

The Gorman Progress

2006 Member
Texas Press Association

"Serving Gorman For Over 106 Years"
Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

NUMBER FORTY-EIGHT

DECEMBER 7, 2006

Small Town Christmas Set For December 9th

Small Town Christmas is planned Saturday, December 9th in Downtown Gorman, starts at 12 p.m. Childrens Parade lines up at 5 p.m. Can be dressed as X-Mas theme. Judging begins at 5:15 and parade starts at 5:30. Deadline for Entry Forms for Big Parade ends at 5 p.m., December 7th.

Entertainment begins at 2 p.m.
Santa Will Be Here From 4 to 6 p.m.
Parade Begins at 6:00 p.m.

Following the Parade there will be a "Tour Of Lights" Come join us for a Small Town Christmas. There will be lots of stuff for the whole family to enjoy and get your picture taken with SANTA!!

Thanks for your support. Gorman Senior Travel Club 2007.

Christmas Shop Without Your Kids?

It's possible with Firstfruits Christian Fellowship "Mom's Day Out." Mom's Day out is a day for you to shop, set-up your home for the holidays, clean, or just rest. On December 9th from 9:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. you can have FREE child care. Firstfruits will open the doors at 9:15 a.m. to receive your kids and have a days worth of activities for them while you are gone. We will care for children from 12 months to 12 years (or fifth grade). Pre-registration begins December 6th thru the 8th from 11:00 a.m. till 5:30 p.m. or you can call 254-734-3203.

Gorman Lady Panthers Topple Sidney Lady Eagles

The Lady Panthers had their hands full with Sidney's senior post who scored 18 of her 30 points in the first quarter of the November 28th game. Audrey Johnston answered back offensively with 31 points of her own but a big difference in the final score was seen in the fact that only 3 other Eagles scored while 6 Panthers saw numbers in their point's column.

A tough defense proved effective for the 17 point win by the Ladies at Gorman. The Lady Panthers came out after the half for a huge third quarter lay-up spree off their full court press.

Gorman	15	13	21	14-	63
Sidney	18	9	8	11-	46

B. Carlton 8, Johnston 31, Lewis 4, Herrera 2, Longoria 11, Seaton 5, K. Carlton 2.

Gorman Ladies Lose Two at Rising Star Tournament

The Lady Panthers had upsetting tournament results at Rising Star this past weekend as they were first sent to the consolation bracket by Rising Star on Friday then lost the Saturday game to Cross Plains. A less intensive defense than the girls have been playing with in previous games coupled with low shooting percentages led to two games the Lady Panthers wish they could replay. They may get that chance in the upcoming tournament at Cross Plains this weekend in which both opponents are scheduled to play in.

Gorman	10	9	4	10-	34
Rising Star	3	10	16	8-	37

B. Carlton 5, Johnston 16, Herrera 3, Longoria 6, Seaton 2, K. Carlton 2.

Gorman	7	5	12	13-	37
Cross Plains	9	5	9	18-	41

A. Carlton 9, Johnston 8, Lewis 4, Longoria 1, Seaton 2, K. Carlton 13.

Gorman Jr. High Hosts Santo

Gorman B Girls	14	Santo	18
Gorman B Boys	11	Santo	21
Gorman A Girls	28	Santo	37
Gorman A Boys	32	Santo	35

Panther Football Place Six First Team 12-A

The fighting Panthers 2006 season ended with many players receiving recognition for their gridiron accomplishments. Gorman had our first team Offense. Running back Reji Sanchez, senior rushed for over 1,200 yards and scored 14 touchdowns, Reji averaged 7.4 per carry. Sanchez was joined in the backfield with sophomore teammate Matt Underwood. Underwood also eclipsed the 1,000 mark this season. Matt averaged 5.7 yards per tote from the fullback position. Underwood was a huge factor in blocking for both Sanchez and other halfback Fox. At Center is senior David Ibarra. Ibarra anchored a line that averaged 358 yards rushing a game. Joining him on the 1st Team Line is junior Corey Clark. Clark played both guard and tackle this year but played all district games at guard. All four of the above were selected 1st Team.

