



The Gorman Progress

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

NUMBER SEVENTEEN

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APRIL 26, 2012

Eastland County Burn Ban Starts April 30th

STATE OF TEXAS)
COUNTY OF EASTLAND)

ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, The Commissioners Court has determined that circumstances present in all or part of the incorporated area of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Eastland County that all outdoor burning is banned in the unincorporated area of the county to begin April 30, 2012, at 8:00 a.m., for 90 days from the adoption of this Order, the same being July 29, 2012, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code 352.081, and other applicable statutes. This order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for (1) firefighter training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; or (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code.

In accordance with Local Government Code 352.081(h), a violation of this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00

Adopted this 23rd day of April, 2012, by a vote of 5 Ayes and 0 nays.

(s) Rex Fields
County Judge, Rex Fields

Attest: (s) Cathy Jentho
County Clerk

Time for a new Gorman Cookbook.

The Gorman Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring this project. It has been several years since we printed a Gorman Cookbook. The proceeds will be used for Parks and Recreation fund. We need to update our swimming pool to be handicapped accessible. Please bring your recipes to Terry at school or Jill at City Hall.

You can email your recipes to:
Terry Treadway terry@cctc.net
Jill Rainety katiethan@yahoo.com
Cliffa Vaughn vaughn.cliffa53@gmail.com

Assault In Eastland

By Maybelle Trout

Eastland County Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of Jason Dean Horn, 38 of Cisco.

According to a witness, when Jason's brother, Joseph Evan Horn, 31 of Eastland got out of his car on West Patterson Street on the evening of April 4th, Jason reportedly struck his brother with his fists, causing Joseph to fall to the ground. After he fell, Jason reportedly kept punching and kicking his brother until he lost consciousness.

Then, Jason left the scene in a red 1997 GMC pickup with license BB94168.

Joseph was taken to the Eastland Memorial Hospital by ambulance, then was transferred to an Abilene Hospital with severe head injuries.

Investigating Officer Jacob C. Keierlber was told by a witness the assault may have occurred because Jason thought Joseph had been flirting with Jason's girlfriend.

Eastland County Crime Stoppers will Pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to Jason's arrest. This telephone number is answered 24 hours a day: 1-800-300-3TIP. Your identity will be protected and you WILL remain anonymous.



"Thank You"

Rock Bluff Cemetery Association thanks all involved with the completion of our pipe fence. In 2005 we started working on getting the funds together for a pipe fence. Two hard days of work we were able to complete our fence and we are so thankful for all those involved in completing this project. A special thank you to Stewart Irrigation, Pate's Rental, Bill and Judy Cooper, and Parker Lane Drilling of Fort Worth for their donations of supplies, post hole digger, and welder. A special thank you to Eric Royal for coming to unlock one of our cars. No excuses or names will be given for this incident.

Our next project is to buy markers for the sandstone markers we have names for.

On Saturday the annual clean up we had our youngest helper was 16 months and the oldest was 94. With the help of donations and hard work we are getting this old cemetery restored. Brother Frank Skaggs made a list of those buried there, as there are 27 sandstone rocks for markers. There are 10 unknown graves.

Rock Bluff Cemetery Association
Jerry & Jan Grisham
840 Burleson
DeLeon, Texas 76444 254-893-5843

KOKOMO-SIMPSON CEMETERY

ASSOCIATION MEETING PLANNED

Kokomo-Simpson Cemetery Association will hold their annual Homecoming and Business Meeting on Saturday, May 5th. The business meeting will begin at 11 a.m. at the Kokomo Community Center. Everyone with loved ones buried in the Kokomo, Simpson and Mangum Cemeteries are urged to attend and participate in the meeting. You may visit the cemeteries before or after the business meeting. **Donations Are Appreciated!!**

Immediately following the meeting we will have a meal so bring your favorite dish and enjoy the fellowship with relatives and friends. If you attended school at Kokomo, make your plans to come and reunite with your former classmates and have a wonderful time.

