



Lorelyn Powers 01/15
PO Box 233
Stratford, TX 79084

The Stratford Star

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Attention: Important Information for our readers:

BACKGROUND: The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was signed into Federal law by congress in 1966, and has been amended several times. In 1996 it was amended to create electronic formats of these records. The State of Texas Legislature signed into STATE LAW the Public Information Act in 1996 which is now called the Open Records Act, making ALL records in control of any department head in any form of Government in the State of Texas (property records) Public Information & subject to being requested by anyone who wants a copy. Court Records do not fall under the Open Records Act because they have been determined to be records of the Judiciary and even they are open records they cannot be released; only the indexes can be which do not contain any personal information only names and these are not digitized.

What does this mean to you? Public Information (mainly oil and gas leases, State and Federal Tax Liens) contains PRIVATE INFORMATION such as your social security numbers and anyone that request copies from my office can get these records with your Social Security number on them. Attorney General Greg Abbott has given an opinion that even if these public records contain private information they are to be released to anyone who requests these records, unless, you request in writing that your social security number be redacted (obliterated so it cannot be read). I now have such a request for copies of all records in my office. I have no choice but to comply with this request since it is the law. When this person made his request I responded I don't have digitized indexes. He replied, "That's ok I have a building in India about the size of 2 city blocks and I have hundreds of Indians that index all day long & they will have all this indexed in a couple of weeks. He puts these copies of our records on the internet and charges a \$4.00 search fee plus \$2.00 per page for copies. If someone wants to pay a membership fee to search these records they pay \$500.00 per month and can make 250 copies for free, then the user has to pay \$5.00 per document searched and \$2.50 per page for copies. ANYONE can search these records. I believe that this is an open invitation to Identity Thieves. As you may know you can come to my office and search the records for free and the law requires me to charge you \$1.00 per page, as well as anyone who makes any copies from my records. Under the FOIA or the Open Records Act I have to give these copies to him for free. I am only allowed to charge him \$15.00 per hour to compile and copy this information. This hurts our County, our taxpayers, and our local businesses. I have roughly estimated that he will be obtaining around 313,000 copies for approximately 2-4 thousand dollars. The County & District Clerks Association tried desperately to get this changed in the last Legislative Session but was unsuccessful.

WHAT I NEED FROM EACH OF YOU IS the written request you must sign to redact your social Security numbers from the records, and I need them fast (by March 1st). I have the forms in my office for you to fill out. I also need you to pass the word and let your friends & family know what the situation is, and help me get forms out to them. You may also request redaction for deceased family members because their identity can also be stolen. If you have any questions you may give me a call, the office number is 366-2371 and my cell number is 922-3592, you can also leave your email address on the answering machine and I can email you the forms you can fill them out and then drop them by the office. I need the original back. I am also going to attempt to put the form on the County's website www.co.sherman.tx.us so you can print it out. Please understand I have no choice, and no one hates this anymore than I do. This law needs to be changed to except the property records or make these people pay just like anyone else.

2014 Livestock Show Schedule

Thursday, January 30, 2014

Lambs, Swine and Goats in place by 4:45 PM
Exhibitors Meeting - 4:45 PM

All Swine, Lambs and Goats will be weighed in and classified at 5:00 PM

Friday, January 31, 2014

8:00 AM - Swine Show
Swine Showmanship
Lamb Show
Lamb Showmanship
Goat Show
Goat Showmanship
Steer Show
Heifer Show
Cattle Showmanship

Clean up of Show Barn immediately following Cattle Show

Saturday, February 1

9:00 AM - Clean up of Exhibitor Barn
11:00 AM - Set Up for Sale in Show Barn

5:00 PM - All Exhibitors will be fed at County Barn
6:00 PM - Buyers Meal
7:00 PM - Premium Sale

Sale Order

Goats
Steers
Heifers
Swine
Lambs

Friday, February 14, 2014

All project forms from exhibitors must be turned in by 5:00 PM unless exhibiting at a major show and those are due on March 28, 2014 by 5:00 PM

What's Happening In Stratford

Sherman County 4-H Fundraiser
Support 4-H Fundraisers

Livestock Show and Sale
Thursday, January 30, Friday January 31 and Saturday, February 1, 2014 Schedule on page 1 of this week's edition of The Stratford Star.

Imagination Station to have Fundraiser dinner
Saturday, February 8th, 2014-Duck Dynasty Style

Fundraiser for Stratford Fire Dept.
Coming in the Spring 2014. Watch for future details!

Sherman County Public Library hours
Monday-9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday-9 a.m. 6 p.m.
Fridays-9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Address for Donna Gillenwaters
If you would like to send a card to Donna Gillenwaters, you can send it to Jimmy Gillenwaters, PO Box 437, Bushland, TX 79012 and he will get the cards to her.

CANDIDATES FORUM



6:30 p.m. on MONDAY, FEB. 17, 2014
At the SHERMAN COUNTY BARN
Questions will be taken from the audience.

Sherman County Uncontested Races:
Judge Terri B. Carter,
Comm. Randy Williams- Pct 2,
Treasurer Doris Parsons,
District Clerk Gina Gray
& Justice of the Peace
Brenda Acker.

Contested Race:
Sherman Co. Comm. Precinct
4-Comm. Tommy Asher (Inc)
David Davis



This is a public service brought to you by SCDC.

THANK YOU FROM LIONS CLUB
Stratford Lions Club would like to thank everyone who supported our chili supper last week. For those who don't already know, we started the chili supper last year as an additional fundraiser since the ongoing drought has had a huge impact on the number of pheasant hunters who always support the Hunter's Breakfast in December. We've had an unusually large number of requests for assistance with eyeglasses this year and needed an additional fundraiser in order to meet that need. As always, the fine folks of Stratford came out to support Lions Club and its projects. Thank you for helping us serve our community.
Stratford Lions Club - We Serve

Fundraiser Dinner to be held

So you say there is nothing to do in Stratford? There is on Saturday, February 8th. The Imagination Station will be having a fundraiser dinner- Duck Dynasty Style! There will be a fantastic four-course meal and entertainment. We will have loads of fun, food and what else - use of our imagination! So if you like-jambalaya, grits and sweet potato pie (of course there will be other options) then come join us! Tickets are \$25/piece (remember-fundraiser) and can be bought from any board member - Gaynelle Riffe, Yvonne Pittman, Laurie Spurlock, Jill Killian, Nita Barnard, Terri Teig, Don Riffe, Cindy Jackson and Kathy Switzer. You can even contact us through Facebook. Coming will make you happy, happy, happy!

