



The Gorman Progress

"Serving Gorman For Over 112 Years"
Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454
2012 Member - Texas Press Association

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DECEMBER 13, 2012

HELP COMMUNITY KIDS HAVE A BETTER CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR WITH ANGEL TREE



Help Community Kids have a better Christmas this year! We have many in town that are hurting this Christmas. We are trying to provide Christmas presents for our area kids that might otherwise get nothing. This is not a program sponsored by any entity. It is completely dependent on the generosity of the people in Gorman. You can adopt a student or make a monetary donation. For more information or to participate in this project please contact Christian Hunter at (254) 734-6120.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF SYSTEM-WIDE STAGE 1 DROUGHT PRECAUTIONS

Waco, TX - December 6, 2012 -- The Brazos River Authority has informed all customers accessing water from the BRA System of reservoirs that a Stage 1 Drought Watch has been declared for the reservoir system including lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, Whitney, Aquilla, Limestone, Belton, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown, Somerville and Proctor. This notice also applies to lakeside residential and commercial use water permit holders.

The goal of the Stage 1 Drought Watch is a voluntary reduction of five percent of the water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measure and to raise awareness of the developing drought situation.

The BRA has requested that customers who obtain their water supply from any BRA System reservoir consider the following actions:

- Activate their individual Drought Contingency Plan
- Increase public education efforts on ways to reduce water use,
- Notify customers of actions being taken,
- Any other actions appropriate in their individual situation.

The BRA's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) provides for several lake level triggering criteria, based on four levels of potential drought conditions. Should Stage II triggering criteria be met, both BRA customers and the general public will be notified, and customers will be asked to reduce water consumption by ten percent or more depending on conditions at that time.

The BRA is required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to prepare a Drought Contingency Plan and to update that plan every five years. The DCP outlines steps to ensure there is sufficient water available to meet all needs of those receiving water through the BRA during times of drought. The BRA Board of Directors approved an updated DCP in October. The new DCP includes four stages: Drought Watch, Warning, Emergency and Pro-rata Curtailment. Each stage is marked by trigger points measured either by a lake level or by the water storage capacity. The System's Stage 1 is triggered when the combined storage capacity reaches 1,514,536 acre-feet (af).

The purpose of the Stage 1 Drought Watch is to alert the public of the current drought situation and promote careful use of water. Should the current drought conditions continue, it is likely that a Stage 2-Drought Warning will be issued early in 2012. Stage 2 is triggered when the combined storage capacity reaches 1,140,639 acre-feet.

Should the reservoir system reach Stage 2 triggering criteria, Drought Warning Conditions are initiated and a 10 percent or more reduction in water use is recommended for both Authority customers and the general public.

The Authority continually monitors weather forecasts, streamflow and lake levels throughout the Brazos River basin. While not all reservoirs have reached trigger levels as laid out in the DCP, the Authority asks that everyone keep in mind the extreme conditions are affecting the majority of the state and conservation is recommended for all areas. For information on water conservation, visit www.brazos.org/conservation.asp.

Life Skills Christmas Bag Sales Ending

You can place your order @ 734-3171 ext. 245 -- LIFE SKILLS CHRISTMAS BAGS SALES

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- 2 candy canes
- 3 pieces of candy

Santa Bag: \$5.00

- 1 message of your choice
- 1 small soft drink
- 1 Plush Snowmen
- 1 Glitter Gingerbread Tattoos
- 1 eraser
- 2 pencils
- 2 candy canes
- 4 pieces of candy

Lady Panthers Lose To Blanket Lady Tigers 32-40

The Lady Panthers traveled to Blanket and were defeated by a score of 32-40 on Tuesday Night. Kinsey Johnston led the way for the Lady Panthers scoring 17 points and also in rebounds (10). Rachel Tucker scored 7 points and had 3 rebounds. Melissa Ramirez had 6 points and 6 rebounds. Lauren Spivey had 2 points.

On Thursday the Lady Panthers opened the Zephyr Tournament against Class 2- AA Bangs and were defeated by a score of 62-15. Melissa Ramirez led the Lady Panthers in scoring with 7 points and had 4 rebounds. Kinsey Johnston led the team with 6 rebounds. Yulissa Madera had 4 points, while Jacqueline Rainey and Vanessa Longoria each had 2 points.

On Friday the Lady Panthers lost a heart breaker to the Lady Bearcats of DeLeon by a score of 44-43. With 7 seconds to go, Melissa Ramirez scored a lay-up to put the Lady Panthers up by one point but the officials called an offensive foul and waved off the basket. Ramirez had an outstanding game scoring 22 points and leading both teams with 23 rebounds. Rachel Tucker also had an excellent game scoring 11 points and recording 13 rebounds. Lauren Spivey added 6 points for the Lady Panthers and Kinsey Johnston had 4 points and 4 rebounds.

On Saturday the Lady Panthers were defeated by Santa Anna by a score of 45-42. Melissa Ramirez for the 2nd game in a row led the Lady Panthers in scoring (29) and rebounds (20). The 29 points scored were the most by a Lady Panther in a game this year; it was also the 2nd game in a row that Ramirez had at least 20 points and rebounds in the same contest. Kinsey Johnston added 9 points and 11 rebounds. Rachel Tucker and Jacqueline Rainey each scored 2 points.

