

The Gorman Progress

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Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

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2003 Member
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Elementary and Jr. High U.I.L. Results Santa Claus Coming To Town!

The Elementary UIL Meet was held at Maxfiend Elementary in Gorman on November 18th and 20th. The students and teams that placed are listed below. We are proud of these students and appreciate all the help the parents contributed in helping their children prepare for these contests.

Second Grade Creative Writing: Melissa Ramirez won first place and Shyann Rainey won fourth place.
Fifth Grade Listening: Jacob Singleton won first place.
Sixth Grade Listening: Taylor Chew and Jarrett Blankenship tied for first; Jonathon Flores placed fifth.
Fourth Grade Number Sense: A.J. Vaughn won fourth.
Sixth Grade Number Sense: Jonathan Flores placed sixth.
Fifth Grade Oral Reading: Jaime Johnston placed fifth.
Sixth Grade Oral Reading: Taylor Chew placed third and Kimmy Seaton placed fourth.
Third Grade Ready Writing: Aimee Lawrence won fourth and Tyson Underwood won fifth.
Fourth Grade Ready Writing: Erica Ortiz won fifth.
Sixth Grade Ready Writing: Kimmy Seaton won fifth and Taylor Chew won sixth.
Fourth Grade Spelling: Marissa Roath won second.
Fifth Grade Spelling: Stephanie Risueno won first and Luis Martinez won sixth.
Sixth Grade Spelling: Jonathon Flores won third and Alex Giles won fourth.
Second Grade Storytelling: Skyle Lewis won first and Zachary Carlton won third.

Third Grade Storytelling: Rachel Tucker won second place and Katie Nabors won fifth.
Fourth Grade Team Art: Little, Jackson, and Griffin won fourth place.
Fifth Grade Team Art: Pacheco, Johnston, and Martinez won first place.
Sixth Grade Team Art: Seaton, Chew, Madera, and Parker won first place.
Sixth Grade Team Listening: Chew, Blankenship, and Flores won first place.
Third Grade Team Music Memory: Nabors, Olivares, and Garcia won fourth place.
Fourth Grade Team Music Memory: Thackerson, Fenley, Rainey, and Roath won fourth place.
Fifth Grade Team Music Memory: Keith, Martin, Woodall, and Risueno won third place.
Sixth Grade Team Music Memory: Flores, Fritts, and Hair won fourth place.
Fourth Grade Team Number Sense: Vaughn, Whitten, and Self won third place.
Sixth Grade Team Number Sense: Seaton, Flores, and Giles won third place.
Third Grade Team Spelling: Tucker, Lawrence, and Ramirez won third place.
Fourth Grade Team Spelling: Ortiz, Self, and Roath won second place.
Fifth Grade Team Spelling: Risueno, Martinez, and Martin won second place.
Sixth Grade Team Spelling: Flores, Giles, and Seaton won second place.
Gorman ISD was host to the District UIL Meet held November 18th and 20th. Five schools competed in the event:

Albany, Baird, Cross Plains, Ranger and Gorman. Thirty four Junior High students participated from Gorman placing second with 447 points behind Albany with 648.6 points. Results are as follows:

