

The Gorman Progress

2006 Member
Texas Press Association

"Serving Gorman For Over 105 Years"

Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

NUMBER THREE

JANUARY 26, 2006

Eastland County Vol. Fire Depts. Benefit and Dance Set Jan. 29th

Eastland County Volunteer Fire Departments will hold a Benefit and Dance on Sunday, January 29th at 2:00 p.m. til 9:00 p.m. at the Ranger Rodeo Grounds. \$5.00 Donation - All proceeds go to the Fire Departments of Eastland County.

Live Entertainment is planned with Door Prizes. Live Auction with auctioneer Danny Burgess. Food available for Purchase.

Live Music featuring: *Robert Weeks, Brandy Weeks, Raymond Proctor, Jim Snyder, Kelly Spinks & Miles of Texas, Jerry Webb, Jimmy Fincher, Joe Paul Clark and Other Special Guests!!* Master of Ceremonies will be Mr. Rodger Terrell.

For more information, contact Bonnie (Weeks) Pagitt at 254-629-8834 - Robert Weeks (903) 372-1399 or Rebekah Weeks (806)239-1173.

Stamman To Speak At The Bride Of Christ

The Bride of Christ Church at 502 N. Ector in Gorman invites you to join them in welcoming Dr. Tom Stamman of Lonsdale, MN., for a day of Spiritual, Emotional and Physical Healing for the entire family on Sunday, January 29th during the morning service at 10:00 a.m. and evening service at 6:00 p.m.

Charlie Garrett
Memorial Library
has a Lot of New Books.
Come by and Check One Out.
Open Mon. - Fri. - 3 to 5 p.m.
and
Tuesday Morning - 9 to Noon

Wesley Warren Candidate For Justice of Peace - Pct. 1

I, Wesley N. Warren am asking for your vote and support in my candidacy for Justice of Peace, Precinct 1. Precinct 1 covers Gorman, Carbon and Eastland. I have been a life long resident of the Gorman area. I attended Gorman Schools and later received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Sam Houston State Teachers College. I have worked with several organizations both large and small in Gorman and Eastland County. If elected I will conduct the office of J.P. with honesty, integrity and equal fairness for everyone.

I am looking forward to visiting with you during my campaign. Do not hesitate to contact or call me. Thanks for your support.

Pol. Adv. by Wesley N. Warren, Gorman, Tx



FISH FRY AND DRAWING FOR CARBON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Carbon Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry and Drawing will be held at Cook's Fish Barn on Hwy. 36 on February 6th, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The will be Live Music!!! Raffle items include: 12 Gauge Shotgun; Quilt; \$25.00 Gift Certificate from A Wild Hair; Power Tools; 4 Hair Cuts From Susan's; Badger 5 Disposal (installed); Custom Made Bookcase; and Much More.

Tickets may be purchased at Carbon Agri Center and Carbon Convenience Store in Carbon. You do not need to be present to win. Drawing will be at Cook's on Monday Night.

Shin Oak Opera House to Host Benefit for Fire Relief Saturday

Come on out and enjoy an evening of traditional folkloric dance and fabulous music Saturday, January 28th at 7:00 PM at the Shin Oak Opera House in Gorman. The Breckenridge "Hot-Footers," a clogging dance troupe, under the direction of Shirley Anderson, have danced their way across Texas and are sure to entertain ya! We are also proud to present the music of "Dubliners" Frank and Patti Moreno, a dynamic duo well-known in these parts for their wonderful vocals. All proceeds will go to the fire relief for The New Year's Day fires that swept through our area leaving many families homeless.

EDC TALK

WANT TO HELP? DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO?

Several folks have called and asked about what they could do to help. Well, the clothing needs have been met sufficiently, at least for the time being. And there is an open door for food from the Food Bank, Methodist Church. The Church of Christ and First Baptist Church have tons of 'essential needs' toiletries and such. The Carbon Community Baptist Church has similar operations going. Here is the request from most of these churches—they need help manning the operations. They need VOLUNTEERS to be at the churches to help serve the victims.

IF YOU COULD DONATE EVEN A COUPLE OF HOURS, 1 OR 2 DAYS A WEEK, THEY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT. I think we all realize that this is not going to be over/settled in a couple of weeks. These families will need our assistance, our transportation, our time, our prayers and our compassion for weeks and months to come.

IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT:

RHONDA GRYDER-or-	639-2720
CARBON CHURCH	639-2560
FIRST BAPTIST-GORMAN	734-2420
-or-TRACY SPIVEY	734-2964
FOOD BANK	734-2547
-or- MELISSA OSBORNE	734-2849
CHURCH OF CHRIST	734-2774
-or- CAROLYN GILBERT	734-4268

If you have housing available or appliances, please contact Lori Dodd 734-3933 or visit City Grocery and post it on the bulletin board.

March 7, 2006 Primary Election Information

Last Day To Register To Vote - February 6, 2006

Early Voting In Person - February 21 thru March 3, 2006 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Eastland County Courthouse.

Note: Just a reminder that the County Clerk's Office offers curb side voting, please call 254-629-1583 if you need assistance.

Saturday Extended Voting Hours - February 25 - 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eastland County Courthouse

Early Voting By Mail - Applications are currently being accepted. Please call Cathy Jenitho, County Clerk at 254-629-1583 to see if you qualify to vote by this procedure, the deadline to mail ballots out is February 28, 2006.

Gorman Teams Take 3rd At Clyde Powerlifting Meet



Front Row: Matthew Cogburn, Daniel Shirley, Nikki Keith, Sharla Perez, Megan Lewis. Middle Row: Aaron Keith, Seth Johnson, David Ibarra, Pete Ramirez. Back Row: April Keaton, Tecia Jones, Kendra Swanner, Rosa Herrera, Zach Bryan, and Gaberial Burt.

The Gorman Boys' Team and Girls Team both finished 3rd at the Clyde Powerlifting meet this past weekend. The Girls took 3rd with 27 points behind Clyde's 58 points and Hawley's 35 points. The Boys tied for 3rd with Dublin at 22 points just behind Clyde with 56 points and Winters with 54 points. The Panthers and Lady Panthers had some fine performances Saturday with every lifter increasing their totals from last week's meet in Gorman.

The Lady Panthers had all 7 lifters medal at the meet. Tecia Jones took 2nd place in the 105 class with a career best total of 430 lbs. April Keaton finished 4th in the 114 class with a career best total of 410 lbs. Sharla Perez took 4th in the 123 class with a total of 550 lbs. Megan Lewis lifting in her first meet took 5th in the 123 class with a total of 460 lbs. Nikki Keith earned 1st place honors in the 132 class with a career best total of 550 lbs. Kendra Swanner captured 1st place in the 165 class matching her career best with a total of 690 lbs. Rosa Herrera took 3rd place in the 181 class with a career best total of 635 lbs.

The Panthers medaled several lifters again this week. Matthew Cogburn took 5th place in the 114 class with a total of 530 lbs. Daniel Shirley took 4th place in the 132 class with a total of 740 lbs. Pete Ramirez earned 2nd place in the 181 class with a total of 1070 lbs. David Ibarra took 3rd in the 181 class with a total of 1015 lbs. Zachary Bryan took 4th in the 181 class with a total of 995 lbs. Seth Johnson earned 1st place in the 275 class with a fine total of 1150 lbs. Others that placed where Gabriel Burt who took 8th in the 148 class with a total of 735 lbs and Aaron Keith who took 8th in the 165 class with a total of 805 lbs.

The Gorman Powerlifting Teams will be traveling to Dublin this week to compete in one of the biggest meets of the year. Dublin is expecting around 350 lifters from more than 20 schools. There will be some very stiff competition for our lifters, but our main focus as usual will be to increase our totals in order to improve our standings in Region I. Lifting will begin around 9:00 am on Saturday at Dublin High School's New Gym located on Highway 6.

The Gorman Athletic Department would like to also extend a big THANK YOU to all of the fine people that donated their time, money, and efforts in making the 4th Annual Gorman Powerlifting Meet last week a huge success. There were many positive comments on our hospitality and efficiency in running off the meet. It would have not been possible without the help of our booster club, faculty, administration, and student body. We look forward to next year's 5th Annual Meet.

USDA Approves Emergency CRP Haying and Grazing For Texas

In continuing response to this year's widespread drought, David W. Martin, County Executive Director for the Eastland County Farm Service Agency today announced approval for emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in Texas.

Emergency haying of CRP is authorized until May 1, 2006 and emergency grazing is authorized until June 1, 2006. Producers must file a request to hay or graze CRP acreage and visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service to obtain a modified conservation plan prior to haying or grazing the acreage.