A house that does not have one worn, comfy chair in it is soulless.

---May Sarton

You can never go home again, but the truth is you can never leave home, so it's all right.

---Maya Angelou

Mitchell Theaters

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

Turkey Pot Pies Serves 6

¼ cup butter
1 large onion, diced
3 carrots, chopped, about 1 cup
½ cup flour
2 cups turkey or chicken broth
1 cup milk
2 cups leftover turkey, diced
1 cup frozen peas
6 biscuits, 1 package ready-to-bake biscuits

Preheat the oven to 400° F. In a large heavy skillet or saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the onion and carrots, and cook until soft and golden. Sprinkle in the flour and cook for an additional minute, then whisk in the stock vigorously to avoid any lumps. Whisk in the milk and bring to a simmer, then turn the heat to low and cook until thick but still saucy, stirring often, for 5-10 minutes. Stir in the turkey and peas, then season to taste with salt and pepper.

Arrange six ramekins on a baking sheet. Spoon the filling into the ramekins. Roll out the biscuits to fit the top of the pot pies and cover each ramekin. Bake until the crust is golden and the filling is bubbling, about 20 minutes.

For a complete holiday menu, additional recipes, shopping lists and more money-saving tips, visit www.groceryoutlet.com/holidays.

Valentine's Day
Is right around the corner
Give your sweetheart
The gift of
Relaxation and Comfort

A Gift Certificate for
Massage
Is a great way to say,
"I love you"

Cece Yelek, LMT
Structured Touch Massage
401 N Third #11 Stratford, TX
806-290-3655 phone or text
To set up an appointment

FIRE CAUTION!

We are not currently under a **BURN BAN**, but Sherman County is asking for everyone's cooperation in preventing fires. We are asking that you use caution with any fire. Please monitor any fires and make sure fire is completely extinguished before leaving the area.



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Taking reservations for Valentine's Dinner at

Ol'Biddys Café

Friday, February 14, 2014

Couples \$125.00

Singles \$100.00

Choice of Tenderloin with lobster tail
Or shrimp (any two combinations)
served with Twice Baked Potato, green
beans almondine, Salad, Cheesecake and
Complimentary wine.

We will even order your flowers

For you if need be!

Dinner will be served from 6 to 8 p.m.

Reservations only-call 366-2111

Deadline is Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Stratford Hospital District

"Proudly serving the medical needs of Stratford and Sherman County"
Stratford Family Medical Clinic

Stratford Family Medical Clinic
Mon. - Thurs 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
396-5583 Tommy Brian, ANP

Elk Pharmacy

Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 5:30 PM

"Check our Competitive pricing"

"Compounding Available"

366-5505 Tom Armstrong, RPH

Coldwater Manor Nursing Facility

396-5568 Tom Henton, LNFA

Stratford EMS

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

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

Prices Good Thru 02/22/14

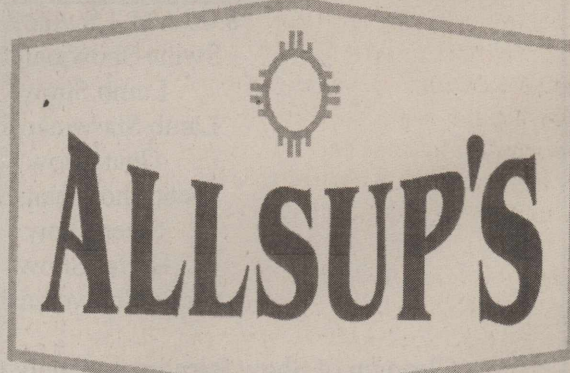


to Our Pro-Bowl Trip Winners Matt & Molly



Scott Stanfield, Allsup's (left), and John Taylor, Pepsi (far right) present an All-Inclusive Trip to the Pro Bowl to Matt & Molly Flotte of Cloudcroft, NM (center).

Store No. 361
10 South Maple
Stratford, TX 79084
806-396-1180



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or any time



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FOR

WESTERN FAMILY
PETAL SOFT BATH TISSUE
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2\$2.50
FOR

Larry & Doris Parsons
invite you to come
help them Celebrate their
50th
Wedding Anniversary

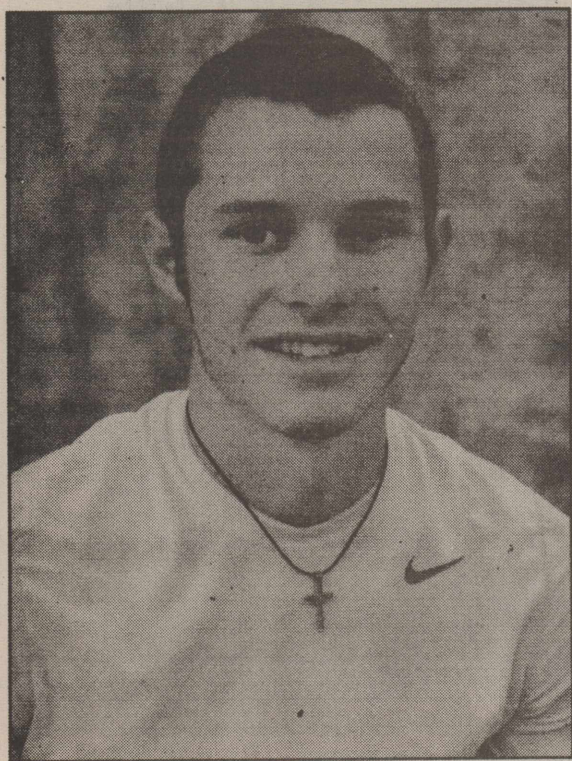


Sunday February 2, 2014
First United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.



Community Closet presents Check to ARK

Walt Berry, Eddie Metcalf, Kenton Kimball, Larry Parsons, and Brent Spurlock are just a few of the Methodist Men who have formed an "Acts of Random Kindness known as ARK. These men have been busy the last couple of years raising funds to help people in the community who have a need but simply don't have the means or ability to accomplish a solution to that need. The Community Closet donated \$1000 to ARK in order to help with funding for two projects ARK is completing at this time. Community Closet wants to thank those who support our store and want you to feel a part of giving back to our community to aid projects just like ARK.



