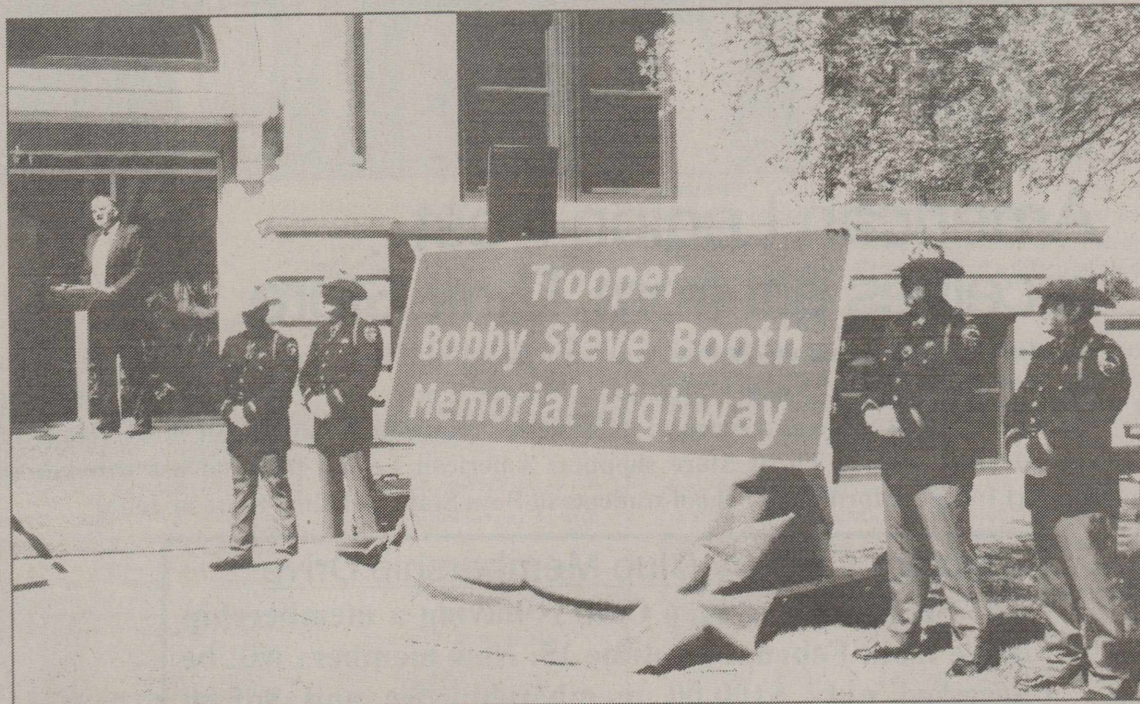


Melvin Mitts 06/16
PO Box 523
Stratford, TX 79084

The Stratford Star

75 cents Published for over 100 years in Stratford, Sherman County, Texas 79084 usps 523 Number 13 March 31, 2016



Highway dedication honors fallen trooper

A fallen Department of Public Safety officer was honored Thursday, afternoon March 24, 2016 with a dedication ceremony for a portion of U.S. Highway 287, held by The Texas Department of Public Safety.

Steve Booth, who joined DPS in 1987 was stationed in Stratford at the time of his death, Killed while responding to a disturbance call at a roadside park "By the time he stopped this man, somehow the man managed to get control of Steve's gun and shot Steve with his own gun," said Major Ben Urbanczyk friend of Booth. "It was an extremely hard thing to deal with. Steve was the most honest, decent, best highway patrol man I ever met." You just do not forget things like that.

Duane Pittman, a member of the Stratford Lions Club made it his mission to get a sign on the highway in Booth's honor. After many hurdles, an anonymous donor made it possible. This sign is here today because we lost a very dedicated DPS Trooper, Pittman said. The signage was approved during the 83rd Texas Legislature with support from Representative Four Price and Senator Kel Seiliger. Pittman said the deed is 23 years too late, making Thursday's dedication very special.

The day he was killed out there, that's the memory of that Highway, but this trumps that," Booth Cavitt said. "It almost erases that evil that happened on that Highway and covers it with the Blessing of God

Bobby Steve Booth Memorial Highway, created by the 83rd Texas Legislature, consists of a section north of Stratford on 287 north of Stratford that stretches to the Texas-Oklahoma Border.

The ceremony was held at the Sherman County Courthouse in Stratford and was attended by Trooper Booth's family. DPS leaders, fellow trooper's county officials and members of the Stratford Lions Club and many other concerned citizens who wanted to celebrate this dedication and memorial to Troop Steve Booth the; Sherman County Courthouse was turned into a momentous gathering place. Steve Booth was remembered after being murdered on duty in 1993.

"Here we are today almost 23 years later to honor Steve," said Renee Booth Cavitt, Widow of Trooper Booth. "In a way I feel this dedication proves that God is good."



Stratford Lions Club

Mexican Pile on Dinner

Sunday, April 10, 2016

11:30 – 1:00

County Barn

Free Will Donation

Need your sidewalk numbers painted or redone?

Sherman County 4-H Council would love to do it for you for a suggested donation of \$15!

Send in your \$15 or more donation with the form below or take it to the AgriLife Extension Office by April 27th!

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail to: Sherman County 4-H Council, P.O. Box 540, Stratford, Texas 79084

Or bring to: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office, 701 North Third Street Stratford, TX 79084 (courthouse annex)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Stratford "Fine Arts Extravaganza" Information, 4/26/16

The Stratford Education Foundation is excited to sponsor the Stratford Fine Arts Extravaganza at the Amarillo Globe News Center on Tuesday, April 26th The event will showcase the Stratford H.S. Big Blue Band and also the Junior High Band. Art work by students in SHS art classes and the industrial arts classes will also be showcased in the foyer and during the reception. The Extravaganza will begin at 6:30 pm, and a reception will follow in the Gilliland Education Center.

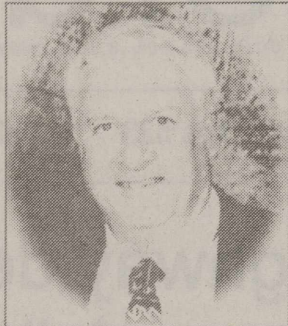
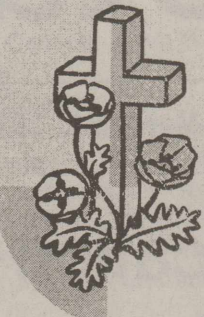
The Foundation shall also honor all past Big Blue Band directors and their families at the concert and also the reception. Directors who plan to attend the event include Joe Mack Hill (1958-1966), Noel Maxwell (1966-1970), Jeff Doughten (1971-1973), Gary Laramore (1975-1978), Randy Hunsaker (1979-2007), Dr. Jim Taliaferro (1986-1987), John Strother (1977-1978), Betty Ingham (1987-1991), Jeff Witcher (1997-1999), and current directors Katherine Willey Nusz and Jim Parham. The Foundation is still waiting on confirmation from several other directors.

The current band students shall be rehearsing and recording on the stage of the concert hall during the day. They will also have master classes and a recital from music faculty at WIAMU and the Amarillo Symphony. The rehearsals and concert shall be professionally recorded to allow the SHS band to submit quality recordings for the TMEA 2A Honor Band competition this spring.

The concert and reception are free to the public. Any former band members or band directors who still play are invited to perform with the band on their final numbers. If you are interested in playing with the band, please call the Band Office at 806.366.3339 and leave a message.

Anyone planning to attend is asked to RSVP to either shsbigblueband@gmail.com or by leaving a message at 405.737.0599 by April 15th The caterers need an estimate so there is enough food for the reception. Donations may also be made at the reception to help defray costs.

Obituaries



Joe Reinart
January 21, 1955-March 23, 2016

Joe Reinart, 61, died Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at his home in Stratford, Texas

A Prayer Vigil was held at 6:00 PM Sunday, March 27, 2016 at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Dalhart, TX.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10:00 a.m. Monday, March 28, 2016 at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Dalhart, Texas. Officiants were Monsignor Michael Colwell, pastor, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church and Father Scott Raef, Rector, St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Amarillo, TX. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery under the care of Horizon Funeral Home in Dalhart.

