

The Gorman Progress

"Serving Gorman For Over 112 Years"
Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454
2011 Member - Texas Press Association

NUMBER THREE

JANUARY 19, 2012

Girls and Boys Basketball News

Our current record is 6-10 and 2-0 for our district. We will play Baird, the only other 2-0 team in District.

First District game was played 1/6/12 against Rising Star at Gorman. We won 54-43. Box Scores for Gorman were 13 27 41 54. Box Scores for Rising Star were 10 14 9

Second District game was away versus May on 1/10/12. We won 50-25. Box Scores for Gorman were 19 25 40 50. Box Scores for May were 4 15 25 25.

Girls Lose In Double Overtime

The Gorman High School Lady Panthers lost a real thriller with Baird in a double overtime game by the score of 49-45. Baird led 8 to 6 in the first quarter and both teams added 8 in the second to give Baird a 16-14 lead. Baird outscored Gorman 13-8 in the third and then the Gorman girls outscored Baird 12-5 in the 4th for a 39-39 deadlock. Then in the first overtime each scored 5 points, but in the second overtime Baird outscored Gorman 10 to 6 for a final score of 49-45.

Johnston led Gorman with 17. Ramirez hit 15. Gray got 5. Griffin scored 4 and Shirley and Tucker each had 2.

In the JV game Baird won 20-5. Panthers against Baird

The Panthers outmanned the Baird Bears 49 to 35. The Panthers led 8-5 in the first period and added 15 in the second to Baird's 3 for a 23-8 lead at halftime. Baird outscored Gorman 16 to 10 in the third, but Gorman outscored Baird 16 to 11 in the fourth for the 49-35 win.

Zach Carlton led the Panthers with 16. Dakota Pacheco hit 9. Matt Fox and Jon Fenly each had 7. Palacios got 5. Sergio Hipolito had 4 and Luis Limon got 1.

Panthers against Strawn

In the game with Strawn the Panthers blasted the Greyhounds 66 to 22. Gorman jumped out to a 20-7 lead in the first period and added 17 in the second for a 37-17 halftime lead. The Panthers added 13 in the third and 16 in the final period for the 66 to 22 win.

Zach Carlton led Gorman with 20. Palacios hit 9. Pacheco and Fox each had 8. Fenley had 7. Ramirez and Limon each hit 6 and Herrera had 2.

Work Progressing In Anticipation of County Museum

Opening February 1st With Ribbon Cutting, Marker Dedication

Board members and volunteers have been working steadily to prepare the Eastland County Museum for a Grand ReOpening Ribbon Cutting and Historic Marker Dedication on February 1.

"We're extremely excited to get the Museum reopened to the public," said Anne Zoellick museum board member, "it's been hard work reorganizing the museum basically from the ground up."

Board members began late last summer moving everything out of the main floor area in order to clean and redesign the exhibits.

A meeting was held a few weeks ago with volunteers who were involved with the Community Rooms exhibits on the 2nd floor of the museum. Rooms represented were the Eastland, Cisco, Ranger, Colony and Alameda/Cheaney Room. A walk through of the rooms was done in preparation of the February 1 event and everyone was pleased most rooms were still in great shape. Most just needed a good dusting after the museum had been closed for several months.

Representatives of the following rooms are still needed: Olden, Morton Valley, Carbon, Long Branch, Gorman, Kokomo, Desdemona.

Board members and volunteers will continue working on the museum each Thursday evening at 6 p.m. and Saturdays beginning at 8 a.m. If you would like to help just drop by!

The Eastland County Museum is a non profit charitable organization as designated by IRS code 501(c)(3) and operates only on generous donations which are tax deductible. For more information check out and like us on Facebook at Eastland County Museum & Historical Society, or email to eastlandcountymuseum@yahoo.com. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 1546, Eastland, TX 76448.

Don't Miss This!! Make plans now to attend! Mountain Dulcimer Workshops & Concert

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Thursday January 19, 2012

Desdemona Activity Center - Downtown Desdemona Texas 76445

Workshops Beginning at 9:30AM- Thru Afternoon

Registration Fees: Workshops With Concert at 6:30PM \$30.00 Lunch On Site \$5

Cost of Concert for non workshop participants is \$10.00

Desdemona Activity Center - 6035 FM 8 (Across the road, South East of the Post Office, in town)

Gorman Schools Third Sixth Weeks Honor Roll

Gorman Middle School Honor Roll - 3rd Six Weeks

6th Grade

A Honor Roll - Jessica Ramirez, Kade Sparger, and Sara Woodall. **A-B Honor Roll** - Jacob Ervin, Allie Grumbles, Neyda Herrera, Moses Hipolito, Danette Larea, Trent Pardon, Dianna Rainey, Isaac Segura and Stratton Thompson.

