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## Rising fuel prices have many worried

By DAVID RUPKALVIS  
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With gas prices on the rise, everyone is feeling the pain at the pump. While the cost of fuel has jumped quickly over the last few weeks, many experts think it is just the beginning. Many \$4 gasoline is just around the corner and a

record \$5 gas could be seen by the summer. While individual consumers are likely to suffer with the rising prices, businesses and government officials are also on the alert. Graham City Manager Larry Fields said the city is watching closely and preparing to make changes if the fuel costs rise too high.

"I've watched that and I've obviously been through that," Fields said. Fields said when the city prepares its budget, high gasoline prices are expected over the summer months. Fields said City Secretary David Maddy plans for high prices, probably in the \$4 a gallon range during the peak months. But if \$5

gas does show up, the city will have no option but to make cuts. "Our plans are we will do what we always do," Fields said. "We make cuts where at all possible. We also start to make policy changes to try to curtail our fuel consumption." Fields said departments that can reduce driving do so while others make cuts by pooling drivers to-

gether, putting two and sometimes three people in one vehicle. But cuts are not always possible. "Obviously we have departments we can't curtail and don't want to curtail like the police and fire departments," Fields said. "Last time gas went real high, Chief (Tony) See FUEL, Page 2A

## Ready for a home of their own

Redners excited as construction of Habitat home nears

By CHERRY RUSHIN  
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Graham Habitat for Humanity is gearing up to build another home.

Executive Director Jimmy Guinn said Jeff Redner and his wife Stormy, both who grew up in Graham, and children Alesia, 8, Jordan, 6, and Bailee, 1, are set to be the recipients of the 2012 Habitat house.

The materials are scheduled to be delivered and unloaded by volunteers April 10 with construction beginning April 14. The house will be built in partnership with the Redner family and up to 14 different church, civic and corporate groups over 14 Saturdays from April through July.

The Redners have been waiting a long time for their house. They were notified that they had been selected to receive the 2012 house before Christmas 2010. But Stormy said the wait hasn't been as bad as she thought it would be.

"I'm a very impatient person. I thought it was going to be torture," she said. "I think the process of helping Angela with her house helped and knowing that this one is ours was so much better. I guess it wasn't that bad honestly."

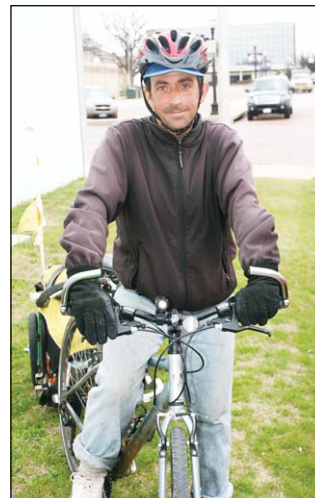
Before construction can begin on a Habitat house, the recipients must complete 100 hours of community service or sweat equity. The Redners had theirs completed by the end of summer.

"I went to the baseball field a few times and helped out at the concession stand, and we

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**Ready for their own home**  
Jeff and Stormy Redner and their children Alesia, Jordan and Bailee are ready for work to begin on their Habitat for Humanity home. (Photo courtesy of Stormy Redner)



**On the road again**  
After a brief stop in Graham, Steve Godfrey prepares to continue a four-month, 5,000-mile bicycle ride to raise money to fight cancer. (Photo by David Rupkalis)

## Cyclist pedals to fight cancer

By DAVID RUPKALVIS  
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Steve Godfrey has felt the sting of cancer. Several years ago, he opened the newspaper and saw the obituary of his best childhood friend, dead at age 37 from cancer. Two years ago, Godfrey tried to reunite with an old girlfriend and found that she was dying of cancer at age 35.

So Godfrey decided to fight back. The only question was how? That answer came through another passion in Godfrey's life — bicycling.

For most of his life, Godfrey's sole means of transportation has been bicycling. While living in New Orleans, he delivered food on his bike. After moving to Austin, he made his living delivering and posting flyers for other businesses. But there's a big difference from riding around town and riding 5,000 miles.

Two times, Godfrey has gone on long rides, with far different endings. In the late '90s, Godfrey decided he

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## Freedom Care reaches out to veterans

By DAVID RUPKALVIS  
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When Medicare Medical Supply decided to begin its Freedom Care Program to provide supplies to senior citizens and deliver diapers to mothers, the decision made business sense. But Jon Van Winkle, the owner of Medicare, wanted to do more.

So Van Winkle decided to set aside a share of the profits to help honor American veterans. He had seen the success of programs like the Wounded Warrior Project and thought Medicare could do a similar project to help warriors at home.

"The reason I started this, my brother-in-law is a Marine with two tours in

Iraq," Van Winkle said. "Basically, he can't hear. He's not missing an arm and a leg, but he does have a disability."

When Van Winkle started the Freedom Care program — www.freedom-care4u.com —, his goal was to help veterans overcome their disabilities for a short time. As an outdoorsman, his dream was to help the veterans hunt, fish and enjoy a few days outdoors.

That dream is about to become a reality.

From May 3-6, Freedom Care will host a group of up to 10 veterans on a three-day hog and varmint hunt. During the hunt, Freedom Care will

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**Local Forecast**

Wed 3/7	Thu 3/8	Fri 3/9	Sat 3/10
71/59 Mostly a few showers.	65/34 Scattered showers. Pk. in the low 50s and low in the upper 50s.	46/36 Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	52/37 Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s.

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**Weather**

	High	Low	Rain
Tuesday, 2/28	72	43	0
Wednesday, 2/29	68	37	0.03
Thursday, 3/1	79	43	0
Friday, 3/2	74	44	0
Saturday, 3/3	54	30	0
Sunday, 3/4	68	34	0
Monday, 3/5	72	50	0

Rain: Month 0.00 • Year 7.50  
Lake Graham at capacity: 1,075.00  
Current level: 1,075.04  
Temperatures and rainfall provided by the National Weather Service.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Severe weather class set March 19**  
Graham Emergency Management will host its annual Severe Weather Spotting Class from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 19, at North Central Texas College Graham campus. Mark Fox, National Weather Service Warning coordination meteorologist, will instruct the class. Severe weather is common in Texas during the spring.

Straight-line wind storms, thunderstorms and tornadoes can occur at any time of year in Texas. So it pays for individuals and families to plan what to do well in advance. During the class, those who attend will learn what to look for during storms, how to be safe and how to help others. Weather spotters will also be recruited to help during storms. Citizens are encouraged to take the class.

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