Joseph Louis Reinart was born January 21, 1955 in Canyon, TX, the fourth of 7 children born to Alfred and Clara (Wieck) Reinart. Joe grew up in Hereford and began farming with his father and 2 brothers East of Dalhart in 1972. On November 26, 1976 he married Janet Wilhelm. Joe was a faithful and active member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church and served on the finance committee and St. Anthony Trust board and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He served his community as well - as a member of many boards including Dallam County Farmers Union, Ag Texas Farm Credit, Ag Producers Co-op, and the Stratford ISD School board. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather (papa). Joe loved to travel and was an avid classic car collector.

Survivors include his wife: Janet of Stratford, TX, daughters: Carissa Arias and her husband Joe of Amarillo, TX, Amy Attebury and her husband John of Salem, OR, and Stephanie Trevino and her husband Sergio of Lubbock, TX and a son Michael Reinart of Stratford, TX. 8 Grandchildren.

His brothers Rick and wife Connie Reinart of Sevierville, TN, David and wife Kay Reinart of Amarillo, TX. His sisters Nanette Ast of Amarillo, TX, Phyllis and her husband Bill Butler of Amarillo, TX, Denise and her husband Steve Morris of Rowlett, TX, and Sandy and her husband Jim Rayburn of Tyler, TX.

Joe is also survived by his mother in law: Christina Wilhelm of Grapevine, TX, his Brothers-in-Law: Danny Wilhelm and his wife Sherry of Amarillo, TX, Edwin Wilhelm and his wife Janet of Dumas, TX, Lloyd Wilhelm and his wife Denise of Delta Junction, AK, Gerald Wilhelm and his wife Gay of Dalhart, TX, Wade Wilhelm and his wife Virginia of San Diego, CA and Tim Wilhelm and his wife Vickie of Amarillo, TX. His Sisters-in-Law: Joyce and husband Joe Lumpkin of Grapevine, TX, Jennifer and her husband Erik Moreland of Grapevine, TX, and Judy and her husband Jeff Head of Tyler, TX.

Joe is preceded in death by his Parents, and a son Craig Reinart, father in law Bert Wilhelm, a brother-in-law Andy Wilhelm and his stepfather-in-law: Leo Koch.

Memorials may be made to:

Catholic Student Center Scholarship —2610 4th Ave - Canyon, TX, 79015 St. Anthony's Saints Trust Scholarship - P0 Box 1029-Dalhart, TX 79022 Stratford Area Foundation do of First State Bank attn. Suzanne Ashley - P0 Box 48—Stratford, TX 79084



American Legion Post receives gift from Thrift Store

Stratford's American Legion Post was awarded a gift from the Thrift Store this past week. Dennis Phelps, Robert McGinnis, Wayne Smith, and Claude Fedric members visited the Thrift Store and received money from Sonja Ragsdale, Thrift Store volunteer and Mexia Laura, a Thrift Store shopper. American Legion plans to use this gift to support two Stratford High School students to Boys State and Girls State in June.

Stratford Country Club Membership Drive

The Stratford Country Club is having a membership drive from February 1-June 15. New members will be accessed only \$100.00 membership fee and \$65.00 monthly dues during this time instead of \$150.00 membership fee. Please contact Suzanne Ashley at First State Bank 396-5521 for more information or to enroll.

Sherman County Livestock Assn Annual Meeting

Monday, April 4th-7:00 p.m. Ag Shop

Elect 2 new board members

Elect new officers

Talk about ideas for next year.

XIT Rodeo and Reunion Directors are now accepting applications for XIT Rodeo Queen

To qualify you must be a High School Sophomore, Junior or Senior girl for the upcoming 2016/2017 school year, live within a 50-mile radius of Dalhart, be unmarried, able to ride a horse and be willing to devote their time and effort promoting XIT Rodeo & Reunion during their reign. The winner of this contest will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship and approximately \$1,500 in awards and prizes. The XIT Rodeo & Reunion Board of Directors recently mailed out an announcement along with entry packets to all area schools. Those interested in competing for XIT Rodeo Queen are encouraged to contact Steven Yeager @ 806-333-4409 or your school office. Applications need to be mailed with a postmark on or before April 15, 2016.

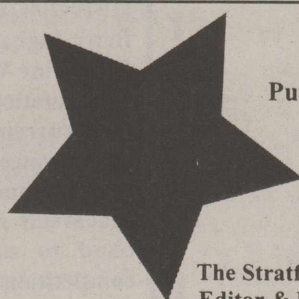
**Large selection of
Ronnie and the late
Zelda Pickens
Glassware will be at
the coliseum next to
the lake at
Dalhart, Texas
Saturday April 2nd
At 10 a.m.**

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

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 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

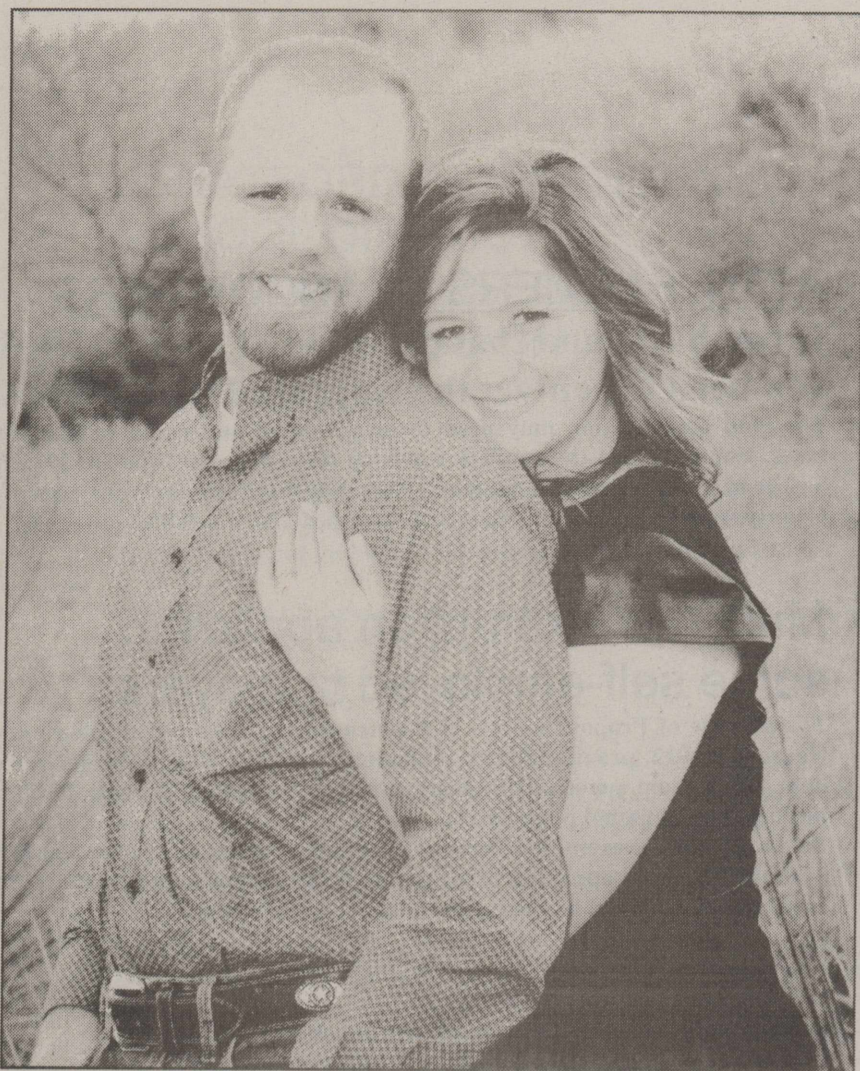
The Stratford Star is published weekly
Editor & Publisher Martha Robertson
Advertising & Photographer Shari Hudson

Subscription rates
\$33.00 per year in Sherman & Adjoining counties
\$40.00 per year all others
\$27.00 per (9 months) College rate

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Guymon, 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



Engagement Announced

Mr. and Mrs. Lem Russell of Stratford, Texas announce the engagement of their daughter, Sunny Russell, to Jacob Dueland, son of Mr. Doug Dueland and Ms. Mary Dueland Tropp of McCook, Nebraska. The couple met in Lincoln, Nebraska in March of 2014. Sunny, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, currently works in the athletic department at Clemson University while she gains her master's degree. Jacob graduated from Southeast Community College and currently works as a welder for Tuttle Inc. in Friend, Nebraska. An August wedding is planned.

