

# The Gorman Progress

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Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

NUMBER FIFTY

DECEMBER 21, 2006

# Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas  
 From Joe - Lonnie  
 Correspondents - Zelda Jordan and Vonnie Guthery

**Community Christmas Evening Candlelight Service At First United Methodist Church in Gorman Sunday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m.**

## Secret Santa Coming To Gorman

A generous donation has been made to the Gorman EDC to be distributed to the 40 families that lost their homes last New Years Day. Each of the families will be receiving a \$200 gift certificate in Gorman Bucks to be spent in any of the local businesses. Local merchants are being contacted, letting them know these families may be purchasing their products and services in the coming weeks and months.

For additional information contact Lori Dodd or Jessica Lara at 734-3933.



## Charlie Garrett Library - Donation

Charlie Garrett Memorial Library has received another donation of good books. Several of the books are large print. We also have books that you can have for a donation to the library. If you like to read, come in and check out some books! We are open Monday thru Friday from 3:00 to 5:00, Saturday and Tuesday morning from 9:00 to 12:00. Also we have a hug amount of books that are overdue.

If you have an overdue book, please return it. The drop box is always available if the library is closed.

## Attention All Moms:

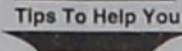
It is that time of year again, to get rid of the old toys and make room for the new. The Mission Friend Class at the First Baptist Church are taking up old toys and clothes for one of our projects. We send the toys and clothes to Honduras. We have met a new friend. His name is Craig Rodgers. He is a missionary in Honduras. He now lives here in Gorman. He was telling Miss Karen about how thrilled the children in Honduras are to get even used toys and clothes. Honduras is a poor country and people have a really hard time making ends meet.

We are trying to teach the children how lucky we are to live in the U.S.A. and how we are all rich compared to most children in Honduras. And how God loves all of these children as much as he loves us. God expects us to take care of the needy and to share what we have. So we through this would be a great way to start training these 4 and 5 year old.

So please take time and sort our the toys and clothes you can, bring them to the First Baptist Church or to Karen Guthery or Kathy Ervin's homes. Thank you so much and God will Bless you. Have a Merry Christmas and always remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Mission Friends

# Cooking Corner



## Enjoying An All-American Food

(NAPSA)—"Next to jazz music," trumpet player Harry James once said, "there is nothing that lifts the spirit and strengthens the soul more than a good bowl of chili." Indeed, chili has been called the all-American dish, a food invented in this country and, some would say, embodying the American spirit.

That may be why the competition for the title of the best chili is so fierce. Recently, 400 top chili chefs from across the United States and around the world met in battle at the 40th Annual World Championship Chili Cookoff sanctioned by the International Chili Society and presented by ConAgra Foods.

For most chili lovers, the purest form of chili is traditional red, also known as "Texas red." Most red chili recipes include finely chopped meat, diced vegetables, tomato sauce or paste, garlic, chili powder and other spices.

To make award-winning chili at home, store your chili overnight and serve the next day. The more time you give the flavors to marinate, the better the flavor.

Quality ingredients also make a difference. Tomatoes, onions, and green and red chili peppers are important for award-winning chili. For the best chili, use canned tomato products such as Hunt's tomato paste or diced



Chili cookoff winner J.R. Knudson and his wife accept their prize.

tomatoes. Mix canned-diced and petite-diced tomatoes for a better-looking chili. For variety, try Ro\*Tel diced tomatoes and green chiles. Also include quality brands such as Gebhardt chili powder, Gilroy Foods garlic and Wesson Oil to ensure your chili is filled with flavor.

Try this year's winning recipe:

**J.R.'s Rough and Ready Chili**  
By J.R. Knudson, Granite Bay, California

- 3 pounds beef tri-tip, chopped
- 2 ounces sausage
- 1 ounce rendered beef fat
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 green Ortega pepper, seeds removed and diced fine
- 1/2 ounce salt

- 1/2 teaspoon fine black pepper
- 2 ounces Gebhardt chili powder
- 1/2 ounce California chili powder
- 1/2 ounce New Mexico powder
- 1/2 ounce cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon pequin powder
- 1 or 2 14-ounce cans chicken broth
- 1 eight-ounce can Hunt's Tomato Sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Tabasco sauce to taste
- Sauté onion and green pepper in rendered beef fat in a 3-quart pot. Add garlic powder and half of chili powder. Add half a can of chicken broth, mix well and set aside. Brown sausage and beef in a skillet about one pound at a time. Drain and add meat to onion mix. Add remaining chili powder, salt and pepper and remaining can of chicken broth. Cook for 30 minutes on low heat. Add tomato sauce, cumin, cayenne pepper and pequin powder. Add more broth as needed and cook until meat is tender, about two to three hours. Add a dash of Tabasco sauce if needed for heat.