The Panthers and the Lady Panthers host DeLeon on Tuesday the 11th. The JV Boys start at 5:00 followed by the Varsity Girls and then the Varsity Boys. The Gorman Hot Hoops Tournament starts Thursday morning and the boy's championship game is scheduled to start at 8:30 Saturday evening. The Lady Panthers 1st game is Thursday at 6:30 and the Boys play Thursday night at 8:30.

2012 Gorman Project Stockshow Slated For Saturday, December 15th

The Gorman Livestock Raisers Association will be cooking breakfast before and during our 2012 Gorman Project Stockshow to be held this Saturday the 15th.

Please make plans to come have breakfast and support the local FFA and 4H kids as they present their show projects.

Our kids will be exhibiting their swine, sheep and goat projects. Smokin' Undies owned and operated by Justin Underwood will be the head cook for the morning! He has so graciously offered to donate his time and facility to help the GLRA and we sure do appreciate his generosity! We will be serving our sausage and cinamon rolls! Come join us for the morning.

We will start cooking around 8 a.m. and the show will begin by 9.

Please Refrain From Using Any Nonessential Water As Gorman Is Under Stage 1 Plan

The City of Gorman Mayor and Commissioners are requesting your voluntary cooperation in conserving water. Please refrain from using water for any nonessential water use. The Brazos River Authority along with Upper Leon River MWD, and The City of Gorman have issued the water levels and have initiated Stage 1 of the Drought Contingency Plan.

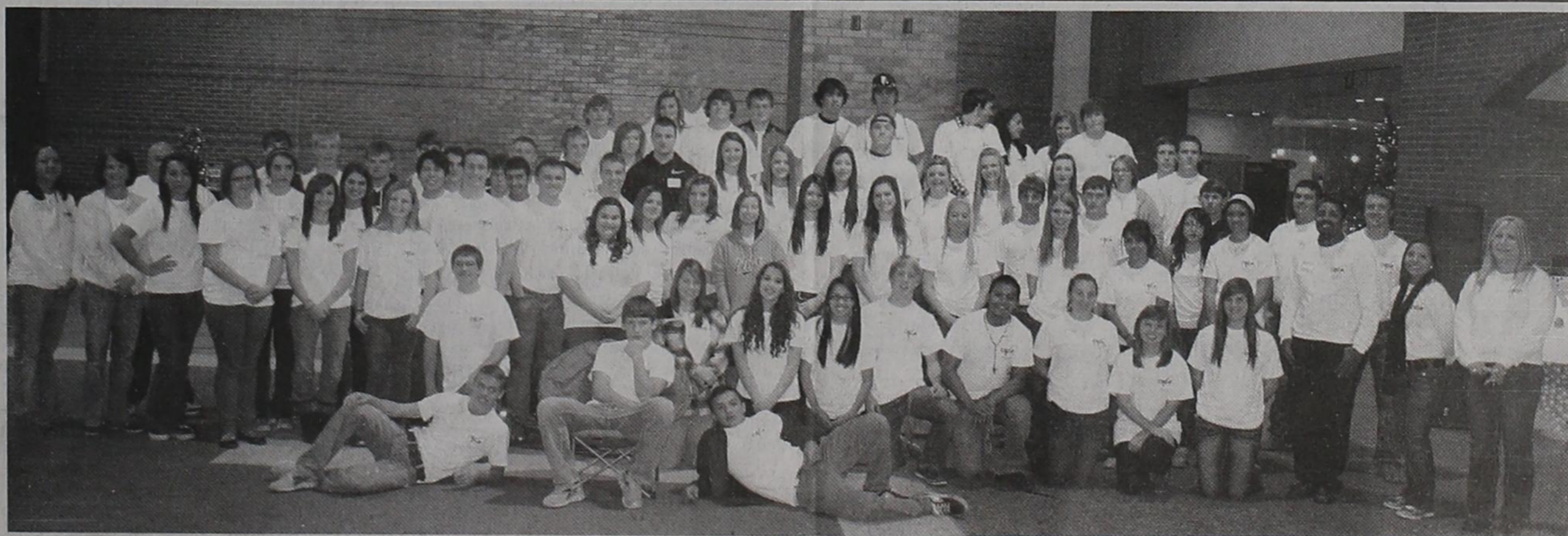
We appreciate your full cooperation in restricting your water use, and making adequate plumbing repairs if needed.

Please notify the City Office if you need assistance on helpful hints to save water usage.

Thank You

Thank You for every act of kindness shown to our family at the passing of our mother. Thank you to the Church of Christ for the food that was provided. Thank you to the Light-house Hospice.

Sincerely,
Linda and George Simmons and Family
Jamie and Vicki Mason and Family



Eight students from the Gorman High School Junior Class attended a one day Leadership Conference sponsored by Comanche Electric Cooperative. The Gorman students joined 64 other students at the Myrtle Wilks Center in Cisco where they participated in leadership activities and planned a Community Action Project for their community. Students attending were: Zachary Carlton, Melissa Ramirez, Mykisha Hampton, Dakota Pacheco, Connie Gonzalez, Alaina Swanner, Rasha Rainey and Kinsey Johnston. Contact these students to see how you can help with their project to improve your community.

