

The Gorman Progress

2006 Member
Texas Press Association

"Serving Gorman For Over 106 Years"
Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR

JUNE 22, 2006

Billy Earl and Francis Simpson To Mark 50th Anniversary



June 22, 2006 will mark Fifty years of marital bliss for Francis and Billy Earl. We, the children and grandchildren would love your attendance to help celebrate this occasion on Saturday, June 24, 2006 from 3:00 til 5:00 in the afternoon. Please be our honored guest for refreshments and reminiscing at the Gorman Community Center at 116 S. Kent Street in Gorman. *Your Gift Is Your Presence.*

GORMAN REPRESENTED ON REGIONAL COUNCIL

Lori Dodd serves as Gorman's official delegate on the Texas Midwest Council. Alternate delegate for the city is Cliffa Vaughn.

The Texas Midwest Council meets three times a year for delegates from cities throughout the region to network and learn about implementing successful community programs and projects.

During the 2nd meeting of the year last Wednesday, delegates were informed about how cities are included in the Texas Midwest Guide, an annual publication that promotes history, attractions, places to visit, annual events and quality of life in the region. Council members also shared success stories on economic development and city improvement projects.

Texas Midwest Community Network is a regional organization that provides marketing programs for tourism and economic development; networking opportunities for community leaders to find ways to enhance community development; and legislative awareness in monitoring issues that directly affect the communities in this region of the state. The organization was founded on the basis of "communities working together to accomplish what one community cannot do alone."

Many of the member cities find themselves facing each other across a football field or over a basketball court during the course of a year. The regional organization gives communities an opportunity to turn their rivalries into alliances to strengthen the economy and quality of life in the region.

TMCN was founded in 1994 and currently has a membership of 43 communities: Abilene, Albany, Anson, Aspermont, Baird, Ballinger, Brady, Breckenridge, Bronte, Brownwood, Buffalo Gap, Cisco, Clyde, Coleman, Colorado City, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Eden, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Hamilton, Hamlin, Haskell, Knox City, Merkel, Munday, Paint Rock, Ranger, Robert Lee, Roscoe, Rotan, San Angelo, Santa Anna, Snyder, Stamford, Sweetwater, Throckmorton, Tye and Winters.

For more information about TMCN visit the web site www.texasmidwest.com.

New Districts for 2006-2008 Present A Challenge for Gorman Teams

Every two years the UIL realigns all the districts in the state of Texas for athletics and UIL academics. The UIL first sets the cut-off numbers for each classification and aligns the football and basketball districts, which it did back in February. Then they work to form the districts for volleyball, baseball, softball, and spring sports/UIL academics (this includes track, cross country, golf, tennis, UIL academics, OAP). This realignment saw the cut-off for class 1A rise to 194 and under from 189 and under. To compare, in 1976 when Gorman won the state title in class B the cut-off ranged from 124 and under. In addition, as early as 2000-2002 the numbers were 169 and below, if that were now DeLeon and Tolar would not be in our football district. If we were under the 1976 numbers, only Perrin and Cross Plains would be in our district. It is interesting how times have changed and populations have caused the numbers to change over the years. Small schools have lost numbers, but one of the biggest changes that effects realignment every year is the addition of new schools (usually AAAA or AAAAA schools). Here is a look at our districts for the next two years:

Football	Volleyball	Baseball	Softball	Spring/CC/UIL
Gorman	Gorman	Gorman	Gorman	Gorman
Tolar	Albany	Albany	Albany	Albany
DeLeon	Lingleville	DeLeon	DeLeon	DeLeon
Ranger	Ranger	Ranger	Ranger	Ranger
Cross Plains	Moran	Cross Plains	Cross Plains	Cross Plains
Perrin		Eula	Eula	Eula
Santo		Baird	Baird	Santo
		May		Tolar
				Winters

2006 Football Schedule (Tentative)

August 19th Scrimmage	Evant/Johnson City	Evant	TBA
August 24th Scrimmage	Miles	Miles	TBA
September 1st	Roby	Gorman	7:30
September 8th	Covington	Covington	7:30
September 15th	Ben Bolt	Taylor	7:30
September 22nd	**Sterling City	Gorman	7:30
September 29th	**Ranger	Ranger	7:30
October 6th	*Perrin	Gorman	7:30
October 13th	*Santo	Santo	7:30
October 20th	open		
October 27th	*Cross Plains	Gorman	7:30
November 3rd	*DeLeon	DeLeon	7:30
November 10th	*Tolar	Gorman	-7:30

**Homecoming 2006

*District 12A Games

Junior High and/or Junior Varsity schedules will be released later

Super Notes

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

I didn't think I would be writing this many articles this summer, but I want to keep the community informed about what's happening at school so I may be writing more than expected. Living in a small town the one thing you can depend on is rumors and whenever I can, I like to supply you information that will hopefully keep rumors to a minimum.

There will be some changes in personnel next year that I hope will give us a fresh shot in the arm regarding our athletic program. Coach Tyson has resigned and he will be going to Georgetown ISD. This is a great opportunity for him and we wish him the best of luck there. Coach Gerick has resigned and will be going to Winthorst ISD. We wish him the best of luck also. I know Coach Green at Winthorst and I'm sure Coach Gerick will find their program exciting.

Lacy Majors has also resigned to accept a position at Eastland ISD as well as Mrs. Gore who will be going to Comanche ISD. We wish them the best also. I am sure they will find the challenges of a new school exciting and know they will experience success.

I also want to remind you of other changes that have already taken place. Sandy Porter was hired to replace Mrs. Bailey as secondary Science teacher and Samantha Duke has been hired to fill the open girl's coaching position and as a history teacher.

We have had some changes at the elementary level as well. At the last board meeting, Dianne Casey was hired as our new fifth and sixth grade math teacher. We have also hired Dena Scitern as our new fifth and sixth grade social teacher. Marilyn Warren was hired as the new third grade teacher, with Tracy Spivey moving to the first grade next year. Kaymie Wells has accepted a position at Cross Plains. We wish her success at her new job.

We have our job openings posted on tasenet.org and at school. We will also have them posted on our website and will advertise in the paper beginning next week. I hope to begin interviewing for athletic director no later than the week of July 10th. Other positions open include a Coach/JH Science teacher and Computer Teacher. We hope to

A VBS of Heroic Proportions!

June 26th - June 30th
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Supper served at 5:30 pm
3 yrs. to 5th grade
Gorman United Methodist Church
254-734-2547

Come on all you Action Hero Cadets and experience God's Awesome Power!

