

The Gorman Progress

"Serving Gorman For Over 111 Years"
Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454
2011 Member - Texas Press Association

NUMBER FIFTY-TWO

DECEMBER 29, 2011

Happy New Year!!!

Adam Maberry - New Administrator for Homestead Nursing and Rehab



We want to welcome Adam Maberry as our new administrator. Adam graduated from Abilene Christian University in 2002 with a degree in Human Resource Management.

Adam is a single father with full custody of his sons, Michael who is 2 years old and Malachi who is 6 years old. He comes from Weatherford, Texas and has worked in long term care and did his administration in training in Arlington. He is now living in Stephenville.

Adam has a heart for missions and has done missionary work in Bosnia, Croatia, and Germany. He is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Adam's favorite saying is "if you find a fork in the road, pick it up."

Adam states "I love the elderly community and want to serve them. Long term care for the elderly is my passion and I look forward to working in Gorman for a long time. My door is truly always open."



From
*Lonnie and Debra Bennett
Joe Bennett
And Correspondents*

New Year's Eve Party
Desdemona Activity Center
Bring games, snacks
7:00 - 12:00
No Charge

Sing In The New Year At New Hope Baptist Church

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!!!!! Come join us at New Hope Baptist Church for the annual "Sing In The New Year" Singing, Saturday, December 31st at 8:00 p.m. We'll sing until 10:00 p.m. and then break for food and fellowship and return to sing in the New Year until Midnight. If you will lead a song or have a special or want to just come to sing and enjoy, please come.

Carbon Community Center News

Join us Saturday, December 31st for our Carbon 5th Saturday Musical. We won't promise a huge party, we won't have famous singers, nor will we offer champagne at midnight. However, what we will offer is a good meal, various local musicians and singers and an opportunity to visit with your friends and neighbors. If you already have plans to stay up late and ring in the New Year with lots of bells and whistles, join us for dinner and a "pre-party" to get the night started.

To add some spice to our Musical, we offer, for the price of a \$5 meal ticket, a chance at winning prizes donated by local merchants. Several drawings will be held during the evening, increasing your chance of taking home a prize.

If you would like to participate as a musician or singer, this is a great opportunity. If so, please contact TJ Cummings at 254-488-1249.

The Community Center can be scheduled for weddings, reunions, meetings, dinners, funerals and anniversaries among other things. For more information, or to rent and reserve a specific date, please call Janis Keith, at 254-639-2210, or LaTonne Rogers, at 254-639-2551.

You're invited to
a PARTY!
COME HELP US CELEBRATE!!!

So put on a Happy Face,
and join in the FUN!

For Curly Lipson 90th B'day
Date DECEMBER 29, 2011
Time 4-7 p.m.
Place UMC FELLOWSHIP HALL
303 W. ROBERTS

Items of interest

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

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

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

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18TH FROM 9 TIL NOON.

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

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

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

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

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- Classifieds -

For Sale: 3-2 Solitaire Manufactured home on about 1/2 acre in city limits of Gorman. Built in 2000. Solitaire homes are quality built homes. \$39,000. Please call for appointment.
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Applicants must pass a Back-ground check & MVR

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IMMEDIATE OPENING: Home-stead Nursing & Rehabilitation of Gorman needs CNA's for 2-10 and 10 to 6 Shifts also All P.R.N. Shifts For additional information, contact the facility at 254-734-2202 EEOC FNC

FOR SALE: Queen Size Mattress and Box Springs - \$75.00 254-734-2117.

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 Three Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath, Central Heat and Air. Needs work. 510 West Lexington in Gorman. Phone 254-734-5792

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 254-893-6666 DE LEON, TX
 Ray Cogburn - Broker

3+ Acre, 3 - 2 3/4 - 2 brick, central A/C, 2375 sq. ft. den + lg. game room, nice carpet, metal roof, water well, 20 x 40 shop, secluded, lots of Post Oaks! \$119,500.
 6A: 3-2-2 brick, 1766 sq. ft. central A/C, new floors, 5 y/o roof, metal shop, equip. Shed, RV storage, new well & Septic, beautiful Oaks, 70+ Peaches, pavement. Nice!! \$164,500.00
 10.43 A: Near Duster, approx. 800 Pecans, building site, elec available, paved road, deer. Owner Finance Possible \$3,495 acre.
 17.25 A: HWY 8 Desdemona, 10+ A Coastal, pond, new fences, nice Post Oaks, nat. gas/elec. available. \$79,000.
 S/E Gorman: 60 A, good sandy soil, some coastal, good fences, elec., nice pond site. \$2,800 Acre.
 77 A: South of Gorman, fields/some wooded. Deer & other wildlife, 2 small ponds, elec. available. \$2,000 acre.
 100 A West De Leon FM587, 3 - 1 1/2 - 2 brick, 1444 sq. ft., C/HA, fireplace, carpeted, some remodeling, 3 ponds, 30a crop land, 35a coastal, some native, fenced, 2 steel corrals, 2 wells, shop building. Nice setup. Mineral Rights. \$2,950.00 A.
 179 A. south of Gorman: Part wooded, part old fields, deer & hogs, 2 nice ponds, sandy soil, elec., water well, metal building. \$2,350.00 acre.

