

Melvin Mitts 06/15
 PO Box 523
 Stratford, TX 79084

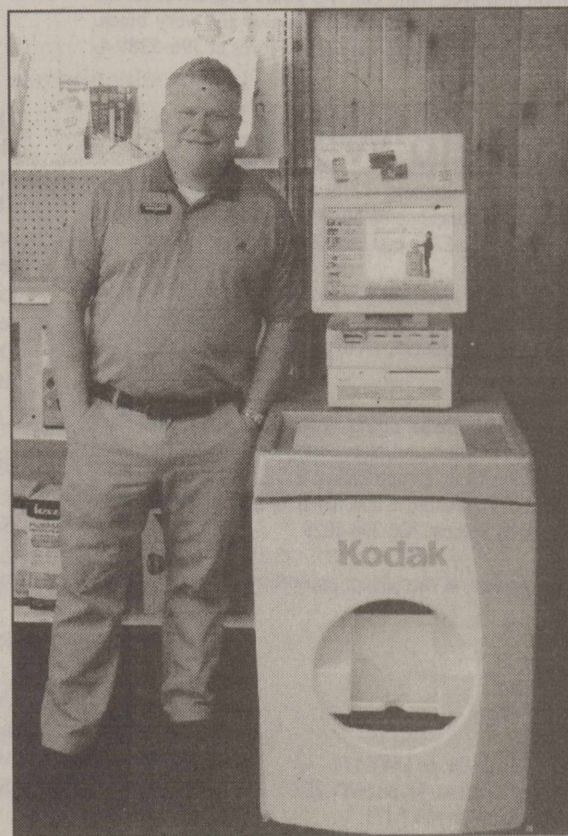
The Stratford Star

75 cents Published for over 100 years in Stratford, Sherman County, Texas 79084 usps 523 Number 16 April 16, 2015



Congratulations & Good Luck at Regionals

These SHS students placed in the top 3 of their respective events at the District UIL Academic Meet held at Amarillo College Friday, March 27. They qualify to advance to the Regional UIL Academic Meet to be held at Odessa College April 24-25. Pictured on the top row are Juan Araiza (3rd in Current Events), Vanessa Mendoza (1st in Accounting and 2nd in Editorials), Noah Harris (2nd in Poetry), Allissa Palmer (1st in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and 1st in Persuasive Speaking), Jacie Seward (4th therefore 1st alternate in Prose), Brantley Powers (4th therefore 1st alternate in Social Studies). Pictured in the middle row are Natalia Niave, Nicolle Law, Madison Mungia, and Desinya Garza who make up the 1st Place Spelling Team. Nicolle individually placed 1st and Desinya individually placed 2nd in Spelling. Alexie Wright placed 2nd in Headline Writing. Pictured on the bottom row are Bethany Everett, AJ Riffe, Jack McBryde, and Ty Hess who make up the 2nd place Wild Card qualifying Science Team. Individually, AJ Riffe placed 2nd overall in Science and earned the Top Biology score. Congratulations to these SHS students and to their coaches - Harletta Carthel, Cassi Hudson, Ronna Riffe, Chris Lough, Judy Stoy, and Paula Everett - and Good Luck at the Regional Meet!



"Elk Pharmacy" would like to introduce Stratford's first Kodak kiosk. There is no longer a need to drive to Dumas to print pictures off of your smart phones, flash drives, CDs, Facebook or Instagram accounts. Stop by and get a lesson on how it works and purchase some of your favorite pictures.

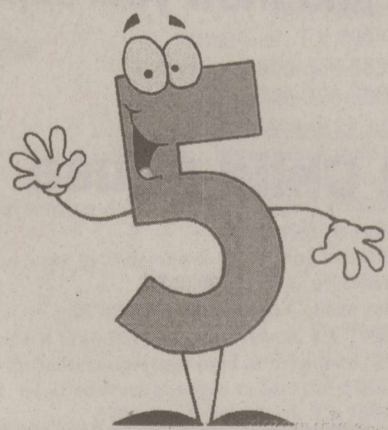
Shown above is Mark Moore, Administrator of Coldwater Manor and the Kodak kiosk

Need your sidewalk numbers painted or redone?

Sherman County 4-H Sr. Council would love to do it for you for a suggested donation of \$15.00

Send in your \$15 or donation with the form below (address below) or take it down to the AgriLife Extension Office by April 17th!

Fill out the following information, cut out, and send in!



Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail to: P.O. Box 540 Stratford, Texas 79084

Or bring to: 701 North Third Street Stratford, TX 79084

Do not forget to order your 2015 Stratford ISD Yearbook
 Deadline is Friday, April 17th Form on page 8

Stratford Area Foundation Annual Meeting
 Will be held Monday, April 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
 At The Imagination Station-Public Invited to attend

Mexican Breakfast
 April 19, 2015
 8-2 p.m.
 St. Joseph's Catholic Church
 515 S. Pearl St.

Prom 2015
 All Junior Moms & Students
 Prom Work Nights
 Every Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
 Stratford High School

Texas Community Futures Forum April 23-6 p.m. at the County Barn

The Texas Community Futures Forum is being held in Sherman County to assist local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Agents and the Leadership Advisory Board identify the most critical issues affecting local citizens. Our local Extension program has a rich history of providing educational programs that address the most critical issues in the county, related to Agriculture and Natural Resources, Families and Health, Youth Development and Community Development. In order to make sure that the programs being planned for the future are on target, we invite your participation in the Texas Community Futures Forum (TCFF). The TCFF will be held on April 23, 2015 at The Sherman County South Barn, 501 South Maple in Stratford. Your opinion is highly valued in our community, so we truly hope you can join us. Our expectation is that the forum will last less than two hours and a dinner will be provided, as we understand the value of your time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Extension office at (806)366-2081. Please RSVP to the same telephone number with your ability to join us. Thank you very much for your involvement in this forum, and we look forward to seeing you on April 23rd!