7th Grade

A Honor Roll - Austin Byrd, Izael Herrera and Mayra Ramirez. **A-B Honor Roll** - Bradi Campbell, Sydney Casey, Kayce Dodd, Shawn Estrada, Mayra Gutierrez, Ismael Herrera, Vanessa Hooper, Talee Jones, Daniel Keeping, Katalina Landa, Karina Lira-Moreno, Ricardo Olvera, Dayanna Palacios, Sam Rainey, Audriana Segura and Vanessa Valediez.

8th Grade

A Honor Roll - A-B Honor Roll - Arlette Giles, Flavio Herrera, Rylan Laminack, Vanessa Longoria, Ryan Lowery, Alexia Madera, Yulissa Madera, Jose Madonado, Freddy Montelongo, Betty

8th Grade Boys Basketball Result from 1-9-12

Gorman-9 11 10 6 =36
Rising Star-6 7 10 3 =28

Scoring for Gorman were Rylan Laminack 4, Hunter Childers 11, Flavio Herrera 4, Freddy Montelongo 6, Ismael Herrera 9, Ricardo Olvera 2.

Six Panthers Named On All-Big Country List

There were six Gorman Panthers named on the All-Big Country Football list for the season.

On the Second Team Offense was B. J. Ramirez, 5-7 145 lb. Junior who had 1221 yards on 164 carries with 9 touchdowns for the season.

On the Second Team Defense was Linebacker Sergio Hipolito, 5-11, 160 lb. senior who had 49 solo tackles, 27 assisted tackles, one sack, on forced fumble and one fumble recovery for the season.

Also on the Second Team Defense was Defensive back Dakota Pacheco, 5-9, 150 lb. Sophomore who had 16 solo tackles, one assist, two interceptions and four passes broken up.

On the Honorable Mention list were Zach Carlton, Quarterback and Linebacker; Luis Limon, as both an Offensive and Defensive Lineman; Jon Fenley as an Offensive Lineman.

Congratulations to all these outstanding football players.



B. J. Ramirez



Dakota Pacheco



Sergio Hipolito



Luis Limon



Jon Fenley



Zach Carlton

Notice To City of Gorman Water Customers

Dear Customer,

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the CITY OF GORMAN water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes (TTHM). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for total trihalomethanes (TTHM) at 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on a running annual average, and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for total trihalomethanes (TTHM) indicates a compliance value in quarter three 2011 of 0.116 mg/L for DS01.

Trihalomethanes are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine, added to the water during the treatment process for disinfection, reacts with naturally-occurring organic matter in the water.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue: Upper Leon River MWD is the city's supplier. We will work with Upper Leon to identify how we can provide water that meets the drinking water standards which will include any number of the suggestions that were offered. Upper Leon River MWD has tasked its consulting engineers to assist in reviewing all aspects of TTHM formation beginning at the source water in Lake Proctor. From the review a strategy is being developed to reduce TTHMs and the District is committed to doing whatever is necessary to comply with TCEQ and U.S. EPA drinking water standards. The City of Gorman has retained an engineer who will stay on top of this matter as well as aid in guiding the City to meet compliance.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. January 11, 2012.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact the City of Gorman City Office, @ (254) 734-2317.

Montelongo, Tanner Phillips, Kodee Sparger and Turner Whitten.

GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL THIRD SIX WEEKS HONOR ROLL

FRESHMAN - A - Jacquelynn Rainey and Lauren Spivey. **A-B** - Madison. **SOPHOMORE - A** - Zach Carlton, Kinsey Johnston and Melissa Ramirez. **AB** - Connie Gonzales and Mykisha Hampton, Rasha Rainey, Rebecca Rainey, Jessica Williams and Holly Wood. **JUNIOR - A** - Luis Limon. **AB** - Skyler Henderson, Vidi Maldonado, Margarita Oronia, B. J. Ramirez and Robert Shawver. **SENIOR - A** - Erica Madera. **AB** - Dolores Garcia, Ally Little and Rebekah Powell.

Items of interest

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Strawn 3rd Saturday Jamboree

Cancelled For January 21st

Strawn 3rd Saturday Jamboree has been cancelled for January 21st. The next Musical will be held Saturday, February 18th from 6 p.m. - Concession open at 5:30 p.m. Concessions proceeds benefit "Home Delivered Meals" will be held at the Civic Center - 301 E. Housley St. (Highway 16 to downtown, turn East on Hwy. 108 (Housley St.) 2 blocks. Everyone is invited to come and hear a good lineup of Country, Gospel and Bluegrass Music. Come On Out - You'll Be Glad You Did!!

Alcohol and Smoke-Free Environment. Free Admission Everyone Welcome. For more information - Call Finis Butler at 254-631-9223.