Gonzalez Named to York College Dean's List

Grayson Gonzalez has been named to the York College Dean's List for the Fall 2013 Semester. Gonzalez is the son of DeWain and Suzanne Traylor of Stratford and a 2013 graduate of Stratford High School. He is a freshman at YC. To be named to the Dean's List, students must carry 12 or more graded hours and achieve a semester grade point average of at least 3.75 with no incomplete grades and no grade below "C" for the semester.

York College is a four-year Christian Liberal arts college in York, Nebraska. Founded in 1890, its mission is to transform lives through Christ-centered education and to equip students for lifelong service to God, family and society. York College offers more than 25 majors and is accredited by the Higher Learning commission. FMI at www.york.edu

Medical/Expense Fund has been set up for **Salma Iliana Ortega Aguilera** at First State Bank. Salma is a 6 year old daughter of Sarah D. Ortega and sister of Baruc, Vinny and Lui. Salma will be undergoing brain surgery in the near future and will be out in Dallas for 2 months during that time. We ask for **many** prayers as the family is undergoing tough times but also want to thank you all for the words of strength, prayers and help received from this wonderful Stratford Community. Words cannot express the true gratitude we feel towards the great people of Stratford and what they have done for Salma and the entire family. May God bless all of you and we thank you in advance for your help.

A Jim Owen Everson Memorial fund has been set up at Happy State Banks anywhere in Texas.

To show our appreciation for our local farmers we would like to invite you to.....

**Texhoma Wheat Growers 1st Annual
Ag Expo**
Thursday February 6th 2014
8am-3pm

- ✓ Texhoma Wheat Grower's warehouse
- ✓ Customer Appreciation lunch @ 12
- ✓ Door Prizes drawn throughout day
- ✓ Wide Range of Vendors available to discuss products
- ✓ SPECIAL prices on products and programs (must be booked day of expo)

Please feel free to call with any questions

806-827-7261



***** Attention to all subscribers!! Rate change

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

The Churches of Stratford Welcome You

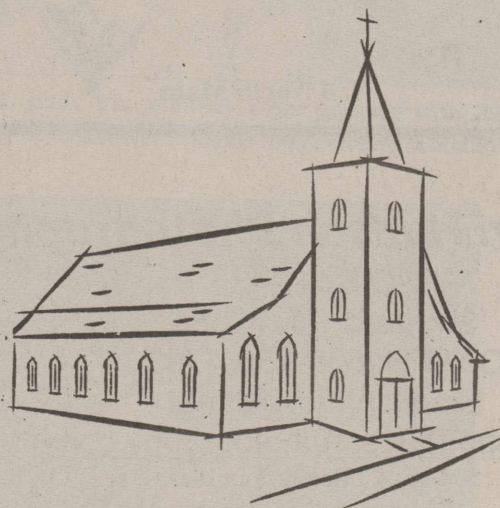
First Assembly of God
Kevin Anderson, Pastor
921 Fulton
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

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

First United Methodist
Rev. Steve Ulrey 396-2178
520 N. Main
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Junior & Senior High UMY 6:00 p.m.

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

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



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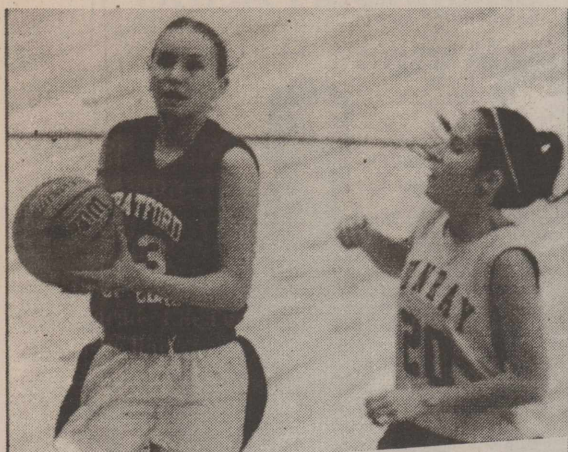
Church of Christ
Brad Beckett
N. 3rd & Chestnut
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Heritage Bible Baptist
Pastor Mark Looney
302 S. Main
For more info-call 396-2212
Morning worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6 p.m.
Thurs. Service 7:00 p.m.

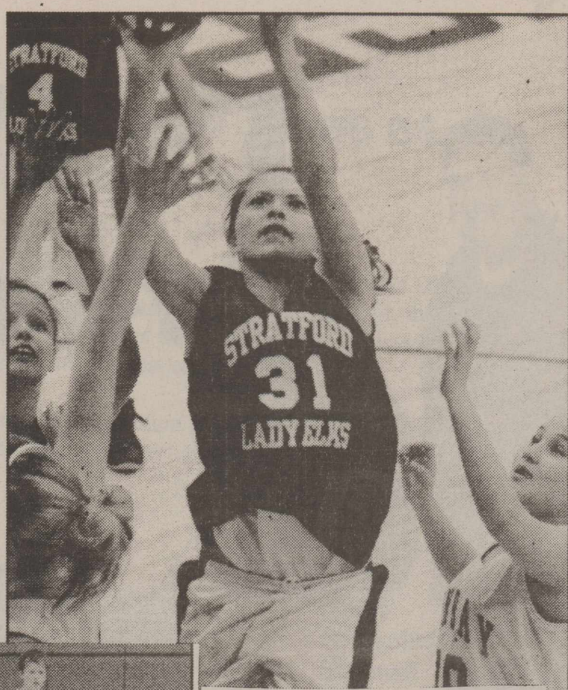
Eben-Ezer Templo Hispano
Asambleas De Dios
Pastor: Juan M. Valenzuela
806 366-3071
205 N. Poplar-Hwy 287 268-2188
Escuela Dominical 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Servicio De Adoracion 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Miercoles: Servicio De Adoracion 6-8 p.m.