CHET EVERETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

SET UP AT FIRST STATE BANK

The Chet Everett Memorial Scholarship has been set up at the First State Bank in Stratford. If you would like to contribute, please see Cindy Larence at FSB or mail your check to:

First State Bank
 ATTN: Cindy Larence P0 Box 48
 Stratford TX 79084

All proceeds will go to Chet & Paula's children, Hunter & Bethany! This account will be available for contributions until August 1st, 2015.

Obituaries

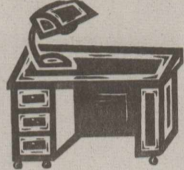
Dwayne Gray

September 24, 1941-April 5, 2015

Coach Dwayne Gray passed away Sunday, April 5, 2015. Family and friends gathered to celebrate his life of 73 years on Friday, April 10, 2015, at 3:30 pm at Lake Ridge Chapel and Memorial Designers. A tribute of Dwayne's life may be found at www.memorialdesigners.net, where you may leave memories and expressions of sympathy for his family.

Glen Dwayne was born on September 24, 1941 to Glen and Ava Webb Gray in Littlefield, TX On July 31, 1970, Dwayne married Frances Hanna at the First Baptist Church in Sudan, Texas.

Dwayne Gray coached at Stratford High School 1988-1994. Survivors include his wife, Frances Gray; his children, Dawn Gray, Stephanie Traweek and husband, Ricky, Donny Gray and wife, Tracy, and Wendy Gaylor and husband, Brent; grandchildren, Kaiti Haltom, Rachael, Grayson, and Tyler Traweek, Emma, Chesney, and Troy Gray, Hanna, Sydni, and Court Gaylor; brother, Jerry Gray and wife, Carolyn. He is also survived by his Great Pyrenees, Coach.



From the Desk of Sheriff Powell

This Saturday, Sergeant Geenie Gabehart and Corporal Tanner Jensen will be saying their vows, to each other, that is.

Geenie has been working for me since 2010 and Tanner, since 2011. After taking office as Sheriff in January of 2013, Geenie followed me and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and Tanner to the rank of Corporal. Both of them are true assets to our Sheriff's Office and to our community. I appreciate their service and dedication as they continuously display above-average professionalism in every situation.

God places people in our path for specific reasons. These two have found each other and it has never been my place or anyone else's, to intervene in their destiny. At work, they are nothing less than dedicated, hard-working professionals and "off the clock" (if there is such a thing) they are best friends and soon to be husband and wife.

Congratulations Sergeant & Corporal!!

We are blessed to have you and you are now blessed with each other.

Sheriff Joe Powell

Amarillo Symphony's 90th Season Concludes This Month

Close Encounters features guest saxophonist, Don LeFevre

AMARILLO, TEXAS - (April 7, 2015) - The Amarillo Symphony, (www.amarillosymphony.org), the leader of orchestral music in the Texas Panhandle since 1924, today announces details regarding its season finale, Close Encounters, on April 24 and 25 at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts in Amarillo.

Featuring legendary music by John Adams, John Williams, Gershwin and Ravel, Close Encounters is filled with musical favorite's you've probably had a "Close Encounter" with in the movies. From Science fiction to a Gershwin classic to what many baby boomers will remember from the movie "Ten", this is the concert for date night! Close Encounters will feature favorites like Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, plus guest saxophonist, Don LeFevre will perform *Escapades* from "Catch Me If You Can" by John Williams with the Amarillo Symphony.

Don LeFevre currently serves as Director of Bands, Associate Professor of Music and Professor of Saxophone at West Texas A&M University where he received his undergraduate and Master's degrees in Music. He studied saxophone with world-renowned professor of saxophone, Donald Sinta at the University of Michigan. Under LeFevre's direction, the WTAMU Symphonic Band has been invited to numerous appearances at the Texas Music Educators' Association Annual Convention in San Antonio. LeFevre is an active conductor, guest clinician, and performer and has performed as principal saxophone for the Amarillo Symphony for 24 years.

"We conclude our spectacular 90th season with Close Encounters which displays music by composers we all know and love," said Jacomo Rafael Bairos, music director and conductor of the Amarillo Symphony. "Two of America's most famous and popular composers are featured on our first half, as well as WT Professor and Amarillo's own Don LeFevre as our soloist. We are excited to have Don LeFevre as a part of our 90th season finale and to finish the season with one of our local musicians. We will conclude the season with two of the most famous works of music ever created, Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, with its whimsical charm bringing the idea of an American living in Paris to fruition. Ravel's *Bolero* will bring the party of a Parisian Night to Amarillo. This season has been such an incredible joy and honor to lead, and we can't wait to present our brand new 91 season to you all soon!"

The Amarillo Symphony would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Hassan Dana, Osman Dana and Kareem Dana for their generous support of Close Encounters.

The Close Encounters concert series will be held at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 at 8:00 pm. For more information about Close Encounters concert or to purchase tickets, please visit www.amarillosymphony.org or call 806-376-8782.