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 10.43 A: Near Duster, approx. 800 Pecans, building site, elec. available, paved road, deer. **Owner Finance Possible \$3,495 acre.**
 17.25 A: HWY 8 Desdemona, 10+ A Coastal, pond, new fences, nice Post Oaks, nat. gas/elec. available. \$79,000.
 S/E Gorman: 60 A, good sandy soil, some coastal, good fences, elec., nice pond site. \$2,800 Acre.
 77 A: South of Gorman, fields/some wooded. Deer & other wildlife, 2 small ponds, elec. available. \$2,000 acre.
 100 A west De Leon FM587, 3-1 1/2-2 brick, 1444 sq. ft., C/HA, fireplace, carpeted, some remodeling, 3 ponds, 30a crop land, 35a coastal, some native, fenced, 2 steel corrals, 2 wells, shop building. Nice setup. Mineral Rights. \$2,950.00 A.
 179 A. south of Gorman: Part wooded, part old fields, deer & hogs, 2 nice ponds, sandy soil, elec., water well, metal building. \$2,350.00 acre.
SELLERS SAYS MAKE OFFER!!
 322A. Oak & Elm Trees, 2 creeks, great water shed project! 40 A. Coastal, owner reports 300 round bales/year, 55 A. Cultivable soils, 6 ponds, water well, 1200' metal Bldg. with slab floor, elec. Deer, turkey, and other wildlife. \$2,300 A.
 NEW - 395A S/W Gorman, 1/2 Open 1/2 Wooded, small creek, 4 ponds, 40' elev. change, gravel road 2 sides, elec. available. Remote location, deer & wildlife. \$1,795.00 acre.
 407 A: N/E Gorman, 3 pivots, 16 wells, 8 ponds, 3 metal barns, 3 sets steel corrals, irrigated Bermuda, 3-3-2 rock/frame home, central A/C, metal roof & more! \$3,500 acre, possibly divide.
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 BEAUTIFUL HOME + 3.7 AC + REDUCED PRICE-WHAT A DEAL! Brick home w/spacious interior in excellent condition. Outside is room for it all-sheds, stg., RV cover & workshop. Make an appointment and see for yourself! 03
 20 ACRES, M/L, GORMAN - Good coastal & native grasses, 1 tank & partially fenced. Will be surveyed out of a larger tract. Could be very productive. A2
 NICE BRICK HOME ON CORNER LOT - 2 BR, 1 bath, formal LR/DR, family room, wood floors, fresh paint, SAG + CP & nice patio. 02
 CHARM, WARMTH, COMFORT - This 2 BR, 1 bath brick has all of this & more. Large inviting living room, kitchen/dining combo, COA, utility w/ext. DACP & cov. porch overlooking the oversized back yard with it's beautiful pecan trees. Call us to make your appointment today! 08
 PRODUCTIVE - 306 AC, m/1 N. of Gorman, Coastal good soil, 2 tanks, water well s & frontage on 2 county roads. A13

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Obituary

Lois M. Cates
 Lois M. Cates age 92, went to be with her Lord on Sunday, January 15, 2012 at the Valley View Healthcare Center in Eastland.

Services were at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at the Gorman Church of Christ with Gary Montgomery officiating. Burial was in Oaklawn Cemetery. Services under the direction of Higginbotham Funeral Home in Gorman.

Mrs. Cates was born November 11, 1919 in Erath County, Texas to Henry Simmon Sanders and Lilly Lou Williams Sanders. She married Marvin Vernon Cates on October 28, 1939 in Gorman, Texas. He preceded her in death on June 26, 1994 after 54 years of marriage. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother and aunt. Mrs. Cates was a homemaker and a faithful member of the Church of Christ.

She is survived by one son, Marvin Cates and wife, Anita of Eastland; three daughters, Betty Bullard of Millsap, Cheryl Davis and husband Roy of Cleburne and Aline McCormack and husband Terry of Eastland; twelve grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren, eleven great-great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, five brothers, five sisters, one grandson and two great grandsons.

Visitation was from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday evening at the funeral home.

A Letter To The Editor -

About An Act of Contempt By Henry A. Buchanan
 Four U.S. Marines are deep trouble because they urinated on the bodies of dead Taliban fighters. It was an act of contempt for the men they had been fighting and whom they had killed in the fight. It was a desecration of the dead. These four men will be punished for this act; they are daily praised for killing the men they urinated on.

So the image we see on TV, like the images of Abu Ghraib, and of Guantanamo, and like the verbal images of the U.S. troops who raped an Iraqi girl and then burned down the house in an attempt to cover the evidence, will haunt us and become slogans by which the hatred is kept alive, just as Texans can even today be fired up by chanting "Remember the Alamo" and Americans celebrated ten years of "Nine Eleven."

But what happened here? These men who went to Afghanistan to represent America in the fight against terrorists had a battle with the enemy. It was a life and death battle. The Americans won. But only by killing their adversaries. Now the adrenalin is pumping. And they are feeling their superiority. They are alive; the enemy is dead. One of them says "Let's _____ On them!" And they do and the camera shows them doing it.

