeler were honored with a baby shower in the home of Tami King last month. Shown from left, Susan Wheeler, Sandi Wheeler and Kathy Rich. In front is Jaycie Wheeler.



CONTRACTORIES AND A CONTRACTOR

(NAPS)-Chef, columnist and cookbook author Andrew Schloss and the Canned Food Alliance have developed recipes with a contemporary twist on classic holiday fare that add nutrition and convenience to any meal. For these and hundreds of other healthful and easy-to-prepare recipes, visit www.Mealtime.org.



Contraction of the other other

Creative chefs are bringing another vegetable to the table: onions. Fall/winter storage onions are an excellent choice for savory dishes that require longer cooking times or more flavor. To learn more, and for recipes, visit www.onions-usa.org.

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### INSURANCE TIDBITS IVY INSURANCE\*\*205 N MAIN\*\*806-396-5810

As of April, 2008, the new minimum state liability requirement for auto insurance will increase from \$20,000/\$40,000/\$15,000 to \$25,000/\$50,000/\$25,000\*. What does this mean to you as a driver? Let's address the fact that the average cost of an automobile death claim in Texas is over \$200,000. With that being said, this is one of the reasons that the Texas Department of Insurance has taken steps to increase these limits. Do I believe this new minimum is adequate coverage to protect you and your family? Absolutely Not! However, it is a step in the right direction. On the other hand, we all know an increase in coverage could mean an increase in cost. If you have questions or concerns about your personal coverage, contact your agent. Or feel free to contact our agency at any time. I and a constant \* visit-www.tdi.state.tx.us/auto/frvp.html

## The Diamonds Return

LaRita Theatre in Dalhart announce the birth of their son Tuesday December 18 for a Mason Andrew Lavake born on vuletide Rock V Roll Revue. October 31, 2007 at 7:10 p.m. "The Most Wonderful Time of He weighed 6 lbs, 9 1/2 oz. and 19 Snow" in "Winter Wonderland". Lavake. The Dinner & Show will began at Grandparents are John & Nina p.m. Tickets are available at the Wellington, Texas. Dalhart Area Chamber of Commerce 244-5646. A great way to start the holiday season.

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

著

12

2.5

Births

Marcus and Ashley Lavake of "The Diamonds" return to the Stratford, Texas are proud to The Year" for "Getting In The inches long. He is welcomed Mood For Christmas" to "Let It home by his big sister Ashton Graham Baker, Colorado City,

6:30 p.m. \$35 per person with Lavake of Stratford, TX and Show only \$20 per person at 8:00 Charlie & Katy Taylor of

## **Study Club Begins** Cookbook Sales

Prospectus Study Club has begun selling their newest Stratford attended. cookbook. It is called "Favorites from Our Table". It is a hard Friday night to attend service for cover, three ring binder style Donna Baker. cookbook and sells for \$14.00. -John Ruskin Contact any Study Club member grandchildren Kylee and Kaiden or visit Sandy at the Library. attended a family gathering at Please call 366-2772 with any Buffalo, OK. Saturday. There questions.

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> Kerrick News **By Marylou** McDaniel

A Memorial Service for Donna CO, was held Sunday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m. at Boise City, OK, Hope Lutheran Church.

She is survived by three children, Cindy Graham Stewart, Eric Baker, both of Colorado City, and John F. Graham III of San Jose del Cabo, Mexico. Also eight grand children, one great grandson and a host of other relatives and friends.

Her ashes were buried at the **Boise City Cemetery** 

Several from Kerrick and

Patti McDaniel, Denver, arrived

Bill & Donna Gillenwaters and were 20 present.

**澿揻濊濊濊濊濊濊流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流流** 語語語語 **法就法法法法法法法法法法**法法 Christmas Kickoff Sale

## December 5-6-7

**Everything in Store 15% off** If you bring Ad in Another 5% off (Excluding fresh flowers & plants)

> **309 North Main Street** Stratford, TX 806-366-3577 **Offering wire services**

Me.

with TeleFlora

**First Assembly of God Kevin Anderson, Pastor** 

ersonaltouc

921 Fulton Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 10:45 am Evening Worship 6:00 pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

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> **1220** Purnell Phone 806-396-5583 Fax 806-366-2713 VA 806-396-2852

First Christian **Rev. Walter Reed** 5th & Main

Sunday School 9:45 am (nursery) Morning Worship 10:45 am (nursery) No Sunday Evening Worship Service Wed. : Youth Choir 3:45 pm, Chi Rho 5 p.m., CYF 6 p.m., Bell Choir 6:50 p.m., Adult Choir 8 p.m. **First United Methodist** 

**Rev. Gene Weinette** 

520 N. Main Sunday School 9:20 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Junior High UMY 5:00 pm Senior High UMY 6:00 pm St. Joseph Catholic

**Father Aleksy Kowalski** 6th & Pearl

Rectory - 366 - 5687 Sunday morning: 9:00a.m. (English), 12 noon. (Spanish) Service . Wed. Thurs. Fri.—6 p.m. Sat. 5 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before Mass.or by appt. Christian Formation Classes: K-6th Grade, Wed. afternoon Jr. & Sr. High, Wed. - 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Church of Christ Ernie Maiwald** N. 3rd & Chestnut

Sunday School 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m. **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-6:00, youth-7:00 La Mision Bautista **Mision Bautista** 401 S. Wall 396-5376 Domingo-(Sunday) Estuela Dominical 9:45 am

**Miercoles (Wednesday)** Servicio De Adoration 11:00 am & Servicio De Oraction 6:00 pm Servicio De Adoration 6:00 pm Se Cuidamos Susninos Durante El Servicio.