The Stratford Star
(USPS 523-108)
Published for over 100 years
805 Purnell
Stratford, TX 79084
Telephone: 806-366-5885
Fax: 806-366-5884
E-Mail: stardm@xit.net
The Stratford Star is published weekly
Editor & Publisher Martha Robertson
Advertising & Photographer Shari Hudson
Subscription rates
\$33.00 per year in Sherman & Adjoining counties
\$40.00 per year all others
\$27.00 per (9 months) College rate
The Stratford Star-PO Box 8-Stratford, TX 79084
Periodicals postage paid at Stratford, TX
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Stratford Star,
PO Box 8-Stratford, TX 79084

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Northridge 8
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www.southgate6.com
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www.sequovah8.com
620-275-2760

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

Medical Fund

A Pauline Griffin fund has been set up for help with funeral expenses at The First State of Stratford. We appreciate all who have helped us so far. It means so much to us. Thank you

Notice of Public Hearing on Sherman County Appraisal District Budget

The Sherman County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2016 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on Friday, May 15, 2015 at 7:00 a.m. at the Sherman County Appraisal District Office.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget.	\$406,099
The total amount of increase over the current year's budget.	\$ 14,054
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget.	<u>4</u> (full-time equivalent)
The number of employees compensated under the current budget.	<u>4</u> (full-time equivalent)

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

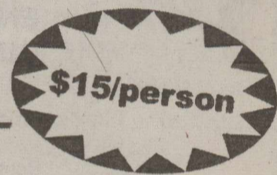
If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and special districts served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

Sherman County Appraisal
402 N. Third, Abstract Building
Stratford, Texas 79084

(806) 366-5566

HUNTERS EDUCATION COURSE



When: June 15, 16, & 17, 2015

Where: The South County Barn in Stratford;
501 South Maple.

Time: 6pm-9pm

RSVP to the Sherman County Texas AgriLife Office by 5pm Friday, May 15th.

Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting. Minimum age of certification is 9 years.



ALEXA REED
SHERMAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT AG/NAT RESOURCES
TX AGM AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE
PO BOX 540
STRATFORD, TEXAS 79084
ALEXA REED@AG.TAMU.EDU
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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

Coldwater Manor Nursing Facility
396-5568 Laura Davis, 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.

The Good Shepherd: Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— (John 10:14)
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He is my Jehovah Jireh. He is my provider. Just like sheep in a pasture, I am unable to survive without the care of my shepherd. The Good Shepherd personally attends to all of my needs. I am accustomed to him having just I have what I need, when I need it. I am unable to procure what is necessary to sustain my life. My basic need for food is met when God allows me to have sufficient health through which I earn means—that I exchange for food, shelter and clothing.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He is my Jehovah Rapha. The Lord who heals. He goes beyond providing sustenance; he provides a delightful peace of mind as well. I achieve total satisfaction in his presence. My needs are abundantly met. I recline in contentment, rejuvenated from daily stress. In this place, life's bitterness and painful lessons are transformed into the sweetness of wisdom.

He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:

He is my Jehovah Nissi. I am protected through continuous prayer and worship. My soul rest in his soothing spiritual waters. They are refreshing, calm, peaceful waters. I am cleansed and restored by them. My wounds are healed. His spirit stirs my soul with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, meekness and self control.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

The Good Shepherd orders my steps. He guides me down predestined paths protecting me from corruption. He purifies me through wholesome living. This path is lined with people and events that propel me forward in achieving my life's purpose.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil—for thou art with me;

I am unafraid. I proceed through life unaffected by the presence of danger and unhampered by the threat of death. The Good Shepherd protects me head to toe with the whole armor of God that I might withstand evil. I have loins that are girth do about with truth, a breastplate of righteousness; feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; the shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked; a helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. The Good Shepherd reinforces me with faith; reassures me he is always near (ever present in my time of need) and promises never to abandon or forsake me.

Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

The rod of the Good Shepherd is used for correcting, directing and disciplining me. I lean on and trust in the support and care of his staff. Together the rod and staff guide, protect and care for the me. I am comfortable in the reassuring arms of Jesus.

Thou preparted a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

I enjoy the abundance provided by the Good Shepherd even though my enemies look on with jealousy. My blessings continue to baffle those who wish me harm. The hungry wolves lurking outside of the fold are incapable of interfering with my feasting on the delicacies of salvation provided just for me through the Holy Spirit. No weapon devised against me will succeed. I am unstoppable and untouchable. My enemies are rendered powerless under God's omniscience and omnipotence.

Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over.

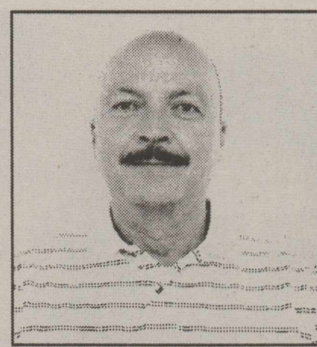
Anointing with oil represents forgiveness, healing, blessing. It serves to empower, honor and dignify an individual. Anointing with oil symbolizes a connection to God's working through the Holy Spirit. In the fold of the Good Shepherd, I am anointed (blessed) for a special purpose in God's kingdom (and so are you). God's anointing assures me that I will be cared for, fed, protected, and blessed abundantly.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.'

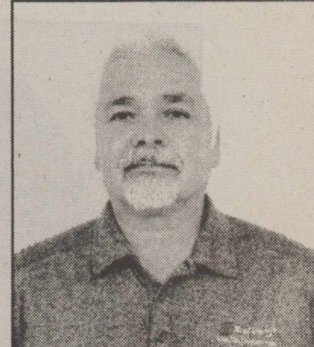
Since I am in the fold of the Good Shepherd I will continue to be cared for, fed and protected in all of the circumstances of my life. Even when I have ark days of doubt or fear I am still under the wings of the merciful Good Shepherd. I am judged leniently as the reward for following the lead of the Good Shepherd. I will remain in the embraces of a loving God forever.

Mediation: Is Christ my shepherd?