Team Art 7th grade: 3rd place Vann, Valasquez, Williams, Lewis, Longoria
Team Art 8th grade: 4th place Powell, Clark, Carlton, Rudel, Hornback
Team Calculator Applications 7th grade: 2nd place Swanner, Vann, Gonzalez
Team Listening 7th grade: 2nd place Swanner, Vann, Valasquez
Team Listening 8th grade: 2nd place Cochran, Gonzalez, Granado
Team Maps, Graphs, & Charts 8th grade: 3rd place Clark, Keith, Hornback
Team Mathematics 7th grade: 3rd place Johnston, Lewis, Velasquez
Team Number Sense 7th grade: 3rd place Johnston, Underwood, Madera
Team Number Sense 8th grade: 2nd place Carlton, Granado, Jones
Team Science I 7th grade: 3rd place Vann, Underwood, Lewis
Team Science II 8th grade: 1st place Jones, Carlton, Cogburn
Team Spelling 8th grade: 2nd place Cogburn, Lewis, Bush
Ready Writing 8th grade: 6th place Brandy Carlton
Science 7th grade: 2nd place Miles Vann, 4th place Matt Underwood
Science 8th grade: 1st place Tecia Jones, 3rd place Brandy Carlton, 6th place Nicole Coburn
Spelling 8th Grade: 1st place Nicole Cogburn, 5th place Megan Lewis
Calculator Applications 7th grade: 3rd place Marcela Gonzalez, 5th place Tyson Swanner, 6th place Miles Vann
Calculator Applications 8th grade: 4th place Megan Lewis
Dictionary 8th grade: Clarissa Glasson
Editorial Writing 7th grade: 5th place Emily Lewis, 6th place Tyson Swanner
Impromptu Speaking 7th grade: 2nd place Valerie Longoria, 3rd place Chris Madera
Impromptu Speaking 8th grade: 1st place Seth Cochran, 4th place Seth Johnson
Listening 7th grade: 2nd place Perla Velasquez, 3rd place Tyson Swanner
Listening 8th grade: 1st place Seth Cochran
Mathematics 7th grade: 4th place Emily Lewis
Mathematics 8th grade: 6th place Clarissa Glasson
Modern Oratory 7th grade: 2nd place Miles Vann, 4th place Audrey Johnston, 5th place Emily Lewis
Modern Oratory 8th grade: 1st place Mary Powell 2nd place

Santa will be arriving in town on December 6, 2003 at 4:00 p.m.

He will be at the Community Center. Pictures with Santa will be available for \$2.00 each.



The Gorman Police Department Christmas Project for Kids

The Gorman Police Dept. will be accepting names for those who need a little extra help with Christmas for their children. We will only accept names through December 5. We will need names, ages, sizes, and special requests. You may turn in the names by personal appearance, by phone 734-2317, or you may mail them to this office at P.O. Box 236, Gorman, 76454.
We are only able to purchase gifts for children who are in the Gorman Independent School Dist. This program is an assistance program. It operates only by donations given to the department. If you interested in to this program you may do so at the City Office. If you would like to help you may contact Tacy or Debra. The Student Council and Mrs. Majors have assisted for the past two years and their contribution is always very helpful. We appreciate them so much. Any group interested in contributing to this cause is more than welcome to join in.
Please remember the cut off date is December 5, 2003.

Mayvis Lasater To Celebrate 90th Birthday On Sunday, Dec. 7



On December 8, 2003, Mayvis Jay Lasater will celebrate her ninety-thirtieth birthday. Mayvis was the youngest child born to Mary Lee Jackson Jay and William Frederick Jay. The Jay family lived on a farm near Gorman at that time. Mayvis married Hulon Lesley Lasater December 23, 1931. Except for a few months during the early years of their marriage when they lived in Cross Plains, Mayvis has lived all her life in Gorman.

Lou Evelyn, Brent, Hal and their families would like to invite you to help them celebrate their mother's birthday. They will mark this very special occasion with a reception at the Gorman First Baptist Church from 2:30 to 4:30 on **Sunday, December 7, 2003**.
Mayvis has had a remarkable life for ninety years, and she would like nothing more than recalling past days with you. If you cannot attend, but would like to send Mayvis a card, sent it to PO Box 53, Gorman, TX 76454.

Jimmy and Verna Lee Little To Mark 50th Anniversary

The Children of Jimmy and Verna Lee Little, Ray Neal, Nelda, and James and their families and the Kokomo Baptist Church family would like to invite you to join them in celebrating Jimmy and Verna Lee's 50th wedding anniversary on December 14th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kokomo Baptist Church.

Christmas Lighting Contest

The Gorman Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Christmas Lighting Contest. The contest is open to all residents in a 5 mile radius of Gorman. Entry deadline is Thursday December 18th. Judging will be on Friday, December 19th. No Entry Fee. Prizes will be awarded for First Place - \$75; Second Place - \$50; and Third Place - \$25 in Gorman Bucks.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Directions to House _____
Forms need to be turned in at City Office

Continued On Page 2

Gorman Senior Travel Club

The Gorman Senior Travel Club will put up outside Christmas decorations. For details contact a travel club member or call 734-3496 or 734-3311.