**Estudio Biblico** 



### **I APPRECIATE MY TRUE WORTH** AS A CHILD OF GOD.

To appreciate my true worth is to recognize that the Spirit of God indwells me and this Spirit is all-wise and all-capable. As I realize the power of God in me, I become a channel through which this power flows. I make important contributions to life and life appreciates me for what I am-a child of God. To appreciate my true worth as a child of God is necessary if I am to be truly successful. Nothing great is ever accomplished by the person who does not believe in himself.

I have powers and potentials I have not vet begun to utilize. As I recognize my true worth as a child of God, I am inspired to call forth and use my Godgiven powers and potentials, I am imbued with the strength and stamina needed to accomplish all that I am capable of accomplishing.

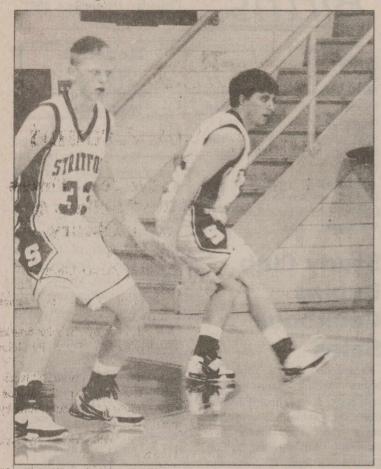
"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. . . . fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. "-Luke 12:6, 7

Sponsored by; STRATFORD GRAIN . 396-5541 LAUTZ ... 769-4485 STRATFORD STAR 366-5885 WALTER LASLEY & SONS, INC. 753-4411

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

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

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Stratford Elks Kyle Horsford and Craig Kautz on defense in the Elks win over Channing on Friday, November 30, 2007.



Lady Elks Whitney Reese and Kelsey Stein on defense against Channing on Friday, November 30, 2007.

### Sherman County 4-H Take Nutrition Quiz **Bowl Top Honors By Susie Spurlock**

Sixty two youth competed in the Panhandle District Nutrition Quiz ain Bowl held November 20 on the campus of Clarendon College in Twenty-two members Pampa. Sherman County 4-H of participated in the contest and took top placing honors. Youth ages 8 -18 squared off to answer questions based on a variety of subjects, including: basic nutrition, food preparation Foster/Adoptive skills and storage, nutrition and health, consumer information and kitchen safety in age group. Each Informational competition round was composed Meeting

**Basketball** 

The J.V. Lady Elks won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Gruver Tournament held this past weekend. In their first game, the Lady Elks beat Perryton 29-22. Kelsi Keener was high point with 12 points followed by Brianda Chavoya with 6 points. In their second game, they beat Gruver 25-21 with Kelsi Keener high point with 9 points followed by Rubi Rueda with 7 points. In the championship game, the Lady Elks lost 22-25 to Spearman. Brianda Chavoya was high point with 10 points and Rubi Rueda followed with 7 points.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Elks beat West Texas on November 29, 2007 23-15. Tanner Wright was high point with 10 points followed by Kelby Hartman with 7 points.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Elks beat West Texas on November 29, 2007 41-26. Edgar Guerrero was high point with 16 points and Justin Mungia followed with 9 points.

The J.V. Elks won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Gruver JV Boys tournament held this past weekend. In their first game, the Elks beat Gruver Red 72-14. Angel Resendes led in scoring with 12 points followed by Luis Ortega with 11 points and Tyler Wright and Bryce Cummings with 10 points each. In their second game, they beat West Texas 41-30 with Kyle Horsford high point with 13 points followed by Justin Lanning with 6 points. In the championship game, the Elks lost 43-45 to Perryton. Tyler Wright was high scorer with 11 points followed by Kyle Horsford and Bryce Cummings with 8 points each.

The Stratford Elks beat Channing 58-39 in their season opener on November 30, 2007. Kyle Horsford led the Elks in scoring with 17 points followed by Kaleb Horsford with 15 points.

Be grateful for yourself...be

Be glad of life because it gives

–William Saroyan

-Henry Van Dyke

thankful.

Clint Seward for chaperoning the you the chance to love, and to

delegation to the contest. This work, and to play and to look

type of support from volunteer up at the stars



of 30 questions.

Sherman County was represented by two junior teams, three intermediate teams, and one senior team.

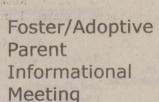
In the Junior competition (ages 8-10 years) Sherman County captured first and second places. The first place team members were Bethany Everett, Jacie Seward, Desinya Garza, and Landry Davis: Team members placing second in the contest were AJ Riffe, Russell Spurlock, and no Branson Palmer. They were coached by Laurie Spurlock, assisted by Jennie Spurlock, and Katie Killian.