Lion's Club receives check

Stratford Lions Club received a gift from the Thrift Store last week. Lions' Terri Carter, Jim Bob Brown, and Trisha Keener were presented a check from Thrift Store Volunteer, Adela Tobias. Stratford Lions Club plan to use this gift toward the purchase of eyeglasses for children and adults as needed in the community. Thanks to Stratford and surrounding area residents for supporting the Thrift Store. This support enables the store to give back to the non-profit community organizations.



Sladek presents Check

Thrift Store volunteer, Janice Sladek, presents a check to Lollipop Junction Board members, Koreley Whittington and Christina Brown. This generous donation from the Thrift Store will help Lollipop with the sewer line replacement recently completed at the childcare center.



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 & Krista Brown ANP

Elk Pharmacy

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

"Check our Competitive pricing"

"Compounding Available"

366-5505 Shelly Worley, PharmD, RPH

Coldwater Manor Nursing Facility

396-5568 Mark Moore, LNFA

Stratford EMS

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

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

A proverb is a short sentence
based on long experience.

—Miguel de Cervantes

It is my belief that nearly any
invented quotation, played with
confidence, stands a good
chance to deceive.

—Mark Twain

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

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.

Jr. & 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.

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.

La Mision Bautista

Mision Bautista

401 S. Wall 396-5376

Domingo (Sunday)

Estuela Dominical 9:45 a.m.

Miercoles (Wednesday)

Servicio De Adoration 11 a.m. Estudio

Biblico & Servicio De Oracion 6 p.m.

Servicio De Adoration 6 p.m. se Cuidamos

Susunos Durante El Servicio

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

Church of Christ

Raymond Glendinning

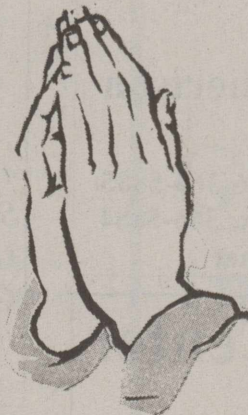
N. 3rd & Chestnut

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

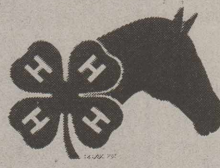
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



This page sponsored by
Stratford Grain 396-5541
Lautz 769-5541
Stratford Star
366-5885

Sherman County Silver Spurs 2016 Playdays



Stratford Arena

South of town on the intersection of HWY 15 and HWY 287 | (806)390-9030

PLAYDAY	BOOKS OPEN	STARTING TIME
June 4	1:00	2:00
June 18	1:00	2:00
July 9	1:00	2:00
July 23 (awards program and cookout to follow)	1:00	2:00

AGE CLASSES: Determined by State 4-H Age rules; summer events based off of previous grade.

Pee-Wee (no lead-line)	ages 3 & 4
Clover	ages 5 - 7
Junior	grades 3 rd - 5 th
Intermediate	grades 6 th - 8 th
Senior	grades 9 th - 12 th

Rider must be a 4-H member in any county and must show proof

**Riders in the Intermediate and Senior age class will be required to work one (1) event at every playday from set-up to tear-down or no points will be awarded for that day.

EVENTS:

Cloverleaf Barrel Race	Flag Race	Fun Run (changes every race)
Pole Bending Race	Goat Tie	

Entry Fee is \$8.00 for speed events and \$12.00 for livestock events.

**\$2.00 late fee applies to each event entered if books are closed.

AWARDS:

To be eligible to win the Awards, you must compete in three (3) of the four (4) playdays which will be determined at the end of the playday season. Awards are based on riders completing required number of events worked, and total points earned at each playday.

Each playday, riders get points for their placing in each event and a 70% payback. Awards at the end of the year will be given through 3rd place in each class and each event, if a rider meets all other eligibility requirements.

A Top Hand Award will be awarded to the one (1) standout individual who participates in practices, playdays, fundraisers, parades, and other 4-H Horse project related activities. The Top Hand Award will go to a Sherman County 4-H member only.

For more information and to receive a copy of the rules and membership form, come into the Sherman County AgriLife office, email alexa.reed@ag.tamu.edu, or call during business hours to (806)366-2081. Also, text @sherhorse to 81010 for Remind101

ATTN: FARMERS & LANDOWNERS

If you have land that came out of CRP in 2015 you need to contact the Appraisal District now.

The land classification may need to be corrected and could reduce your taxes. You will need to complete a new ag form prior to June 30, 2016 for any land reclassifications to take effect for the 2016 tax roll. Sherman County Appraisal District, 402 N 3rd Stratford TX or call 806-366-5566.

Multi-use exemption applies to some self-employed taxpayers.

The passage of Proposition 6, which amended the state constitution under House Bill 1022, provides for an individual to exempt one passenger car or light truck from personal property taxes if the vehicle is used for both business and personal purposes.

To qualify for the exemption individuals need to fill out an application form available from the appraisal office at 402 N. Third Street in Stratford. The exemption form must be filed prior to April 30 each year.

A vehicle is not eligible:

1. If you work for someone else.
2. If you use your vehicle to commute to and from work.
3. If you are a retired person with no production of income.
4. If it is registered in a business name.

Income producing vehicles are and continue to be taxable. The law allows the local taxing jurisdictions to choose to tax personal vehicles. The legislature did not exclude the multi-use exemption in jurisdictions that tax vehicles for personal use.

BUSINESSES

Don't get hit with a penalty! Render your property now! Deadline: April 15, 2016

If you have not rendered your business personal property, such as inventory, equipment, and fixtures you must do it now to avoid a penalty of 10-50 percent. If you need additional information, contact the Sherman County Appraisal District at 402 Nrd in Stratford or call 806-366-5566.

Business Directory

PO Box 510
Stratford, TX 79084
Phone: 806-366-5557

Duncan Chevrolet

www.duncanchevrolet.com
E-mail: duncanch@xit.net

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Lautz 769-4485

4 North Main



THE STRATFORD STAR Duane & Marty Robertson

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

A & I Parts Center

Automotive and Industrial Parts
201 N. 2nd Street-
Stratford, TX 79084

Tel: (806) 366-5592
*Toll-free 800-624-5494
Fax: (806) 366-2583

Shari Hudson Photography

PO Box 243
Stratford, TX 79084
Cell PH: 806-753-7798
Email: ghud@xit.net

www.sharihudsonphotography.com

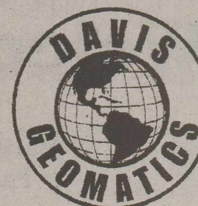
Seniors-Children-Families
Wedding-Special events
Engagements



Vincent Insurance Agency

Sabrina Melton

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



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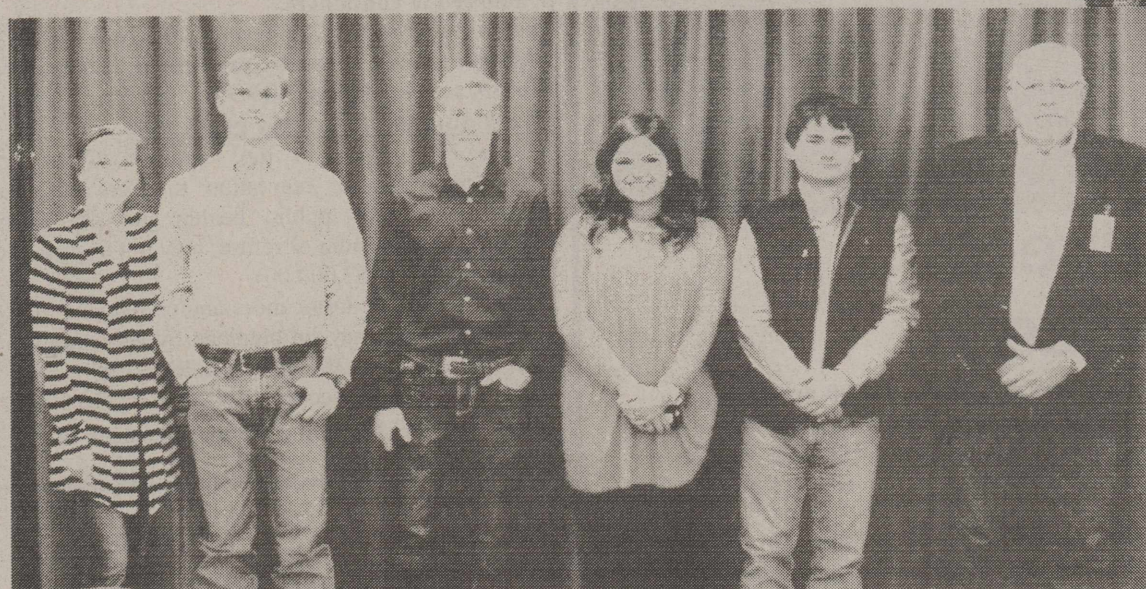
Structured Touch Massage Therapy Clinic

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

Open 9-5 by Appointment Only

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

Shown at Right-XIT Rural Telephone's Board Vice-President, Walter E. Lasley, welcomes XIT's rural membership to the 65th Annual Meeting of the XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Also pictured (l-r) are XIT's Assistant Manager, Kathy Duggan; General Manager, Darrell Dennis and Controller, Charlotte Burkhalter. The meeting was held on Wednesday, March 9th, at the Rita Blanca Lake Coliseum in Dalhart, Texas.