"Texas Creations" New Business In Gorman



Texas Creations opened at the blinking light at the intersection of Hwy. 6 and Kent Streets in Gorman. The store is specializing in Crafts, Candles and Gift Baskets. Their store hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Go by the and see the newest "Little Store In Town".

Sipe Springs Monthly Musical

The Sipe Springs Monthly Musical will be on Saturday, December 6th at 6 p.m. at the Sipe Springs Community Center. Musicians and everyone are invited to come enjoy.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast - Third Wednesday each month at 7:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church. Various community Men's Groups will be hosting the breakfast.
4-H - Meets Second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
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. Daryl Hirst, Master — Bob Wilkerson, Secretary.
LIBRARY — Charlie Garrett Memorial Library will be open Monday thru Friday from 3 to 5 p.m.

FOOD BANK
New Hours - 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Second Thursday

GORMAN GROW MEETING — The Gorman Grow will meet on the Third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Gorman Senior Citizen Building. Contact Payton Vaughn, Veronica Seaton or Lori Dodd.

Oakland Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. Donations can be sent to Oakland Cemetery Association, 503 N. Fisher, Gorman, Tx 76454, or American State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454.

DANCE — There is a Senior Citizens Dance every Monday night. Music by *The Outcast Band* featuring Gene Williams and C. B. Sutton. 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Admission \$3.50 - De Leon City Hall.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS — Blood Pressure Checks by Heritage Manor of Gorman. Every Wednesday at Senior Citizens at 11:00 a.m. Other week at Gorman Hotel at 10:30 a.m.

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

Gorman Oaklawn Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or In Honor of someone, please send to Aline Garrett, P O Box 711, Gorman, Texas 76454, or American State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454.

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT - DECEMBER 17TH FROM 9 - 12 NOON.

The safety of the children who attend Gorman ISD is of the up most importance to the administration and staff. There are certain situations due to inclement weather or unforeseen hazards that require that schools close. As the winter months approach, the administration will carefully monitor the road conditions and when the conditions warrant will close or delay the start time for school.

Notification of school closing or delayed start will be aired on radio station KSTV FM 93.1 out of Stephenville and television station KTAB channels 10 or 32. If Gorman ISD will be closed or delayed the information will be available by 6:30 am.

Don and Dolores Underwood Retire From Law Enforcement



Don and Dolores Underwood with their sons, Lyndall of Roscoe, Greg of Clifton and Daryl of Fort Worth at one of the retirement parties held recently in Crane.

Don and Dolores Underwood retired the 1st of November and moved to Gorman. Dolores is the daughter of Velda Baze. Dolores was a deputy with the Crane County Sheriff's Office and retired with an Advanced Certificate in Law Enforcement. Don was the Chief of Police and has a Master's Certificate in Law Enforcement. Together they have over 50 years in law enforcement. They are very happy to be home again.

EDC Talk

Last Monday EDC Board member Kim Sharp and director Lori Dodd attended a meeting in DeLeon that was interesting and could prove to be beneficial for Gorman in particular and Eastland County as a whole. Joe Lock, president of the DeLeon Chamber of Commerce, invited EDC and Chamber representatives from Dublin, Comanche, Gorman and DeLeon to discuss combining efforts to market the three counties as a region and develop a marketing plan to attract new industry to our area.

The assembly agreed that a combined effort was going to be necessary to get the word out about what our area offered. It was also agreed that it would take combined available workforce numbers of the region to attract a business of any significant size.

There was a good bit of "brainstorming" with many good ideas brought to the table. The group determined that another series of meetings would be necessary to develop the regional economic development vision. Each one present was asked to bring others interested colleagues to the next meeting, in order to continue to develop the vision.

If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact Lori Dodd at 734-3933 or Joe Lock at 893-2466.

DeLeon Country Christmas

Be sure and mark your calendar for December 5, 2003 and plan to come and participate in our Country Christmas. It will be held in the DeLeon City Hall Auditorium from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be lots of fun activities for the children and the merchants will be open for shoppers serving lots of good things to eat. You are sure to be able to get your Christmas Shopping done with all the nice things to choose from. The Chamber Office is also having Open House with goodies. Come by and visit with us.

