

The Gorman Progress

"Serving Gorman For Over 112 Years"
Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454
2011 Member - Texas Press Association

NUMBER FOUR

JANUARY 26, 2012

Gorman Cagers Win Games Over Moran

In Basketball action both the Lady Panthers and the Panthers teams defeated the Moran cagers.

In the Girls action the Lady Panthers easily outmanned Moran by the score of 64-25. Gorman jumped out to a 22-4 lead in the first quarter and added 10 in the second for a 32-10 lead at halftime. They added 22 in third for a 54-20 margin and added 10 more in the final quarter for a 64-25 victory. Gorman's record is 8-11 and 4-1 in District.

Melissa Ramirez hit 25 points. Megan Gray got 15. Chelsea Griffin hit 9. Kinsey Johnston had 6. Rachel Tucker hit 4. Cortney Shirley got 3 and Jacquelynn Rainey hit 2.

In the Boys game the Panthers overwhelmed Moran 77-19. They outscored Moran 22-4 in the first period and added 19 more for a 41-11 lead at halftime. They added 11 in the third for a 52-17 margin and finished the final quarter with 25 more points for the 77-19 victory.

Zach Carlton led the Panthers with 18 points. Dakota Pacheco and Jon Fenley each hit 16. Yovani Palacios got 8. Sergio Hipolito had 7. B. J. Ramirez and Luis Limon each hit 5 and Matt Fox got 2. The Panthers season record is 13-7 and 4-1 in District 15-A.

Maxfield Elementary School Honor Roll - Third Sixth Weeks

First Grade - A - Larissa Massengill, Kimie Squyres, Emma Clark, Caroline Crain, Nash-ton Guthery, Kathrine Hair, Gabriyela Herrera, Joseph Rainey, Erik Ramirez, Markee Simmons and Michelle Snider; B - Ayden Andrade, Raelena Fenley, Katherine Hanson, Chasidy Kunze, Maddox Roberts, Gracie Walton, Cyrstal Gonzales, Eli Martinez, Kayle Nichols, Joey Salinas and Shaelyn Waters.

Second Grade - A - Brianna Caballero Satcher, Aryann Cook, Clarisa Cox, Suellyn Hunter, Marco Ramirez, Jasey Rice and Natalie Torres; B - Hailey Abbott, Izabella Aguirre, Keaira Ahearn, Jacob Harris, Isaac Herrera, Anthony Montelongo, Alan Olivares, Annelly Rainey, Isabella Segura, Breanna Shirley, Trinity Torres and Brandon Walton.

Third Grade - A - Hallie Hagan, Hayden Hampton, Brylan Laminack, Braeden McDonald, Jessica Rice, Jonathan Rodriguez and Hannah Underwood; B - Rose Aguirre, Steven Fenley, Stacy Gonzales, Gustavo Gutierrez, Katelynn Hanson, Brylee Johnson, M. J. Locke, Kaitlyn Morton and Skyler Parson.

Fourth Grade - A - Rachel Snider and Larissa Hampton; B - Dylan Carlton, Tristyn Davis, Alexis Estrada, Kelsie Guthery, Genaro Madera, Asael Maldonado, Karsyn Scitern and Kamren Sparger.

Fifth Grade - A - Rees Byrd, Jennifer Cruz, Reece Scitern, Daniella Segura and Lauren Underwood; B - Brandon Hogan, Briana Landa, Railie Steele, John Warren and Morgan Wright.

Commissioner Staples' Statement On Denial Of Keystone Pipeline Permit

AUSTIN — Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples commented on the decision to deny the permit to build the Keystone Pipeline.

"Denying Americans this reliable oil source also denies American jobs and energy security at a time when our country needs them most," Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said. "Through responsible pipeline development, we can protect private property owners' rights, protect the environment and provide the energy resources our nation desperately needs."

"At a time when we need private sector investment and hiring in our country, our President is closing the doors of opportunity. Texas farmers and ranchers also will suffer from this unreasonable decision as agriculture producers depend on low-cost energy to be competitive."

"This policy fails Texas, the United States and our neighbors in Canada. Furthermore, this decision increases our dependence on energy from an increasingly unstable part of the world."

AGRICULTURAL VIEWPOINT

By: Makenzie Wyatt

Multi County Cotton Management Seminar

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Comanche, Erath and Eastland County will host a Cotton Management Seminar on February 2, 2012 at the Highway 6 Café in DeLeon. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the program will start at 10:00 a.m. A sponsored meal will be provided at noon and the meeting will conclude at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Gaylon Morgan, State Cotton Specialist will discuss variety selection and provide discussion on the variety trial conducted across the state. Dr. Paul Bauman, Extension Weed Specialist will provide information on weed management for cotton production including management plans to avoid glyphosate resistance weed development. Dr. John Robinson, State Cotton Economist will discuss market outlooks and marketing your cotton in 2012. Dr. Todd Baughman, Agronomist and Program Coordinator with Oklahoma State University will discuss several topics including water requirements, fertility issues and strip till vs. conventional vs. no till production. Producers in attendance will receive two (2) CEU's (both in General) towards their private applicator license.