The Panthers placed two players on the 12-A 1st Team Defense. Linebacker and senior David Ibarra who led the team in tackles was a unanimous choice. Also Free Safety and a junior Zack Fox was 1st Team. Fox was selected unanimous. Fox was the Panthers second leading tackler behind Ibarra.

On the 2nd Team Offense the Panthers placed four more players. Running Back Zack Fox a junior. Fox not only made some big runs but also was a very steady blocker and receiver out of the backfield. Orlando Valenzuela was selected at the Tight End position. Orlando was the Panthers leading receiver. He had three touchdowns during District and also ran the ball in the slot position. He was a very good blocker as well. Senior Pete Ramirez started all eleven games at the left guard. David Ibarra was also selected on the 2nd Team Offense as a Kicker. Ibarra kicked two field goals during district competition. A 33 yarder against De Leon and a 27 yarder versus Santo.

Orlando Valenzuela, Tony Perez and Aaron Keith were all listed on the 2nd Team Defense. Valenzuela was a Defensive End. Perez was nose tackle and Keith played both end and tackle. All three are juniors.

Those players who were selected Honorable Mention had to receive rates. All players were selected by the district coaches. No coach could vote for their own player. **Honorable Mention Offense** - Tyson Swanner - QB; Seth Johnson - Line; Tony Perez - RB; and Aaron Keith - Tight End. **Honorable Mention Defense** - Tyson Swanner - Secondary; and Reji Sanchez - Secondary.

Are you having a hard time getting into the spirit of things because you have a loved one struggling with addiction?

Do you not know what to do to help?

Call Narconon today at 800-468-6933 or log onto www.stopaddiction.com now!!!



PANTHERS Named To All District Team - Tyson Swanner, Zack Fox, Reji Sanchez, Matt Underwood, Seth Johnson, Orlando Valenzuela, Aaron Keith, Brian Greer, Matt Smith, David Ibarra, Pete Ramirez, Tony Perez, Corey Clark.

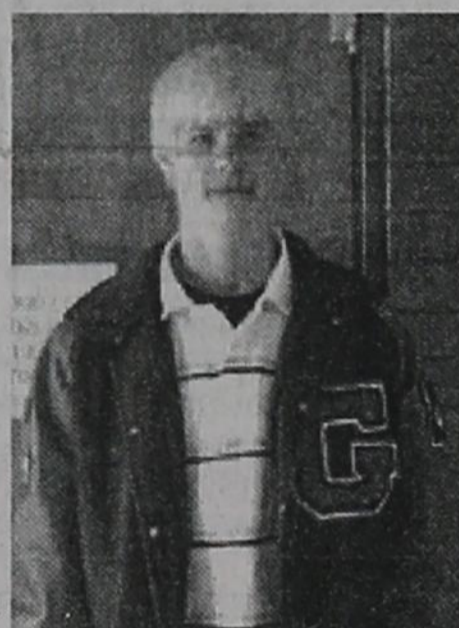
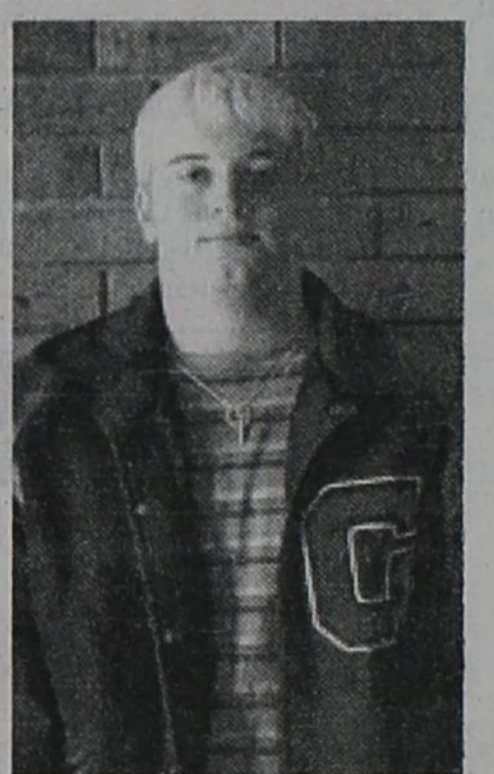
Tyler Johnson Chosen 12-A Newcomer of the Year

Freshman Tyler Johnson was chosen Newcomer of the Year by 12-A district coaches. Johnson was a unanimous choice for this honor. Tyler is a 5-10 and 202 pound freshman who started 11 eleven games on both side of the ball. Johnson was left tackle on Offense. The Offense averaged 358 yards rushing per game. Johnson also was a bright spot as well on the Defense where he played alongside 1st Team All-District linebacker David Ibarra.