Santa will arrive at 6 p.m. at the Outside Christmas Tree next to the Chamber Office. Then he will move inside so you can have your picture made with him and give him your wish list. The lights on the outside Christmas Tree will be turned on by mayor John Adcock and Christmas Carols will be sung around the tree at this time.

Inside the 4Hers will have the Concession Stand, ESA will have a Sweet Shop, Girl Scouts will be doing Face Painting, and Boy Scouts plan to have games. DeLeon Elementary will have hot drinks such as hot cider and hot chocolate. The Hospital Auxiliary will have their beautiful afghans. If you have not seen these "throws," you must see them as they have DeLeon Historical Scenes on them and are very nice. There will be vendors with jewelry, Christmas Ornaments, Tupperware, purses, southwest items and much more. We still have room for vendors if you would like a space call the Chamber. The Cancer Society will be selling chances for a yard deer and Women's Division will be selling chances for a bicycle. This is sure to be a fun night.

The Comanche County Pecan Food Show entries will be on display with their ribbons. Entries will be accepted from Comanche County residents or members of Comanche County organizations such as Extension Education Clubs, or 4H Clubs from 12 p.m.-1p.m. The judging will be 2 p.m. For more information call the Chamber at 254-893-2083 or Ann Rainey at the Texas Coop Extension Office at 325-356-2539.

Also, be sure and visit the merchants and register for prizes to be given away December 19, 2003 at 8 p.m. The merchants will have entry blanks for you to fill out and deposit in a box for the drawing. They will be collected at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 2003 and the drawing will be held at the Christmas Tree next to the Chamber Office at 8 p.m.

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• CARS •

20772 - '97 Ford Mustang	Auto, loaded, cd, 82K	\$ 5,995
18632 - '01 Chevy Impala	Auto, loaded, cass, 35K	\$13,990
19263 - '02 Olds Alero	Auto, loaded, cd, 14K	\$11,990
18571 - '98 Plymouth Neon	Auto, tilt, cruise, cass, 64K	\$ 4,995
19007 - '00 Chevy Cavalier	Auto, cd, 24K	\$ 5,995
18338 - '01 Mazda 626LX	Auto, loaded, cd, 27K	\$11,990

• SUV's - TRUCKS •

20483 - '98 Ford Explorer XLT	loaded, cd, 81K	\$ 7,500
18950 - '01 Chevy Tahoe LS	Auto, loaded, cd, 42K	\$23,500
19272 - '00 Isuzu Trooper LS 4X4	Auto, loaded, cd, 42K	\$14,990
29121 - '01 Chevy Tracker	Auto, 4X4, loaded, cd, 14K	\$ 9,995
20291 - '98 Ford F150XL RC SWB	Auto, cassette, hardtop, 42K	\$ 7,995
20524 - '96 Chevy S10 Blazer	Auto, loaded, cass, 78K	\$ 6,995
20149 - '01 Chevy S10 RC SWB	5 Spd., AC, alum whls, 37K	\$ 7,995
20310 - '00 Chevy 1500EC LS	Auto, loaded, cd, 59K	\$14,990
19488 - '01 Chevy 1500 EC SWB LS	Auto, loaded, cd, 54K	\$15,990
16317 - '00 Ford F250 XLT-SD	Powerstroke, auto, loaded, 64K	\$19,990
19499 - '01 Chevy 3500CD LWB	Dually, 5 spd., t/c, cass, 27K	\$20,990

Payment Special Examples

18889 - 1999 Chev. Malibu	\$6,995 ^{+titl}	\$210 Mo. *
20848 - 2001 Chev. Cavalier	\$7,995 ^{+titl}	\$199 Mo.**
19204 - 1999 Chev. Camaro	\$9,995 ^{+titl}	\$240 Mo.**
18353 - 2001 Mitsubishi Galant	\$11,990 ^{+titl}	\$235 Mo.***

*WAC - 36 Mo., \$1,000 Cash or Trade Down, 7.99% Includes T.T.&L.
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Maxfield Elementary Honor Roll – 2nd Six Weeks

1st grade, Mrs. Lewis--A Honor Roll-- Adriana Blair, Mariela Sanchez, Blake Self, Lauren Spivey, Emilee Turner, Flavio Herrera, Holly Rainey, Lacey Wilson; **A-B Honor Roll--**Crystal Brinegar, Danny Flores, Jorge Hernandez, Rodrigo Mata, Omar Velasquez, Thomas Trevino