GORMAN CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE

APRIL 28, 2012

To get your name on the list or for more information, please contact Cliffa Vaughn at (254)734-3933, or Jill Rainey at (254)734-2317.

Panther Baseball News

4/17/12

The Panthers traveled to Goldthwaite on Tuesday the 17th and came up one run short on their bid to be the outright district champs in baseball. The Panthers scored 1 run in the 1st inning, and 2 runs in the 3rd inning. They left the bases loaded in both the 4th and 5th innings. Matt Fox, BJ Ramirez, and Dakota Pacheco each scored one run. Pacheco, Zach Carlton and Jon Fenley each had one RBI. Fenley lead the Panthers with a double and a single going 2-3 on the day. The Panthers out hit the Eagles, 6-5. The Eagles scored 2 runs in the 1st, one in the 5th and one in the bottom of the 7th inning. Dakota Pacheco recorded 9 strikeouts on the day and kept the Panthers in the game. Sergio Hipolito robbed the 4 hole hitter from Goldthwaite of a 3 run homer in the 3rd inning snagging a line drive that was clearly over the fence. The Panthers played very well defensively; they just came up one run short. The Panthers defeated the Eagles 1-0 early in the year at Gorman. Gorman plays in May on Monday April 30th while Goldthwaite plays DeLeon, if both the Panthers and Eagles are winners, they will play each other on Tuesday May 1st in Comanche. A game time has not been agreed upon yet. The Winner will be the # 1 District Seed and receive a Bye for the Bi-District Round of the Play-offs, while the looser will play the 3rd place team from the Valley Mills, Bosqueville, and Meridian district.

District Standings as of 4-20-12:

- (Y) 1. Gorman (6-1) in District (10-7) on the Season
- (Y) 1. Goldthwaite (6-1) In District (12-7-2) on the Season
- (Y) 3. DeLeon (4-3) In District
- 4. Cross Plains (2-6) In District
- 5. May (0-7) In District
- (Y) Denotes Made Play-offs

4/21/12

Gorman played host to Eastland's JV team on Saturday. The Panthers won the game 12-2 in five innings. The Mavericks jumped out to an early 2-0 score in the 1st inning. The Panthers answered with 2 runs in the bottom half of the inning and dominated from that point on. Matt Fox had his best outing of the year on the mound throwing five strong innings while recording 4 strikeouts and notching his 1st win of the season. Dakota Pacheco made an ESPN top 10 play on a line drive up the middle in the 2nd inning. Jon Fenley made an outstanding catch down the 1st base foul line and fence, also in the 2nd inning. The Panthers out hit the Mavericks 9-2, the Mavericks hits were by the 1st and 2nd hitters of the game. The Panthers scored 2 in the 1st, 3 in the 2nd inning, 3 in the 3rd inning, and 4 in the 5th. BJ Ramirez scored a run, was 2-4 with a single and a double. Mat Fox was 2-2 with 2 singles a sac, a hits batsman, with and RBI, and 2 runs scored. Dakota Pacheco had a huge day going 3-3, with 2 doubles, a triple, 3 runs scored, a base on balls, 5 RBI, and 8 total bases. Big Jon Fenley was 1-2 with a double, Base on Balls, Hit Batsman, and 2 RBI. In the 1st inning Daniel Herrera laid down a perfect bunt for the Panthers 1st suicide squeeze bunt of the year for, an RBI. Sheldon Fenley scored a run and had one single, while Randall Miley walked in the 3rd inning and scored a run. Yovani Palacios walked 3 times and scored 3 runs for the Panthers. The Panthers head into their last district game with May next Monday with an overall record of 10-7. The Maverick's JV squad falls to 17-2 on the season.

Gorman High School Honor Roll

Fifth Sixth Weeks

Freshman Class - A - Jacquelynn Rainey; **A-B -** Adriana Brown and Cindy Gonzales.