If there had been no picture, no image, only the hidden memory, America would have called the four Marines who won this fight "heroes" protecting our "freedom." What we have seen is the reality of war and war is contempt for another human being, dead or alive.

(s) Henry A. Buchanan
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WEDDING TRENDS

Rules of Engagement: What to Know Before Popping the Question

(NU) - An engagement ring symbolizes your promise to love and cherish your partner forever, and shows the world your commitment to your fiancée. Many women dream about their engagement ring their entire lives, so choosing the right style is of utmost importance.



Choosing the right engagement ring can help make your big moment memorable.

Here are some tips to ease the pressure of finding the ring and proposing:

It's Not Only About the Diamond

A ring's setting is as important as its diamond because the setting is what displays and secures the stone. Platinum provides an ideal setting as it is stronger than other precious metals, which means that you don't have to worry about losing the center stone with everyday wear. Also, platinum is a naturally white metal, allowing the diamond to sparkle even brighter.

Did you know that a platinum engagement ring will last forever? Since platinum is so durable and loses little metal over time, the ring will undoubtedly become a family heirloom that can be passed down for generations to follow. And platinum engagement rings are surprisingly affordable. Contrary to popular belief, they are available in a wide range of price points, starting at around \$1,000 at BlueNile.com.

Know Her Style

Before you go to the jewelry store, know your future fiancée's style, personality and lifestyle since there is a ring to suit her perfectly. For example, a woman with a hands-on job, like nursing, might prefer a simple band with a secure setting, while a woman who has a less active job might want something more intricate. A woman

with classic style will want a different band design than a trend-setting fashionista.

"A classic polished platinum band from Michael Barin will suit a girl with more traditional tastes, while a birth stone of colored diamonds on an embellished band like one from Suna Bros. will look bold and unique," says jewelry and style expert Michael O'Connor. "To figure out her ring size, press one of your girlfriend's rings in a bar of soap until it leaves a mark. You can also put one of her rings on your own hand, mark where it falls on your finger and have the jeweler measure that area," suggests O'Connor.

How to Propose

Some women want a public proposal in front of friends and family, while others want something private and special. In either case, your fiancée will remember the day for the rest of her life. Think about what your fiancée likes, and where and how you met.

For more tips on proposing marriage or choosing an engagement ring, visit www.engagementguide.com or www.preciousplatinum.com.

SCHOOL MENU Week of Jan. 23 thru Jan. 27

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 - Mini Corn Dogs, baked beans, oranges, cookies, and milk.
 TUESDAY - Chicken Strips, cheese potatoes, green beans, gravy, rolls, chocolate cake and milk.
 WEDNESDAY - Grilled ham and cheese, baked chips, pickle spears, broccoli with ranch, fruit and milk.
 THURSDAY - Nachos Grande, crackers, salad, fruit and milk.
 FRIDAY - Panther Burger, Chicken Burger, potato rounds, burger salad, ice cream and milk.

REAL ESTATE

Three Helpful Tips for Renting Out Your Home

(NU) - Home ownership has always been a part of the American dream, but that may be changing. Uncertainty in the housing market has led many would-be buyers to believe that renting's the better option.



The economy is forcing many real estate investors to rent out unsold homes.

According to a May 2010 online survey commissioned by the National Apartment Association, 76 percent of consumers think that renting is preferable to owning a home in today's market.

Likewise, some homeowners believe it's better to rent out their home than to sell it for less than its worth, if they can sell it all. Those considering renting out their property shouldn't make a hasty decision. Neglecting to weigh the costs and potential risks could put first-time landlords in a poor situation. Moco, Inc., a company that provides screening services to property owners, managers and employers throughout the United States, offers the following tips:

- **Look at the numbers.** Renting might not be the best option. If you're going to lose money each month, it might make more sense to sell, even if you won't get your asking price. Consider all potential costs, including property taxes, income taxes on your tenants' rent, maintenance, and the normal wear and tear your property will experience. Remember that you won't be able to pocket all of the rent money; you will have to put a portion of it back into the property.
- **Find quality tenants.** Nightmare tenants can be, well, a nightmare. Prepare for a careful

screening process. Many private landlords can't access the quality screening products available to larger businesses without going through a lengthy certification process. However, you can avoid time and expense by asking your applicants to visit MyScreeningReport.com. The report includes a consumer credit report, SSN verification, comprehensive criminal search, eviction search, national sex offender registry search and an OFAC (federal terrorism database) search - everything you need to determine whether a potential tenant meets your standards.

• **Use an all-encompassing lease.** Whether you use a template or hire an attorney to write your lease, make sure that the lease clearly states your expectations. The lease should state who is responsible for what, when you expect rent to be paid and what penalties you will impose if it is late.

For more information, visit www.MyScreeningReport.com.

