

The Gorman Progress

"Serving Gorman For Over 111 Years"
 Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454
 2011 Member - Texas Press Association

JUNE 30, 2011

NUMBER TWENTY-SIX

Hampton and Simmons Named Miss and Little Miss

The Miss Gorman and Little Miss Gorman Pageant was held on Saturday, June 25th at the Gorman High School Auditorium. The total money raised is the contest was \$10,373.77.

Miss Gorman for 2011 is Mykisha Hampton escorted by Cooper McCarty. First Runner-up was Alaina Swanner escorted by Tony Ramirez and Second Runner-up was Rachel Tucker escorted by Carston Turner.

Little Miss Gorman for 2011 is Markee Simmons. (She was not able to attend due to a family vacation, but photo will be in paper later). First Runner-up was Kyndall Scitem escorted by Kris Scitem and Second Runner-up was Brooke Gillen escorted by Hayden Clark.



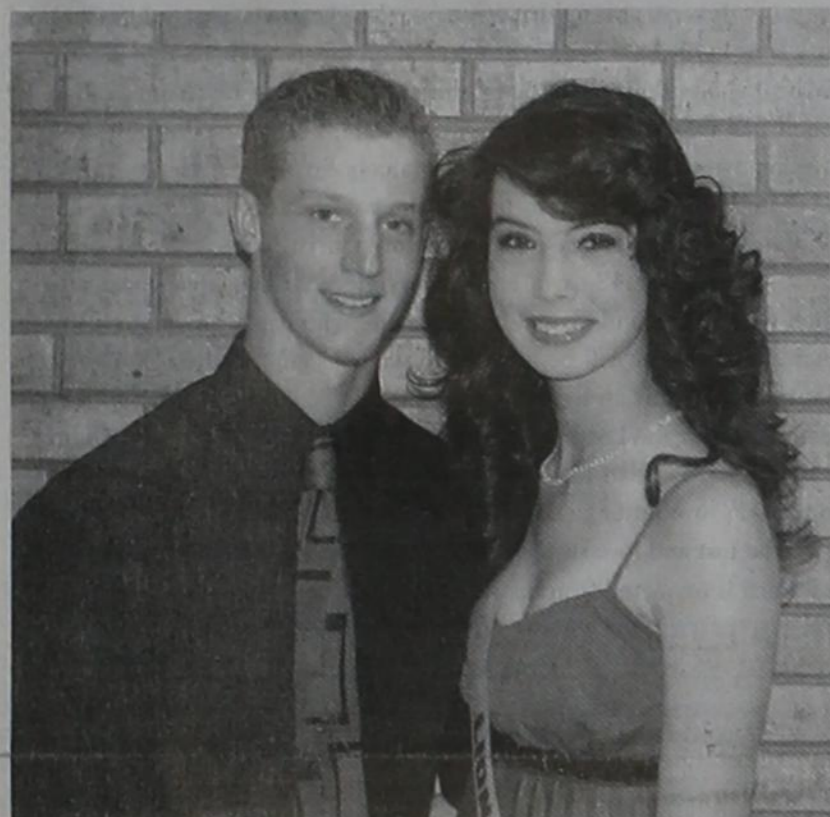
2011 Miss Gorman - Mykisha Hampton escorted by Cooper McCarty



2010 Miss Gorman and Little Miss Gorman Courtney Shirley and Crystal Gonzales



First Runner Up - Alaina Swanner escorted by Tony Ramirez



Second Runner Up - Rachel Tucker escorted by Carston Turner



First Runner Up - Kyndall Scitem escorted by Kris Scitem



Second Runner Up - Brooke Gillen escorted by Hayden Clark

Fireman's Appreciation Day BBQ and Silent Auction Held Saturday



During the Firemen's Appreciation Day BBQ and Auction held Saturday June 25 Gorman Order of the Eastern Star Worthy Matron Ann Jay presented a \$100 check to Fire Chief Jim Guthery and Gorman VFD members. The check will go toward the outfitting of the new brush truck. Gorman Eastern Star says a big Thank You to all the Gorman Volunteer Fire Department Members for your dedication to the protection of Gorman and the surrounding area.

BIG THANK YOU

Thanks everyone that has contributed to the Truck Fund and all other donations. The Benefit raised \$8,000, Truck Fund at \$15,000. The Fire Department should have enough money to finish the truck and have it equipped as needed.

It is so nice to be from a community that everyone works together to accomplish a goal to better the community. Lots of hard work went into the benefit, cooking the meal, serving, planning, gathering and setting up. Gorman Milling done a great job, food was great. The silent auction was a big success. Several citizens of the community said it was a fun trying to get the highest bid. Lots of nice items were donated.