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17.25 A: HWY 8 Desdemona, 10+ A Coastal, pond, new fences, nice Post Oaks, nat. gas/elec. available. \$79,000.
30A. CR 389, small barn, water well, steel roping arena, electricity, fenced, has a few trees. \$3,100 acre.
43A. Coastal Bermuda, corrals, stock pond, 2 water wells, fenced/cross fenced. Good Sandy land. \$3,350 acre.
60A, 2-1 ranch house, new windows & Doors/floors/paint, metal roof. Pond, fenced, Coastal/wooded, small barn, well, wildlife. \$189,000.
77 A: South of Gorman, fields/some wooded. Deer & other wildlife, 2 small ponds, elec. available. \$2,000 acre.
104A, paved road, 14x26 cabin, insulated, plumbed & wired, a/c, kitchen & bath.
42A Coastal, 42A cultivated, brushy area with pond. \$2,495/acre.
158A, 4-2-2 ranch-house, central A/H, fireplace, metal roof, 150+ A. Coastal, 2 pivots, good fences, 6A Lake, 2 ponds, 6 water wells, steel pens. \$525,000.
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. \$1.795.00 acre.

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GREAT FOR CATTLE OR BUILDING A HOME - 185.7 AC, m/l, Gorman - Good land, coastal, wet weather creek, 6 tanks, well, metal Bldg. & good fences. A11
160 ACRES - 4 BR, 3 bath brick home w/WBFP, custom red oak cabinets, lg. bkf. Bar & DDG w/openers. Coastal & Native grasses, 4 stock tanks, 4 water wells, lg. Metal barn/wkshop w/elec., concrete floor, roll up door & Loft, paved & CR frontage. HA1
88.7 ACRES - GORMAN AREA - Good sandy soil-all coastal Bermuda grass, water well, 1 stock tank & Good fences. A12
BEAUTIFUL HOME + 3.7 AC + REDUCED PRICE-WHAT A DEAL! Brick home w/spacious interior in excellent condition. Outside is boom 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
PRODUCTIVE - 306 AC, m/l, Gorman, Coastal, good soil, 2 tanks, water well s & frontage on 2 county roads. A13

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Correction

Obituaries

Nell Ruth Mason

Nell Ruth Mason, age 87, passed away Saturday, December 1, 2012 at her daughter's home near Gorman.
Graveside services were at 2:00 P.M. Sunday at the Elm Cemetery with Denver Rainey officiating.
Mrs. Mason was born June 28, 1925 to James Elbert Ferris and Leona Lee (Harris) Ferris. She graduated from Carbon High School. She married George Mason on August 22, 1942 in Comanche County. He preceded her in death on April 9, 2007. She and her husband owned and operated De Leon Auto Supply for many years. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Mason Simmons and husband, George of Gorman; son, Jamie Mason and wife, Vickie of Gorman; grandchildren, Ricky Don Files, Lori Ann Womack, Mason George Simmons, Darla Mason Garrett, Man'Dee Kameron Mason, Jennifer Booher, Mark Simmons and Bridget Shupp; great grandchildren, Latonya, Tyler, Andrea, Misty, Kamry, Haden, Jakob, Jackson, Stephanie, Blake, Niki, Paxtynn, Riley, Markee, Brittany, Skyler, Lyndi, Christopher, Colin, Cassidy who adopted Ma; great-great grandchildren, Rhett, Tenley, Harley, Slade, Lucas, Marcus, Meya and Jaylynn. She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Mary Price.

Pig Tales From Hogtown

Thanks to all who came to the Christmas Store! You all made it a great success! We meet some really nice folks at the DAC. I told you about the 2 ladies from Georgia - there was a lady from Hobbs, N.M. also, and of course, many people from the surrounding areas. Thanks to the newspapers and radio stations that advertise for us!

It is time for the annual membership meeting of the DAC. We will need to elect some new members for the board of directors. You must be a member to vote. Memberships are \$25 per person or \$35 for a married couple. If you support the DAC, please come and take part. The meeting will be held Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

We have another Mexican dinner scheduled for February 16. Please mark your calendars for that date.

The craft show is tentatively scheduled for April 27. I will have more information later.

Well, I knew it would happen one day - there was a wreck on the highway near our house. A young man tried to pass another car - what he didn't do was heed the yellow line that was on his side of the centerline of the road. When that solid yellow line is on your side of the road, DON'T PASS! The yellow line is there for a reason - it is telling you that it is not safe to pass. There may be a hill that you can't see over or a curve that you can't see around. Guess what, there may be a vehicle coming over that hill or around that curve at just the right time for you to hit it head on. Luckily the 2 young men in the truck were not seriously hurt but they could easily have been killed or have killed some other driver. Pay attention when you drive!

Pray for rain.

See you in Desdemona!

