

The Gorman Progress

"Serving Gorman For Over 103 Years"

Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

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2004 Member
Texas Press Association

NUMBER FORTY-NINE

DECEMBER 16, 2004

5th and 6th Graders Write Books With 1st Grade Classes

The Students in Mrs. Keith's four Fifth and Sixth Grade Reading classes had the privilege of writing books with the students in Mrs. Lewis's and Mrs. Smith's First Grade classes. The students wrote, illustrated, and helped publish four Christmas books: I Spy, On Christmas Day, Christmas Alphabet Book, Christmas Counting Book, and The Twelve Days of Christmas TEXAS STYLE. The young authors wrote and illustrated the books in small groups. Then, using computer equipment and software provide by the TARGET II Grant that Mrs. Keith is working on through the Region 14 Service Center, they helped scan, edit, and publish their work.

This project was very enjoyable for both age groups. The older students loved being leaders, and the younger students loved getting to spend time with the older kids on the Elementary campus. Seeing the work that they did in print was very exciting and inspiring for both age groups. Getting to go 'upstairs' to the older kids' Reading classroom was a highlight of the project for the First Graders. The Fifth and Sixth Graders hope to get to work with the little guys again in the future.

The students' books have been bound and covered. If you would like to see their work, come by the Elementary. You may also view their books being read by some the authors on digital video at Mrs. Keith's website. The web address is <http://gorman.region14.net/webs/tkeith/home.htm>. Click on Christmas Books.



Pee Wee Basketball Meeting

On Monday, December 20th at 7:30 PM in the Gym there will be a second meeting for Pee Wee Basketball. All interested parties are invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect a Vice- President, finalize coaches, and discuss league plans. Please, plan to attend.

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 16. Judging will be on Friday, December 17th. No Entry Fee. Prizes will be awarded for First Place-\$75.00; Second Place-\$50.00; Third Place-\$25.00.

ENTRY FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

DIRECTIONS TO HOUSE: _____

Forms need to be turned in at City Office.

Meek Blood Center Blood Drive Dec. 20

The Meek Blood Center Bloodmobile will be set up for a blood drive at the City Park on Monday, December 20, from noon until 6:00 p.m. "Meek Blood Center has collected 53 pints of blood at the drives in Gorman this year," said Frances Baker, donor recruiter. "Many lives have been saved as a result of the wonderful donors who are willing to roll up their sleeves to save a life. The upcoming blood drive is five days before Christmas, which means that the blood that is donated could mean that someone gets to spend another holiday with friends and loved ones," Baker continued.

Blood usage remains steady, even though donations typically drop off during the holidays, according to Baker. "I would like to remind everyone that cancer patients, dialysis patients, surgical patients, newborn babies and accident victims still require blood and blood products, even on holidays."

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and in good health. Most prescription and over-the-counter medications including aspirin and ibuprofen are acceptable. Those who have questions regarding donor eligibility may call Meek Blood Center at 325-670-2798.

Each donor will receive a T-shirt and a complimentary total cholesterol reading. Cholesterol results can be obtained three days after the blood drive by calling 325-679-2799.

Relay for Life

It is time to get your team signed up for this year's Relay For Life, if you are interested and need more information call Cheri at 734-2668.

**GORMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TAX OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 20, 2004 THRU JANUARY 3, 2005
ALL PAYMENTS POSTMARKED
DECEMBER WILL
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2004 PAYMENT**

Jimmie Don and Jeanne Dorsett To Mark 50th



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The Celebration of our
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Jimmie Dee and Sharra Dorsett
Johnny Dwight and Phyllis Dorsett
Jalynn Dorsett Cox and Ed Cox

-- No Gifts Please --

Obituary

Charles Clay "C.C." Reeves

Charles Clay Reeves, known to family and friends as "C.C." and Charlie to co-workers passed away Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at his home in Fontana, CA. Services were Sunday, December 12, 2004 at the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Richard Watson officiating. Burial was at the Oaklawn Cemetery.