Johnson was moved to linebacker after the 2nd non-district game. He started the season at defensive end but as time evolved it was apparent he was a natural at the linebacker position. He ended the season as the Panthers 2nd leading tackler. Johnson has a great future on both sides of the ball but defense in the long run may be his strong suit. Johnson also excelled on all of the Panthers Special Teams.

This is a huge accomplishment for anyone not to mention an athlete in his first year in high school. He could be the bell cow for the Panthers defense over the next three years.

Newcomer of the Year is one of the superlative awards selected by the 12-A district coaches.



TYSON SWANNER NAMED TO ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM RECENTLY

THANKS SENIORS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

I would like to give special recognition to five seniors who played key roles on our turnaround football season. These five young men are David Ibarra, Pete Ramirez, Reji Sanchez, Brian Greer and Matt Smith Ibarra, Ramirez and Sanchez were all three 12-A All District selections Matt Smith and Brian Greer and Sanchez were selected on the Academic All-District Team as well. The backbone of any team has always come from the senior group. I would like to give a special thanks to this group of seniors and wish them well. The Gorman staff appreciate their hard work and leadership. Sanchez, Ibarra and Ramirez were chosen by their teammates as Tri-Captains during summer work-outs. Best of Luck to you all.

Coach Talber

Fighting Pride Award and Academic All-District Lists

The Fighting Pride Award winner from Gorman was Justin Little Justin is a freshman. Congratulations to Justin.

The Panthers named to the Academic All-District Team are Brian Greer David Ibarra, Pete Ramirez, Reji Sanchez and Matt Smith.



Santa Visit

Saturday, December 9th
4-6 pm

Gorman Community Center
Pictures will be available at \$2.00 each

DECEMBER 9, 2006
7:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT SHINOAK OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS

THE REDEEMED OF EASTLAND AND OUR OWN HOWARD FAMILY

COME BY THE OPERA HOUSE AFTER NOON TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE ORNAMENT.

PLEASE COME AND HELP US CELEBRATE MERRY CHRISTMAS

Local Stock Show Set For Dec. 16

The Gorman Livestock Raisers Association will host the annual local livestock show Saturday December 16, 2006. It will be at the Gorman Ag Show Barn. This is your invitation to come out and support this group of kids exhibit their show projects for the coming year. We will have a full concession through out the days events. We would really enjoy your attendance and support for the day. A more detailed schedule will be published in next week's paper.

You Are Invited
to
The Resident's Christmas Party
at
Heritage Manor
on
December 14, 2006
Open House
from
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Come and join us
for
Food, Fun, and Fellowship

1976



2006

In celebration of their
30th Wedding Anniversary
You are cordially invited to attend
The renewing of Wedding Vows
between
Sammye Pettit Mauney
and
Gary Don Mauney
On Saturday, December 9, 2006
At 2:00 P.M.
At the First Baptist Church
Gorman, Texas

No Gifts Please. Your Presence Is All That Is Required.

KOKOMO NEWS

BY ZELDA JORDAN

Sunday, December 10, 2006 will be a very special day at the Kokomo Baptist Church. The dedication of the new church building will be held along with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the church. The program will begin at 10:00 A.M. There will be congregational singing, special music, a dedication service, a brief history of the church and special recognition of former pastors and their families, former members, volunteers who worked on the building and those who donated time, labor, equipment and money, and the interim preachers who have filled the pulpit since we have been without a pastor. Dr. Jimmy Nelson, a Baptist Missionary who grew up in the Kokomo Church, will be the speaker for the worship service. Rev. Jim Andrews, a former pastor will also participate in the program. Lunch (catered by Dale and Kathy Collum and sponsored by the church) will be served in the fellowship hall following the worship service. Former members and visitors are invited to come and enjoy this special day with the members of the church. If you can't come for the service, there will be a time for visiting in the afternoon.