Carol Pell

Willadean Othella Henneke

Willadean Othella Henneke, age 92 of De Leon, passed away, Monday, December 3, 2012 at the De Leon Nursing Home.
Services were at 2:00 P.M. Friday, at the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Barry Brown officiating. Burial followed in Oaklawn Cemetery.



She was born March 30, 1920 in Eastland County to George Earnest Norris and Vesta Ann (Nolen) Norris. She graduated from Gorman High School in 1940. She worked in the Eastland Memorial Hospital kitchen for 5 years. Mrs. Henneke was a homemaker and a member of the Primitive Baptist Church.
She is survived by two daughters, Martha Jean Smith Otwell of De Leon and Anna Kay Smith Wildes of Moscow, Idaho; sister, Mary Lou Storey of Mineral Wells; three step children, Henneke of New Mexico, Mike Henneke of Alabama and Jane Slape of Yukon, Ok; ten grandchildren, seven step grandchildren and four step great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Evelyn West, first husband, Jack W. Smith, second husband, Art Henneke and step-son, Mason Henneke.

HDI Plastics, Inc. Indicates Intent To Locate Principal Manufacturing Facility In Eastland, Texas

HDI Plastics signs development agreement with Eastland Economic Development, Inc. to develop 50,000sf - 150,000sf plastics recycling and manufacturing facilities in the Eastland Industrial Park Eastland, Texas, December 10, 2012: Today, HDI Plastics, Inc., headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, signed a "development agreement" with Eastland Economic Development, Inc. (EEDI) for the construction of a plastics recycling facility (phase 1) and potential manufacturing operation (phase 2) in the Eastland Industrial Park located on Interstate-20.

HDI Plastics, Inc., collects plastic waste products and reprocesses plastics into pellets for sale to manufacturers. The firm expects to construct a 50,000 square foot facility expandable to 150,000. An estimated \$4 million will initially be invested, including an estimated \$2.9 million in machinery and equipment.

In addition, the facility will have estimated taxable inventories of \$300,000 in the first year and increasing to \$1.1 million in ten years. Further, the firm expects to initially hire 75 workers at the facility and 235 workers within ten years. Average annual salaries are expected to be in excess of \$24,000.

Kenneth Brimmer, Chief Executive Officer for HDI Plastics, Inc., stated: "We have been working on this project for over a year and I believe we are now on the fast track. Developing and locating a project such as this is a costly and highly complicated process. We are progressing well, however, all of the details have not been finalized. We will continue to work with the Jerry Conner, the EEDI Executive Director, and various State of Texas development agencies to acquire other sources of funding that will be required to make the project viable. However, we thought this would be a good time in the process to memorialize Eastland's and HDI's intent through a development agreement. We look forward to the construction process and start-up hiring. We estimate first-phase construction could start as early as mid-2013."

Dana Olson, Site Location Consultant for HDI stated: "We have met with several cities in several states searching for the right location. We found Eastland's offer competitive and the manufacturing site and geographic location attractive. The State of Texas offers excellent development incentives that will serve to enhance our location to Texas. The leaders in Eastland and EEDI have been great to work with and we look forward to a long profitable relationship."

Terry Jones, President of Eastland Economic Development, Inc., stated: "Although EEDI has recently met with several industrial prospects searching for a location, it became obvious during our first meeting that HDI Plastics was the one we wanted in Eastland. HDI will be a wonderful anchor facility in our newly developed 92 acre industrial park."

A Letter To The Editor

About Serving a Sentence in Church
By Henry A. Buchanan

A judge in Oklahoma has sentenced a seventeen year old boy to ten years in church for manslaughter. The boy, Tyler Alred, was driving recklessly when his friend, John Luke Donn, a passenger, was killed. Judge Mike Norman could have sent the boy to jail but he sent him to church instead.

Tyler Alred will have ten years in a church pew for reflection and meditation. He may even hear something worthwhile from the pulpit and it is possible that God may speak to him.

Chuck Colson's experience in jail is instructive. From being part of President Nixon's team that broke into Democratic Headquarters, Colson got religion, became a missionary in prison, wrote more than thirty books and became the most famous jail inmate/preacher/writer since Saint Paul.

When I was pastor of the Shellman Baptist Church in Georgia, a young man got into trouble and was sentenced to attend church for several weeks. I don't claim that he heard anything transformative, but when I was fired by congregational vote he did not cast a ballot for me. He went into military service and was killed in Vietnam. I can only hope that he had heard from me a word of encouragement that enabled him to die well.

In the final analysis I suspect that whether Tyler Alred's ten years in church is a good thing depends upon the preacher in the pulpit. I hope he will preach the forgiving grace of God and the hope of redemption for a life of goodness and freedom. I also hope he will do some praying for others who are unfortunate. He could start with the victims of civil war in Syria, the storm Sandy on our East Coast, and the wounded veterans run over by a freight train.

All of this would be good for the whole congregation and the rest of us who approach the Christmas season with hope and expectation.