Go to [www.conagrafoods.com](http://www.conagrafoods.com) or [www.chilicookoff.com](http://www.chilicookoff.com) for the top 2006 cookoff recipe and more tips for making your chili world-class.

## Application Process Begins For Welding Class

During the summer of 2006, a consortium was formed, consisting of the City of Abilene, the Workforce Center, Cisco Junior College, and the West Central Texas Workforce Development Board, to address labor shortages in welding by a number of area businesses. A training curriculum was developed by Cisco Junior College in coordination with four local business, including Rentech Services, Inc., Hirschfield Steel, Lauren Engineers and Constructors, Inc., and Robinson Fans. The Workforce Center handled the application and screening of potential students. Two classes of fourteen welders each completed a 120-hour express welding course, which consisted of four weeks of welding at CJC and one week of basic employment skills training at the Workforce Center. A job fair was conducted for each class, and all graduates have secured employment as welders.

The application and screening process has already begun for the third welding class, scheduled to begin on January 22, 2007. Interested individuals should visit the Workforce Center website at [www.workforcesystem.org](http://www.workforcesystem.org) to download an application packet. The information may be accessed by clicking on "Fast Track Welding" in the column at the left. The deadline to submit completed application forms is December 29th. Previous applicants are encouraged to re-apply. For additional information, contact the Business Services Unit at the Workforce Center at (325) 795-4200.

## -- Randy's Roundup --

A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer  
December 18, 2006

### Crackdown on Illegal Immigration

News reports last week detailed the recent crackdown on illegal immigration that resulted in the arrest of more than 1,200 people. These illegal immigrants were working in meatpacking plants in six states, including Texas. This is a step in the right direction and a sign that we are becoming serious about enforcing our immigration laws. This year Congress approved several such laws - including increased funding for border patrol and security barriers - that will prove beneficial in stemming the tide of illegal immigration.

This crackdown also points to the need to hold employers accountable for breaking laws prohibiting the hiring of illegal immigrants. Physical barriers are essential, but we must also eliminate the economic incentives that undermine our current immigration laws. As Congress continues to address the pervasive problem of illegal immigration, we must be sure that immigration officials and law-abiding businesses alike have the tools to accurately assess who is legal and who is not.

### Looking Ahead to 2007

When Congress reconvenes in January, 2007, the political landscape will look quite different than it has over the past several years. New leaders will be in charge of the legislative agenda and new majorities will take over in both the House and the Senate. A few questions are on my mind as I prepare for the road ahead.

Will their agenda help build on the economic achievements of recent years? Congress has passed several laws that lowered tax and regulatory burdens which, in turn, contributed to the creation, growth and success of small businesses. The results have been positive: the economy recovered from a recession, seven million new jobs have been created since August, 2003, and unemployment is low.

Will their agenda call for an expansion of government, requiring increased taxes and more Washington spending? While I would have liked to see further reductions in spending in recent years, Congress has been successful in many areas in putting the brakes on the growth of government. We need more fiscal responsibility - not less - if this country is to solve looming budget problems, such as rising cost of health care.

Will their agenda include policies that strengthen America's security? There is no greater issue facing this country than the threat of radical Islamic terrorists. Serious approaches that eliminate vulnerabilities here at home and take the fight to the enemy abroad are necessary to combat this threat.

These are just a few of the areas that I will be keeping a close watch in the upcoming year. I'll be sure to follow up on these topics in future Roundups.

### Housekeeping Item

This will be the last Roundup until Monday, January 8. I want to wish everyone a merry Christmas, and I hope you have a safe and happy holiday season.

--Randy

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NEW: 100 a west De Leon FM587, 3 - 1 1/2 - 2 brick, 1444 sq. ft., C/HA, fireplace, carpeted, some remodeling, 3 ponds, 30a crop land, 35a coastal, some native, fenced, 2 steel corrals, 2 wells, shop building. Nice setup. Mineral Rights \$295,000.00  
NEW: 160 A m/l east Gorman on FM2921: 65 a m/l coastal, 75 a m/l wooded, water well, pond, steel corral, indications show lots deer, turkey and hogs, mineral rights. \$2,900.00  
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## Senior Health News

### Seniors And Insomnia

(NAPSA)—When it comes to a good night's sleep, no one is in greater need than America's seniors. Lack of sleep can lead to an increased risk of debilitating falls, diabetes and deadly heart attacks.