Participants are asked to R.S.V.P. by Monday, January 30th by calling the Erath County Extension Office at 254/965-1460, Comanche County Extension Office at 325/356-2539 or Eastland County Extension Office at 254/629-1093

You're Invited To A Grand Celebration

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012, 2:00 PM

OLD EASTLAND NATIONAL BANK BUILDING 114 S. SEAMAN STREET

Join the Eastland County Museum Board Members, Texas State Representative, Eastland County Judge, Texas Historical Commission, Eastland County Historical Commission, other local and state dignitaries and visitors, as they gather to celebrate and witness a "Grand Celebration" for Eastland County.

James L. "Jim" Keffer, State Representative District 60, will be guest speaker and dedicate the newly placed Texas Historical Marker "Early Banking In Eastland". The marker will be unveiled and Keffer will read the inscription. Eastland County Judge Rex Fields will then "Cut The Ribbon" for the "Grand Re-Opening" of the Eastland County Museum.

Doors will be opened for everyone to step inside revealing the results of all the work of the new Museum Board organizing and arranging new exhibits for the pleasure of all visitors. The Museum's second floor will be open to show off the Eastland County Community Rooms, each representing history of its respective town or community.

You are also invited to enjoy cup cakes, punch and visiting.

The Museum will be open with normal operating hours each Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM beginning on Thursday, February 2, 2012.

Items of interest

Gorman Senior Citizens meet once a month on 3rd Wednesday at 11:30 in the Gorman Senior Center. Bring Covered Dish or \$3.00 Per Plate.

The Order of the Eastern Star holds its regular stated meetings on the First Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

4-H - The Club is going to meet the first Wednesday of each month in the New Gym. All people interested in participating are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be at 3:45 -4:45. For more information Call Cindy Underwood 734-5085.

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH FROM 9 TIL NOON.

Oakland Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. Donations can be sent to Oakland Cemetery Association, P. O. Box 532, Gorman, Tx 76454 or to American State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454

Food Bank

New Hours - 10 to 11 a.m. - Second Thursday

Gorman Masonic Lodge No. 716 A.F. & A. M. Regular stated meetings are 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Members are urged to attend. Visitors are always welcome. Stan Harper, Master - Kenneth Good, Secretary.

Gorman Oaklawn Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. Donations can be sent to Oaklawn Cemetery Association, 7726 CR 362, Desdemona, Tx 76445 or to American State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454

Eastland County Burn Ban Reinstated As of January 23rd

STATE OF TEXAS )
COUNTY OF EASTLAND )

ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, The Commissioners Court has determined that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated area of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Eastland County that all outdoor burning is banned in the unincorporated area of the county to begin January 23, 2012, at 8:00 a.m., for 90 days from the adoption of this Order, the same being April 22, 2012, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code 352.081, and other applicable statutes. This order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for (1) firefighter training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; or (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.

In accordance with Local Government Code 352.081(h), a violation of this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00

Adopted this 23rd day of January, 2012, by a vote of 5 Ayes and 0 nays.

(s) Rex Fields
County Judge, Rex Fields

Attest: (s) Cathy Jentho
County Clerk

USDA 2012 DCP & ACRE Sign-up Starts January 23

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces that sign-up for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program starts on January 23, 2012 and continues through June 1, 2012.

Eligible DCP participants receive a direct payment and/or a counter-cyclical payment. Direct payment rates are established by statute regardless of market prices. FSA reminds producers that the 2008 Farm Bill does not authorize advance direct payments for 2012. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

ACRE protects producers from farm market revenue declines when revenue triggers are met for a commodity at both the state and farm level. Farms that are already enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) for a crop year can elect to switch to ACRE before the end of signup.

Both DCP and ACRE participants must sign annual contracts to be eligible for program benefits. All signatures of producers who will receive a share of DCP and ACRE payments must be on file by the June 1, 2012 deadline.

For more information about DCP and ACRE, please contact the Eastland County FSA office at 254-629-1636 or visit the web at: www.fsa.usda.gov/tx.

Advertisement for Jerry's 80th Birthday party. Includes text: 'Eat Drink Laugh Party', 'Jerry's 80th Birthday', 'his children and grandchildren cordially invite you to honor and celebrate on.', 'Saturday, February 4th 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.', 'Desdemona Activity Center', 'your presence is his gift'.

Denise Groves Named Sul Ross VP For Enrollment Management



Denise Groves recently named Sul Ross VP For Enrollment Management according to Alpine Daily Planet.

Teddie "Denise" Groves is the daughter of the late Pete and Jessie Hall Wilcoxson, and the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Maborn Wilcoxson all of Desdemona, Texas. She graduated from De Leon High School in 1989.

Dean Davis Enrolls at McMurry University

Dean Davis of DeLeon, TX, has enrolled for the Spring 2012 semester at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas.

Offering a diverse academic curriculum to more than 1,400 students, McMurry University is a small Christian liberal arts school in Abilene. Students choose from 41 majors; education and business are popular as are the school's pre-professional programs in medicine, dentistry, law, and physical therapy. The three-week May Term gives students an opportunity to explore a subject outside their major. Through the Servant Leadership Program, students learn about ethics and develop leadership qualities. McMurry's signature Texas Semester takes students through Texas history and culture with hands-on experiences like visits from leading authorities that take place both in the classroom and at historical sites across the state. Internships with businesses in Abilene present undergraduates with the opportunity to acquire additional knowledge of the workplace in nonprofit and corporate settings.

