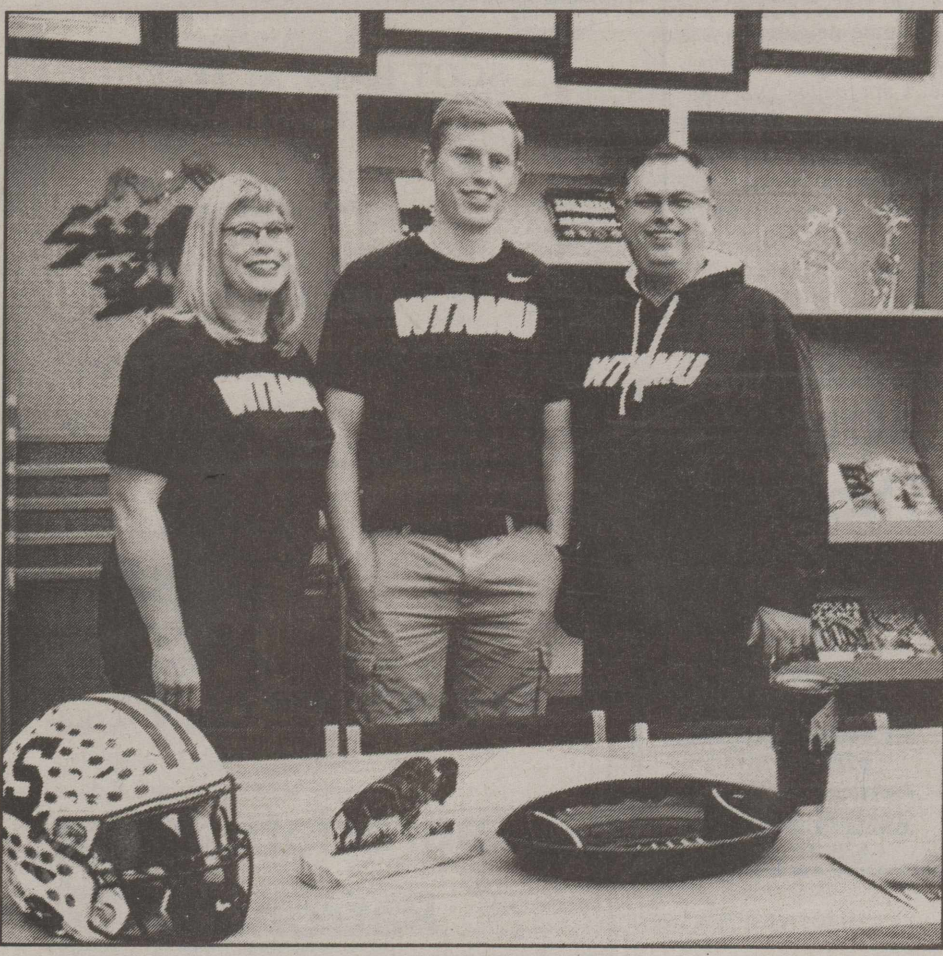


The Phoe
Capitol of Tex

Melvin Mitts 06/17
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 6 February 9, 2017



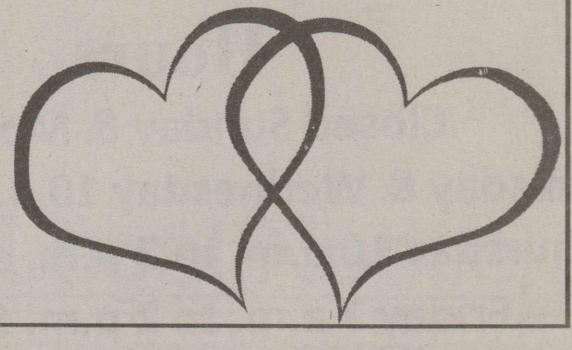
Hanna Signs Letter of Intent

Parker Hanna signs a letter of intent on Thursday, February 2, 2017 to play football at West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas. Shown above with Parker are his parents Gwenda & PJ Hanna. Congratulations to Parker..

Invite your favorite Valentine and join us for an intimate evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres, and dancing to the music of **Patrick Swindell and PIZZAZZ!**

Saturday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m.
at The Imagination Station

\$100/couple
Call Andy at
753-7262 for
tickets!



Obituary

R. Howard Naugle
November 4, 1953 - February 7, 2017
Full obit in next week's edition

R. Howard Naugle, 63 of Stratford, passed away on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. Memorial Services will be held at 1:30 in the afternoon on Friday, February 10, 2017 at First Christian Church with Rev. Steve Ulrey, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Private family burial will be held in Stratford Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Morrison Funeral Directors. The family will be at 1001 N Chestnut in Stratford On Wednesday and Thursday after 6 p.m.

CHIROPRACTOR CHANGING DAYS IN STRATFORD**

Beginning March 1st Dr. Ian Kelly DC, will be open in Stratford on Wednesdays instead of Fridays. Dr. Kelly appreciates the community's school spirit and the change of days will keep him from conflicting with sports schedules. To make an appointment you can still call 806.337.2084 (if no one answers leave a message & we'll call you back). Don't forget that Dr. Kelly is also certified in Animal Chiropractic through Parker University, appointments must be made at least 24 hours in advance. *No pets in the office please.*

TEXAS PROUD.



STEPHANIE VASQUEZ
Stephanie is the 17 year old daughter of Miguel and Cristina Vasquez. She is the Big Blue Band Drum Major, the treasurer of National Honor Society and plans to attend Amarillo College upon graduation to major in nursing.