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The Gorman Progress - 734-2410

Texas Has Record Year for Conservation

While 2011 will most likely be remembered by Texans for the drought and wildfires that ravaged the landscape, it was also a record year for efforts to conserve land and water resources in the state.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided a record level of technical and financial assistance to Texas landowners during the year to help them implement conservation practices on nearly 6,000 square miles of agricultural land.

"In 2011, we helped Texas land managers use a variety of stewardship programs, easements and technical and financial assistance which made it an especially successful year for conservation," says NRCS Texas State Conservationist Salvador Salinas.

The NRCS worked with thousands of Texas farmers and ranchers, investing \$121.4 million in conservation programs authorized by the federal Farm Bill to help protect water, soil and air resources, wildlife, forests, and rangelands throughout the state. These program dollars were distributed in counties across the entire state to help producers offset the cost of implementing the conservation practices, with producers paying approximately 50 percent of the costs out of their own pockets, doubling the investment in our environment.

In 2011, Texas producers implemented conservation practices on 3.8 million acres through 7,052 Farm Bill program contracts. This compares to 2.9 million acres and 6,742 contracts in 2010. The funding was distributed through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and NRCS' easement programs.

Science and technology are critical to good conservation, and NRCS is staffed with technical experts from many disciplines to help landowners conserve natural resources in sustainable ways. While some landowners are interested in our Farm Bill programs, many more are seeking our expertise. With offices located in nearly every county in the state, over 100,000 farmers and ranchers sought our technical assistance to help them with their conservation planning needs on their land in 2011. The conservation plans provide a road map to help land managers realize their landscape goals for better production and environmental quality.

In 2011, conservation plans were written on 9.9 million acres in Texas to improve water and soil quality, increase irrigation efficiency, enhance wildlife habitat, develop agriculture waste management plans and to create, protect or restore wetlands.

Texas NRCS conservation programs are beneficial beyond their impact on the environment. Conservation programs impact local economies with changes in production, recreation, jobs, taxes and spending. Based on economic studies, NRCS conservation programs maintained or created thousands of jobs within the state in 2011. In Texas, it is estimated that each dollar of NRCS and private matching expenditures on NRCS conservation programs generates an additional \$2.54 in sales of goods and services.

"Texans can be proud of the huge impacts made in natural resource conservation in the Lone Star State over the past year," says Salinas. "The voluntary actions of Texas landowners to help protect and improve our natural resources lead to environmental and economic benefits that can be reaped by all the citizens of Texas."

More than \$85 million was obligated for EQIP, a voluntary conservation program, which awards financial assistance to projects that provide significant environmental benefit to Texas' working lands. EQIP is a broad program that can provide conservation assistance for soil, water quality and quantity, air quality, forest health, wildlife habitat and energy.

More than \$5.3 million was obligated for AWEP, a sub-program under EQIP, for farmers and ranchers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities for the purposes of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality. Additionally, \$9.9 million was allocated for WHIP, to improve Texas's critical wildlife habitats. In 2011, \$15.7 million in CSP funds was used to encourage farmers and ranchers to further enhance their level of conservation.

Approximately \$21 million was obligated for NRCS' easement programs, including \$13.7 million for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), \$2.9 million for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), \$4.3 million for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP).

Since 1935, NRCS has provided conservation-related products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands. The historic partnership between local, state, and federal agencies in Texas is a key factor in achieving conservation success. NRCS works with soil and water conservation districts and others to help private land managers take a comprehensive approach to conserve, maintain, or improve natural resources.

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TECHNOLOGY

Remote PC Repair at Your Fingertips

NewsUSA

(NU) - In a social media powered society, instant gratification is something we have come to expect. More of our daily routines are executed online, be they personal or professional, so when our computer crashes so does our productivity.

In the not-so-distant past, PC problems, virus removal and most other computer-related issues were resolved by carting your PC or laptop into a service center. This is not an easy burden to bear when time is of the essence. With immediate response in high demand, computer support companies have moved their services online, offering comprehensive tech support without the hassle of waiting at in-store service lines.

With the ability to get news, updates and results online in real-time, shouldn't you be able to access computer troubleshooting online when an issue arises?

In an effort to harness the potential of remote access, some standout IT businesses are implementing remote services to create a better user experience for their clients. Geeks On Call, a trusted provider of on-site IT services nationwide, recently announced the launch of their Remote PC Repair Services.

If a person's computer suddenly crashes, slows down or gets a virus, Geeks On Call is there with comprehensive technical support to see the issues through



Plagued by computer problems? Geeks on Call offers instantaneous support.

to solution. Because the troubled computer is remotely accessed through the Internet, there is no need to wait for a technician to make a house call. However, if there is no Internet access to the computer, Geeks on Call still has an on-site assistance option - in many cases, it can get a technician to you the same day you call. And unlike other services, it can dispatch a technician directly to your location with the ability to refund the majority of the service call.