Sleeplessness may also be a symptom or early warning sign of disease. In their need for healthy sleep, millions of seniors are turning to safe, effective, doctor-prescribed sleep aids.

Unfortunately, rare cases involving people who abuse sleep aids are sensationalized. This can be misleading and create unfounded concerns for seniors who worry about the safety of these valuable medications.

A new report by RetireSafe's Senior Center for Health and Security examines the facts about sleep disorders and the unique risks they pose to older Americans. It also discusses remedies. Sometimes, commonsense changes in lifestyle and sleep environment aren't enough to ensure a healthy night's rest. When prescribed by a doctor and used as directed, prescription sleep aids can provide needed relief for insomnia.

Be smart. Be responsible. Use common sense. Always talk to your doctor about your prescription medications and your reactions to them.

Millions of senior citizens are able to get a good night's sleep thanks, in part, to doctor-prescribed sleep aids.

The decision to use a sleep aid should be based on factual, scientific information and what your doctor says is right for you, not a sensationalized news story. To learn more, visit [www.SeniorsForCures.org](http://www.SeniorsForCures.org).

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## Gilder Realty

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Agents: Ronnie Golden, David Gilder, Wayne Parsons

- 184 A, 2-1 frame home, 6 water wells, 2 reservoirs, 3 side roll irrigation systems, 15hp pit pump, 9 acre in pecan orchard, 76 acres in coastal, 55 acres in crop land, rest in native pasture. [JK01] \$524,920
- 165 A, 3-1 newly remodeled frame home, w/office, 12 water wells, large reservoir, highway frontage, cross fences, coastal, pecan orchard, pipe corrals, storm cellar, bams, hunting, minerals. [ED01] \$549,000 REDUCED \$495,000
- 100 A, w/4,961 sq. ft. (CAD) 5-4 1/2 2-story brick home, fireplaces, game room, office, 2-car garage, 2-car carport, underground sprinkler, swimming pool, deck w/hot tub, 2 ponds, pipe corrals, pecan & oak trees. [FS01] \$850,000
- 80 A, w/1,943sf (CAD) 3-2 brick home, bams and shed, 3 wells, stock pond, cross fences, steel pens, almost completed roping arena. [CD01] \$459,000
- 70 A, w/1,894sf (CAD) 3-2 brick home, metal roof, carport, fireplace, approx. 14 acres pecan orchard, both sides of Leon River, coastal, 2 reservoirs, 4 wells, 3 bams, pipe corrals, equipment, hunting. [BC01] \$396,500
- 52 A, w/2,854sf (CAD) 4-3 brick home, carport, 5 water wells, 3 stock tanks, corrals, bams [PO1] \$250,000
- 11 A, w/16'x70' mobile home, well, rural water, oak trees [TC01] \$70,000
- 10 A, horse facility w/16x76 Mobile home, approx. 2,600sf of bams and sheds, cross fenced into four pastures, highway frontage [KW01] \$125,000
- 250 ± A, 150 wooded, 100 coastal, on Coppereas Creek, lake, stock tanks, hunters cabin, 25hp pit pump, hwy, frontage, rural water [LB01] \$850,000
- 243 A, Comanche Co, one reservoir, 14 irrigation wells, irrigation pit, highway frontage, cultivation, costal, native pasture [AB01] \$473,850
- 240 A, with pivot irrigation system, 2-stock tanks, approx. 7,000sf of bams and sheds, pipe corrals, creek, hunting, minerals [JO1] \$798,500
- 158 A, rolling terrain, 2 tanks, well, coastal, native, cover for deer and turkey hunting, all weather roads, minerals. approx. 4 miles from Dublin [CS01] \$395,000
- 150 A, rolling terrain, approx. 90 acres wooded, 4 water wells, irrigation pit, stock tank, excellent deer and turkey hunting. Minerals. [LO01] \$442,500
- 140 A, recreational, cattle, or horse, creek running thru, water wells, good fences, hunting deer, turkey, hogs, some farm eq. available, minerals negotiable, possible owner financing. [CSK01] \$350,000
- 100 A, with 5 stock tanks, water well, pipe corrals, good fences, improved varieties of coastal, native pasture, cultivation, and hunting. [MMS01] \$225,000
- 81A pecan orchard, approx. 900 improved variety trees, underground drip irrigation on, 9 wells, tractors, shaker, other equipment. [REM01] \$326,000
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See Pictures at: [www.GilderRealty.com](http://www.GilderRealty.com)