1st grade, Mrs. Smith--A Honor Roll--Hayley Bullock, Brittany Burns, Chloe Cole, Daniel Herrera, Mathew Majors, Jacquelynn Rainey, Lindey Thackerson, Madison Warren; **A-B Honor Roll--**Keaton Collins, Daniel Perez

2nd grade, Mrs. Forbus--A Honor Roll--Zachary Carlton, Bailey Cockburn, Connie Gonzales, Skye Lewis, Shyann Rainey, Melissa Ramirez; **A-B Honor Roll--**Sheldon Fenley, Taylor Grumbles, Tony Ramirez, Rhys Vaughn, Jessica Williams

2nd grade, Mrs. Grissom--A Honor Roll--Courtney Byrd, Fabian Garcia, Mykisha Hampton, Kinsey Johnston, Travis Naeseth; **A-B Honor Roll--**Trey Howard, Andy Madera, Yari Montelongo, Dakota Pacheco, Tyler Patel, Rebecca Rainey, Alaina Swanner

3rd grade, Mrs. Caraway--A Honor Roll-- A-B Honor Roll--Aimee Lawrence, Margarita Oronia, Angelena Perez, Tyson Underwood, Jenna Bullock

3rd grade, Mrs. Spivey--A Honor Roll--Sergio Garcia, Austin Marlow, Dalton Murphy, Rachel Tucker; **A-B Honor Roll--**Taylor Holdman, Jasmeen DeLaTorre, Skyler Henderson, Dalila Hipolito, Viridianna Maldonado, Katie Nabors

4th grade, Mrs. Bussell--A Honor Roll--A.J. Vaughn, Marissa Roath, Chelsea Griffith; **A-B Honor Roll--**Jonathon Fenley, Carlie Jackson, Ally Little, Rebekah Powell, Katey Thackerson, David Velasquez, Cade Cole

4th grade, Mrs. Matteson--A Honor Roll--Courtney Carlton, Erica Ortiz, McKenzie Osborne, Cody Self, Cortney Shirley; **A-B Honor Roll--**Delores Garcia, Mallory May, Josh Ryon, Stetson Thompson, J.C. Whitten

5th grade, Mrs. Barker--A Honor Roll--Jaime Johnston, Stephanie Risueno, Jacob Singleton; **A-B Honor Roll--**Alex Borrego, Cameron Clark, Ashley Hair, Dylan Keith, Cecilia Olivares, Abby Pacheco

5th grade, Mrs. Jones--A Honor Roll--Brice Campbell; **A-B Honor Roll--**Matt Keith, Luis Martinez, Randy Woodall

6th grade, Mrs. Keith--A Honor Roll--Chance Bryant; **A-B Honor Roll--**Ernie Rodriguez, Cole Underwood, Jose Velasquez

6th grade, Mrs. Johnson--A Honor Roll--Taylor Chew, Jonathan Flores, Eric Ryon, Kimmy Seaton; **A-B Honor Roll--**Jarrett Blankenship, Edna Gonzales, Brittany Henderson, Laci Lawrence Brenda Velasquez

First Baptist Church and Desdemona Cemetery Association News


By Leo Williams

At a recent meeting in Longview, Texas, four representatives of the Desdemona Cemetery Association and First Baptist Church of Desdemona attended the depositions of Carol Coolidge and Phillip Sinclair in relation to a legal battle between the Desdemona Cemetery Association, First Baptist Church and the administrator of the Nina Farrow Emde estate. The church and the cemetery were named as two beneficiaries of the estate. Carol Coolidge, administrator of the estate and Phillip Sinclair, her accountant, gave depositions concerning the discharge of the will of Mrs. Emde. The cemetery and church are seeking unspecified damages from Coolidge and Sinclair alleging the administrator and accountant did not follow the instructions of the will; claiming unequal distribution of assets, loss of use of money, and improper discharge of fiduciary responsibilities. Leo Williams and Wayne Eaves sat through seven hours of testimony from the defendants, conducted by Brad Echols, attorney for the church and cemetery. Bob Wisdom and M. B. Koonce were also present at the event, but were not allowed to hear the deposition because of the objections of Mrs. Coolidge's attorney.