The intermediate teams took 1st and 3rd places in the contest. Intermediate (ages 11-13) team members were Rhyan Burton, Ransom Lermon, Shyanne Acker, and Kavan Killian. The 3rd place team members were Ben Gilliland, Mary Ann Spurlock, Mazie Vincent, and Nathan Bennett. Tyler Rouse, Brooklyn Palmer, and Hunter Everett attend an informational meeting

Connie Burton and Laurie 3521 SW 15th in Amarillo. <sup>12</sup>Spurlock. This was the fifth consecutive year Sherman County has won the intermediate contest. Senior 4-H members took 1st place at the contest and qualify for state competition to be held

during Texas 4-H Roundup in June. Senior members (ages 14-19) were Eric Burton, Sunny Russell, Katie Killian, and Rowdy Lermon. Connie Burton coached the senior team.

Sponsors of the contest were Wheat Texas Texas Association. and Cooperative Extension. Extension



success of the teams.

programs serve people of all ages

regardless of socioeconomic

level, race, color, sex, religion,

Congratulations to all Sherman

County 4-H team members and

their coaches. A special thanks is

extended to Connie Burton,

Laurie Spurlock, Jill Killian, and

leaders is a strong key to the

disability or national origin.

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

There is an urgent need for more families to open their hearts and homes by becoming foster and adoptive parents. To learn more about fostering and adoption composed the third Intermediate the second Tuesday of each team from Sherman County. month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are Coaches for the teams were held at the CPS office located at



The first fire department Producers established by municipal action was in New York City in 1659.

Life is the first gift, love is the second, and understanding the third. ---Marge Piercy



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- MicroSD® storage for games, music and photos
- 1.3 Megapixel camera

Price includes 25% saving and \$10 Toys for Tykes discount. 2 year service agreement required. El precio incluye un descuento de 25% y si usted dona un jugete para el programa de Juguetes para Niños, usted recibirá un descuento adicional de \$10. Se requiere contrato de 2 años.

Dalhart 244-3355 1624 Tennessee Ave. Stratford 366-3355 401 N 3rd Street

Dumas 935-8777 1545 S Dumas Ave.

Not good with any other offer. Limited time offer. Some restrictions apply. See store for details. Some services not available in all locations

Hereford 364-1426 809 S 25 Mile Ave.

18425



XIT's Toys For Tykes. Bring in a new \$5 toy and receive \$10 off any wireless phone purchase.

# It Pays To Look In The

THE STRATFORD STAR Thursday, December 6, 2007 Page 5

# Star Classifieds

## Phone 366-5885

Help Wanted

**Counter Person Needed** Looking for a career?...Look no further A&I Parts is looking for you Overtime Pay, Payed holidays, uniforms, insurance Training Available Stay warm in the winter, cool in the summer If you are dependable and willing to work Come by and see Mark or Call 806-366-5592 A&I Parts Stratford, Texas We are an Equal Opportunity Employer 10-18-c-

Circle H Animal health is looking for dependable, hard-working, motivated individuals to work on our weigh day crews. If you would like a part-time job 2-4 days per month or would like to supplement your current income with a second job, we've got the job for you! Great pay! Stop by to fill out an application or bring your resume. Open 805 M-F. 3216 HWY 54 E. in Dalhart. 12-6-tfn-

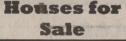
For Sale: Storm Windows 6 storm windows=2'4"x4'x6" 2 storm windows=2'x3'10" 4 storm windows=2'4"x3'2" Contact-Jim Bob @366-5914 or 753-7814 12-20-c

### Services

I will baby-sit after 5:00 p.m. in the evenings. Linda Forthman-366-2586. 12-6-p-

For Rent

2 BR apartments, close to school, new appliances. \$425-450 month, plus deposit, tenant to pay utilities. 806-244-3418 10-4-tfn-



Ad Rem Land Co., TIC Real 803 Bliss - Dumas, Texas 79029 MLS Se Habla Español 🖪 🏟

935-7364 E-mail: adrem@adremland.com Website: www.adremland.com

**Commercial Property, 207 Texas** Ave., Stratford 80 x 80 shop with 4.4 acres located on Dalhart Highway, 2 16' overhead doors with office space. \$129,000.

Ad Rem Land Co., LLC wants to serve your real estate needs. We have qualified buyers! Listings needed.

For Sale: Country Living, 15 miles from Stratford. 25 from Dalhart, 4000 plus living, 4 bedrooms, 3 bath, formal dining, oak flooring, basement, 40 x 50 insulated shop. All rooms extra large. Call 366-3233 for appointment. See pictures @ Shermancountytx.org

6-28-tfn-

NEW LISTING! For sale by owner 314 S. Fulton. 1662 total sq. ft. 3 bed/2bath. CH&A. Single garage/double driveway. Large deck. Cash back at closing incentive. Will show by appt. 806-683-2553.





Stratford Independent **School District** Legal notice

The School District requests proposals from interested contractors for the repairs to the 1989 Eagle Bus. Specifications may be obtained by contacting the Administrative Office at (806) 366-3302.

