

The Gorman Progress

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 Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454
 2012 Member - Texas Press Association

NUMBER SEVEN

FEBRUARY 16, 2012

Three Positions To Be Open For May 12th Election For School Board

Three positions will come open for the May 12, 2012 election for school board trustees and special election to fill an unexpired term. These positions will include two three-year terms to be elected at large, currently held by Mark Simmons and Daryl Hirst. The third position is a one year unexpired term ending May 2013, this term vacated by Don Whitten and filled by appointment by Jamie Espinoza. First day to file is February 4, 2012. Deadline to file is March 5, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Applications are available at the Superintendents' office during school hours.

Three Positions Open For City Commission and Mayor

The City of Gorman May General Election will be May 12, 2012. The first day to file for a place on the ballot will be February 4, 2012, the last day to file for a place on the ballot will be March 5, 2012. Places on the ballot for the 2012 election will be Mayor, and Commissioners places 2 & 4. Currently these positions are held by Robert Ervin, Mayor, Durward Webb Place 2, and Joe Casey Place 4.

Send A Note To Fred Gray

Our dad is turned 70 on Saturday, February 4th and I'm secretly sending this newsflash out to all his email contacts. Just in case you would like to send him a card his address is 4520 N. Avenida De Paz, Tucson, AZ, 85718. His cell phone is #(520)444-7100 and his email is mexicofred@gmail.com. We did not have a party, but we would love to really bless him from all directions and show him how much he is loved.

Cherie Gray and Kristi Kinney

2012 Gorman Track Schedule

Thursday	March	8	Cross Plains	Boys
Saturday	March	24	Meridian	Girls/Boys
Friday	March	30	May	Boys
Saturday	March	31	Ranger	Girls
Thursday	April	5	District Track (Blanket)	Girls/Boys
TBA	TBA	TBA	Area Track	Girls/Boys
Fri/Sat	April	27, 28	Regional Track (ACU)	Girls/Boys
Fri/Sat	May	11, 12	State Track (Austin)	Girls/Boys

2012 Gorman Junior High Schedule

Monday	March	5	Cross Plains	Girls/Boys
Monday	March	19	May	Girls/Boys
Monday	March	26	Strawn	Girls/Boys
Monday	April	9	District Track (Zephyr)	Girls/Boys

Boys Coach: James Gerick
 Girls Coach: Tommy Simmons

It's Purple Martin Time in Texas

In the birding world, few species generate more excitement than does the "Purple Martin," a swallow that is arriving now in Texas, with reports of "scouts" logged almost daily online.

Purple martins, the largest of the swallows in North America, are totally dependent on man-made housing and faithfully return to the same locations each year, so it's understandable that human "landlords" anxiously await the return of "their" birds from wintering grounds in South America.

Some of the earliest arrivals to the eastern U.S. occur in south Texas and dates/locations are watched by martin enthusiasts nationally on an online database - at www.purplemartin.org - maintained by the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA), a nonprofit conservation organization. The earliest arriving martin recorded in Texas this season occurred Jan. 10 in Pleasanton. Among other early arrivals: Jan. 22 Victoria; Jan. 27 Austin and Jan. 31 Houston. New arrivals continue well into spring. The first wave consists of so-called "adult" martins - those two or more years old, with adult males sporting full dark-purple color. Females are a bit drab, with a gray breast. One-year-old martins - called "sub adults" - arrive 10 to 12 weeks later than the older birds - into April. These younger birds are more easily attracted to new housing locations.

Purple martins prefer to nest in colonies in gourds hung from large racks and in multi-compartment birdhouses. The birds nest throughout central and eastern Texas with the greatest populations east and a gradual absence in West Texas.

Purple martins feed on the wing - taking insects from the air - and early arrivals sometimes face the prospect of starvation when cold snaps clear the air of insects. However, hobbyists have learned to supplemental feed purple martins during cold spells, and even in the summer lingering drought conditions that can reduce flying insects. A PDF information sheet about supplemental feeding -- the techniques are still new to many hobbyists - can be found at the PMCA's website at www.purplemartin.org. Although once believed improbable, it's been shown that purple martins - when no other food is available - will learn accept to accept crickets, mealworms and even bits of scrambled eggs flipped high into the air, and placed on high platform feeders or inside nest compartments. The PMCA recently analyzed long-term data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and found that - thanks to devoted men and women who erect and maintain housing - purple martin populations overall are holding steady in North America - with exceptions in some states - and appear to be increasing in Texas.

Despite relative abundance of purple martins in Texas, many people try for years to attract them without success, or their colonies disappear. Hobbyists may be unaware that problems such as competition from invasive non-native birds -- European starlings and House Sparrows -- or predation caused abandonment.