"CRP annual rental payments will be reduced 25 percent times the number of acres actually hayed or grazed times the per acre annual rental payment," said Martin. Other restrictions and limitations also apply.

CRP participants who do not own or lease livestock may rent or lease the haying and grazing privilege to an eligible livestock producer located in an approved county.

"In light of recent weather patterns, it is imperative that USDA offer the Emergency CRP haying and grazing program to Texas producer. Availability of forage is literally a matter of survival in the unpredictable and often unforgiving agriculture industry," said Martin.

CRP offers annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving cover on eligible land. USDA will monitor producers to ensure the land is hayed or grazed without damaging conservation covers.

USDA offers additional programs to assist drought-stricken

producers, including emergency farm loans, the emergency conservation program and the noninsured crop disaster assistance program. For more information and eligibility requirements, producers should contact the local FSA office at 254-629-1636 Ext. 2 or visit FSA's website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIBRARY — Charlie Garrett Memorial Library will be open Monday thru Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. Open Tuesday 9 to 12 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.

FOOD BANK

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

Boy Scouts

Meeting Week
Tuesdays — 6:00 p.m.
Methodist Church

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH FROM 9 - 11 A.M.

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.

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 Donations can be sent to Aline Garrett, P. O. Box 711, Gorman, Tx 76454 or to American State Bank.

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.

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

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. Mark Wilkerson, Master — Pat Moseley, Secretary.

Obituary

Evans C. Hood

Evans C. Hood, 76, of Eastland, passed away Saturday, January 21, 2006 at an Abilene hospital. Services were at 3:00 p.m. Monday at the Edwards Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Jim Wright officiating. Burial was in the Eastland City Cemetery under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home. Pallbearers were Dwight Daniel, Duane Daniel, David Warren, Christopher

Hood, and Adrian Mitchell. Mr. Hood was born on March 10, 1929 in Sweetwater to John Marvin and Mary Elizabeth (Gentry) Hood. He served in the U. S. Marines from 1946 to 1948. He married Bettie Horn on July 21, 1950 in Fort Worth. He received his Master's Degree from Hardin Simmons University and received his PHD, in Educational Adminis-

tration, from East Texas State University. He was a teacher at Olden, the Personnel Director for the Odessa ISD, and Superintendent for the Palestine ISD. He taught at Odessa Jr. College, Henderson County Jr. College, East Texas State University in Commerce and was Director for the East-End Co-Op in Gorman. Mr. Hood devoted 50

Gorman High School Honor Roll

Seventh Grade

A

Abigail Pacheco

AB

Alejandra Borrego, Brice Campbell, Jordan Carter, Cameron Clark, Jaime Johnston, Matthew Keith, Cecilia Olivares, Maria Raygoza, Amy Regian, Stephanie Risueno, Luisa Silva, Steven Singleton and Madison Wells.

Eighth Grade

years to education.

Mr. Hood worked on his farm and enjoyed spending time in his workshop, welding and working with his hands. He loved to go to flea markets and was a member of the First Christian Church. He was preceded in death by a brother, Marvin Hood and a sister, Patty Daniel.

Survivors include his wife, Bettie Hood of Eastland; a son and daughter-in-law, Marc Carroll and Sandy Hood of Lake Leon; a daughter and son-in-law, Kathryn Mitchell and Gary Thomas of Palestine; 3 grandchildren, Christopher Carrol Hood of Eastland, Adrian Marvin Mitchell and Allyson Ann Mitchell both of Palestine; 3 great-grandchildren, Elizabeth M. Hood of Eastland, Mason Robert Mitchell and Brody Tucker Mitchell both of Palestine; a nephew, Jerry Lon Horn of Grand Prairie and a constant caregiver, Diane Eisenbach.

Donations may be made to the First Financial Bank in Eastland for an education scholarship that will be created in his name.

A

Chance Bryant, Taylor Chew, Brittany Henderson, Eric Ryon and Brenda Velasquez.

AB

Jonathan Flores, Laura Herrera, Tyler Johnson, Adriana Madera, Perla Maldonado and Aracely Tovar.

Ninth Grade

A

Codi Church, Emily Lewis, Jordan Perry, Matthew Underwood and Veronica Walton.

AB

Matthew Cogburn, Marsela Gonzalez, Olivia Jackson, Audrey Johnston, Lindsey Laminack, Valerie Longoria, Martin Ramirez, Tyson Swanner, Carrie Thetford, Perla Velasquez, April Voyles and Nathan Wilson

Tenth Grade

A

Brandy Carlton, Yhdira Garcia, Jimmy Murphy and Nancy Velasquez.

AB

Ashleigh Bush, Corey Clark,

Maria Cruz, Jessica Esquiel, Reba Granado, Brandon Greer, Carolos Gutierrez, Kennon Hornback, Tecia Jones, Aaron Keith, Kendra Lewis, Megan Lewis, Tony Perez, Mary Powell, Daniel Shirley and Trey Underwood.

Eleventh Grade

A

K'Ann Howard and Amanda Regian.

AB

Wade Cariker, Kristy Carlton, Josh Cox, Brian Greer, Rosa Herrera, Brenda Olivares, Maria Oronia, Pete Ramirez, Reinaldo Sanchez, Brittany Shirley, Matthew Smith and Ty Vaughn.

Twelfth Grade

A

Brandon Hale, Kevin Lewis, Cindy Lopez and Justin Willey.

AB

Corey Brown, Zachary Bryan, Amber Ervin, Nikki Keith, Sandra Lara, Esteban Leal, Kent Long, Jessica Panter, Tim Patel, Sharla Perez, Kendra Swanner and Hollyann Wright.

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NEW: Kent St. Nice 3-1-1 frame, app. 1357', 2 living areas, much remodeling, carpeted, metal roof, vinyl siding, alum. windows, fenced back yard \$29,500.00. Offers Considered.
NEW: Kent St. App. 2 A., 3-2-2 brick, central a/h, lots kitch. cabinets, garden area, large pecan trees, nice retirement property. \$69,500
NEW: 1.75 A m/l, 3-2 frame, app. 1476', metal roof, several sheds, large oak and pecan trees. \$20,000.00 OFFERS CONSIDERED.
NEW: 1 A m/l, 2-1 frame, app. 900', metal roof, shop bldg., numerous outbuildings, water well, and much more. \$12,000.00.
13.958 acres west of De Leon: 2 or 3 br. - 1 bath brick, 1375', garage and carport. Tifton 85 pasture, 2 wells, big hayshed, older shop, 1/4 mile off pavement. \$112,500
NEW: 30A., near De Leon, 3-3-3 m/h, 1190 sf, CH/A, Klein grass, cult., fenced, well, pond, coop water, barn & sheds, nice view. \$96,000.
NEW: 40 A. West Gorman, rough, wooded, secluded, great deer/turkey hunting, canyon w/80' elevation change, pond, electricity, views. \$2,250 per acre
NEW: 73A near Duster, good hunting, 3 nice deer blinds, 2 ponds, 30 x 40 barn w/elec., coastal, pecans, fenced. \$1,600 acre.
NEW: 97a S/W Gorman: Secluded, good hunting, seasonal creek, oak/mesquite, pond, fenced. Will divide into 27a and 70a tracts. \$1,850 acre.
100 A. near Duster: 3 - 1 1/2 - 2 brick, central A/H, fireplace, 1444', 24 x 30 shop on slab, 2 wells, 3 ponds, steel corrals, app. 36 A. coastal, some cult., and native. \$249,500.00
NEW: 102.81 A S/E Gorman: Native pasture, coastal, 2 ponds, 3 wells, new fence 2 sides, paved rd., pecans, deer & hogs, will divide. \$2,250 per acre.

THE GORMAN PROGRESS
P. O. Box 68 - Gorman, Texas 76454
Phone 254-734-2410 or 2411 - Fax 254-734-2799
E-mail - gprogress@txbusiness.com
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MISSING!!