Ed Rodgers was the speaker for the Sunday morning service on Sunday, December 3. The special music was by the church choir. Daisy Slaton was a visitor.

Glynda Bond underwent a knee replacement last week in the Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, and is home now and doing well. Those who have visited with Glynda and Joe were Bobby and Mary Jane Little, Betty Little, Ed and Ruth Rodgers, Zelda Jordan, Glenda Black, Oren and Norma Webb and Helen Browning.

Jacob Hall and friend, Cory of Cleburne visited on Saturday with Bobby and Mary Jane Little.

Glenda Black of Abilene and Zelda Jordan visited with Nancy Hendricks.

Those enjoying a family get-together in the home of Zelda Jordan during the weekend were Glenda Black and Wade, Sheri, Ryan, Kody and Emily Daniell of Abilene, Joe and Justin Miles of Austin, Cindy and Kayla Jordan of Lubbock, Brad and Meagan Miles of Waco and Jimmy and Maggie Nelson of Carbon. Sylvia Buchanan also visited with them on Saturday. Emily, who was four years old on November 26th continued to celebrate her birthday when she was presented more birthday gifts. Since it was too cold to be outside very much, board games were enjoyed inside.

Winter decided to pay us a visit with a cold front on Wednesday night and thunderstorms, sleet and snow on Thursday. Another cold front came through during the weekend with very cold air on Sunday and early Monday morning.

May God bless you all with His greatest blessings.

Green Thumb, Inc Program For Senior Citizens

The City of Gorman is looking to fill a position for the Green Thumb Program in which a low income Senior Citizen is looking to work part-time and still qualify to receive social security benefits. If this is what you are looking for give us a call or come by and talk to Lori Dodd or Jessica Lara.

This consists of State residents 55 years of age or older. The program promotes projects that enhance the environment. Seniors have the ability and desire to remain active in their communities. This program is administered by Green Thumb Inc., a national, not-for-profit organization. Under this law, the income limitation has increased to \$14,258 and to \$10,948 for individuals living in someone else's home, an increase from previous \$10,691 limit. Couples living on their own can now earn up to \$25,031 up from (\$24,444) and still participate in the program. The living for couples living in another person's home has also been raised to \$18,775 from the previous \$18,335.

This program not only helps supplement the incomes of low income seniors, but is also gives them a chance to remain active and productive in society.

Older workers are more substantial than before they are valued by Americans because they are described as more experienced, better judgement, stronger commitment to quality and a lower turnover rate.

Thus employers need to thank about the retention of older employees. Retaining older workers will save on recruitment and training of hiring a new employee.

Have any questions or comments give us a call or come by and see us.



Panther Dance Team

Nicole Vaughn, Elisa Lobo, Laura Herrera, Kimmy Seaton, Emily Lewis, Lindsay Laminack and in front Angelia Silva. Not pictured - Ester Cruz.

DESDEMONA NEWS

BY VONNIE GUTHERY

Ladies Monthly Social will be held on Monday, December 11th at the Desdemona Community Center School Building. This will be a Christmas Covered Dish Luncheon. Bring the food of your choice. Make plans to arrive at 11:30 a.m. to enjoy visiting and have fellowship with our friends and neighbors. Everyone invited to attend. Please bring a gift (wrapped) with cost range \$7.00 to \$10.00. Linda Lindley is the hostess of this Christmas Ladies Social.

"Happy 11th Birthday" to our great grandson, Colin on Saturday, December 9th from Granny Coon and Granke of Desdemona.

Desdemona Community Center hosted a "Country Arts and Crafts Fair" over the past weekend in the School Gym. Vendors came from Santo, Fort Worth, Granbury, Morgan Mill, Dublin, Gorman, De Leon, Stephenville and Desdemona. They brought lovely handmade gifts: *Ceramics, Stained Glass, Wood Craft Designs, Furniture and Christmas Decorations of all kinds for everyone to view and purchase.* The Cold and icy weather on Thursday started the Craft Show off to a slow start, but Friday and Saturday ended very good. Carol Sue (Hall) Willis of Desdemona had the most popular booth of all where she made "vintage photos" of children, etc. All of the vendors are invited to come back next year, same time and same place. Linda Lindley was chairman of the Craft Show (with several helpers) and Gail Clayton was chairman of the Concession Stand (with several helpers). Our thanks to all the vendors and everyone else that helped in any way to prepare for this Craft Show. It was a very enjoyable event. We appreciate all of the out of town visitors and our local ones too. Everyone enjoyed a visit from Santa.