Freshmen and sophomores live on campus in renovated residence halls. And when students aren't enjoying one of the picturesque campus spots, they're catching a film retrospective or the latest blockbuster at Abilene's historic Paramount Theatre. Or they might be seen taking part in the city's monthly ArtWalk or going on an excursion to one of the nearby area lakes.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) have approved McMurry University to grant master's degrees. Beginning in the fall of 2012, students may enroll in a Master of Nursing program through the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing. It is anticipated that a second master's program in Education in Curriculum and Instruction with an English as a Second Language Endorsement (ESL) will be launched in the fall of 2013 through the School of Education.

This past summer, the NCAA officially announced that McMurry University has been accepted into a NCAA Division II candidacy period, bringing back scholarship athletics to the institution for the first time since the 1976-77 school year.

2012 Gorman Track Schedule

Table with columns: Day, Date, Event, Location. Rows include Thursday March 8 Cross Plains Boys, Saturday March 24 Meridian Girls/Boys, Friday March 30 May Boys, Saturday March 31 Ranger Girls, Thursday April 5 District Track (Blanket) Girls/Boys, TBA TBA TBA Area Track Girls/Boys, Fri/Sat April 27, 28 Regional Track (ACU) Girls/Boys, Fri/Sat May 11, 12 State Track (Austin) Girls/Boys.

2012 Gorman Junior High Schedule

Table with columns: Day, Date, Event, Location. Rows include Monday March 5 Cross Plains Girls/Boys, Monday March 19 May Girls/Boys, Monday March 26 Strawn Girls/Boys, Monday April 9 District Track (Zephyr) Girls/Boys. Coaches: Boys Coach: James Gerick, Girls Coach: Tommy Simmons.

# Obituary

## Angela Wanae Burgess Buckley

Angela Wanae Burgess Buckley, age 45 of Gorman, passed away Friday, January 20, 2012 at her parents home.

Services was at 2:30 P.M. Sunday, January 22, 2012 at the First Baptist Church in Gorman with Bro. Barry Schahn officiating, assisted by Bro. James Hunter. Burial was in Oaklawn Cemetery. Services under the direction of Higginbotham Funeral Home in Gorman.

Angela was born October 21, 1966 in Eastland, Texas to Durwood and Aletha (Garrett) Burgess. She graduated from Gorman High School in 1985 and attended college for one year. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Gorman. She was a beautiful, friendly and outgoing young woman and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by two daughters, Chelsea Nicole Buckley and Haley Brooke Buckley both of Desdemona; her parents, Durwood and Aletha Burgess of Gorman; maternal grandmother, Aline Garrett of Gorman; three brothers, Billy Burgess and wife, Cheryl of Granbury, Danny Burgess and wife, Charla of Gorman and Glenn Burgess and wife, Donna of Jourdan; nieces and nephews, Alissa Burgess, Reba Milodragovich, Ben Burgess and Seth Burgess; grand niece, Tillye Burgess and grand nephew, Mason Milodragovich. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Rayford and Modess Burgess, maternal grandfather, William Garrett and a nephew, Grant Burgess.

## Pig Tales From Hogtown

It has been a busy month here at the DAC! We certainly want to thank everyone who has come to support our activities! The dance on January 14th was very well attended. We had some new folks add their membership. The Mexican dinner last Saturday evening was very well attended. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the meal - we will do it again. These Desdemona cooks are the greatest!

The dulcimer workshop here at the DAC last Thursday was a big success. The nationally known recording artist and teacher of the mountain dulcimer, Don Pedi, taught the class. Don Pedi is from Asheville, N.C. and is on his Texas tour. Also teaching a class was Margaret Wright of Kennard, TX. Don Pedi also held a concert that evening. Those attending were from Kennard, Vernon, Gilmer, Abilene, Gorman, Gordon, Clyde, Buffalo Gap and DeLeon. The folks had a great time and expressed an interest in coming back next year for another workshop. Thanks to all who helped make this a wonderful day.

Jerry Buckley's children and grandchildren are hosting a birthday party for Jerry's 80th birthday at the DAC. The celebration will be Saturday, February 4th from 4:00 until 7:00 PM. Y'all come - your presence will be his present! Happy Birthday, Jerry!

Some folks have expressed an interest in having a jam session at the DAC on a regular basis. We are thinking of either a Tuesday or Thursday evening. Please call 254-758-2420 if you are interested. Watch Pig Tales for information.

Mark your calendars for 'Breakfast at the DAC' on February 4th.

See you in Desdemona!


Carol Pell

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## "On The Wilder Side"

As many of you know my family and I drove to Illinois last week to attend the funeral of a very good family friend. It was a good trip and well needed, but it sure was long! It seemed like someone was constantly crying or screaming during the entire 2000 mile round trip. First was my son, then daughter, then wife, and towards the end I might have even whined a bit. And of course there was that dreaded question that every child asks, "Are we there yet?"

It sure was a wonderful sight to pull up to our home, unpack the cluttered car, and sleep in our own bed for a change. I like being home.

In the grand scheme of things, life is not much more than a huge road trip. Amid the sightseeing there will be laughing, crying, pain, boredom, and adventure. But like any trip, the ride will be easiest for those who are prepared.

We were fortunate enough to use a GPS for our trip, but in life's journey we are told to use God's Word as a road-map.

We stopped several times for fuel and snacks, but in life's journey we stop to worship God to receive spiritual nourishment.

And towards the end of the journey, I hope we all have the attitude of "Are we there yet?" How exciting won't it be to "go home" to be with the Lord? There is a mansion prepared just for us and we will be able to unload all of life's clutter that we accumulated along the way.