His name is "Bear" who lives at Duster, TX. A Great Pyrenees, solid white male dog who has been missing since Jan. 8th. If you have met me, you wouldn't forget me. He is a very gentle and friendly dog. Many people in Gorman have seen me at Duster, so help me find my way home. If "Our Bear" was trouble to anyone, you just had to give us a call. If you have any information please call 254-893-5507.
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56A Coastal, water well, stock tank. \$112,100 UNDER CONTRACT
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69A wooded, rolling terrain, corrals, 3 tanks, hunting. REDUCED \$172,500.
2A 3/2 1,900 sf frame, 2 wells, CH/A. REDUCED \$72,000. UNDER CONTRACT
63A coastal, corrals, water wells, hunting. \$123,700.
7 A., 3/2, 2,347sf brick, carport, stock tank, corrals, RV shed, metal barn, 2 wells, hwy. frontage. \$145,000.
97A 5/4 5,5632 sf brick, swimming pool, deck with hot tub, metal barn, pecan trees, tanks, coral, and much more. \$599,999 UNDER CONTRACT
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KOKOMO NEWS

BY ZELDA JORDAN

About the best news I can think of now is the rain that we received on Sunday. What a beautiful sight it was to look out and see the rain falling. I heard reports from a half inch to .7 of an inch here in the community to over an inch of rain toward Gorman. It will certainly settle the dust and ease the threat of more fires for a few days. Let us be sure and thank the good Lord for his goodness and perhaps he will send us more rain soon.

Bro. Jimmy Nelson preached at both services at the Kokomo Baptist Church on Sunday. His message on Sunday morning was from Job 1:1-12 telling how God let Job go thru a time of losing everything, but them giving him more than he had before because he had remained faithful to God. Other visitors were Bro. Nelson's wife, Maggie, Bro. Frank and Beth Shirley of Gorman, George and Johnnie Harrison of Carthage, Laura and Rebecca Mullen of Peacock, and Tommy Seay of Alpine. The special music was rendered by Daryl Hirst who sang the beautiful song "Who Am I".

I've not learned who the preacher will be on Sunday, January 29, but there will be someone there to preach the Word of God to us. Visitors are always welcome.

Donations to the church building fund continue to come, and we thank each and everyone who have given donations that are sincerely appreciated, and we praise the Lord for your kindness and the desire to see our church rebuilt. God bless you. Plans and preparations are being made to begin building soon.

Lauren and Rebecca Mullen of Peacock visited from Thursday until Sunday with their grandmother, Karen Patterson in Eastland and their great-grandmother, Betty Little. They went skating on Saturday night with Ashley and Breckley Little.

Nancy Hendricks spent several days in the Comanche County Medical Center, and is now in the Heritage Manor in Gorman for a little while. We wish her continued improvement. Sylvia Buchanan, Kelly and Tina Buchanan of West Columbia, Bro. Clarence and Leona Wilson of Stephenville, Kay Snider, Woodrow and Helen Browning, Linda Brumbelow of Stephenville, Daisy Slaton and Zelda Jordan visited with Nancy while she was in the hospital.

Many from the community attended the meeting at Carbon on Friday night concerning the victims of the devastating fire that raged through the community on January 1, and what help there might be for them. Representatives from several organizations spoke about how their organizations might be able to help. A lot of help is needed to replace the homes, barns, fences and cattle that were destroyed in the fire.

Bro. Jimmy and Maggie Nelson and their Aunt Zelda Jordan enjoyed lunch together in Eastland on Sunday.

Norma Webb visited with Zelda Jordan on Monday. Oren and Norma are living at Lake Leon at the present time since their home burned.

"Happy Birthday" to my great-grandsons, Ryan and Kody Daniell of Abilene who were 9 years old on January 23, from Grandma Jordan. Ryan and Kody celebrated their birthday at a party with some school friends on Friday night, and then with a neighborhood block party at the home of their parents, Wade and Sheri Daniell on Saturday night, and with dinner and a fun time at Mr. Gatti's on Monday night. Their little sister, Emily, helped them celebrate.

Fires in Texas

January 4, 2006

Submitted by Mike McGinn

After the fires have finally, hopefully, been put out in our area here, about a total of 35,000 acres and over 250 homes and businesses have been left in ashes. The tales of those who fought the fires and of those who were in the direct paths of the fires have been horrifying tales. Many told of walls of fire 50 feet high that would literally hit trees and knock them over by the force of the winds created by the fire itself. Not to mention the natural winds whipping at 60 mph which added to the force behind the flames. It was devastation everywhere you looked. Sadie and I got in the car a couple of days ago and drove the roads through the country around here and what we saw was enough to sicken you. We saw where the pastures of grass and of woods were burned to ashes. We saw where huge trees had just been blown over by the force of the flames hitting them. We saw dead cattle that couldn't escape. We saw the devastation of homes that were simply obliterated from existence. We traveled in about a 150 mile circle and what we saw was like looking at a Sci-Fi movie of the after-effects of a nuclear war. No, it wasn't quite that bad, but that's what came to mind as we drove through places still burning and smoke so thick it was choking even inside the closed car. We saw as people were just standing in a fixed state of shock, sitting on the ground crying and some scratching through the ashes of their once lively home. Most were just there... no emotion, no reaction. Just there. As we stood alongside my nephew and his precious wife, Michael and Susie Hampton, it was unbelievable what we were witnessing. They told the story of how the DPS officer had come and told them to get out of their home, and to go right then, not to wait. They had no sense of time in the state of panic that had hit the entire region. All they could do was grab a few small items and get in the car and leave everything they had worked so hard for behind them. As they drove away from their beautiful home in Kokomo, Texas, they didn't know if they'd ever see it again. All their hopes, their dreams, their treasures were in that home. And, like so many, many others throughout the state, they lost it all in a single flash of wind, fire and incineration. Many had insurance, many didn't. Fire is no respecter of persons, places or things and is a raging destroyer of all that sits in its path. So many lives have been forever changed because of one tiny spark somewhere that took on a life of its own.

Yet, in the aftermath of all this devastation, there is hope. Hope for a new beginning, a new life. Knowing the feelings of helplessness due to fire, I can understand not knowing which direction to turn, where to go or how to get there. And seeing the looks on the faces of those who lost everything they owned, it's hard to visualize in the natural mind how anything good could ever be born of such tragedy. Yet, as we somehow turn our affections and emotions, along with our anger and hurt, to Christ, hope is born out of the ashes. Standing in front of Michael and Susie's burned home, it was difficult to even form words that would be anything close to comforting. What can you say at a time such as this? What can you do that would change their hearts right at that moment? How can you comfort them? It's really hard to understand the purpose behind such sorrow, yet, the peace of God will sustain and bring them to a place of solitude in Him. There is no understanding why or how this could happen. But, there is hope for a new beginning. They are alive. Their children are alive and safe. There is hope.

All those men and women who have been so diligent in battling the fires deserve so much more than just a handshake and a "thank you". But, all those I know who stayed on those trucks and in those pastures and around those homes, fighting night and day, at times so exhausted they could barely move a muscle, yet somehow found the strength and courage to take another step, drive another mile, fight one more fire, THOSE are the ones who deserve a standing ovation. However, all those I know simply put their lives on hold and went without a word of pleading, without being asked, without once thinking of the dangers, just knowing that devastation was wreaking havoc on their neighbors and friends lives, and they went. Our volunteer fire department in Rising Star went literally night and day without end until the fires were put out. These are the hero's. And, knowing these men and women, I know each of them would simply nod their heads in humble and

Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

Desdemona Monthly Musical will be held on Saturday, January 28th at the Community Center (former School Building). Concession stand will open at 5:30 p.m. with Stew and cornbread, sandwiches and homemade pie. Come early to enjoy supper and have fellowship with everyone before the music program begins at 6:00 p.m. All area musicians, singers, and visitors are invited to attend. Dorothy Roberts serves as Chairman of the Concession Stand with several helpers.

Everyone in our area enjoyed the rain early Sunday morning. A measure of 1 1/2 inches was received in the Jakehamon Community.

Dorothy Roberts spent Sunday and Monday in Fort Worth with her daughter, Ulenda Cofsky and family. She had a Doctor's appointment on Monday for a check-up. Dorothy still uses a walker or cane but has improved some since the cast was removed.

"Congratulations" to Blake and Deliah (Chisum) Morrison in the School Hill Community as they celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, January 22nd with a nice reception hosted by their daughter, Dana Ruth Bays and husband, Larry. Several from Desdemona attended this reception.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of Violet Mae Watson, age 95 of Desdemona. Burial was on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 in the Alameda Cemetery northwest of Desdemona. Vollie was born on February 2, 1910 to John Dalton and Fannie Mae (Brazell) White in the Jakehamon Community, south of Desdemona in Comanche County.

Survivors include two sons, Dalton Watson and wife, Joy of Alameda Community and Bennie Watson and wife of Coleman; one daughter, Darlison Zink and husband, Harold of Gorman; several grandchildren, great grandchildren and a host of friends.

Preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Roy Watson, two brothers, and one sister. The Watson Family are residents of the Desdemona area where all their children attended school and graduated.