Shown at left-The 2016 XIT Rural Telephone Educational Program Scholarship recipients were announced at the XIT Rural Telephone Telephone Annual Meeting, recently. The recipients are (left to right) are Alexis Stull-Dalhart High School; Jack McBryde-Stratford High School; Dustyn Bruns-Exline High School; Cassandra Borunda-Dalhart High School, and Max Arguello-Exline High School. Walter Lasley, XIT Board Vice-President (far right) presented each recipient with a gold engraved keychain.

XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Celebrates 65 Years ...

Members of the XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. gathered for their 65th Annual Membership Meeting at the Rita Blanca Lake Coliseum in Dalhart, Texas on Wednesday, March 9th. The meeting is held each year in March to allow the Cooperative's membership to conduct an annual election for board of directors, to review the prior year's financials and to introduce the new scholarship recipients. The beautiful weather made it a nice and enjoyable day to meet!

This year, members were presented with a large rain gauge as they registered for the meeting. XIT insulated lunch coolers were given to the members' children and grandchildren who were 12 years of age or younger. The first member to register at the meeting was Daniel Escobedo.

The invocation before the meal was given by Russell Routon, XIT Customer Service Manager. Then, approximately 270 members and invited guests were served a sit-down meal, which consisted of roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, hot rolls and dessert. The meal was catered by The Loose Caboose of Dalhart and was served to members by XIT's management and employees.

The coliseum was decorated with royal blue and lime green tablecloths and placemats with several urns of multi-colored tulips and ficus trees setting off the stage area. A bouquet of beautiful spring flowers from Sharon's Flowers adorned the stage in front of the podium.

Walter E. Lasley, XIT Board Vice President, welcomed the 119 members present and introduced the guests. Among the invited guests attending were former XIT employees: Ruby Smith and Elvin Ringo; the Cooperative's attorney, Greg Oelke and the Cooperative's auditor, Rob Bresnahan, from Kiesling and Associates.

The 2016 XIT Rural Telephone Educational Program recipients and their families were introduced to the membership by Kathy Duggan, XIT Rural Telephone Assistant Manager. Five scholarship recipients were selected this year. Each recipient was introduced and presented with an engraved keychain by Walter Lasley, XIT Board Vice President and Marketing Committee Chairman. Trena Howell, XIT Customer Service Relations Representative, assisted with the presentations.

Each of the scholarship recipients will receive a \$4,000 scholarship, which may be used at any accredited college or university, or any accredited vocational or technical school. Recipients of the 2016 scholarships are: Max Arguello and Dustyn Bruns from Exline High Board Vice President, Walter E. Lasley, then declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order. The Board Secretary-Treasurer, Gary Finch, was asked to read the notice of the meeting and the minutes of last year's annual meeting. A motion was made from the floor by Jack Haile to forego the reading of the minutes and the official notice to the membership. The motion was seconded by Robert Ragsdale.

XIT's General Manager, Darrell Dennis, then presented his message to the membership. He told the membership that the portion of XIT's rural, buried fiber project, which involved outside contractors, drew to a close in December, 2015. There are 23 miles of fiber remaining to be constructed in the Middlewater Exchange, and one drop in Exline, which will be completed by XIT employees. Then, the Cooperative will be 100% fiber optics in its rural service area.

Manager Dennis also mentioned the beautiful hat rack located between the doors in the west room of the coliseum. The hat rack was dedicated to E.H. Little, long-time XIT Rural Telephone Board of Director, who passed away in 2013. E.H. was always looking for a place to hang his hat when he walked into a place, and he just couldn't believe there wasn't a hat rack in most places. After all ... "Every cowboy needs a place to hang his hat!" XIT couldn't think of a better way to honor E.H. than to come up with a hat rack that suited him to a tee. Thanks to Kerry Fullington, Ashley Brownlow and Randy Sherrill, who designed, constructed, finished, and hung the hat rack at the coliseum, XIT was able to accomplish just that.

He also reported why XIT, and other small companies, are reliant on funds from both State and Federal Universal Services to help support and maintain affordable rural telecommunication services. The FCC, after many years of discussion, is implementing change to the USF. One of the changes is to add a stand-alone broadband line to the fund. Previously, only a line with a qualifying dial tone was eligible for the support funds. The Texas Legislature will meet in 2017 and most likely take up a review of the Texas USF. If current law is not revised or extended, then Texas USF could revert back to prior law, which is based on access line counts only. This is a problem for most companies due to access line loss to wireless, as well as broadband.

He then closed by encouraging any member who might have questions to give XIT a call, or stop by its headquarters' office to visit.

School; Cassandra Borunda and Alexis Stull of Dalhart High School, and Jack McBryde from Stratford High School. Since 2000, XIT has provided 91 scholarships to graduating seniors to assist in advancing their higher education goals.

Charlotte Burkhalter, XIT Controller, presented the financial reports of the Cooperative, and its wholly-owned subsidiary, XIT Telecommunications & Technology, Ltd.

Walter Lasley, XIT Board Vice President, then called on Kevin Douglas, Nominating Committee Chairman, to present the Nominating Committee Report and to introduce the directors who were up for re-election. The directors are: District I — Dallam County, J.W. McClellan, Jr.; District II — Hartley County, Nick Olson, and District III — Sherman County, Gared McBryde.

Lasley called for any nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations ceased, and the directors were elected by acclamation to serve another three-year term.

After the election of directors, it was time to award door prizes. J.W. McClellan, Jr., XIT Board President, Barry Poling and Gared McBryde, XIT Directors, and Trena Howell, XIT employee, conducted the prize drawings. Two members' children, David Eudy and Natasha Mcauliffe, assisted with the drawing of the tickets. The winner of the \$500 cash grand prize was Leo Martinez. Winners of the \$300 cash prizes were Helen Bennett, Kathy Miller and Ed Moore. The \$100 cash prize winners were Janet Ford and Gary Herber.

After the drawing for door prizes was completed, the meeting was adjourned.

Immediately following the conclusion of the meeting, the Board of Directors met at the Cooperative's headquarters office for their Organizational Meeting. At this meeting, the following officers were elected: J.W. McClellan, President; Walter E. Lasley, Vice President, and Gary Finch, Secretary-Treasurer.

Thank you to everyone who came out and attended the 65th XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting! XIT enjoys getting to visit with its members and appreciates your patronage!



AMERICA'S
FARMERS
GROW
COMMUNITIES
MONSANTO Fund

Sherman County farmer directs donation to local senior citizens.

Stratford, TX March 24, 2016 – Sherman County Older Texans (S.C.O.T.) has received a \$2,500 donation from America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund and directed by local farmer W & C Land and Cattle (Wesley and Cindy Miller) of Sherman County. The donation will help the organization to purchase a commercial dishwasher/sanitizer to be used in conjunction with the dinners and other related activities benefitting senior citizens of our community.

"This new dishwasher/sanitizer will allow us to clean up after our events with the knowledge that we are operating our kitchen safely and efficiently," stated Terri Beth Carter, SCOT Board President. Carter, along with the other Board Members, expresses our sincere thanks to Wesley and Cindy Miller and Monsanto for this donation that will help many of our residents.

For six years, America's Farmers Grow Communities has collaborated with farmers to donate over \$22 million to more than 8,000 community organizations across rural America. Winning farmers will direct donations to nonprofits to help fight rural hunger, purchase life saving fire and EMS equipment, support ag youth leadership programs, buy much needed classroom resources, and so much more.