He was born July 22, 1943 in Ranger, Texas to the late Roscoe and Ruth Reeves. He attended grades 1 through 12 in Gorman and was the football team captain for the Gorman Panthers. After graduating high school, he went to work for the Missouri Pacific railroad in Palestine, Texas in the summers while attending the University of Houston during the school year. He received his BA in Traffic and Transportation Management in 1965, and then spent six years in the U.S. Army Reserve. On May 16, 1967, he married Susan Buchanan in Houston. He worked on the railroad in various capacities for his entire life, having moved from brakeman to Vice President over the course of his time on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Additionally, he worked in the rail transportation divisions of Virginia Electric Power Company the Jari Project based in Belem, Brazil. His career also took him to the state of New York where he worked for Conrail, the Houston Port and Terminal Railroad, and then to jobs working for the Texas and California State Railroad Commissions. His last job was with the state of California. In October of 2004, he assisted the Homecoming Activities Committee in Gorman.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Reeves of Gorman; two sons, John Reeves of San Diego, CA and Andrew Reeves of Toronto, Canada; and one brother, Roscoe Reeves of Gorman.

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PERFECT PLACE FOR A BUSINESS! This lot in Gorman on Hwy. 6 would be great place for any business. Drive by & take a look. 04
BARGAIN PRICED! 2 BR., 1 bath, large utility, large kitchen, DACP. Great starter home. 02

THE GORMAN PROGRESS

P. O. Box 68
Gorman, Texas 76454
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Assistant Manager Position available at Eastland DQ. Must be able to work flexible day and night shifts, be responsible for customer service, food cost, cash handling, etc. Vacation and holiday pay. Smoke and drug free working environment. Drug test and background check required. Call District Manager, Cindy Grubb 940-550-5724. 4-1-6-C

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NEW: 2-1 frame, app. 950', single garage / carport, metal roof & siding. Also includes a small service station building. \$19,500
NEW: 2-1-1 brick, CH/A, 1745' L.A., fenced backyard, corner lot, 24x40 shop w/cement floor, nice home. Reduced to \$36,500.
NEW: 1.21 A., 3-2-2 brick, app. 1646', city utilities, well, corrals, paved st. \$69,500.
NEW: 10.45 A. south Duster: Improved variety pecan orchard, remote area, lots of wildlife. \$2,000 acre.
NEW: 11.69 A. south Duster: Old Pecan orchard, lots cover for game, located near a nice creek \$2,000 acre.
NEW: 14 A. 3-1-2 brick, app 1375', 10a Tifton 85 bermuda, 2 wells, several sheds and outbuildings, good location. \$85,000.
NEW: 15a M/L edge town, nice remodeled 2 - 2 brick, central a/h, carpeted, fireplace, large game room, 24 x 60 metal garage - cement floor, guest house, water well + city water and sewer, pecans, pavement. Reduced \$130,000.
32 A. Gorman on FM 2921: 15A coastal, 5A wooded, well, pond, large oaks, nice home site. \$1,450 acre.
47.65 A. 4 miles west of Gorman, 25A coastal, 20 A. cultivated, 2 ponds, barn / pens, good dear area, \$1,050 acre.
NEW 58A. Desdemona, app. 10 coastal, 50a wooded, water well, shed, pond, pavement, hunting, wildlife. \$1,800 per acre.
NEW: 105 A., Comanche Co., near De Leon, 30 A. Coastal, 52 A. cultivated, 23 A. pasture, 3 stock ponds, 2 wells (previously used for irrigation), steel corrals, electricity, paved @ CR frontage, deer/wildlife in area, combination stocker/wildlife property. \$1,900 per acre
NEW: 192 A. s/w Gorman, over 1/2 mile of Sabanna River frontage, remote, 70a wooded, 122a cultivation, stock pond, lots of deer & turkey. \$1,350 acre
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ITEMS OF INTEREST

VET Science 4-H Project - 4th Tuesday each Month. Technology Center / Gorman Community Center. Contact Lee or Amy Wood at 254-734-2973.