The proposals will be accepted until 2:00 PM December 20, 2007. Any requests for proposals after this date will not be accepted. The proposals may be mailed to Stratford ISD, P.O. Box 108, Stratford, TX 79084, faxed. instructions for requesting a to 806-366-3304, or delivered to contested case hearing or the Superintendent office at 503 N 8th Street, Stratford, TX. The requests for proposals will be opened on December 20, 2007 at 2:00 PM. We reserve the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals.

Items include: Labor, material, and equipment for the repair. No proposal security required. Performance and Payment Bonds may be required in accordance with state law. We reserve the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals.

Published in The Stratford Star, Thursday, November 29, 2007 and Thursday, December 6, 2007.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR WATER QUALITY LAND APPLICATION PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER AMENDMENT **PERMIT NO. WQ0010293002** 

AND APPLICATION PRELIMINARY DECISION. The City of Stratford, P.O. Box 188, Stratford, Texas 79084, has applied to the Texas Commission Quality Environmental on (TCEQ) for a major amendment to Permit No. WQOO10293002, to authorize an increase in the daily average flow from 200,000 gallons per day to 375,000 gallons per day and to decrease the acreage irrigated from 640 acres to 331 acres. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into waters in the State. TCEQ received this application on May 4, 2007.

.. The Best Salesperson Around

public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY** FOR A CASE CONTESTED HEARING, After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will Stratford Independent consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public Unless comments. the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial

> in a state district court. REQUEST TO A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST **INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST:** your name; address, phone; applicant's name and permit number; the location and of your distance property/activities relative to the facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely

affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is tiled on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the regarding the

### wish to be placed on the New York Times permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which Best Sellers @ list(s) and send your request to Your Library TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk Fiction at the address below.

All written public comments By Sandy Baskin-Librarian and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office 1. Double Cross by James of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Patterson TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, 2. The Choice by Nicholas Sparks TX 78711-3087 within 30 days 3. Playing for Pizza by John from the date of newspaper Grisham publication of this notice. AGENCY CONTACTS AND 5. Confessor by Terry Goodkinds INFORMATION. If you need 6. A Thousand Splendid Suns by more information about this Khaled Hosseini permitting process, please call the Follett TCEQ Office of Public 8. Home to Holly Springs by Jan Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800- Karon 687-4040. Si desea informacion 9. The Chase by Clive Cussler en Espanol, puede llamar al 1- 10. Book of the Dead by Patricia 800-687-4040. General Cornwell information about the TCEQ can 11. Protect and Defend by Vince be found at our web site at Flynn

www.TCEQ.state.tx.us. Further information may also be obtained from the City of 13. Amazing Grace by Danielle obtained from the City of Steel Stratford at the address stated 14. Creation in Death by J.D. above or by calling Mr. Ted Robb Dodd, City Manager at (806) 366 15. Third Degree by Greg Isles - 5581.

MOV 1 5 2887 Issuance Date Nov. 15, 2007 Published in The Stratford Star, Evans Thursday, December 6, 2007.



group's First grade has done some 24. For One More Day by Mitch representative for receiving symmetry pictures and we have future correspondence; identify also had our first fractions as well an individual member of the as counting pennies and dimes. Johnson group who would be adversely We are also learning what 26. Where Angels Go by Debbie affected by the proposed facility synonyms and antonyms are and Macomber or activity; provide the how we can improve writing 27. Dark of the Moon by John information discussed above sentences with them. We are Sandford affected working hard and learning a lot. 28. Love in the Time of Cholera

4. Stone Cold by David Baldacci

permit application or the 7. World Without End by Ken

12. Rhett Butler's People by

16. The Christmas Promise by

Donna VanLiere 17. The Gift by Richard Paul

18. Now and Then by Robert B. Parker

19. The Ore King by R. A. Salvatore

20. You've Been Warned by James Patterson

21. The New Year's Quilt by Jennifer Chiaverini

22. Christmas Pearl by Dorothea **Benton Frank** 23. The New Year's Quilt by

Jennifer Chiaverini

Albom

25. Tree of Smoke by Denis

member's location and distance An update of the animals and by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

1-Bdrm. Apt. for rent. 301 S. Main. Call Al Baker 366-5318. 12-6-tfn-

Need a home for the Holiday's? Nice, spacious 2BR, 1 bath apt., with newer appliances, CH/A. Close to school. Call West Texas Rentals @ 806-244-3418. 12-13-c-

### For Sale

#### USED SALE

Tires, Tool boxes, Grill guards, headache racks, cars, pickups, SUV's and more. Duncan Chevrolet 366-5557 12-6-tfn-

For Sale or Lease 212 N. Poplar 40' by 60' office building. Call 806-679-5585 11-1-tfn-

For Sale or Lease-Morten Building, 54' x 72' x 16. 396-2305 6-22-tfn---

For Sale: 4 ft. lighted Christmas Tree, never used: \$20.00. Call 396-2364 12-6-c-12-13-c---

### **To Give Away**

Free Dorgi puppies for Christmas. 1/2 Dachshund, 1/2 Corgi. Puppies will be ready December 14th. Also, two 9 month old Dorgi's with all their shots. Call 396-5387 or come see at 1210 Butler. 12-6-c-



The Grand Slam in golf is made up of the Masters, the U.S. Open, the British Open and the PGA Championship.