Miss and Little Miss Gorman Pageant Set Saturday at 7 p.m.

The pageant will be held at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, June 24, in the high school auditorium.

This years contestants are:

Miss Gorman Contestants:

Ashleigh Bush-- Chamber of Commerce
Nicole Vaughn-- Fire Department
Reba Granado-- Lion's Club

Miss/Little Miss Gorman Contestants:

Briana Landa-- Chamber of Commerce

Fund raising projects are now underway and all the girls have their cans in businesses for donations. Please help support these girls. The contest will run through June 24. All proceeds will go toward community projects. The Chamber supports programs such as the Livestock Raisers Association, the Awards Banquet, the Baseball Association, the Peanut Festival, the Annual Santa Visit, and Economic Development to bring in new businesses.

We appreciate the good job done by our reigning Miss Gorman, Kaci Seaton and Little Miss Gorman, Sara Woodall. They have represented us well at many area events and parades. Thanks girls!

fill these positions quickly with quality teachers.

Wasn't the rain great! I hope everyone got all they needed, especially in the tanks and lakes.

Remember, it takes community involvement for a school to be successful and you are welcome to get involved at Gorman ISD anytime. This is your school; these are your children; and these children are your future! Your input is always welcome. Come help us shape the future.

WTRC Holding Annual Club Lamb & Meat Goat Sale

The West Texas Rehab Center will be having their annual Club Lamb and Meat Goat Sale on June 24th at the Wylie FFA Show Barn. The Goat Sale will be at 1:30 p.m. and the Lamb Sale will be at 3:00.

The Rehab Center has lambs and goats that have been donated by some of the top show lamb and show goat breeders in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The animals will be at the Wylie FFA Show Barn on Friday, June 23 for your viewing.

The Annual Jackpot Show will be held on December 9, 2006 for only the animals that are purchased at these sales. Prizes and buckles and money will be given to the exhibitors that return to the Jackpot Show.

Class of 1981 - 25 Yr Get-Together

It's that time - we are planning our Reunion Get-Together. I need addresses, e-mails, phone numbers. Contact Susan (Snider) Wheat at 254-647-1064 or claysue@eastland.net or 3018 FM 101, Ranger, Tx 76470

Gorman Lions Club Drawing For \$100 in Groceries To Be Given Away June 24 At the Miss Gorman Coronation To purchase tickets please contact Reba Granado Thank You For Your Support! \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00



Garage Sale - June 24th Fajitas, June 23rd

Garage Sale at 519 Milam Street - Saturday, June 24 8 a.m. - ?? - for Reba Granado candidate for Miss Gorman / Lion's Club Sweetheart.

FAJITAS - Friday, June 23rd at 11 .m. at Senior Citizens Center. Place your orders when you get there or I will take your order. WE DELIVER! \$6.00 a plate: includes rice, beans, pico de goillo, fajitas, and flour tortillas. Please come and support Reba Granado, a candidate for Miss Gorman. Sponsored by Gorman Lion's Club.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

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

Gorman Senior Citizens meet Every Wednesday at 11:30 at the Gorman Senior Center. Bring Covered Dish or \$3.00 Per Plate.

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

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.

LIBRARY — Charlie Garrett Memorial Library will be open Monday thru Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. Open Tuesday 9 to 12 a.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, JULY 19TH FROM 9 - 11 A.M.

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

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.

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.

Order Prohibiting Certain Fireworks In Areas Of County

WHEREAS, the Texas Forest Service has determined that drought conditions exist in Eastland County; and

WHEREAS, on the 12th of June, 2006 the Commissioner's Court of Eastland County has determined that the normal danger of fire in the unincorporated areas of Eastland County is greatly enhanced by the extremely dry conditions now existing.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commissioner's Court of Eastland County adopts this order prohibiting the sale or use of restricted fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Eastland County.

A. No person may sell, detonate, ignite, or in any way use fireworks classified under 49 C.F.R. part, 173.100(r)(2) (10-1-86 edition), as "skyrockets with sticks" and "missiles with fins" in any portion of the unincorporated area of Eastland County.

B. Order regulates fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Eastland County as Authorized by local Government Code, Section 352.051 and that we specifically designate the point of La Mancha Guest Ranch at Lake Leon as a safe "area" from sundown until 11:00 p.m.

C. This Order does not prohibit:
1. common fireworks, small in size classified as Class C explosives;
2. large fireworks devices designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration, or detonation and classified as Class B explosive by the U. S. Dept. of Trans. [Tex. Occ. Code, Chapter 2154].

D. A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally violates a Prohibition established by this Order. An offense under this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Approved this 12th of June, 2006, by the Eastland County Commissioner
Court. Reggie Pittman, Comm. Pct. 4 Attest: Cathy Jentho, County Clerk

Gorman Fire Department Drawing For \$100 in Gasoline To Be Given Away June 24 At the Miss Gorman Coronation To purchase tickets please contact Nicole Vaughn at 734-6561 or any member of the Gorman Fire Department Thank You For Your Support! \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00

Lula Miram "Babe" Ragland

Lula Miram "Babe" Ragland, age 98 of De Leon, Texas passed away Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at the De Leon Nursing and Rehab. Services were held Saturday, June 17, 2006 at Nowlin Funeral Home Chapel with Jackie Auvenshine officiating. Music by Eddie Childress.

She was born to Juan Franklin and Sallie Featherston Franklin on October 3, 1907 in Turnersville, Tx. She married Ed Childress who preceded and she later married Raymond Ragland who also preceded.

She was a retired Sales Clerk; homemaker; resided in De Leon most of her life and a member of De Leon First Baptist Church.

She is survived by two sons, Thurman Childress of Stamford and Truman Childress and his wife Jean of De Leon; four grandchildren, Freddie Childress, Shelley Woods, Ed Childress and Cindy Wilson; 8 great-grandchildren, Cameran Childress, Shane Woods, Ande Bleakley, Casey Childress, Meredith LaVeign, Nathan Childress, Tee Jay Maness and Dusty Maness; 6 great-great-grandchildren, Drevan Maness, Dustee Raylee Maness, Luci Lula LaVeign, Roman LaVeign, Raymond Woods and Micayla Woods.

She was also preceded by one grandson Nickey Childress and two sisters, Amy Ledford and Mammie Wilson.

Pallbearers were Tee Jay Maness, Shane Woods, Casey Childress, Nathan Childress, Cameron Childress and Jerry Wilson.