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

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

FOOD BANK

New Hours - 10 - 11:00 a.m.
Second Thursday

Boy Scouts

Meeting Week
Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m.
Methodist Church

4-H - Meets Second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall - Amy Wood - 734-2973.

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT - THIRD WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 19TH FROM 9 - 12 NOON.

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. Bob Wilkerson, Master - Pat Moseley, Secretary.

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.

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.

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.

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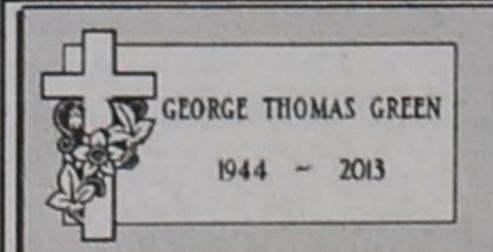
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Agent: Ronnie Golden - Broker: Robert Gilder - Agent: David Gilder
74A. Eastland Co., 2 tanks, water well, 20' x 30' pole barn, corrals. \$111,000
New Listings: 201 Acre. on Leon River, several ponds, woods, pecans, pasture, hunting. \$331,650
90 A. Eastland Co., Hwy. frontage, 3 tanks, heavy cover for hunting, cultivation, home-site. \$157,500
210 Acres, irrg. Wells, tank, corrals, hwy. frontage. \$294,000
82 Acres at Proctor Lake, well, tank, home site, hunting & fishing. \$164,500
596 A., 4/2, brick, barns, creek, pasture, wildlife. \$685,000. SOLD
512 A. on Sabanna River, 12 ponds, pecan trees, rural water, pasture, hunting. \$740,000. SOLD
382 A. large pond & irrg. pit, 4 small ponds, irrg. Wells, good fences, pecan trees, woods, coastal, hunting. \$515,700. SOLD
216 A. excellent coastal, 2 tanks, irrg. wells, hwy. frontage. #270,000. SOLD
157 A. Callahan Co., 2 tanks, 6 wells, home site, coastal, cropland. \$196,250
99A 5/4, 4300 sf brick, metal barn, 5 water wells, large reservoir, rock drive, and much more. \$477,500
97A 5/4.5, 5632 sf brick, swimming pool, deck with hot tub, metal barn, pecan trees, tanks, corral, and much more. \$750,000
77 A. Palo Pinto Co., Woods, creek, hunting, might divide. \$240,000
58 A. Tank, water well, good home site. \$95,700
13 A. Hwy. frontage, tank, creek, barn. \$32,000. UNDER CONTRACT
3/2 1,750 sf brick, CH/A, large lot. \$56,500
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Other house available from \$18,000 to \$105,000.
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YOUR GARDEN

Planting The Seeds Of Success For Your Garden

(NAPSA)—Any time of year can be the right time to make a contribution toward your garden's success.

Each season offers its own reasons for getting certain things done. Here are a few year-round tips from Cottage Farms and Roberta's Exotic Flowers, both of which are available through electronic retailer QVC.

In the fall, prepare planting beds for spring transplanting. Cut back dead or withered growth and remove it from the garden. Till planting beds and add organic matter such as compost or manure. Plant bulbs such as tulips, daffodils and hyacinths. Bulbs can continue to be planted until the ground has frozen. Then in the spring you can interplant perennials, shrubs, roses and annuals in the new beds.

The fall is also a good time to dig up gladioli, cannas and dahlias, which generally do not survive the winter months. Store them in a cool area and replant the following spring.

In the winter, after growing season has ended and the ground has frozen, apply a winter mulch of shredded leaves, evergreen boughs or straw to prevent the roots of young plants from lifting out of the soil during periods of alternate freezing and thawing.

Winter can also be a good time to review your garden results from the past season and prepare for the following season's garden revisions. Start collecting spring garden catalogs and gardening publications in November, December and January so you can plan out the types of flowers and plants you'll want to add as well as make plans for any needed landscape design changes. It's also a time to prune and shape trees and shrubs



that bloom on the current season's growth.

