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## March Is National Kidney Month

Tens of millions of Americans who have diabetes or high blood pressure are at risk for kidney disease and many do not know it. People with diabetes and high blood pressure, the leading risk factors for the disease, should check their kidney function with an annual urine screening (micro-albumin test).

Throughout National Kidney Month, TMF Health Quality Institute, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Texas, urges high-risk patients to ask their doctors for this life-saving screening.

"Kidneys filter waste and extra water from the blood. When the kidneys are damaged, the filtering stops and waste builds up, causing harm to the body. People with diabetes or high blood pressure should ask their doctor about evaluating their kidney function with a micro-albumin test," said

Earl Smith, MD, medical director for TMF. "This test can detect kidney issues long before patients show symptoms."

The United States Renal Data System reports that more than 31 million Americans have kidney disease.

The number of people at risk has grown significantly, matching the rise in Americans with diabetes, currently estimated at more than 23 million, and hypertension, estimated at 65 million.

Forty-four percent of new cases of chronic kidney disease (CKD) are attributed to diabetes and 27% to hypertension.

Today, Texas has more than 130,000 Medicare patients with CKD, ranking the Lone Star State second only to California.

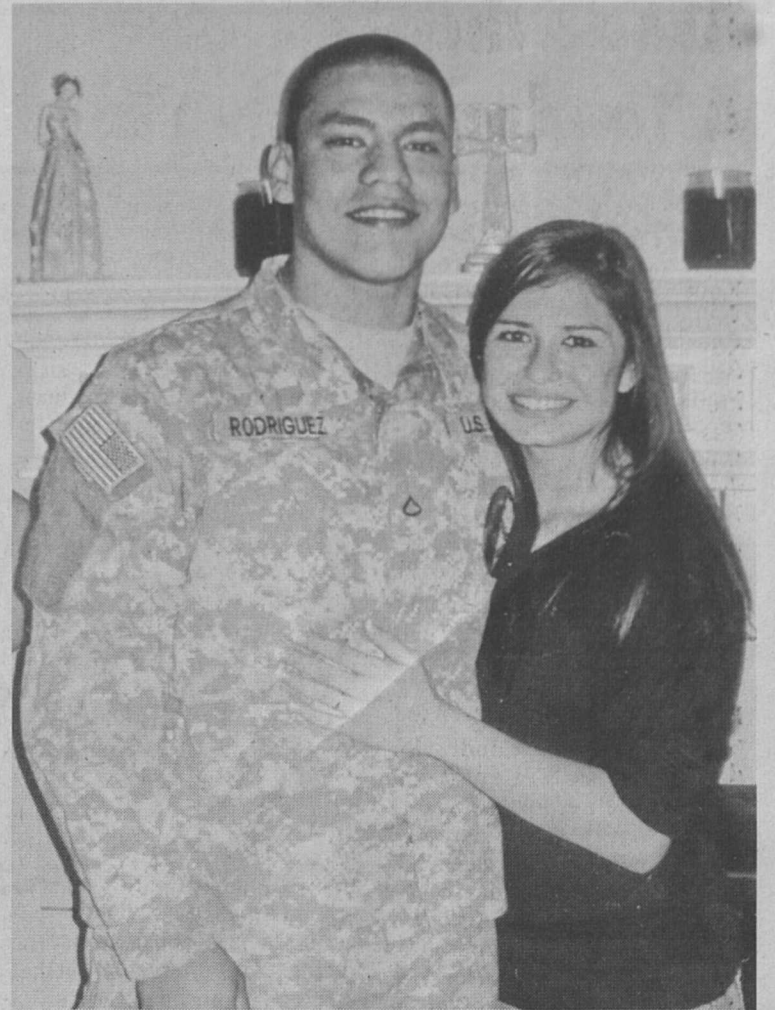
According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, in 2007, only 38% of Texas Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes received an annual urine micro-albumin test.

Medicare covers this test for people with diabetes once each year with no co-pay or deductible.