SELLERS SAYS MAKE OFFER!!
 322A. Oak & Elm Trees, 2 creeks, great water shed project! 40 A. Coastal, owner reports 300 round bales/year, 55 A. Cultivable soils, 6 ponds, water well, 1200' metal Bldg. with slab floor, elec. Deer, turkey, and other wildlife. \$2,300 A.
 NEW - 395A S/W Gorman, 1/2 Open 1/2 Wooded, small creek, 4 ponds, 40' elev. change, gravel road 2 sides, elec. available. Remote location, deer & wildlife. \$1,795.00 acre.
 407 A: N/E Gorman, 3 ponds, 6 wells, 8 ponds, 3 metal barns, 3 sets steel corrals, irrigated Bermuda, 3-3-2 rock/frame home, central A/C, metal roof & more! \$3,500 acre, possibly divide.

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LISTEN TO THE QUIET! Private & close to Gorman beautiful ONE OWNER - 3 BR, 1 3/4 bath brick home on 10 AC, m/1. 2 ponds, 20x40 shop, 20x40 shed, 20x40 garage & garden spot. Call to find out more! HA1

PENDING
 BEAUTIFUL OAK TREES LEAD THE WAY to 2 story home on 44.7 AC, m/1 2 BR, 2 bath, LR, DR, upstairs balcony w/outside main entrance, 20x40 shop, 20x40 shed, approx. 256 AC. of good coastal & old irrigation pit. HA2

PENDING
 BEAUTIFUL HOME + 3.7 AC + REDUCED PRICE-WHAT A DEAL! Brick home w/spacious interior in excellent condition. Outside is room for it all-sheds, stg., RV cover & workshop. Make an appointment and see for yourself! 03

20 ACRES, M/L, GORMAN - Good coastal & native grasses, 1 tank & partially fenced. Will Be surveyed out of a larger tract. Could be very productive. A2

NICE BRICK HOME ON CORNER LOT - 2 BR, 1 bath, formal LR/DR, family room, wood floors, fresh paint, SAG + CP & nice patio. 02

CHARM, WARMTH, COMFORT - This 2 BR, 1 bath brick has all of this & more. Large inviting living room, kitchen/dining combo, C/A, utility w/exposed, DACP & cov. porch overlooking the oversized back yard with it's beautiful pecan trees. Call us to make your appointment today! 08

PRODUCTIVE - 306 AC, m/1. N. of Gorman. Coastal good soil, 2 tanks, water well s & frontage on 2 county roads. A13

PAUL WILLIAMS ROOFING
 CARBON, TEXAS

FREE ESTIMATES
254-639-2330

The Gorman Progress
 P. O. Box 68 - Gorman, TX 76454
 Phone 254-734-2410 or 254-734-2411 FAX - 254-734-2799
 Email: jake@txol.net or gprogress@txbusiness.com
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 \$4.00 Per NAA Column Inch. PROCESS COLOR - \$100.00 Flat Rate - Extra
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 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS - .25 CENTS A WORD MINIMUM CHARGE - \$4.00 PER ISSUE
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 WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS - \$5.00 OR \$10.00 WITH PICTURE WEDDINGS - \$10.00
 NEWS AND ADVERTISING DEADLINE - TUESDAY NOON
 CARD OF THANKS - \$5.00

STANDARD RATE: By Mail in United States or Canada Quarterly - 1 year - \$18.00; In Texas - \$24.00 per year and that of Texas - \$22.00 per year. Effective January 1, 2011. Any necessary reduction upon the alteration, printing or reproduction 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, 1979. Published Weekly by Gorman Progress, 118 S. East, Gorman, TX 76454. Periodical Postage Paid at Gorman, TX 76454. The Gorman Progress Reserves the Right to Refuse Any Advertising. Postmaster: Please send Change of Address To: Gorman Progress - P. O. Box 68 - Gorman, TX 76454.