Coolidge and Sinclair claimed the discharge of the will was not followed because of extenuating circumstances, and some legal requirements were not met by the plaintiffs. Brad Echols, attorney for the plaintiffs countered by asking the question: If the instructions of the will had been followed, we would not be here today?

The discharge of the will has been in process since 1998, and still unresolved is the payment of one hundred seventy three thousand dollars of Estate Taxes to the IRS that the First Baptist Church claims they did not owe. There is a balance of Eighty Three Thousand dollars in the estate, but Coolidge is claiming Fifty Thousand of this money for administrators fees. The trial is scheduled for February 23, 2004.

Why get your
local news
anywhere else?

 Keeping an Eye on Texas



A long-standing water debt costs Texans both jobs and dollars. The water debt stems from a 1944 treaty between Mexico and the United States that requires Mexico to release a minimum annual average of 350,000 acre-feet of water into the Rio Grande.

An acre-foot is enough water to cover an acre of land with one foot of water, or roughly 326,000 gallons of water. The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) conducts assessments of Mexico's water releases every five years, and in the latest assessment, conducted in October 2002, the commission found that Mexico owed the United States nearly 1.5 million acre-feet of water, or about 500 billion gallons.

The Comptroller's Office estimated this water debt cost Texans more than 3,000 jobs and \$105 million in personal income in 2002.

SOURCE: Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn (www.window.state.tx.us).

TXOL To Offer Monthly Internet Classes

Time for the monthly internet classes! We will be offering both the beginner and the advanced classes this month. Thursday December 4th, the entry-level class will start at 5:30 PM and the advanced class will start at 7:00 PM. Both courses are FREE and are available to anyone and everyone. The entry-level course will teach and educate those people who are less savvy with the Internet while the advanced course will be more in depth, teaching you how to customize and feel more comfortable with Internet Explorer and Outlook Express. Both courses are designed to raise your level of Internet knowledge and will last about 90 minutes each.

Course Descriptions:

Beginners- Starts at 5:30PM December 4th

Internet Explorer 6.0 - Using Favorites, link bar, history, homepage settings, and how to download a file.

Search Engines - Using search engines, like Google, to search and how to use advanced searches

Outlook Express - Creating new messages, email forwarding, attachments, and address book.

Advanced- Starts at 7:00 PM December 4th

Internet Explorer 6.0- Send page by email, Import/Export, Print Selection, Customizing View, Text Size, Windows Update, Show related links, Tip of the day

Internet Options- Deleting cookies, Security, Privacy, Content Advisor, Auto Complete, Colors and fonts, Programs,

Advanced Options

Outlook Express- Backing up data, Cut and Paste, Email filtering, Newsgroups, Signatures, Composing/Stationary, Export/Import, Address Book Organizing.

Email Options- Erase Deleted emails on exit, automatically add people to address book, Check mail automatically, and read receipts, Security, Spell check

These courses will be held at the home office in Eastland, which is located at 925 East Main in Eastland. Entry to the class is on the southwest side on the building. If you have any questions you can email me at tmills@txol.net or support@txol.net .

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Simple Steps Can Help Taxpayers With Charitable Donations

WASHINGTON - As the end of the year approaches, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers that they may be able to use their gifts to tax-exempt charitable and religious groups to reduce their taxes.

Taxpayers also need to keep in mind some simple steps to make sure they get appropriate benefit for their generous donations. In particular, there are some important guidelines for donating used cars and other property, such as stocks and bonds.

The tax benefit for charitable contributions is only available for taxpayers who itemize deductions - about one-third of all filers. Those who take a standard deduction receive no additional tax benefit for their contributions.

In 2000, the last year for which complete data is available, about 37.5 million taxpayers made deductible charitable contributions totaling nearly \$140.7 billion. Of these gifts, nearly \$98.2 billion were cash donations.

Only contributions actually made during the tax year are deductible. For example, if you pledged \$500 in September but paid the charity only \$200 by Dec. 31, your 2003 deduction would be \$200. You include credit card charges and payments by check in the year they are given to the charity, even though you may not pay the credit card bill or have your bank account debited until the next year.