America's Farmers Grow Communities partners with farmers to support local nonprofit causes that positively impact farming communities across rural America. Grow Communities is one program in the America's Farmers community outreach effort, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. Other programs include America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders, which encourages rural youth to remain in agriculture and provides \$1,500 college scholarships to high school and college students pursuing ag-related degrees and America's Farmers Grow Rural Education, which works with farmers to nominate rural school districts to compete for \$10,000 and \$25,000 math and science grants. Visit www.AmericasFarmers.com to learn more.

About the Monsanto Fund

The Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where farmers and Monsanto Company employees live and work. Visit the Monsanto Fund at www.monsantofund.org.

New Master Irrigator program offered in April and July

Writer: Kay Ledbetter, 806-677-5608, skledbetter@ag.tamu.edu
Contact: Dr. Steve Amosson, 806-677-5600, samosson@ag.tamu.edu

ETTER – A new Master Irrigator training program will be offered in a collaborative effort by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The irrigation management training curriculum is made up of 32 hours of intensive education conducted over three one-day sessions and one two-day session spread over a four-month period, said Dr. Steve Amosson, AgriLife Extension economist who designed the program after other AgriLife Extension "Master" programs.

The fee is \$100 and registration will be limited to 25 producers. If more than 25 applications are received, selection will be based on date of application and geographic location. Register online at <http://www.northplainsgcd.org/>.

The program is focused on increasing understanding and proficiency with the latest irrigation management tools, technologies and practices to understand how and why they work, Amosson said.

"Armed with this knowledge, you will be able to select tools and strategies that fit your operation and can be implemented to maximize your return on investment for every drop of water you use," Amosson said.

Sessions will be held April 13, April 20, July 13-14 and July 20. All sessions will be at the North Plains Water Conservation Center, 6045 County Road E, Etter.

The curriculum will cover a wide range of irrigation management strategies, including:

- Planting drought-resistant hybrids at appropriate seeding rates.
- Monitoring field conditions using rain gauges, flow meters and soil-moisture probes.
- Managing irrigation with planting date, eliminating or reducing pre-irrigation, controlling the pivot, switching to a variant of low-energy precision application irrigation or other high-efficiency delivery system, and using telemetry and irrigation scheduling tools.
- Managing crop residue by using conservation tillage practices.
- Adjusting nutrient application to address reduced irrigation.

In addition, each session will include the economic implications of the strategies being presented and include a panel of producers using the technology/strategy to discuss pros and cons they have observed.

Session 1 will cover irrigation scheduling and be taught by Amosson and David Sloan, AquaSpy agronomist, St. Louis, Missouri, and Karlyle Haaland, PivoTrac Monitoring founder and owner/operator, Dalhart.

Session 2 will cover agronomics and be taught by Fred Vosacek, Servi-Tech senior laboratory agronomist, Dodge City, Kansas; Randy Haarberg, Orthman precision tillage systems agronomist, Omaha, Nebraska; and Dr. Charles Hillyer, AgriLife Extension irrigation engineering specialist, Amarillo.

Session 3 will cover irrigation systems and include Leon New, North Plains' project leader, Amarillo; Farris Hightower, Lindsay Corporation regional sales manager, Lubbock; David Reinart, with Wilbur-Ellis Company and co-owner of Better Harvest Inc., Dumas; Dr. Jourdan Bell, AgriLife Extension agronomist, Amarillo; and Jerry Funck, Professional Water Management Associates owner, Lubbock.

Session 4 will cover special topics, including the use of drones, and be taught by Keith Sides, Natural Resources Conservation Service state irrigation engineer, Lubbock; John Gibson, Crop Quest precision ag specialist, Dodge City, Kansas; and Steve Walthour, North Plains water district general manager, Dumas.

Through a partnership agreement by the groundwater district and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, an estimated \$1.6 million in funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program has been setup to support the new Master Irrigator program, Walthour said.

"Participants who complete the course and receive their Master Irrigator Certification will have priority access to the North Plains GCD EQIP funding for EQIP eligible practices," he said.

Each cost-share recipient will receive in-season technical support to ensure tools and practices are being optimally implemented, Walthour said. Participants will be required to work with groundwater district personnel to document the effectiveness of the practices employed.

For more information, contact Kirk Welch with the groundwater district at 806-922-7947 or kwelch@northplainsgcd.org.

Alexa Reed, M.S.
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
District 1, Sherman County Ag/NR Agent
PO Box 540
Stratford, TX 790p: 806-366-2081 f:806-366-2489

Dear Stratford Residents and General Contractors:

Please be advised that per Section 13.01.038(b) of the City of Stratford's Code of Ordinances, only regular household waste is to be disposed of in the dumpsters provided by the City.

Section 13.01.038(b) - Materials prohibited in containers. The following shall not be disposed of in city containers: hazardous waste, liquid waste, used motor oil, used oil filters, lead acid batteries, yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, yard/garden debris, brush), construction/demolition/remodeling debris, lumber, shingles/roofing material, chairs/furniture, mattresses/box springs, waste tires (automotive/implement/truck/tractor), major appliances/fixtures, and dead animals.

Section 13.04.041 - Dirt, concrete and rocks prohibited in containers.

The disposal of dirt, concrete, and rocks in city trash containers is hereby prohibited. (Ordinance 970519, sec. 9, adopted 5/19/97)

Grass dumpsters are for grass only.

A fine or penalty for the violation of a rule, ordinance or police regulation that governs fire safety, zoning or public health and sanitation, including the dumping of refuse, may not exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).

Copies of the City Ordinances and/or sections of the City Ordinances may be obtained by contacting the Code Enforcement Officer at 806-268-4158.

For a list of items accepted at the Recycle Center, please call the Recycling Center Manager at 806-338-0536.

First Texas War of Secession Part III By Rocky Jim Sprott, Member Sherman Co. Historical Commission

The month of March marks the anniversary of many important events that were pivotal in the history of the Texas war for independence. The convention of delegates from 22 municipalities of the Mexican state of Coahuilla y Texas met in Washington on the Brazos on March 2, 1836 to sign a declaration of independence. They took this step while the siege of the Alamo mission raged in San Antonio. Four days later on March 6th, the 182 defenders were overrun and killed by the Mexican forces under General, Santa Anna. Among the dead were Colonels Bowie and Travis and an ex-congressman from the state of Tennessee, David Crockett.

Undeterred by this disheartening defeat the delegates began drafting a constitution for the Republic of Texas and appointed Sam Houston as the commander of the Texas army which was currently encamped on the banks of the Guadalupe River at Gonzales 76 miles east of San Antonio.

By March 12 the Texas army assembled at Gonzales comprised 374 effectives including the 52 men of the Newport Rifles from Kentucky under the command of Lt. Colonel Sidney Sherman who had arrived on March 6th.

While at Gonzales General Houston was able to confer with Susanna Dickason, a survivor of the Alamo tragedy, in order to learn the fate of the Alamo defenders and the intentions of Santa Anna toward all Texans who resisted his authority.

What General Houston and his ragged band of volunteers needed was time to recruit and train the steady stream of reinforcements coming from various parts of Texas and the United States. Sam Houston was intent on choosing the time and place he would meet the numerically superior Mexican army. The farther east Houston led his troops the stronger he became and the longer Santa Anna's lines of communication and logistical support would be stretched.

On March 13 Houston ordered his men to fall back to the line of the Colorado River at Barnam's Crossing (LaGrange) and on March 18, the Texans moved down river to Beason's Ford. (Columbus) While the army rested here from March 20 -21 the ranks of Houston's force grew to 810 effectives. Even so still desiring to trade territory for time, Houston continued his retreat first to San Felipe on the Brazos River on March 26 and then upriver to Groces Landing just south of Washington by March 31.

Here Houston halted his retreat till April 14 to drill and try to hammer his meager force with the rudiments battle field tactics. Like most volunteer armies of the era Houston's efforts were highly criticized by men who had come to Texas to fight not drill.

While Houston was leading his army farther to the East trying to place swollen rivers and miles of muddy roads between himself and Santa Anna's legions, the constitutional convention's delegates at Washington on the Brazos continued their work.

Just after midnight on March 17th the convention adopted a constitution and a bill of rights for the Republic of Texas.

The preamble read:

We, the people of Texas, in order to form a government, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, and provide for the common Defense, and general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution.

The constitution they adopted formed the legal basis for the political compact creating the Republic of Texas. The Republic had been created by the act of seceding Texas from Mexico. The Texas constitution was appended with a bill of rights which clearly indicated that the Anglo and Tejano signers reserved the right of altering their form of government going forward and that their current fight for freedom might not necessarily be their last.