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## KOKOMO NEWS

BY ZELDA JORDAN

The Christmas Program at the Kokomo Baptist Church will be on Wednesday night, December 20th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Santa will be there to greet the children, and to help pass out the gifts from under the Christmas tree. Visitors are welcome. If you bring a child that was not in Sunday School to draw names for gift exchange, please bring a gift for them. Following the program and Santa's visit, there will be a sandwich supper furnished by the church and a time of fellowship. I'm sorry that this notice was left out of last week's news.

There will be only one service at the Kokomo Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 24th and Sunday, December 31st. Ed Rodgers will be the speaker at both services. Let's gather together to worship Jesus, The reason for the season.

Rev. Genoa Goad, Director of Missions of the Cisco Baptist Association, was the speaker for the church services at the Kokomo Baptist Church on Sunday, December 17th. His wife, Martha, was a visitor. The morning message was "I wish I hadn't done that". We all do things we shouldn't do and we wish we hadn't, but God is waiting to forgive us when we repent and ask his forgiveness. The special music: "Go Tell It On the Mountain" was rendered by the choir: Kay Snider, Sylvia Buchanan, Ruth Rodgers, Helen Browning, Daryl Hirst, Jimmy Little, Joe Bond, and Woodrow Browning with Glynda Bond at the piano. "Happy anniversary was sung to Jimmy and Verna Lee Little and James and Mary Donham.

Bro. Goad's evening message was "Christmas". How God became man through the birth of Jesus. That's why we celebrate Christmas.

Those visiting with Oren and Norma Webb during the weekend were Judy and Sarah Porter and Tino and Scarlett Torres of Austin, Amanda Porter and John Meldy of Elgin, James and Chelsea Webb of Granbury, Stacy Webb and Renee Fox and Randall, Kaci, Aaron and Kaelee Suniga of Comanche and Jacob and Alice Webb of Burleson and they all attended the wedding of Renee Fox and Stacy Webb at the La Mancha Ranch on Saturday

Our congratulations to Stacy and Renee.

Bobby and Mary Jane Little enjoyed a Christmas celebration with their family during the weekend in the home of La Dawn, Stacy and Alexis Snapp in Lewisville. Arleen, Terry, Jonathan, Michael and Loren Barfield of Tyler and Andrew Barfield who has been stationed with the Marines in San Diego met them there for the early Christmas. Andrew will be leaving on January 7, 2007 for duty in Okinawa.

May we all remember Andrew and his family in our prayers.

La Von Snider celebrated an early Christmas with Ted and Charlotte Snider and their family on Saturday. Others enjoying the celebration were Jamie, Stephanie, Kael, Craig, Matthew, Anna and Andrew Snider of Hollis, OK, Clay, Susan, McKinsey, Caitlin and Kyann Wheat of Ranger and Toby, Angie, Karina, Karle and Klarissa Snider of Lake Brownwood.

La Von Snider met Dwayne and Connie Snider of Stephenville for lunch in De Leon on Sunday.

I wish each and everyone who reads this column a very Merry Christmas and a New Year blessed with happiness and peace.

## State-Fish Art Contest Calls For Entries

ATHENS, Texas — Texas students in grades 4 through 12 are invited to enter the ninth annual Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest.

Contestants must create an illustration of an officially recognized state fish and write a one-page composition about its behavior, habitat and conservation. One Texas winner will be selected from each of three grade levels: 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Those winners will then compete at the national level for best of show and art of conservation stamp honors. Deadline for entries is March 31, 2007.

Texas entries are judged at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. For details on the contest and how to enter, go to <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart>.

"Wildlife Forever strongly believes conservation education will ultimately determine the future of our fish and wildlife heritage," said Wildlife Forever president and CEO Douglas H. Grann. "The State-Fish Art Contest is a fun and innovative way to introduce America's youth to the wonders of our natural world."

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is a facility of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that incorporates a visitor center, educational programming and a production fish hatchery. It is located 75 miles southeast of Dallas and is open Tuesday through Sunday. For more information call (903) 676-2277 or visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc>.