Those itemizing deductions reduce their taxable income by the total contributed to qualified tax-exempt organizations, with some limits. The tax saving usually equals the deduction times the marginal tax rate - the top rate for the person's income level.

For example, an individual with a taxable income of \$50,000 donates \$2,000 to his or her church. The tax savings from this generosity will be \$500 - \$2,000 times the taxpayer's marginal tax rate of 25 percent.

Donations of stock or other property are usually valued at the fair market value of the property. For stocks and bonds with an active market, the fair market value is the average price between highest and lowest selling price on the valuation date. Figuring the value of other personal property can be more complicated.

For example, determining the value of a donated used car requires weighing several factors. Some car donation program operators have mistakenly suggested that donors can take as a deduction the full value listed in an established used car pricing guide. For additional information, see IRS News release 2001-112, "IRS and State Charity Officials Urge Care When Making a Car Donation."

The tax law, however, allows a deduction for only the fair market value of the car. Fair market value takes into account not only the year, the model and the mileage of the car, but also the local market and the vehicle's condition. As a result, the fair market value of the taxpayer's car may be substantially different than the average price listed in an established used car guide.

The IRS also reminds taxpayers to keep appropriate records to substantiate the value of their gifts. For example, for any single gift of \$250 or more, a taxpayer must have a written acknowledgement from the charity by the earlier of the date the person files the tax return or the filing deadline, including extensions. A person donating property valued at more than \$5,000 must obtain a qualified written appraisal.

Taxpayers can find help regarding the donations they make in IRS Publication 526, "Charitable Contributions." A second reference, IRS Publication 561, "Determining the Value of Donated Property," answers many of the questions that donors have when they make noncash contributions. Both publications are available at the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Ken's Motorcycle Shop



Ken Chapman, Owner
254-629-2382
East Main - Eastland, Tx
Polaris Watercraft & ATV's

GRANDPAW'S TOOL SHED RENTAL
254-629-3363 - Located Next Door To Ken's Cycle
East Main in Eastland

Congressman Stenholm Announces Gorman Fire Department Grant

Washington, D.C.—Congressman Charlie Stenholm (TX-17) today announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has approved a cost-share grant of \$118,000 for the Gorman Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) of southern Eastland County.

The award, which comes through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, will be used by the Gorman VFD to purchase a new rescue pumper truck and equip the truck with full rescue equipment such as the "jaws of life."

"Firefighter safety is very important, no matter where the fire department is located or how big it is," Stenholm said. "I am pleased the Gorman volunteers were awarded this grant, and I know it will go to good use."

"The new rescue pumper truck will have a 1,000 gallon tank on it with a 1,500 gallons per minute pump on it. It will also have 1,000 feet of large fire hose to hook up to hydrants when they're around," said firefighter Charlie Torrez, Jr.

"Rural fire departments face unique challenges, and these DHS funds will help the folks at the Gorman VFD to carry out their objectives safely and effectively," Stenholm said.

The Gorman VFD is responsible for ten percent, or about \$11,800, of the cost-share grant. "The city has said they will match some of the money, and we also have money from past fundraisers we have done," Torrez said.

For additional funds, the Gorman VFD hosts an annual bike ride called the "Peanut Tour." It is usually on either the first or second weekend of June. The department also provides first response service to the local football games in exchange for donations.

The Gorman VFD serves approximately 3,000 people in a 220-square-mile area. The area includes part of Lake Leon and northwest Comanche County. The force has 16 active volunteers.

"We are grateful to FEMA and all those who have made the Assistance to Fire Fighters grants possible," Torrez said.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program awards one-year grants to local fire departments that demonstrate financial need and state how they would use any funds they receive. The grants are intended to supplement a fire department's current budget, rather than replace it. Nearly 20,000 fire departments applied for \$750 million in federal grants this year.

Probation Revoked In Felony DWI

Presiding Judge Steven Herod revoked the probation of ALICE SALINAS BONNEY, 42, Tuesday afternoon after hearing testimony in the 91st District Courtroom in Eastland. Bonney, a Eastland County resident, had previously been placed on five years probation on May 30, 2002 for Driving While Intoxicated - Third Offense. Judge Herod sentenced Krebs to five (5) years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Institutional Division for violating the terms and conditions of her probation.