Sophomore Class - A - Zach Carlton, Kinsey Johnston, Melissa Ramirez; **A-B -** Connie Gonzales and Mykisha Hampton.

Junior Class - A - Luis Limon; **A-B -** Jasmine DeLaTorre, Sergio Hipolito, Viridiana Maldonado, Margarita Oronia, Robert Shawver and Rachel Tucker.

Senior Class - A - Dolores Garcia, Chelsea Griffin, Erica Madera, and McKensie Osborne; **A-B -** Raven Kehl, Ally Little, Rebekah Powell, Katey Thackerson and Stetson Thompson.

"Thank You"

Many Thanks to each one who helped make our Annual Spring Fish Fry such a success.

To our great Carbon area cooks, servers, business places and everyone who helped in so many ways --- Great job.

Those who came to enjoy good food and fellowship --- We love having the opportunity to serve you and sincerely appreciate your support.

Thank you,
Carbon Volunteer Fire Department

OLIVER SPRINGS CEMETERY WORKING

Oliver Springs Cemetery Working is set for Saturday, May 5th. Donations are appreciated for up keep of the cemetery and may be sent to the F & M Bank, De Leon, Texas. Thank yo in advance for your help.

A Dinner will be spread around noon. Bring a basket lunch and enjoy the fellowship. Ice, plates, cups, napkins and silverware will be furnished by the Cemetery. Make Plans To Attend.

Gorman Middle School Honor Roll

Fifth Sixth Weeks

SIXTH GRADE - A - Kade Sparger; **A-B -** Jacob Ervin, Trent Fenley, Neyda Herrera, Connor Kehl, Danette Lara, Rafael Ortiz, Dianna Rainey, Jessica Ramirez, Stratton Thompson, Sara Woodall and Haley Wright.

SEVENTH GRADE - A - Izael Herrera; **A-B -** Austin Byrd, Bradi Campbell, Sydney Casey, Kayce Dodd, Shawn Estrada, Talee Jones, Danny Limon, Karina Lira-Moreno, Ricardo Olvera, Sam Rainey, Mayra Ramirez and Dylan Walton.

EIGHTH GRADE - A - Rylan Laminack; **A-B -** Arlette Giles, Kaitlyn Graham, Kaeli Hines, Ryan Lowery, Mahalia Majors, Jose Maldonado, Freddy Montelongo, Betty Montelongo, Kodie Sparger, Turner Whitten and Kathryn Woodall.

Homestead Nursing And Rehab To Hold Open House May 2nd

On Wednesday, May 2ND, Homestead Nursing and Rehab will be having an open house from 11a.m to 2 p.m. Food and refreshments will be provided by Alpha Omega Hospice. Please come by and enjoy lunch with the Administrator, Adam Maberry, our new Director of Nurses, Melissa Strickland, Assistant Director of Nurses, Quona Fron, and Homestead Staff. The owners of Homestead will also be in attendance. In addition, come and enjoy live entertainment provided by the Donnie Evetts Band.

This will be a great opportunity to come and see the facility and visit with friends and family. If you are able to RSVP please call the facility at 254-734-2202. We look forward to seeing all of you.

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, MAY 16TH 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

BREAKFAST
 MONDAY - Cereal, Graham Crackers, Juice and Milk.
 TUESDAY - Apple Cinnamon Muffin, Fruit, Juice and Milk.
 WEDNESDAY - Cheese Toast, Hashbrown, Juice and Milk.
 THURSDAY - Oatmeal, Toast, Juice and Milk.
 FRIDAY - Biscuit, Sausage, Gravy, Juice and Milk.

LUNCH
 MONDAY - Cheese Pizza, Salad, Oranges, Cookies, and milk.
 TUESDAY - Spaghetti, Seasoned Corn, Salad, Bread Stick, Strawberry Cake and milk. **May-June - BIRTHDAY TABLE**
 WEDNESDAY - Chicken Nuggets, Potato Wedges, Green Peas, Gravy, Fruit, Biscuit and Milk.
 THURSDAY - Steak Fingers, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Gravy, Roll, Fruit and Milk.
 FRIDAY - Sloppy Joes, Chicken Burger, Potato Rounds, Burger Salad, Sherbet and Milk.