The second paragraph of the Bill of Rights reads:

All political power is inherent in the people and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their benefit; and they have at all times an inalienable right to alter their government in 'such manner as they may think 'proper.

As the ashes of the Alamo defenders were blown from the funeral pyres set ablaze on the plazas in Sam Antonio, the civil and military leaders and the people of the newly. Formed Republic of Texas set their course toward an uncertain future

Perhaps they had taken as their motto, at least subconsciously, the oft repeated proverb attributed to old Davy Crockett himself

Be sure your right, and then go ahead
The question was then, Would believing your right be enough to sustain a revolution and gain the victory? At this point no one knew. Truly these were times that were trying men's souls.

STRATFORD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR SESSION March 8, 2016

The Stratford ISD board of trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. President Brad McBryde established a quorum of members present and called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Board members present: Brad McBryde, Tim Hudson, Jo Hinds, Tres Hess, Bryan Clift, and Walt Berry.

Dan Law was absent.

Staff present: Jerry Birdsong, PJ Hanna, Misti McBryde, Dinah Horsford, Lynette Kautz, Sheryl Springer, Linda Henderson, Lorree Nusz, Jim Parham, Katherine Nusz, Desine Garza and Jennifer DeAnda.

Mr. Seward led the invocation.

Guests present: Rango Springer, Levi Springer, Loraine Lujan, Zachary Lujan, Vince Vialle, Orlando Mayorga, Kelly Brooks, Lance Brooks, Gage Brooks, John Blackburn, Jake Lawrence, Blanca Acosta, Nadia Ortega, Fernando Jacquez, Fernando Jacquez, Juan Carlos Camberos, Trenton Stone.

Mr. Birdsong introduced the guests.

Mr. Birdsong recognized the students and teachers that were receiving special recognition for the month. He recognized Lorree Nusz and Linda Henderson for guiding the 3rd and 4th grade math students in the Multiplication Math Challenge. They finished 1st in the state and 4th in the nation.

Katherine Nusz - Stratford ISD Band Director - The Stratford HS Band received the sweepstakes award after earning 1st at the recent UIL Concert/Sight-reading contest.

Jim Parham - Stratford ISD Assistant Band Director - The Stratford HS Band received the sweepstakes award after earning 1st at the recent UIL Concert/Sight-reading contest.

Juan Carlos Camberos - performed in a trombone trio at Regional Solo/Ensemble competition. The trio received Division I rating on a difficult selection which qualified them for the State Solo/Ensemble competition in late May.

Nadia Ortega - performed in a trombone trio at Regional Solo/Ensemble competition. The trio received Division I rating on a difficult selection which qualified them for the State Solo/Ensemble competition in late May.

Zachary Lujan - performed in a trombone trio at Regional Solo/Ensemble competition. The trio received Division I rating on a difficult selection which qualified them for the State Solo/Ensemble competition in late May.

Levi Springer - received Division I rating on a difficult vocal selection at the Regional Solo/Ensemble competition which qualified him for the State Solo/Ensemble competition in late May.

Tanner Stone- Padilla Poll All-State 1st Team Offensive Line, 1st Team Linebacker
Texas Sports Writers Association All-State 2nd Team Linebacker,
Honorable Mention Offensive Line

Fernando Jacquez - Padilla Poll All-State 1st Team Punt Returner

Gage Brooks - Texas Sports Writers Association All-State 3rd Team Fullback

Mr. Birdsong gave the superintendent's report. He reported a district enrollment of 577. He went over the TASB Summer Leadership Institute information with the board. The Spring TASB workshop will be on May 18th in Canyon. He congratulated the boys basketball team on their season.

Lynette Kautz gave the business managers report. Monthly expenditures are at 44.27%, revenue 83.00%, and tax collections are at 96.70%. Cost of transportation for the month was .52¢. She then gave the quarterly investment report.

Mrs. McBryde gave the elementary report. She recognized the 3rd and 4th graders that made the 4th six weeks honor roll and the perfect attendance winners from each class. She went over STAAR test preparations for her campus. Early registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten will begin on Monday, April 4, 2016.

Mr. Seward gave the junior high report. He recognized those that made the honor roll for the 4th six weeks. The 5th and 6th grade reading classes walked over to the book fair at the Mary Allen last week. TELPAS writing samples have been completed. Junior High track season begins this week. Cheerleading tryouts will be on April 15th.

Mr. Hanna gave the high school report. He passed a list of students on the honor roll for the 4th six weeks. Track season has begun and high school cheerleading tryouts will be on Friday, March 11th. The High School Prom will be on April 16th at the Imagination Station.

Mrs. Garza gave the counselor's report. She reported on her job responsibilities for March and passed out a list of local scholarship due dates. She reported on the number of students that have taken the ACT test so far for the district.

Jennifer DeAnda presented the Federal School Report Card. The report card is also available on the school website.

Mr. Birdsong presented the investment policy. Tres Hess made the motion and Tim Hudson seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Birdsong presented the dates for ESL Summer School. Tim Hudson made the motion and Walt Berry seconded to approve as presented. Motion carried.

The board interviewed financial advisors John Blackburn - Government Capital Securities and Vince Vialle - Specialized Public Finance.

The board took a short recess at 9:15 PM.

Mr. Birdsong went over the Leaver Data Correction Plan for the district. Tim Hudson made the motion and Tres Hess seconded to approve the plan as presented. Motion carried.

Mrs. McBryde presented the elementary teachers for contract renewal. Jo Hinds made the motion and Tim Hudson seconded to accept the Mary Allen Elementary contract renewals as presented subject to assignment. Motion carried. Walt Berry and Tres Hess abstained.

Mr. Seward presented the junior high teachers for contract renewal. Tres Hess made the motion and Walt Berry seconded to accept the Junior High contract renewals as presented subject to assignment. Motion carried.

Mr. Hanna presented the high school teachers for contract renewal. Jo Hinds made the motion and Bryan Clift seconded to accept the High School contract renewals as presented subject to assignment. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on hiring a financial advisor. Tim Hudson made the motion and Walt Berry seconded to authorize the superintendent and board president to enter into a financial advisor agreement with Government Capital Securities. Motion carried.

Mr. Seward presented Desine Garza for employment as a teacher. Tres Hess made the motion and Jo Hinds seconded to employ Desine Garza subject to assignment. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on personnel.

At 10:17 PM the board entered into executive session pursuant to Texas Open Meetings Act section 551.074 to discuss the personnel. At 11:09 PM the board reconvened into regular session.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:12 PM.

USDA Invites Applications to Fund Community Facility Projects

TEMPLE, TEXAS, March 28, 2016 -USDA Rural Development in Texas currently has over \$68 million in funding to be dispersed for community facility projects throughout Texas during the current fiscal year. Funding is authorized through the Department's Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan Program.

"We are pleased to announce available funding in the form of low interest loans, guaranteed loans, and grants used to develop or improve essential facilities and equipment in rural communities that have experienced a lack of capital during these challenging times," said Paco Valentin, Rural Development Texas State Director. "Funds to promote local and regional food systems, healthcare and education broadband protocol, renewable energy/energy efficiency, public safety and public service facilities are in much demand statewide."

USDA Rural Developments' community programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by providing funds to public bodies, community-based non-profit organizations and Federally-recognized Tribes for essential community facilities and services. Funds may be used for a wide range of various community projects. These include, but are not limited to, projects such as those which will enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, farmers markets, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, and community centers. Funding can also be used to purchase public safety equipment such as ambulances, firefighting equipment, and other emergency required implements.

Community Programs can make and guarantee loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments. Community Programs can guarantee loans made and serviced by lenders such as banks, savings and loans, mortgage companies which are part of bank holding companies, banks of the Farm Credit System, or insurance companies regulated by the National Association of Insurance

Commissioners. Community Programs may guarantee up to 90% of any loss of interest or principal on the loan. Community Programs can also make direct loans to applicants who are unable to obtain commercial credit. In some circumstances, grants may be awarded to smaller communities.

Applications are now being accepted to fund projects meeting the criteria for community facility loan, guaranteed loan, and grant programs, as outlined on <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx>.