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

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



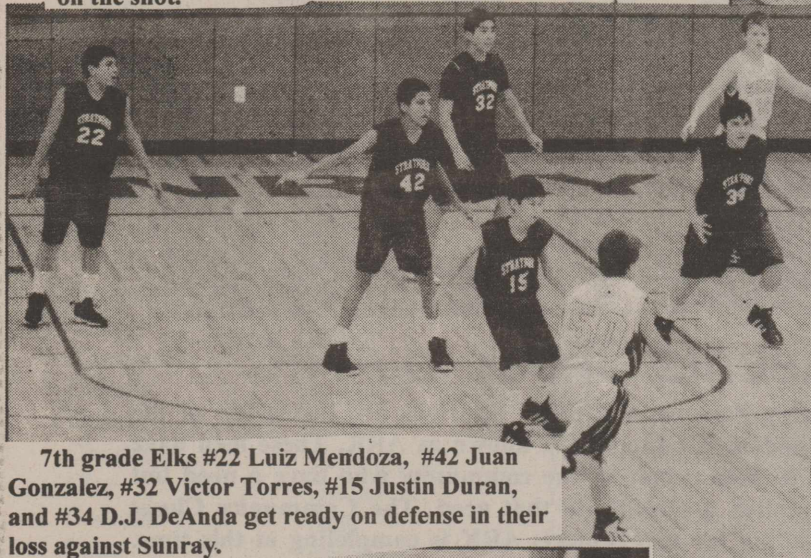
7th grade Lady Elk Katelyn Berry scores on the lay-up and on the free-shot after being fouled on the shot.



7th grade Lady Elk #31 Shaylee Audrain scores under the basket in their win over Sunray on Monday, January 20.



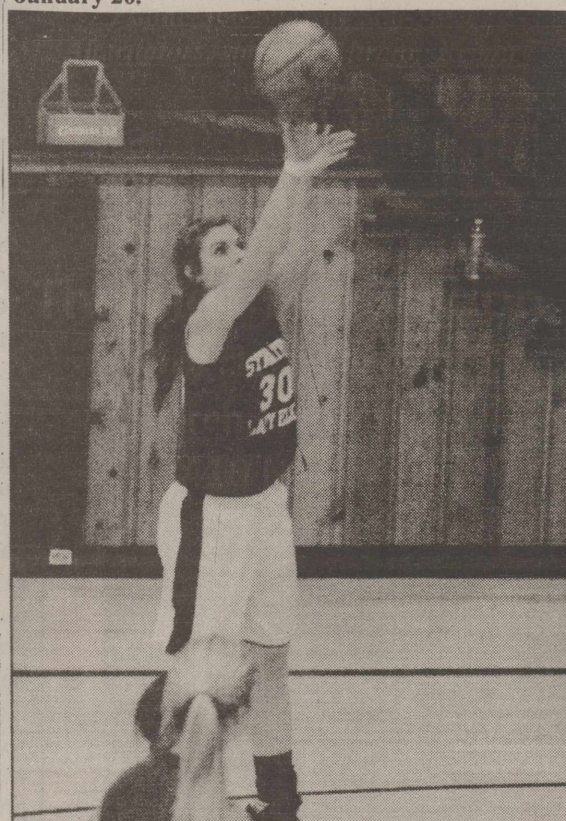
8th grade Lady Elk Allie James goes up for the shot in their win over Sunray on Monday, January 20.



7th grade Elks #22 Luiz Mendoza, #42 Juan Gonzalez, #32 Victor Torres, #15 Justin Duran, and #34 D.J. DeAnda get ready on defense in their loss against Sunray.



8th grade Elk #14 Colten Lanning scores under the basket in the Elks win over Sunray.



Laynee Burr #30 takes the jump shot in the 8th grade Lady Elks win over Sunray.



7th grade Elk Turner Smith gets ready at the free throw line.

Business Directory

Vincent Insurance Agency

Sabrina Melton

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

THIS SPACE
AVAILABLE
CALL 366-5885
E-mail stardm@xit.net
Fax: 366-5884

Stratford Auto Electric

119 S. Wall, Stratford, TX 79084
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*Toll-free 800-624-5494
Fax: (806) 366-2583

Stratford Grain Company

Stratford 396-5541
Lautz 769-4485

4 North Main

The Cleaning Station

Dry cleaning &
Starch & Ironing
410 N. 4th

Structured Touch Massage Therapy Clinic

Cece Yelek, CMT, LMT
401 N. Third #11. or 7199 Co. Rd P
Stratford, TX - Sunray, TX
Office 806-366-ahhh (2444)
Cell 806-290-3655
9-5 M-F-Sat. by apt

Shari Hudson Photography

PO Box 243
Stratford, TX 79084
Cell PH: 806-753-7798
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www.sharihudsonphotography.com
Seniors-Children-Families
Wedding-Special events

The Stratford Star

Duane & Marty Robertson

PO Box 8 Office: 806-366-5885
Stratford, TX 79084 Fax: 366-5884
Email: stardm@xit.net

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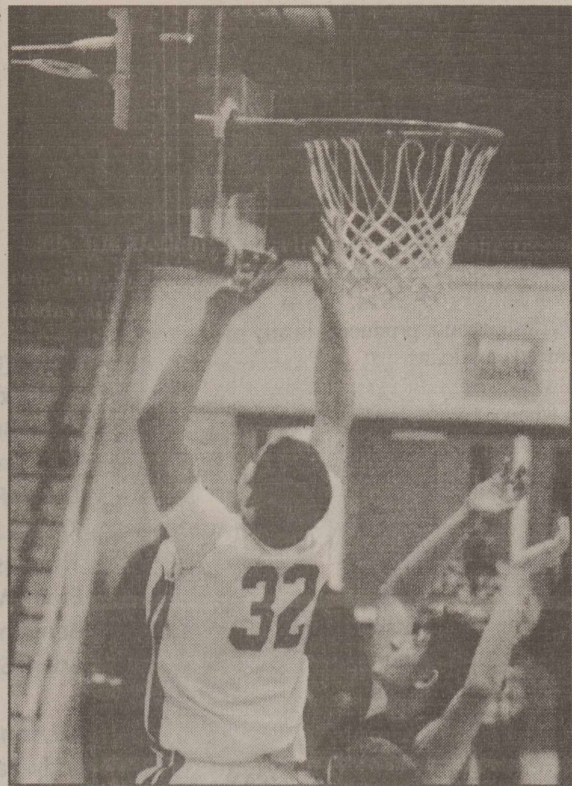
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Sterling Audrain goes up on the lay-up to score for the Elks in their win over Guymon.