Obituaries

Alfred Ray Thompson

Alfred Ray Thompson passed away on December 20, 2011 in Hamilton, Texas. He was born in Gorman on May 26, 1939 to Alfred (Doud) Thompson and Lillian Arvilla Bowles Thompson. Ray attended school in Gorman but he graduated from Carbon High School in 1958.

Ray joined the Air Force and while he was stationed in Spokane, Washington he met and married Deetta Montgomery from Sand Point, Idaho.

After his release from service they settled in Abilene, where he was employed by Texaco Oil. After several years the company sent him to Crane, Texas. In 1980 he bought a grocery store in Hamilton. He also went to work for the Post Office as a rural mail carrier. He worked there until he retired in 2003. He loved to fish and do wood work.

Ray is survived by his wife, Deetta of 51 years and 3 daughters, Mindy McCarty and friend Joe McCarty of Crane, Missy Pittman and husband Bill of Bronte, and Maxine Thompson of Eddy; 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two sisters, Fay Cook and husband, Donald of Gorman and Peggy Moore of Santa Rita, Guam; one brother, Robert (Bob) Thompson and wife Sharon of Hamilton; 3 nieces and 3 nephews.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents and one nephew.

Kay Ann Craddock

Kay Ann Craddock, age 68 of Gorman, went to be with the Lord on Monday, December 26, 2011, at Plaza Medical Center, Fort Worth.

She was born April 1, 1943, in Gorman to Hubert and Estelle Clark Craddock. She attended Gorman Schools where she excelled as a trumpet player in the Stage Band. She attended college at T.W.U. in Denton. She began working at Texas Instruments in Plano in 1964 and retired in 1998, after 34 years. She returned to Gorman in 1999 to care for her mother, Estelle.

Kay was a quiet, unassuming mother, a special friend and a steady constant help to family and friends whom she dearly loved. Kay was a faithful member of the Gorman First United Methodist Church.

Those surviving to cherish her memory include, aunt and uncle, Mary and Ralph Hudson of Gorman; aunt, Billie Craddock of Levelland, dear friend, Linda Lillard and family of Granbury, numerous cousins and a host of friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Hubert and Estelle Craddock, numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at the graveside, Oaklawn Cemetery, in Gorman on Friday, December 30, 2011 at 2:00 P.M. with Howard Hagood presiding.

Memorials may be made to the Gorman First United Methodist Church, American Cancer Society or charity of your choice.

Arrangements under the direction of Higginbotham Funeral Home in Gorman.

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8-FNC
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Business Directory

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New 32' Wide - 4 Bdrm. - \$69,900!!
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EASTLAND COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW ART CONTEST

If you like to draw, paint and create, then the Eastland County Livestock Show Art Contest will be the contest for you. Entries for the contest will be due between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11th in the Concession Stand at the Eastland County Stock Show Grounds, and all entries will be displayed at the Eastland County Livestock Show starting Thursday, January 12th to January 13th in the Concession Stand at the Stock Show. The Art Contest is for YOUTH only! We encourage you to enter and show off your unique talents in the 2012 Eastland County Livestock Show Art Contest!

A list of complete rules may be picked up at the Eastland Extension Office located on the 1st Floor of the Eastland County Courthouse. For more information or questions, please contact Halee Mitchell, Eastland County Extension Agent at 254/629-2222.

EASTLAND COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

There will be a Photography Contest at the Eastland County Livestock Show. All photographs must have been taken between the dates of January 1, 2011 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time. Entries for the contest will be due on Wednesday, January 11th at the Eastland County Livestock Show Grounds Concession Stand starting at 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The entries will be displayed at the Eastland County Livestock Show on January 12th to January 13th. This contest is open to everyone of all ages.

A list of complete rules may be picked up at the Eastland Extension Office located on the 1st Floor in the Eastland County Courthouse. For more information or questions, please contact Halee Mitchell, Eastland County Extension Agent at 254/629-2222.

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A Letter To The Editor

About Politics and Secrets By Henry A. Buchanan

Pfc. Bradley Manning is in big trouble because he allegedly released secret information about what our government is doing in the world. If he is found guilty he may spend the rest of his life in prison.

Meanwhile a half dozen Republican hopefuls accuse the President, Barack Obama, of so badly mis-managing the affairs of government that he ought to be replaced by one of them who would do worse things to the rest of the world than President Obama has done.

While the cherubic-faced Manning has only released the truth about what the government has been doing, and the government admits this has not harmed anyone, the men who want the power of the Presidency threaten to do things that will certainly do great harm, for they want to attack Iran and attempt to destroy that nation's nuclear facilities. This would certainly spread the war and result in an attack on the United States.