By taking advantage of remote computer repair with services like those offered by Geeks On Call, users will see real-time solutions for serious computing problems. Remote Services are available 8 a.m. to midnight in the customer's time zone at 1-800-905-GEEK (4335). For more information, visit www.geeksoncall.com.

FAMILY

Technology Rules for Digital Kids

NewsUSA

(NU) - Whether texting, surfing the web or playing video games, research has shown that kids spend more than seven hours a day with gadgets. "That, in and of itself, is neither good nor bad," says Richard Bavaria, Senior Vice President for Education Outreach for Sylvan Learning. "Balance, as in every other aspect of life, is key." While tech-savvy kids may have a leg up over those without a fundamental knowledge, kids tethered to technology may have their own disadvantages - socially, academically and, perhaps, even emotionally.

For good or for bad, technology has introduced many "portals of distraction" in kids' lives - easy ways to get sidetracked, diverted and overwhelmed. But as the school year progresses, parents want their kids clearly focused rather than busily distracted.

Wonder how you can reach a balance? Bavaria and the experts at Sylvan Learning Center offer the following tips:

Your rules rule. Remember: You're the boss. Like all rules for kids, the clearer and simpler, the better.

Set time limits. A good rule of thumb for teens is two hours of screen time per day, including schoolwork. Decide what works best for your family.

Set place limits. No TV during dinner, for example, or when the family's having a discussion. Many families find that it's best if the computer is in the family room - not in kid's rooms - and used only when you're present.

Set site limits. Discuss the sites your children want to visit, and dis-



When it comes to technology and kids, finding a balance is key.

cuss which ones they're permitted to use. If some sites are off-limits, explain why you're vetoing them.

Schoolwork comes first. Study and chores come before socializing and games. If your child still struggles with distracting technology, get them the help they need. Find a tutor at www.sylvanlearning.com.

Stress privacy. Explain why you shouldn't give out personal information to strangers on the Internet. You don't have to be scary, just realistic and firm.

Stress your values. Explain that it is right for them to come to you whenever they encounter something online that makes them uncomfortable or they suspect you would disapprove of - sex, hatred, intolerance or violence, for instance. Just as we watch what we say in our speech, stress to your kids that it's important to do the same online.

Be a role model. Let the kids see you using your computer and phone to make your life easier, more efficient and more fun. Show how you're in control of these devices, not the other way around.

For more information and tips, visit www.sylvanlearning.com.

WEDDING

A Guy's Guide to Selecting Wedding Bands

NewsUSA

(NU) - Congratulations to all you soon-to-be grooms. Now that your wedding is only months away, your jewelry collection - just a watch, huh? - is about to increase by as much as 50 percent.

Meaning, it's time to start thinking about what kind of wedding band you want for yourself.

Wedding bands have become the norm for men in recent years - 97 percent of grooms in The Knot Market Intelligence's "2011 Engagement & Jewelry Study" opted for one - so even if you have any doubts, your bride will probably set you straight. That means your only real decision is what kind of band best suits you.

To hear CNNMoney.com tell it, there are basically two camps: those who "don't want to compromise" when it comes to quality (platinum bands), and those who feel they cannot afford the best and therefore need to settle (bands made from alternative metals). But, as jewelry expert Michael O'Connor points out, that doesn't really give the whole picture.

"It's true that platinum is so rare - 30 times more so than gold - that if all the world's supply were melted and poured into an Olympic-size pool, it would barely reach your ankles," O'Connor says. "But men's platinum bands start at \$500."

That turns out to be pretty comparable to the cost of the two most popular alternative metals: titanium and tungsten carbide. Both are perhaps best known for being used to make fighter jets. Cool, right? Well, yes, but that also means



Grooms, make a platinum promise on your wedding day.

they're intrinsically lightweight and lack the heft of platinum.

"Most men prefer something that feels masculine on their finger," says O'Connor.

There are other facts to consider, too. Tungsten and titanium jewelry will need special reconditioning if scratched, and cannot be resized. Even the more popular white gold will require rhodium replating to restore its white color due to wear over time. And while platinum - as all precious metals - can scratch, the metal is simply displaced on the surface of the ring, meaning very little metal is lost in wear. That makes it the most durable family heirloom that will last generations.

Still confused? Then ask yourself this question: How committed are you to your future wife?

If the answer's what we think, then know that platinum has traditionally symbolized a relationship that will endure since it doesn't fade or change color. "That's the kicker for a lot of couples," says O'Connor.

For more information, visit www.preciousplatinum.com/weddingbands.