Stratford Elk Trevor Melton puts the ball up for two points against Guymon.



Stratford Elk Rett Schoonover scores on the layup in the Elks win over Guymon on Tuesday, January 21.

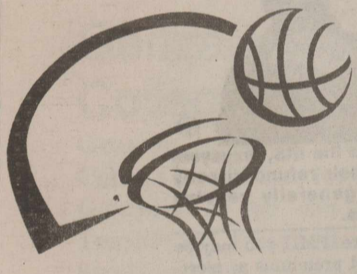


Lady Elk Jackie Gonzalez gets the ball down the court in the Lady Elks win over Guymon.



Lady Elk Bethany Everett gets ready at the free throw line in the Lady Elks win over Guymon on Tuesday, January 21.

The J.V. Lady Elks beat Dalhart 40-38 on December 31. Magaly Guerrero was high point with 11 points followed by Jacie Seward with 6 points. On January 10, the Lady Elks lost to Sunray 29-32. Nicolle Law was high point with 13 points followed by Madison Mungia with 12 points. On January 14, the J.V. Lady Elks whipped West Texas 47-16 with Madison Mungia leading the scoring with 13 points followed by Whitney Stone with 8 points. The J.V. Lady Elks fell to Gruver 23-25 on January 17. Nicolle Law was high point with 11 points followed by Madison Mungia with 10 points. On January 21, they beat Guymon, 32-24 with Madison Mungia leading the scoring with 13 points followed by Nicolle Law with 11 points.



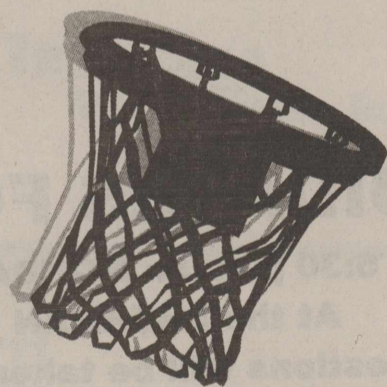
Basketball Time



J.V. Elk #20 Russell Spurlock gets ready to rebound as teammate Fernando Jacquez goes up for the shot.



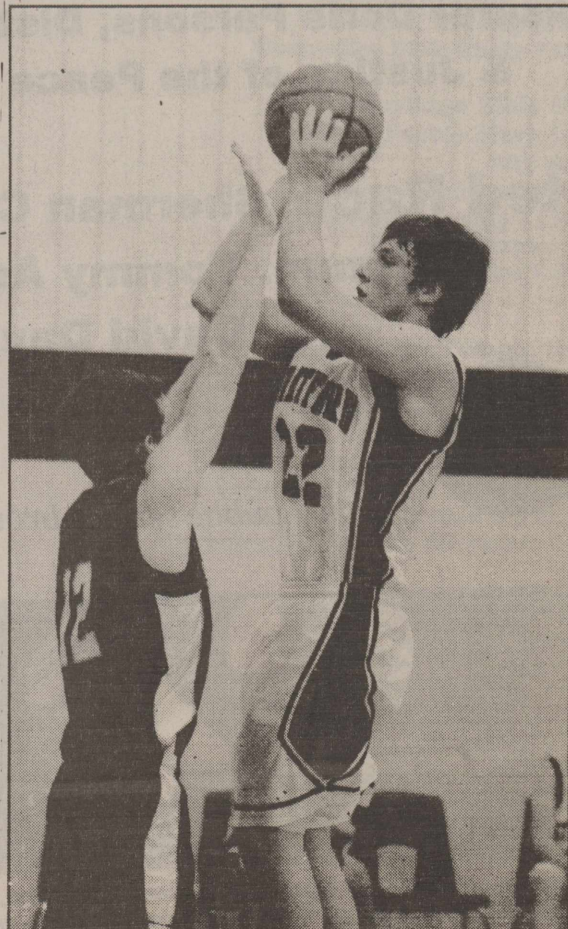
J.V. Lady Elk Whitney Stone goes up with the shot as #25 Jacie Seward gets in position to rebound.



J.V. Lady Elk Madison Mungia scores at the free throw line in the Lady Elks win over Guymon.



8th grade Elk Kade McBryde scores off a lay-up in the Elks win over Sunray on Monday, January 20.



J.V. Elk Gage Brooks goes up for the shot in the Elks loss to Guymon on January 21.

USDA Designates 108 Counties in Texas as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

(COLLEGE STATION, TX)—January 16, 2014-- USDA Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Judith A. Canales, announced that 108 counties in Texas were declared a disaster on January 15, 2014, due to drought using the streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process. Under this designation, producers in any of the primary or contiguous disaster counties are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year.

The primary disaster counties include:

Andrews	Concho	Haskell	McCulloch	Scurry
Aransas	Cottle	Hidalgo	Martin	Shackelford
Archer	Crosby	Hockley	Medina	Sherman
Bailey	Dallam	Hutchinson	Midland	Starr
Bandera	Dawson	Jack	Mills	Stephens
Baylor	Deaf Smith	Jim Hogg	Mitchell	Sterling
Bee	Dickens	Jim Wells	Moore	Stonewall
Bexar	Dimmit	Jones	Motley	Swisher
Blanco	Ector	Kendall	Nolan	Terrell
Briscoe	Edwards	Kenedy	Nueces	Terry
Brooks	Fisher	Kent	Ochiltree	Throckmorton
Brown	Floyd	Kerr	Oldham	Tom Green
Burnet	Foard	Kimble	Palo Pinto	Travis
Cameron	Frio	King	Parmer	Uvalde
Carson	Gaines	Kinney	Potter	Val Verde
Castro	Garza	Knox	Randall	Wichita
Childress	Gillespie	Lamb	Real	Wilbarger
Clay	Goliad	Lampasas	Refugio	Willacy
Cochran	Hale	La Salle	Runnels	Yoakum
Coke	Hansford	Llano	San Patricio	Young
Coleman	Hardeman	Lubbock	San Saba	Zavala
Collingsworth	Hartley	Lynn		

The following 54 counties were designated as contiguous disaster counties:

Armstrong	Coryell	Hall	Mason	Upton
Atascosa	Crane	Hamilton	Maverick	Victoria
Bastrop	Crockett	Hays	Menard	Ward
Bell	DeWitt	Hood	Montague	Webb
Borden	Donley	Howard	Parker	Wheeler
Brewster	Duval	Irion	Pecos	Williamson
Caldwell	Eastland	Karnes	Reagan	Wilson
Calhoun	Erath	Kleberg	Roberts	Winkler
Callahan	Glasscock	Lipscomb	Schleicher	Wise
Comal	Gray	Live Oak	Sutton	Zapata
Comanche	Guadalupe	McMullen	Taylor	

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in New Mexico are also eligible for disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous: Curry, Lea, Quay, Roosevelt and Union. Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in Oklahoma are also eligible for disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous: Beaver, Beckham, Cimarron, Cotton, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Texas and Tillman.