Among innovations are deeper compartments to protect nestlings from rain and aerial predators such as owls, specially-shaped entrance holes designed to admit martins while restricting starlings - and unique pole guards to thwart ground predators: rat snakes and raccoons.

Because purple martins are birds of the open sky -- catching insects on the fly -- the PMCA's number one tip: place housing in the most open space available, but where the colony can be enjoyed and monitored.

More information about purple martins can be obtained from the Purple Martin Conservation Association - which is focused on aiding martins and landlords - including an information and supplies booklet, with advice on attracting and managing a colony, and data sheets to participate in a "citizen science" program called Project Martin Watch, a national effort in which participants monitor nests and mail information to the PMCA at season's end.

To obtain the booklet, contact the PMCA at 814-833-7656 or online at www.purplemartin.org. The website also has an active Forum, and many hobbyists participate in the group's Facebook page.

Lady Panthers Lose To Graford in Bi-District

The Gorman Lady Panthers lost to Graford in the first round of Bi-District at Breckenridge on Monday night by the score of 50-40.

The Lady Panthers fought a tough battle but just couldn't handle the Lady Jackrabbits outstanding offense.

We will try to have a complete report on the game in next weeks paper.

In the final game of the regular season the Lady Panthers easily outscored Moran by the score of 57-23. Gorman jumped out to a 10-4 lead in the first period and then added 17 in the second for a 27-11 margin at intermission. They added 20 in the third and 10 in the final period for the 57-23 margin.

Melissa Ramirez scored 20 points. Megan Gray got 14 points. Chelsea Griffin hit 13 points. Rachel Tucker and Rainey each had 4 points. Cortney Shirley had 2 points.

This ends a very successful season for the Lady Panthers.

**The Gorman Youth Sports Council
 Will be having T-Ball - Baseball and Softball
 Signups on February 25th at the New Gym
 Starting at 10:00 a.m.**

Brand Re-Registration Period Ends Feb. 29 in Texas

FORT WORTH, TEXAS - The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) reminds ranchers that the next brand re-registration period ends Feb. 29, 2012. The State of Texas requires that brands be re-registered in the county or counties where the owner operates every ten years.

Larry Gray, executive director of law enforcement at TSCRA, says that branding is the number one way to prevent livestock theft. Livestock theft continues to be a common problem throughout the United States, especially with recent record high cattle prices.

TSCRA was established in 1877 to help prevent and solve agricultural crimes. Since then, the association's law enforcement division has expanded to include 30 special rangers stationed throughout Texas and Oklahoma who work alongside local law enforcement agencies to protect citizens against agricultural crimes, including livestock theft.

Although Texas does not have a statewide brand registry database, TSCRA has market inspectors stationed at 105 Texas livestock auctions that collect brands and other identifying marks on 4 million cattle sold annually. They report this information to TSCRA headquarters in Fort Worth, where it is entered into the nation's largest brand recording and retrieval system. This system currently houses more than 102,000 brands, the largest brand registry in the U.S.

This database is the first source checked when livestock is reported stolen, and has aided in the arrests of livestock thieves and the recovery of hundreds of thousands of stolen livestock.

Gray says that while Texas law does not require you to brand your cattle, he highly encourages it as a way to protect your business.

To help guide ranchers through the brand re-registration process, TSCRA has launched www.tscrabrands.com. Working in conjunction with the 254 county clerk offices, this site provides all the necessary paperwork and information to register brands, as well as information on current brands, designing and reading brands.

Cleburne Lions Treated To Banjo Musical

The Cleburne Lions Club was recently treated to a piano and banjo musical performance by Bill Thacker and Lion David Price. They played such old favorites as "Ain't She Sweet," "Whispering," "Five Foot Two," "Steel Guitar Rag," "San Antonio Rose," "Alley Cat," and "Dueling Banjos." They also added "I'll Fly Away" and "God Bless America," by request. Thacker was inducted into the Western Swing Music of the Southwest Hall of Fame in 2010 and into the California Western Swing Hall of Fame in 1994. He and his wife, Nancy, have been married for 35 years. Price retired as Social Security District Manager, after 10 years and a total of 30 years service. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have been married for 40 years. From left are Lion Fred Bennett, Thacker, Lion President Jason Cech and Price.



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 BE IN GORMAN AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH 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

Obituaries

Anna Lois Watson

Anna Lois Watson, age 96 of Gorman, passed away Friday, February 10, 2012 at a Ranger nursing home.

Services were 2:00 P.M. Monday, at the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with John Howard officiating. Burial was in DeLeon Cemetery.

Mrs. Watson was born March 8, 1915 in Eastland County to Louis Cleveland Echols and Maryann Brooks Echols. She married Alton B. Watson on October 11, 1931 in the Johnson Community. He preceded her in death on May 25, 1986. She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of Christ.