Fight the good fight (1 Tim 6:12) -  
Jason Wilder - Gorman Church of Christ

**Gorman Church of Christ Meeting Times**  
Sunday Morning Bible Class - 10:00  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45  
Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00  
Wednesday Evening Class - 7:00

## SCHOOL MENU

Week of Jan. 30 thru Feb. 3  
**BREAKFAST**  
MONDAY - Cereal, Graham Crackers, Juice and Milk.  
TUESDAY - Donut, Fruit, Juice and Milk.  
WEDNESDAY - Burrito, Hashbrown, Juice and Milk.  
THURSDAY - Cinnamon Toast, fruit, Juice and Milk.  
FRIDAY - Biscuit, Ham, Gravy, Juice and Milk.

**LUNCH**  
MONDAY - Cheese Pizza, Salad, Oranges, Cookie, and milk.  
TUESDAY - Spaghetti, Seasoned Corn, Salad, Bread Stick, Brownie and milk.  
WEDNESDAY - Chicken Wrap, refried beans, crackers, carrots and ranch, fruit and milk.  
THURSDAY - Steak fingers, mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy, roll, honey and milk.  
FRIDAY - Panther Burger, Chicken Burger, Potato Rounds, Burger Salad, Sherbet and Milk.

## A Letter To The Editor -

About The Republican Debates By Henry A. Buchanan

I have watched the debate. It started with eight Republicans who said they were uniquely qualified to be President of the United States - Seven men and one woman. Even Donald Trump threatened to get in but didn't. Thank God.

Then they began to drop out. The woman dropped out. The black man. A couple who didn't do well in Iowa. Our governor, Rick Perry, took a look South Carolina and came back home to Texas. Today (Saturday, January 21, 2012) there are four men battling it out in the state where Civil War started, and I expect one or two of them to fall by the wayside before this day is over. Oops, Gingrich has won this one.

What they all set out to do is prove which one of them is best qualified for the job. They forgot what the debate was about and latched onto the President, Barack Obama, telling us how miserably he as failed to do what each one of the Republican aspirants to that office is able to do better. But if there is any truth in what they say about one another then nobody in the lineup is fit for the office.

When the Republican debate is over, and the winner faces Obama it won't be necessary for Obama to dig up anything on his opponent. He needs only to say "If everything your brother Republicans said about you is true, you are not qualified for the office."

Well there's still Ron Paul though. He's not like the others. But he's not a Democrat either. So what shall we do with Ron Paul? What Obama did with the lady Clinton; make him Secretary of State. Then we might have some peace in the world.

(s) Henry A. Buchanan  
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6A: 3-2-2 brick, 1766 sq. ft., central A/C, new floors, 5 y/o roof, metal shop, equip. Shed, RV storage, new well & Septic, beautiful Oaks, 70+ Peaches, pavement. Nice!! \$164,500.00  
10.43 A: Near Duster, approx. 800 Pecans, building site, elec available, paved road, deer. Owner Finance Possible \$3,495 acre.  
17.25 A: HWY 8 Desdemona, 10+ A Coastal, pond, new fences, nice Post Oaks, nat. gas/elec. available. \$79,000.  
S/E Gorman: 60 A, good sandy soil, some coastal, good fences, elec., nice pond site. \$2,800 Acre.  
77 A: South of Gorman, fields/some wooded. Deer & other wildlife, 2 small ponds, elec. available. \$2,000 acre.  
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. \$2,950.00 A.  
179 A. south of Gorman: Part wooded, part old fields, deer & hogs, 2 nice ponds, sandy soil, elec., water well, metal building \$2,350.00 acre.  
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322A. Oak & Elm Trees, 2 creeks, great water shed project! 40 A. Coastal, owner reports 300 round bales/year, 55 A. Cultivable soils, 6 ponds, water well, 1200' metal Bldg with slab floor, elec. Deer, turkey, and other wildlife. \$2,300 A.  
NEW - 395A S/W Gorman, 1/2 Open 1/2 Wooded, small creek, 4 ponds, 40' elev. change, gravel road 2 sides, elec. available. Remote location, deer & wildlife. \$1,795.00 acre.  
407 A: N/E Gorman, 3 pivots, 16 wells, 8 ponds, 3 metal barns, 3 sets steel corrals, irrigated Bermuda, 3-3-2 rock/frame home, central A/C, metal roof & more! \$3,500 acre, possibly divide.  
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20 ACRES, M/L, GORMAN - Good coastal & native grasses, 1 tank & partially fenced. Will be surveyed out of a larger tract. Could be very productive. A2  
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## Exercising During Winter — The Key to Staying Fit!

It is winter and it is cold outside. Getting up early in the morning to exercise when it is dark never seems like a very good idea at this time of the year. Staying in bed where it is warm seems much more appealing. So how can you continue your exercise program in the winter and not lose all the progress you have made? Make up your mind to be more active each day. It has to be a priority. Set a time and do not let anything get in the way. It does not have to take long periods of time. Studies show that several sessions of physical activity during the day give benefits similar to one longer session. If time is limited sneak in a quick 10 minutes in the morning, take a 10-minute walk at lunch and another 10 minutes in the evening. The recommendation is at least 30 minutes of physical activity daily in order to obtain health benefits such as decreased risk of heart disease and better blood sugar control for diabetics. For weight loss the recommendation is about one hour of exercise every day.