\*\*\* If a man had as many ideas during the day as he does when he has insomnia, he'd make a fortune.

Bath and hat star is see the

-Griff Niblack \*\*\*

14433 Hwy 287 Stratford \$127.500

toll free (866)935-7300

Residential Property

4/2 1997 Saturn Manufactured Home on 24 acres. Cthdl.

Ceiling, wood burning f.p. in Living room. Kitchen has island with eating bar, pantry, and builtin desk. Master bath has walk-in shower, dbl. sinks, and garden tub. 4 car Quonset garage w/ elec. Barn with 220, & 2 addtl. Quonsets on concrete slabs.

#### **1207 Division St. Stratford** \$81,950

A must see! 2/1.5/1 home with vinyl & carpet throughout. New roof in Aug. 2007. Storm cellar. Lg. detached garage/shop with living quarters & 3/4 bath.

### 408 N. 8th. Stratford

\$85,000 Room & more Room! In this 3/1.75/1 home w/ office or 4th bedroom. Dining w/built-in corner hutch. Bedrooms with walk-in closets. Vinyl & carpet throughout home. Utility room. Fenced backyard, Wood deck, storm windows & doors, and storage building.

#### 402 N. 8th Stratford \$20,000

2/1 Home on Lg corner lot. Wall heater, evaporative cooler, and gas stove in kitchen.

#### Commercial Property 501 S. Poplar Stratford \$29,900 Commercial Building with lobby area, 3 offices, 2 bathrooms, & shop With 10x12 overhead

door. It has approx. 1,776 sq. ft. 301 N. Poplar Stratford

\$275,000 NICE! NICE! NICE! 60x100 Commercial Building on huge lot. Building has several overhead doors, showroom, office, and handicap accessible restroom.

Acreage \$640,700 Approx. 640.7 Acres w/ dbl. wide mobile home and 2 car detached garage just South of Stratford.

The wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located State Highway 15 and 1.3 miles their consideration at a scheduled windy weather in the panhandle, 4. Quiet Strength by Tony Dungy east of the intersection of State Commission meeting. 287 in Sherman County, Texas. contested case hearing on using wind turbines to produce The wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located in Creek which flows into the State application. Further, of the Canadian River Basin.

review of the application and EXECUTIVE prepared a draft permit. The draft ACTION. The Executive permit, if approved, would Director may issue final approval

permit, if issued, meets all or request for reconsideration is statutory and regulatory filed, the Executive Director will requirements. The permit not issue final approval of the application, Executive Director's permit and will forward the and copying at City Hall, 518 consideration at a scheduled North 3rd Street, Stratford, Commission meeting. Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit contested case hearing or a public comments or request a reconsideration of the Executive public meeting about this Director's decision, you will be application. The purpose of a added to the mailing list for this public meeting is to provide the specific application to receive opportunity to submit comments future public notices mailed by or to ask questions about the the Office of the Chief Clerk. In, application. TCEQ holds a public addition, you may request to be meeting if the Executive Director placed on: (1) the permanent determines that there is a mailing list for a specific throughout the week. significant degree of public applicant name and permit interest in the application or if number; and/or (2) the mailing

member would be affected; and frog, 1 Tiger Salamander, 2 30. The Kite Runner by Khaled germane to the group's hamsters -Speedy & Hermes! We Cormac McCarthy purpose.

applicable comment and request friends! periods, the Executive Director The 4th grade is studying wind 1.1 Am America (And So Can

disputed issues of fact that are electricity. The TCEQ Executive Director in timely filed comments that on Friday the 5th grade will go to Osteen DIRECTOR

public comments, a request for a requested by a local legislator. A list for a specific county. If you

from the facility or activity; reptiles in Ms. Talcott's Room: 29. Water for Elephants by Sara explain how and why the We now have 3 snakes, 1 tree Gruen

explain how the interests the Bearded Dragons, 2 Beta fish, Hosseini group seeks to protect are and new as of this week, 2 31. No Country for Old Men by

would love for visitors to come 32. The Memory Keeper's Following the close of all and see our fun, and now furry, Daughter by Kim Edwards

will forward the application and and the properties of air in You) by Stephen Colbert any requests for reconsideration Science. They have done some 2. Boom! by Tom Brokaw or for a contested case hearing to cool experiments to find out the 3. The Age of Turbulence by approximately 600 feet north of the TCEQ Commissioners for properties of air. Due to the Alan Greenspan

they have had a great resource to 5. Lone Survivor by Marcus Highway 15 and U.S. Highway The Commission will only grant a study! They also learned about Luttrell

relevant and material to the The junior high GT students 7. The Coldest Winter by David the drainage basin of Coldwater Commission's decision on the went to Amarillo on Tuesday Halberstam of Oklahoma in Segment No. 100 Commission will only grant a Group. The SISD School Safety Atkinson hearing on issues that were raised audit was held on Wednesday and 9. Become a Better You by Joel

has completed the technical were not subsequently withdrawn. the Nutcracker Ballet in Amarillo. 10. The Dangerous Book for

classes are making homemade Gilbert establish the conditions under of the application unless a timely decorations for the Christmas 12.90 Minutes in Heaven by Don which the facility must operate. contested case hearing request or tree—a Pioneer tree—since we Piper \* The Executive Director has made request for reconsideration is are studying the 13 colonies. 13. The Life and Times of the

section and will attend the China 14. The World is Flat by Thomas exhibit at the Imagination Station. L. Friedman There will be semester tests 15. The Tipping Point by covering all we've had since Malcolm Gladwell preliminary decision, and draft application and request to the school started this year. Fifth 16. Blink by Malcolm Gladwell permit are available for viewing TCEQ Commissioners for their graders will have 23 states and 17. Blood and Thunder by Chapters 1-7. They have review Hampton Sides sheets. Sixth graders have study 18. Chosen by a Horse by Susan MAILING LIST. If you submit sheets for the waters, mountains, Richard deserts we need to know and the 19. The Looming Tower by