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Cost of Concert for non workshop participants is \$10.00

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(Across the road, South East of the Post Office, in town)

To RSVP and for more information regarding motels, etc., call Carolyn Gilbert (254/734-5787), Elaine Houston (940/886-7438) - Joy Rogers (254/734-5092)

-- Randy's Roundup --

A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer

Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

On October 16, 2011, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial was dedicated in Washington, DC. With the opening of this site, Dr. King became the first African-American honored with a memorial on or near the National Mall. A magnificent statue pays tribute to a great man who fought social, civil and political forces to make America a better place. Tonight, I will attend the 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner in Abilene hosted by the Black Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to hearing Major General Ronnie Hawkins Jr. speak at this event celebrating Dr. King's momentous life. To learn more about Dr. King's life and legacy, visit the Dr. Martin Luther King National Historic Site.

The Simplest Way for President Obama to Create 20,000 Jobs

President Obama currently has an easy opportunity to reduce our dependence on oil from the Middle East while creating 20,000 jobs, all with the stroke of a pen. On December 23, 2011, Congress passed a law that requires the President to approve the permit for the privately-funded Keystone XL Pipeline within 60 days unless he determines it "would not serve the national interest." The Keystone XL Pipeline would stretch from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, importing 830,000 barrels of oil per day from our Canadian neighbors to American refineries. It was first proposed in 2008 and has passed two environmental reviews - conducted by the Obama Administration - and has broad support across both parties.

Creating 20,000 jobs and enhancing our energy security all in one package, without spending taxpayer dollars, should be a no-brainer. The American people cannot wait any longer for the President to allow private industry in the U.S. to create jobs and get our economy back on track.

Abilene Native Named New 19th Congressional District Director

I'm very pleased to announce the hiring of Mitch Barnett, a native of Abilene and an experienced professional, who will oversee my Texas district operations. In addition to managing our Lubbock, Big Spring and Abilene offices, Mitch will ensure our constituent service activities continue at the highest level of effectiveness.

Mitch grew up in Abilene and is a Paideia Scholar graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. After managing Texas Congressman Pete Sessions' campaign during the last election cycle, he served as a key member of Representative Sessions' Washington, D.C. staff and helped manage the Congressman's legislative agenda, policy development, and House floor activities. I am proud to have Mitch on our congressional team.

HEALTH

Baby Boomers: Don't Let Osteoarthritis Slow You Down

NewsUSA

(NU) - Osteoarthritis affects an estimated 27 million Americans and is the most common type of arthritis. Women over the age of 50 have a greater risk of suffering from osteoarthritis than men of the same age. In fact, women overall are more likely to experience a decrease in their activity level.

With osteoarthritis, the tissue that serves as a 'cushion' between joints breaks down and causes the joints to rub together. This can result in chronic pain, stiffness, and decreased mobility. Chronic pain can be one of the most difficult parts of dealing with osteoarthritis, and it can get in the way of routine activities that make life rich and fulfilling - such as working, driving, shopping or even hugging a grandchild. A majority of people with osteoarthritis say it is difficult to be physically active. This puts them at risk for other medical problems, such as heart disease, diabetes and weight gain.

"For many individuals, the main goal is to effectively treat the symptoms of osteoarthritis and stay active," says Society for Women's Health Research spokesperson Carmen Green, M.D., Professor of Anesthesiology and Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Associate Professor of Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan. "Treatment may include a mix of physical therapy, acupuncture, massage and prescription pain medications, including over-the-counter products, anti-inflamma-



Women over 50 are more likely to decrease their activity level than men.

tory drugs and opioid medications."

Experts believe the sooner osteoarthritis is diagnosed and treated, the better the chances are of preventing it from getting worse. Those battling osteoarthritis should see a doctor about managing their pain. They - and their caregivers - should also learn as much as they can and be actively involved in their own treatment plan.

To learn more about osteoarthritis and how to treat the symptoms, visit the Society for Women's Health Research at www.swhr.org. This website will direct visitors to resources that contain a variety of information on pain conditions, such as pain assessment and measurement tools, and links to pain education and advocacy groups. The content can help people with osteoarthritis better understand the condition and improve their ability to talk about pain with their healthcare provider.

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Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

First Baptist Church of Desdemona had very good attendance last Sunday for the Morning Worship Service with visitors from San Antonio and Eastland. Our pastor, Bro. Charlie Johnson continues to bring good sermons each Sunday. Visitors are invited to attend Sunday School each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. And Morning Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Robert Alton Brown of Fort Worth visited during the past weekend with his parents, Robert and Ima Brown. He always enjoys each visit out in the Country and most of all his Mother's "home cooking."

Estelle Lindley enjoyed a visit last Saturday with Elbert and Jerri Lindley in Stephenville.

Hallie Million of Corpus Christi visited recently with her great grandmother, Mildred Million. Each visit brings so much "joy" to Mildred.

Albert Holdman is having some health problems and taking treatments. Our thoughts and prayers are with him at this time.

Robert and Evelyn (Joiner) Abel of Jal, New Mexico are having some health problems. They are former residents of Desdemona where they attended school. Evelyn graduated with the Class of 1943.