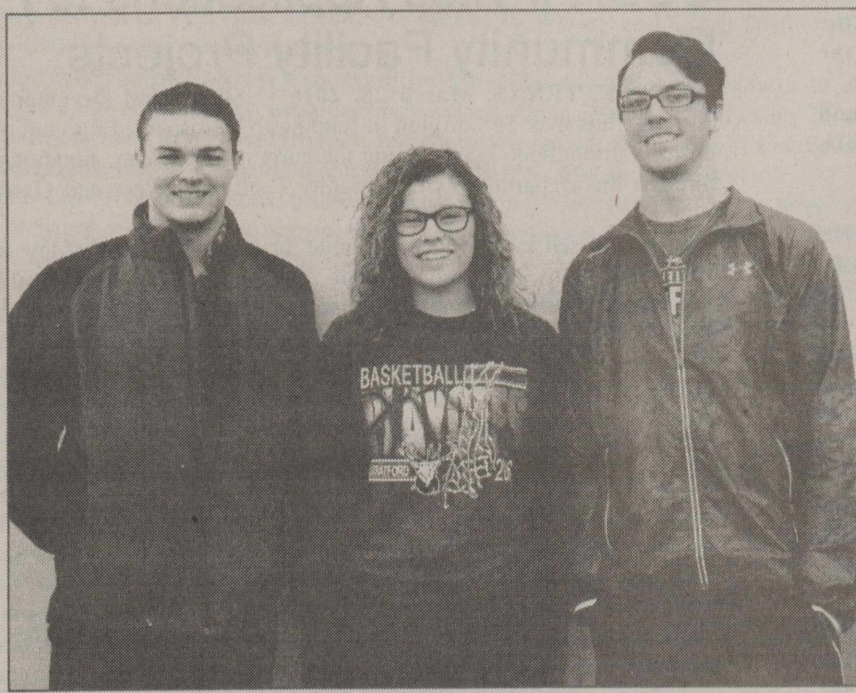
USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding this program or any other USDA Rural Development Programs, contact your nearest Rural Development office, listed on <http://rd.usda.gov/tx>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

**Large selection of
Ronnie and the late
Zelda Pickens
Glassware will be at
the coliseum next to
the lake at
Dalhart, Texas
Saturday April 2nd
At 10 a.m.**

One Act Play

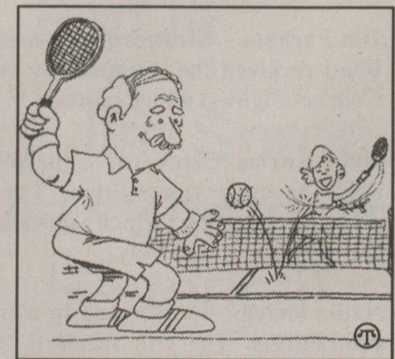
Participants in Stratford's One-Act Play competed in the district competition last Wednesday. They advanced to the bi-district contest, which will be held at West Texas High School Saturday, April 2. Carlee Metcalf received Honorable Mention, and Branson Palmer and John McBroom made the All-Star Cast. Shown are cast, crew, and directors of Stratford One Act Play. Shown B/F - L/R: Brendan Campbell, Russell Spurlock, John McBroom, Branson Palmer, Juan Camberos, Stacy Metcalf - Director, Bret Barnard, Carlee Metcalf, Taylor Aduddell, Courtney Griffin, Chris Lough - Director, Nicolle Law, Brenda Portillo, Daniela Valdez, Val-mari du Plessis, Matalin Mace, and Blake Griffin. Congratulations and good luck at bi-district contest!



Receiving awards at One Act play competition from left: Branson Palmer - All-Star Cast, Carlee Metcalf - Honorable Mention and John McBroom - All-Star Cast.

Did You Know?

(NAPS)—A more comfortable retirement can come to those who use their heads—and their houses. That's because a reverse mortgage lets homeowners age 62 and older take advantage of the equity in their homes, explained One Reverse Mortgage CEO Richard Mandell. Learn more at www.OneReverseMortgage.com.

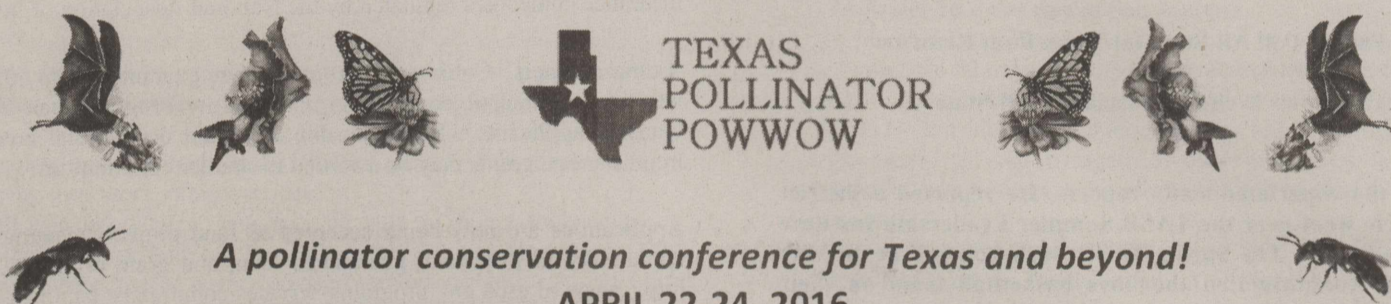


An enrolled agent will tell you what documentation you need for your taxes. Enrolled agents are the only federally licensed tax practitioners who specialize in tax matters. Learn more, including how to find one, from the National Association of Enrolled Agents at www.eatax.org.

productive. Learn more at www.microsoft.com/en-us/server-cloud/products/sql-server-2005/.

By moving to the latest platform, such as SQL Server 2014 or Microsoft Azure SQL Database, small and mid-size businesses can use modern technology to move faster, reduce costs and be more

Water, at least in the forms we need for human health, economic growth, industrial manufacturing and farming, is scarce and growing scarcer. In an effort to help irrigated corn growers, Syngenta and Lindsay Corporation developed Water+™ Intelligent Irrigation Platform.



A pollinator conservation conference for Texas and beyond!

APRIL 22-24, 2016

MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH

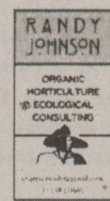
Field Trip to TAHOKA LAKE PASTURE (Sunday, 24th)

To provide education, resources and networking opportunities to natural resource management professionals and volunteers- and the community at large- and to empower them all in conserving our pollinators and their habitats across the landscape

Seventeen speakers, two dozen exhibitors, **TWO BEE ID WORKSHOPS***, **TWO MILKWEED PROPAGATION WORKSHOPS***, and teams of botanists/entomologists/biologists as trip leaders to Tahoka Lake! (*separate registration required - 35 person limit)



Speakers:



Jo Ann Baumgartner, Executive Director, Wild Farm Alliance. How Farms Can Benefit From and Support Biological Diversity

Karen Clary, Program Manager, Plant Conservation, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Project Milkweed - Collecting Important Milkweed Ecotypes for Monarchs

Randy Johnson, Dallas Zoo Horticulture Manager; Randy Johnson Organics. Native Plants: Relevance and Application

Sam Droege, USGS Bee Lab. A Very Broad Overview of the Role of Native Bees in Landscapes: Patterns, Biology, Conservation, Management, Agriculture, and Surveys.

Sam Earnshaw, Executive Director, Hedgerows Unlimited; USDA-NRCS/TSP. Planting Habitat on Farms: Designs, Techniques, Issues

Shalene Jha, University of Texas at Austin. Pollination Mutualisms: From Prairies to Cotton Farms

Tigga Kingston, Texas Tech Department of Biology. Wind Farms, Wetlands, and White Nose: Challenges to Bat Conservation on the High Plains

Scott Longing, Texas Tech Department of Plant and Soil Science. Pollinators on the Plains: New Research Focused on Pollinator Ecology and Conservation

Jon Lundgren, Executive Director, Blue Dasher Farms and The Ecdysis Foundation.