Exercising outdoors in the winter can be invigorating. Dress in layers of breathable clothing to provide insulation that can be adjusted as you get warmer. Do not forget to drink water. You may want to warm up indoors in you can. Do a little exercise to increase your body temperature, and then go outside. Exercising at home, consider purchasing some inexpensive exercise equipment such as weights, an exercise ball or jump rope or exercise programs on video or DVD. It probably is not a good idea to purchase expensive equipment unless you are sure you will use them. Vary the types of exercise to help maintain your enthusiasm.

For example, walk on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Then try Pilates, bicycling or another activity that you enjoy on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Set your goals so that they are achievable. If they are too high you might get discouraged and give up. In addition to exercising be aware of what and how much you are eating. It is very easy to eat too much of the high calorie foods that are available during the winter months. Over-eating and inactivity are a recipe for weight gain. Include vegetables, fruits, whole grains, low-fat dairy products and lean meat choices as much as possible. Watch portions - try filling half of your plate with vegetables, a quarter with meat and a quarter with starch. Eat fruit for dessert. Make what you eat count towards the needed servings from the food guide pyramid. Keeping active and fit all year round may not be easy, but it is possible if you set your mind to it. The benefits are both physical and psychological. If your goal is to be more fit by summer, exercise, healthy food choices and portion control will help you to achieve it.

If you have any questions, please contact Halee Mitchell at the Eastland Extension Office at 254/629-2222 or email [hdmitchell@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:hdmitchell@ag.tamu.edu).

## -- Randy's Roundup --

A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer  
March for Life Rally

Today was the annual March for Life rally on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Every year on or close to the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, thousands of people come to our nation's capital to support pro-life policies and stand up for every life, specifically the unborn. I applaud and share their passion for this effort. I will continue to support legislation that protects the unborn from the point of conception and honors the sanctity of life. I thank every March for Life advocate for their participation.

### State of the Union Address

Tomorrow night, President Obama will address Congress and the nation in the annual State of the Union address. I look forward to hearing the President address our country's problems, and hope that he will focus on solutions, not sound bites. The heart of his speech should focus on creating jobs, expanding energy production in our country, finding ways to strengthen our national security, and addressing the rising costs of health care with common-sense solutions. Look for my statement on President Obama's State of the Union address tomorrow night on my website, [RandyHouse.Gov](http://RandyHouse.Gov).

### Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)

Last week, I heard from 152 people in the 19th District of Texas regarding the Stop Online Piracy Act, also known as SOPA. My staff wrote down every comment, and I truly appreciate each phone call, email and fax we received. I am evaluating each detail of this legislation, and although a vote on this bill has been postponed, please know that I will keep your thoughts in mind if the bill comes to the House Floor. We need to protect intellectual property rights. At the same time, we need to be very careful to avoid government censorship and make sure the Internet stays open and competitive.

### Keystone XL Pipeline

I am disappointed to report that on January 18th, President Obama blocked the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, determining that the crucial job-creating project does "not serve the national interest." This makes no sense. The Keystone XL Pipeline would have stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and would have created 20,000 jobs (many of those in Texas), generated millions of dollars in economic activity, and enhanced our energy security. At a time when Americans are suffering from high unemployment and high energy prices, this decision is a yet another critical mistake by an out-of-touch Administration.



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## SEN. HUTCHISON'S STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S REJECTION OF THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, January 18th, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) issued the following statement on the news that President Obama has rejected the proposed Keystone XL pipeline:

"This troubling decision is the latest example of the administration elevating bad politics over good policy. Blocking the Keystone XL pipeline will not prevent the oil sands from being developed, nor will it decrease America's consumption of fossil fuels. What it will do is guarantee continuing unemployment for tens of thousands of American construction, manufacturing, transportation, and refinery workers -- and ensure the energy flows to China, undermining our energy security. I will continue to look for ways in which Congress can work to keep the Keystone pipeline as an option for America to go to work and lower energy costs by increasing supply."

## TAX TIPS

### Tax Breaks for the Students in Your Family

NewsUSA

(NU) - College costs may have entered nosebleed territory, but at least Uncle Sam is there waving a hanky in the form of juicy tax credits and deductions for those smart enough to claim them.

If you've been footing those education bills, either for yourself or your child, the latest College Board statistics shouldn't be a shocker: In-state tuition and fees at four-year public colleges rose an average of 8.3 percent last year - to \$8,244 - even as the economy sputtered.

"That's a terrible upfront burden for many families," says Elaine Smith, master tax advisor at H&R Block ([www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com)), the giant tax preparation firm. "But at least there are several breaks built into the tax code that could even mean the difference between whether you owe taxes or are due a refund."

What breaks? Read on:

• **American Opportunity Tax Credit.** This is the Gold Standard for those who qualify. Meaning, it's a dollar-for-dollar tax offset of up to \$2,500, per student year, for up to four years of undergraduate education. "One of the best things about it is that up to \$1,000 of the credit is 'refundable,'" notes Smith. "So you could wind up getting a refund for that amount if no taxes are otherwise due."