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LAWN MOWING - Do you need your yard mowed after all the rain? Call Tim at 734-5989. Reasonable rates include mowing, weed eater & edging. Home or business yards. 2-4-26 C.

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Obituary

William M. "Bill" Skiles

William M. "Bill" Skiles, 95, of Big Spring, died Sunday, April 15, 2012, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM, Friday, April 20, 2012 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. Bill was born November 28, 1916, in Rough Creek Community, Texas and married Alyene M. Bennett January 28, 1956 in Lovington, New Mexico. She preceded him in death April 1, 2010. Mr. Skiles was a native of Somervell County and grew up in Eastland County. He moved to the Forsan area in 1934. Between oilfield jobs he worked intermittently for Cosden, but at the turn of the decade he embarked on Army life in Texas, Colorado, California and Oregon. At the end of five years he withdrew as a Sergeant. Cosden's pipeline department signed him on as a pipefitter September 6, 1946. Later he applied his skill as pump mechanic before being promoted to maintenance foreman for the pipeline department. He enjoyed golfing, trout fishing in Colorado and New Mexico and hunting. He was a member of the American Legion and Forsan Service Club. Survivors include one son, Danny Roberts and wife, Linda of Fort Worth; one daughter, Glynda Bradley and husband, Jerry of Lake Ivey; ten grandchildren; and 18 great grandchildren. He also was preceded in death by his parents, Jake and Grace (Shade) Skiles; two brothers and one sister. Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

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GOODE FAMILY OPEN HOUSE-MOVING SALE:
 Saturday, May 5th - From High-End to Odds and Ends. Dozens of items must go including: Antiques, Collectibles and Brand Name Furniture, such as Ethan Allen and Lazy Boy. 250 CR 424 - 4.5 Mile NE of Gorman - Off of 571 (Ranger Hwy). 2TP.

GARAGE SALE - Saturday, April 28th at 519 W. Lexington in Gorman from 8 a.m. To 2 P.M. 1TP.

"On The Wilder Side"

After a lovely evening out, two parents returned home to their children, whom they had left with the baby sitter. They were pleasantly surprised to find the kids fast asleep. When the sitter had been paid and was walking out the door, she casually said, "Oops, I almost forgot to tell you. I promised Sammy that if he would stay in bed, you would get him a pony in the morning."

Have you ever made a commitment on someone else's behalf? I've been guilty of doing that for my wife, saying things like "Oh she would love to do that" when I have no clue if she really does or not.

I'm afraid that preachers are all too often guilty of making promises for God that God has no intention to fulfill. No, we don't promise that God will give a pony in the morning, but we are sometimes guilty of saying things like "All you have to do to get to heaven is..." And we usually end up making it easier to get to Heaven than Jesus does. We say things like, "all you've got to do is believe" or "all you've got to do is say this prayer" or "all you've got to do is be baptized" when in fact Jesus never once said "all you've got to do is..." I think we should always be cautious of someone that makes a commitment for God by saying "all you've got to do is..." It almost reminds me of that car salesman who says "This baby is yours; all you've got to do is sign your name and drive it away". We know better than that! What they should really say is "sign your name, then make 72 monthly payments or we will take the car back!"

The fact is that Jesus never preached cheap grace or promised that being His follower demands anything less than your full and complete attention, self sacrifice, and lifelong commitment. As we are all Christ's advocates on earth, we need to make sure that we teach the whole truth, not just the parts that think others will like. I would hate to cause someone to be condemned because I said "all you have to do is..."