## Improving the Quality of a High School Education Using End-of-Course Exams to Measure Student Performance

By Brooke Dolliens Terry

For too many Texas students, a high school diploma signifies little more than a certificate of attendance.

While today's high-tech, global economy demands students to have a rigorous education and a high level of skills to succeed, too many students are graduating without the basic skills needed in the "real world." Part of the problem is a poor assessment for measuring subject-area mastery and student progress in high school. With billions of dollars spent each year on Texas schools, students and taxpayers deserve better.

End-of-course exams can move us in the right direction.

Inflated grades, inflated course titles, and lack of rigor in the high school curriculum fail to prepare Texas students for success in college or a career. Regrettably, students in disadvantaged and low socio-economic areas tend to suffer the most.

An analysis by the U.S. Department of Education found that students in poor schools typically receive A's for work that would earn a C- in wealthy schools. Imagine the surprise and frustration when these "honor" students get to college and are placed in remedial reading and math classes!

Some teachers admit they are pressured to inflate grades. Accord-

## DESDEMONA NEWS

BY VONNIE GUTHERY

Our hearts was saddened to hear that our Classmate and friend, Royce Griffith, 72, of Big Springs had passed away. Services were held on Saturday, December 9 at the East Fourth Baptist Church followed with burial at the Trinity Memorial Park in Big Springs.

Royce was born on December 21, 1933 to Dave and Veta Griffith in De Leon, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, Bettye Griffith of Big Springs; a daughter, Veanda Jones and husband Bill of Georgetown; a sister, Loretta Crenshaw and husband Gene of Alba; two sisters-in-law, Johnnie B. Griffith of Lake Leon and Hattie Griffith of Forsan; four grandsons, several nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Ottis Griffith and Burl Griffith; two sisters, Evelyn Griffith Burleson and Nell Griffith Foster.

The Griffith Family are former residents of Desdemona where some of their children attended school. Royce graduated with the Class of 1951 and Loreta graduated with the Class of 1945.

Royce and wife attended his 55th Class Reunion in August at the Desdemona Homecoming. Royce and this reporter were classmates. Our sincere sympathy goes out to this family in the loss of their loved one.

Pug and Vonnie Guthery will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 23rd. Pug says he deserves a "Purple Heart" cause he has been wounded several times. But you know what-that could be one man's opinion.

Colin and Kaley Garcia spent Christmas Holidays in Whitney with George and Christal Garcia and son, Gavin.

Though for today -- "You can give without loving, but you cannot love with giving."

"Merry Christmas" to all of our friends and neighbors, Vonnie and Pug Guthery.

## February 2007 EXIT Level TAAS and TAKS Registration Information

TAAS Exit Level Test Administration:

Dates	TAAS
February 20	Writing
February 21	Mathematics
February 22	Reading

TAKS Exit Level Test Administration:

Dates	TAKS
February 20	ELA
February 21	Mathematics
February 22	Science
February 23	Social Studies

All out of school TAAS and TAKS examinees must complete a registration form. If you have any questions about which test to take or how to register, contact Mrs. Hampton at 734-2614 or call toll free, 800-552-0302. You can register by accessing the website <http://k12testing.tx.ncspearson.com> or by completing a registration form. Registration forms are due in Austin no later than 5:00 pm January 19, 2007.

students in both New York and North Carolina, states with end-of-course exams, are about half of a grade level ahead in math and science and almost two-thirds of a grade level ahead in reading among comparable students without such exams. New York's examinations are so well regarded for their rigor that the City University of New York uses their English end-of-course exam in place of their own placement test.

Moving to end-of-course exams would put Texas in good company. There are as many as 15 states across the country and several countries in Europe and East Asia using end-of-course exams to evaluate student learning.

Ultimately, the rigor of Texas' academic curriculum is only as tough as the tests used to measure performance. If Texas lawmakers want to improve the quality of a high school education and ensure that all Texas students are taught a rigorous curriculum and have an incentive to learn, Texas should adopt end-of-course exams to better assess student learning and achievement.

Brooke Dolliens Terry is an education policy analyst at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit research institute based in Austin. She can be contacted at [bterry@texaspolicy.com](mailto:bterry@texaspolicy.com).

# Join Us!

at our

## Christmas Open House

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9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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# Merry Christmas



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### Winter Replacement Female Sale

Bred Cows • Pairs • Young Bulls

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No SALE December 22nd.