Lots of sickness in our area - several are recovering from recent surgery, others with colds, sinus problems and even a few cases of the flu have been reported. This reporter has been sick almost two weeks with a viral infection. **Being sick is for the birds** - agree?

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

modest appreciation that they could be there to help. They'd have done it with no thanks at all. That's just the kind of people they are. They deserve so much more than an applause, but they simply wouldn't have it any other way than to lay their lives on the line and go when the call comes in. They do it every day. Those people are called not of men, but of God. And, not only do they hold that calling with the highest regards and respect, they answer that call without hesitation.

Today, the skies are clear and I've not seen any smoke on the horizon. The danger is always there when you're in such a drought and everything is dry like it is here. We pray for rain and ask that God somehow cause His protection, blessings and peace to fall on this land. That He mend the broken hearts and quiet the chaotic lives with His love and mercy. Today, I say thank you to Him for bringing the fires to an end here. As my Sadie girl said, "Poppie, the fire will not prevail." However, the peace of God will.

(s) Mike McGinn

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CAPITOL COMMENT



U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Listening Post: Domestic Affairs

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

I do not take lightly my responsibility to help determine our government's domestic legislative priorities. I work very hard to ensure that the needs of Texans are addressed by Congress.

Your opinions are extremely valuable to me as I work to shape policy in the Senate. Please take a few minutes to consider the issues I have written about below. I am eager to learn where the residents of the Lone Star State stand regarding these key areas.

To submit your answers, please use the contact information listed at the end of this column. After receiving your responses, I will write a follow-up column later this year.

Survey:

For each answer, please indicate whether you agree (A), disagree (D), or are neutral (N).

- What should Congress do to improve education in the United States?
 - Increase the number and size of grants available to college students.
 - Focus on improving schools in grades K-12.
 - Increase opportunities for specific job training after people are already out of school.
 - Increase the prestige and salaries of teachers.
 - Study countries with higher-performing students to see how they are succeeding.

Comments:

- What is your opinion concerning the United States' efforts to improve Homeland Security?
 - Suspected terrorists should be monitored by any means necessary, even if I have to give up some of my privacy.
 - I do not want my civil liberties infringed upon in the name of safety.
 - Measures taken since September 11, 2001 have been successful.
 - The USA PATRIOT ACT should be extended.

Comments:

- How should Congress reform immigration policy?
 - Authorize a guest worker program that allows legal immigrants to come and go, but does not lead to citizenship.
 - Authorize a guest worker program that can lead to citizenship after five to seven years.
 - Build fences in areas frequently used to enter the U.S. illegally.
 - Abolish the practice of releasing non-Mexican, illegal immigrants between the time they are captured and their scheduled hearing.

Comments:

- What should Congress do in the realm of taxes?
 - Permanently abolish the Death Tax because it is unfair.
 - Raise taxes to pay for necessary programs.
 - Tax cuts should continue because they have stimulated the economy.
 - There have been too many tax cuts, and spending should be reduced instead.
 - Do away with the Alternative Minimum Tax.

Comments:

- An area where Congress should devote additional attention is ...
 - reforming Social Security.
 - improving health care and Medicare.
 - protecting the environment,
 - creating a national energy policy that would reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
 - reforming the judiciary.

Comments:

Please complete the survey online at:
<http://hutchison.senate.gov/capcoms.htm>

Or send your responses to:
 Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
 DOMESTIC AGENDA SURVEY
 284 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510-4304

Amy Bradshaw
 Assistant Press Secretary
 Office of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
 284 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20150
 (202) 224-9767 phone
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Please visit hutchison.senate.gov for information on the Senator's work in the U.S. Senate and to sign up for her e-mail newsletter.

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Summit White w/Graphite Cloth, 1500, Power Windows/Locks, Cruise, 4 Sp., Auto, V8, CD Player, Tinted Windows, Stock #5823C

\$18,000 + TT&L

2005 Chevy Trailblazer LT 4X4

Silver Metallic w/Gray Int. 6 cyl., 4 Sp., Power Windows, Bucket Seats, Cruise, Dual Climate Control, Daytime Running Lights, Alarm, Power Heated Mirrors - Stock #6235

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Silverstone Metallic w/Gray Cloth, 3.4L V6, 4 Speed Automatic, Cruise, Tilt, Dual Media Radio, Power Driver Seat Stock #6299

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2002 Chevy Impala

White w/Neutra Cloth, 3.4L V6, 4 Speed Automatic, Cruise, Tilt, Radio w/CD, Power Driver Seat - Stock #6160B

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2005 Chevy Malibu LS

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\$13,995 + TT&L

Weekly Used Car Specials

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Pewter w/graphite Cloth, 4 Sp. Auto, T/C, Radio w/CD, Tinted Windows, Stock #6293

\$8,250 + TT&L

2001 Chevy Tahoe LT

Red w/Tan Leather, 2WD, V8, Power Front Bucket Seats, Radio w/CD & Cassette, Cruise, PW/L, Stock #6010A

\$14,500 + TT&L

2000 Chevy 2500 Ext. Cab

4X4, Pewter w/Gray Cloth, Flatbed, V8, 4 Sp. Auto, Cruise, PW/L, Radio w/CD, Power Seats, Split Bench Seating - Stock #6215B

\$14,500 + TT&L

2001 Chevy 1/2 Ton Reg. Cab

White w/Graphite Cloth, V6, 2WD, 5 Sp. Manual, Radio w/Cassette, Cruise, Rubber Mats - Stock #6148B

\$7,995 + TT&L

2000 Chevy 3500 Reg. Cab

4X4, Single Rear Wheels, Pewter w/Gray Cloth, V8, Tilt, Cruise, 4 Sp. Auto, Radio w/Cassette - Stock #6114B

\$11,995 + TT&L



Send a Valentine's Gift to Someone Special
 Life Skills Class is selling Valentine's Bags again this year!
 Order forms will be available in classrooms, and in the life skill's room.
 We will accept orders until Monday February 13th.
 There are 3 different bags that can be ordered:
 Sweetheart Bag: Message of your choice, 1 can of Coke,
 2 Valentine's Pencils, Chocolates,
 2 Suckers
 \$3.00
 Friendship Bag: Message of your choice, Chocolates,
 1 Valentine's Pencil, 1 Sucker
 \$2.00
 Cutie Bag: Message of your choice, 1 sucker,
 1 Valentine's Pencil
 \$1.00

PRESIDENT DECLARES MAJOR DISASTER FOR TEXAS

WASHINGTON - The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that federal disaster aid has been made available for Texas to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by an extreme wildfire threat beginning on December 1, 2005, and continuing.

Acting FEMA Director David Paulison said federal funding in the form of Individual Assistance is available to affected individuals in the counties of Callahan, Cooke, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Montague, Palo Pinto, Tarrant, and Wise. Individual Assistance is provided for losses incurred on or after December 1, 2005, and can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Public Assistance also is available for emergency protective measures implemented on or after December 27, 2005 for all eligible counties in the State. This assistance will be made available on a cost-sharing basis to State and local governments for those counties being threatened with an urgent danger from wildfires. This assistance will be provided at 75 percent Federal funding.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Acting Director Paulison named Sandra Coachman as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected area. Coachman said that damage surveys are continuing in other areas, and additional counties may be designated for assistance after the assessments are completed.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance tomorrow by registering online at <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

John Parchman Named Athletic Director At CJC



John Parchman has been named the Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Cisco Junior College. Parchman, a native of Lubbock, received a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Texas Tech University and a Master's of Education from Sul Ross University.

Parchman began his coaching career in 1972 at Atlanta High School. In 1983 he was named Head Coach/AD for Cisco High School, during which time Parchman was named 1983 Central Texas Coach of the Year.

In 1985, Parchman moved to El Paso where he was Head Coach at El Paso Socorro High School and was named 1986 El Paso Coach of the Year. From 1993 to 1995 Parchman was Head Coach and Athletic Director at Llano High School and posted a 14-7 record with one District Championship. He was named 1994 District 25-AAA Coach of the Year.

Later, Parchman moved to Midland where he served as Head Coach/Athletic Coordinator and posted an 89-23-1 nine year record. While at Midland Lee High School, Parchman compiled an impressive coaching record including 5 District 4-AAAAA Championships, State Playoffs, 8 years, 3 State Championships (AAAAA), and 1999 USA TODAY National Championships.

Throughout his coaching career, Parchman has received numerous awards and recognitions. He was awarded "Coach of the Year" honors on 24 occasions including USA TODAY National Coach of the Year, Texas Sports Writers Coach of the Year (3 Years), AP Coach of the Year and Fox Sports Coach of the Year (2 years).