> help your child study for these 20. Thunderstruck by Erik Larson tests coming up. The ring ceremony for the items go to

> juniors will be on Monday at lib.org/stratford 11:45 a.m. The Big Blue Band . Next click on "Search the Christmas concert will be catalog" and search Sherman Thursday, Dec. 13 at 7:00 p.m. County Library. Call 366-2200 Basketball games continue and we will be happy to place a

there." - John Wooden

Non-Fiction

6. The War by Geoffrey C. Ward

the afternoon to see the Blue Man 8. The Day of Battle by Rich

Boys by Conn Iggulden

Fifth grade Social Studies 11. Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth

a preliminary decision that this filed. If a timely hearing request Sixth graders will start a China Thunderbolt Kid by Bill Bryson

test will cover Ch. 1-6. Please Lawrence Wright

To check the availability of these www.hlc-

hold on the item for you.

Quote of the week: "Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you

### THE STRATFORD STAR Thursday, December 6, 2007 Page 6

### Wildfire Risk Can Be Doused if Education, Action is Taken Now Kay Ledbetter

Dangerous. That's the one word fire officials and rangeland management specialists use to describe the combination of heavy grass growth and dry conditions. "We have the potential for brush fires every year, but what's made it real extreme this

year is the large amount of grass growth from all the rains," said Dr. Jim Ansley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station rangeland ecology researcher in Vernon. "And because of the high fuel loads and the weather fluctuations, the serious situation is expected to remain through March, in spite of the occasional bouts of moisture," said Dr Wayne Hanselka, Texas Cooperative Extension range specialist in Corpus Christi. "An inch of rain won't last no time," Hanselka said. "We would need good soaking moisture to minimize the danger, and even then between the rains the fuel will remain dry."

Communities surrounded by pastures and heavy grass growth need to take note and take action, Ansley said.

"(In) the smaller communities that don't have a lot of concrete and asphalt as buffers in terms of roads and parking lots, it would be a real good idea for community leaders to have a planning meeting quickly to assess their situation," he said. This could be an emergency situation this year, Ansley said. Many communities have gotten away from thinking about fire dangers and long-term planning in the past 10 years because of the severe droughts that have left the fuel supply short. But smaller communities, such as Ringgold near Wichita Falls that was heavily burned in Jan. 1, 2006, are surrounded by rangeland and need to be taking action, he said. "I think it is important for the citizens to take the initiative on this," Ansley said. "Ask

city leaders and see if meetings are planned or if there is a game plan at all." Determine where the prevailing winds will come from and see if there are any short-term plans that can be implemented to provide extra firebreaks in the potential danger areas, he said.

"It's a stop-gap situation right now, but there might be some key areas that could be

### plowed, shredded or mowed."

Individuals also need to take some responsibility and exercise caution, Ansley said. Be careful lighting any outdoor fires, including barbecue grills or outdoor welding, which could spark the next wildfire.

"Be careful if you are driving on rangeland or off-road to not leave your car idling over dry grass and broomweed," he said. "The catalytic converter could produce enough heat to start a fire."

The same warning goes out to hunters, Ansley said. They should avoid fires and try to avoid offroading if at all possible.

"We emphasize preparedness," Hanselka said. In communities where four or five acres are surrounding houses, homeowners need to secure their homesteads and facilities against a wildfire, he said. Make sure all water hoses and firefighting tools work; make sure sprayers have water in them. "Having the facilities and tools there, properly placed, can make a difference," Hanselka said. Larger landowners need to think in terms of mitigation, fuel management and prescribed burning, Hanselka and Ansley both said.

Think about fuel management - shred it, graze it, burn it down - to keep from getting in a situation where fire can do significant damage, Hanselka said.

"As a tool in fuel management, removing that fuel is important," he said. "Whether it's a welding spark, thrown cigarette or hot box on a railroad, if the fuel is not there, it's not going to go."

Hanselka said there are tools that land owners can use to mitigate and lower the risk. Winter is a peak season to do prescribed burning, and under the right conditions it can be effective in mitigating the dangers.

One action ranchers or large landowners might want to take is to make sure the roadside ditches are mowed adequately along their property line, Ansley said.

"If they haven't been, contact the highway department to make sure that gets done," he said. "In terms of impact, that is a relatively low-cost thing to drive the roads and make sure the bar ditches have been mowed."