CLASSIFIEDS

MAINTENANCE POSITION - Universal Blanchers LLC, a peanut processing company, is seeking to fill a Maintenance Position. Apply in person at office located 4.5 miles west of Dublin on Hwy 6, turn left on County Rd 343; M-F 7a-4p. 2TC

SPRIGGING: Custom Coastal Sprigging - Tifton or Coastal. Sprigs For Sale - Tifton or Coastal. Danny Burgess 254-977-2697. FNC

FOR SALE: Used washers, dryers, refrigerators, and freezers. 30 day warranty. Call 254-893-4198 or 254-842-8167. fnc

X-LARGE 3+2 D/WIDES!!
Large bedrooms & Closets, Island Kitchen, Rock Fireplace, Set on Acre in Stephenville \$695 per Mo., \$0 Down, 6.25% FHA
817-279-8505 - RBl 35823

HELP WANTED: Live In CARE-TAKER for Elderly Gentleman. References Needed. Call 972-922-0111. FNC

Paul Williams Roofing
Carbon, Texas
254-639-2330
30 years of Service in Gorman Area
Free Estimates
Extended Warranties

We buy houses! Quick CASH closings!
Call Ron 432-580-4883. fnc

BUYING
Junk Cars and Pickups
Jamie Mason
DeLeon Auto Supply
254/893-6776

Town & Country REAL ESTATE
BARBARA LOVE, Broker
317 E. Main St.
254-629-1725
EASTLAND, TX 76448

READY FOR SOME "HOME" WORK? This 2 Br, 1 bath home has space heat, window A/C, hardwood floors, covered porches, DDCP & stg. bldg. & needs you to make it a "HOME". 05

POOR LITTLE HOUSE - needs to hear swish of paint brush & hum of handyman. Frame house with siding, 3 BR, 1 1/2 baths, space heat, window A/C, DDCP & stg. bldg. Call for details. 08

COMFY, COZY, AFFORDABLE!
3 BR, 1 1/2 bath home on a large lot. Living, dining, gas heat, window A/C, kitchen with ashwood cabinets, patio, SDG & 2 car carport. 04

HELP YOURSELF TO COMFORT! Enjoy life in this 3 BR, 2 bath brick home. Livingroom with F/P, dining, kitchen appliances, CH/A, covered patio, 2 car carport & storage bldg. 07

TAKE A PEEK - THEN SETTLE IN! 3 BR, 1 3/4 bath home with living, dining, CH/A, screened porch & 2 sheds. Act fast - it won't last! 011

THE GORMAN PROGRESS
P. O. Box 68 - Gorman, Texas 76454
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Email - gprogress@rbusiness.com
PDF Ads - EPS - JPEG Photos (Only) Email - jake@trcl.net
Publication Number 222780

PUBLISHER: Joe Bennett
ASST. PUBLISHER: Lonnie Bennett
EDITOR & SUBSCRIPTIONS: Lonnie Bennett
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By Mail in Eastland and Comanche Counties - 1 year - \$13.50, Outside Eastland and Comanche Counties but in Texas - 1 year - \$18.00, and Out of State - 1 year - \$20.00 Effective 2-2006. (First Increase Since 1997)
Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing, or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which may appear in the columns of the Gorman Progress will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.
Entered as Periodical Postage Paid at the Post Office in Gorman, Tx 76454, under the Act of March 3, 1978. Published Weekly by Gorman Progress, 106 S. Kent, Gorman, Texas 76454. Periodical Postage Paid at Gorman, Tx 76454

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\$4.00 Per NAA COL. INCH Advertising Line Rate - 2678
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Obituaries

Harold Lee "Jake" Morris

Harold Lee "Jake" Morris, age 71 of De Leon, Texas passed away on Thursday, June 15, 2006 at his residence. Services were Saturday, June 17, 2006 at St. Joe Baptist Church with interment at Oliver Springs Cemetery, under the direction of Nowlin Funeral Home. Jackie Auvenshine officiated and Music was by Daryl Hirst, Lloyd and Pam Rush.

He was born on August 18, 1934 in Comanche County, Texas to the late Lee Roy Morris and Nellie Idella Oglesby.

He married Edith Darlene Setzler on February 14, 1959 in Oliver Springs, Tx.

He was a farmer/rancher; veteran of U. S. Army; lifelong resident of De Leon area and member of St. Joe Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife Darlene Morris of De Leon; son and daughter-in-law, Donnie and Missy Morris of De Leon; two sisters, Doris Spruill and husband Norman

James Eason Adams

Eastland - James Eason Adams, age 78, known by friends as 'Jim' passed away on Tuesday, June 13, 2006. Graveside funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Thursday, June 15, 2006 at the Eastland Cemetery under the direction of the Summers-Bakker Funeral Home. Services were officiated by Dr. Shawn Brewer of the First Baptist Church in Eastland.

Jim was born on January 25, 1928 in Haskell County to Arnie T. Adams and Beatrice Dunlap Adams. He served his country as an aircraft mechanic in the United States Army until October of 1947. Later, he also served as an active member of the United States Air Force during the Korean War until his discharge in May of 1954. After returning stateside, he married Mary Frances Strong in Parker County on October 8, 1958. After his military service, Jim worked for Bell Helicopter-Texton as an aircraft mechanic until his retirement. He was a member of his local VFW Chapter and was proud of his membership in the NRA. He was raised Baptist.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and his wife of over 28 years Mary Frances Adams. He is survived by his son, Mike Adams and wife Thressa of Burleson; and his daughter, Mary Alexander and husband Bill of Little Elm.

of Odessa and Mae Burdette and husband Johnny of Grand Prairie; sister-in-law, Frankie Morris of De Leon; five grandchildren, Sage, Levi and Macy Henshaw of Arlington and Paige and Holden Morris of De Leon.

He was also preceded by daughter, Joy Morris Henshaw in 2004; and one brother William Morris.

Pallbearers were Eddie Lindley, Bryan Morris, Nell Morris, Lanness Callison, Tommy Butler, Mike Huddleston, Joe Bob Huddleston, Larry Womack. Honorary: Bob Huddleston, Jim Womack, Billy Earl Simpson, Charles Chupp, Flippe Majia, Cruz Gonzales, Bob Wilkerson, Anthony Brinson, Jerry Solomon, James Quinn, Bill Preston, Kenny Keith, DeWitt Robinett, Bill Wilson, David Gilder, Jackie Ponds, Ted Nowlin, Judge James Morgan, Dr. David Long, Max Keith and Larry Nowlin.