A multiple vehicle wreck on Interstate 20 tied up traffic all day recently. Consider what one nuclear bomb dropped on any major American city would do if we push Iran and North Korea into the use of nuclear power in retaliation for our attacks.

Worse, think of all good and beautiful people we propose to kill by an attack on Iran. But think too of all the good and beautiful people in America who will be killed if they unleash this power in retaliation for our action.

Pfc. Bradley Manning deserves at least a pat on the back and promotion to corporal for his brave release of the Truth.

(s) Henry A. Buchanan
 1131 N. Kent St. - Gorman, TX 76454 254-734-4569 12/26/11

Happenings At FBC!! Pig Tales From Hogtown

Years! 2011 draws to an end and 2012 begins! What will the Lord this New Year have you to do? Follow the Lord in all your ways and have happiness in all your days!!!

Mark your calendars:
Dec. 31st - 8pm to Midnight - New Year's Eve Singing at New Hope Baptist Church.
Jan. 1st - Happy New Year!

Special Music: Sarah Jackson, beautiful with her baby bump, gave us all the gift of song while Joe & Robert played their guitars and Phillip played the violin. Glory to God!

Bro. Barry's Message: "Christmas Is" - John 3:16-18 NLT - HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS? Many say it means: Jesus' birthday, family, celebrating Jesus' birthday, the star, and the angels. The meaning of Christmas is so simple and so wonderful many miss it. More than four thousand years before Jesus Christ was born He was prophesied in the Bible more than eight times - HE IS THE KING! - (1) Bethlehem - Place of Birth - Micah 5:2 (2) Born of a Virgin Isaiah 7:14 (3) Time of Birth - Genesis 49:10 (4) He Would Perform Miracles - Isaiah 35:5-6 (5) Enter Jerusalem On a Donkey - Zechariah 9:9 (6) Die a Dreadful Death by Crucifixion - Isaiah 53 (7) Die by Crucifixion - Psalms 22:14-17 (8) Raised From the Dead - Psalms 16:9

It's astonishing, according to the American Scientific Affiliation, the chances of fulfilling just these eight prophecies is One in One-Quadrillion. Jesus is The King!

- John 3:16) "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17) God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. 18) "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. (NLT)

CHRISTMAS IS: (1) Remembering - Reflect on the first moment you met Jesus, the miracles he's performed in your life, those waiting for you in heaven, and the celebration that Jesus is alive. (2) A Time of Loving - Love transcends all things. (3) A Time of Giving - People were remarkably surprised this year to find that an anonymous person had paid their layaway bill at Wal-Mart. (4) A Time of Forgiving - Come together as one people who love the Lord. Our Lord is the epitome of forgiveness so may we, in His name, tell others I'm sorry, please forgive me, I forgive you, and I love you. (5) A Time of Rescuing - God rescues His children by the birth of Jesus. May we provide rescue to the animals God created. (6) A Time of Changing - Bro. Barry said that he wouldn't be the Pastor of this Church if Jesus hadn't changed his life. Let Christmas change your life, and pray others will open their hearts to Jesus this Christmas Day. (7) A Time of Rejoicing - God never turns away from handling difficult situations. People who believe live differently and rejoice through Christ all year long.

Merry Christmas - God gave you the birth of Jesus, may you live eternally through Him!

If you are reading this and you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior please call Bro. Barry, ask Bro. Barry to talk with you about being saved or just ask him to pray with you, just call (254) 734-2420. Our Worship Service begins at 11:00AM on Sunday mornings - please come and join us! Remember: God loves you like no one else! Email us at fbcgorman@hotmail.com

Homestead Happenings

Sorry I didn't get the news in last week but, due to the bustle and bustle I let time get away from me.

We had to say Goodbye to Tim Thomas. We want to wish Tim the best.

We want to welcome Adam Maberry as our new administrator. Adam graduated from Abilene Christian University in 2002 with a degree in Human Resource Management.

Adam is a single father with full custody of his sons, Michael who is 2 years old and Malachi who is 6 years old. He comes from Weatherford, Texas and has worked in long term care and did his administration in training in Arlington. He is now living in Stephenville.

Adam has a heart for missions and has done missionary work in Bosnia, Croatia, and Germany. He is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Adam's favorite saying is "if you find a fork in the road, pick it up."

Adam states "I love the elderly community and want to serve them. Long term care for the elderly is my passion and I look forward to working in Gorman for a long time. My door is truly always open."

We would like to thank everyone who help make our Christmas here at Homestead so Merry and Bright. Thank you to those who chose a name from the bank. The gifts were awesome. Thank you to Lee and Amy Wood once again doing the tree at the bank.