She is survived by one sister, Velda Baze of Gorman; six grandchildren, Todd Watson of College Station, Kirk Watson of Fort Worth, Randy Isaac Watson of Colorado, JessiCy Watson of Lubbock and Amy Wood of Gorman; eight great grandchildren and twelve great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Dwaine Watson, daughter, LaVelle Jobe, son-in-law, Pinkie Jobe, grandson, Rex Jobe, three brothers, Clea Echols, Ira Echols and Willie Echols and two nephews, Mike and Brent Foster.

JoAnn White

JoAnn White, age 76 passed away Thursday, February 9, 2012 at a Lampasas nursing home.

Services were at 2:00 P.M. Saturday at the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Richard Watson officiating. Burial was in Oaklawn Cemetery.

JoAnn was born May 31, 1935 in Gorman to Lonnie Edward Capers and Lillian Irene Moore Capers. She married Albert Edward White, Sr. on January 5, 1954 in Cisco. He preceded her in death on June 15, 2004. She was a homemaker and a licensed vocational nurse. She was a member of the Baptist Church.

She is survived by two sons, Eddie White of Granbury and Charles White of Lampasas; two daughters, Becki White of Lampasas and Beth White of Gorman; six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, and two sisters, Ethel Sutton and Johnnie Baze.

Julia Ann (Casey) Buchanan

Julie Ann (Casey) Buchanan, age 40 of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, passed away Thursday, February 9, 2012 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Services were 3:00 P.M. Sunday at the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel in Gorman, with Durward Webb officiating.

Julie was born December 23, 1971 in Weatherford, Texas to Elmer Ray Casey and Shirley Ann (Hamilton) Self. She graduated from Gorman High School in 1990. While in Gorman she attended First Baptist Church. She attended the New Creation Church in Broken Arrow, OK. Julie worked in customer relations at Hireright.

She is survived by husband, Clint Buchanan of Broken Arrow, OK; mother and step-father, Shirley and Billy Self of Gorman; father, Elmer Casey of Weatherford; three brothers, Jack Casey and wife, Terrill of DeLeon, Joey Casey and wife, Diane of Gorman and Michael Casey of Weatherford; three nieces, Sydney Casey of Gorman and Lauren and Molly-Kate Casey of DeLeon.

SCHOOL MENU Week of Feb. 13 thru Feb. 17

BREAKFAST

- MONDAY - Cereal, Biscuit, Juice and Milk.
- TUESDAY - Cinnamon Roll, Fruit, Juice and Milk.
- WEDNESDAY - Pizza, Hashbrown, Juice and Milk.
- THURSDAY - Pancake On a Stick, Fruit, Juice and Milk.
- FRIDAY - Biscuit, Ham, Gravy, Juice and Milk.

LUNCH

- MONDAY - Hot Dog, Baked Chips, Pork-N-Beans, Oranges, and milk.
- TUESDAY - Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Gravy and Rolls, Strawberry Cake and milk.
- WEDNESDAY - Burrito, Chili Beans, Salad, Crackers, Fruit and Milk.
- THURSDAY - Stromboli, Salad, chips, fruit, and Milk.
- FRIDAY - Panther Burger, Chicken Burger, Potato Rounds, Burger Salad, Sherbet and Milk.

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Is Currently Taking Applications for 1-2 and 3 Bedroom Apartments. 102 S. Fisher - 254-734-2400 - Office Hours 9:00-3:00 (M-F) The Gorman Housing Authority Offers Equal Opportunity Housing To All Who Qualify

WIDOW #81338: Of Gorman, Texas - m.com not my cup of tea. Please email daddywags57@hotmail.com 3TP

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RBI-35823 4-2-23 C.

"On The Wilder Side"

A few nights ago my baby had a fever in the middle of the night and for the most part I was powerless to do anything about it. Don't get me wrong, I did everything I knew to do. I gave him Tylenol, rubbed his neck and forehead with a damp cloth, and I held him constantly checking to make sure his temperature was on its way down. While holding him in my arms I realized that he was completely helpless in my arms and I had very little power on my own to help him. Thank God for modern medicine like Tylenol because his fever eventually came down far enough so we could all get some sleep.

I wonder if God ever feels like I did when He holds us in His arms. When He sees His children suffering but He can't do anything about it... You heard me right; I said that there are times when God is unable to help us. I know it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to say that our all-powerful and all-knowing God is unable to do something because He is God and able to do anything, right?

But one of the things that God cannot do is to make you love Him. And He can't force you to obey Him either. No matter how much He has tried to prove His love to you by sending His Son to die in your place, the decision to love and obey Him is completely up to you. So, yeah, in God's arms, He is completely unable to help us out of our miserable situations and sicknesses if we are unwilling to let Him help us.