# Gorman School Students Involved In Community Service Projects Recently



# Elementary Students Decorated Halls For UIL Competition Held Recently



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## Star Lanes Lone

# 2006 Panther Spirit Yearbook Dedicated To The Gorman Volunteer Department

The presentation of the dedication of the 2006 Panther Spirit Yearbook was given recently at the final pep rally of the football season. The dedication went to the Gorman Volunteer Fire Department. This valuable group of people deserve much more recognition for all they do, and in a small way this dedication is Gorman High School's way of saying "thank you". The dedication was received by Gene Foster, Lupe Torres, and Carlos Herrera. Annual staff adviser Becky Swanner presented Fire Chief Gene Foster with a copy of the Panther Spirit annual. The dedication as was placed in the Panther Spirit annual follows. At this time we would also like to thank the Fire Department for "turning up the heat" at the final pep rally and allowing the cheerleaders to ride on the truck in order to "fire up" the Panther fans.



**Dedication:**  
The Gorman Annual Staff is proud to announce the dedication of the 2006 Panther Spirit to the members of the Gorman Volunteer Fire Department. The men and women that give their time to volunteer to serve others have always been a group that is special to the people in the Gorman area. However, this year an all new awakening to the plight of these citizens was brought to our attention. The fire in Cross Plains first got our attention and our firefighters were there to help another community in need. However, as the New Year rolled in our firemen were especially in our thoughts and prayers. Fighting the huge blaze that roared through the Carbon, Kokomo and New Hope areas, as well as threatening the town of Gorman itself, our local fire department was amazing in their response, as well as their professionalism and expertise. We cannot thank these men and women enough for all that they do for this area. While dedicating the annual to the Gorman Fire Department we would be remiss if we did not include the area departments of Carbon, Desdemona, DeLeon, Rising Star, Eastland, Ranger, Sipe Springs, Comanche, Promontory Park, Dublin, Cisco, Olden and the other remaining units from all over Texas which amounted to eighty-three in all that came to this area to fight the 01/01/06 blaze. The Texas Forest Service out of New Mexico and the National Guard also dispatched units to help in the fight. However, nearest to our hearts is our own Gorman unit consisting of Fire Chief Gene Foster and firefighters Billy Don Simpson, Charlie Torrez, Ricky Rone, Carlos Herrera, Tony Carter, Nick Guthery, Blake Guthery, Jim Guthery, Lupe Torres, George Simmons, Ray Daniels, Jamie Espinoza, Robert Ervin, Tommy Campbell, Noah Landa, Stephen Watson, John Howard, Phil Osborne, and the first responders including Dr. Dan Brudnack, Angela Underwood and Judy Warren. Of course there were many more volunteers that came out to wage war on this huge fire, but as we do not have all the names of other volunteers we would like to say that you are all appreciated and respected for your efforts and for your dedication to the fight. Thank you for all you do and for all you bring to this community. As a small token from the annual staff to you we dedicate the 2006 Panther Spirit annual to the volunteer firefighters, you truly show Panther Spirit in your lives.

## Charlotte's Web World Record Reading

The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grades at Maxfield Elementary participated in a Guinness World Record attempt launched by Walden Media on Wednesday, December 13th at 11:00 A.M. central time. The students, along with thousands of others, read a passage from Charlotte's Web. The previous record for the largest number of people reading the same piece of literature aloud, simultaneously, in multiple locations was 155,528 students from 737 schools throughout the United Kingdom on March 19, 2004. Our students were among the 547,826 readers in 2,451 locations in the 50 states and in 28 countries that helped Walden Media break the world record.

To participate in the record attempt, an official certification process had to be followed. The event director was Traci Keith. Nana Vaughn served as lead reader. Misty Bussell, Kristen Matteson, and Denise Carlton served as photographers and videographers. Dena Scitern, Linda Welch, and Diane Casey served as registration witnesses. Karen Pena, Glenda Ripley, and Crystal Snider served as independent witnesses from the community.

In addition to participating in the Guinness World Record, the students at Maxfield Elementary read Charlotte's Web by E. B. White, held a poster contest, and went to Brownwood to see the new live-action movie. Jaime Villalobos was the overall poster contest winner with a beautiful pencil drawing of Charlotte's web. The fourth grade winner was Laci Wilson with an illustration of the Zuckerman's barn. Yari Montelongo was the fifth grade winner with a picture of Wilbur in his pen. The sixth grade winner was Viridiana Maldonado with a picture of Wilbur looking up at Charlotte. Winner received a copy of the novel and a free movie rental. On Friday, December 15th, the three classes drove to Brownwood and enjoyed the new Charlotte's Web movie. The students gave the movie two thumbs up and recommend it as a great film to see during the holidays.