Desdemona Community Center is selling a very colorful tapestry "Throw" (\$49.95 each). On this throw are several pictures of "Boom Days"; Magnolia Ball Tanks (with Flying Red Horse on it), Old Tabernacle; All three School Buildings; Duke #1 Discovery Well. This throw will make a great Christmas Gift. To purchase one call Ima Brown at 254-758-2634.

Call Vonnie Guthery 254-758-2665 or Gay Moore at 254-758-2240 to purchase a Memorial Brick (\$25.00 each). The "Wall of Memories" is located in the entrance hall of the old school building. One wall is complete and another wall will be complete real soon. Get your order in soon as possible.

Jack Byrd of Eastland passed away. Burial was in Eastland County near Carbon. He attended school in Desdemona. Our sincere sympathy goes out to this family.

Gail Clayton visited in Odessa a few days this past week with her brother,

Sen. Hutchison Delivers Remarks At Texas Farm Bureau Convention

Highlights importance of Farm Bill provisions, disaster relief

WASHINGTON - Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, this week delivered remarks at the 73rd Annual Texas Farm Bureau Convention. She spoke on issues of concern to representatives of Texas' more than 225,000 farms and ranches, including extension of the 2002 Farm Bill and disaster relief.

"The passage of a new farm bill that is good for Texas is one of my top priorities for the new congress," Sen. Hutchison said. "The 2002 Farm Bill successfully addressed the goal of producing a safe, abundant domestic food supply, while also protecting the interests of our agriculture industry. We must continue these policies as we craft new legislation."

In March 2006, Sen. Hutchison led efforts to direct over \$12 million in relief funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to farmers impacted by the single largest wildfire in Texas history. She is also a co-sponsor of the Emergency Farm Relief Act of 2006, which provides over \$2.5 billion in relief for crop losses in 2005 or 2006 and over \$1.7 billion for livestock losses due to wildfires.

"Between drought, hurricanes, and wildfires, this has been a tough year for farmers and ranchers," Sen. Hutchison said. "Farms and ranches are a vital component of our state and national economy. When the farmers and ranchers suffer, we all suffer."

Prior to the devastating Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Sen. Hutchison advocated for the establishment of a "rainy day fund," emergency funding set aside to aid in recovery from natu-

Bobby Compton.

Dorothy Roberts spent Sunday thru Friday in Fort Worth visiting with grand-daughter, Heather Caddell and children, Kelsey, Cameron and Cain.

T-Shirts with a "Hogtown Boom" Photo on front are selling great. The T-Shirt is Black with photo in sepia tone. Contact Linda Lindley at 254-758-2691 to order your shirt. Cost \$15 to \$16 each. Proceeds go to the Desdemona Community Center, same as the proceeds from the Memorial Bricks and Throw sales.

Thought for today - "The difference between a Genius and Stupidity - is that a Genius has it's limits."

Have a great week, Coon.

Antiques From Our Father's House

103 N. Kent, Gorman, Texas, 76454

Cordially invites you to our "Quilted" Christmas Open House!

December 9th
10 am - 4 pm

We are pleased to feature; Willow Tree Angels, "Quilt" Art by Jim Shore, Votivo & Tyler Candles... With many other wonderful gift items, as well as Antiques and Collectibles.

Join us for some hot spiced cider and cookies, and let us wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!

Best Wishes,

Virginia and Jerry Skaggs, and Linda Levens

Grand Opening

Panda's Flowers and Gifts & Retirement Party

For Gene and Carolyn Foster

Saturday, Dec. 9th - 9 a.m.

Come In for Punch, Cookies, Visit, and Register For Door Prizes to be given away during the morning. Register For Christmas Basket to be given away December 22nd

DECEMBER SPECIAL!!!