Each time the members of the Gorman Volunteer Fire Department suites up to fight a raging wild fire or a fire at someone home, the community will be there as well through your donations and support of the department.

BIG THANK YOU FROM
 GORMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



THE BAND-AIDS were playing for the guest at the BBQ and lots of people attended to help the firemen reach their goals.



Medical Fund Started

A Beneficial Account has been established at American State Bank in Gorman for Medical Expenses for the family of Rafael Mata, Jr. who received head injuries in an accident recently and remains a patient at Cook's Children's Hospital.

Donations may be mailed to:

Rafael Mata Beneficial Account

115 S. Fisher St. - Gorman, Texas 76454

You are Invited To The Premier Designs Jewelry Party
 Tues., June 28th at 6:30 p.m. Gorman Community Center

Proceeds Benefit Gorman FBC Youth

If unable to attend and would like to look at a Catalog please call
 Bucky @ 254-734-5959 or Jill @ 254-734-6421

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Gorman Senior Citizens meet once a month on 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.

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

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT IS WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH 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

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.

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. Cecil Funderburgh, 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

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 NEW - 34.5 A. HWY 8 - Desdemona, 30 acres Coastal, pond, excellent fences, large Post Oaks - nice home site. Water well, Natural gas and Elec. Available. Will divide in 1/2. \$130,000.
 S/E Gorman: 45 A, sandy land, few Pecan trees, 7 water wells, irrigation reservoir, close to pavement. \$2,500 Acre.
 S/E Gorman: 60 A, good sandy soil, some coastal, good fences, elec., nice pond site. \$2,800 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.
 107.09 A, 2 mile S of Gorman FM 579: Old home site w/ large Oaks, old well, approx. 40 a good coastal, 40 a cultivated, small pond. \$2,150 per acre.
 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.
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 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.
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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

BETTER BELIEVE IT - There's plenty of room & privacy for the lover of country living on this 2 AC, m/FL 3 BR, 2 bath brick LR w/FP, DR & den. Outside is a deck w/jacuzzi, a tank, 3 stg. bldgs. & lg. metal barn 2/2 heated & cooled rooms. Call today & enjoy the fresh air & wide open spaces! HA2

11.917 ACRES, M/L - GORMAN - 1 tank, 1 old water well, mostly mesquite and some oak. Excellent place to build. A3

MOTIVATED SELLER - Brick Home on 3.7 ac. - REDUCED - 3 BR, 1 3/4 baths, LR, DR, office, DAG, stg. Bldg. & metal barn w/elec., outbuildings. Excellent location at the edge of Gorman. 03

"EDGE OF GORMAN - 1.3 AC, m/l. Maintenance free Brick 3 BR, 1 3/4 bath, open LR-DR, kitchen area w/bk. bar, Utility, CH/A fenced yard, SACP w/stg. & barn. 06

HUNTING & GRAZING - 257.53 AC. Mostly mesquite, food plots for deer, grazing or hay, tanks, good fences on 2 sides, Nash Creek, rolling terrain. A18

CHARM, WARMTH, COMFORT - This 2 BR, 1 bath brick has all of this & more. Large inviting living room, kitchen/dining combo, CH/A, utility w/extras, DACP & cov. porch overlooking the oversized back yard with it's beautiful pecan trees. Call us to make your appointment today! 08

PRODUCTIVE - 160 AC, m/l, N. of Gorman. Coastal, good soil, 2 tanks, water well s & frontage on 2 county roads. A13

"Pray For Rain"
"We Need It"

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 Email: jake@txol.net or gprogress@txbusiness.com
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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which may appear in the columns of the Gorman Progress will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the Publisher.

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Families Sought To Host High School Exchange Students

VOLUNTEERS - With or without children - Are needed to host international high school exchange students for the 11-12 fall semester or school year. The teens hope to arrive in AUGUST and will attend local high schools while living with their host family or parent. For more information, please call Yvette at 800-941-3738 or got to www.sharesouthwest.org.