The students and teachers would like to thank the administration for allowing them to participate in this event. The teachers would also like to thank everyone that helped make this special for the students.



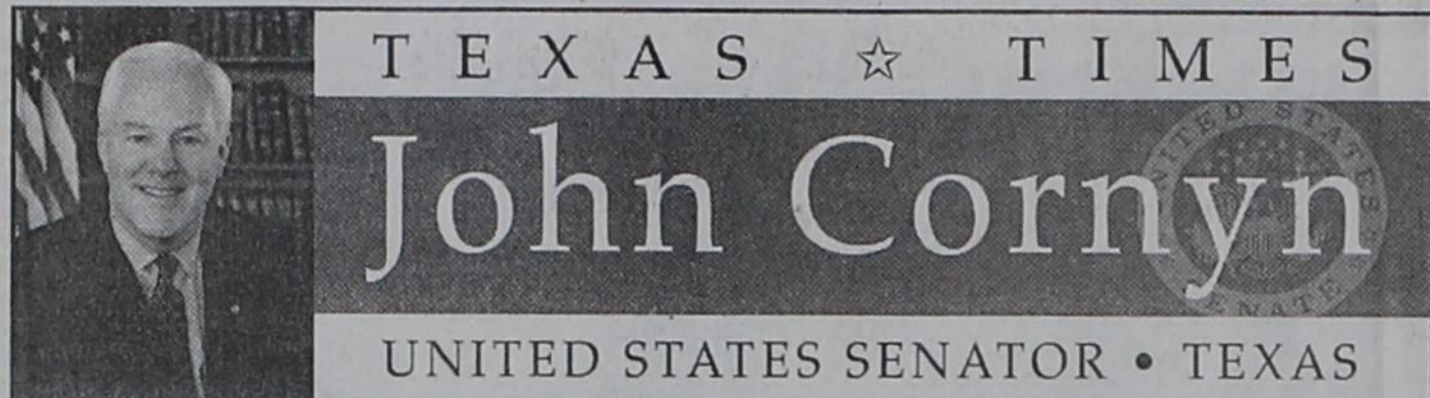
This boar was approximately 300 lbs with large tusks. It was harvested on Roger Woodall's property east of Gorman by Vernon Gaines and his "Gator's Hog Dogs" (Butcher, Psycho, Luggie and Princess). Also pictured is Harvey Bryan and Kolby Gaines, who helped process the boar.

## Community Service — Huge Success

The junior high and high school students of Gorman High School recently held a community service day. On December 15, the students of each GHS advisory group participated in a project of their own choosing. The groups of Vicki Brown and Becky Swanner set out to help anyone around town that might need some work done. The group responded to the need of Carol Ward. She had a yard full of leaves needing to be raked. We raked and raked and raked!! Over 50 bags of leaves were sacked up as well as removing a small tree stump from the yard. We then traveled to the home of Jerry and Corky Brown and guess what...raked some more! The students had a great time being able to help these two Gorman homeowners and were able to see what a great service they did for them as well. The students involved in these two groups are: McKenzie Osborne, Abby Pacheco, Dolores Garcia, Raven Kehl, Jonathan Fenley, Nathan Ettinger, JC Whitten, Codi Church, Brandon Greer, Matt Smith, Olivia Jackson, Emily Lewis, Brenda Velasquez, Kimi Seaton and Crystal Thackerson.



**GORMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 20, 2005 THROUGH DECEMBER 29, 2005  
ALL PAYMENTS POSTMARKED DECEMBER  
WILL BE POSTED AS A 2006 PAYMENT**



### Of Texas Christmas Past

There once was a golden era in Texas in which the celebration of Christmas did not focus on costly gifts, or trendy items on sale in shopping malls across the state. It was a time when news coverage of the Christmas season didn't consist of stories about credit card debt, or hunting down the perfect gift for that special someone.

Christmas in Texas in the 1800s was not an easy time by any means, and some Texans had more resources than others. Yet despite the challenges of frontier living, the pioneering men, women and children of that day left behind a proud legacy of hearty spirit and resourcefulness.