"The disaster designation is welcome relief to producers because it allows all qualified operators in primary and contiguous counties to apply for a low interest emergency (EM) loan," said Canales.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

CANDIDATES FORUM

6:30 p.m. on MONDAY, FEB. 17, 2014

At the SHERMAN COUNTY BARN

Questions will be taken from the audience.

Sherman County Uncontested Races:

Judge Terri B. Carter, Comm. Randy Williams - Pct 2,
Treasurer Doris Parsons, District Clerk Gina Gray,
& Justice of the Peace Brenda Acker.

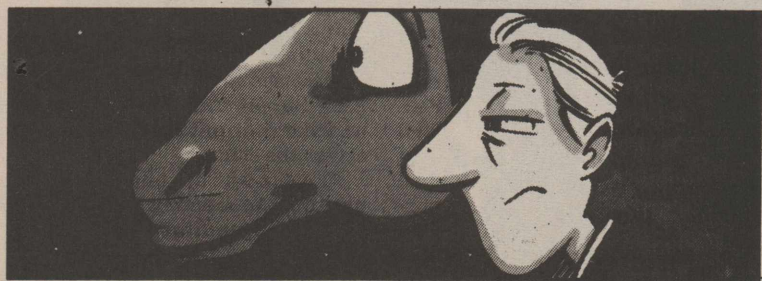
Contested Race: Sherman Co. Comm. Precinct 4

Comm. Tommy Asher (Inc)

David Davis



This is a public service brought to you by SCDC.



A horse can see better at night than a human. However, it takes a horse's eyes longer to adjust from light to dark and from dark to light than a human's.



"Auld Lang Syne" is sung at the stroke of midnight to bring in the new year. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired the poet Robert Burns to produce the version we know today. An old Scottish tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

Mary Allen Elementary
3rd Six Weeks
2013-2014

3rd Grade

A Honor Roll

Zane Burr
Max Englebrecht
Owen Floyd
Kaden Jackson
Thomas Mariscal
Ethan Moczygomba
Benjamin Paez
Adam Sanchez

AB Honor Roll

Cody-Paige Audrain
Sarah Bench
Luke Baden
Julio Castillo
Viridiana Contreras
Freddy Duarte
Adan Duan
Mauricio Duran
Emmanuel Gonzalez
Brenda Marquez
Jaden Nelson
Miguel Nunez
Brenda Sanchez

Dezerray Tims
Violet Vazquez
Klaire Walden
Addie Wells

4th Grade

A Honor Roll

Kaytly Clift
James DeAnda
Jasmyne Ortega
Destiny Paez

AB Honor Roll

Esteban Bravo
Ivan Bravo
Joslyn Burton
Jocelyn Cardenas
Erika Couch
Marcela Favela
Jade Genn
Emma Hartman
Andrea Jacquez
Saralyn Mace
Marcos Martinez
Sonia Mayorga
Mason McNeely
Mia Mendoza
Viktoria Moczygomba
Cesar Pando-Jacquez
Nisha Patel
Rein Pitti
Alejandra Portillo
Caroline Prine
Issai Reta
Benjamin Sanchez
Amanda Sheehan
Holly Sladek
Ivet Trejo

THE TAX PICTURE

Maximize Your Next Refund With These Tax Deductions And Credits

(NAPS)—According to the Internal Revenue Service, more than 101 million income tax refunds were issued in 2013, averaging \$2,651 each. The average was a couple hundred dollars more for taxpayers who elected to have their refund directly deposited into a bank account.



According to the IRS, taxpayers who have their refund directly deposited generally receive larger refunds.

Averages in 2014 will likely be similar because of tax legislation passed in the first couple days of 2013, according to TaxACT spokesperson Jessi Dolmage.

"The now-permanent and extended tax breaks will benefit taxpayers of all situations, including families, college students and homeowners," said Dolmage.

The credits and deductions available on federal returns due April 15, 2014 include:

Child and Dependent Care Credit—The maximum amount of child and dependent care expenses eligible for the credit is now \$3,000 if you have one child or \$6,000 if you have two or more children. These increased amounts are permanent.

Child Tax Credit—The credit has been made permanent at \$1,000 per child under the age of 17 at the end of 2013. This credit may be claimed in addition to the Child and Dependent Care Credit.

Tuition and fees deduction—If you, your spouse or your dependent is enrolled in a postsecondary institution, you may be able to deduct tuition expenses as an adjustment to income, even if you don't itemize deductions. You generally take this deduction if you don't qualify for an education credit or other tax break for the same expenses.

American Opportunity Tax Credit—The maximum amount of this credit for the first four years of postsecondary education costs in a degree or certificate program is \$2,500 per student. Costs may include tuition, fees and course materials (books). If you don't owe any tax, you may also be eligible to receive up to 40 percent of the credit (\$1,000) as a refund.

Educator expenses deduction—Elementary and secondary educators can deduct up to \$250 in related job expenses as an adjustment to income, even if not itemizing deductions. Unlike most employee expenses, educator expenses are not reduced by 2 percent of your adjusted gross income.

Deduction for mortgage insurance premiums—If you pay mortgage insurance premiums, also known as private mort-

gage insurance (PMI), you may be able to deduct premiums as mortgage interest.

Alternative Minimum Tax—The AMT was created to ensure wealthy taxpayers receiving large tax benefits pay some tax. It will now be adjusted for inflation each year so fewer taxpayers are subject to the tax. The exemption amount rises in 2013 to \$51,900 (\$80,800 for married couples filing jointly). For married individuals filing separately, the exemption is \$40,400.