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

ESTATE SALE
 Of the Late Estelle and Kay Craddock
 April 27 and 28 - 9 a.m. To 6 p.m.
 503 Roberts in Gorman
 Antiques - Books - Record Albums - Furniture - Glassware - Home Accessories - Quilts - Kitchen Items And More
 Sale Directed by Nowlin Trading, Ft. Worth 214-914-1331
CASH AND CHECKS ONLY NO EARLY SALES

Farm Equipment Auction
 Saturday, April 28th
 10:00 a.m. Hwy. 377 In Tolar, Texas
 Tractors, Pickups, Cars, Cattle Trailers, Horse Trailers, Chisels, Planters, Grain Drills, Tandems, Hand Tools, Power Tools and Approximately 200 Small Items.
 Sale Conducted by Donnie Johnson (Lic #6197)
 NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS.

POLITICAL CALENDAR
PROGRESS POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT FEES:
 U. S. Offices - - - - \$75.00 District Offices - - - - \$75.00
 Eastland County Offices - - - - \$50.00
 Eastland Co. Justice Prec. Offices - - - - \$50.00
 Eastland County Constable - - - - \$50.00

All political advertisements paid for by friends and/or candidates must bear at least one signature and address. All ads must be paid for in advance. (Political advertising charged for at a rate of \$4.00 per column inch.) Any political advertising reflecting adversely upon the character of a person will be refused.

The Gorman Progress is authorized to make the following political announcement, subject to the action of the General Election, May 5.

Eastland Co. Comm. - Pct 3:
 Incumbent - T.J. Cummings

HOUSE FOR SALE!!!
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Dish Garden Class
 Sunday April 29th at 3:00pm
 Open to all ages but the class is limited to 10 people.

Register by phone or online at
 www.facebook.com/
 TheGreenhouseDeLeon

The Greenhouse
 208 W. Navarro
 DeLeon, Texas
 Kiley and Gynnalyn Abbe
 940-867-7050
 gynnalyn@hotmail.com



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

A Letter To The Editor
 About Sex By Henry A. Buchanan

Leon Panetta has taken on a big job as Secretary of Defense. Not just defending the country against foreign enemies. He has to contend with the most powerful impulse in the people he is responsible for: SEX.

Panetta reports that there were 3,192 cases of sexual assault involving the military last year and he suspects that 86 percent of sexual assault cases were not reported.

Panetta has inherited a military made up of women and men working and fighting together and that is dry tinder for the fires of sex, especially when these young men and women are taken away from their normal family situation in which sex is allowed to run a relatively safe course.

The Secretary of Defense hopes to make some changes in the way the charges of sexual assault are handled. He wants higher ranking officers to be in control and handing out the punishment. But as long as we have men and women fighting together in Afghanistan and other danger spots in the Middle East and young men thrown together far from home, we will have the problem of sex.

On top of this problem, the President has to deal with Secret Service men and military men staging a party with prostitutes in Columbia even before the President gets there to discuss matters of State. Are we feeding all our fighting men on the forbidden apple these days?

Take heart, Leon Panetta. At least you won't be responsible for the General Services Administration's part in Las Vegas.

(s) Henry A. Buchanan
 1131 N. Kent St. - Gorman, TX 76454 254-734-4569 4/23/2012

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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.
 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.
 158A, 4-2-2 ranch-house, central A/C, 150+ A. Coastal, 2 pivots, good fence, water well, 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.

30 SOLD
 407A: N/E Gorman, 3 pivots, 16 wells, 8 ponds, 3 metal barns, 3 sets steel corrals, irrigated Bermuda, 3-3-2 acre, 1/2 acre, 1/2 acre, metal roof & more! \$3,500 acre, possibly divide.

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 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 pool with all sheds, stg., RV cover & workshop. Make an appointment and see for yourself! O3
 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, of Gorman. Coastal, good soil, 2 tanks, water well s & frontage on 2 county roads. S13

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FREE ESTIMATES
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 Publication Number - 222780 Publisher - Lonnie Bennett

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Xerescaping

By Gynnalyn Abbe

Xerescaping, pronounced with a Z sound as in Xerox, is the practice of landscaping with plants that require very little water and maintenance. These landscapes in the past have been all but boring, using only cactus and rocks, but a modern xerescape can be colorful and intriguing. The best part of these designs is that they are very low maintenance. Watering these plants should be just the same as Mother Nature would in the desert, a good flooding every once and a while. Xerescapes do not need regular pruning but will thrive when tall grasses are chopped bi-annually.