On the 14th were were honored to have Bill and Monda Oldham, Louise Smart, and Joy Rodgers come and entertain us. They do a great job. We missed N.D. who wasn't feeling well. On the 15th the Primmeria Baptist Church from Eastland came and sang for us. On the 19th the young people and sponsors from Gorman Jr. High came as sang some beautiful Christmas Carols. On the 20th we had our annual Christmas Party. Tommy and LaVern Carr came and entertained us and jolly ole St. Nick even showed up. On the 21st Erica Madera, KateyThackerson, and Addie, Chelsea Griffin, Delores Garcia, Ally Little and Emma and Susie Hampton came and decorated Christmas ornaments with the residents. That afternoon Jack Gilbert from Katy came and presented a beautiful piano concert. He has only been taking piano lessons for 2 years and he is fantastic. Needless to say his great aunts, Floydene Gilbert and Ima Brown were very proud of him. That night the Carbon Community Baptist Church came and sang and brought gifts. Then on the 22nd we were so honored to have Sondra Brudank come and present a violin concert. What a wonderful fun filled December we have had. Thank you everyone who made it possible.

We have had lots of visitors, sorry I wasn't able to get all the names. Will try to get them in next weeks paper. Those who signed the register were; Kathy Rodgers of Brownwood visited Ima Brown. Tammy Dennis visited Harry Lynch. Jack Gilbert, Joyce and Neal Gilbert of Katy visited Ima Brown and Floydene Gilbert. John Rodgers visited Ima Brown. Margery Churchville of Ft. Worth visited Edgar Reynolds.

Hope you all had a very merry Christmas! We were with our family and everyone was able to be there - when kids and grandkids grow up, there are times when someone has to miss the family celebrations. We were blessed this year to have everyone able to be together.

On New Year's Eve, we will have a get-together at the Desdemona Activity Center. This will just be a visiting and game-playing time. If everyone will bring a snack, we will eat, play games and visit. Come at 7:00 and spend a safe evening with us. There is no charge.

'Breakfast at the DAC' will be held, as usual on the first Saturday in January - January 7th.

Remember that our monthly dances will be held on the second Saturday of each month beginning January 14th. Johnny Johnson will be our band, as always. The concession stand will open at 6:00 and the music will begin at 7:00. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Happy New Year!
 See you in Desdemona!
 Carol Pell

EASTLAND COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW SEWING CONTEST

Break out your sewing machines and get ready to enter the second annual Eastland County Livestock Show Sewing Contest. This contest will be a chance to show off your talents in sewing. Everyone of all ages can enter this contest. Entries for the contest will be due between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11th in the Concession Stand at the Eastland County Stock Show Grounds, and all entries will be displayed at the Eastland County Livestock Show starting Thursday, January 12th to January 13th in the Concession Stand at the Stock Show.

A list of complete rules may be picked up at the Eastland Extension Office located on the 1st Floor of the Eastland County Courthouse. For more information or questions, please contact Halee Mitchell, Eastland County Extension Agent at 254/629-2222.

HOME

Energy-Efficient Products Add Comfort and Savings

NewsUSA

(NU) - When buying a new home or remodeling an existing one, many people get caught up in the selection of hardwood flooring or cabinet colors and can sometimes forget about adding real value to a home - specifically with the right combination of energy-saving solutions and an optimal heating and cooling (HVAC) system. What's behind the walls and in the attic, basement or utility closet can really impact a home's value and performance and lead to greater energy savings and long-term buyer satisfaction.

The average homeowner spends approximately \$1,900 a year on energy bills. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating and cooling account for about 56 percent of a typical home's energy usage, making it the largest energy expense for most homes.

A natural first step to achieving an energy-efficient home is to install a high-efficiency heating and cooling system. Many of today's top builders and contractors are turning to the experts at Carrier and their full line of energy-efficient solutions to help reduce energy use in homes without pricing buyers out of the market. Plus, many Carrier products meet or exceed federal energy requirements and are Energy Star compliant.

Though investing in energy-efficient heating and cooling may have the biggest impact on reducing household energy use, homeowners should approach energy ef-



Remodeling is a great time to think about energy-saving solutions for your home.

iciency from a more holistic perspective.

A highly efficient system should work in concert with high-quality insulation, water heater, windows, roofing, light fixtures and energy-efficient appliances to ensure the greatest energy savings. Be sure to talk with a homebuilder or contractor about how these various systems work together to determine the right solution based on the style of home and climate.