The most depressing times are when God has to watch His beloved children completely ruin their lives and never even think to turn to Him for guidance and salvation.

Don't be that guy... or girl. Don't be the one who thinks you have it all figured out and can go through this life on your own. Stop being so stubborn in your foolish pride to think that you don't need a Savior because in all reality, you are nothing more than a sick child in the arms of a loving Physician. He has the treatment. He has the cure. And all He needs is a nod to tell Him to go ahead and begin His work on you.

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

A Letter To The Editor - By Henry A. Buchanan

It doesn't pay to serve Jesus in Egypt. Nor in Nigeria. In fact, you could get killed just because you are a Christian.

The Coptic Christians have been in Egypt since the first century but they have not flourished like Baptists in Texas. They are now being singled out for killing by radical Islamists since the Mubarak regime was overthrown.

The Arab Spring in Nigeria has not drawn the attention the Egyptian revolution has, but radical Islamists there are killing Christians because they are Christians.

This is not a one-sided affair. We have been killing Islamists for ten years. We call them al Qaeda, Taliban and just plain terrorists. We don't say it's because they are Islamists but that's their religious identity. So we are engaged in a religious warfare because our American Armed Forces are made up of Christians, mostly. Anyway, that's the people we are praying for "in harm's way."

We are not doing it the Jesus way but at least we are learning that it doesn't pay to serve Jesus. Not in Egypt and Nigeria anyway. Not anywhere in the Islamist world, anymore. Could it be that we have not been serving Him the way He told us to serve Him?

(s) Henry A. Buchanan
1131 N. Kent St. - Gorman, TX 76454 254-734-4569 2/13/2012

Bid Notice

Eastland County is taking bids to purchase road materials. A copy of the bid specifications may be obtained at the County Auditor's office 254-629-1082 or on the Eastland County website www.eastlandcountytexas.com.

Material usage will be based on area of the County road in which work will be performed. All bids should be presented using unit pricing either by the yard or by the ton.

Bids should be sealed and labeled "Road Materials Bid" on the envelope. All bids must be returned to the Auditor's office by Wednesday March 7, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Loretta Key
Eastland County Auditor

100 West Main, Suite 205 - Eastland, TX 76448

Bids will be opened Monday, March 12, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom, Eastland County Courthouse. Eastland County reserves the right to reject all bids and to accept the bid that is most advantageous for the County.

Payment will be made by check to vendor as agreed by contract. Payment requests must be submitted to the Eastland County Treasurer's office no later than the first and third Wednesdays of each month and will receive Commissioners' Court payment approval on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

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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!! \$159,900.00
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 FMS87, 3 - 1 1/2 - 2 brick, 1444 sq. ft., C/H/A, fireplace, carpeted, some remodeling, pond, central, some native, fenced, 2 steel corrals, 2 wells, shop building. Nice setup. Mineral Rights. \$2,950.00 A.

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, elec. available. Remote location, deer & wildlife. \$1,795.00 acre.

407A: N/E Gorman, 3 pivots, 16 wells, 3 ponds, 2 steel corrals, irrigated Bermuda grass, 2000 sq. ft. metal roof & more! \$3,500 acre, possibly divide.
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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 & rug patio. 02

CHARM, WARMTH, COMFORT - This 2 BR, 1 bath brick has all of this & more. Large inviting living room, kitchen/dining combo, C/H/A, utility w/extras, 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/l, N. of Gorman. Coastal good soil, 2 tanks, water well s & frontage on 2 county roads. A13

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Jackie Bibby is also seen and known on the t.v. show RATTLESNAKE REPUBLIC ON ANIMAL PLANET WITH THE NEW SEASON STARTING THIS FEBRUARY 2012

Come see and hear Jackie Bibby and a few of his SnAKes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Fish Fry to benefit the

Cross Plains Senior Citizens Center - 108 North Main

Fish, fries, beans, coleslaw, dessert and drink for only \$8.00!
If you do not want to eat, there will be a \$2.00 charge per person at the door to see Jackie Bibby
ALL CHILDREN 13 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT!

Thursday, February 23 -- 5-8:00pm

Jackie Bibby is a superstar in the snake world. He holds world records with Guinness Book Of World Records & Ripley's Believe It Or Not. Other World Records include sacking ten rattlesnakes the fastest (17.11 seconds), sitting in a bathtub with the most rattlesnakes (195), lying in a sleeping bag with the most rattlesnakes (109), and holding the most rattlesnakes in his mouth (13). That last record earned him sixth place in Guinness' list of top ten feats of the last 50 years.