He also received the City of Midland Community Service Award, THSCA All-Star Coach, Top-O-Texas Football Hall of Fame, High School Extra "Coach That Makes A Difference", finalist for the Tom Landry Award (2 times), and was named to the THSCA Board of Directors. Parchman has also been invited to speak at over 60 regional and national clinics.

Parchman and wife Diane have two daughters, Annie and Sarah. "I am proud to be back in Cisco. Throughout the years I have maintained my ties with the town, and I look forward to getting back to work. Hopefully we can build a team at CJC that will support the mission of the College and win games," Parchman said.

Parchman replaces Kurt Nichols, who recently began coaching duties at East Central University in Oklahoma.

Neugebauer Announces Lifting Of Haying and Grazing Restrictions

Washington, DC- Congressman Randy Neugebauer announced Friday that federal haying and grazing restrictions for Texas have been lifted in response to recent drought conditions throughout much of the state.

"I commend USDA for taking this action," Neugebauer said. "Easing haying and grazing restrictions during this emergency is the smart move to make as it will help ranchers feed their cattle and will help prevent further wildfires in the region."

This news out of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) extends the primary "nesting" period through May 1 for haying and June 1 for grazing on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Neugebauer had been working with the USDA to have these restrictions lifted since the onset of the wildfires in December.

Ranchers will need to meet certain environmental and conservation requirements to take advantage of this extension and should contact their local Farm Service Agency office for further details.

USDA Rural Development To Conduct Value-Added Producer Grant Training Session For Potential Applicants

BROWNWOOD, TEXAS, January 20, 2006—USDA Rural Development is accepting competitive applications for nearly \$19.5 million in grants to develop value-added agriculture business ventures and alternative sources of renewable energy.

"USDA Rural Development promotes efforts to bring together agricultural producers and rural businesses to spur economic opportunities for rural communities" said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director. "During Fiscal Year 2005 Texas USDA Rural Development awarded over \$1 million in Value-Added Producer Grants."

The Value-Added Producer Grant Program provides competitive grant funds for one of the two following activities: (1) to support the planning activities needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product or (2) to acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture that will allow producers to better compete in domestic and international markets. The maximum award for a planning grant is \$100,000 and the maximum award for a working capital grant is \$300,000.

Grants are available to independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. Value-added products are those agricultural products, which gain value through processing, production, segregation or other means, or produce renewable energy on a farm or ranch. Applications must be completed and submitted no later than March 31, 2006.

USDA Rural Development has scheduled a meeting for potential applicants on Thursday, February 2, 2006 beginning at 10:00 A.M. at Texas A&M Brazos County Cooperative Extension Office, 1229 N. Hwy 281, Stephenville, TX 76501. Topics to be discussed include; in-depth information on the availability of grant funds, eligibility requirements, eligible uses of grant funds, and how to apply. For more information on the Value-Added Producer Grant program, please contact Billy Curb, Business and Cooperative Specialist at (254) 742-9775.

Texas Civil War Museum To Open

FORT WORTH - The largest collection of Civil War artifacts west of the Mississippi River will go on display when the Texas Civil War Museum opens to the public January 25.

The museum is a collaborative effort involving private collectors Ray and Judy Richey and The Texas Division United Daughters of the Confederacy. The museum has more than 3,000 artifacts which will rotate on exhibit.

Among the artifacts is a collection of more than 60 flags valued at approximately \$3 million. It is the largest collection of flags in the state of Texas. Most of the flags are from Texas units that fought for the Confederacy.

"This is a long-time dream of mine to be able to share my personal collection in a public venue," said Richey, president of Ray Richey and Company, Incorporated. "I have been collecting for more than 20 years, and this is one of the largest private collections of Civil War artifacts in North America. I believe this museum will be an essential stop for anyone interested in learning more about this important part of Texas and United States history."

The museum is a non-profit entity that includes artifacts from what was the Texas Confederate Museum displayed in Austin from 1904 to 1988. This collection is controlled by The Texas Division UDC. This joint venture between private collectors and a public trust is considered rare among museum collections in the United States.

Among the featured displays at the museum is a collection of Victorian era dresses. The museum has over 200 dresses and about three dozen will be displayed on a rotating basis.

The museum will offer special discounts and attractions for student groups. The museum's main focus will be educating current and future generations about the Civil War and the role Texas played.

Once opened, the museum's operating hours will be Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission prices are \$6 for adults and \$3.00 for students ages 7 through 12. Group and active military discounts are available.

The museum is located at 760 Jim Wright Freeway North in Fort Worth. Information about the museum can be obtained by calling 817-246-2323. Much more information is available at the museum's Web site, www.texascivilwarmuseum.com

SCHOOL MENU

Week of January 26 thru 31
BREAKFAST
THURSDAY - Cinnamon Rolls, Juice and Milk
FRIDAY - Sausage, Gravy, Biscuits, Juice and Milk
MONDAY - Cereal, Graham Crackers, Juice and Milk.
TUESDAY - Oatmeal, Toast, Juice and Milk.

LUNCH
THURSDAY - Ham or German Sausage, Macaroni and Cheese, Pinto Beans, Combread and Milk.
FRIDAY - Hamburgers or Chicken Patties, Lettuce, Pickles, Tomatoes, Tater Tots, Ice Cream Cups, Mustard, Mayo, Catsup and Milk.
MONDAY - Tacos or Burritos, Refried Beans, Salsa, Peppers, Peanut Butter Bars, Peaches and Milk.
TUESDAY - Oven Fried Chicken or Pork Chops, Rolls, Green Beans, Cream Potatoes, Gravy and Milk.

Super Notes

By David K. Perry
 dperry@gorman.esc14.net
 734-3171

January is almost over and it seems as if we just returned from the holidays. Time: what a precious commodity, especially at schools. The spring semester is so jam packed with extra-curricular activities; it seems to go by in a flash. One thing is for certain, if you need something to do, there is usually going to be something for you watch or get involved with at school. Basketball is now in full swing; Ag shows have begun; PowerLifting has started, High School Academic U.I.L. competitions and One Act Play will be here soon and before you know it tennis, golf, baseball, softball, and track will be upon us. On top of all that, we have TAKS Test to prepare for and take. So if your child seems to be stressed at times, they have good reason to be and you can be of great help to them by seeing that they get plenty of sleep when possible and helping them with their homework and school projects. Remember that all of these things that keep us busy can also be great family time and create memories that will last a lifetime. Accentuate the positive in everything!

You may be interested in the following events: 1/27 Basketball @ Baird 4:00, 1/28 Powerlifting in Dublin, 1/31 Basketball @ Eula, also - 2/1 - TAKS related testing for all junior high and high school students.

I know everyone is thankful for the rain we received this weekend and hopefully we will get some more this week, as predicted. If we get rain Friday and Saturday, maybe we'll be blessed with some much needed run-off for the stock tanks. Prayers do help!

Superintendents sometimes send out surveys to the school communities they serve in order to get feedback regarding various topics. Unfortunately, the questions asked don't always cover the concerns of the community. That is why I want to take this opportunity to ask you what you think are the greatest needs at Gorman ISD? You can call me; send me a e-mail, or mail me a letter. You can be anonymous or come by and visit me in person. The point is, I want to know what you think about what we are doing. I'll take positive comments as well as constructive criticism. All of the information I receive will be kept confidential regarding a person's identity, but hopefully I will receive some good ideas for improvement that I can share with everyone. Please respond!

I want to personally thank the Ranger High School Student Council and Delta Kappa Gamma for their donations Friday night to the Gorman Volunteer Fire Department and to Gorman ISD employees who lost belongings in the fire. They donated \$300.00 to each group. A presentation was made during halftime of the Varsity Girl's game. I would also like to thank all of the many organizations and individuals in the area that have been so generous during this time of need after the fires. Most of us will never know who all of these organizations and people are because of the donations being made anonymously, but it certainly warms your heart to know that such generosity exists in times of peril. Thank God we are blessed to live in such a place!

Thanks also to all of the vendors and individuals that made and continue to make donations to the Gorman Livestock Growers Association. Your donations help make the Eastland County Stock Show a success each year. The children you support through your donations learn valuable life long lessons through their participation in showing their projects.

Valentine's Day will be here shortly and you can send a Valentine's Gift to Someone Special. Mrs. Sowell's Life Skills Class is selling Valentine's Bags again this year!

Order forms will be available in classrooms, and in the life skill's room.