So while contemplating what color to paint the master bedroom, think about what's in the utility closet, too. It'll reduce future energy use and contribute to a comfortable home. For more details on heating and cooling systems, visit www.residential.carrier.com.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Top Tools for the DIYer on Your Gift List

NewsUSA

(NU) - The holidays are around the corner, and now's the time to decide what to buy the do-it-yourselfer on your list. According to a recent survey commissioned by Kelton Research and Craftsman, more than three-quarters (77 percent) of men plan on tackling some sort of DIY project next year.

Additionally, 69 percent of female respondents admit to having "a laundry list" of projects they'd like their spouse or significant other to take on around the house in the new year. Therefore, it's safe to say that buying a new tool will hit the nail on the head.

With that in mind, and armed with the study's results showing that 56 percent of men actually prefer to receive functional gifts like tools, and 67 percent of women prefer to give them, here's a list of Craftsman tools that are "Guys' Favorites Guaranteed" this holiday season:

- **Clench Wrench Two-Piece Set.** A convenient tool that can be used on more than 50 fastener sizes and types. The ratcheting feature and multi-positional head make for quick work.
- **Universal Max Access 19-piece Set.** A pass-thru ratchet and socket system that virtually eliminates the need for deep sockets, and can work with six different types of nuts and bolts.
- **V4 Combo - Screwdriver and Cutter.** Perfect for light DIY projects around the home. The screwdriver has two speeds and features a cutter for various materials.
- **NEXTEC G2 Drill/Driver.** Boasts the best torque in its class,



Having the right tool for the job is key for any DIYer.

and an all new, two-speed gear box and 18-position clutch.

- **NEXTEC G2 Multi-Tool.** Not only can this tool sand, cut, grind, grate and remove grout, but it now offers a new tool-less accessory exchange, allowing a quick-release system to change the attachments versus using a tool such as a hex key, and a variable-speed dial that matches speed to the specific task at hand.

For more information on top holiday gifts and easy how-to projects around the home, visit the Craftsman Experience on www.facebook.com/craftsman. It is the ultimate DIY playground where clinics and demos are hosted by organizations that share their expert skills and talents in lawn and garden care as well as auto repair, woodworking and garage storage - all streamed live over the Internet.

Christmas Eve Dinner

Those who came over or called to help make Christmas Eve more fun for all were Doris Martin of De Leon, H. L. and Billie Martin of Aledo, Burt and Mary Valanty of Michigan, Donald and Wilma Holder of Desdemona, Danny Martin of Grafrod, Connie Martin of Desdemona, Neil Martin of De Leon, Eddie and Dawna Martin of Millsap, Ruby Cottle of Lufkin, Patsy Martin of Olden, Chad Walker of Morgan Mill, Tim Martin and Rocky Dog of Santo, Shirley Lewis of Gorman, Terry and Suzie Martin and Tacy of Mineral Wells, Daniel and Carrie Martin, Calvin and Ashlyn of De Leon, Scotty and K-Dee Martin of Ranger, Colter Martin of Ranger, Frances Lewis, Bella and Cynthia Duske of Gorman, Emily Lewis, Calib Ahrllett of Gorman, Ryan Ahrllett of Eastland, Jessica Martin of Fort Worth, Rosie Morganstean of De Leon, Cody Martin of Pocola, Oklahoma, Brandon and Nikki McConnell of Ontario, Canada, Josh and Darcy Radford and the addition of identical twin girls, Jace and Jenna of San Diego, California - Talk about Fun...

We all had a blast. Now we get to celebrate Mom's Birthday - Come January.

EASTLAND COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW BAKE-OFF CONTEST

We are searching for great cooks to enter the third annual Eastland County Bake-Off contest at the Eastland County Livestock Show. If you are certain that your wife, husband, mother, father, daughter or son is the best cook in the county, now is the time to give them the opportunity to demonstrate their talents.

The Eastland County Bake-Off will be held in conjunction with the Eastland County Livestock Show, January 11th - 14th. Bake-Off entries will be checked in Wednesday, January 11th at the Eastland County Livestock Show Grounds Concession Stand starting at 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This contest is open to everyone.

A list of complete rules may be picked up at the Eastland Extension Office located on the 1st Floor in the Eastland County Courthouse. For more information or questions, please contact Halee Mitchell, Eastland County Extension Agent at 254/629-2222.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Start Saving With Energy-Efficient Upgrades

NewsUSA

(NU) - Cash back. Product rebates. Tax incentives. These are phrases we love to hear when purchasing large home appliances. The real bonuses start if you purchase energy-efficient solutions, because homeowners continue to save every month by using less energy and lowering utility bills.