• **Biggest cautions:** You must be enrolled at least half-time in a degree program to claim it, and - like all these breaks - the benefit starts to phase out once you reach a certain adjusted gross income (AGI).  
• **Lifetime Learning Credit.** Eligibility standards for this one are broader, even if it's less generous



Are you taking advantage of tax breaks for students?

than the AOTC. Pursuers of both college and graduate degrees - as well as those taking classes to improve job skills - potentially stand to benefit from a tax credit up to \$2,000. Biggest caution: The credit can only be claimed once per tax return, regardless of the number of students taking courses.

• **Student-Loan Interest Deduction.** If you're self-financing, congrats - and skip this one. If not, we're talking up to \$2,500 per year. Biggest caution: Only debt from graduate and undergraduate programs qualifies.

• **Tuition and Fees Deduction.** There's a built-in caution to this \$4,000 deduction: You can't claim it and the Lifetime Learning Credit for the same student, so do the math to see which works best.

Of course, if the "M" word - math - scares you as much as the looming April 17 filing deadline, consult a professional like those at H&R Block, which offers in-person services at its retail offices nationwide as well as the only face-to-face online preparation through Block LiveSM.

One last tip: For those wondering whether scholarship income awarded for room and board is tax-exempt, the answer, alas, is no.

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

### Hunkering Down With Home Improvement: 3 Sensible Projects

NewsUSA

(NU) - One thing for sure in this unpredictable economy is that homeowners are staying put. In fact, most people do not plan to move any time soon, according to a 2011 Harris Interactive poll. This shift from sell to stay is why it pays for homeowners to look beyond resale value when making home improvement decisions.

As Designer and HGTV Personality Lori Dennis explains, "People today are looking more holistically at home remodeling, choosing projects that add comfort, efficiency and functionality." In this new era of home improvement, three projects stand out.

#### Window Replacement

Nothing does more to enhance the look and feel of a home than windows - they are visible inside and outside and can add comfort by helping to eliminate drafts and regulate temperatures. They can also pay off as an investment. Advancements in energy-efficient windows are helping homeowners save 30 percent or more on energy bills, not to mention recoup about 70 percent of the cost of window replacement. The latest window designs include a combination of energy efficiency, durability and aesthetics. The Essence Series from Milgard, for example, comes Energy Star rated and features a beautiful wood interior and durable fiberglass exterior.

#### Outdoor Spaces

According to a survey by the American Institute of Architects,



Increase efficiency, style and comfort with one long-lasting home improvement project - window replacement.

more than 60 percent of architects say they have seen an increase in outdoor living space requests. Since owners are thinking long-term, patios, decks, sunrooms and other spaces contribute to both the experience at home and its property value. It's possible to earn back 50 to 75 percent of the cost of your outdoor addition.

#### Kitchen Remodeling

The kitchen is the heart of the home and an opportunity to set the tone for style and functionality. Two of the most popular ways to expand kitchen work space are to add an island/peninsula and natural lighting. Modern kitchen solutions feature cabinets and drawers that open, organize and spin in convenient ways. Homeowners can recoup about 70 percent of their kitchen-remodeling costs.

For more remodeling tips and window-replacement budgeting tools, visit [www.milgard.com/lp/smart-investment](http://www.milgard.com/lp/smart-investment).

## FOOD & DRINK

### Dairy Delivers Nutrient-Rich Holiday Flavor

NewsUSA

(NU) - The holidays don't intuitively seem like a good time to worry about healthy eating, but there are tasty ways to get your necessary intake of vitamins and nutrients. Dairy is an ideal example of a delicious but often overlooked source of essential nutrients - making it a great ingredient for holiday cooking.

"Even when we're not celebrating the holidays, most Americans consume too many foods that are high in calories but low in nutrients," says Alyssa Greenstein, a registered dietitian with the Dairy Council of Florida. "One way to lighten holiday fare is to focus on serving nutrient-rich choices from the food groups people need most. Those food groups are low-fat and fat-free dairy foods, fruits, vegetables and whole grains."

Research shows that the average holiday meal with all the trimmings contains as many as 3,000 calories with 225 grams of fat. This can quickly add unwanted pounds - studies show that the average American typically gains one to two pounds during the holidays.

Science shows that consuming at least three servings of milk, cheese or yogurt every day helps people meet their daily calcium, potassium and other nutrient recommendations and may help reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as osteoporosis, hypertension and obesity. During holiday cooking, substitute low-fat dairy options to get the same vitamins with fewer calories. Consider options like low-fat or fat-free cheese, low-fat or skim milk and fat-free plain Greek yogurt.

"Even people with lactose intolerance do not have to miss out



Vanilla Egg Nog is a tasty holiday treat, plus it works toward your daily dairy intake.

on the enjoyment of dairy foods during the holidays or the essential nutrients that dairy provides all year long," says Greenstein. "Lactose-free milk is real milk with the lactose (or sugar) removed. It contains the same nine essential nutrients as regular milk, including calcium, protein and vitamin D."

Don't sacrifice good taste to be healthy this season. Try this holiday recipe with your friends and family for a nutrient-rich beverage:

#### VANILLA EGG NOG

- 3 eggs (or 3/4 cup pasteurized egg product)
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 4 cups low-fat milk
- 1 cup low-fat vanilla yogurt
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- Whole nutmeg, grated

In a blender, mix eggs and sugar. Add milk, yogurt, vanilla and salt; blend until frothy. Pour into serving glasses, and garnish with freshly grated nutmeg. Get more recipes at [www.floridamilk.com](http://www.floridamilk.com).