We will accept orders until Monday February 13th.
 There are 3 different bags that can be ordered:
 Sweetheart Bag: Message of your choice, 1 can of Coke,
 2 Valentine's Pencils, Chocolates,
 2 Suckers
 \$3.00
 Friendship Bag: Message of your choice, Chocolates,
 1 Valentine's Pencil, 1 Sucker
 \$2.00
 Cutie Bag: Message of your choice, 1 sucker,
 1 Valentine's Pencil
 \$1.00

There was the Eastland County Stock Show and a Powerlifting meet this weekend. The results of those events will be reported by their sponsors so I won't take up extra space here. I will say our students did very well at both events. Thanks for your support of the students that participated.

ATTENTION!!! The Gorman ISD intends to apply for a waiver of the prohibition concerning the date of the first day of instruction for the 2006-2007 school year. The district intends to begin instruction for students on August 14, 2006. The district will hold a public meeting at noon on March 20th, 2006 in the high school auditorium to receive public comments regarding the proposed early start date.

I always feel like I am forgetting something or someone each time I submit this article for publication. If I missed any event that you would like to have seen covered, please let me know. It takes community involvement for a school to be successful and you are welcome to get involved at Gorman ISD anytime. Remember, this is your school; these are your children; and these children are your future! Come help us shape the future.

David K. Perry
 Superintendent
 Gorman I.S.D.

Reminder:
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Tuesday Noon

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GIRLS

For the week of 10/24: Mary Powell

Mary is a sophomore who runs cross-country and track. Mary advanced to the regional cross-country meet this season placing 7th in the class 1A competition. Mary is a great leader in the strength and conditioning program. Mary strives to reach high goals for herself and sets the pace for others to follow. Mary's hard work, dedication, and determination are a great example for the Lady Panther program.

For the week of 10/31: April Keaton

April is a freshman who is in powerlifting and runs track. April gives 100% in the off-season program. April's hard work has helped her improve in strength as well as conditioning. April is determined to continue improving herself and the Lady Panther program.

For the week of 11/7: Kendra Swanner

Kendra Swanner is a senior who plays volleyball, basketball, softball, and powerlifting. Kendra kicked off the basketball season with an impressive 16 points and 17 rebounds in the season opener with Evant. Kendra has continued that intensity with a double-double in five other games. Kendra has been a huge asset to the Lady Panther program with her hard work and dedication.

For the week of 11/14: Audrey Johnson

Audrey is a freshman who plays volleyball, basketball, softball, and track. Audrey performed well against Woodson on November 18th by putting up 12 points. Audrey continues to step up her leadership roll. Audrey is a great competitor who works hard to better herself and her team.

For the week of 11/21: Nikki Keith

Nikki is a senior who plays volleyball, basketball, softball, and powerlifting. Nikki is all over the court as proven in the May game. Nikki made 3 out of 4 shots, had 2 assists, 5 rebounds, and 3 steals. Nikki's energy is a fire for the Lady Panthers and a burden for the opposing team.

For the week of 11/28: Rosa Herrera

Rosa is a junior who plays volleyball, basketball, softball, and powerlifting. Rosa is in the game as soon as she steps on the floor. Rosa has the heart to guard anyone at anytime and shows no fear. When we need a Panther to attack, Rosa is the one we look for.

For the week of 12/5: Kaci Seaton

Kaci is a Junior who plays volleyball and basketball. In practice, Kaci's intensity level has risen greatly and her performance at the Rising Star Tournament showcased that new intensity. Kaci stepped in as a starter at the first tournament game and while running a fever throughout the tournament, she continued to have a red-hot three game performance. Kaci helped the team secure a consolation trophy and her efforts were rewarded by receiving All-Tournament honors.

BOYS

Week of October 24th- Orlando Valenzuela : Orlando is sophomore who participates in football, basketball, powerlifting, and track. Orlando has stepped up this year and contributed to our program in many areas. This football season he has played both ways for us and filled in for us nicely when we lost a starter to injury. On October 28th Orlando rushed for 43 yards on 8 carries and had 8 tackles against the Ranger Bulldogs.

Week of October 31st- Cody Church: Cody Church is a freshman that participates in basketball, powerlifting, and baseball. Cody has been working very hard in off-season and shows good promise as a student athlete. Cody is a valued part of our program and we look forward to seeing him progress each year.

Week of November 7th- Corey Clark: Corey is a sophomore who plays football, basketball, powerlifting, track, and baseball. Corey started both ways for the Panthers in football and starts for the varsity basketball team as well. Corey had 7 points against DeLeon in the Panthers opening game of the season. Corey has shown good work ethic in basketball and we are looking forward to seeing him continue to develop and contribute to our program.

Week of November 14th- Tyson Swanner: Tyson is a freshman who participates in football, powerlifting, basketball, track, and baseball. Tyson started both ways for the Panthers in football and is a starter for the varsity basketball team as well. On November 18th Tyson had 32 points including 3 three pointers in a 68-70 loss to Woodson. Tyson shows great promise as both an athlete and a leader.

Week of November 21st- Pete Ramirez: Pete is a junior who participates in football, powerlifting, basketball, and baseball. Pete started on offense in football and plays an important role in our basketball program. Pete is always working hard in off-season and hustles in basketball practice which has made an impression on the coaches and those around him. Pete scored 4 points and had several rebounds in limited action against May on November 22nd. We will continue to look for good things from Pete in these next two years.

Week of November 28th- Trey Holdman: Trey is a sophomore who participates in basketball and baseball. Trey is a fine young man that works very hard and is very coachable. Trey is always on time, always gives his best, and is always willing to stay late and help himself and teammates get better. Trey is definitely an asset to our program.

Week of December 5th - Aaron Keith: Aaron is a sophomore who participates in football, basketball, powerlifting, golf, and baseball. Aaron is a hard working young man and sets high expectations for himself. In the Woodson game on Dec 6th Aaron had 8 points, 4 steals, 3 rebounds, and 2 assists followed by a 25 point, 6 steal, 12 rebound, and 5 assists performance in the Newcastle Tournament on December 9th and 10th. Aaron has helped the Panther basketball team get on the winning track as of late and we are looking forward to more wins in the future.

8th Grade Cubs Defeat Albany

The Cubs took control of what turned out to be a sloppy 1st game back from the holidays. However the Cubs beat the Albany Lions by a score of 22 to 17. Those leading the way for the 8th graders were Ernie Rodriguez who displayed great passing ability along with a ton of hustle and desire. Tyler Johnson also added seven points and Taylor Chew put in six more as the Cubs pulled through for a victory. With the win this brings the Cubs record to 8-1 on the year and 6-0 in District play They will play the Baird Bears on Thursday January 19th at Home.

7th Grade Cubs Get Revenge On Albany

The Cubs avenged a early loss to the Lions by defeating them 34-30 on Monday night. The game was close throughout. However the Cubs pulled away for a win. All the 7th graders played a great game. Cameron Clark led the way with 15 points. Raymond Martin through in another 8 points and Matt Keith added 7 points. Keifer Wilson and Randy Woodall each added 2 points a piece. Jacob Singleton and Jacob Fritz each played a great defensive game.

The Cubs improve to 4-2 in district and 5-4 overall. With the win it puts the 7th grade cubs right in the midst of the district race.

They will be playing Baird at home on Thursday January 19th .

Letter To The Editor

January 13, 2006
Dear Friend,

I am writing this letter with great concern about our country. I am shocked and appalled that we as CHRISTIAN's sit idly by as a few atheist are able to control OUR government. I for one want "ONE NATION UNDER GOD" to remain in our Pledge of Allegiance.

I hear people all the time saying, it's awful, and it's a shame. But, I do not see anyone taking a stand for Jesus. What I do see is the ones that stand against Jesus. Well, I for one AM taking a STAND.

Our founding father's built this wonderful Nation on The Word Of God. Every morning on the Rock, K99.3 presents "A Moment in History", I am learning so much about the love our founding fathers had for God. The things that Satan does not want us to hear. The Bible says, we will perish for the lack of knowledge. I do not want to perish, and it scares me that God is being taken out of our daily lives. A little here and a little there, until HE'S taken totally away. God is the reason we are here, the one and only reason. I will not allow Satan and his atheist friends to change how I say the Pledge. Whenever I have the opportunity to say it, I will always shout out "ONE NATION UNDER GOD" and if that offends anyone, well, frankly that's just too bad. I am offended that this is even as issue. We were blessed when those words were added to our Pledge. It's the only Pledge I have ever said in my whole life and I will continue to do so, no matter if changes are made. We are "ONE NATION

UNDER GOD". I know there are others out there that feel the same way, I hear them too.