A few plants to consider are the Lantanas, which comes in many different varieties of colors that bloom from late spring through the summer. Native grasses are plants that Horticulturists have developed or altered to be transferred to a landscape. Often these are not taken directly from a field or prairie but are hybrids from their pastured ancestors. The choices are greater than just the common pampass grass, which can attract snakes. Purple Fountain Grass and Texas Sage bushes are a great choice to add color and texture.

Let me explain first, that I do not know the connection between the pronunciation and spelling of desert plants and the copy machine company but just about any other question we can answer. Visit us at The Greenhouse in DeLeon, visit www.facebook.com/TheGreenhouseDeLeon or email me at Gynnalyn@hotmail.com.

SkillsUSA One Of The Best Kept Secrets In Texas

By Tom Pauken

Competition is a staple of life in school. Athletic events, UIL academic tournaments, the performing arts, debate clubs, and farm and ranch contests all give students opportunities to earn credit toward graduation and gain lifelong skills that can't always be offered within the walls of a classroom.

Yet one of the best-kept secrets in our public schools is another competitive, hands-on program which prepares over a million Texas students for high-paying careers in specific, skilled trades. SkillsUSA, was founded in 1966 as Vocational Industrial Clubs of America and changed its name in 1999. It sends in skilled workers from various trades to train teachers and students alike on how to perform specialized work. Its goal is to prepare students for a future in a wide variety of trade, technical and skilled service occupations.

Easily recognizable by their bright red blazers at events, the students participate in competitions - featuring a wide variety of contests from graphic design to sheet metal assembly along with leadership conferences.

SkillsUSA includes with its masonry of career training programs ethical lessons. The students recite a creed that teaches the importance of education, fair play, the satisfaction of hard work, the American way of life, and having moral and spiritual standards.

"Forty-five years and not everyone knows about us," said Linda Holcombe, executive director of the Texas Industrial Vocational Association (which works with SkillsUSA to train career technology teachers). However, awareness of SkillsUSA is building in Texas. Holcombe said that one of the highlights of the year for their teachers and students occurs during the SkillsUSA-Texas Day at the state Capitol, where a mock legislative session is held.

The exposure at the Capitol is apparently paying off. "In 2007 ... we aligned 19 career and tech courses to fulfill the fourth

year of science and math," Holcombe said. "We've also created a career technology course for a speech credit, and another for a fine-arts credit." The organization recently wrapped up SkillsUSA Month in March, celebrated in many public schools. Holcombe said SkillsUSA saw a 10 percent membership increase over the past year. According to Holcombe, industry required certifications are tickets to well-paying jobs in specialized, high-tech fields.

"The certifications keep them from being ditch-diggers," Holcombe said. "They prepare them for the world of work because they get the training industries need." As one example, home construction courses offered through SkillsUSA do not simply train a student how to be a carpenter. Skills learned may lead to a career in architecture and structural engineering -- "not just hammering in nails," she added. "Career technology is not the old shop class," she said. "If you're in class and just making ash trays for four years, it should be shut down! Schools need to be up to date with technology and the job market." Safety is another aspect of career technology training that can be applied to a wide variety of jobs. OSHA certifications are available for students at the entry level, which is a prerequisite in many manufacturing environments.

If you know a junior high or high school student who is interested in 3-D animation, plumbing, advertising art, cosmetology, radio production, firefighting, aircraft repair, drafting, cabinetry, commercial baking, machinery, collision repair, nurse assisting (there are so many I'll have to cut this list short), let them know about SkillsUSA - as well as the good-paying career opportunities that await in skilled labor fields.