HOME

Tips to Halt Spring Termite Infestations

NewsUSA

(NU) - While you're trying to find every available reason to be outside this spring, termites are doing the exact opposite - trying to worm their way indoors and devour your walls and floors. And they certainly aren't feasting for free.



Termites cause billions of dollars in property damage every year.

"Termites have an insatiable appetite for cellulose found in wood, eating 24-hours a day, seven days a week. They cause serious and costly damage and can compromise the structural stability of a home," said Missy Henriksen, vice president of public affairs for the National Pest Management Association (NPMA). "NPMA advises homeowners to have their homes inspected annually, especially if they've noticed swarmers."

Swarmer termites arrive in early spring, eagerly looking to set up a new colony. Although they appear similar to flying ants, it's important that homeowners do not mistake the two species, since termite infestations that are left untreated can quickly damage the structural integrity of homes. To make matters worse, damages caused by wood-destroying insects, such as termites, are typically not covered by homeowners' insurance policies - leaving you to foot the bill.

The "silent destroyers" and their saw-toothed jaws can significantly reduce the long-term property value and financial investment of a house. The NPMA estimates that termites cause at least \$5 billion in property losses each year in the U.S.

Termite season usually begins in early March and lasts through

June. The NPMA recommends these tips to prevent termite infestations:

- Inspect the perimeter of a home for rotting wood, mud tubes or a visible termite presence. Pay particular attention to doors and windowsills, looking for shed wings.
- Avoid water accumulation near a home's foundation by diverting water away with downspouts and gutters.
- Never bury wood scraps in the yard. If your home is newly built, remove any remaining grade stakes or tree stumps on your property.
- Maintain a one-inch gap between soil and wood portions of a building.
- Keep mulch at least 15 inches from the foundation.
- Do not stack firewood or lumber near home, and inspect it carefully before bringing indoors.
- If you suspect you have an infestation, contact a licensed pest professional. Termites cannot be controlled on your own. Learn more about choosing a qualified pest professional at www.pestworld.org.

Pig Tales From Hogtown

Thanks to all the folks who came to the dance last Saturday evening. We had a great crowd and a great time!

Wasn't the snow beautiful? The best part is that it didn't last long! We have been blessed with quite a bit of moisture recently and aren't we thankful for it!

You folks are so great to support the activity center and are willing to try whatever we do. So, after the great success of the Mexican dinner, we are going to try an Italian dinner. The date is March 24 so mark your calendars. The wonderful cooks of Desdemona have never let us down and I am sure they will be up to the challenge.

Several people have mentioned that they would like to have a jam session here at the DAC. We are trying to get a time worked out. Please keep watching Pig Tales for information.

See you in Desdemona!

Carol Pell

Brownwood's Camp Bowie to Perform Prescribed Burns

CAMP MABRY, Texas- (Feb. 13, 2012) - The Texas Military Forces will conduct prescribed burns on training areas at Camp Bowie, a Texas Army National Guard Training Facility, in Brownwood, Texas. These burns are scheduled to occur between February 17, 2012 and March 1, 2012.

During this time residents may see plumes of smoke in the air, as well as smell smoke. In light of the recent catastrophic fires that took place throughout the state last year, all safety precautions are being taken and these controlled burns are being coordinated with the Texas Forest Service.

Mission readiness and natural resources stewardship requires wild land fire management programs that protect life and property, facilitate training and enhance ecosystem health. Prescribed fires are an integral part of those programs. Objectives for prescribed burns on Camp Bowie include reducing the chance for wildfires through fuel load reduction and the managing of healthy ecosystems.

For questions or more information, please contact the Texas Military Forces Public Affairs Office at 512-782-5620 or by email at paotx@tx.ngb.army.mil.

HOME

Tips to Breeze Through Spring Cleaning

NewsUSA

(NU) - Spring heralds a season of fresh starts and growth - and what better way to start anew than with a little spring cleaning?

Taking the time to get organized can make all the difference - and it can make the most cluttered closets and dirtiest corners a breeze to clean. With the right tools in hand, organizing any messy space becomes a manageable task. You can save time and money by getting cleaning supplies, like dusters, sponges and automated air fresheners, at places like Dollar General.



Spring cleaning is your opportunity to put a stop to overflowing clutter.

Still don't know where to start? Try these spring-cleaning tips:

- **Cover the basics.** Take inventory of your cleaning supplies. Some must-haves are mops, brooms, sponges, paper towels, trash bags, disinfectant wipes and bathroom-specific supplies. Make a list of what you need so you can get it all in one shopping trip. Many basic and specialty cleaning products are now available online. For the ultimate in convenience, shop online at www.dollargeneral.com.
- **Tackle the clutter in steps.** Spring cleaning can be daunting, so take small steps and approach spaces one at a time. Strive to find everything a permanent home. Create "donate" and "trash" piles for items you no longer use or need.
- **Use organizing tools.** Over-the-door mesh shoe racks are great for storing all kinds of winter accessories - hats, gloves, scarves

and coats. Get some sturdy hooks for purses, backpacks and other accessories, and relish the feeling of a clean closet.