## HOME

### Sealing Homes After Winter's Wrath

NewsUSA

(NU) - The winter weather trifelecta of ice, snow and wind can leave a house full of new cracks and openings, rendering it defenseless when spring brings rain and unexpected pests. Unfortunately, the total damage left by winter's wrath may not be known until after pests have already invaded your home.

According to the National Pest Management Association (NPMA), more than half of homeowners are concerned about pest damage to their homes and property - and rightfully so.

"Increased moisture from melting ice and snow can create cracks and holes in roofs and foundations, allowing pests easy access," said Missy Henriksen, vice president of public affairs for the National Pest Management Association. "Ice dams, which form on roofs and prevent snow from melting, are especially problematic as they can damage walls, ceilings, insulation and drywall, with resulting moisture attracting pests such as termites and carpenter ants."

If pests have already found their way indoors, immediate action is recommended. "Homeowners should deal with a pest problem right away since household pests breed relatively quickly. A small pest problem can result in a full-blown infestation in a matter of weeks, posing serious health risks to homeowners and their families," advised Henriksen.

The first step toward keeping spring pests outdoors is to repair any obvious damage. The NPMA recommends the following advice:

- Look for missing roof shingles, ripped window screens and



Damaged shingles give pests easy access into your home.

clogged gutters, all of which are as inviting as a "Pests welcome" vacancy sign.

• Seal cracks and holes, including entry points for utilities and pipes.

• Replace weather-stripping, and repair loose mortar around basement foundations and windows.

• Keep basements, attics and crawl spaces well ventilated and dry.

• Vacuum around doors and windows, as these are key entry points for eager pests. Frequent vacuuming can catch invaders like spiders, silverfish, earwigs and beetles.

• Inspect garages and outbuildings for rodent tenants. Organize cluttered debris, boxes and random items along the walls where mice may hide or nest. Does spring cleaning call for a new shelving unit?

• Partner with a local pest professional to treat existing infestations, and consider a quarterly maintenance plan to keep pests out for good.

For more information about pest maintenance, tips on identifying an infestation and locating a qualified and licensed pest professional, visit [www.pest-world.org](http://www.pest-world.org).

## TAX TIPS

### It's Tax Time. Are You Taking All the Deductions Allowed?

NewsUSA

(NU) - Here's a scary number to keep in mind if you're just getting your tax receipts together: \$1 billion.

No, it's not the amount that Warren Buffet's secretary - let alone Buffet personally - paid the IRS in her lifetime. It's how much taxpayers approximately wind up forfeiting each year to the government because of self-inflicted tax errors like: failing to claim tax credits and deductions legally due them; choosing the wrong filing status; and not bothering to send in a return at all.

Well, guess what? A slew of recent changes in the tax law won't make things any easier this year.

"At a time when taxpayers are hurting, it really doesn't make sense to leave money on the table," says Elaine Smith, master tax advisor at H&R Block, the giant tax preparation firm ([www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com)).

Here are some things - good and bad - to watch out for:

• **Casualty losses.** Hurricane Irene. Midwest tornadoes. Texas wildfires. Mother Nature went a little nutty last year, and - if the president declared your area a disaster - you could be able to claim your loss as an itemized deduction on your 2011 return or on an amended 2010 one.

• **Reduction in the Energy Savings Home Improvement Credit.** At its height, this was a 30-percent credit on the cost of high-efficiency windows, furnaces, central AC and the like. It's now 10 percent. Plus, the maximum lifetime credit went from \$1,500 to \$500. "That means if you spent a total of \$5,000 on IRS-approved upgrades in 2011," says



Don't let tax-filing errors cost you extra dollars.

Smith, "you can claim a \$500 credit. Unless, that is, you'd already maxed out in prior years."

• **Expiration of the tax credit for hybrid cars.** If you bought a Prius last year, you did so without the feds' help. However, the green cars du jour - i.e., the electric-drive Chevy Volt and Nissan Leaf - will score you a \$7,500 credit. And there are goodies for things like conversion kits, too.

• **New cost-basis reporting requirements.** Apparently, some of you were inflating the price you paid for stocks to reduce the taxes owed on capital gains. Or at least the government fears that was happening. So look out for a mandatory statement from your broker reporting your "cost basis" for stocks and securities held in taxable accounts - as opposed to 401(k)s and IRAs - that you sold in 2011.

Of course, with the April 17 filing deadline approaching, those worried about becoming a member of the \$1 Billion Club might want to consult a professional like those at H&R Block, which offers in-person services at its retail offices nationwide as well as the only face-to-face online preparation through Block LiveSM.

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# Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

**First Baptist Church of Desdemona** had average attendance last Sunday, with a visitor from Eastland. Anthony Wilson rendered the Special Music playing his guitar and singing "How Great Thou Art." Bro. Charlie led the song service with Karen Fair at the piano. Visitors are invited to attend each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for Sunday School and 11:00 a.m. for Morning Worship Service.

This reporter received a short note last week from Maxie Harris. She is a former resident of the Jakehamon Community and attended school in Desdemona where she graduated with the Class of 1941. Maxie reported her former classmate, Mildred Warren has suffered a stroke and is now living in an Assisted Living Home.

This reporter received a short note last week from Erlene Morrow. She is a former resident of Desdemona where she attended school but moved away before she graduated. It is always good to hear from former residents and friends that attended school in Desdemona.

Have a good day, Vonnie.