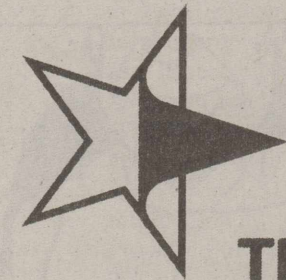


RUSSELL SPURLOCK
Russell is the 18 year old son of Brent and Laurie Spurlock. He plans to attend WTAMU in the upcoming year to major in Ag Business. Russell has enjoyed being a part of athletics as well as the UIL Academic Accounting Team.

Congratulations to our Stratford High School Students of the Month!

Texas Farm Bureau Insurance is proud to recognize these students who have been selected by the SHS faculty based on outstanding academics, extracurricular activities, service, citizenship and leadership skills. Great job, students! Keep up the good work!

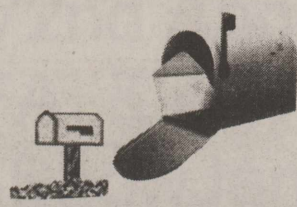
SHERMAN COUNTY
Kaci McBryde, Agent
Leonda Fedric, Agent
806.396.5538



TEXAS FARM BUREAU INSURANCE®
AUTO / HOME / LIFE

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SAVE THE DATE:
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
ANNUAL SAUSAGE DINNER
Sun. February 26th, 2017
At the Sherman County Barn
From 11:00am - 2:00pm
Adults: \$8.00 & Children (5-12): \$5.00
Children 4 & under eat free!!
Sausage (reg. & spicy) by the lb. will be available: cooked & uncooked
Call for pre-orders to:
Jasmin Rios: (806)339-4842 - habla español
Annie Duran: (806)268-3822 - habla español
Heather Braden: (806)366-3224



Letters to the Editor

A Letter to the Editor, Citizens of Stratford and especially the Stratford Volunteer Fire Department:

On Sunday last, while trying to burn some tumble weeds (a situation I thought I had under control) things got out of hand. The Police, Sheriff, EMTs and Stratford Volunteer Fire Department responded within minutes, and something that could have been a real disaster for me (and maybe even some neighbors) was turned into only a minor inconvenience. The grass, trees, fence etc. are replaceable. I appreciate everyone who responded, and I wish I knew all your names-but let me just say "THANK YOU", and that seems hardly enough. I am grateful to my neighbors and friends who were there to offer help and condolences. Stratford is a great place to live.

Ann Wells and Teresa Wells

Thank you Stratford
The Ministerial alliance would like to say a great big thank you to each one that gave to the Good Samaritan fund over the last two months. Your response has been overwhelming. The fund is in great shape and we will be able to help some of our elderly for a while. God bless each of you, your giving has not gone unnoticed.

Kevin Anderson

SCOT HALL ACTIVITIES
Men's Pool-daily 1 p.m. M-F

Ladies Mexican Train Dominoes-
Mondays 1:30 p.m.

Ladies Chair Exercises-M-W-F
10:00 -10:30 a.m.

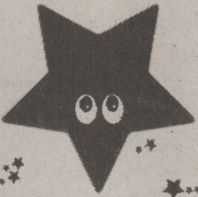
Ladies Yoga-Tuesdays 8:15-10:00 a.m.

Monthly Luncheon-4th Thursday-12 noon
(covered dish luncheon)

Biddy's on Main
Hours
Closed Sunday & Monday
Tuesday & Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.
Friday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. 5-8 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.

Mitchell Theaters

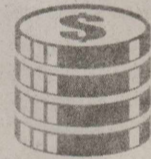
Northridge 8
Guymon, OK
www.northridge8.com
580-338-3281
Southgate 6
Liberal, Kansas
www.southgate6.com
620-624-5573
Garden City, Kansas
www.sequoyah8.com
620-275-2760

Stratford  Appreciates your Patronage

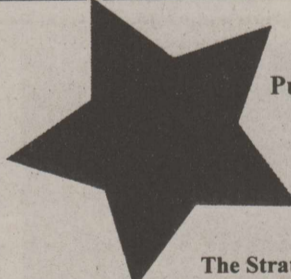
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Pest Control OF DALHART
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• YARD & TREE SPRAYING
DALHART PH. 249-4202 BOX 192 DALHART, TEXAS
JIM STEVENSON

FINDING A LOST PENSION

How to locate forgotten retirement benefits you may be eligible for



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)
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Stratford, TX 79084
Telephone: 806-366-5885
Fax: 806-366-5884
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Advertising & Photographer Shari Hudson
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\$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

Dear Savvy Senior: What tips can you offer for tracking down a lost pension from a previous employer?

- About to Retire

Dear About: It's not unusual for a worker to lose track of a pension benefit. Perhaps you left an employer long ago and forgot that you left behind a pension. Or maybe you worked for a company that changed owners or went belly up many years ago, and you figured the pension went with it.

Today, millions of dollars in benefits are sitting in pension plans across the U.S. or with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), a federal government agency, waiting to be claimed by their rightful owners. The average unclaimed benefit with PBGC is about \$6,500.

To help you look for a pension, here are some steps to take and some free resources that can help you search if your previous employer has gone out of business, relocated, changed owners or merged with another firm.

CONTACT EMPLOYER

If you think you have a pension and the company you worked for still is in business, your first step is to call the human resources department and ask how to contact the pension plan administrator. Ask the administrator whether you have a pension, how much it is worth and how to claim it. Depending on how complete the administrator's records are you may need to show proof that you once worked for the company and that you are pension eligible. Your old income tax returns

and W-2 forms from the years you worked at the company will help you here. If you haven't saved your old tax returns from these years, you can get a copy of your earnings record from the Social Security Administration, which will show how much you were paid each calendar year by each employer.

Call 800-772-1213, and ask for Form SSA-7050, "Request for Social Security Earnings Information," or you can download it at ssa.gov/online/ssa-7050.pdf. The SSA charges a \$136 for this information.