This is "ONE NATION UNDER GOD", always has been and always will be. As Christian's we must stand up for Jesus and not just sit on the sidelines and let Satan take over the Nation. We've sat by long enough: IT'S TIME TO STAND!

I've heard talk about the separation of Church and State. Well, the way I see it is there would be no State without the Church. The United States would not exist; we'd still be part of England. People come from all the Nation's of the world just to experience the Freedom's we have here. We are a blessed Nation, and it because of God that we are. The Christian people of this Nation must stand on the solid rock of Jesus, stand for what's right and just.

Lets all unite and take a STAND FOR CHRIST!!

Sincerely,
(s) Teresa M. Burleson

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Gorman Church of Christ Members Part Of Teaching Team At Workshop

Gorman Church of Christ members were part of the teaching team of a regional workshop for Bible teachers in Stockdale Texas January 14. Carolyn Gilbert, Joy Rogers and Floydene Gilbert joined San Angelo's Johnson Street Church of Christ Footprints of the Faithful team and were part of the teaching group for this bilingual Church of Christ. More than 70 participated in the daylong event at the One Body, Two Languages Church of Christ/Iglesia de Christo. More than seven churches were represented from the Stockdale, Seguin and New Braunfels area. Joy Rogers developed a multi media presentation that was featured in the first session. Carolyn Gilbert continued with information on the work the two are involved with in the local congregation at Gorman. They are associate members of the teaching team at the San Angelo church and recently presented with this group at another regional workshop in Hobbs, New Mexico.



L-R: Billie Crowder and team of San Angelo, Carolyn Gilbert of Gorman, Sherry Skelton and Irma Archer

Note Of Appreciation

We would like to thank everyone for all the help we have received since our home burned. Your thoughtfulness and caring have been so appreciated. The volunteers at all the Relief Centers have been so helpful. We will always remember. May God Bless Each Of You.
Oren and Norma Webb



Joy Rogers

Learn Communication Skills & Partnership Techniques Designed To Reduce the Stress of Doctor Visits

Abilene, TX - If you or someone you care for has memory problems, developing a partnership with your physician and honing communication skills can result in increased knowledge of the situation and less stress, helping the partners make informed decisions about care and services.

The Alzheimer's Association - North Central Texas Chapter is offering a free two-hour workshop, "Partnering With Your Doctor: A Workshop for Persons with Memory Problems and Their Care Partners," on February 2, 2006 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 405 South Seaman, Eastland, Texas. Although there is no charge, donations are welcome. To register for this workshop, contact the Alzheimer's Association - North Central Texas Chapter at 1-800-272-3900, 325-672-2907 or e-mail libby.connally@alz.org.

The workshop will provide strategies to form a doctor/patient/care partner relationship that allows you to more effectively manage and be a part of your healthcare. Workshop leaders will discuss communicating with your doctor, improving how patients and care partners work together, getting organized and prepared for doctor visits, reducing your stress, and ways to ensure the best health care possible for the patient.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world leader in Alzheimer research and support. Through a national network of advocates and chapters, it advances research, improves services and care, creates awareness of Alzheimer's disease and mobilizes support.

The largest private funder of Alzheimer research in the United States, the association has committed \$136 million toward research into the disease. If you are living with Alzheimer's disease and need help or information, call (800) 272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/northcentraltexas.

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Ten Star All-Star Basketball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The Camp is by Invitation Only. Boys and Girls ages 10 - 19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from 50 states and 18 Foreign Countries attended the 2005 Camp. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team.

Camp locations include: Commerce, TX; Prescott, AZ; Thousand Oaks, CA; Sterling, CO; Bridgeport, CT.; Babson Park, FL; Gainesville, GA; Champaign, IL; North Manchester, IN; Towson, MD; Ypsilanti, MI; Glassboro, NJ; Schenectady, NY; Hickory, NC; Lebanon, TN; Blacksburg, VA; Lyndonville, VT.; and Beloit, WI.

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Texas Tax Reform Commission To Hold Hearings In Laredo, Weslaco

AUSTIN – The Texas Tax Reform Commission will meet Thursday, Jan. 26, in Laredo and Friday, Jan. 27, in Weslaco to gather recommendations on how to reform the state tax structure.

The hearings are part of a series of public hearings the commission will hold across the state to gather input from Texans on how to modernize the tax structure and reduce property taxes. The public is invited to participate.

The 24-member, bi-partisan commission was created by Gov. Rick Perry in September 2005. It is chaired by former Texas comptroller John Sharp. Since then, the Texas Supreme Court has ruled the state's current school property tax structure unconstitutional and has given lawmakers until June 1 to devise a different tax system and lower school property taxes.

The governor has outlined five key principles to guide the commission's deliberations on tax reforms. Perry said our new tax structure must be fair, broad-based, modern, understandable to taxpayers and competitive with other states "so that Texas can continue to attract jobs by maintaining the best business climate in America."

Details of the Laredo and Weslaco meetings and later meetings of the commission are as follows:

Thursday, Jan. 26

5:00 p.m. (CST) – Laredo
Texas Tax Reform Commission to hold public hearing.
Laredo Community College Main Campus
De La Garza Building, Room 101
West End Washington Street
Laredo, TX 78040

Friday, Jan. 27

10:00 a.m. (CST) – Weslaco
Texas Tax Reform Commission to hold public hearing.
South Texas College
Mid-valley campus
Lecture Hall, Room G191
400 N. Border
Weslaco, TX 78596

Tuesday, Feb. 7

5:00 p.m. (CST) – Texarkana
Texas Tax Reform Commission to hold public hearing.
Location TBD

Monday, Feb. 13

10:00 a.m. (CST) – Abilene
Texas Tax Reform Commission to hold public hearing.
Location TBD

Tuesday, Feb. 21

10:00 a.m. (CST) – Nacogdoches
Texas Tax Reform Commission to hold public hearing.
Location TBD

Tuesday, Feb. 28

10:00 a.m. (CST) – Midland
Texas Tax Reform Commission to hold public hearing.
Location TBD

RANDY'S ROUNDUP

UPDATE BY CONGRESSMAN RANDY NEUGEBAUER

Judge Alito Impresses at Senate Hearings

Last week, the Senate began to consider whether or not Judge Samuel Alito, President Bush's nominee to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court, is worthy of sitting on the nation's highest court. I think Judge Alito did a great job last week. He had to endure hours and hours of probing questions. In the end, what the American public saw was a smart man who understands the U.S. Constitution and the proper role of the federal courts. I was especially glad to hear that he thinks America's Founding Fathers would be shocked to hear that some judges and justices are basing their reasoning on foreign laws instead of relying on the text in our own Constitution.

News reports indicate that the Democrats on the Judiciary Committee have requested to delay the preliminary vote on Judge Alito's nomination until January 24. Once that vote takes place, the full Senate will consider the nomination. As long as the Democrats don't use any more delay tactics – such as the filibuster – the Senate vote should occur before the end of this month.

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Goes Into Effect

On January 23, I will hold my final Medicare Workshop in the district. This event will take place in Hereford at the Deaf Smith County Library from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Similar to previous workshops I have hosted, Medicare experts will be on hand to help answer questions regarding the new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit that went into effect on January 1 of this year.

About 24 million seniors have already signed up for this new benefit and pharmacists have already filled 6 million prescriptions under the program, according to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). There have been a few stories in the media reporting that the program has experienced some problems in its early days. HHS has increased toll-free pharmacy support phone lines, increased coordination with state governments, and taken other steps to respond to these early glitches. If beneficiaries are in need of assistance, they should call 1-800-MEDICARE. Although some who are trying to sign up for the benefit may encounter frustrations, I encourage everyone to remain patient and learn as much about this benefit so that a well-informed decision can be made.

Upcoming Stops in the District

In addition to the Medicare Workshop in Hereford, I will continue to criss-cross the 19th District in the coming days. I will eat lunch with the Kiwanis in Plainview on January 19, honor Sundown High School's cross country state champions and award-winning band on January 20, and participate in the West Texas Rehabilitation Center Telethon in Abilene on January 21.

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Texas Checkoff Helps Students Explore Careers

The Texas Beef Checkoff Program invites Texas High School Juniors and Seniors to take a close look next summer at the diverse career opportunities available in today's beef industry.

The Texas Beef Council (TBC) and Texas Cooperative Extension will host the first Texas Beef Young Leaders Program June 25-29 in Amarillo. Interested Juniors and Seniors must submit an application and be accepted to attend.