Matthew 6:25-34 Philippians 4:19 Psalm 37:4 Psalm 37:25 Romans 8:37 Ephesians 1:3
 Ephesians 6:13-17 Isaiah 54:17 Romans 8:29-39 Hebrews 12:10-11 John 1:12 Exodus 17:11-13 Galatians 5:17 Romans 7:21-24 Ephesians 6:18 Thessalonians 5:17 Psalms 121:1-8
 Feedback welcome joniahhyssop@gmail.com



Ronnie Walker



Pat Rendon

Xcel Energy names Ronnie Walker to manage Texas Panhandle community relations

Pat Rendon retires after 31 years of service
 AMARILLO, Texas – Xcel Energy has promoted Ronnie Walker to the position of regional manager for its Texas Panhandle Community and Economic Development group, succeeding Pat Rendon, who is retiring April 15 after 31 years of service with the company.

In his new role, Walker will oversee community relations activities and local government relations in 42 cities and 22 counties in the Texas Panhandle. Walker most recently served as senior project manager with Xcel Energy's transmission organization that oversees the planning and construction of hundreds of miles of new high-voltage lines across the region.

"Ronnie is a native of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle, with 37 years of service to Southwestern Public Service Company and Xcel Energy," said Brenda Holland, director for Customer and Community Relations in Amarillo. "He has extensive knowledge of the transmission and distribution grid that serves the region, and he's been actively involved in community activities for many years."

Walker started with Southwestern Public Service Company in 1978 as a substation electrician journeyman with the company's Construction Services group. In 1986 he transferred to Plainview as a lineman journeyman and moved back to Amarillo in 1993 to serve as a safety and claims specialist, and later claims supervisor. In 1999 he was named substation construction supervisor, and in 2001 took the role as senior project manager in transmission.

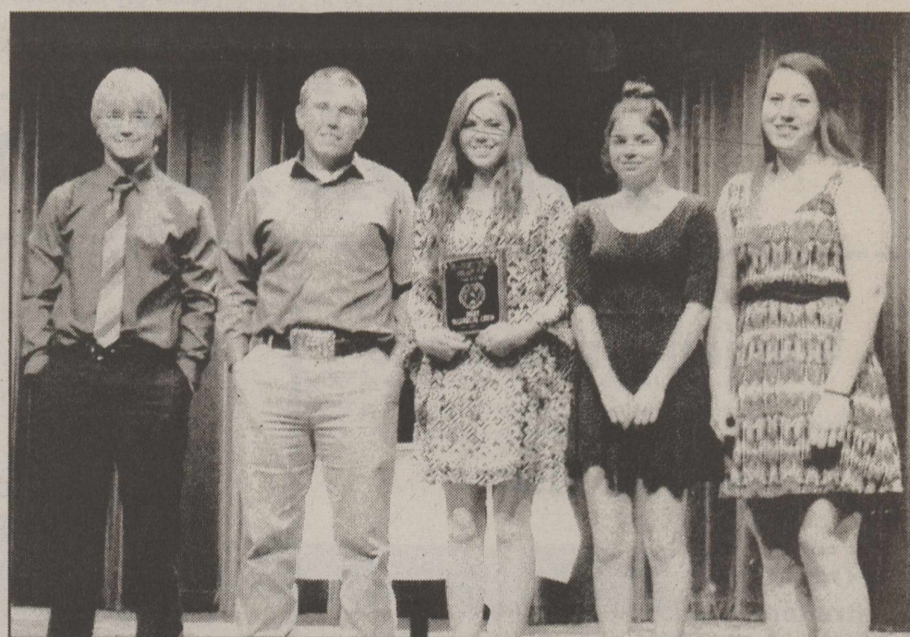
Walker is a 1978 graduate of Palo Duro High School in Amarillo, and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Wayland Baptist University in 1993.

Cont. on page 4



Shown at left are the SOAP students who won individual acting awards for their performance during the Bi-District Contest. Pictured here are Carlee Metcalf and Branson Palmer who were chosen for the Honorable Mention All-Star Cast and Taylor Wright and Allissa Palmer who were chosen for the All-Star Cast. In order Taylor Wright, Carlee Metcalf, Allissa Palmer and Branson Palmer. Congratulations to these students!

The Stratford One Act Play advances from the Bi-District OAP Contest to the Area OAP Contest to be held at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview on Saturday, April 18. SOAP will compete along with 5 other schools from our area to see who will compete at the Region OAP Contest later this month. Congratulations SOAP and Break a Leg at Area!



Congrats and Break A Leg

The Stratford One Act Play crew received the award given for Best Technical Crew at the Bi-District Contest held at Clarendon College on Friday, April 3. Members shown at right are the five crew members AJ Rife, Bret Barnard, Jacie Seward, Val-mari du Plessis, and Maty Mace. Congratulations to these students!

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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 Iglesia De Cristo
 Brad Beckett
 Juan Campos
 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)
 Estuela 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



Pam McReynolds Tollison

**"Stratford Education
Foundation Alumni
Feature"**

**Xcel
Cont. from page 3**

Walker is succeeding Rendon in the regional manager's position. Rendon started his career with Xcel Energy's Southwestern Public Service Company in 1983 as a technician in marketing. He transferred to Guymon, Okla., in 1994 and took the job of marketing sales representative. He was named community service manager in Guymon in 1997. Rendon later took the community service position for Xcel Energy's Dumas District before taking over the regional position in the spring of 2014. "We value Pat and his many years of service to our communities," Holland said. "We're sad to see him leave us, but we congratulate him on a job well done and wish him the very best as he transitions into retirement." Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with regulated operations in eight Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.5 million electricity customers and 2 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at www.xcelenergy.com.