RAWLINS MONUMENTS

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Estelle Craddock

is our Representative for the Gorman Area
She may be reached by calling 254-734-2363.

Drug Defendant Sentenced To Prison

James Anthony Amber, (25), of Arlington, Texas, is now an inmate awaiting transfer to state prison to serve a (2) two year state jail sentence for Possession of Controlled Substance, Methamphetamine, Less than One Gram, the maximum confinement allowed under the law for this level of offense. Mr. Amber was apprehended on September 23, 2003 by officers from the Cisco Police Department.

Presiding Judge Steven R. Herod sentenced Amber in the 91st District Courtroom on Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

Robbert Defendant Sentenced To Prison

Gaylon Davis Jackson, 41, is awaiting transfer from the Eastland County Jail to begin serving his sentence in a state prison. Jackson, who was apprehended by Deputies from the Eastland County Sheriff's Office was arrested on June 5, 2003 and pleaded guilty to the offense of robbery on November 25, 2003. Presiding Judge Steven R. Herod sentenced Letney to serve 20 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Institutional Division.

Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

Dorothy Roberts was in Cross Plains on Thanksgiving to have lunch with Ken Horan and his daughters, Shelly Mendez and son, Samuel of Fort Worth; Emily Williams and daughter, Kena of Granbury.

Thanksgiving day visitors in the home of Bernard and Ann Keith were De and Vicki Robinett of DeLeon; Bill and Tami Sanders, Robyn Griffith of Paris, Texas; Billy and Nikki Febinger and children, Christopher and Allison of Stephenville. Visitors on Friday in the Keith home were Nelda Keith of Fort Worth and Tracy Keith of Gorman.

Wayne and Karen and Lorin hosted Thanksgiving dinner for the family. Those attending were Pug and Vonnie Guthery, Belinda Guthery, Kandice Martin and Holly Guthery all of Desdemona. Roy and Angela Powledge and children Colin, Kaley and Lane of Cisco.

Get Well Wishes to our friend, Mattie Bell Bailey in Lubbock. She spent several days in the hospital recovering from pneumonia.

Dorothy Roberts spend Thanksgiving Holiday weekend in Fort Worth visiting with her daughter, Kevin and Ulenda Weaver. Other visitors in the home were Jeff Roberts of Dallas; Heather Caddell and children, Kelsey and Cameron; Heath Weaver and son, Hayden; Ashley Weaver and children, Tanner and Noah; Shelly Mendez and son, Samuel all of Fort Worth; Emily Williams and daughter, Kena of Granbury.

Thanksgiving day visitors with Robert and Ima Brown were their son, Robert Alton and Jana Brown and their children, Preston and Julie of Fort Worth. It was an enjoyable visit for everyone.

Betty Duke visits each week in our local rest homes where she plays the electric keyboard and leads singing for the residents in each home. They really enjoy Betty as she comes to share her talents with all these "shut-ins."

Have a nice day, "Coon."

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast - Third Wednesday each month at 7:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church. Various community Men's Groups will be hosting the breakfast.

4-H - Meets Second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

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. Daryl Hirst, Master — Bob Wilkerson, Secretary.

LIBRARY — Charlie Garrett Memorial Library will be open Monday thru Friday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Oakland Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. Donations can be sent to Oakland Cemetery Association, 503 N. Fisher, Gorman, Tx 76454, or American State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454.

DANCE — There is a Senior Citizens Dance every Monday night. Music by *The Outcast Band* featuring Gene Williams and C. B. Sutton. 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Admission \$3.50 - De Leon City Hall.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS — Blood Pressure Checks by Heritage Manor of Gorman. Every Wednesday at Senior Citizens at 11:00 a.m. Other week at Gorman Hotel at 10:30 a.m.

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

Gorman Oaklawn Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or In Honor of someone, please send to Aline Garrett, P O Box 711, Gorman, Texas 76454, or American State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454.

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT - DECEMBER 17TH FROM 9 - 12 NOON.

FOOD BANK

New Hours - 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Second Thursday

GORMAN GROW MEETING — The Gorman Grow will meet on the Third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Gorman Senior Citizen Building. Contact Payton Vaughn, Veronica Seaton or Lori Dodd.

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