With the increased grass growth this year, some ranchers may be considering prescribed burning to manage brush, Ansley said. But in this type of year, landowners need to first see if their county is in a burn ban. The Texas Forest Service has an updated list of counties enacting at: href="http://tfsfrp.tamu.edu/wildfires/decban.png"

http://tfsfrp.tamu.edu/wildfburnbans.

"If they are allowed to burn, I would strongly recommend on the large pastures of more than 100 acres that they use a parallel dozer lines about 200 feet apart as a fire guard on the downwind side of the pasture," he said. "In regions with cedars, the dozer lines should be wider, upwards of 500 feet apart."

Pre-burning between the parallel dozer lines creates a black line, Ansley said. This black line should be burned early in the morning or late in the evening when the humidity is increasing - to reduce the intensity of the fire because the goal is just to get it black and remove the fuel source.

"You have a much better chance of the keeping the prescribed burn under control if it burns up to the black line," he said. "It would be very risky

under these conditions to try to light a back-fire off a single dozer line in a large pasture and try to send a head fire into that back fire and keep it all contained."

Hanselka warned that going through the procedure of making sure a prescribed burn is out, completely is also important.

"No cow patty left smoldering," he said.

If someone wants to do a prescribed burn, it is important to follow proper procedures, both Hanselka and Ansley said. Laws and other prescribed burn information can be found at:href=http://www.tamu.edu/ticc/prevention.htm" >http://www.tamu.edu/ticc/prevent..

"It is critical to contact local authorities, make sure you check the weather forecast on that day and make sure weather variables- temperature, humidity and wind speed - are measured at the site before deciding to burn," Ansley said.

"Know the conditions when it is not safe to burn," he said. "Also make sure you have a



## **Class Completes Assembly & Installation**

The IT Essentials Class of the Cisco Networking Academy of Stratford High School has recently completed assembly and installation of six new computers for use in the Cisco classroom. The computers were funded and purchased through a Perkins grant written by Mr. Hartsell, high school principal. The computers were purchased as component parts and were assembled by the class as practical application of the curriculum they have been studying. Students include Nick Chaffee, Jonathan Jacquez, Margarita Rocha, James Daniels, Sinead Everett, Deborah Molina, and Hunter Buckles. Shown above are Hunter Buckles and Sinead Everett.

> Life is something that happens when you can't get to sleep. —Fran Lebowitz \*\*\*

### ATTENTION READERS

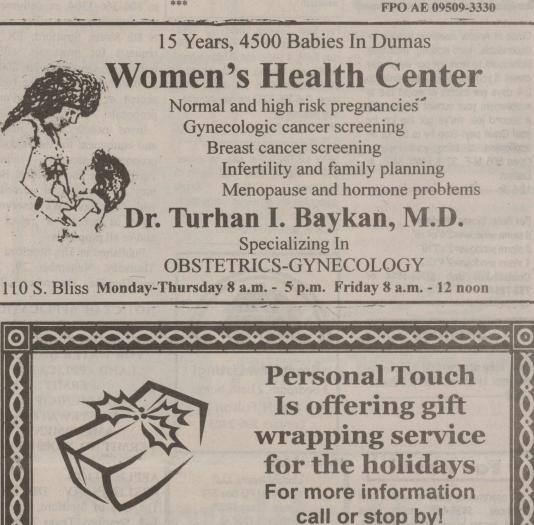
Editors Note: If you have someone serving in the military and would like to have someone's picture and address put in the paper, please leave it with us and we will put it in for you. We will be running the addresses and they will stay in every week. Call 366-5885 or fax to same number or e-mail stardm@xit.net

PFC Rendon, Cory E/3-7 IN (4-3 BTB), 4BCT, 31D (Line 2 & 3 on same line) Unit 40622 FOB Kalsu APO AE 09312

BALAD IRAQ PVT MCDANIEL NICHOLAS ABTRY (all of above on one line) 1<sup>st</sup> PLT 1/9 FA

APOAE09391

LCPL CROWL, CHANCE B BTRY 1<sup>st</sup> BN 10<sup>th</sup> MAR UNIT 73330 FPO AE 09509-3330





**309 North Main Street** 

Weather Will Play Key Role in Texas Wheat Blair Fannin

Weather will play a big part in the overall national and Texas wheat crop in the coming months, a Texas Cooperative Extension economist said.

Dry conditions have hampered Texas wheat statewide, said Dr. Mark Welch, Extension grains economist. Though planted acres of wheat have increased across the Southeast, Texas and Oklahoma, weather will be a big factor on yields this spring.

"In the drier areas of the Panhandle, if they plant later, it improves the yield potential for grain," Welch said. "That may bode well for yield, but negatively impact the stocker cattle folks."

If the crop is established and doesn't get grazed, it will be in better shape when it comes out of dormancy next spring, Welch said.

"From a yield standpoint, it's not hurt yet, but there is concern if it doesn't rain and the root system doesn't develop," he said.

Despite record wheat prices, consumers will see minimal effects on food products containing wheat since much of it is already in processed form, Welch said.

"Most of the wheat in many food products is highly processed and goes through baking and milling," Welch said. "Even though the wheat component is important, it's small in terms of adding to the cost of the product."