Some other old forms that can help you prove pension eligibility are summary plan descriptions that you should have received from your employer when you worked there, and any individual benefit statements that you received during your employment.

SEARCH PBGC

If your former employer went out of business or if the company still is in business but terminated its pension plan, check with the PBGC, which guarantees pension payouts to private-sector workers if their pension plans fail, up to annual limits. Most people receive the full benefit they earned before the plan was terminated. The PBGC offers an online pension-search directory tool at search.pbgc.gov/mp/mp.aspx.

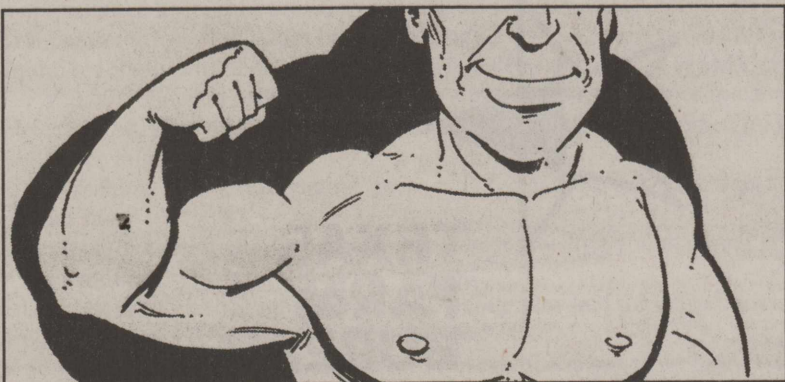
GET HELP

If you need help tracking down your former company because it may have moved, changed owners or merged with another firm, contact the Pension Rights Center, a nonprofit consumer organization that offers seven free Pension Counseling and Information Projects around the U.S. that serve 30 states. For more information, visit pensionrights.org or call 888-420-6550.

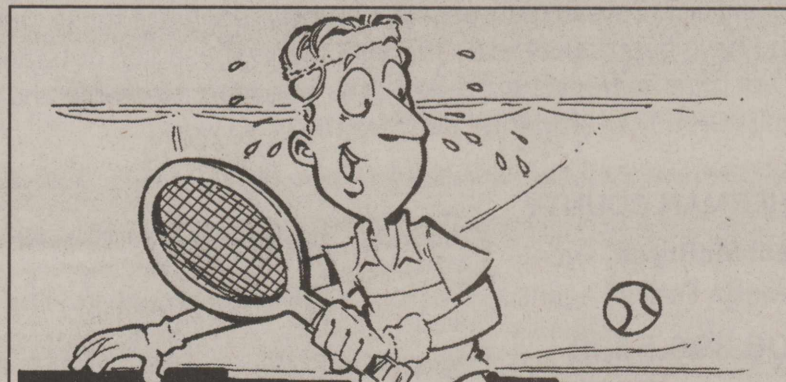
If you, your company or your pension plan happens to be outside the 30-state area served by the projects, or if you're trying to locate a federal or military pension, use Pension Help America at pensionhelp.org. This resource can connect you with government agencies and private organizations that provide free information and assistance to help your search.

For more pension searching tips, see the PBGC's free online publication called "Finding a Lost Pension" at pbgc.gov/documents/finding-a-lost-pension.pdf.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



Muscles in the human body (640 in total) make up about half of the body's weight.



It's estimated that the average person will burn one hundred calories in just fourteen minutes of tennis.



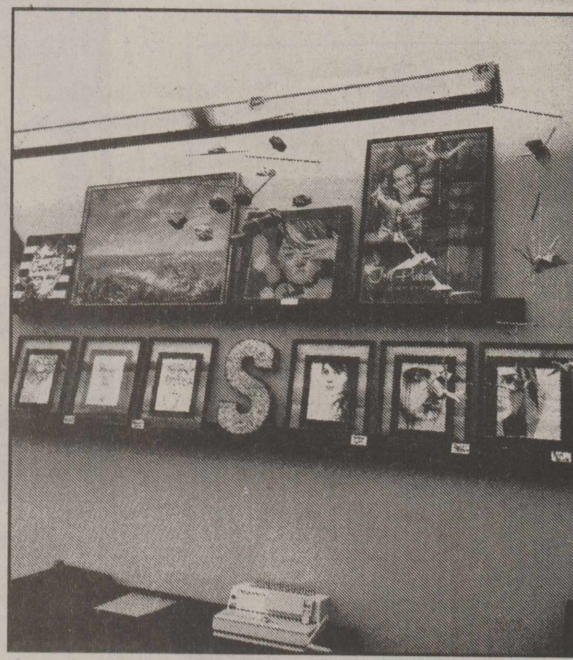
L to R: Sydnee Pottratz, Jaci Brown, Natalia Niave, Tucker Summers, Daisy Ruiz, Itzel Botello, Courtney Griffin, Juan Gonzales

New Addition to SHS LIBRARY!

The Ag. Dept. of Stratford High School designed and built this piece for the Library. Pictured above are some of the students who worked on the project. Thanks to Kendra Martin and Kaleb Horsford for your role as educators.

The Library has had a facelift as well as an update to the collection. This Library Media Center serves 5th - 12th grade. It is a wonderful learning space that encourages reading, provides access to multi-media resources, as well as space for students to work on hands-on projects. It is also a location that displays artwork and projects by our own students! Feel free to stop by and check out the Library!