Myers Real Estate

Keeton Myers, Broker
James Jay, Agent
254-631-7488
711 E. Walker Breckenridge
www.myersrealestate.com
254-559-6151

***NEW LISTING!** 194 A. NE of Throckmorton and Brazos River. Abundant wildlife. \$2,000 A.

***NEW LISTING!** Lake Palo Pinto 2 BR-2 bath, central air, spacious living area, game room, carport, patio, 2 covered boat docks. \$149,500

***NEW LISTING!** 301 Acres 3 miles N. of Breckenridge. Hwy. frontage on 2 sides, cabin, rural water, good fences, abundant wildlife, minerals. \$1,500 A.

***Lake Hubbard,** 2 story 4 BR - 3 bath, carport, rural water, dock and boathouse. \$187,000.

***Approximately 1540 A. N. of Ranger,** stock tanks, wildlife, rolling terrain / oaks and mesquite, \$1,450 A.

Equal Housing Opportunity REALTOR

CEDAR CABIN!! With Big Covered Porch off Kitchen Rock Fireplace, Large Master with Retreat Available with 1-5 Acres. Must SEE!
817-279-8505 - 817559-5671
RBI 35823

FOR SALE: Steel Barrels - Call Denver Rainey at 254-734-5131. FNC

D/WIDES - 3+2!!
\$19,900 CASH
817-279-8505 - 817559-5671
RBI 35823

BID NOTICE

Gorman ISD is accepting sealed bids for milk, (chocolate, low fat white) for the 2006-2007 school year. Bids will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on July 5, 2006. Mail sealed bids to Gorman ISD, P.O. Box 8, Gorman, Texas 76454. Deliver to 114 W. Lexington St., Gorman, Texas or call 254-734-3171 for details. Gorman ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. 2-6-22 C.

BID NOTICE

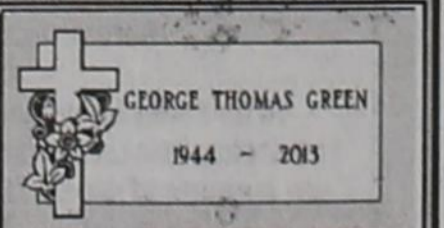
Gorman ISD is accepting sealed bids for fuel products, (Gasoline/Diesel) for the 2006-2007 school year. Bids will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on July 5, 2006. Mail sealed bids to Gorman ISD, P.O. Box 8, Gorman, Texas 76454. Deliver to 114 W. Lexington St., Gorman, Texas or call 254-734-3171 for details. Gorman ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. 2-6-22 C.

Gilder Realty www.gilderrealty.com

Hwy. 6 W -- De Leon, Texas -- 254-893-3404
Agent: Ronnie Golden - Broker; Robert Gilder
Agent: David Gilder - Agent; Wayne Parsons
235A 3/2 2,400sf brick, carport, 3-tanks, improved pasture, minerals, hunting, \$589,000.
243A Comanche Co., large reservoir, 14 irrig. wells, irrig. pit, hwy. frontage, coastal, and cultivation. \$473,850
240A Comanche Co. with 5-tanks, woods, hwy. frontage, rural water, hunting. \$396,000
150A with 6 water wells, reservoir, irrigation pit, approximately 60% wooded, rolling terrain. \$452,100.
150A with water well, rolling terrain, woods, cultivation, pasture. \$375,000.
100A Comanche County 5-stock tanks, pipe corrals, improved and native pasture, hunting. \$225,000.
100A 3.1.5 1,440 sf. Brick, 3-tanks, 2-water wells, corrals, hunting, \$249,500.
26A with 2/1 Frame, water well, stock tank, woods, coastal, hunting. \$79,500
50A with large reservoir, water well, hwy frontage, trees. \$137,500
11A with mobile home, water well, rural water, large oak trees. \$70,000.
Other house available from \$18,000 to \$105,000.
- Other Listings Available - We Appreciate All Listings -

Riley Gardner Memorial Represented By JONELL TORREZ - 254-734-2535

Our Memorial Display Is Now Located Behind Higginbotham's Funeral Home. We Guarantee You Can Buy The BEST QUALITY Memorial At The LOWEST PRICE. All Work Guaranteed.



Gorman City Commission Minutes

JUNE 15, 2006

The Gorman City Commission met on the above date. Those present were Mayor Robert Ervin, Commissioners Joe Casey and Nathan Files. Absent were Charlie Torrez and Tony Carter. Barbara Fenley was also present.

Joe led the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

Nathan made the motion to approve the minutes as read, Joe made a second. Motion carried.

Joe made the motion to pay the bills. Nathan made a second. Motion carried.

No citizens present for Citizens In Put.

New and Old Business: Joe made the motion to set the trash pick up rate @ \$13.00 instead of the \$12.75. This will more effectively cover the price increase from Allied Waste (BFI) and will give a little more lead way for no increases passed on to the customer in the future. Nathan made a second. Motion carried.

Nathan made the motion to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (MAP). MAP is required by FEMA. (copy attached to minutes.) Joe made a second. Motion carried.

Upon advertising Ordinance #2006-03, an Ordinance denying Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Divisions' statement of intent to increase the gas utility rate in this municipality, Nathan made the motion to deny the Atmos Energy rate increase. Joe made a second. Motion carried.

Joe made the motion to re-appoint Linda Simmons and Allene Garrett to the Charlie Garrett Memorial Library Board. Nathan made a second. Motion carried.

At 6:42 p.m. Nathan made the motion to go into Executive Session. Joe made a second.

At 6:48 p.m. Nathan made the motion to adjourn from Executive Session and return to Regular Open Session. Joe made a second. Motion carried.

Nathan made the motion not to pay vacation time to John Longoria, to pay only the hours he had worked. Joe made a second. Motion carried.

There being no further business for discussion Joe made a motion to adjourn with a second from Nathan. Motion carried. Time was 6:50 p.m.

Senior Citizens News

Our weekly lunch was held on June 14 with 28 present. Joy Rogers called us to order and James Mears gave the blessing.

It was so good to have Joy with us again, as she doesn't get to come often.

Also glad to have Nancy Hendricks and Opal Burton back to visit with us. Opal looking good through her treatment. Jack Harrison still comes to eat with us, so good to see him. Missed him when he was gone so long.

I will be so glad when Barbara Bush is back from vacation. Do miss our chief. People, you don't realize the work and responsibility this woman has. We, Indians, are doing our best to keep all running smoothly. We must all show our appreciation more often and give thanks for her.