It would take pages and pages if I were to capture each treasured memory I have of growing up in Stratford. I moved to Stratford in 1962 when I was 2 1/2 years old with my parents, Dave & Shirley, and two older brothers, David & Tom. My sister Emily was born in 1963. Dad was the editor and publisher of The Stratford Star until 1980. I started first grade in 1966 and graduated from SHS in 1978. My first memory is the day we moved to Stratford. I was standing in the front seat of the station wagon by Dad, it was raining, and we pulled into the hotel where we stayed for a few days until our rent house was ready. We first lived in a little house next to Mrs. Butler behind the courthouse. Then, we moved to 3rd Street. My first school memory is being nervous as Mom walked me down the first grade hallway. I was keeping my fingers crossed that I would not get Mrs. Warden; I had seen her the year before when my brother was in first grade and I thought she looked mean and scary. That's when I learned the lesson to not judge a book by its cover! I ended up loving and adoring Mrs. Warden. Don't get me wrong, she was firm, fair and consistent but her heart spilled with kindness and compassion. I got to witness that as I regularly peeked up from nap time and she had one of my best friends on her lap patting her chest and back to help her breathe (Debbie had CF). Mr. Galloway was one of our principals in elementary. He was a very sweet man and he was tall. He was a quiet man but he kept us in line. I also remember the day we moved into the brand new elementary building. We first reported to our rooms in the old building then we gathered our things out of our desks, loaded onto buses, then moved into our new rooms at Mary Allen Elementary. I remember thinking it was amazing that there was a picture of the real Mary Allen hanging up in the hall. Oh my, music totally rocked in elementary. Mrs. Mehner was the greatest!! We sang, we played instruments, we danced, she taught us how to play the autoharp... She could always brighten up the darkest day with her happy spirit and timeless energy. No wonder so many of us built on her musical foundation by being in band our middle school and high school years. Mr. Gilley. Need I say more? Talk about also being firm, fair, and consistent! (No wonder that is now my mantra as a teacher.) First, there is Mr. Gilley's legendary but mythical electric paddle. Being the dad of one of my best friends, Mr. Gilley was always there. He always knew. Oh my; I didn't like to get into trouble at school and he is a big reason. We always thought he was picking on us but later I realized that he just really cared deeply about each and every one of us; in fact, he still does! Mr. Bass taught us many things through his shining example; one being to treat everyone the same no matter their job. He also modeled that it took a team to have a successful school: students, custodians, teachers, support staff, cooks, bus drivers, parents, and community members. He exemplified the Elk Spirit and I am so glad the football field was renamed in his honor. He set the bar for any superintendent I have worked for since and believe me; only one has come close to matching Mr. Bass' greatness, leadership, dedication, and compassion. I have tried to model the best out of every teacher I had at Stratford as I work with my students. Since this is supposed to be a short article, I better not list each by name. With Dad owning the newspaper, we attended every school function, no matter its location. Some of those memories include being snowbound at the Canadian Basketball tournament (and Mr. Bass and Dad threatening us with having class at the hotel should we children act up), going to the "Turtle" in Lubbock for Regional basketball tournaments, going to Austin for the state basketball tournament (once as a child and another as the team's manager), cold and windy track meets, school plays, eating the yummy Band Burgers at the concession stand, and leaving my sister at the Sunray gym and Coach Fletcher keeping her on the bus with the team until we realized she was missing and we turned around. I am proud that the school was and still is the focus of the town. Each Stratford student benefits not only from the wonderful Stratford ISD staff but also from each community member. I am in my third year as the English Language Arts (ELA) instructor at the Georgetown Alternative Program (GAP). I am also the Campus Testing Coordinator (CTC). The GAP is the Discipline Alternative Education Program (DAEP) for Georgetown ISD students in grades 6-12. I am doing my best to pass on some of the English skills Mrs. Carter taught us in Junior & Senior English. I have been honored to be selected as our campus teacher of the year the past two years. Prior to moving to Austin, I taught English AP and English Core at Mayde Creek High School in Katy, TX where I also served as the team lead for the 11th grade team. My students were astounded that our high school enrollment surpassed that of the population of my hometown. One asked if I still knew any of my classmates. They were amazed when I told him them yes to not just my classmates but to the townspeople too! They could not believe that 5 of us get together for a mini reunion every year. This past summer, we met in Stratford reunion weekend and performed two hours of family service for each of our parents and our church family. It was a very busy time and I was very tired Sunday but I would not trade a second of that weekend! Time cleaning homes, working the hamburger dinner and Mr. Gilley's 90th birthday part, and playing bells at church and visiting added to my trove of priceless memories. Before teaching in Katy, I also worked as a coordinator for the Texas Engineering Extension Service, an agency of the Texas A&M University System in College Station. I returned to teaching after the birth of our first grandchild so I would have time off to spoil him rotten! Now I host Cousins' Camp at Nana & Bopob's every summer. Before moving to the Brazos Valley, I worked as a consultant for the Region 18 Education Service Center in Midland, as a district administrator and a teacher at Stanton ISD in Stanton, and as a teacher at Reagan County ISD in Big Lake. I earned a Master of Arts in Education - Educational Leadership from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, OK where I was voted Student Senate President my senior year. I was also editor of the college newspaper and was the mascot. My husband Miles and I met in college and have been married since June 7, 1980. We were married in the First United Methodist Church at Stratford. We have two married children, a son Matthew and his wife Kathleen, a daughter Haley and her husband Wylene McAllister, and four grandchildren: Westin (6), Hadley (4), Payton (3), and Emmerson (1 month). This fall we added a Black Russian Terrier puppy to our empty nest. When my Dad died four years ago, the FUMC lovingly hosted a reception for our family. Someone asked us why we had returned to Stratford to bury Daddy, our answer --- Stratford is home!