The National Kidney Foundation and the American Diabetes Association have issued joint recommendations that all patients with diabetes receive the annual urine screening to test for kidney function.

People living with diabetes or high blood pressure are encouraged to see their doctor to check kidney function.

For more information on diabetes self-management and necessary preventive screenings for CKD, visit <http://KidneyHealth.tmf.org>.



### Rodriguez, Gonzales To Wed

Mr. and Mrs. David Cardenas of Eagle Lake are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their son, Sergio Omar Rodriguez, to April Gonzales, daughter of Mr. Paul Gonzales, III, of Eagle Lake, and Mrs. Allison D. Gonzales of Katy.

Grandparents of the groom are the late Atilano, Sr. and Maria de la luz Cardenas of Eagle Lake; Francisca Hernandez of Mexico and the late Jose Rodriguez of Eagle Lake.

Grandparents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gonzales, II of Deer Park; Cindy Van Arsdale and the late Clint Hauger of Houston.

The groom is a 2008 graduate of Rice High School and joined the U.S. Army in July 2008. He is currently stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, where he is currently studying to become a Pharmacist.

The bride is a soon to be 2009 graduate of Morton Ranch High School of Katy. After graduation, she plans to pursue a degree in the medical field.

Sergio and April will exchange their vows on Saturday, March 28 at 1 p.m. at Oakland Farm and Ranch in Tomball.

## 0% ALSO AVAILABLE

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|---|--|
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| <p><b>2008 Silverado Ext 2500HD</b></p>  <p>HD model with Duramax &amp; Allison combo, remote starter, sliding rear window &amp; more! #6276<br/>\$41,685 MSRP - \$4,000 BMC Discount - \$7,000 GM Rebate =<br/><b>\$30,685<sup>+ttl</sup></b></p> | <p><b>2009 Chevrolet Silverado</b></p>  <p>Regular cab work truck with V8 engine, a/c, XM, CD player, trailering, and more. #9251<br/>\$22,670 MSRP - \$2,700 BMC Discount - \$1,500 GM Rebate =<br/><b>\$18,470<sup>+ttl</sup></b></p>           |
| <p><b>2008 Chevrolet Malibu LT</b></p>  <p>Sandstone with remote start, CD/MP3, XM, adjustable pedals, premium mats and more! #4662<br/>\$22,685 MSRP - \$1,500 BMC Discount - \$2,750 GM Rebate =<br/><b>\$18,435<sup>+ttl</sup></b></p>          | <p><b>2009 Chevrolet HHR LT</b></p>  <p>Dark Gray with remote start, CD/MP3 player, USB port, OnStar, power everything! #4549<br/>\$20,690 MSRP - \$1,200 BMC Discount - \$2,500 GM Rebates =<br/><b>\$16,990<sup>+ttl</sup></b></p>              |
| <p><b>2009 Buick Lucerne CXL</b></p>  <p>White Opal with leather seats, compass, dual a/c, power heated seats and more! #2804<br/>\$32,675 MSRP - \$2,400 BMC Discount - \$1,000 GM Rebate =<br/><b>\$29,275<sup>+ttl</sup></b></p>                | <p><b>2009 Buick Enclave CX</b></p>  <p>White Diamond with sunroof, navigation radio, rear park assist, remote start, rear camera. #1756<br/>\$43,090 MSRP - \$4,500 BMC Discount - \$2,250 GM Rebates =<br/><b>\$36,340<sup>+ttl</sup></b></p>   |

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These students attended the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Arts Ceremony at Reliant Center on March 7. From left to right Nicole Drlik, Genny Quenneville, Anna McConnell and Crystal O'Mary. Winners unable to attend presentation were Cullen Wiese and Myra Arana. Students received their trophies and gold medals then attended the Rodeo after the awards presentation.

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2009

Kaylee Janow, right, daughter of Ron and Denice Janow, left, of Eagle Lake, won first place in her class in the San Antonio Livestock Show. She also won an \$8,000 scholarship to be used for college. Kaylee attends Sheridan Jr. High, is in 8th grade and a member of the Rice Jr. FFA.