By Deide Ziemann



What's Happening- In Stratford

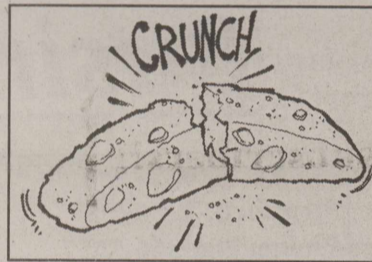
Jazz Band-Feb. 11th
Imagination Station

Mother/Daughter Brunch
Under the Sea (Ariel)
Imagination Station
March 4th

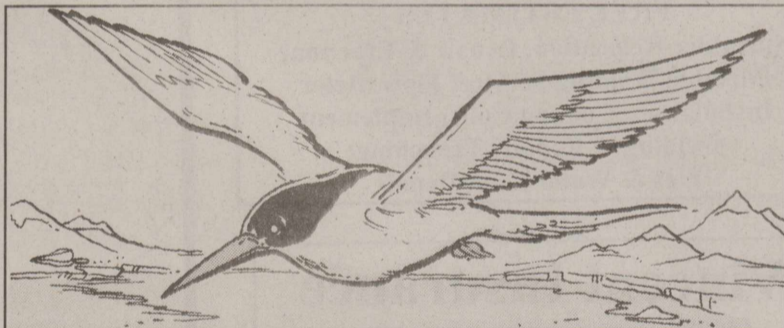
Story Time @Sherman County Library,
Wednesdays, 9 to 9:30 a.m.
February 2 - March 8

Storm Siren testing on
Wednesdays at 12 noon

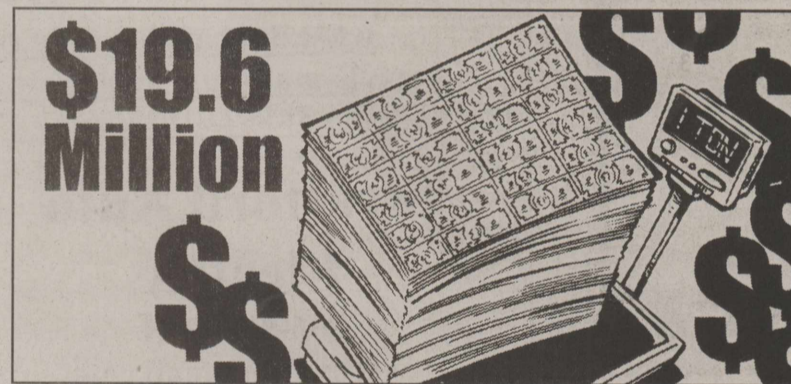
Scot Hall Activities-
(Listed elsewhere in paper)



The name biscotti is a generic term applied to various types of Italian cookies that are baked twice. This results in a very crunchy cookie.



The Arctic tern's migration route spans 22,000 miles round-trip. It flies from the Antarctic Ocean to the Arctic Ocean each year.



A ton of new \$20 bills would be worth about \$19.6 million dollars.

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.
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.

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.



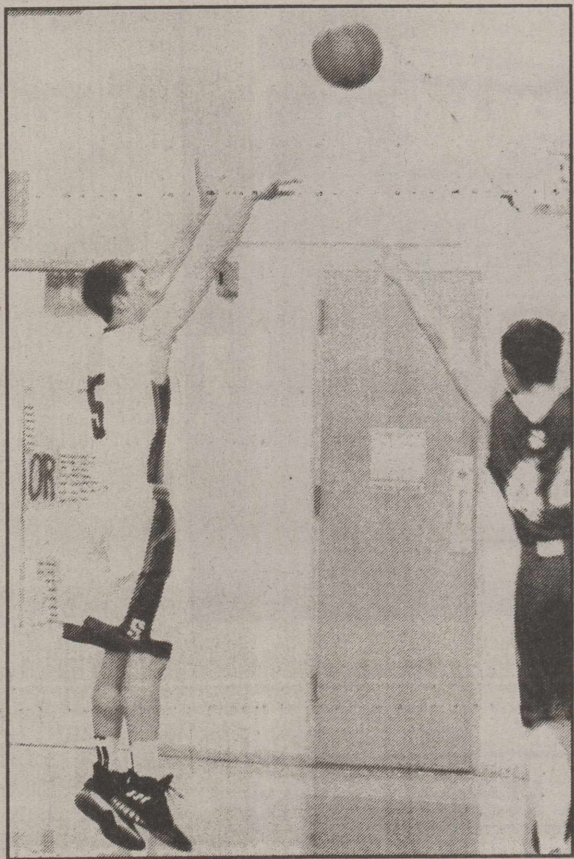
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Stratford Grain 396-5541
Lautz 769-5541
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366-5885

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
Susuiños Durante El Servicio

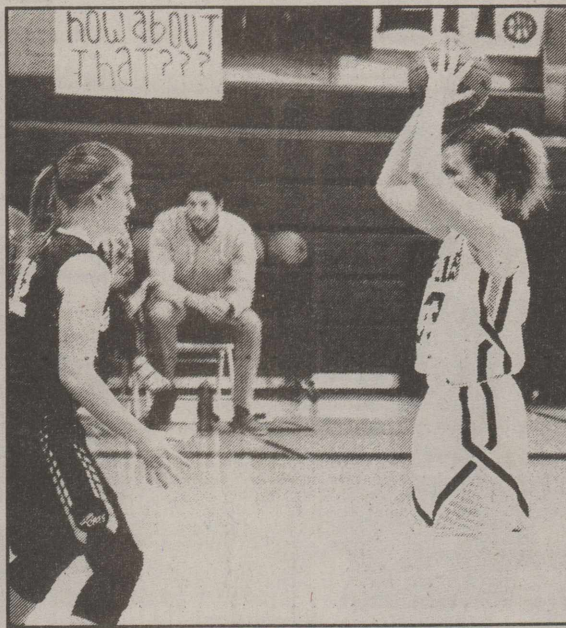
Eben-Ezer Templo Hispano
Asambleas De Dios
Pastor: Juan M. Valenzuela
806-366-3071
205 N. Poplar-Hwy 287 268-2188
Escuela Dominical 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Servicio De Adoracion 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Miercoles: Servicio De Adoracion 6-8 p.m.