When spring comes, carefully loosen the mulch around plants. Prune spring-blooming shrubs after they have finished blooming to remove unwanted growth and to shape their size. Rake and remove all leaves, mulch and debris and let Mother Nature take over.

Summer is the best time to dig and divide large clumps of spring and summer-blooming perennials to either rejuvenate them or replant new divisions. It's also essential to remove weeds from planting beds, especially during summer months, because they compete with your plants for food, water and light.

A good method to ensure moisture and reduce weeds is to use mulch throughout your garden. In early summer, apply a two to four inch layer of shredded bark, compost or other organic mulch around your plants.

Remember, garden plants and flowers should not be fertilized after August. Fertilizing encourages green growth, and at this time you want your plants to grow a good root system to make it through the winter.

More gardening information and products for the garden are available by visiting QVC.com or calling 800-345-1515.

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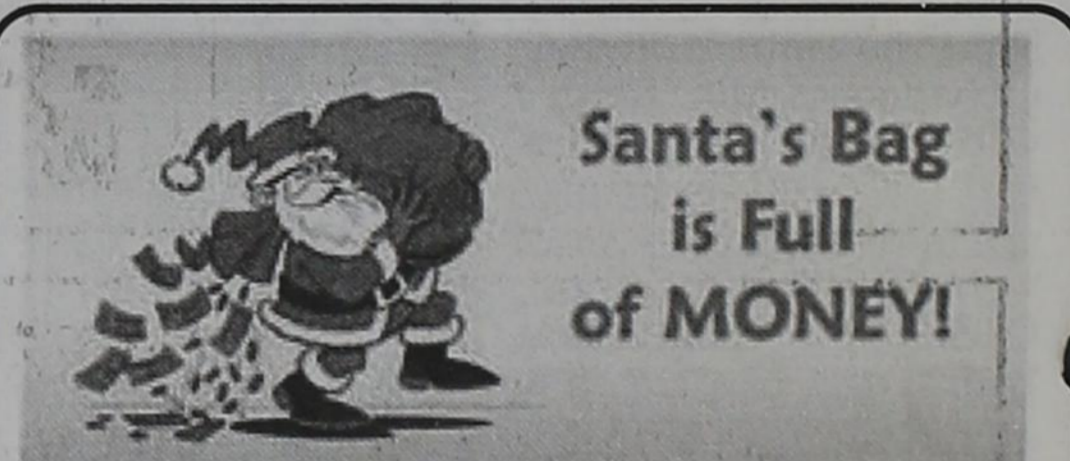
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Kokomo News

By Zelda Jordan

The Christmas Program and dinner at the Kokomo Baptist Church will be on Wednesday night, December 15, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Following the program, Santa's visit and the gift exchange, a meal of barbecue sandwiches, cobbler and cold drinks will be served in the fellowship hall. The meal is furnished by the church and visitors are welcome.

Bro. James Holt, pastor of the Carbon Baptist Church, brought a most interesting message on missions on Sunday morning at the Kokomo Baptist Church. Bro. Holt and his wife, Jerrie, were missionaries on the American Samoa Island in 1997 and 1998. He came into the service dressed as a Samoan pastor would dress and carried a Bible in the Samoan language from which he read scripture, and he also read from the King James version of the bible. He told of the different churches that were on the island, and the Christian work being done there to show how our mission offerings are used. This is the time of the year for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions. The theme is "That All People Might Know Him". Bro. Holt urged all to pray and give their offerings so that all people the world over might come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour.

There were many articles that the Holts brought back with them from Samoa, displayed on a table for everyone to examine at the close of the service. Mrs. Holt was unable to accompany Bro. Holt to Kokomo as she is a Sunday School teacher at the Carbon church and was needed there.

Bro. Clarence Wilson, pastor of the Kokomo Baptist Church was the guest preacher at the Carbon Baptist Church on Sunday morning. His wife, Leona, accompanied him to Carbon. They enjoyed the church Christmas dinner following the service.