We still meet every Friday at 6 p.m. for fun and games. Wish more of you would come on out. It's cool in the center.

Apply to be Texan

When you place that vehicle registration sticker in the corner of your windshield, you're helping build and maintain our highways, roads, and bridges. That's why your Texas Department of Transportation urges you to *Put Texas in your corner.*

Not only does it say you obey the law, it says you're sticking up for all of us. To learn more, visit us online at: www.texasinyourcorner.com, or call (512) 465-7611.

Put Texas in your corner.

ORDINANCE #2006-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GORMAN, TEXAS, DENYING ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX DIVISION'S STATEMENT OF INTENT TO INCREASE THE GAS UTILITY RATES IN THIS MUNICIPALITY SO THAT THE COMPANY MAY PRESEU A SYSTEM-WIDE RATE CASE WITH THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS. 2-6-29 C.

POLITICAL CALENDAR

PROGRESS POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT FEES:

U. S. Offices	\$75.00
District Offices	\$75.00
County Offices	\$50.00
Justice Prec. Offices	\$50.00
Constable	\$50.00

All political advertisements paid for by friends and/or candidates must bear at least one signature and address. All ads must be paid for in advance. (Political advertising charged for at a rate of \$3.00 per column inch).
Any political advertising reflecting adversely upon the character of a person will be refused.
The Gorman Progress is authorized to make the following political announcement, subject to the action of the General Election, November 8th.

Eastland County Judge:	Eastland County Justice of Peace - Prec. 1: Wesley N. Warren - (D)
Eastland County Clerk: Cathy Jentho - (R)	

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EDC Talk

TMCN Hosted Tour of Historic Buildings

Texas Midwest Community Network recently hosted a tour of renovated historic buildings to provide representatives from the region information about implementing such projects locally. Cliffa Vaughn and Karen Pena of Gorman participated in the tour.

John Dugan, Planning Director for the City of Abilene, conducted the tour of renovated historic buildings in Abilene. He provided information about historic tax credits, sources of funding and the current definitions that apply to historic buildings.

Texas Midwest Community Network is a regional organization that provides marketing programs for tourism and economic development; networking opportunities for community leaders to find ways to enhance community development; and legislative awareness in monitoring issues that directly affect the communities in this region of the state. The organization was founded on the basis of "communities working together to accomplish what one community cannot do alone."

Karen and I had a wonderful time strolling down memory lane in Abilene's downtown district. It was great to see the headway that they have and are making in their restoration projects.

Gorman is currently in the process of listing our historical properties on the National Registry of Historical Places. Anyone interested in finding out about listing your building, please contact Justin Snider, Karen Pena or the Texas Historical Commission in Austin.

Gorman has just formed a nonprofit Historical Foundation and plans are being made to showcase items for our future museum in the green room at the Opera House. Please feel free to come by and add items or stories as we look for a permanent housing for the museum. We will be opening as soon as we can get my "items" out of green room and set up the displays for the museum.

Foster Parent & Adoption New Summer Orientation Meetings

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Foster Care and Adoption Information & Orientation Meetings in your area are scheduled to begin as follows:

Abilene, Texas	Brownwood, Texas
June 27, 2006	July 10, 2006
6:30 P.M.	6:00 P.M.
3610 Vine Street	310 Main Street
Karen Walker - 325-691-8155	Betty Moore - 325-643-7009

Please call to verify dates and times, as all schedules are subject to change at any time.

Abilene Training (PRIDE) classes will start July 8 (Saturday classes) through August 5th.

Please visit our web site at www.adoptchildren.org and www.adoptuskids.org; or call us to request an information packet through the mail (325) 691-8100.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT ORIENTATION !!!

Record Books, Project Forms, Etc. Due!!!

It is 4-H Record Book time!!! This is a wonderful way to compile your accomplishments and 4-H works. Record Books covers are available at the Extension Office and the cost is \$2.50 per cover. Record Books are due in the Texas Cooperative Extension Office on Wednesday, June 28th by 5:00 p.m. The Record Books will be judged on Thursday, June 29th.

Other forms that are due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28th are: 4-H Project Forms, Rookie Award, Letterman Award, All-Star Award, Honor Roll Award, Club Secretary Books, Club Scrapbooks. We have the forms in the Extension Office or contact your club manager. Paper for the scrapbooks are also available at the Extension Office.

Remember you will receive certificates at the 4-H Banquet for the forms you turn in now. If you have any questions, please call the Extension Office at 629-1093 or 629-2222.

KOKOMO NEWS

BY ZELDA JORDAN

CARD OF THANKS

I extend my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation for the flowers, cards, visits, telephone calls, all acts of kindness and most of all for all the prayers that were said for me while I underwent knee surgery in Hendricks Medical Center in Abilene, and also while I was recuperating at the home of my daughter, Glenda Black, in Abilene following the surgery. I feel that I have the most loving family, church family and friends in the world. I love you all.

A special thanks to Glenda for her wonderful tender loving care and others who came to help: Sheri, Wade, Ryan, Kody, and Emily Daniell, Viki Miles of Austin, Cindy and Kayla Jordan of Lubbock, Leon Black, and Cassie Brasher.

Also a special thanks to Dr. Dickey and the hospital staff and the therapists who gave me such good care.

I ask God's richest blessings upon each and every one.

Glenda brought me home on Friday and visited until Sunday afternoon. It is nice to be home, and I am doing real well. Will be taking it kind of slow for a little while longer, but so happy to be able to be up and walking around without a lot of pain. Sheri, Ryan, Kody and Emily Daniell came for a visit on Saturday and we all attended the Wharton Family Reunion at Carbon. Others visiting with Zelda and family were Norma Webb and Windell Treadway.

Bro. Andy Hansen of Morgan Mill was the speaker for the Sunday morning service at the Kokomo Baptist Church on Father's Day. Other visitors were Gidget Hansen of Morgan Mill, Diana (Rodgers) Dorris of Alpine, Gary, Donna, Leslie, Melanie and Garrett Gatlin of Graham, Glenda Black of Abilene and Ima Boles of Gorman. "Happy Birthday was sung to Joe Bond and Oren Webb. The special music, "No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus" was beautifully rendered by Woodrow and Helen Browning. Bro. Andy recognized the fathers and preached a sermon especially for them.

Joe Bond was the speaker for the evening service and his sermon was "Be Ye Holy". Using the letters HOLY as meaning H- Harness your thoughts; O - Be Obedient to Jesus; L - Love God and hate Sin; and Y - Yield your life completely to God.