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

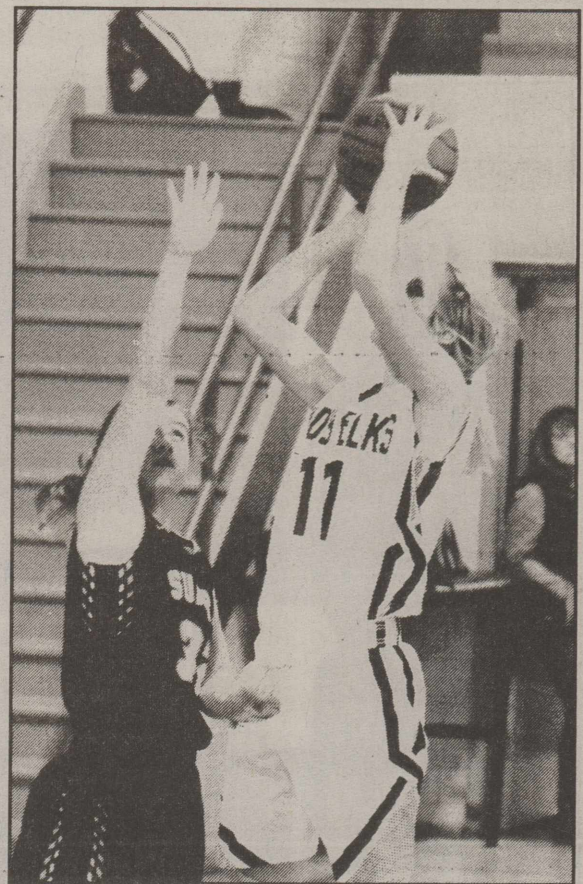
Church of Christ
Raymond Glendinning
N. 3rd & Chestnut
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Stratford Elk Kade McBryde shoots the three point shot in Elks 75-52 win over Sunray on Tuesday, January 31, 2017.



Lady Elk Carlee Metcalf looks inside for open teammate in the Lady Elks win against Sunray.



Lady Elk Allie James scores under the basket in their 81-29 win over Sunray on Tuesday, January 31, 2017.



Russell Spurlock scores under the basket for the Elks in their win over Sunray.

Basketball

Business Directory

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

Duncan Chevrolet
www.duncanchevrolet.com
E-mail: duncanch@xit.net
AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Koester Welding & Irrigation
806 Cherry Avenue; Dalhart, TX 79022
ZAKOESTER@GMAIL.COM
806-333-8354

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Altronics, starters, Alternators,
ACmotors
New & Rebuilt
Full Line Available

**Vincent Insurance
Agency**
Sabrina Melton

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

**Stratford Grain
Company**

Stratford 396-5541
Lautz 769-4485

4 North Main 

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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


**Albert's Manor House
Restaurant**



Daily Specials
Friday Night
Fish Buffet
Sunday Buffet
Breakfast All Day

Open-6 a.m. - 9 p.m. Everyday
TAKE-OUTS WELCOME
1817 Dumas Ave Dumas, TX
935-5507

**Structured Touch Massage
Therapy Clinic**
Cece Yelek, CMT, LMT
401 N. Third #11. or 7199 Co. Rd P
Stratford, TX - Sunray, TX
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Cell 806-290-3655
Open 9-5 by Appointment Only

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Dalhart, TX 79022

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Gary Clements

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Cell: 806 346-5217
glements@farmersagent.com

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House for Sale



REDUCED PRICE

2 living areas, 3 bedroom, 1.75 bath, fireplace, nice yard, approx. 2,000 sq.ft 1313 N. Chestnut St.
Call Steve or Linda Haynes
806-366-2478 or 789-7956
5-2 tfn

701 Purnell in Stratford 3 bdrms, 1.75 bath 2690 sq. ft. brick. Features 3 lg. bedrooms with large closets. Walking distance to both schools. FMI call 620-424-7282 or 806-930-6875

Spacious 2100 sq ft. 3bedrom, 2.5 baths, 2 living areas, attached 2 car garage with covered driveway. Large backyard with metal fence on large corner lot. New heating- an AC unit, updated bathrooms, gas/wood burning fireplace. \$146,900 320 N. Wall . For more information please call: 806-930-6575 or 806-930-6725

Sutton Estate Sale

1009 N. Chestnut Stratford, TX
Saturday, Feb. 11
From 9a.m.-3p.m.

Featured items: Washer and dryer, refrigerator, couch, rockers, full size bed, queen sized bed, dressers, nightstands, dining room table, buffet, curio cabinets, beautiful lamps, tools, International Harvester Vintage freezer, camping gear, Christmas items, vintage Tupperware, wonderful glassware, records, jewelry, American Fostoria and so much more! We accept debit/credit cards!

By two Sisters
Estate Sales

WANTED

Looking for work
Call 806-390-9419
Lane Robertson

Help Wanted

Now accepting bids for turnkey siding and roofing work to be performed on Jocko Pulliam's home at 405 South Pearl. Please contact BR Pulliam at bee46@yahoo.com or 505-980-8346 for details and/or bid submissions.

Coldwater Manor in Stratford, Texas is looking for experienced RN's, LVN's and

CNA's. If interested please come by 1111 Beaver Road for an application or send your resume to

dgross@shdistrict.comEEO

Coldwater Manor in Stratford, Texas is now accepting applications for a person to work in the Dietary Department and Housekeeping. If interested come by 1111

Beaver Road Stratford, TX for an application. EOE

World War 1 Centennial

We are approaching the Centennial of our entrance into WW I. On April 6, 1917 The United States officially entered this war. For families with ties to Sherman County: Historical Commission would like to honor anyone who had a family member that served in this memorable war.