(s) Henry A. Buchanan

1131 N. Kent St. - Gorman, TX 76454 254-734-4569 12/09/2012

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"On The Wilder Side"

Don't you just love this time of year! People are a little bit happier, food seems to taste better, and the air even smells fresher. Christmas music is on the radio, Frosty the Snowman is on the television, and lights are on the houses. And it seems that everywhere you turn, people are reminding us that Jesus is the reason for the season. Life is better this time of year and people are happier because of Jesus. It's not about the snowmen (although some snow would be welcomed), reindeer, or jolly old elves, but rather Jesus.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could only keep Jesus out all year long? You know, not put Him back in the attic with all the other Christmas decorations after Dec 25.

I think people like to bring out cute little baby Jesus at Christmas time because all love babies. We especially love other people's babies because we don't have to take them home and wake up for midnight feedings. We love baby Jesus because the only responsibility we have to Him is to dust Him off every year and proudly show Him off to the world for a few weeks. And then we are quick to correct someone who says "Happy Holidays" because it should be "Merry Christmas", after all, Jesus is the reason for the season.

But, and this is a big BUT... wouldn't it be nice if we could keep Jesus out all year long. Wouldn't it be great if we realize that Jesus is the reason for EVERY season. According to John 13, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." Which means that Jesus created this joyful time of year, but He also created Spring, Summer, and Fall as well.

A vast majority of people don't like to think about the Jesus that belongs in those seasons, because that is the bloody Jesus who died on a rough wooden cross. That is the Jesus who demands that we sacrifice our lives to Him, and that's just too much for some people. We love baby Jesus because baby Jesus doesn't ask for much more than a soft place to lay His head. But the real Jesus from the Bible demands everything from us. I'm reminded of what Martin Luther said, "A faith that costs nothing and demands nothing is worth nothing."

Fight the good fight (1 Tim 6:12) - Jason Wilder - Gorman Church of Christ

Gorman Church of Christ Meeting Times
Sunday Morning Bible Class - 10:00
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45
Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00
Wednesday Evening Class - 7:00

Due To Lack of Rain - Please Conserve Water

Due to the lack of rain, the lake levels are falling dangerously low again. The City of Gorman would like to ask residence to please conserve as much water as possible, this is a voluntary act. If there is no rain in the next few weeks, we will have to implement a mandatory conservation Stage 2 Contingency Plan. Thank you for helping in this matter.

Items of interest

Men's Community Prayer Breakfast meets at 7:00 a.m. On the third Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church in Gorman.

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 NOT BE ABLE TO BE IN GORMAN FOR LICENSE PLATE RENEWALS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER. SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

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 - 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Fourth 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 - Jerry Napoli, Secretary.

Gorman Oaklawn Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. Donations can be sent to Oaklawn Cemetery Association, 156 N. Mohon, De Leon, Tx 76444 or to Prosperity Bank, 115 S. Fisher - Gorman, Texas 76454

Miears Family Christmas Light Show

Where: Gorman, Texas (203 S. Fisher - Across From Prosperity Bank)

When: Sunday - Thursday -- 6:00 p.m. To 10:00 p.m.
Friday and Saturday -- 6:00 p.m. To 11:00 p.m.

Listen To Christmas Light Show on FM 88.7

Light show features 10 computer controlled boxes, 100 string connections, 396 controlled channels. Lights dance to songs like, Carol of the Bells, First Snow, Party Rock, and Feliz Navidad. The show last about 30 minutes. We will be adding new songs every week. I will post new videos on Youtube and Vimeo. You can search for "Miears Family".

There are a few rules for watching:

1. Please do not park in front of the house, next to the curb. This will block the view of others. Park across the street or in front of the covered parking next to the Hotel.
2. Turn your head lights off, leave your running lights on.
3. Please do not walk on sidewalk next to lights. This is for your safety.
4. Please be courteous to our neighbors and each other.

Two Students Chosen To Represent

CECA At The 2013 Government In Action Youth Tour



Congratulations to Cheyenne Gordon and Luke Broussard for being chosen to represent CECA at the 2013 Government in Action Youth Tour. The Youth Tour is an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. and will take place in June of 2013. Cheyenne is a home schooled Sophomore from Zephyr, and the daughter of Jerry and Kay Lynn Gordon. Luke is a Junior at Early High School, and is the son of Lance and Joey Broussard. We know these two young people will represent us well.

Chamber Cookbook Holiday Offer

The Chamber of Commerce is offering the new cookbook on a Holiday special of One for \$15 or Two for \$25. These will make great Christmas gifts. They are available at Panda's Flowers, City of Gorman, Prosperity Bank, Housing Authority, and at the Gorman ISD Administration Office.

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, 2012 and the time of entry. Photos may be submitted only one time. Entries for the contest will be due January 9th with entries being displayed at the Eastland County Livestock Show starting January 10th to January 11th. The Photography Contest is open to everyone of all ages. Entries should be turned in on January 9th in the Concessions Stand at the Eastland County Livestock Show Grounds starting at 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Sewing Contest

Break out your sewing machines and get ready to enter the third 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 January 9th in the Concession Stand, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with entries being displayed at the Eastland County Livestock Show starting January 10th to January 11th.

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

FUND SET UP FOR SEAY FAMILY

There is an account set up at Prosperity Bank (American State Bank) for donations to the Seay family for medical and travel expenses.