Diana Dorris of Alpine visited during the Father's Day weekend with her parents, Ed and Ruth Rodgers.

James Webb of Granbury, Stacy Webb and Renee Fox of Maryland, Kaci Suniga and children, Aaron and Kaelee of Comanche and Jacob and Alice Webb of Burleson visited last Monday with Oren and Norma Webb and celebrated an early Father's Day and Oren's Birthday. Jacob and Alice left soon after for a visit with Alice's grandmother in Japan.

LaVerne and Hulon Lemon of Stephenville were recently visitors with Oren and Norma Webb.

Caylea and James Thomas of Gorman and Falyne Fields of Breckenridge were Father's Day visitors with Joe, Barbara, Michael and Lisa Fields.

Richard and Teresa Nachtigall of Bluff Dale were recent visitors with Joe and Barbara Fields and family and helped Barbara celebrate her birthday.

Shannon, Stephanie, Raegan, Sydnie and Joey Bond of Copperas Cove came on Monday for a visit with his parents, Joe and Glynda Bond. Shannon and Stephanie visited at the Logsdon Department of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene on Tuesday. Shannon is considering taking some classes from that department. Shannon and Stephanie went home on Tuesday and the children remained with their grandparents until Thursday when Joe and Glynda met Shannon in Goldthwaite for lunch in celebration of Joe's birthday and the children returned home with him.

Nelda Falls of Arlington visited during the weekend with her parents, Jimmy and Verna Lee Little. Others joining them for dinner at Thurber on Saturday night were Ray Neal and Melissa Little of Eastland, Emily Little and Kourtney Peacock of Abilene, James, Jill, Ashley and Breckley Little, Jerry and Lavell Hallmark of San Angelo, and Shane, Amy, Taner and Rylee Shott of Eastland.

LeVi Hallmark, Ashley and Augdon of San Angelo were recent visitors with Shane, Amy, Taner and Rylee Shott in Eastland and with Jimmy and Verna Lee Little.

Donna, Gary, Leslie, Melanie and Garrett Gatlin of Graham spent Father's Day with Woodrow and Helen Browning.

Faye Scitem of Gorman and Robert Callison visited with John and Troy Scitem.

Troy reports that she is recuperating well from her recent hip surgery.

Travis, Gladys, Alexis, Tiffany and Ethan Nelson of Haltom City, Chris, Teresa and Cale Turpin of Arlington visited with Jimmy and Maggie Nelson on Saturday and they all attended the Wharton Family Reunion at Carbon on Saturday. Cassie Brasher joined them for dinner at ZJ's on Saturday evening for a Father's Day celebration.

A thunderstorm with high wind, a lot of thunder and lightning with a good rain came through the community on Saturday night. I heard reports of from 1 inch to over 2 inches. It was so welcome.

WHARTON FAMILY REUNION HELD AT CARBON

Saturday, June 17, 2006 was a nice day as the descendants of Clint and Susie Wharton gathered at the Carbon Community Center for the annual Wharton Family Reunion. What a great time we had as we visited, looked at pictures of former reunions, took lots of new pictures, and checked out some genealogy of the family. There was lots of good food to enjoy. Jimmy Nelson voiced the prayer of thanks for the day and the food.

Those attending from the family of Jim and Clydie (Wharton) Jordan were Zelda Jordan of Kokomo, Glenda Black and Sheri, Ryan, Kody and Emily Daniell of Abilene; Jimmy and Maggie Nelson of Carbon, Travis, Gladys, Alexis, Tiffany and Ethan Nelson of Haltom City, Chris, Teresa and Cale Turpin of Arlington and Cassie and David Brasher of Carbon; from the family of Dwight and Edrie (Wharton) Gothard was Paul Gothard of Blackwell; from the family of Buddy and Lila (Wharton) Lovell were Doris Neill of Brownwood, Sharon Graham of Early and Eve Lovell of Bangs; from the family of Jake and Fay (Wharton) Crawley were Betty and Larry Strube; from the family of Garland and Lucille Wharton were Brenda Harrison and Chuck Bull of Mansfield; and from the family of Ramsey and Wordene (Wharton) Hawthorne were Clint Hawthorne of Dallas and Clay and Paula Hawthorne of Athens.

A happy time was had by all, and we hope to meet again in 2007.

Validation Time - Steers, Barrows, Lambs & Goats

Steers to be exhibited in 2006 - 2007 Eastland County Stock Show or any major stock show in Texas MUST be validated on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 beginning at 8:30 a.m. sharp. The event will be held at the Moylan Steer Barn on Highway 3101 ... 2 1/2 miles north of Eastland. Validation fee will be \$10.00 per steer. This will be the only day to validate steers in Eastland County.

Barrow, lambs and goats will also be validated on Tuesday, June 27 from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon at the County Show Barn in Eastland. This will be only day to validate for Dallas.

If you have any questions, please call the Eastland County Texas Cooperative Extension Office at 629-1093 or 629-2222.

EastlandCo. July 4th Softball Tournament

In celebration of our nation's freedom, the Fourth of July would not be the same without one of America's favorite pastimes. So, here it is - Eastland County's Bangin' Softball Tournament to be held on Saturday, July 1st at the Cisco High School Softball Fields. The entry fee for each Co-Ed team is \$125.00. Registration forms may be obtained at the Eastland and/or Cisco Chamber of Commerce office, and at the KCER Radio Studios. Please have your Co-Ed team register by June 17th. For more information, please call Cindy at 254-442-2554 or e-mail at July4th@kcer.org.

Desdemona News

By Vonnle Guthery

Desdemona Monthly Musicals will be "Cancelled" for the month of June due to many repairs on the Community Center School Building. Please contact members of your musical group about the cancel for this month.

Desdemona Homecoming and School Reunion will be held on Saturday, August 12 at the Community Center School Gym. This annual event began 85 years ago at the Community Tabernacle. Please contact this reporter if you have a change of address - P. O. Box 187, Desdemona, TX 76445.

Desdemona Postoffice has a new Postmaster, Linda Edmiston of Rising Star. Our community welcomes Linda as she serves in our area.

Robert Ficklen of Dallas visited the past weekend with his mother, Mary Ficklen at their home in Desdemona.

Elizabeth Nichols of Austin visited several days this past weekend with her mother, Anna Brazell in the Jakehammon Community.