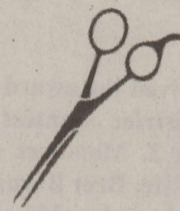
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Track 2015



The SHS Lady Elk Track team won the District track meet held at West Texas on Friday, April 10 with 159 points. The Lady Elks 800 M Relay was district champion as well as Matalin Mace in Shot, Erika Ortega - 200 Meter and Samantha Gonzalez in 3200 and 1600 run. Shown B/F-L/R: Courtney Griffin, Natalia Niave, Rabecca Couch, Laynee Burr, Matalin Mace, Daniela Valdez, Kelsey Pickens, Allie James, Yadhira Chavoya, Agustina Eizmendi, Alexie Wright, Erika Ortega, Madison Mungia, Samantha Gonzalez, Lucero Robles, Sonia Lopez, Carlee Metcalf, Nicolle Law, Sidney Turner, Taylor Aduddell, Whitney Stone, Vanessa Gonzalez, Monica Reyes, and Chantal Guel. Congratulations! (next edition full results of boys and girls and area qualifiers).



Stratford Elk Gage Brooks triple jumps at the district track meet in West Texas Friday, April 10, 2015.



Stratford Elk Jack McBryde captures the District win in the 110 hurdles at West Texas on Friday, April 10, 2015.



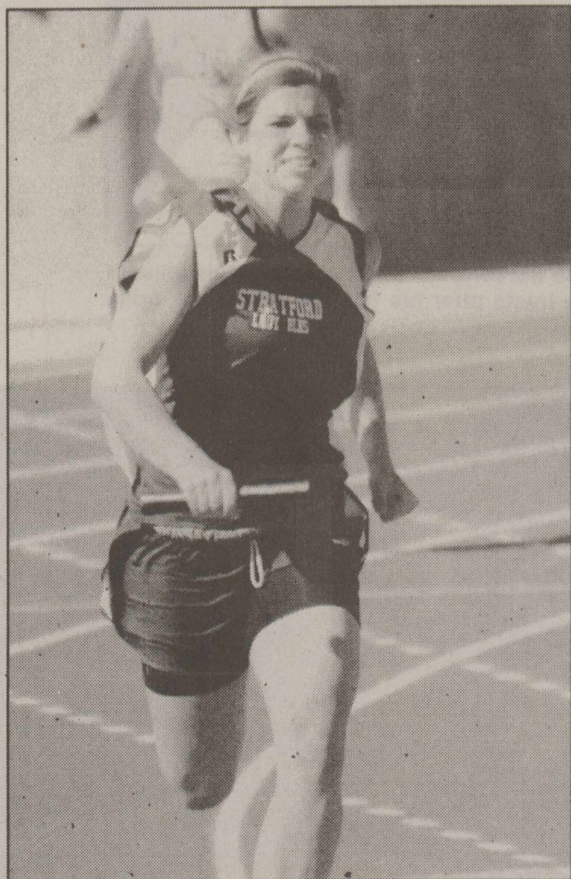
District Champion in shot Matalin Mace warms up at district track meet.



J.V. Elk Shay Hess triple jumps at the district track meet in West Texas.

The keenest sorrow is to recognize ourselves as the sole cause of all our adversities.
—Sophocles

Life is a foreign language. All men mispronounce it.
—Christopher Morley



Lady Elk Laynee Burr runs hard in the last leg of the winning 800 M Relay at district.



J.V. Elk Kade McBryde hands off to Luis Carrillo in the sprint relay at district competition on Friday, April 10 at West Texas.



HOME

Homeowners May Be in Hot Water With New Water Heater Regulations

NewsUSA

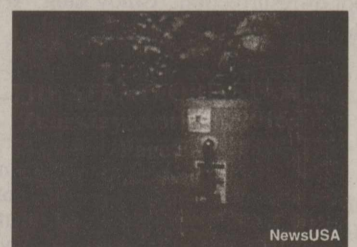
(NU) - In less than two months, new water heater efficiency standards will take effect and may end up hitting homeowners with an unexpected (and costly) expense.

To grasp the coming regulations, as imposed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), homeowners need to understand the impetus behind it—which is that, according to the DOE, by replacing residential water heaters, pool heaters and direct heating equipment, consumers will save up to \$10 billion and prevent the release of up to 164 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over 30 years.

"These energy-conserving appliance standards are a critical part of the Administration's overall efforts to save energy in homes and businesses nationwide," said former DOE Secretary Steven Chu. "By raising the energy efficiency requirements of our everyday appliances, we will save money for American families and companies, reduce carbon pollution, and enhance our energy security for decades to come."

While no one is arguing the benefits of going green, the down side is the upfront cost to the consumer.

"Our customers could face price increases of up to 15 percent to 35 percent," said Mary Kennedy Thompson, president of Mr. Rooter Plumbing. "Not only will the cost of water heaters increase an average of \$120, but installation and maintenance costs will likely rise as well. As a result of new regulations that re-



Homeowners need to be prepared for new water heater regulations.

quire a more complicated installation and increased amount of system parts necessary, homeowners could face a hefty replacement fee in the short run."

The added expense, says Thompson, comes in the form of the larger size of the new water heater units. Electric hot water heaters larger than 55 gallons—the minimum required for most residential homes—will require a minimum of 128 cu. ft. with a duct to a larger space in order to comply with the new standards. This means that homeowners will have the added burden of not only replacing a water heater, but potentially also undergoing a major renovation involving construction.

To combat a potentially high-priced situation, homeowners should consider checking the age of their hot water heaters. If they are getting close to the 10-year mark, they can be replaced before the new regulations take effect.

For more information on the right plan for your home, visit www.MrRooter.com.

STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The men and women serving as public safety telecommunicators – 9-1-1 operators, dispatchers and other communications specialists – are dedicated to saving lives. These professionals, the “unseen first responders,” provide critical assistance to Texans in times of great need, and their specialized skills and calm presence are invaluable to the Lone Star State.

The Commission on State Emergency Communications works with local and state governments to ensure reliable access to emergency telecommunications services. To highlight the invaluable role of public safety telecommunicators, the commission annually designates a week in April for an awareness campaign.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to extend their appreciation to public safety telecommunicators. Their diligent efforts ensure that help is on the way when we need it most.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 12-18, 2015, to be

Public Safety Telecommunicators Week



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof
In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 27th day of February, 2015.

Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

Legacy Celebrates Easter Season

By Paula Nusz

Easter celebrations at Legacy have lasted an entire week! One afternoon in last March, a group of six ladies came together to fill the eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. They filled approximately 200 eggs. The Egg hunt was conducted for the kindergarten class at St. Anthony's Catholic School on Wednesday, April 1st. Seventeen happy youth spent about 2 minutes hunting eggs in Legacy's north yard. The students then came to the patio to mingle with residents.

In the afternoon of Wednesday, April 1st, Legacy had their Easter party for the residents. To begin the party time, each resident made an Easter lily using a hand-shaped cut-out. The hand was rolled into a conical shape, a yellow center and green stem were inserted; and then green leaves were attached to the stem. Each finger was rolled to give it the shape of an open petal of the lily. A leaflet with “The Legend of the Easter Lily” and a poem “Easter Lilies” was shared. Other decorations for the party included a Peep Tree. This was a flowering branch of a Bradford pear tree decorated with chick Peep marshmallows treats. The Peeps were hung similarly to how a Christmas tree would be decorated.

A crowd of high school youth from the St. Anthony's church came at supper time, also on Wednesday, April 1. They brought sugar cookies and cupcakes. The youth helped the residents decorate their baked goods. Not only was this activity fun, but it was tasty too. It was a great blessing for these older children to spend time with the residents.

Good Friday services were observed on Friday, April 3rd. Rev. Cindy Ballard conducted the service. The group of 12 residents and 4 guests attended. The congregation sang “The Old Rugged Cross” accompanied by Danny Cumming on the piano. Cindy's message was inspired by Isaiah 53, which prophesied Jesus' death. She made special remarks concerning Judas and Jesus' mother-Mary. She described the cross and the crucifixion. She reminded everyone that Easter Sunday is Coming; something the disciples didn't know or believe at that time in history. Cindy had 3 examples of crosses- starting with an old, weathered, splintered one; the next was made of beautiful wood- smooth and polished; and the third was a golden cross. On Good Friday, Jesus died on the weathered cross, but come Easter Sunday – the golden cross will be the symbol of resurrection. Cindy sang “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” as the service concluded.

Health

(NU) - When illness or injury strikes, home health care is often-times not only preferred, but statistically shown to rapidly improve healing and give peace of mind. So, how do you sift through the many choices?

To begin the process, make a list of what you think your loved one will need. Next, ask for referrals from your loved one's physician or a family member or friend. If your loved one has been hospitalized, ask a social worker or nurse at the hospital. Another good place to look is the Internet. Once you've identified the type of care needed, narrow the search to a few agencies.

For more information, visit www.axxess.com.

Time will explain it all. He is a talker and needs no questioning before he speaks.
—Euripides

In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice, there is.
—Yogi Berra

Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Say Hello to Telecommunicators, 9-1-1 Operators & dispatchers and tell them you appreciate them and tell them what a good job they are doing!

NTW

National Public Safety
Telecommunicators Week
April 12 - 18, 2015

Each year, the second full week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. It was first conceived by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County (Calif.) Sheriff's Office in 1981 and was observed only at that agency for three years. Members of the Virginia and North Carolina chapters of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) became involved in the mid-1980s. By the early 1990s, the national APCO organization convinced Congress of the need for a formal proclamation. Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) introduced what became H.J. Res. 284 to create "National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week." According to Congressional procedure, it was introduced twice more in 1993 and 1994, and then became permanent, without the need for yearly introduction.

The official name of the week when originally introduced in Congress in 1991 was "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week." In the intervening years, it has become known by several other names, including "National Public-Safety Telecommunications Week" and "International Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week." The Congressional resolution also stated there were more than "500,000 telecommunications specialists," although other estimates put the number of dispatchers at just over 200,000. The Congressional figure may include support personnel and perhaps even those in the commercial sector of public safety communications.

Here's to the hidden heroes.

It takes a special strength to be the voice of calm when lives are on the line. To take control in an emergency using just a telephone.

To get the right kind of help to the right location. To give instructions that make a difference, no matter what the situation. Every minute, every day, 9-1-1 professionals like you promise callers that they'll stay with them until help arrives. But we say, when you're on the line, it already has.

National Public Safety
Telecommunicators

911
THE NUMBER TO KNOW

The National 9-1-1 Education Coalition



George Smith claimed to be the inventor of the modern-style lollipop in 1908. Smith named the treats after his favorite racehorse, Lolly Pop.

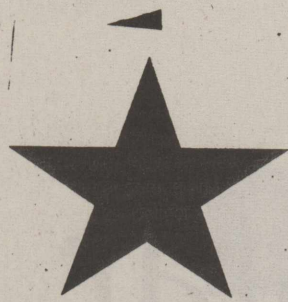
THE SPORTS PROGRAM JUST GOT CUT. OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?

KEEP THE LIGHT ON PUBLIC NOTICES



When government wants to do something with your tax dollars, it must let you know. But that right to know is being threatened. Numerous governmental entities across the state want to hide their public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites. What you don't know will affect you personally!

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THE STRATFORD STAR
Thursday, April 16, 2015
Page 7

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HEALTH

5 Tips to Having a Happy, Healthy Heart

NewsUSA

(NU) - Everyone knows heart health is vital. Yet, more than 600,000 Americans die of heart disease every year—or one in every four deaths—according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

By arming yourself with information about nutrition, fitness and lifestyle choices, you can reduce your risk for heart disease.