If you would like to donate to them, you can make your check payable to City of Gorman, Vicki Seay Benefit Fund and drop it off at the City Office or the Bank, or mail it to Prosperity Bank, 115 S Fisher, Gorman, TX 76454. Thanks goes to everyone for your prayers, phone calls and concern. Vicki is expected to make a full recovery; she just has a long road ahead of her.

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AGRICULTURAL VIEWPOINT

By: Makenzie Wyatt

District 8 Farm and Ranch Seminar (Multi-County CEU Event)

A Multi-County Central Texas program for farmers and ranchers conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in District 8 is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2012. The District 8 Farm and Ranch Seminar will be offered at 12 locations across District 8. The majority of the program will be presented through the Internet with live interactive streaming video allowing Extension to utilize speakers from across the state.

Private applicators license holders must obtain 15 hours of CEU's every five years to renew/recertify their license. These hours must be from 2 hours of Laws and Regulations, 2 hours of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and any mix of these and Generals hours to equal the required 15 hours of CEU's. Licensed commercial and non-commercial applicators are required to recertify every year by obtaining five continuing education credits with one credit each from two of the following categories: Laws and Regulations, Integrated Pest Management or Drift Minimization.

The District 8 Farm and Ranch Seminar will be held on December 13th will provide participants with the opportunity to receive up to eight (8) CEU's. Of these eight (8) hours, five (5) hours will be in General, one (1) hour in Drift Minimization, one (1) hour in IPM and one (1) hour in Laws and Regulations. Licensed commercial and non-commercial applicators will be able to obtain their required five (5) hours within the first five (5) hours of the program.

- Topics and speakers include:
- Livestock Management and Impacts on Water Quality, Dr. Larry Redmon, AgriLife Extension Service State Forage Specialist, College Station
 - New Technologies and Herbicides in Brush Control, Will Hatler, AgriLife Extension Service Rangeland Specialist, Stephenville
 - Managing Fire Ants and Mosquitoes, Dr. Sonja Swinger, AgriLife Extension Service Entomologist, Stephenville,
 - Aerial Mapping to Develop Brush Control and Herbicide Use Plans, Amy Hays, AgriLife Extension Service Geospatial Specialist, College Station
 - Drift Minimization, Dr. Matt Matacha, AgriLife Extension Service, Agricultural and Environmental Safety Specialist, College Station
 - Cover Crops: Reducing Herbicides and Controlling Weeds, Dr. Gerald Smith, Professor, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Overton
 - Fertility and Herbicide Management of Bermuda Grass, Dr. Vanessa Corriher, AgriLife Extension Forage Specialist, Overton

Persons interested in attending these programs can pre-register by contacting their County or one of the following County Extension Offices. The cost of registration is \$50, which includes lunch. The seminars will be broadcasted in the following counties: Bell County (Temple); Comanche and Eastland (DeLeon); Ellis (Waxahachie); Erath, Hood and Somervell (Stephenville); Hamilton and Cornell (Hamilton: Hill (Hillsboro)); Johnson and Bosque (Cleburne); Limestone (Groesbeck); McLennan (Waco); Navarro (Corsicana); Robertson, Falls, Leon and Milam (Franklin) and Williamson (Georgetown).

For more information, contact any of the listed AgriLife Extension County Office for additional details. For the Comanche and Eastland seminar which will be held in DeLeon, contact Makenzie Wyatt, Extension Ag Agent at 254/629-1093.1

-- Randy's Roundup --

A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer An SOS to Stop Outrageous Spending

On January 1, 2013, current tax rates will expire and automatic, across-the-board defense cuts will go into effect. The two events will have a dramatic impact on the U.S. economy, and are being jointly referred to as the "fiscal cliff." President Obama and Democrats in Congress continue to focus on raising taxes on the top 2% of earners. But I'm concerned that we're missing a fundamental truth: America does not have a tax problem, we have a spending problem. That is why, earlier today, I announced on my website a week-long initiative to draw attention to this out-of-control, wasteful government spending.

Not only is our debt massive, but it's growing at an alarming rate. The U.S. currently holds \$16 trillion in debt and 2012 marks the fifth consecutive year the country has run a deficit greater than \$1 trillion. And the Administration is asking taxpayers for a raise so it can keep spending irresponsibly.

I hope that by calling attention to this outrageous spending, we can start talking about how to rein it in. I will be highlighting examples throughout the week via Facebook, Twitter, and my website. I encourage you to join in and help turn the conversation into an honest dialogue about wasteful spending that is putting us on an unsustainable fiscal path.

Report Finds Fannie & Freddie Senior Employees Are Paid Over \$200,000

Perhaps one of the most egregious examples of wasteful taxpayer spending has been the bailout of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) that have cost the American taxpayers over \$150 billion. Now, a report by the inspector general of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) studied the pay for 2,000 senior employees at Fannie and Freddie. The study reports that employees at the "vice president" level have median annual salaries between \$205,300 and \$388,000.