"As the \$153 billion U. S. beef industry continues to expand its markets, products and technology, it creates more career opportunities for young Texans who are just a few years away from entering the job market," said Richard Forgason, DVM, a Hungerford, Texas, beef producer. "The Texas checkoff is funding this program to help many Texas students examine their beef opportunities before they choose a college or start their careers."

Forgason, who serves as chairman of TBC's beef quality committee, said the beef industry offers diverse career opportunities ranging from beef cattle production to occupations in the fields of food safety, beef marketing and nutrition.

The Texas Beef Young Leaders Program will give Texas students an opportunity to learn first-hand about these many opportunities while also developing their professional skills. Over five days of interactive sessions, the participants will:

- Explore many different career opportunities in today's beef industry.
- Build communication skills through oral presentations.
- Interact with key industry leaders and managers.
- Expand industry awareness after the seminar through required presentations in their communities.
- Create lifelong contacts with fellow Texas students interested in similar career paths.

TBC and TCE invite interested Texas high school junior and seniors in the 2006-2007 school year for this unique program. Applications are available from 4-H agents, FFA Teachers and through the junior representatives at beef breed associations. Interested applicants can also request an application from TBC at 1-800-846-4113 or go to www.texasbeef.org and download an application form.

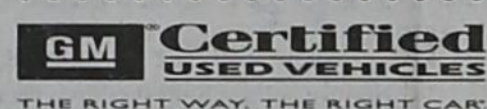
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'05 Buick Le Sabre	Loaded, 23K, Warranty	\$15,900
'05 Buick Century	Loaded, 27K, Warranty	\$13,950
'05 Cadillac Deville	Leather, loaded, 18K, Warranty	\$29,500
'05 Cadillac Deville	Leather, loaded, 24K, Warranty	\$28,500
'05 Chevy Cavalier	Auto, 4-cyl., 4K, Warranty	\$12,995
'05 Chevy Malibu	Loaded, Auto, 23K, Warranty	\$12,750
'05 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab	Loaded, LS, 31K, Warranty	\$20,500
'05 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab	4X4, flatbed, diesel, 36K	\$29,900
'05 GMC 1500 Crew Cab	4X4, leather, 15K, Warranty	\$26,900
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'05 Pontiac Grand Am	Auto, loaded, 17K, Warranty	\$13,500

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'04 Chevy 1500 X-Cab	4X4, loaded, 52K, Warranty	\$19,000
'04 Chevy 1500 X-Cab	4X4, leather, 28K, Warranty	\$22,750
'04 Chevy 1500 X-Cab	LT, 4 X 4, 28K, Warranty	\$22,750
'04 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab	Leather, LT, 23K, Warranty	\$22,250
'04 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab	4X4, LS, 46K, Warranty	\$24,250
'04 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab	Duramax, 4X4, leather, 23K, Warranty	\$32,500
'04 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab	4X4, Diesel, 6-Spd. 30K, Warranty	\$25,900
'04 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab	4X4, Diesel, loaded, 32K, Warranty	\$28,900
'04 Chevy Trailblazer	LS, loaded, 38K, Warranty	\$17,500
'04 Ford Escape	Loaded, XLT, 18K, Warranty	\$17,500
'04 Ford F150 Reg. Cab	Auto, V6, 8K, Warranty	\$15,500
'04 Ford F150 Crew Cab	4X4, loaded, 17K, Warranty	\$26,500
'04 Olds Alero	4 Dr., loaded, 25K, Warranty	\$11,500
'04 Pontiac Montana	Loaded, V6, 10K, Warranty	\$15,900

2003 • 2003 • 2003

'03 Chevy Monte Carlo	Loaded, V6, 38K, Warranty	\$13,500
'03 Chevy Avalanche	Loaded, V8, 18K, Warranty	\$21,900
'03 Chevy Suburban LS	Loaded, cloth, 47K, Warranty	\$19,900
'03 Chevy 1500 Reg. Cab	Sportside, loaded, V8, 51K, Warranty	\$15,500
'03 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab	HD, loaded, 34K, Warranty	\$21,500
'03 Chevy 1500 X-Cab	Loaded, V8, 29K, Warranty	\$16,900
'03 Chevy 1500 X-Cab	4X4, loaded, 25K, Warranty	\$19,500
'03 Chevy 3500 X-Cab	Duramax, loaded, 117K, Warranty	\$19,000
'03 Chevy Trailblazer	Loaded, 39K, Warranty	\$305.91 Per Month***
'03 Dodge 2500 Quad-Cab	Diesel, 4X4, loaded, 39K	\$25,500
'03 Ford Mustang	Loaded, V6, 21K, Warranty	\$13,500
'03 Ford Ranger X-Cab	Auto, loaded, 76K, Warranty	\$10,900
'03 Dodge 1500 Reg. Cab	Auto, V6, 43K, Warranty	\$10,950
'03 Volvo V70	Leather, sunroof, 26K, Warranty	\$23,500

*** \$16,250 with T. T. & L. down for 60 Months @ 4.9% W.A.C.

2002 • 2002 • 2002

'02 Chevy Impala	Loaded, V6, 57K, Warranty	\$ 9,500
'02 Chevy Monte Carlo SS	Leather, Loaded, 45K, Warranty	\$14,000
'02 Chevy Malibu	Loaded, auto, 41K, Warranty	\$169.33 per Month*
'02 Chevy 1500 X-Cab	Loaded, LS, 60K, Warranty	\$14,750
'02 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab	Duramax, 4X4, LT, 79K, Warranty	\$25,500
'02 Chevy Trailblazer	Loaded, 45K, Warranty	\$280.49 Per Month**
'02 Ford F250 X-Cab	4X4, diesel, Flatbed, 60K, Warranty	\$22,500
'02 Dodge 1500 Crew Cab	Loaded, V8, 48K, Warranty	\$15,500
'02 Jeep Liberty Limited	Loaded, V6, 45K, Warranty	\$12,995

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** \$14,900 with T. T. & L. down for 60 Months @ 4.9% W.A.C.



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'01 Buick Le Sabre	Loaded, V6, 36K, Warranty	\$11,500
'01 Chevy Tahoe	3rd Row Seat, loaded, 79K, Warranty	\$15,250
'01 Chevy Tracker	Loaded, auto, V6, 61K, Warranty	\$ 8,250
'01 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab	4X4, LT, 149K, Warranty	\$13,000
'01 Chevy 2500 X-Cab	6 Spd., V8, 4X4, 57K, Warranty	\$17,500
'01 Dodge Neon	SE, auto, 38K, Warranty	\$ 7,000
'01 Ford F150 Super Crew	4X4, loaded, 101K, Warranty	\$14,750
'01 Ford F150 Super Crew	XLT, loaded, 61K, Warranty	\$13,900
'01 GMC Sonoma X-Cab	V6, auto, 81K, Warranty	\$ 8,995
'01 Jeep Wrangler Sport	4X4, auto, V6, 58K, Warranty	\$14,995
'01 Mitsubishi Montero Sport	Leather, loaded, 89K, Warranty	\$11,500
'01 Mercury Grand Marquis	Leather, loaded, 61K, Warranty	\$11,500

2000 • 1999 • 1998 • 1997 • 1995

'00 Buick Le Sabre	Loaded, V6, 59K, Warranty	\$ 9,950
'00 Ford Explorer	XLT, loaded, 71K, Warranty	\$ 9,500
'99 Ford Conversion Van	Loaded, auto, 79K, Warranty	\$ 9,250
'99 Lexus G5 300	Leather, loaded, 71K, Warranty	\$16,900
'99 Chevy 3500 Crew	V8, 5 Spd., only 51K, Warranty	\$12,500
'99 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab	Leather, 4X4, 120K, Warranty	\$ 9,990
'99 Pontiac Montana	Loaded, LS, 55K, Warranty	\$ 8,950
'98 Chevy 1500 X-Cab	V8, auto, 91K, Warranty	\$ 7,995
'98 Ford Ranger X-Cab	Auto, V6, 90K, Warranty	\$ 6,995
'98 Dodge Dakota X-Cab	V6, 5 Spd., 53K, Warranty	\$ 6,250
'98 GMC 1500 X-Cab	Leather, loaded, 97K, Warranty	\$ 9,000
'97 Olds Aurora	Loaded, leather, 75K, Warrant	\$ 6,750
'97 Chevy 1500 X-Cab	4X4, loaded, 90K, Warranty	\$ 9,500
'95 Nissan X-Cab	4X4, 5 Spd., 105K, Warranty	\$ 6,750

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