- **Revitalize your laundry room.** Put a stop to the mountain of dirty clothes that grows every week by getting each family member a laundry basket. If clothing doesn't make it into their bin, it's not getting washed. Keep your laundry room stocked with detergent, bleach and stain remover.
- **Store items in plastic storage containers.** Some winter items will be used until the early days of summer, others won't make an appearance until next year. A variety of belongings can be stored in plastic containers to keep them organized and out of the way.

Republican State Rep. Jim Keffer Blasts the EPA For Reckless Overreach on a Washington, DC Energy Panel

Washington, DC—Republican State Representative Jim Keffer was invited to take part in an energy forum in Washington, DC this past Monday and used the opportunity to talk about the reckless overreach of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in their regulations dealing with the state of Texas.

The forum was a featured event at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) annual meeting, and Rep. Keffer—who chairs the House Energy Resources Committee—was asked to participate on the panel by NARUC Co-Vice Chair, Texas Railroad Commissioner Barry Smitherman.

"I was honored to be invited to speak to such a great group and certainly wanted to take the opportunity to talk about the dangers of some of the EPA's recent efforts and initiatives in our state," Rep. Keffer said.

"The EPA refuses to work with local and state officials and continues to impose regulations that will kill jobs and damage our economy," Rep. Keffer said. "It's just another example of the federal government's reckless intrusion into our daily lives."

The EPA recently announced plans to include Hood County—one of the six counties Keffer currently represents in the Texas House—in the DFW nonattainment area.

Additionally, over the past couple of years, the EPA has also assumed control of regulating certain manufacturing and processing plants in Texas by invalidating Texas' own successful Flexible Permits Program; devised a regulatory scheme for "cross-state emissions," resulting in many Texas electric generation plants planning to shut down operations; injected themselves in local oil and gas production issues; and launched a study on Texas natural gas producers' fracking procedures.

All of these functions have been previously under the authority of the state of Texas.

"It's time for the federal government and the EPA to work with the states and become part of the solution and not the problem," Rep. Keffer said.

Keffer represents House District 60 which includes Brown, Hood, Eastland, Palo Pinto, Shackelford and Stephens Counties.

USDA Working Hard to Assist New Farmers and Ranchers to Succeed

(College Station, TX - Feb. 13, 2012) - The USDA Farm Service Agency is working harder than ever to assist new farmers and ranchers to succeed. Acting Texas FSA Executive Director James B. Douglass recently unveiled a new Land Contract Guarantee Program and several other tools designed to help beginning farmers and ranchers build the foundation for a successful career in agriculture.

"New farmers face many challenges, like obtaining land for example," said Douglass. "FSA is going to provide new options to help them to work through this challenging start-up issue." Peak land values, tight commercial credit, minimal credit history and less collateral make it difficult for new and smaller farmers in Texas to get a commercial business loan right now.

The Land Contract Guarantee Program provides a new approach for landowners willing to sell and finance a land purchase to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer. The national program offers two options, one that guarantees up to three annual installment payments on the contract and one that guarantees 90% of the unpaid principal of the contract. Guarantees can be used in the purchase of land for up to \$500,000.

"Texas farmers represent all walks of life, a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, and all different ages," notes Douglass. "This new program will work well for beginning and minority growers in our state and we encourage producers to visit with us to see if they qualify and how it could fit their needs," he said.

Find FSA loan information, disaster assistance programs and other helpful programs at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Another new change to the agency's lending rules for new producers is to allow more flexibility in the minimum experience requirement. Under the new rule, FSA loan officers are now allowed to consider all prior farming experience, including on-the-job training and formal education when determining eligibility for FSA Farm Operating and Ownership Loans. To qualify for a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Loan from FSA, applicants must have a minimum level of agricultural experience, but not more than 10 years operating a farm or ranch.

Douglass also recommends that people considering a farming career should visit a new USDA website www.start2farm.gov to learn more about all USDA resources and programs for beginning farmers and ranchers.

Texas FSA's support for Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers is evident in the high level of minority and new farmer participation generated through staff outreach into the community. For more information about these and other USDA programs, you can always call or visit your nearest USDA Farm Service Agency office.

-- Randy's Roundup --

A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer

Obama Submits His FY2013 Proposed Budget

Today, President Obama submitted his budget proposal for FY 2013 to Congress. Instead of addressing our nation's \$15.5 trillion dollar debt, his budget proposes to spend \$47 trillion over the next 10 years, while imposing a \$1.9 trillion tax increase on American families and adding trillions of dollars in new debt. It recycles budget gimmicks of the past three years and only furthers more debt crisis and decline.