Deliah Lewis of Ennis has spent several days with her parents, Delmon and Joyce Eaves and Deliah and Delmon attended the Class 4-A State Championship football game at Texas Stadium on Saturday between Ennis and Marshall. Ennis won the game. Deliah and Randy Lewis's son, Chris is a member of the Ennis team. Randy and Jon met them at Texas Stadium for the game. Our congratulations to Chris and his teammates.

Clifford and Doris Graham of Eastland and Nancy Hendricks visited with Delmon, Joyce and Deliah. Woodrow and Helen Browning and Winnell Browning of Gorman were in Graham on Thursday night to attend the presentation of "The Living Christmas Tree" at the First Baptist Church, and to visit with Gary, Donna, Lesley, Melanie and Garrett Gatlin and Gary, Rebecca and Emily Browning. They reported that the presentation was beautiful.

A TRIP TO BRANSON TO SEE THE CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Bobby and Mary Jane Little and her sister, Lanora Preston of Cleburne spent several days in Branson, MO enjoying the beautiful Christmas music shows at many of the theaters there. They report they had a wonderful time.

Jimmy and Verna Lee Little and Jerry and Lavell Hallmark of San Angelo were in Branson, Mo from Friday until Wednesday last week enjoying the beautiful Christmas Music Shows at many of the theaters there. They report they had a great time.

EARLY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Shane, Amy, Taner and Rylee Shott were host in their home in Eastland for an early Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 11. Those attending and enjoying lots of good food and the gift exchange were Jerry and Lavell Hallmark of San Angelo, Becky Ethington and Shane and Shyanne of Sterling City, Leevi Hallmark and friend, Sabrina of San Angelo, Jimmy and Verna Lee Little, Melissa Little of Eastland, Nelda, Cody and Jarad Fails and Courtney Butts of Arlington and James, Jill, Ashley and Breckley Little of Lake Leon.

A TRIP TO GALVESTON AND HOUSTON

Daisy Slaton, Carol Ward and Jessie Woolsey of Gorman and Zelda Jordan of Kokomo enjoyed a bus trip with the Stephenville-Opry Tours going to Galveston with a stop in Brenham to tour the Blue Bell Creamery on Tuesday, December 7 and returning via The Johnson Space Center at Houston on Thursday, December 9.

There was a very interesting tour with a guide at the ice cream plant and then we all had a serving of ice cream in their parlor. Very good. After lunch we journeyed on to Galveston and our hotel across the street from the beach. The weather was good and many enjoyed walks on the beach and enjoyed watching the surfers. On Tuesday night there was dinner at Gaido's Famous Seafood Restaurant and dinner on Wednesday night was at LeCroy Bistro. Delicious food at both places.

On Wednesday there was a very interesting educational bus tour of Galveston Island with a tour guide pointing out many of the fine homes and buildings, the ship docks, the shore line and lighthouse and giving historical information about them, and the founders of Galveston. There was free time on Wednesday afternoon to have lunch in the restaurant of your choice, visit "The Strand" to do some shopping, visit a museum or some art galleries.

After dinner on Wednesday night there was a trip to Dickinson to see the "Festival of Lights" This was a walking tour through all the beautiful Christmas lights.

On Thursday morning enroute back to Stephenville a trip was made to the Johnson Space Center at Houston. A very interesting place. There were tours of the mission control building and the Astronaut training building, and presentations about the space program in several theaters in the Space Center. There were many school children there learning about the space program, and it was very educational to a lot of us older people too.

Following lunch at the Space Center it was time to board the bus to continue the journey toward home. The final stop was for dinner in Johnson City and to see all the beautiful Christmas lights displays there. The lighted court house and lawn and the tree lights around the Perdinales Electric Co. were an awesome sight to see.

The bus was decorated in the Christmas theme and there was singing, games and movies on the bus to enjoy. It was a fun trip and we thank Beth Parham and Doris and Norman Chandler, and bus driver, Roger Lyons for a safe and entertaining trip.

Comanche Hospital Construction is On Schedule, Official Says

By Celinda Emison
Reporter-News Staff Writer
Taken from Abilene Reporter News 12-14-2004

Construction on the Comanche County medical Center is right on schedule, said Evan Moore, who will serve as chief executive officer of the hospital.