Jack Neff, Executive Director, Central Texas Melittological Institute. Floral Host Relationships of Texas Bees

Bob Pyle, Author/Lepidopterist/Founder of the Xerces Society. Pollinators, Plants, and People on the Edge of What's Left

Jim Ray, Wildlife Biologist/Scientist, Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC, USDOE/NNSA Pantex Plant. From Honeybees to Monarchs - A High and Rolling Plains Perspective AND An Update on the U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration Pollinator Initiative

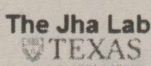
Lauren Jansen Simpson, How I Came to Love the Syrphid Fly - From the Journal of a Citizen Scientist

Robinson Sudan, Biologist, New Leaf Consulting/Pollinator Partnership. Bee Diversity of the Sky Islands

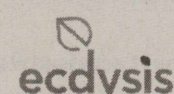
David Wolfe, Executive Director, Environmental Defense Fund. Monarch Butterfly Habitat Exchange



HEDGEROWS



FOR AGENDA AND TO REGISTER:
<http://www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org/>



Contact: Carrie McLaughlin: carrie.mclaughlin58@gmail.com

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES February 23, 2016

Stratford City Council met in regular session with Mayor Reed presiding and the following:

Present Council: Greg Wright, James Lutes, Joe Zak, Ann Johnson, Kyle Sandvig
Absent Council: None
City Attorney: Rob Elliott
City Manager: Tommy Bogart
City Secretary: Kathy Rendon
Police Chief: Randy Hooks
City Planner: George Harding
ACCO: Michele Natalino

Others: list attached

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Consent Agenda Items

- Minutes from regular meeting on January 26, 2015
- Budget Amendments
- Accounts Payable for January 2016
- Financial Statement for January 2016
 - James Lutes motioned to approve, Greg Wright seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Presentation to Council

- There were no presentations.

Council Business

- Discuss and consider action re: a public hearing held on January 26, 2016 to give consideration to vacating a portion of the streets and alleys for construction of a Pilot Flying "J" Travel Center
 - All fees for the closing of the designated streets and alleys have been paid and the anticipated closing date will be March 9, 2016. The estimated time-frame for project completion is 120 days from the start date. 60 truck parks will be available and will mostly be utilized for day use. The company is expecting to hire approximately 70 employees. Business hours will be 365 days a year and hours will be 24/7. Joe Zak motioned to approve ORDINANCE 2-23-2016 for purposes mentioned above, Ann Johnson seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
- Discuss and consider action re: request by Jamie Garza for a permit for a mobile home to be located at 7th and North Pine Street
 - The location is already zoned properly for the request. James Lutes motioned to approve, Joe Zak seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
- Discuss and consider action re: Council to set a public hearing date and time for consideration of condemnation of property located at 419 N. Poplar
 - Joe Zak motioned to set the public hearing for March 22, 2016 at 6 pm, Greg Wright seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
- Discuss and consider action re: RESOLUTION 2016-0223 - authorizing the submission of a FY 2016 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Application to PRPC
 - The Recycle Department will be applying for a grant for a new truck. The requested funds will be for \$34,000. Ann Johnson motioned to approve, James Lutes seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
- Discuss and consider action re: changing speed limit on South Main
 - The Hwy 15 project has been completed and there was discussion on changing the speed limit on South Main. It is currently 35 mph. The City Attorney will check on whether the change needs to be by ordinance or not. There was no action taken on this item.

City Manager Report

- SPS requested rate increase will be considered at the next Council meeting
- Looking at re-addressing the franchise agreement with SPS to raise the fee to 5% and change from a 20-year agreement to a 5-year agreement

Citizen Comment Period

- There were no citizen comments except for various questions/comments during Agenda Item "A" re: Flying J.

Items from the Council

- Joe Zak commented re: closure of the old sewer plant
 - City Manager Tommy Bogart responded that the City is working with Paul Reynolds for the closure
- Ann Johnson commented on the replacement of the old water lines
 - City Manager Tommy Bogart responded that the City will conduct the repairs as the City was not awarded a grant for this project. The City will submit for USDA grant funds when applicable.
- James Lutes requested for the City Manager to explain to the citizens what happened with the Street Maintenance Sales Tax collection
 - City Manager Tommy Bogart responded that the State failed to notify the City of the correct date to have the tax collection included on the ballot - as the City changed their election dates to November instead of May. Due to the State's timeline, it takes approximately two years from the start of the process to the collection phase to reinstate the tax.

Adjourn

- Mayor Reed thanked all of those in attendance at the meeting. Ann Johnson motioned to adjourn at 6:31 pm, Greg Wright seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Like anyone else, there are days I feel beautiful and days I don't,
and when I don't, I do something about it.

—Cheryl Tiegs

Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the
winds long to play with your hair.

—Kahlil Gibran

"Power of the Purse" April 22

Laura W Bush Institute for Women's Health is hosting the seventh "Power of the Purse" Luncheon Friday, April 22 at the Amarillo Civic Center Heritage Ballroom. Keynote Speaker will be Taya Kyle wife of U.S. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, the American Sniper.

In his memory, Taya formed the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation whose mission is to provide meaningful interactive experiences that enrich family relationships among military and first responder families. As the author of the bestselling book "American Wife", Taya is a bold advocate for women and families and a passionate voice for faith, strength and American ideals.

The luncheon on April 22 begins at 10:30 a.m. with the Purse Auction and 11:30 for the Luncheon. For more information and reservations Laura Bush Institute, Amarillo, Contact 806-414-9949 www.LAURABUSHINSTITUTE.ORG

Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in Texas by advancing the science of women's health. Recognizing that difference matters, we promote health through scientific investigation, translation of science into practice, and providing outreach that impacts your community

Stratford Hospital District Board Meeting Minutes February 23, 2016

Board Members Present

Richard Chumley
Cecil Wright
Marsha Wright
Ed Metcalf

Others Present

Mark Moore
Donna Gross
Tommy Brian
Krista Brown
Shelly Worley
Lee Hughes
Armando Rivera
Ted Allen
Jimmy Lanning

Meeting called to order

Community Comments: There were no community comments.

Richard Chumley asked for the motion to approve the last monthly minutes. Marsha Wright motioned to approve the minutes and Cecil Wright seconded and the motion carried 3/0.

CEO Report:

Mark Moore discussed with the Board of Directors on building an Assistive Living facility with no motion at this time.

Mark Moore discussed with the Board of Directors on placing the monthly minutes in the Stratford Star. A decision was made not to post the minutes due to it being public record at the Court House. Richard Chumley asked for the motion and Cecil Wright motioned and Marsha Wright seconded and the motion carried 3/0.

Mark Moore reported to the Board of Directors on the State Survey that all corrections have been completed and the report has been sent in, but waiting on the review to be returned.

The Board of Directors held a discussion on replacing the transport vehicle and only having one vehicle for Coldwater Manor. Mark Moore will be checking on prices and Dealer.

Clinic:

Mark Moore reported to the Board of Directors the clinic averaged 28 patients per day for the month of January.

Krista Brown discussed with the Board of Directors the possibility of purchasing an X-ray machine and exam tables. Mark Moore will be checking on the purchase of a refurbished machine and getting more bids for the X-ray machine and exam tables and will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Pharmacy:

Shelly Worley discussed with the Board of Directors about contacting Pharma Logistics on the return of unsaleable products for a quick cash return. This will include the Clinic, EMS and Pharmacy. Richard Chumley asked for the motion and Cecil Wright motioned to approve and Ed Metcalf seconded with the motion carried 3/0.

EMS:

Jimmy Lanning reported to the Board of Directors that for the month of January he had 27 Calls, 19 Transports, 5 Non Transports and 3 Stand-bys.

Jimmy Lanning reported the New Ambulance will be delivered around the end of March and will be fully equipped.

Jimmy Lanning discussed with the Board of Directors on the concern of Open Carry Gun Laws for transporting patients. He has visited with the State and it is not clear. He reported that he has visited with Dalhart and they will be sending him their policy to review.

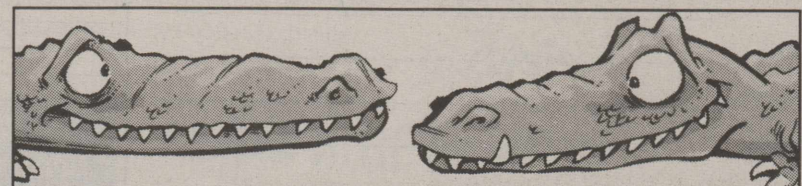
Ted Allen, Sheriff of Sherman County, reported to the Board of Directors that his officers will be available for the Ambulance service at any time.

Armando Rivera:

Armando discussed the financial report with the Board of Directors with no overall concerns.

Richard Chumley asked for the motion to approve the monthly bills. Marsha Wright motioned to approve and Cecil Wright seconded and the motion carried 3/0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm to go into Executive Session. Ed Metcalf motioned and Marsha Wright seconded and the motion carried 3/0.



One way to tell the difference between alligators and crocodiles is by their teeth. On crocodiles, the fourth tooth on each side of the lower jaw projects outside the snout when the mouth is closed.