Last year, my subcommittee on the Financial Services Committee found that taxpayers were paying the legal expenses for top executives at Fannie and Freddie in civil lawsuits in which the executives were accused of fraud. As a result of my subcommittee's investigation into these legal fees, the FHFA made significant changes to increase oversight of Fannie and Freddie's expenditures and reduce taxpayer waste. Fannie and Freddie should focus on becoming less dependent on the government, rather than using taxpayer dollars to give its employees higher salaries or pay its executives' legal fees. I will continue to fight wasteful spending, and focus on getting Fannie and Freddie off the government dole and back on its feet.

National Guard Celebrates Its 376th Birthday

This Thursday, the National Guard will celebrate its 376th birthday. Since 1636, the National Guard has played a critical role in the United States' Armed Forces. Comprised of citizen-soldiers and airmen, the Guard has helped protect communities from natural disasters and provided relief from their aftermath. National Guardsmen deploy to faraway countries to defend American interests abroad. I am proud to know many members of this prestigious group, and continue to pray for them as they devote their lives to helping others and serving their country.

Action Item of the Week

This week, the House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing to examine some of the new rules on derivatives mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act, and how it will affect U.S. and international markets. I am committed to limiting the impact that the thousands of new rules put out by Dodd-Frank will have on the lives and work of farmers, ranchers and businesses in West Texas. Visit the House Ag Committee website to learn more.

City of Gorman CCR Report

Violations Table

TCEQ recently completed a review of Public Notice violations that were historically present in our database. This review was done at the request of the Environmental Protection Agency and was triggered by the TCEQ migration to the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). Following EPA guidelines TCEQ returned to compliance many PN violations that had existed, but may have not been reported on a prior year CCR. We strongly encourage you to check Drinking Water Watch (<http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>) for the current status of any violations displayed on this page.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL AVERAGE	01/01/2011	03/31/2011	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period
MCL AVERAGE	04/01/2011	04/30/2011	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period
MCL AVERAGE	07/01/2011	09/30/2011	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period
MCL AVERAGE	10/01/2011	12/31/2011	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Halobacetic Acids (HAA5)	2010	47	24.6 - 59.7	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Total Trihalomethanes (THM)	2010	110	103.9 - 120.3	No goal for the total	80	ppb	Y	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
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Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2010	0.25	0.25 - 0.25	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Nitrate Advisory - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Dalapon	05/20/2008	Levels lower than detect level	0 - 0	200	200	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way.

2011 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Coliform Bacteria	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform	Highest No. of Positive	Percol Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Percol Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample	There were no TCR detections for this system in this CCR period	0	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Water Quality Test Results

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Any: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7.56 gallons of water.

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,560,000 gallons of water.

ns: not applicable.

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measure, some of which may require explanation.

Reform the Tax System

Pundits, economists, politicians and Americans from every walk of life have been discussing the rapidly approaching fiscal cliff that the country is poised to go over on January 1st. People are understandably both scared and frustrated.

Recently, I wrote about the effects of higher tax rates on the small businesses we depend on to create new jobs. Raising tax rates on these job creators would be bad for our ailing economy and depressing news for the more than 20 million Americans who are seeking full-time work.

Fortunately there's a better way.

It has been proven time and again that lowering taxes for everyone results in higher revenues. If we enact lower, flatter tax rates for everyone, we would accomplish the goal of a fairer, simpler tax system, which would be a catalyst for faster economic growth. Small businesses have historically invested in their companies and grown their businesses - resulting in increased hiring.

The facts about the effects of lower tax rates on economic growth seem to have been forgotten during the past four years. In fact, every major tax reduction program since the Kennedy Administration's tax cuts has been followed by a substantial increase in revenue and solid economic growth. During the Reagan administration, when income tax and capital gains tax rates were reduced dramatically, not only did our economy grow rapidly (more than double the rate of the previous four years), federal tax revenues increased by 60 percent the same time, the share of federal taxes paid by the top 10 percent of incomes increased.

Likewise, the 2003 Bush tax cuts were followed by 52 consecutive months of healthy economic growth and generated a massive increase in federal tax revenue. From 2004 to 2007, federal tax revenue increased by \$780 billion (44 percent), the largest four-year increase in American history.

Four years after the start of the worst economic meltdown since the Great Depression, we are teetering on the verge of returning to recession, and the threat of higher taxes is partly to blame. Survey after survey of business owners and managers in the past year revealed that they are holding back on expansion and new hiring because they don't know what to expect from Washington, and they're afraid that much higher taxes are what's coming.

Nevertheless, President Obama's plan is to increase taxes by \$1.6 trillion over the next decade with much of this new revenue to be taken from smaller businesses.

The president says he's willing to talk about fundamental tax reforms ... later. But he is insisting on immediate tax increases on small businesses and those who make more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for joint filers).

Most Americans understand that raising taxes is bad for economic growth. Members of Congress understand this, too. Earlier this year, Congress considered President Obama's 2013 budget plan which was (no surprise) based on raising taxes by about \$1.6 trillion. The surprise was that not a single Member of Congress in either political party voted for the president's budget.