Erin Febinger (age 5) of Cleburne is slowly recovering from a "hit and run" accident on her bicycle. She is the great granddaughter of Bernard and Ann Keith in Desdemona.

Remember these and others in our Community that are sick, also the shut-ins with your cards and prayers. Just a note to say "Hello" means so much to a Shut-in.

This reporter receives shot notes, letters and phone calls are during the year from Ex-Students, Classmates and Friends. There just want to stay "in-touch" with everyone in Desdemona. Some of them say that "Hogtown" will always be their "Home" as they remember their "School Days" etc.

Thought for today --- *"The man who expects to go to heaven must take the time to study the route that will get him there."*

Have a good day, Coon.

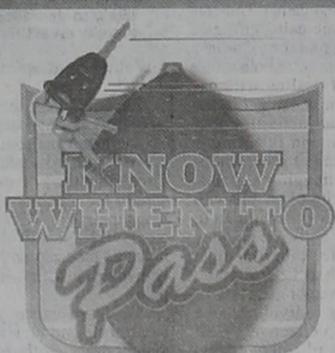
Homestead Happenings

We received a double special treat this Monday when a couple of our Monday afternoon gospel singers came and sang with us. Also Dr. Dan brought his banjo and entertained everyone. He went around to the rooms playing then joined us down front and played some songs with Ruby Lee Kinser. We need more singers and piano players to join us on Monday afternoons at 2:30.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you have some extra time on your hands during the day, early evening or on weekends, come join us at Homestead. We have residents who love to play dominoes, checkers and other table games, some enjoy just visiting or having someone read to them, just let us know what you would like to do.

Visiting with Ima Brown were Jenna Burns and Jana Grice. Visiting Dorothy Beaty were Juanita Spence and Nita Cardinal of Little Elm. Kenneth Welch visited Edgar Reynolds. Visiting Rozell Caraway were Liz and Shane Caraway of Valley Mills, Kathy and Glenn Scitern, Cody Sparger, and Bo Caraway. Visiting Leta Hogan were Beia and Harold Schkade of Albany and Carroll Wayne Hogan. Visiting Ruby King were Shelly Singleton and Eddie Hogan. Dale Johnson visited his mother, Faye Johnson, Carolyn Gilbert visited Floydene Gilbert. Marilyn and Maxine Huddleston visited Frankie Stacy. Ellen Tucker and Emory Taylor visited Robin Taylor.

Have a good week.



KNOW WHEN TO Pass

ANY FOOTBALL FAN KNOWS EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION RESULTS IN A MAJOR PENALTY.

Drink driving is the cause of many deaths and injuries. And that means just one thing: Don't drink and drive. If you're watching the game with friends, know when to pass up that drink or pass off your keys.

Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

Special Agricultural Valuation Available

The following information is provided to property owners within Eastland County in compliance with publication requirements of the Texas Property Tax Code.

If you are the owner of land that is being currently used for some type of agricultural use or activity; you may qualify your land for a special use valuation for ad valorem tax purposes.

Landowners who have not already filed must file for special use valuation with the Eastland County Appraisal District by May 1, 2012. The Texas Constitution provides for two (2) types of agricultural productivity appraisal. Article 8, Section 1-D-1 allows what is known as Open Space Land appraisal. The requirements for applying and qualifying both the land and the owner are different for each of the two types.

Most property owners apply for the 1-D-1 or Open Space Appraisal. This special appraisal requires that the land's use in a qualifying agricultural endeavor meet the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area. The owner must show that the land's use is devoted principally to agriculture use and that it has been for at least five (5) of the preceding seven (7) years.

Landowners should be aware that the law does require a rollback to be incurred when the qualified land is taken out of agricultural use. The rollback tax includes the difference between the taxes paid under agricultural appraisal and the taxes that would have been paid if the land had been on the tax roll at market value. The law also requires that the rollback tax include interest charges of seven (7) percent per year.

The application must be submitted on a form prescribed by the Property Tax Division of the State Comptroller's office. The application must contain the information necessary to determine the validity of the application.

To apply for the Open Space Land valuation or the Agricultural Appraisal use valuation on your land; you should contact the Eastland County Appraisal District.

The filing deadline for this and other available special valuation is May 1, 2012. For additional information or to request an application; call or come by the Eastland County Appraisal District Office. The telephone number is (254) 629-8597 and the office is located on the second floor of the Eastland County Courthouse Annex Building at 102 N. Lamar in Eastland, Texas.



YOU'RE GETTING NEW NEIGHBORS OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?

KEEP THE LIGHT ON PUBLIC NOTICES

Government officials are required to publish their intentions in the newspaper - including their intent to build a facility down the street that you might not want. But that could change.

Some politicians want to bury public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites. Don't let government put you in the dark. Public notices should be published by the newspaper.

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

The Gorman Progress

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