Dorothy Roberts spent a few days this past week in the Comanche County Medical Center. Visitors with Dorothy during this time were her daughter, Ulenda Cofsky and husband, Richard of Fort Worth; her son, Jeff Roberts of Dallas; Jr. and Luella Trice of Lingleville and several friends from Desdemona. She is at home now and feeling much better.

Kama Vardeman and Ben Massmann were married on Saturday night, June 17 at the Heights Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas. Kama's parents are Don and Ann Vardeman of Tomball. Attending the wedding and reception were her grandfather, Albert Holdman, Uncle Virgil and Aunt Jo Holdman all of Desdemona.

Bernard and Ann Keith have a new "great" granddaughter, Erin Alise born on Thursday, June 15, 2006 at the Harris Methodist Hospital in Stephenville. Proud parents are Billy and Nikki Febinger of Cleburne. Erin is welcome at home by her big brother, Christopher and big sister, Allison. Grandparents are De and Vicki Robinett of De Leon and "great" grandmother is Elsie Robinett of De Leon.

Bernard and Ann Keith, Pug and Vonnle Guthery all of Desdemona was in De Leon on Sunday, June 18 to attend a birthday party for their sister, Mattie (Keith) Newton who celebrated her "100" birthday. Another sister, Avie (Keith) Taylor of De Leon attended. The birthday reception was hosted by her son and wife, Dean and Louise Newton of De Leon and their children, Judy, Trudy, Terry, Sandra, Monty and their families.

How far do you have to count before using the letter A in spelling a number? Answer later on.

Dean and Judy Powledge of Cisco; Jackie and Debra Powledge and son, Rendon of Covington and Marty Powledge of Metroplex enjoyed Father's Day with Roy and Angela Powledge and son, Lane in Desdemona.

Rodney Duke of Pantego; Ronda James and daughter, Emily of Whitney; Russell Duke and daughters, Elise and Katie of Stephenville visited Father's Day weekend with "Humpy" and Betty Duke.

Have a good day, "Coon".

Johanns Announces 2006 County Committee Election Process

Nomination of Candidates Begins June 15

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced that agricultural producers throughout the nation can nominate eligible candidates to serve on USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees beginning today through Aug. 1, 2006 for the county committee elections to be held in the fall.

"Farmers and ranchers have an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them by participating in the county committee election process," said Johanns. "I encourage agricultural producers across the country to nominate eligible candidates, especially minorities and women, to serve on their local county committees and to vote this fall."

Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing county executive directors.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA and live in the local administrative area conducting an election may be nominated for candidacy for a committee. Farmers and ranchers can obtain a complete list of eligibility requirements by visiting a local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm>.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Additionally, community based organizations representing minorities and women may nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected.

Farmers and ranchers should keep the following important dates in mind during the 2006 county committee election process:

- * The nomination period begins June 15 and August 1 is the deadline to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.
- * USDA will mail ballots to eligible voters by November 3. The last day to return voted ballots to the local USDA Service Center is December 4.
- * Newly elected county committee members take office Jan. 1, 2007.

The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act established the county committee system in 1936. Today, there are close to 8,000 FSA county committee members serving three-year terms in more than 2,300 county offices. "Make a Difference: Nominate and Vote!" is the theme of the 2006 county committee election process.

For more information about FSA county committees or to obtain a nomination form (FSA-669A), visit a local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>.

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Deadline For
Getting News
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The Gorman
Progress Is
Tuesday Noon**

Disaster Aid Tops \$5.5 Million For Texas Wildfires

\$7.2 Million obligated to Texas for public agencies

AUSTIN, Texas – Families and individuals who suffered damage from Texas wildfires have been approved to receive more than \$5.5 million in disaster assistance, including grants from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Disaster assistance may include grants to help pay for temporary housing, minor home repair and other serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other sources. Disaster assistance covers basic needs and does not normally compensate applicants for their entire loss. SBA also offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and business owners.

The federal disaster declaration covers 22 counties in Texas: Anderson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Callahan, Cooke, Deaf Smith, Eastland, Erath, Gray, Guadalupe, Hood, Hutchinson, Johnson, Kerr, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Potter, Roberts, Tarrant, Wheeler and Wise.

Recovery Services Summary as of close of business June 8, 2006:

- 516 individuals have registered for Individual Assistance.
- \$1,440,985 has been approved through the Individuals and Household Program. Of that, FEMA has provided \$752,935 in Individual Assistance and \$688,050 in Other Needs Assistance. The State of Texas provided 25 percent, or \$172,012, of the Other Needs Assistance.
- \$4,149,100 in loans has been approved by the SBA for individuals and businesses affected by the Texas Wildfires. Of that amount, \$3,768,500 was approved for home loans and \$380,600 for business loans.
- \$2,120 has been disbursed in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). Texans who worked in the affected counties and are unemployed as a result of the Texas Wildfires may be eligible for DUA benefits. DUA extends coverage to self-employed people, farm workers and others who are usually ineligible for unemployment benefits.
- 284 home inspections have been requested. Of these, 100 percent have been completed.
- \$7.2 million in Public Assistance has been obligated to Texas by FEMA. The funds will be used by the State of Texas to reimburse local governments and agencies for eligible expenses associated with the Texas Wildfires.

Homeowners, renters and business owners who sustained damage from the Texas Wildfires may check the status of their applications by calling the FEMA helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

TTY 800-462-7585 for the speech or hearing-impaired or logging on to www.fema.gov.

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TEXAS ☆ TIMES

John Cornyn

UNITED STATES SENATOR • TEXAS

Excessive Spending – An Ongoing Battle

For years, talk about excessive federal spending has been reminiscent of that old saying about the weather: "Everyone complains, but nobody does anything about it."

But occasionally there is a glimmer of real hope – signs that the political power structure in Washington is finally getting the message. I've seen some indications of that in recent days. I hope these signs of possible reform are real, and not a mirage.

It often takes a vivid example of waste to focus attention on a problem. We got a bright flash last week when the Government Accounting Office (GAO) reported that up to \$1.4 billion in individual aid doled out after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita may have been spent improperly.

You may remember those \$2,000 debit cards the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) handed out last year so that homeless hurricane evacuees could buy food, clothing and temporary shelter.

Well, the GAO examined some of the actual expenditures. It found some relief money was spent on season football tickets, a vacation to Hawaii, and even a sex-change procedure. The cards were also used to pay for adult entertainment products, champagne and other alcoholic beverages, season tickets to New Orleans Saints games and an all-inclusive, one-week vacation at a Dominican Republic resort.