If you have the name of a family member, neighbor or friend who served please get names, stories and/or pictures to:

Ann Pronger Wells
C/O Sherman County
Historical Commission
PO Box 809
Stratford, TX 79084
annpwells@yahoo.com
806-396-2527

Questions and comments welcome

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.

Remember The Stratford Star Classifieds Call 366-5885 or Email to stardm@xit.net or mail to PO Box 8 Stratford, TX 79084-Thank you



Texas Electric Co.

301 North Poplar
PO Box 1123
Stratford, Texas 79084

806-396-2300 Office
806-679-9007 Chuck's Cell

www.reinke.com

Legal Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of Texhoma, Texas for the construction of approximately 3,000 linear feet of six-inch water line and all associated appurtenances entitled:

WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENTS TEXAS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROJECT TDA
PROJECT NO. 7216449

will be received at the office of the City Secretary at City Hall, South 6th Street, Texhoma, Texas until:

11:00A.M.
February 28, 2017

A cashier's check, certified check or acceptable bidder's bond, payable to the City of Texhoma in an amount equal to not less than five percent of the bid submitted, must accompany each bid as guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will, within fifteen days after receipt of Contract Documents, enter into a contract with the City of Texhoma and will execute bonds on the forms provided in the Contract Documents. Any bid received after the time and date listed above will be returned unopened and will not be considered.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and inform themselves regarding all local conditions. Contract Documents are on file and may be examined in the office of the City of Texhoma, South 6th Street, Texhoma, Texas, telephone (806) 827-7411 and the offices of Brandt Engineers, Consulting

Engineers, 4537 Canyon Drive, Amarillo, Texas 79110, telephone (806) 353-7233.

Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the Engineers, Brandt Engineers, 4537 Canyon Drive, Amarillo, Texas 79110, phone (806) 353-7233 in the following manner:

Cost: Seventy five dollars (\$75.00), non-refundable, for each set of paper plans and specifications or fifty dollars (\$50.00), non-refundable, for each set of digital plans and specifications on CD.

Performance and Payment bonds shall be set forth in the Contract Documents.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness, the Owner reserves the right to adopt such interpretations as may be most advantageous or to reject the bid as informal. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of 60 days from the bid opening date.

Published in The Stratford Star, Thursday, February 9, 2017 and Thursday, February 16, 2017

NOTICE OF AUCTION

Sherman County is having an online auction pursuant to Local Government Code §263.152 to dispose of surplus property. Vehicles, equipment, office furniture and miscellaneous items are included in the auction. Items can be viewed at www.renebates.com.

The auction will open for bidding February 20, 2017 and close March 7, 2017 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please see www.renebates.com or call 972-548-9636 for more information.

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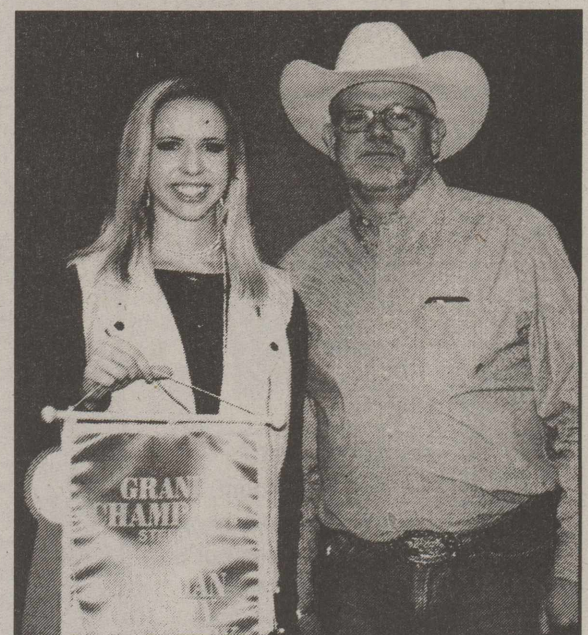
2017-72nd Annual Sherman County FFA & 4-H Junior Livestock Show January 28, 2017



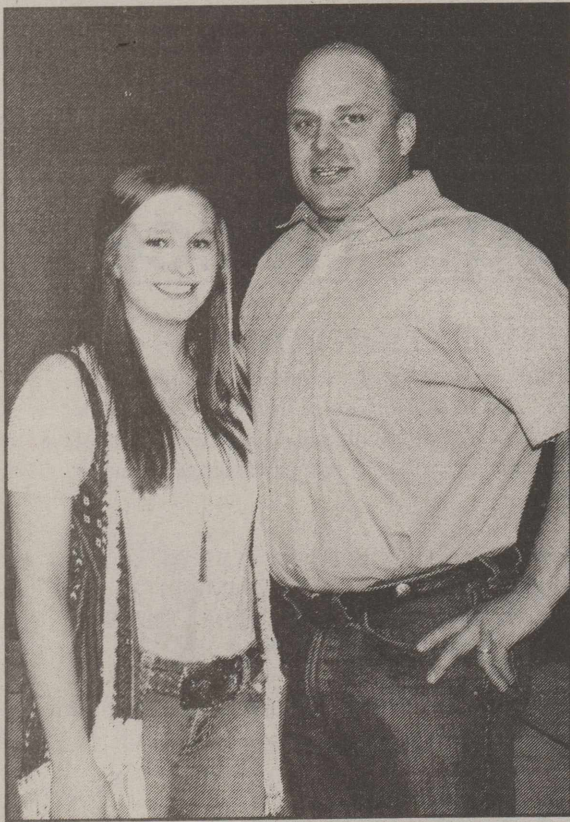
Abby Law Winner of Grand Champion Lamb-buyer Green Country and Wesley & Cindy Miller