## Homestead Happenings

On Friday James and Cindy Barham of Gilmer, Elaine Houston of Vernon, Madge Mickleton of San Angelo, Carolyn Gilbert and Joy Rogers came and put on a dulcimer concert. We greatly appreciate them coming to do this for us.

We celebrated our January birthdays with a party on Wed. Bill Babbitt was the only resident and Gwen Ervin was the only staff member with birthdays this month. LaVern Carr of Whitney bake the cake for this occasion. Jeremy Sanders of Stephenville, Angela Davis, Jeannie Whittier and Francis Babbitt attended the party and visited with Bill Babbitt.

Elizabeth and Roy Cooper of Canyon Lake visited Lula Schneider, Vern and Donna Johnson visited Melvin Daniels. M; Madge Mickleton of San Angelo, Tresa Gilbert of DeLeon and Carolyn Gilbert visited Floydene Gilbert.

Faye Faulk and Kenneth Welch visited Edgar Reynolds. Jana Grice visited her mother, Ima Brown. Joe Ed Baze of Abilene visited Adriana Chamberlain. LaVern Carr of Whitney visited Troy Scitern. Rusty and Claudia Simmons visited Sue Simmons. Bo Caraway and Kathy Scitern visited Rozelle Caraway. Josie Martinez and Betty Williams of DeLeon visited Elizabeth Gomez. Maxine and Marilyn Huddleston visited Frankie Stacy.

Have a good week.

## EQIP ranking period ends soon

TEMPLE, TEXAS, Jan. 23, 2012- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist ShaMarie Tamminga reminds agriculture producers that the ranking period cut-off date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is February 3, 2012. Producers interested in EQIP should submit applications to the Eastland County NRCS office by the deadline so their applications can be considered during the first ranking period of 2012.

EQIP — one of the largest programs in the Farm Bill — is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state and federal regulations.

"EQIP is a valuable tool to help Eastland County's agricultural producers implement conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations," said Mrs. Tamminga.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical assistance for the application of specific conservation practices; but the deadline for the first 2012 funding is February 3, 2012. Contracts are offered periodically depending on budgetary allocations. Applications made after the deadline will be considered in the next funding cycle. Higher priority will be given to those applications that address national, state and local priorities and provide higher cost efficiency.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center office in Eastland County at (254) 629-1636 ext. 3. Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

### Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

254-734-2410

The Gorman Progress

WEDDING INVITATIONS & SOCIAL STATIONERY

BRIDE & GROOM

## 2012 Residential Homestead Exemptions

Eastland County property owners wishing to sign up for property tax exemptions and/or special use valuations for 2012, may obtain the necessary applications from the Eastland County Appraisal District which is located on the second floor of the Eastland County Courthouse Annex Building at 102 N. Lamar in Eastland. Applications may also be requested by telephone; the number to call is 254-629-8597.

There are several tax exemptions and/or special use valuations available to property owners. A partial list of some of those available will be given at the end of this article. If a property owner has a question as to his or her eligibility; they should contact the Eastland County Appraisal District for assistance.

Homeowners may be eligible for a residential homestead exemption. As much as \$15,000 in appraised value may be deducted from your local school property tax value if you qualify for a residential homestead exemption. The completed residential homestead application form should be filed by May 1, 2012 if you wish to apply. This type of exemption does not have to be applied for every year. If you already have been receiving this exemption and still reside in the same residence; there is no need to re-apply.

An exception to this would be for the homeowner who has turned sixty-five (65) years of age since last year or will turn (65) during the 2012 year. He or she should reapply as they are eligible for an additional exemption amount as well as a tax ceiling in some cases.

Additionally, if you are an over sixty-five (65) residential homestead owner and you are moving to another residence within the State of Texas; you may be eligible to transfer your present over 65 tax ceiling percentage to your new residence.

If you have a question as to whether you are already receiving a homestead exemption or as to your eligibility for one of the available exemptions or special valuations; please contact the Eastland County Appraisal District at (254) 629-8597 in Eastland, Texas.

Among the partial exemptions and/or special use valuations available are:

- Residential Over Sixty-five (65) and/or Disabled Residential Homestead Exemption
- Service Connected Disabled Veterans Exemption
- And Special Use Valuation of Open Space Land (Ag Use).

**YOU'RE GETTING NEW NEIGHBORS OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?**

**KEEP THE LIGHT ON PUBLIC NOTICES**

Government officials are required to publish their intentions in the newspaper — including their intent to build a facility down the street that you might not want. But that could change.

Some politicians want to bury public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites. Don't let government put you in the dark. Public notices should be published by the newspaper.

If it is not in the newspaper, you won't know about it.

**The Gorman Progress**

## Winter Lease Promotion 39 Month Leases

**2012 Chevrolet Cruze #34011**  
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MSRP	\$20,220	Residual (12K):50%-\$10,110
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Dealer Participation	164	Payment \$263.00
Lease Cash	1200	Cust. Due at Signing \$263 (1st pymt)
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**\$0 Down**  
**Only \$263 Monthly**

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LS



MSRP	\$30,680	Residual (12K):48%-\$14,726.40
Less		Contract MF .00074
Dealer Participation	726	Payment \$384.00
Lease Cash	2230	Cust. Due at Signing \$384 (1st pymt)
*Owner Loyalty	500	39 Month / 39,000 Miles W.A.C.
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