More information can be found at www.skillsusa.org.

TxDOT Launches Motorcycle Safety Campaign — Statewide Initiative Targets Drivers to Prevent Deadly Car/Motorcycle Crashes

AUSTIN—Motorcyclists are dying at alarming rates, so the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is asking motorists to pay closer attention to the growing number of Texans riding scooters and motorcycles on the roads and highways.

TxDOT's Share the Road (www.looklearnlive.org) motorcycle safety and public awareness campaign runs through mid-May and is designed to remind drivers to look twice for motorcycles, especially at intersections and when changing lanes where most of the collisions take place. In 2011, Texas had 470 motorcycle fatalities, 16 percent of the state's traffic deaths.

Seeing them is saving them is the theme of this year's Share the Road campaign, which uses radio and television public service announcements (PSAs) and outdoor billboards, both in English and Spanish to drive its safety message home.

Half of all fatal motorcycle crashes in Texas occur because the motorist never saw the motorcyclist. According to national statistics, a motorcyclist is five times more likely to be injured and 25 times more likely to die in a crash. In fact, 87 percent of motorcycle crashes result in the death or serious injury of the motorcyclist. This is because motorcycles have a much smaller profile than other vehicles, and it can be difficult for car and truck drivers to judge the speed and distance of an approaching bike. As a result, drivers involved in crashes with motorcycles often say they never saw the motorcyclist and could not react in time to prevent the crash.

"The number of motorcycles on Texas roadways has doubled to more than 419,000 in the last decade," said Carol Rawson, TxDOT's Traffic Operations director. "As more people turn to motorcycles for affordable transportation and recreation, it's more important than ever to remind drivers to be on the lookout."

TxDOT offers these safety tips for sharing the road with motorcycles:

- Look Twice: Especially watch for cyclists at intersections where they may be making a left turn, as well as on the highway where a motorcyclist may be changing lanes. Regularly check your rear-view and side-view mirrors and clearly signal your intentions.
- Give Them Space: Don't follow a motorcycle too closely. A motorcyclist's riding patterns are different from vehicle patterns, and reactions may vary for the same road or weather conditions. Allow a full lane of travel space between your car or truck and a motorcycle.
- Anticipate Next Steps: Obstructions that drivers do not notice could prove to be deadly for a motorcyclist. Give motorcyclists plenty of space to react. This will help to make the road a safe place for you and others, no matter what form of transportation is used.

Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

First Baptist Church of Desdemona is doing real good each Sunday. Bro. Charlie and all the members invites visitors to attend each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for Sunday School and 11:00 a.m. for the Worship Service.

Desdemona Cemetery Association held the Annual Meeting last Saturday. Attendance was kinda low due to other activities in the area. Visitors attended from Granbury and Fort Worth.

Robert Alton Brown of Fort Worth visited his parents, Robert and Ima Brown this past weekend and they attended the Cemetery Working on Saturday.

Friends of Desdemona send sincere sympathy to the family of Rodney Duke. His parents are Humpy and Betty Duke of Desdemona. Burial was on Monday in Arlington.

Desdemona Homecoming and School Reunion will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at the Old School Gym. This annual event started in 1921 and has continued thru the years except during World War II when tires and gasoline was rationed. Contact this reporter at P. O. Box 187, Desdemona, TX 76445 if you have a Change of Address as we need to "up-date" mailing list.

Take time out from your busy schedule to remember the sick and shut-ins of our Community with your Cards and Prayers.

Please contact this reporter with your weekly news. Your help will be appreciated.

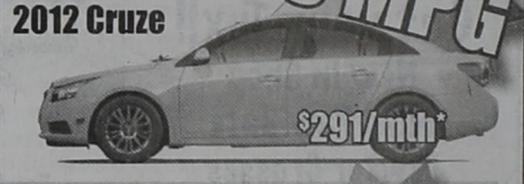
Thanks and have a good day, Vonnie

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