About 73 loaves of bread can be made from a bushel of wheat. At \$8 per bushel, the value of wheat in a one-pound loaf of bread is about 11 cents, or about 7 percent of the cost of the loaf, Welch said. The remainder of the cost is tied up in processing, baking, packaging, transporting and advertising, he said. Subtle increases in some food items have been directly related to the rise in transportation fuel. Record wheat prices were recorded during the latter part of September. Kansas City wheat reached \$9.50 bushel during the first week of October, but has dropped back about \$2 a bushel, Welch said.

"Much of the market driven by panic buying is gone," Welch said. "Wheat from the southern hemisphere (Australia and Argentina) is being harvested and available for export and the Russians are aggressively selling wheat as well."

### AT A GLANCE:

\* The ethanol boom is contributing to high wheat prices as increased corn production is shifting acreage away from other crops.

\* High input costs make wheat an attractive option. Even though quality-planting seed was expensive and hard to find this fall, planting cost per acre is lower and wheat requires less fuel and fertilizer than traditional row crops. Budget-minded producers tend to favor wheat since they can plant more acres for fewer dollars.

\* While rising grain prices contribute to higher food costs, the impact of the price of wheat on consumer budgets is small since most Products containing wheat are highly processed. That means processing costs may contribute more to the price of the product than the price of wheat.

\* Several areas of major wheat producing states are experiencing increasingly dry conditions. Wheat conditions continue to deteriorate in the Southern High Plains, especially Oklahoma and Texas. Source: Texas Cooperative Extension

written burn plan that includes a map and have it with you during the burn."

More information about protecting against and preventing wildfires can be found at: http://texashelp.tamu.edu/.



# **Stretch Your Dollar This Holiday Season**

NewsUSA

(NU) - The holidays are around the corner, and gift ideas are in high demand. From family and friends to teachers and neighbors, the right gift can make each person feel appreciated this season. You don't, however, have to break your budget to bring holiday cheer to the people in your life.

This season, look for bargain buys at stores, such as Dollar General, that you can personalize and make into unique gifts for the people on your list. Consider these great gift ideas for those on your list and stay on budget:

The holiday mug basket – Find a holiday-themed mug, fill it with individual packets of hot cocoa and marshmallows and wrap the entire package in clear cellophane. Tie with a bow, and you have a gift that's sure to send warm wishes to your friends this season.

Forgo the wrapping with a tin – Select a decorative, holidaythemed tin to fill with customized treats. Whether its candy, homemade sweets or even bath products, you can fill the tin with whatever your recipient will enjoy.

**Opt for sweet treats** – Large or small candy canes decked with festive bows make great stocking stuffers or the perfect little gift for coworkers or classmates.

**Cook up an idea from** scratch – For the chef on your list, create a dry version of a favorite soup or cookie recipe. Combine the dry ingredients, such as flour, sugar, noodles or chocolate chips, into a clear jar. Adorn



Get creative this holiday season to save money. For less than \$1, a few candy canes adorned with ribbon make a special gift or package accessory.

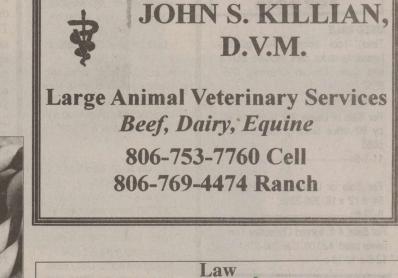
the jar with a bow or small kitchen accessory, and attach the recipe.

Homemade treats – Share the taste of your kitchen with others by giving culinary delights on festive, decorative plates or in jars. Fill the plate or jar with a dozen cookies or baked treats, wrap in plastic wrap and adorn with a festive bow.

Serve up a unique gift – A cake plate and server make the perfect hostess gift. Bake a friend's favorite cake and present it on a decorative plate, along with the server, wrapped in a festive bow.

Adorn your gifts – Christmas ornaments are the perfect accessories to any gift. Use one to put the finishing touch on a wrapped package, or give as stocking stuffers.

For more great gift ideas, visit www.dollargeneral.com.



(NU) - According to Rizwan Hassan – Advocacy Associate for the American Immigration Lawyers Association – the "merit" system being considered by Congress is a radical departure from our existing immigration system. It would virtually eliminate the current format, whereby individuals are sponsored by employers and family members to come to the United States, and replace it with a points-based one. Earn enough points (for characteristics like age, education and English proficiency), and you can apply for a green card.

This is not a solution to immigration problems, nor does it comport with the values upon which our nation was built. It is simply a shortsighted "fix" with few long-term benefits and many deleterious consequences.

### Health

(NU) - Coffee drinkers, especially those prone to stomach pain and heartburn, can feel the burn after their daily coffee intake. The cause – coffee's acid levels. That's right, most coffees contain acid, which can damage the lining of your stomach and result in unpleasant side effects such as acid reflux. Giving up coffee is out of the question for most people, so antacids have become a popular ally.

So, what should those coffee drinkers who take a side of antacid with their coffee do? Acid-free ooffee may be your best solution. Coffee companies such as Tyler's Coffee provide both caffeinated and decaffeinated blends of acid-free coffee. These acid-free blends are roasted through a computer-based process, which eliminates the acid. For more information about acid-free coffee, visit www.tylerscoffees.com.