Carrier, a leading manufacturer of air conditioning, heating and refrigeration systems, regularly offers incentives to customers who purchase energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, such as the Infinity system.

This same equipment may also qualify for rebates from one of Energy Star's 600-plus local utility partners, located throughout the United States, or tax incentives provided by the federal government.

To save the most money on your next heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) purchase, it's important to understand which energy-efficient products qualify for specific incentives, how to apply for those incentives and how much money to expect in return.

The experts at Carrier suggest that those planning to install energy-efficient technologies talk to a local contractor about potential HVAC purchases and take a look at www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm



Energy-efficient HVAC systems can save you money with purchase rebates on top of monthly savings on utility bills.

or www.dsireusa.org to learn about the rebate programs available in their area.

That's just the beginning. Energy-efficient products can save you money every time you use them. For example, upgrading from an 80 percent efficient furnace to a 98 percent efficient Infinity furnace from Carrier will significantly reduce monthly utility bills.

The same is true when switching to a high-efficiency air conditioner. When paired with other cooling methods, high-efficiency AC can reduce a home's energy use by 20 to 50 percent.

For more information on selecting the optimal furnace, air conditioner, heat pump or HVAC system for your home, check out www.residential.carrier.com.

ENTERTAINING

Top Theme Party Tips for 2012

NewsUSA

(NU) - Let's face it. Theme parties are a blast. They can turn any combination of coworkers, family and friends into an enthusiastic crowd admiring creative decorations and inventive outfits. The best part? Party themes can be as far-fetched, classy or outrageous as you like.

Event planning experts suggest going beyond holidays and committing to themes with some integrity. After all, these party themes must be worthy of belonging to the apocalyptic 2012.

All celebrations can gain an unforgettable flair or stylish elegance by adhering to a theme for key elements - specifically cocktails, music and decor. From birthday parties and anniversaries to baby showers and engagement parties, themes can be specific or broad, but they can also be pricey.

Since we don't all have access to the deep pockets necessary to afford celebrity planners like Mindy Weiss or David Tutera, here are some creative tips to help select the ideal 2012 party theme.

- **Go green.** If your veins bleed green instead of red, plan an eco-friendly party. Decorate with luxuriant house plants and natural colors. Spend money on compostable paper materials, and save by making it a pot-luck event. Challenge your guests by urging them to only bring things they made themselves, whether it's a dish, beverage or gift.
- **Tap into doomsday fears.** Optimize on the end-of-the-world hype and throw a wicked bash with a Goth theme. Keep an upbeat mood with punk rock favorites from the "Night of the Demons"



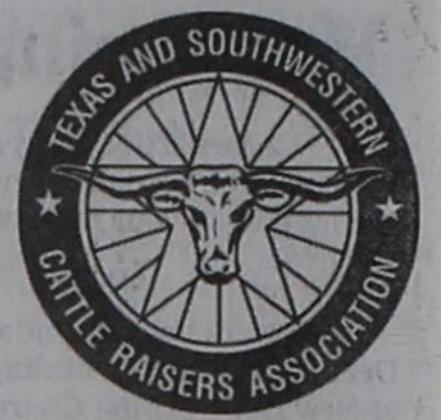
Inspiration for a party theme can come from anywhere - masquerades, Jersey Shore, clothing - but these tips will get you thinking.

soundtrack. The horror film from Seven Arts combined tunes from *Zombie Girl* and *Creature Feature* for a scary popular soundtrack available for download on iTunes.

- **Recreate your current TV obsession.** If you're gearing up for the season five premiere of "Mad Men," turn your party into a sophisticated 1960s event complete with Old Fashions, Tom Collins and classic hits from artists like Ray Charles. Other shows like "Glee," "Grimm" or "Dexter" would provide lots of entertaining costume ideas for guests.
- **Commemorate a favorite decade.** Whether it's the 70s, 80s or 90s that has your friends reminiscing, combine all your beloved elements of the decade for a memorable celebration. From music to food to clothing, your party can mimic the times. For cheap decor, see what dusty gems are lying in your attic.

Cattlemen's Column

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
www.tscra.org



Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

First Baptist Church of Desdemona had a very special service on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. with 42 in attendance to enjoy the youth group singing Christmas Carols with their leader, Cindy Heinz. Special music was presented by Alanna Hubbard. Roy and Angela Powledge and children, Colin, Kaley and Lane were selected to light the Advent Candle wreath. There was communion for all members and visitors followed by a very impressive Candlelight Ceremony. Our pastor, Bro. Charlie, Jana and all members invites visitors to attend each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. for the worship service.