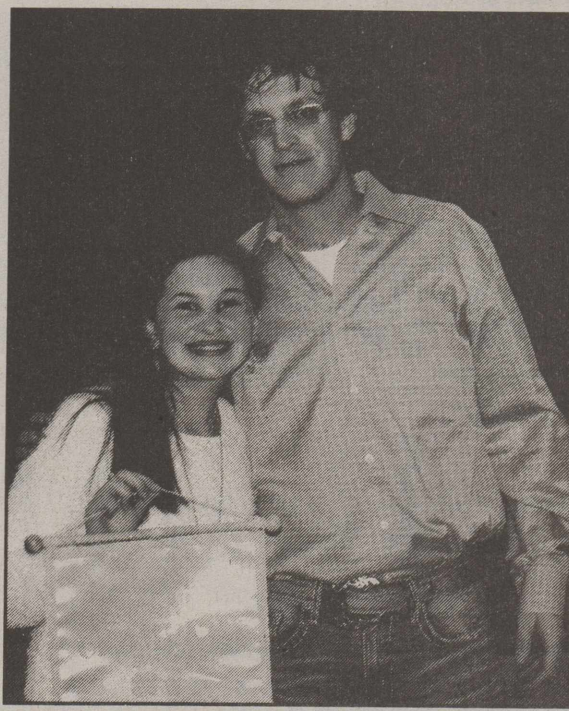
Holly Sladek winner of the Grand Champion Goat- Buyer Bain Tire Company



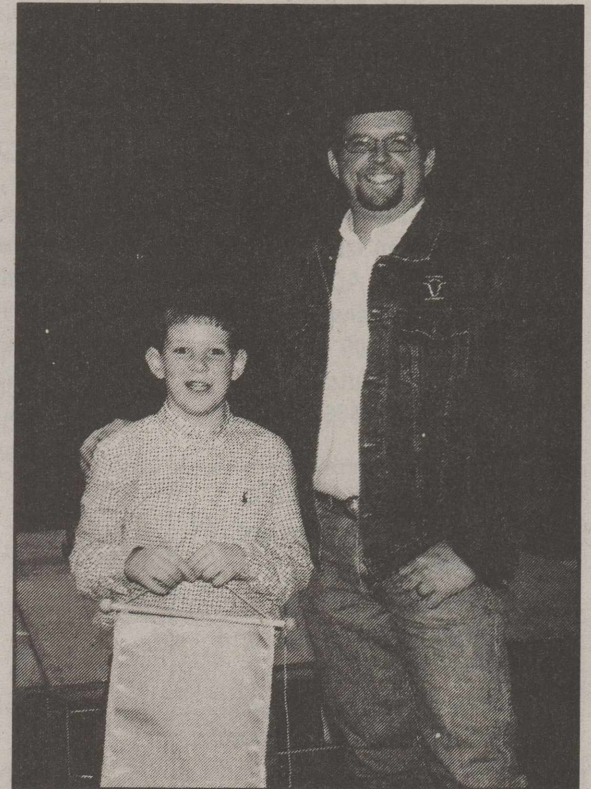
Allie James winner of the Grand Champion Steer-Buyer Channel Seed



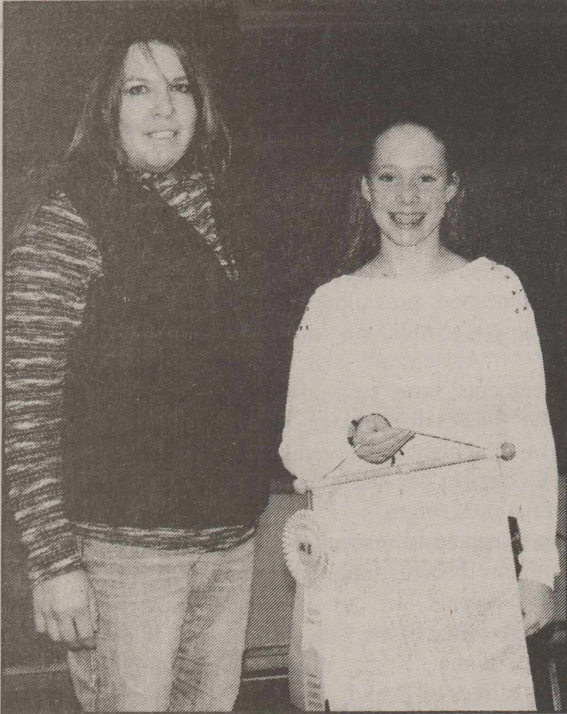
Katelin Berry winner of Grand Champion Heifer-buyer Hog Slat Inc.



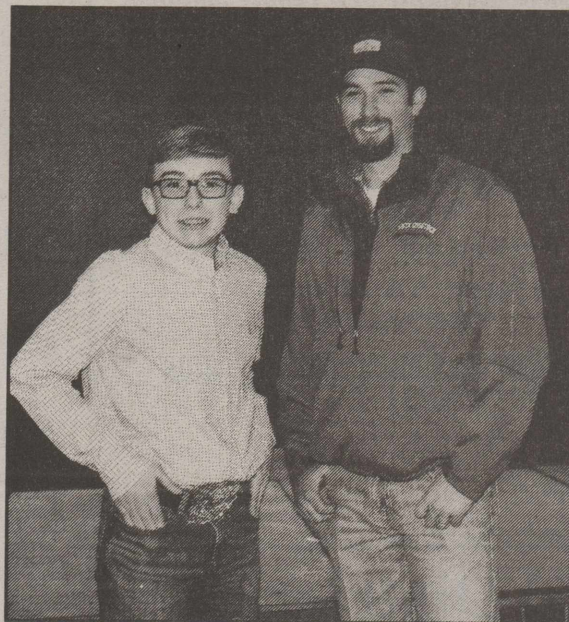
Klaire Walden-Winner of Reserve Grand Champion Pig-Buyer Skiles Farms.