Dreamer Candles Sale

Votives - \$2.50 - 10 Oz. \$6.50 - 24 Oz. \$12.50

Poinsettias

have arrived Big and Full in Pink, White, Red and Jinglebell

Panda's Flowers & Gifts

111 S. Kent - Gorman, Texas
Phone 254-734-2519 - 1-800-254-3557
Hours: Monday thru Friday - 8 to 5
Saturday - 8 - 12 Noon
(except Holidays and Funerals)





Merry Christmas



Dublin Livestock Auction

P. O. Box 158 • Dublin, TX 76446 • 254-445-1734

December 29, 2006 • 1:00 P.M.

Winter Replacement Female Sale

Bred Cows • Pairs • Young Bulls

We look forward to seeing you.
No SALE December 22nd.

Senior Citizens News

Carol Ward

It was nice to be back together on the 29 of November, after not meeting the day before Thanksgiving. I also missed the week before due to surgery. It was good to visit with everyone again. We had 31 present with Barbara Bush calling us to order. James Mears gave the blessing.

We are having our Christmas Supper on December 7 at 5 p.m. Please come and bring a covered dish. We will also enjoy a Chinese Christmas, so bring a modest gift not over \$5.00 or less. Hope to have a good crowd, should be fun.

We had 3 birthdays recently, sang Happy Birthday to all. Hope Opal Burton, Jerry Underwood and Daisy Slaton enjoyed our off key singing.

One reason I enjoyed the Desdemona Thanksgiving Supper was seeing and visiting with the people. I used to keep Betty Duke's granddaughter, Katie long ago. It was wonderful to see her and her sister, and how they had grown. Couldn't believe there were nearly as tall as I am. They are cute girls. It was a good time with 26 of our people from Gorman there.

We were so happy to see Charlene Schahn back at our lunch. She is doing well and looks so good. Of course Bro. Barry was with her being the good husband he is.

It was good to see Billie Bennett, Mr. Johnson and Martha Rainey. Hadn't see them in awhile. Martha had felt band and didn't get to go with us to Desdemona.

There is always 10 to 14 on Thursday at 5 p.m. to play games. We are glad several come over from Desdemona. I guess a lot of folks are like me, hard to get out of the house. They didn't last Thursday the 30th due to the extreme cold weather. As you remember it stayed 27 all day long-BRR. It was nice to have the moisture with the cold. I do hope it killed off some of the undesirables, just been hot too long. Although the other night some bug flew through by living room, couldn't believe it after the cold.

A Thought For Our Week: *You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.*

Unknown

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The holidays are a time of great joy, but they can also be times of great danger for our cats and dogs. Please allow me to share these tips for keeping animals safe this season.

Keep tinsel, ribbons, and ornament hooks away from prying paws.

Cats have been known to eat decorations. If you see string hanging from your animal's mouth, never pull it out-doing so can cut her intestines. Call your vet immediately.

Make sure guests and children know not to share Christmas treats with Fluffy or Fido. Chocolate can cause cardiac irregularities, seizures, and even death in dogs.

Keep plants like holly, mistletoe, poinsettias, and lilies out of animals' reach-they can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and even death if eaten.

Cover your tree stand with a decorative skirt to prevent animals from drinking pine needle- and preservative-filled water.

Guests coming and going provide more opportunities for animals to slip out. Make sure they are wearing collars and I.D. tags, just in case.

Here's wishing you and your furry family members a happy and safe holiday season!

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to
\$23.50 Unlimited
Call 254-734-2410

PRAY
FOR
RAIN!!

Pig Tales From Hogtown

This little piggy is glad to be back home after being out of state for a family emergency. A great big thank you to Delores Tucker for writing this column while I was gone and she will probably be called upon again as the illness in our family continues.

Oink! We had a great response to our Christmas Store and we will have new things and new "goodies" next week. For those of you who have not tried the peanut brittle, we will have more. Those of you who know how good it is, better come early! The store will be open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday once again this week from starting at 9:00 a.m. each day.

We had lots of hungry folks come to the monthly breakfast this past Saturday. It was cold outside and there were lots of sales at the stores but many people came to eat with us before starting their days. Please mark your calendars for the first Saturday of each month and join us.

The community computer is up and running. The building will be open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for anyone who would like to compute! Yes, we are connected to the Internet.

Thanks to everyone who have said prayers for Mother. We are very grateful. Please pray for others in our community who are fighting serious illnesses, also, and for our soldiers everywhere.