Adoption credit—You may qualify for a credit equal to up to \$12,970 of your adoption expenses including fees, court costs, attorney fees, traveling expense and other expenses directly related to and for the principal purpose of the legal adoption of an eligible child. If your employer provides adoption benefits, you may also be able to exclude up to the same amount from your income. Both a credit and exclusion may be claimed for the same adoption but not for the same expense.

State and local sales tax deduction—For 2013, you can still deduct state and local sales taxes. You can take this deduction or a deduction for state income tax—but not both.

As with most tax benefits, you must meet certain criteria in order to claim them on your tax return, and even if you are eligible, you may not qualify for the entire amount.

Online and mobile tax preparation programs make it easy to do your own taxes and confidently claim all your deductions and credits. As you answer simple questions, the program completes your tax forms and checks for errors and potential opportunities. One of the top solutions, TaxACT, even helps you plan for next year with guidance for the implications of the Affordable Care Act on your taxes.

Learn more about these deductions and credits at www.irs.gov, and file your federal taxes free at www.taxact.com.



It Pays To Look In The

Star Classifieds

Phone 366-5885

THE STRATFORD STAR
Thursday, January 30, 2014
Page 7

..The Best Salesperson Around

More economical

Differences between electric and hydraulic driven systems

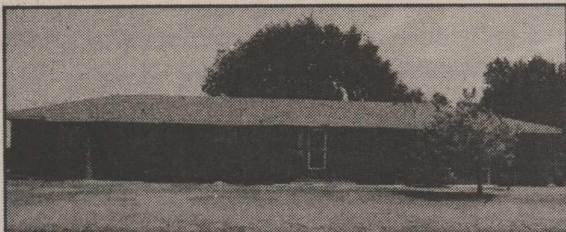
Electric Driven-Professionals are ready to share other eye-opening reasons why more and more people are choosing Reznick irrigation systems.

Reznick Dealer-Professionals are ready to share other eye-opening reasons why more and more people are choosing Reznick irrigation systems.

Talk with a Reznick Dealer today.

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

Houses for Sale



1320 Putman: 4/3/2 approximately 2835 sq. ft. This home has a large den with fireplace, large kitchen and dining room, office, 750 sq. ft. basement, sprinkler system and fenced yard. Priced to sell at \$189,500. Call Glenn at Glenn Cummings Real Estate 806-249-6759

Houses for Sale

802 N. Pearl, 3 bed, 1 bath, Newly remodeled kitchen and bath. Stainless-steel appliances, refinished hardwood floors, fireplace, large backyard, whirlpool bathtub, new roof, new windows, new everything! Located across the street from High School. Call for more info (806) 769-4464. 1 1/2 tn

New Listing!! 311 N. Fulton- 2220 sq. ft. home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living areas, formal dining room and a finished basement. This house has plenty of storage. Sprinklers in the front and back yard. Oversized single attached garage with lots of storage. New wood fence and newer storage building. This house is overflowing with charm. Listed at \$100,000.

Under Contract 601 S. Pearl - A large brick home on a quiet street perfect for a family. This home has 2300 sq. ft, 4 bedrooms, and 2 full baths. This house has plenty of space with a large back yard and cozy fireplace. Listed at \$85,000.

Under Contract 320 S. Main - Great starter home with 3brdm/ 2 baths. It has 2 living areas, attached double car garage and great back yard. Move in ready!! Listed at \$65,000

201 N. 7th St. 1776 sq. ft. brick home with 3 bedrooms / 1 bath / 1 living area/ dining room/ and lots of storage. New windows and a finished basement with laundry area. Oversized double detached garage. Large corner lot. Listed at \$75,000.

104 N. 7th St. 1,836 +/- sq ft manufactured home with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths, fireplace, and two nice storage buildings. Large fenced corner lot. Listed at \$63,000.

1205 Division St. 1738 sq. ft. home with 3 bedrooms, / 2 baths/ large open living room. Large backyard with covered porch and heated storage building. Attached double car garage. Listed at \$90,000.

502 N. Grace - Well built 1616 sq. ft. home on a small corner lot. This home has 2 bedrooms/ 2 baths, dining area, open living area with fireplace and an attached double car garage. Listed at \$70,000.

Check out our newly updated website:

www.CliftLandBrokers.com

Jana Clift • 806.679.7414

Stratford Office 401 S. Poplar • 396-1065

3430 I-40 West • Amarillo, TX 79102 • 806.355.9856



For Rent

Office building for rent on N. Main (across from the First State Bank). Centrally located in downtown Stratford. Call 806-570-0441

House for Rent in Stratford-3brdm, 1 1/2 bath. Total remodel, No pets-1317 N. Division Call for details 806-584-9750 or 806-584-9238 12/16 & 1/2

2BR, 1 bath apartment close to school. No pets. Tenant pays electric/water 806-244-3418.

Help Wanted

Cimarron Feeders is accepting applications for the following positions:

-Mill Laborer

17 miles S Keyes, OK on HWY 171

15 miles N of Stratford, TX on HWY 287

Then right 5 miles on HWY 171

Apply in person: M-F 8a.m-3p.m. or call (580) 543-6383

Great benefits for full-time positions that include:

Medical, Dental & Vision insurance as well as 401K and paid time off.

Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F

JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding is an equal opportunity Employer

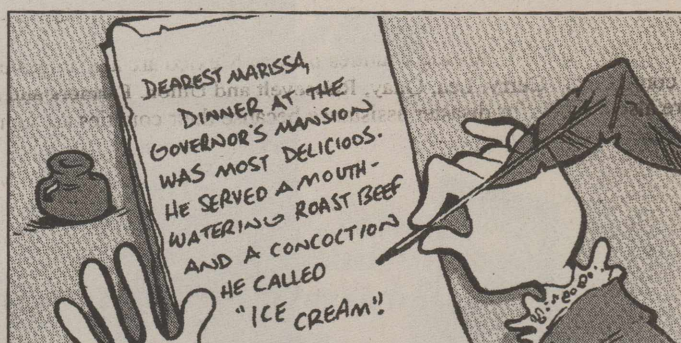
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Deadline for
The Stratford Star
Deadline for Stratford Star
items. Photos by Sundays at 4
p.m. Letters to Editor 9 a.m. on
Mondays (typed) and all other
articles and ads at 10 a.m. on
Mondays. (PLEASE)
Thank you

Card of Thanks

Thanks to everyone who made my Christmas and last few months wonderful. May God Bless and Keep everyone.