Karen Fair and Lorin hosted Christmas dinner for all the family. Those attending were Pug and Vonnie Guthery; Belinda Guthery; Holly Guthery and daughter, Jade; Sonja Hornback and son, Justin; Roy and Angela Powledge and children, Colin, Kaley and Lane; Donal and Kandice Cogburn and children, Dylan and Tajah all of Desdemona.

Holiday visitors in Desdemona were Charlie and Paula Fonville. They visited with Paula's mother, Dorothy (Moore) Williard and their daughter, Candy and family.

Holiday visitors with Carol Sue Willis were her daughter, Cindy, Pam and Susan and their families. Also her sister, Linda Hahn of Arlington.

"Happy New Year" to our friends and neighbors from Pug and Vonnie Guthery.



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Happy
New
Year!!!

Some Remarkable Bright Spots in a Tough 2011

By: Joe Parker Jr.

There is no denying that 2011 was a tough year for cattle raisers. Ranchers across the state are still facing an unprecedented drought and rebuilding from the crippling wildfires, but through all the dust and smoke, there were some definite bright sides of 2011. Because of the hard work of our members, TSCRA chalked up major victories at the Texas and U.S. Capitols. A few of the highlights are listed below.

Eminent Domain Reformed

After a decade of hard work from legislators and landowner groups including TSCRA, SB 18, the eminent domain bill was finally signed into law.

SB 18 secures stronger eminent domain laws that will protect landowners. Highlights of the new law include requiring condemning entities to make a bona fide offer in writing and compensate landowners for loss of access to their property. SB 18 goes further to require condemning entities to take a public and record vote to initiate eminent domain proceedings, keeping them more accountable. All entities with eminent domain authority must also register with the Comptroller by December 2012 or they lose their authority.

Additionally, SB 18 gives landowners the right to repurchase their condemned land at the original price if it is not used within 10 years. SB 18 also puts in statute that eminent domain can be used only to acquire property for public use, and that use has to be put in writing before the condemnation process can begin.

Groundwater Ownership Secured

Groundwater ownership rights were also secured in 2011, putting to rest any question of who owns the groundwater below the surface of a landowner's land.

SB 332 makes clear that landowners own the groundwater below their land as real property, and clarifies that it is subject to the same legal protections as other private property. SB 332 also recognizes that groundwater may continue to be produced and conserved while ensuring fair and impartial regulation of landowners' groundwater ownership rights.

EPA Rural Dust Regulation Stopped

TSCRA and other agricultural groups successfully blocked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from imposing regulations that would have allowed the federal government to regulate rural dust. This regulation would have had a devastating economic impact on ranchers at a time when our industry is battling an unprecedented drought and wildfires alongside a list of proposed burdensome and unnecessary government regulations.

Had this regulation been implemented, ranchers could have been fined for working in dusty environments. Ranchers could have been subject to expensive and burdensome compliance costs such as having to implement dust suppression practices on their ranch. Fines for noncompliance were estimated to reach up to \$37,500 per day.

Free Trade Agreements Passed

TSCRA worked to ensure passage of the long-stalled free trade agreements (FTA) with Panama, Colombia and South Korea. Passage of these FTAs will increase U.S. beef exports by an estimated \$3 billion at a time when Texas beef producers need it most.

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, the implementation of these 3 FTAs will increase all U.S. exports by at least \$13 billion and add \$10 billion to the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. Additionally, exports of U.S. goods generate more than 8,000 U.S. jobs for every billion dollars shipped overseas.

Passage of these agreements will not only add additional exports for Texas beef, but they will help speed up our industry's recovery from this unprecedented drought. When ranchers do see relief there will be a hungry market overseas eager for Texas beef.

Remaining Trans-Texas Corridor Provisions Repealed

TSCRA worked with the state house and senate to repeal all remaining provisions of the Trans-Texas Corridor, solidifying the end of the proposal.

Burdensome CDL Requirements Stopped

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) was considering a proposal that would have required tractors and loaded stock trailers weighing 26,000 pounds or more to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL), but TSCRA was able to stop this from happening.

This proposal had the potential to severely harm the Texas cattle industry, especially during times of natural disasters such as drought and wildfires.

It was a good year on the legislative and regulatory front, but there is still work to be done in 2012. Thanks to each and every TSCRA member, ranchers and landowner who called their elected officials, wrote letters and emails, and made visits to the Capitol. Your contributions paid off tremendously.

Joe Parker Jr. is a third generation rancher from Clay County, Texas. He is president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. He is also chairman of the board and president of the First National Bank of Byers.

Just Announced!!

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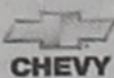
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