The new hospital is under construction in Van Dyke, 7 miles from Comanche and 8 miles from De Leon. It will replace existing hospitals in both towns, which are about 90 miles southeast of Abilene.

The one-story, 36-bed facility will include two additional beds for intensive care units. Construction is expected to be completed in July, and the hospital should open soon after that.

In June 2002, voters approved consolidating the hospital districts in Comanche and DeLeon.

Moore reported that the roof is almost complete and 70 percent of the walls are framed up inside the building. In addition, the helipad is completed.

"We had a helicopter land on it three weeks ago to test it out, and everything went perfectly," he said.

Moore said virtually everything in the 70,000-square foot hospital must be inspected and meet stringent state and federal guidelines before it can open.

"We are doing our own inspections as we go along and we are overseeing everything involved with the construction," Moore said.

The Comanche Consolidated Hospital District hired the Thomas S. Byrne Company of Fort Worth to build the \$10.1 million facility.

Moore said that so far, the costs are in line with the funds allotted for the project.

"That's what we've got to work with, and that's what it will cost," he said.

Last November, Comanche county voters approved a tax cap rate increase that made it possible for the district to purchase \$12.9 million in general obligation bonds to fund the project. In March 2003, voters approved \$12.9 million in bonds to pay for planning and construction of the new hospital.

Moore, who currently works as the hospital administrator for Comanche Community Hospital, will serve as the CEO of the new hospital. De Leon Hospital Administrator Mike Hare will serve as chief operating officer.

Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

Visiting with Dorothy Greenhaw one day last week for a Christmas luncheon and gift exchanges were Alpha Turley of Stephenville, Margurite McKinney of Dublin and Dorothy Barnes of DeLeon.

Bernard and Ann Keith visited a few days this past week in Sanger, Texas visiting her brother, Johnny Cameron and wife Sandy.

Jeff Roberts of Dallas spent the past weekend with his mother, Dorothy Roberts. They went Christmas shopping to get ready for a visit from Santa.

Roy and Angela Powledge, Kaley and Lane of Eastland hosted a birthday party for their son, Colin, who celebrated his 9th birthday. Those attending were Wayne and Karen Eaves, Lorin Eaves, Belinda Guthery, Holly Guthery, Kandice Cogburn and son, Dylan, Sonja and Kennon Hornback all of Desdemona.

Larry and Gay Moore spent Thursday in Brownwood doing some Christmas shopping and taking care of errands.

Dorothy Roberts visited last Friday eve with her friend, Louella Trice who lives near Lingleville. Louella is having some health problems at this time.

Get well wishes to our sister-in-law, Nelda Keith, from Bernard and Ann Keith, Pug and Vonnie Guthery all of Desdemona. Nelda is in a Fort Worth hospital at this time recovering from pneumonia.

Several in our community are on the sick list. Reports of colds, bronchitis, pneumonia and some recovering from recent surgery. Remember these and other shut-ins with your cards and prayers during this holiday season.

Please contact this reporter with your weekly news. Thanks and have a nice day, Vonnie.

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Heritage Manor News By Nancy Hendricks

Be a Winner!

The winner is always part of the answer; the loser is always part of the problem.

The winner always has a program; the loser always has an excuse.

The winner says, "Let me do it for you." The loser says, "That's not my job."

The winner sees an answer for every problem; the loser sees a problem in every answer.

The winner sees a green near every sand trap; the loser sees two or three sand traps near every green.

The winner says, "It may be difficult, but it is possible." The loser says, "It may be possible, but it is too difficult."

The secret of contentment is knowing how to enjoy what you have and be able to lose all desire for things beyond your reach.

Attention: Heritage Manor states that residents love to get Christmas cards! You may give them in person or if you wish leave them in Janet's office and they will be hand delivered to resident of your choice.

On Saturday afternoon, residents enjoyed a movie.