Sincerely Thanks
Irene Zaricor



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



Giving a Voice to Hungry Kids

We all know that there are children who have free breakfast and lunch provided for them at school Monday through Friday. Have you ever stopped to think what these children do for food on the weekends? Have you ever eaten lunch on Friday and then not had another actual meal until Monday morning? Can you imagine trying to listen to your teacher on Monday morning when all you can do is watch the clock and count the seconds until lunchtime? Unfortunately, there are children in Stratford and the surrounding towns in the Texas panhandle who face this struggle every weekend and during school holidays. Snack Pak 4 Kids is a program that provides food for children in these situations every weekend of the school year. 100% of all money is used for food only.

YES!!! I want to adopt a child for: **Stratford ISD**

- 1 year- \$133 (number of children _____)
- 1 month-\$14 (number of children _____)
- 1 week- \$3.50 (number of children _____)
- other- \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Organization _____

School you are sponsoring _____

Checks are payable to "Snack Pak 4 Kids." Please designate Stratford in memo line of your check.

Snack Pak 4 Kids
701 Park Place Ave
Amarillo, TX 79101
806-337-5252

Safety Around The Home

Don't Let Falls Trip Up An Older Loved One

(NAPS)—Falls can become more common and more serious as people age. The good news is that there are steps you can take to help prevent them. Here are some tips.

• Identify the health factors that can increase your risk for falling—poor eyesight, reduced reaction time, a decline in muscle strength, and limited movement can all contribute to putting a person at risk for falling—particularly if they are ignored.

• Don't be afraid to use a cane or walker if you are feeling unsteady—and promptly replace worn rubber tips of these devices.

• Be careful around pets. They can get underfoot or jump on you.

• Don't leave clothes or newspapers on the floor.

A Safety Checklist

Falls are often due to hazards that are easy to overlook, but many times, they are just as easy to fix. Interim HealthCare has developed a checklist that can be used to help you find and fix hazards in your home.

Go through the list and check off each item that describes the situation in your home. Each item that gets checked represents a step you have taken to reduce a potential hazard. Here are a few examples:

Bathroom Safety

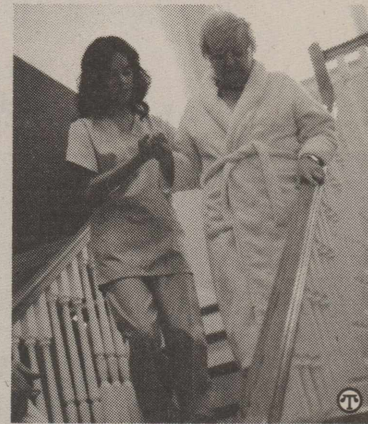
– There are grab bars on the bathroom walls, near the toilet or along the bathtub or shower.

– A slip-resistant rug is next to the bathtub or shower.

– A mounted or suction liquid-soap dispenser is on the bathtub/shower wall.

– Nonskid adhesive-textured strips are on the bathtub/shower floor.

– A sturdy plastic seat (shower chair) is placed in the bathtub.



Poor eyesight, reduced reaction time, a decline in muscle strength, and limited movement can all contribute to putting an older person at risk for falling.

– There is a raised toilet seat or a toilet seat with armrests to maintain balance when getting on or off the toilet.

– An extra-long mirror is over the sink so it can be used when sitting.

Bedroom Safety

– Clutter is cleared from the floor so that nothing is in the way.

– A lamp, flashlight and telephone are within easy reach near the bed.

– Night-lights are placed along the path from the bedroom to the bath.

– A raised mattress is available to get in and out of bed easily.

Download A Copy

To obtain your own copy of the Home Fall Prevention Checklist, visit www.interimhealthcare.com/Education-Center/Fall-Prevention/Home-Safety-Checklist.

Founded in 1966, Interim HealthCare Inc. is one of the nation's leading home care providers.

Big Blue Band Tops Other Class A Schools In All-Region High School Band Representation

The Stratford High School Band placed more students in the two All-Region High School Bands than any other Class A school. With 11 members Stratford was followed by Gruver (7), Booker (6), Panhandle (6), White Deer (4), West Texas (3), Memphis (3), Happy (3), Nazareth (3), and Wellington (3). Vega, Claude, Sunray, Wheeler, Clarendon, and Shamrock all had less than 3.

These 11 high school band members along with 24 students from the Middle School traveled to the West Texas A&M campus on Friday, January 17 to join almost 400 other panhandle area band students to rehearse and present a concert on Saturday afternoon, January 18. (See related pictures)

Because of the superior musical abilities of each individual the bands were able to give an outstanding concert with only eight hours of intense rehearsal over the two day period. All students should be congratulated for representing Stratford so well in this panhandle area musical event.



Middle School All-Region Concert Band:

Front row (L-R): Justin Duran, Sherridan Powers, Nadia Ortega, and Victor Tones. Second row: Elizabeth Martinez, Emily Barajas, Aidely Guerra, and DarCee Robinson. Third row: Kory Punch, Lucero Robles, and Carlee Metcalf. Back row: Tucker Summers, Ruben Gonzalez, Colten Lanning, and Angel Guerra.



Middle School All-Region Symphonic Band:

Front row (L-R): Jennifer Chavez, Laynee Burr, and Gian Rosa. Back row: Sonia Lopez and Noah Harris. Not pictured: Erika Lopez and Nick Payne



High School All-Region Concert Band:

Front row (L-R): Kobi Garza, Dalia Cruz, and A.J. Riffe. Middle row: Karma Henderson, Kelsey Pickens, and Amber Jimenez. Back row: Alexie Wright and Vanessa Mendoza.



High School All-Region Symphonic Band:

(L-R) Brantley Powers, Mazie Vincent, Mary Ann Spurlock (holding the certificate she received for being a 4-year member of the High School All-Region Band), and Juan Camberos

Because of their high chair placement in this band Mary Ann and Brantley qualified to compete in the Area Band competition in Lubbock. Mary Ann placed 3rd out of 8 bass clarinets and Brantley placed 3¹ out of 12 trombones at this audition. Mary Ann was just 2 members away from being selected to the ATSSB (Association of Texas Small School Bands) All-State Band. Brantley was just 1 student away from being selected to the All-State Band