From picking protein-rich foods that are low in saturated fat to snoozing for the optimal amount of time each night, here are some valuable tips to keep your ticker happy:

- **Get your protein from foods that are low in saturated fat.** While a good steak or hamburger can be enjoyable, it is also high in saturated fat. Better choices are fish, poultry and nuts. If you want something even lighter, consider a protein shake. The Bowflex Body French Vanilla Fitness Shake (www.bowflexbody.com), for instance, offers 15 grams of protein per serving and a scant 1 gram of saturated fat. An added bonus is that these shakes activate the metabolism and help build muscle, burn calories and boost energy.
- **Put down the smartphone.** In today's world of 24/7 connectivity, it's important to unplug from work, email and devices for at least an hour a day. This helps reduce stress, which is important for keeping your blood pressure and heart rate levels from going too high.
- **Get some rest.** Experts recommend aiming for around seven to eight hours of sleep a night. Consistently getting too few or too many zzz's can be unhealthy.
- **Move your body.** A recent study from the University of Cam-



Keep your heart healthy with smart diet choices. Low-fat fitness shakes are a great source of protein.

bridge determined that inactivity is more dangerous to your body than obesity. There are limitless activities to get your heart pumping, such as walking, swimming or biking, to name a few. Looking for a workout you can do at home? The Bowflex TreadClimber (www.treadclimber.com) combines the motions of a treadmill, a stair climber and an elliptical for a comfortable low-impact workout that delivers high-impact results.

• **Free your inner social butterfly.** Better yet, work out with a buddy to help keep you motivated and on track. Research shows that having a strong social network and spending time with others can help reduce blood pressure and other heart disease-related factors.

"Even small steps, like adding one strength-training workout a week, can make a big impact," says Tom Holland, Bowflex Fitness Advisor and "Beat the Gym" author. "Plus, the Internet is a great resource to find more tips and information."

For a good place to start, visit www.bowflexinsider.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO DESTROY SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM RECORDS

The following schools are served within Northwest Texas Shared Service Arrangement: Channing, Gruver, Hartley, Stratford, Sunray (Fiscal Agent), Texhoma and Texline. These ISD's intend to destroy special education eligibility folder records maintained for individual students who have not received special services since 2008. The information is no longer needed to provide educational services. These inactive records since 2008 will be destroyed by shredding. Destruction of these records conforms to the requirements of the following legal authorities:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: #300.611-300.625;
Texas State Library & Archives Commission, Local Schedule AD (13 TAC 7.125(a) (4) (Second Edition), Retention Schedule for Records of Public School Districts - Section 3-1:
Update 14 - January 2010 - 7.4.3.3 Destruction of Records.

A parent or adult student wanting to exercise the right to access these records and/or request copies must make the written request so that it arrives in Northwest Texas Shared Service office no later than July 13, 2015.

Sunray ISD
Northwest Texas Shared Service Arrangement
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Published in The Stratford Star, Thursday, April 16, 2015

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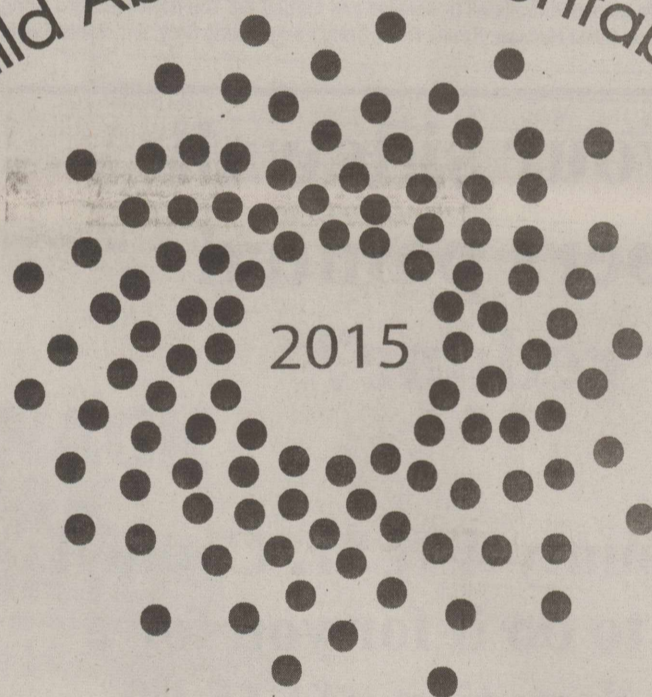
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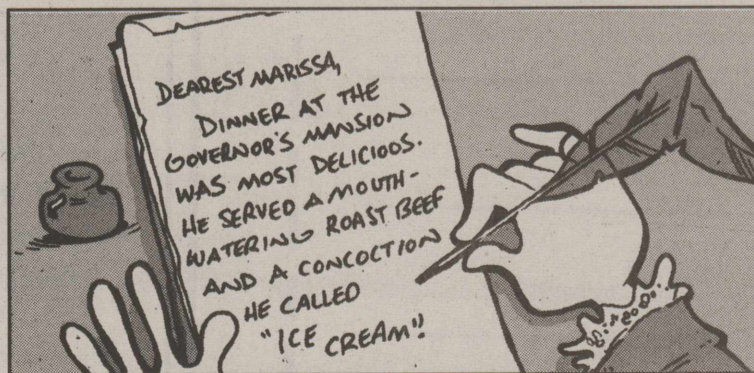
Wear Blue

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

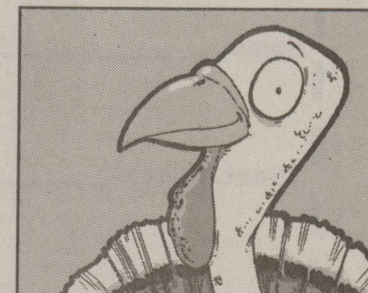
On April 10, 2015, Wear Blue to School, Work, with your Club, and With your Family and show your support.



Prevent Child Abuse
Texas



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



The fleshlike appendage that hangs off a turkey's neck is called the wattle.