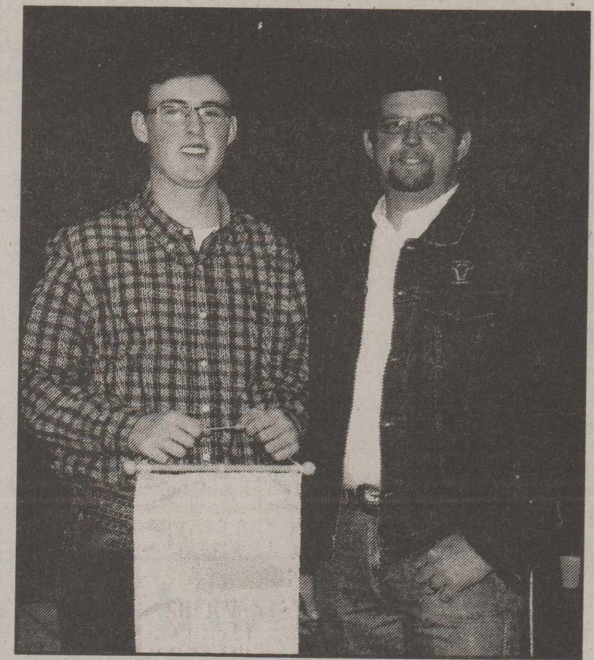
Cole Hinds-Winner of Reserve Grand Lamb-Buyer Coronado Feeders



Olivia Merry winner of Reserve Grand Champion Goat-buyer Green Country



Rhett Rousser winner of Reserve Grand Champion Steer-buyer B & D Ag



Turner Smith winner of Reserve Grand Champion Heifer- Buyer Coronado Feedyards

New wheat streak mosaic virus resistance genetic markers developed

Advancement made in battle of major disease in the Great Plains

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AMARILLO - The Wsm2 gene is located on chromosome 31S3 in wheat and most recently eight tightly linked flanking markers have been identified and mapped. To most, that means very little. To Texas A&M AgriLife Research geneticists and breeders, it's the key to battling one of the most important biotic stresses affecting wheat. Dr. Shuyu Liu, AgriLife Research small grains geneticist in Amarillo, and his team recently published two articles, "Saturated Genetic Mapping of Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus Resistance Gene Wsm2 in Wheat" and "Development and Validation of KASP Markers for Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus Resistance Gene Wsm2," in the Crop Science journal.

In both articles, Liu and his collaborators outlined, how wheat streak mosaic virus, also known as WSMV, is a major threat to wheat production in the Great Plains, one of the largest wheat regions in the nation, Liu said. While the threat may not be as high as it is in the U.S., the virus has been found in all major wheat-growing regions of the world.

There is no effective chemical treatment available for the disease, he said. Host resistance is the most cost-effective and environmentally safe approach for combating this disease.

"WSMV resistance is an important target trait for our wheat breeding program," said Dr. Jackie Rudd, AgriLife Research wheat breeder in Amarillo. "We have evaluated many diverse sources of genetic resistance over the years, including a wheat breeding line from Colorado State University, C0960293-2, known to have good resistance."

Rudd and the AgriLife Research wheat team began crossing with the Colorado line in 2005 and by 2011 had identified and mapped WSMV resistance on chromosome 3BS and named the gene Wsm2.

Liu said wheat breeding programs worldwide now rely on two primary sources of resistance, Wsm2 - identified in the early 1990s from a wheatgrass, and the Wsm2 from bread wheat, for development of WSMV-resistant wheat cultivars.

Effective molecular markers closely linked to the target genes are the key for the success of marker-assisted selection on traits such as WSMV resistance, he said. Among the available markers, single nucleotide polymorphisms or SNPs are routinely used in plant breeding programs to distinguish potentially superior genotypes with genetic merit for traits of interest.

His genetic team has identified eight SNPs flanking Wsm2, Liu said. This helps increase the efficiency in selection for the resistance needed to battle the virus.

"A single marker linked to target genes may not be sufficient to screen across diverse genetic backgrounds," Liu said. "Therefore, a set of tightly linked markers on each side of the gene is the best predictor for Wsm2 with higher accuracy."

These tightly linked SNPs will be useful for marker-assisted selection for WSMV resistance, he said.

Dr. Chor Tee Tan, an associate research scientist in Amarillo, has been able to carry the AgriLife Research work one step further. Working in the wheat genetic program for almost four years, he led the effort to develop breeder-friendly Kompetitive Allele Specific Polymerase Chain Reaction or KASP assays for those SNPs tightly linked to Wsm2 and validated them in multiple breeding populations.

If a breeder is screening 1,000s of breeding lines, as is typical, the KASP acts as a flag to say the necessary sequence for wheat streak mosaic virus resistance exists in a particular line of wheat, Tan said.

"These KASP SNPs were tested on a panel of nine wheat breeding and mapping populations with diverse genetic backgrounds and were found to be very effective in differentiating resistant and susceptible genotypes for WSMV," he said.

"We have many lines with SSM2 in our breeding pipeline now and these new markers will help us get to the finish line," Rudd said. "Marker technology has greatly improved, and these latest findings are easy to use and very predictable."

Liu said the joint effort from breeders at AgriLife Research, Kansas State University-Hays and Colorado State University, has "made great progress to fight this disease that is not easy to screen by infection."

Research for these studies was supported in part by the Texas Wheat Producer Board, Monsanto's Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars, AgriLife Research and a U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant to the Triticeae-CAP project.

Both journal articles can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/2kSxobG>