The president is now trying to force a false choice on Congress and our country. Either Congress votes to raise taxes right away on those making more than \$200,000 - including small businesses - or he will allow higher taxes to take effect for everyone on January 1st. This would help to lock in historically high levels of federal spending for years to come. Unfortunately, it would also be a major setback for our real critical national priorities - the economy and out-of-control deficits.

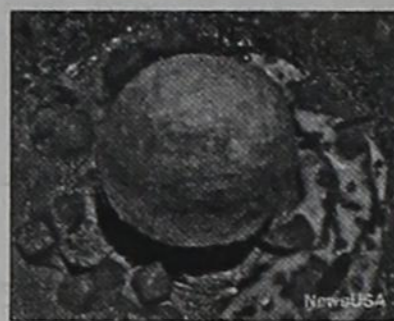
There's still time for the president and Congressional leaders to avoid taking the country over a financial cliff. This is also the right moment for a fundamental restructuring of our tax system that will energize our economy. But the window of opportunity for boosting economic growth is closing quickly.

Hutchison, a Republican, is the senior U.S. senator from Texas.

FOOD

Spicing up Cold-Weather Desserts With Spirits

NewsUSA



Coconut Snowball

(NU) - Talk about a dessert that hits the spot - especially as the weather turns chillier.

You've heard of "pairing," right? Well, in shaking up the concept's traditional definition - matching wines to dishes they most complement - innovative chefs are now using spirits like cognac to create even more tempting culinary experiences.

Cognac's spicy and aromatic characteristics have always made for perfect drinking this time of year. But when Camus VS Elegance cognac (www.camus.fr) specifically is used as one of two "surprise ingredients" in this recipe for Coconut Snowballs, well, now you've got something really special.

"Camus pairs well with the creaminess of the coconut and actually enhances its flavor and the overall fruitiness of the dessert," Joshua Gripper, the executive pastry chef at the trendy W Hotel and Resort in Miami Beach, Florida, says of his creation, which he likes to serve after duck. "It gives a nice flow to the senses, and can also be enjoyed while sipping a Camus VS cognac on the rocks."

Oh, the other surprise ingredient? Ladyfingers, which - covered over as they are by the coconut - add their own "hidden dimension, flavor and texture."

COCONUT SNOWBALL
1 hour prep and overnight freeze

Servings: Makes 1 snowball

Custard ingredients:

- 1 1/4 cups coconut milk
- 2 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 egg yolks

Combine all the ingredients in a small pot, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Cook on medium-low heat while stirring constantly until the custard thickens slightly. Strain the custard and allow it to cool at room temperature.

While the custard is cooling, start making the mousse.

Mousse ingredients:

- 2 cups heavy cream (whipped)
- 14 ounces white chocolate
- 1 ounce Camus cognac
- 2 gelatin sheets

Whip the heavy cream with a whisk until it forms medium-stiff peaks. Melt the white chocolate over a double boiler. Soak the gelatin sheets in ice water until it's softened (5 minutes), and strain the

gelatin to remove any excess liquid. Add the gelatin to the Camus cognac and melt them together (30 seconds at a time). Add the cognac to the custard, stir in the white chocolate, and mix until completely smooth. Fold in the heavy cream. Place the mousse in an airtight container and refrigerate overnight.

Assembly:

- 4 ounces pineapple juice
- 1 ounce Camus cognac
- 3 ladyfinger cookies
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 1/4 cup diced pineapple (garnish)
- 2 leaves fresh cilantro (garnish)
- 1/4 cup coconut milk (garnish)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil (garnish)

Combine 4 ounces of pineapple juice with 1 ounce of Camus cognac. Cut 3 ladyfingers in half and dip quickly in the pineapple juice. Using a 4-ounce scoop, position the mousse onto a sheet of parchment paper. Place the ladyfingers in the middle of the mousse. Place the mousse in the freezer for 30 minutes (or until firm).

When the mousse is firm but pliable, roll it into a ball, and coat it in shredded coconut. Place the snowball in the refrigerator and start the final plating - positioning the snowball in the middle of an attractive plate or bowl, garnishing the dish with diced pineapple, cilantro leaves, coconut milk and a little olive oil.

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 Wednesday, January 9, 2013 beginning at 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with entries being displayed at the Eastland County Livestock Show starting January 10th and January 11th. The Art Contest is for YOUTH only and is open to all youth in the county. We encourage you to enter and show off your unique talents in the 2013 Eastland County Livestock Show Art Contest! Entries are to be turned in at the Eastland County Livestock Raisers Association Show Grounds in the Concession Stand Building. A list of complete rules may be picked up at the Eastland County Extension Office, located in the Eastland County Courthouse. For questions, please contact Halee Mitchell, Eastland County Extension Agent at 254/629-2222.

Bake-Off Contest

We are searching for great cooks to enter the third annual Eastland County Bake-Off. 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 9th-12th. Bake-Off entries will be checked in on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at the Eastland County Livestock Show Raisers Association Show Grounds in the Concession Stand Building starting at 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This contest is open to everyone. A list of complete rules may be picked up at the Eastland Extension Office located in the Eastland County Courthouse. For questions, please contact Halee Mitchell, Eastland County Extension Agent at 254/629-2222.

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