Some guests were Winnie Rainey of Stephenville, S.E. and Melba Carter of Eastland, Ester Cannon of Conroe, Clyde and DeSha Johnson of Stephenville, Roy and Charlotte Johnson of Desdemona, Paul and Pat Johnson of Lubbock and Henry Lenz of Carbon.

On Sunday morning coming from the First Baptist Church for Sunday School were Tootie Campbell and Vicki Seay. Vicki led singing of Christmas Carols and gospel songs. Tootie taught the lesson, "Confess Jesus, God's Son." Life question-What should I tell others about Jesus? Bible passage John 1:19-34. A resident voiced the opening prayer and another gave the closing prayer. There were twenty four residents present and guests Howard and Pat Hagood.

Recent visitors were Lee and Sue Pettigrew of Desdemona, Maudie Husband and Bill Moll, Bobby and Peggy Ingram of Cisco, Diana Snider, Larry and DeLinda Snider.

Sunday afternoon, those coming from the First Baptist Church were Edward and Ruthie Rodgers, Thomas and Vicki Seay, Kathy Ervin, Nelda Mauney, Louise Hall, Ann Warren and Ann Maxfield. Thomas led the singing. Edward gave the devotional, "God's Creations." Everyone sang Christmas songs. There were twelve residents attending.

Visitors were Winston Brown, Bo and Anna Lee Roberts, Shannon

and Trinity Roberts, Levi Roberts, Shaylor Roberts, Kendra Roberts, Dorothy Roberts of Desdemona, Rodney and Vickie Roberts of Stephenville, Kennard and Doyleena Roberts of Gustine.

Residents send James Ryon of Desdemona "Get Well Wishes."

Recent guests were Stanley Porter, Thomas and Vicki Seay, Bill and Tootie Campbell, Louise Hall, Kathy Ervin, Nancy Hendricks, Daisy Slaton.

On Monday, Karen Guthery came and opened the beauty shop to style hair.

Some visitors were Sylvia Estes and Bubba of Carbon, James and Mary Jesse of Ft. Worth.

On Monday morning, Pat Graham, Judy Killebrew, Jason Killebrew and Ina Smith had bingo for ten residents. Bingo prizes and breakfast juices were enjoyed by all.

Some visitors were Nell Files of Carbon, Jimmy and Verna Lee Little, Betty Little of Eastland.

On Monday afternoon, those coming for the Gospel Singing were Ruby Lee Kinser, Ann Warren, Daisy Slaton and Nancy Hendricks. It was announced that the a storm was coming and everyone left after Ruby Lee played some specials on the piano. There were eight residents present.

Recent visitors were Bonnie Croft of Lake Leon, Max and Janice Grice of Brownfield, Ann Warren, Geardene Wright, Anna Rush, and Christine Hammontree.

On Tuesday afternoon, resident were happy to have Betty Duke of Desdemona come and play the electric keyboard and lead singing for ten residents.

Some guests were Jewel Dean Morris and Bonnie D. Stewart of DeLeon, Annie Fay Foster, Lenden and Shelly Morgan of Garland, Becky Smith of Cross Plains.

On Wednesday morning, Rev. Bill Campbell of First Baptist Church brought chapel. Subject, "The Birth of Jesus." Bible passage Luke 2:14.

Experience Works Public Service Announcement

Are you 55 or older and looking for a job? Would you like to learn new skills? Experience Works is a national nonprofit organization that provides employment and training for older workers with limited or no income. Their dedicated staff in your community can help you find the job or training you need. Whether you are returning to the workforce of have never worked, call to let them put your experience to work. For more information visit their web site at www.experienceworks.org. or call 254-734-3275.

A resident voiced the closing prayer. There were ten residents present.

Recent visitors were Harold and Tody Zink, Sky Lewis of Desdemona, George Rodgers.

Wednesday afternoon, Ina Smith, Vicki Seay, and Judy Killebrew had 'crazy bingo' for a large number of residents. Residents enjoyed the bingo treats.

Some guests were Jarad Majors of Desdemona, Steve and Derenda Menten, Don Landers of Springfield, Lendon and Frankie Jo Shipman.