Carol Pell

-- Randy's Roundup --

A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer
December 4, 2006
"UN"fortunate News

This week began with the troubling news that John Bolton will no longer serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Ambassador Bolton is extremely bright and possesses the qualities necessary for this position. He understands that the U.N. has become ineffective and plagued with corruption. Since he began in August of 2005, Ambassador Bolton pushed for substantive reforms, consistently defended American interests, and had a track record of success.

Although he had earned the approval of a majority of U.S. Senators, obstructionist tactics were used to prevent him from serving beyond the end of this year. I hope that President Bush's replacement will continue down the path set by Ambassador Bolton by being a strong voice for the American people at the U.N.

Tax Relief Heads This Week's Agenda

The House will likely finish its 2006 legislative business this week and making sure important tax relief measures are enacted are at the top of the "to-do" list. These measures include extending the college tuition tax credit and the teacher tax deduction. In addition, we will likely vote to extend a tax relief item of particular interest to Texans: sales tax deductibility. Enacted in 2005, sales tax deductibility gives Texas taxpayers the option of deducting state and local sales taxes from their federal income tax returns. Taxpayers in states with a state income tax can deduct their state taxes from their federal returns. However, because Texas doesn't have a state income tax, in the past, Texans have been forced to pay more. The "Sales Tax Deductibility" option makes this situation fairer to Texans.

Other important items that the House will take up this week include preventing a decrease in reimbursements to physicians who treat Medicare patients, authorizing increased exploration for oil and natural gas off our nation's coastlines, and ensuring that the federal government has the funds to operate through the beginning of 2007.

--Randy

Kokomo Baptist Church To Dedicate New Building And Celebrate 100th

Kokomo Baptist Church will dedicate their new church building and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church on Sunday, December 10, 2006. The church was organized on June 9, 1906, but due to the church building burning on January 1, 2006, the celebration had to be postponed until the new building was completed.

The service will begin at 10:00 A.M.



Controlling the Burn

Wildfires are always a concern in rural Texas, but these days, fire threatens life and property throughout our state. While weather-related fires are largely out of our control, there is much that individuals can do to protect themselves, their neighbors and the Texas landscape.

We have just endured the most damaging and prolific wildfire season in Texas history, and more fire-related deaths have been reported this year than any other on record: between January 2005 and September 2006, 19 Texans died in a record 31,000 wildfires that burned upwards of 700 homes and 2.2 million acres.

Fires in these last 18 months have cost property owners some \$628 million in damage. The burden of containment usually falls on local firefighters backed by state crews, but recently we've needed outside help. Last year, nearly 4,000 firefighting personnel and 500 pieces of equipment from all 50 states were called on for assistance.

Our situation is so dramatic that The Weather Channel sent a TV crew to Texas last April to document the wildfire epidemic for its program, "Storm Stories: The Worst of Nature—The Best of Man."

The TV crew arrived a month after a wildfire packing 50-foot flames claimed 11 lives and burned an estimated 850,000 acres in the Texas Panhandle. The blaze ignited when electrical lines snapped in wind gusts of 50-60 mph.

Our increasing state population is a central focus as the incidence of wildfires increases. New housing subdivisions are being developed right next to rural grasslands, and we're using larger areas of fire-prone vegetation, which further contributes to the problem.

For example, residents of Cross Plains last year found themselves in the path of a massive wildfire. The source of the blaze is undetermined, but investigators did establish that it began on the "roadside."

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) at Texas A&M University has identified more than 14,500 communities, in every area of the state, that are at risk for wildfire damage. In fact, 85 percent of wildfires occur less than two miles from a community.

But the primary reason for the increased incidence of wildfires is likely due to changing weather patterns; and Texas A&M researchers say we're well into a drought that could potentially last two to three decades.

Several years ago, analyzing weather data from the last 100 years, the Forest Service identified a distinctive cycle of wet and dry periods, each lasting some 25-30 years. Three separate drought periods of this duration occurred, with the last ending in the late 1970s.

Then a relatively wet period followed. We entered the current drought period in 1996, and we can expect it to last at least 15 more years, the A&M research indicates. Even with rain, we can expect sustained increases in the number and severity of wildfires over that period.