In "The Book of Texas Days," Ron Stone writes: "life was never easy in frontier Texas, so Christmas was a great celebration." It was customary for frontier families to decorate their Christmas trees with traditional homemade fare. Near the coast, shells were painted red and green, then hung on trees. One historian noted that Christmas trees were plentiful – everywhere but in West Texas.

In an incredible compilation of stories about Christmas in 19th century Texas, famed Texas author Walter Prescott Webb compiled a list of anecdotes for his 1941 article, "Christmas and New Year in Texas," for the Southwestern Historical Quarterly.

In those days, many gifts were handmade, reflecting the economic conditions of the givers. His stories include a scene from a German orphanage near New Braunfels in 1849: "For eight weeks the girls had all sewed on the clothes for the boys, and knitted socks, and still they had to work up to the last night."

Nearly two decades later, the price of cotton was high, and gifts reflected the resulting prosperity. In 1868, boys on a Bosque farm received brass-toed, red-topped boots and the first wool hats they'd ever seen, according to Dr. John Frazier, a Fort Worth physician who had been one of those lucky Bosque farm boys.

Webb's stories depict the Christmas spirit of the time – painting a picture of New Year's Eve-style revelry, complete with firecracker displays. And Charles F. Taylor, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, describes a raucous 1839 Christmas Eve in Nacogdoches this way:

*"... tomorrow's Christmas .... Fiddles groan under a heavy weight of oppression, and heel-taps suffer to the tune of 'We Won't Go Home 'Till Morning,' and now and then the discharge of firearms at a distance ..."*

Of course, the Christmas feast often reflected the economic and geographic conditions these early Texans faced.

Especially in early days, conditions could be fairly primitive. Christmas dinner in 1828 on the Gulf Coast for Mr. D. W. C. Baker consisted of "some hominy, beat in a wooden mortar, and the fresh milk."

But 50 years later, a very different table was set for Captain Jack Elgin, who celebrated Christmas with a surveying party in West Texas. He recalled:

"No prince, potentate, or magnate ever sat down to such a feast. I think we had fourteen varieties of meat. ... We had buffalo, antelope, deer, bear, rabbit, prairie dog, possum, and possibly other animals that I do not recall; turkey, goose, brant, ducks, prairie-chicken, curlew, quail, and other birds."

In a lovely recollection of the holiday spirit in 1841, newspaper editor Charles De Morse wrote in "The Standard" of Clarksville about Christmas in Austin when Texas was an independent Republic:

"The day welcome to all, is close at hand, and we are all ready for it .... bright wide-awake Texas, whose people are always ready for whatever may come.

"The toy shops will be gay with bright lights and contrivances for extracting dimes, quarters and half dollars of the children ...

*"... and tomorrow, the era which the Saviour came to bring about, 'Good will to man and womankind,' will come to us with pleasant temperature, freedom from business cares, and a general appreciation that it is a day for relaxation, for smiling countenances, and hearty greetings."*

In that same spirit, may our holiday in Texas this year include warm remembrance of Christmases past.

Sen. Cornyn is a member of the following Senate Committees: Armed Services, Judiciary, Budget, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Joint Economic. He is the chairman of the subcommittees on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship and Emerging Threats and Capabilities. Cornyn served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice and Bexar County District Judge.

**Lone Star Lanes  
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Dec. 31, 2006 - 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Sweeper with Buffet Sunday Night  
New Year's Eve - Come On Come All  
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# Merry Christmas



(L-R; top row) Ty McCullough, Speedy Swift, Dwayne Snell, Danny Lammons, Gilberto Hernandez, Avelino Lopez, Joseph White, Arnold Dudley, (middle row) Maria Feist, Nathan Carroll, Miguel Martinez, Dennis Westmoreland, James Carlson, Eric Garcia, Brett Wilson, Roger Lewis, Bud Butler, (front row) Tommy Valencia, Brittany Aldridge, Dement Allen, Marty Roberts, Jodi Gibson, Janet Grimshaw, Jason Grimshaw, Joe Casey, Mitchell Bayer, Robert Wilson, Chas Bayer, Stephanie Bayer, Ronald Wilkerson, Harvey Suarez, Taylor McCullough, and Cliff Babbitt. (Not pictured: Lorri Shelton, Chris McNutt, Dale Miles, Ed Moyers, Pete Cortez, Brian Weaver, Andy Villalba, and Jaron Roberts.)

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