Clearly, President Obama still does not understand that continuing to spend money we don't have jeopardizes America's chances of a stable and secure future. It's time to confront our nation's most pressing challenges head on by enacting common-sense cuts to control our debt and reform important programs for the future. I will continue to support and vote for legislation that fosters the spending discipline we so badly need.

Obama Offers a "No Change" Accommodation on Abortion-Drug Mandate

On Friday, President Obama announced that he will make a so-called "accommodation" on the controversial Obama-care rule that will require religiously-affiliated organizations, regardless of their beliefs, to offer insurance plans that cover contraception, sterilization, and abortifacient drugs. I believe these proposed changes will have the same result: a massive government intrusion into the 1st Amendment rights of religious organizations. The "accommodation" does nothing to lift the mandate on religious-affiliated hospitals, colleges, and charities to contract with an insurer that provides free contraception, sterilization, and abortifacients to their employees.

In response, I have cosponsored of H.R. 1179, the Respect the Rights of Conscience Act, which would strike this rule and promote the protection of 1st Amendment rights. I am proud to cosponsor this bill and am working with my colleagues to repeal any rule that infringes on Americans' freedom of religion. The sooner we repeal this mandate, and Obamacare as a whole, the sooner we can restore freedom and liberty to Americans.

Oversight Hearing Will Examine CFPB Director Richard Cordray

As you may know, I am the Chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. On Wednesday, Mr. Richard Cordray, who was recently appointed director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) by President Obama, will appear before my committee to testify on the CFPB's budget. The CFPB currently enjoys unprecedented access to funding through the Federal Reserve Bank and can draw as much as \$548 million from the Federal Reserve's budget. There is no law, committee or person with the authority to prevent funds from being paid to the CFPB. These are funds that could otherwise be going to pay down the national debt.

This hearing will examine the CFPB's budget to ensure that it is using public funds in a cost-effective and transparent way. We will also examine the CFPB's policies and procedures for providing budget information to Congress. I look forward to questioning the director of the CFPB and hope you will tune in by watching from the Financial Services website.

Randy



THE SPORTS PROGRAM JUST GOT CUT. OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?

When government wants to do something with your tax dollars, it must let you know. But that right to know is being threatened. Numerous governmental entities across the state want to hide their public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites. What you don't know will affect you personally!

KEEP THE LIGHT ON PUBLIC NOTICES



If it is not in the newspaper, you won't know about it.

USDA Offers Mobile Access and More Efficient Online Tools for Farmers and Ranchers

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 2012—Acting Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Michael Scuse announced today a package of technology enhancements from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) that include Web access for handheld and smartphone users, as well as a more efficient and timely option for receiving news and critical program information. The technology improvements will allow users of FSA information to gain access to easy-to-read data, including key features such as loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, posted county prices (PCP), FSA news releases and AskFSA, the agency's online self-help knowledge base.

Today's announcement by FSA underscores USDA's Blueprint for Stronger Service, a plan introduced in January by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack that takes a realistic view of the needs of American agriculture in a challenging budget climate, and lays out USDA's plans to modernize and accelerate service delivery while improving the customer experience through use of innovative technologies and business solutions. Three of the 27 initial recommendations implemented by USDA focus on information technology, while other process improvements already put into place by FSA have strengthened the agency's electronic customer service and online presence.

"As an increasing number of farmers and ranchers move to mobile devices and other high-tech tools, we need to keep pace by investing in the best possible customer service while making the best use of taxpayer resources," Scuse said. "The mobile website is an added convenience for farmers and ranchers and an effective, efficient way for USDA to deliver news, program information and reliable guidance on a variety of agricultural issues. And investments in technology help USDA continue to make other, more significant investments in rural America, preserving the success of U.S. agriculture in the long term."

Scuse announced the new services this morning at the Maryland Farmer's Breakfast in Crumpton, Md.

Like all websites, the FSA site is accessible through any device that connects to the Internet. The mobile site organizes the information on the website in a way that makes for easy reading on a small, hand-held screen. It does not require screen adjustments or constant scrolling and panning across the information.

A 2011 study conducted by the Pew Research Center indicated that mobile Internet access is growing rapidly. From May 2010 to July 2011, the number of adults with mobile applications jumped from 43 percent to 50 percent. The trend is expected to continue. In addition, USDA's Economic Research Service found 57 percent of all rural households use broadband Internet at home, but some 6 percent of all rural households (or over 1 million rural households) access the Internet at home solely through wireless broadband services. The new FSA site makes the information available to these households.