Public resources devoted to firefighting have not kept up with the increasing threat. State and local authorities need more manpower and more equipment. Forestry authorities will be seeking additional funding in the next state legislative session.

"By making a moderate investment up front—instead of after Texas starts burning—to reduce the factors which cause wildfires, the lives and properties of Texans can be protected and saved from catastrophic loss," says James B. Hull, who doubles as State Forester and director of the TFS.

Individuals play a major role. Remember "Only you can prevent forest fires"? It's not that different with wildfires in Texas. The Forest Service recommends:

- Watch for burn bans in your county. Updated lists may be found at the Texas Wildfire Information page found at the website <http://tfsnews.tamu.edu>;
- Don't throw cigarettes out of your car windows;
- Avoid parking or driving where dry grass and weeds can come into contact with the hot pollution control equipment under your vehicle;
- Before burning household trash, brush piles or other debris, establish firebreaks down to bare soil around the intended fire site, including burn barrels; and
- Keep fires small and extinguish them cold to the touch before leaving them unattended.

Experts say that with care, and proper planning, some 90 percent of wildfires can be prevented. We should all do our part to protect the beauty, the property and—most importantly—the lives of those in our great state.

Sen. Cornyn is a member of the following Senate Committees: Armed Services, Judiciary, Budget, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Joint Economic. He is the chairman of the subcommittees on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship and Emerging Threats and Capabilities. Cornyn served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice and Bexar County District Judge.

For Sen. Cornyn's previous Texas Times columns: www.cornyn.senate.gov/column

**Lone Star Lanes
New Year's Eve Sweeper
Dec. 31, 2006 - 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Sweeper with Buffet Sunday Night
New Year's Eve - Come On Come All
\$20.00 Person
for Sweeper and Buffet
Served from 7:30 to 10 p.m.
Children Bowl and Buffet
An Adult must accompany children
4 and Under Free - 5 to 12 - \$10.00
13 to 18 - \$20.00
For More Info Call 254-968-0440
BYOB**

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Do you need a way to get out of debt or send the kids to college?
Do you dream about how you can afford a bigger home or a nicer car?

This is my idea of the perfect network marketing company! To provide something that everyone:

- is already using
- NEEDS to use every month
- has budgeted to use every month
- wouldn't dream of ever being without and
- is priced less than the top competitors...ELECTRICITY!

No inventory to buy No product to sell No monthly quotas No inflated prices

Simple plan with 3 streams of income including an excellent RESIDUAL INCOME!!!

- Immediate income - you can earn \$500.00 within your first 2-3 weeks
- Leadership Bonus income - you can earn \$50.00 or \$250.00 on your team to UNLIMITED DEPTH!
- Residual income -- you can earn income on 1000's of customers, every month, to UNLIMITED DEPTH!

You get to save money on your own electric bill every month AND make money on hundreds of electric bills every month. Plus you can enjoy the tremendous tax advantages of owning your own thriving business!

Many single mothers as well as married couples have made hundreds within their first 1-14 days!

Please visit my website: www.thumperenergy.ignitinc.biz and click on Powerful Opportunity for a 10 minute multimedia presentation!

You are welcome email me at jake@txol.net

The road to prosperity is just one decision away!



See Some Red
Save Some Green
Through January 2, 2006

SAVE SAVE SAVE
2006 Pontiac Gran Prix Sedan
Sport PKG - Preferred Package - #24929
RED TAG EVENT SALES PRICE \$18,895 + T.T.&L.



SAVE SAVE SAVE
2006 Chevrolet Cobalt Coupe
Cruise Control - #25905
RED TAG EVENT SALES PRICE \$11,693 + T.T.&L.



SAVE SAVE SAVE
2006 Chevrolet Equinox
LS - #25528
RED TAG EVENT SALES PRICE \$17,648 + T.T.&L.



SAVE SAVE SAVE
2006 Chevrolet Colorado
4 Speed Auto Transmission - #25213
RED TAG EVENT SALES PRICE \$13,999 + T.T.&L.

All Rebate and Incentives to Dealer.

Picture and Vehicle may vary. All W.A.C. All prices + T.T.&L.

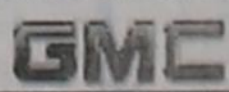
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