The agency said it found that people who lodged in hotels often were paid for twice, since FEMA gave them individual rental assistance and also paid hotels directly. FEMA apparently paid various California hotels \$8,000 to house one individual – the same person who received three rental assistance payments for both hurricane disasters.

Of course, this abusive fraud leads us to a much larger problem. The federal budget process is ineffective and broken. There are no short-term consequences when Congress increases deficit spending. In fact, there can be political "rewards" in all this when members of Congress bring home pork for their home districts. It's time we took responsibility for fixing a budget system in disrepair – before today's problem becomes tomorrow's crisis.

President Bush has again asked for line-item veto authority. Congress is now moving to approve that as part of a broader budget process reform effort. These changes are needed immediately. In only two short years, the Baby Boom generation will begin to retire, and expenditures for Social Security and Medicare will begin to skyrocket.

Last week, I joined with Budget Chairman Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) in introducing the Stop Over-Spending Act of 2006. It would require Congress to reduce growth of "mandatory," entitlement spending if deficit targets are not met. It would also order across-the-board reductions in discretionary spending if Congress can't meet established spending caps.

I introduced a companion bill setting up a bipartisan commission to attack waste and fraud in Medicare and Social Security. That commission will recommend ways to strengthen our largest entitlement program to ensure it can remain solvent indefinitely.

Up until now, attempts to deal with this growing fiscal problem have bogged down in partisanship. While we've dithered, the problem has grown more severe, and devising a solution has become much more difficult.

I may be overly optimistic, but I'm seeing a new willingness in Congress to face up to our more egregious over-spending. Under the threat of the President's first veto, Congress last week reduced an emergency spending supplemental bill – additional funding for Iraq and hurricane relief – from a previously approved \$108.9 billion to a more acceptable \$94.5 billion.

Only in the wonderland of Washington would an additional expenditure of \$94.5 billion be considered a sign of progress. But it's a start – and the longest journey starts with a single step.

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

For Sen. Cornyn's previous Texas Times columns: www.cornyn.senate.gov/column

-- Randy's Roundup --

A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer -- June 19, 2006 -- **House Passes Bill to Honor Local Iraq Hero**

I am pleased to report that the House of Representatives has unanimously approved a bill I authored that renames a Dimmitt Post Office after a local hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq. Once my bill becomes law, the Dimmitt Post Office will be named the "Sgt. Jacob Dan Dones Post Office."

Sgt. Dones was a Dimmitt native who enlisted in the Army after graduating from Dimmitt High School in 2002. He served his country honorably in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served in the H Company, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He was promoted to Sergeant on July 1, 2005 while serving in Iraq as a dismount team leader, Bradley gunner and Bradley section Sergeant.

Sgt. Dones died on October 20, 2005 in the line of duty when his base in Hit, Iraq was attacked by enemy fire. For his brave and distinguished service, Sgt. Dones has been awarded many medals including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Global War of Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. He also was classified as an Expert Infantry Rifleman.

Sgt. Dones is a hero in the true meaning of the word. He was a natural leader and always the first to volunteer for a mission. I am very pleased that the House can take this small step to honor his life of service and sacrifice for our country.

House Debates U.S. Efforts to Win the War on Terror

An important debate took place last week on the House floor regarding the War on Terror and the U.S. mission in Iraq. Iraq is indeed the central battleground in the ongoing war against Islamofascist terrorists, and it is important that the U.S. succeeds there.

Three years ago, Coalition Forces removed Saddam Hussein from power. Now we are helping to build a free and democratic Iraq. Unlike Saddam's oppressive and brutal regime, a free Iraq will not harbor terrorists, will not use chemical weapons against its neighbors, and will not seek to develop weapons of mass destruction that could be used against the United States.

During two trips to Iraq, I have witnessed first hand the great strides our military has made in Iraq. Because of our troops' efforts in Iraq, terrorists, like Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, are being eliminated. Because of our troops' efforts in Iraq, Iraqi Security Forces are increasingly taking control of protecting Iraqi citizens. Because of our troops' efforts in Iraq, the world no longer has to worry about Saddam Hussein and his ambitions to use weapons of mass destruction.

These are important accomplishments that have made our nation more secure. As a result, it is vital that we continue to stand behind our troops as they protect Americans by taking the fight to enemy to win the War on Terror

Latest from the Newsroom

Follow these links to check out recent news releases on my website:

[House Shows Support For U.S. Mission in Iraq](#)

--Randy

New USDA Data Set Corrects Farm Family Payment Misinformation

Data released yesterday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will help set straight the record on farm payments, but payment data disclosures should protect individual privacy rights, the USA Rice Producers' Group said today.

"Especially given identity theft concerns, American students or senior citizens would not want their names splashed in a newspaper because they received school loans, grants or social security benefits, and our farm families should have the same reasonable expectation of privacy," USA Rice Producers' Group Chairman Paul T. Combs said. "Nonetheless, the tracking of farm payment amounts will help conclusively prove that farm critics have been resorting to distortions and half-truths when the facts do not suit them."

Yesterday's release of payment information by USDA discloses only the persons receiving farm payments as required under section 1614 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (the Farm Bill), which mandates that payments to farmers be tracked directly to a person, rather than to a corporate structure, to ensure farmers are in compliance with limitations on farm payments. A second release of information expected in August will detail amounts received by farmers participating in the Farm Bill.

"The data USDA released yesterday shows that American farm families choose to organize their farming operations in the same way and for the same reasons businesses on Main Street and American families choose to structure their operations a particular way," Combs said. "Family size, tax rules, personal liability, and estate planning and farm bill participation rules help guide the farmer's decision. This is a huge blow to the critics of U.S. farm policy who have tried to paint something sinister happening."

Combs explained that an egregious example of the misinformation campaign waged by critics of U.S. farm policy has been the implication that cooperatives receive millions of dollars in a single year and keep that payment as a single entity. However, "the critics fail to disclose that cooperatives are farmer-owned entities often comprised of thousands of farmer-members to whom this amount is distributed," Combs said.

"As USDA continues to release farm payment data, we are watching closely to ensure that the privacy rights of millions of Americans are not violated," Combs said.

The aim of farm policy critics – an odd alliance of political extremists on the far right and left – is to bring down a policy that has yielded Americans the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world and that costs about one-half of one percent of the total federal budget," Combs said. "Judging by history and the global events we read and hear in the news every day, ignoring the food security of our country is foolish and arrogant. As ironic as it sounds, we are fortunate in this country that the only real casualty so far from the ongoing assault on U.S. farm policy has been the distortion of the truth."



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