In addition to the mobile website, FSA is now offering farmers and ranchers a more efficient and timely option for receiving critical program information. Such things as eligibility requirements, deadlines and related information can be accessed through an electronic news service hosted by GovDelivery.

By signing up for free online communications through GovDelivery, farmers and ranchers can receive news, via e-mail, directly to their home or farm office or to their mobile devices—allowing them to receive immediate notification of farm program news that is pertinent to their agricultural operation. Through GovDelivery, producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program and farm loan information by topic, by state and/or by county. Producers can also select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest.

FSA also offers AskFSA and AskFSAmobile, an easy-to-use knowledge database with automated answers to website visitor questions. In 2011, AskFSA received 351,119 visitors—99.7 percent of whom found their answer online without the need for additional assistance.

The Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, implement the Farm Bill, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its best years in decades thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers. Today, net farm income is at record levels while debt has been cut in half since the 1980s. Overall, American agriculture supports 1 in 12 jobs in the United States and provides American consumers with 86 percent of the food we consume, while maintaining affordability and choice. The Obama Administration has aggressively worked to expand export opportunities and reduce barriers to trade, helping to push agricultural exports to record levels in 2011 and beyond. Strong agricultural exports are a positive contribution to the U.S. trade balance, support nearly 1 million American jobs and boost economic growth.

To access FSA's mobile website visit www.fsa.usda.gov/mobile. To sign up for FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.

For information on USDA's Blueprint for Stronger Service, please visit www.usda.gov/strongerservice.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272(voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

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FAA Legislation Takes Flight Benefiting Economy, Public Safety, & National Security

In the increasingly interconnected and innovation-driven world in which we live and work, aviation provides a vital link to economic opportunity. U.S. airports are the starting points for nearly 22,000 daily flights that carry about 2 million people across our country and the globe. Nearly 11 million Americans are employed by the aviation industry, which generates \$1.3 trillion in economic activity annually. Aviation provides vital services – in commerce, agriculture, and medical and law enforcement emergencies – for small and rural communities.

Congress recently approved bipartisan legislation that reauthorizes the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and extends vital programs for airports and air travel. Arriving at a good, balanced bill wasn't easy. The previous FAA reauthorization bill expired nearly five years ago. Repeated (23) short-term extensions of the FAA kept commercial air travel going. But short-term extensions didn't provide the long-term stability which airports, commercial airlines, and private aviation needed to make capital investments in new runways, terminals, and other facilities.

As the Ranking Republican on the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, which has jurisdiction over the FAA, I worked with the Democrat Chairman, Jay Rockefeller, to produce a long-term, fiscally responsible reauthorization bill that earned both Republican and Democrat support. It makes a number of improvements for air travelers, assures public safety, and will strengthen a vital sector of our economy in the years ahead.

This bill provides for modernization of our antiquated air traffic control system, and moves us one step closer to more efficient and safer travel through our national airspace. When fully implemented, the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) initiative will transform air traffic control (ATC) from a ground-based radar system to a satellite-based system that uses Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation and surveillance, digital communications, and more accurate weather services. In addition to improving safety for commercial and general aviation, and reducing flight times and delays, NextGen will help airlines to conserve fuel, reduce jet engine emissions, and reduce costs.

For the millions of Americans who reside in rural areas and for those who travel to and from these areas of the country, the FAA bill contains important provisions that will strengthen rural communities' access to air service by continuing incentives for carriers to gain improved service to small and rural communities. The bill also authorizes the Small Community Air Service Development program to support creative financing at rural airports.

The new legislation also moves forward use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). UAS deployment to bolster border security and law enforcement is a particularly important new capability for rural areas and smaller communities along our border. UAS technology can also be a valuable new resource for fighting the kinds of wildfires that ravaged scores of Texas communities last year.

Now – more than ever – it is critical for leaders in Washington to work together to advance policies that are both fiscally responsible and provide the private sector with the certainty and predictability needed to create jobs and revive our weak economy. I am proud that this legislation helps to accomplish both of those imperatives. For instance, this bill establishes a process to address outdated and obsolete FAA air traffic control facilities to save taxpayer money. The long-term certainty and predictability this bill gives to one of the largest industries in our country and its stakeholders allows for more effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Ultimately, what this legislation means for our economy, for our safety, and for our national security is paramount, and in turn it will undoubtedly have a positive impact – either directly or indirectly – on the lives of all Americans.

Hutchison, a Republican, is the senior U.S. senator from Texas and Ranking Member on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

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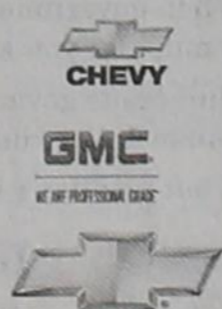
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