On Thursday morning, Ina Smith had "Reminiscing" for residents. They talked about past days, times when they had Christmas get togethers, different Christmas foods and what a big time it was.

Visitors were Freddie Rodgers, Woodrow and Helen Browning, Winelle Browning, Jo and Dan Carey of Midlothian.

Thursday afternoon, residents and Ina enjoyed crafts, with real fruit they decorated with spices for room pomades. Sure made everything smell good.

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KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Texans Say Taxes, Energy, Transportation, Are Top Priorities

This January, a new Congress will be sworn in and will begin setting its legislative priorities. As I contribute to the process on behalf of Texas, I use information I gather from many sources, including my annual Listening Post. In this year's survey on domestic issues, you provided excellent feedback and suggestions for dealing with energy, transportation, tax relief, legal reform, and more.

The largest number of responses came in support of tax relief measures that, without congressional action, are set to expire in 2011. More than any other provision, the respondents said, relief from the Marriage Penalty was the item to preserve. Permanent elimination of the Death Tax, lower marginal tax rates on all income brackets, and maintenance of the higher child tax credit were also heavily supported.

Gordon and Nancy, from Richardson, summed up their position on tax relief in this way: "We don't want this relief so much for ourselves as we do for our children and their children. We had hoped to leave them with a better world than the one we have now, or at least similar to what we remember from our growing up years."

Other comments were short and to the point. Lee, from Austin wrote, "The alternative minimum tax needs reform."

"Eliminate the income tax and IRS and institute a consumption tax," was the terse reply of Stephen, of Highlands.

Dale, who lives in Flower Mound, said he favored elimination of the Marriage penalty, lower marginal tax rates, and the higher child tax deduction, and added, "I also want a balanced budget."

Legal reform questions generated a large number of reactions. The greatest number approved prohibiting lawsuits against gun manufacturers. Medical liability and tort reform drew many responses on both sides. Fern, from Beaumont, argued, "Lawsuits and the threat of lawsuits are the only way to keep big business from putting out bad products and taking advantage of the little guy."

Carolynn, who hails from Friendswood, had a different take, saying she wants to see tort reform to prevent frivolous lawsuits from driving up insurance for doctors. "I lost my OB-GYN for this reason, and he was the best doctor I ever had," she wrote.

Energy policy generated many comments. Most of you said the United States should increase domestic oil and gas drilling and production, while nearly as many argued on behalf of renewable resources. Raising federal requirements for fuel efficiency was much less popular.

James, of Kilgore, said, "I believe our tax dollars are wasted on funding for solar and wind energy." John, of Pflugerville, counters that he wants, "Massive emergency federal funding research and development of alternative energy sources. Get out of dependency on foreign oil, NOW."

William, from San Antonio, speaks bluntly, "We have had 31 years since the OPEC oil embargo of 1973 and still we have no comprehensive energy policy. This is a disgrace."

The final category of questions addressed our state's transportation needs. On a topic that generated the most answers for any single question in the survey, Texans wanted a fairer share of the gasoline taxes paid to build more roads. Raising those excise taxes received the lowest backing of any proposal in the survey. Almost as unpopular was the suggestion of an alternative way to finance highways through methods such as tolls. Conversely, many agreed we should increase funding for light rail and mass transit.

Michael, a Dallas resident, replied, "New taxes and tolls are not the answer. Increasing efficiency is...I, and everyone I have spoken to, find it hard to believe that there is no high-speed rail system connecting major Texas cities."

Marc, from Houston, agrees with half of what Michael says. "Tolls are bad because they are discriminatory," he wrote. "Gas taxes should be MUCH higher."

Thomas, of Bryan notes, "I do not believe gas taxes should be raised. However, getting people out of their vehicles and onto mass transit will be tough...I do not really have an answer."

With the help of your responses and other input from my fellow Texans, we can work together to develop practical answers to these and many other challenges face our state and nation. I really appreciate the time you took to weigh in...I am listening.