Obituary

Nelda R. Keith

Jackie Lynn Grice, age 60, of Gorman passed away Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at Hendrick Hospice in Abilene. Services were at 10:00 A.M. Saturday at the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Denver Rainey and Barry Schahn officiating. Burial followed at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Jackie was born November 7, 1950 in Gorman, Texas to B. F. Grice and Purnia Faye (Bennett) Grice. He was a graduate of Gorman High School. He married Jana Len Brown on June 26, 1970 in Gorman. Jackie was a supervisor for Birdsong Peanuts for more than 32 years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Jana Grice of Gorman; two daughters, Julie May of Gorman and Jeanna Burns of Frisco; one son, Aaron Grice and wife, Ashley of Abilene; sister, Sue Ross of Ranger; brother, Max Grice and wife, Janice of Brownfield; four grandchildren, Mallory May, Ethan May, Brittany Burns and Jackson Grice; mother-in-law, Ima Brown of Gorman; one niece, five nephews and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, granddaughter, Alyssa May and a sister, Sara Gayle Widner.

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

Col. Billy Edward Gregg (Ret.)

Col. Billy Edward Gregg (Ret), age 70, passed away Wednesday June 22, 2011 at his home in Universal City, Texas near San Antonio. Services were 2:00 P.M. Saturday at the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Jason Wilder officiating. Burial followed at Oaklawn Cemetery.

"Eddie" was born August 3, 1940 in Gorman, Texas to Thomas Young "Boots" Gregg and Bernice (Wright) Gregg. He was a graduate of Gorman High School. Billy earned a bachelor of science degree in science from Sam Houston College, in Huntsville, Texas. He received a masters degree in management from Webster College, St. Louis, Missouri. His professional military education included Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Industrial College of the Armed Forces and Air War College.

Col. Gregg (Ret) was commissioned through Officer Training School in March 1964. He completed the basic communication-electronics officers' course at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., in April 1965. He served in the communications and electronics division throughout his career.

Col. Gregg's (Ret) military decorations and awards include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Col. Gregg (Ret) also had hundreds of TDY assignments some of which were: United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Japan, Spain, Philippines, Okinawa, Taiwan, Korea, Australia, American Samoa, New Zealand and Viet Nam. Billy Edward retired from the Air Force on August 1, 1991.

He is survived by a niece, Barbara Wrachford; nephew, Terry Wrachford; several cousins, Billie Stewart, Shirley Warren, Linda Hughes, Jimmy Max Self, Bobby Gene Self, LaDoyt Maupin, Barbara Williams, Jean Hill, Randy Wright, Sarah Wright, Sherry Massey and Clarice Lloyd. He was preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Runez Wrachford.

GARAGE SALE: Garage Sale - Saturday, July 2nd at 802 W. Lubbock (Hwy. 6 West) in Gorman. 8 a.m. til ?? 100 Gallon aquarium, water board and tube, toys, seasonal and miscellaneous items. ITC

Gorman ISD is currently accepting bids for fuel and fuel products for the 2011-2012 school year. All bid proposals are due in the Superintendent's office by 5 p.m. July 7, 2011.

Gorman ISD is currently accepting bids for the milk products for the 2011-2012 school year. All bids for milk products are due in the Superintendent's office by 5 p.m. July 7, 2011.

Gorman ISD -- Attn: Jeff Byrd
 P. O. Box 8 - 114 W Lexington
 Gorman, TX 76454

If you have questions concerning the bidding process or products required, please contact the superintendent's office. 3-7-7c

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IMMEDIATE OPENING: Home-stead Nursing & Rehabilitation of Gorman needs CNA's for 2-10 and 10 to 6 Shifts also All P.R.N. Shifts For additional information, contact the facility at 254-734-2202.EEOC FNC

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Pig Tales From Hogtown

I don't know about y'all but this little piggy is roasting! Not only me, but everything around me too! Say a little prayer for rain.

This Saturday is 'Breakfast at the DAC' from 7:00 until 10:00. Hope you all can come and join us.

The Senior Citizens dance will not be held next Monday, July 4th, but join us each of the other Mondays in July for the DeLeon Senior Citizens dance.

Our regular second Friday dance will be July 8th with Johnny Johnson and the Memory-Makers. The music starts at 7:00 and the concession stand opens at 6:00.

Have a safe and happy holiday weekend. Fly your flag - we live in the greatest country in the world! Let's celebrate it!
 See you in Desdemona!
 Carol Pell

Eastland County USDA Office to Participate in Feds Feed Families Food Drive

Children and families are in great need of donated food this summer. USDA employees, farmers, and friends are joining together to combat hunger at USDA offices throughout the country. The government's goal is to collect 2 million pounds of food nationwide.

The Eastland County USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items now through August 31, 2011. Donated Food will count toward the USDA goal, and will then go to the River of Life Food Pantry in Eastland.

Please help us reach our goal by bringing non-perishable food items to the USDA Service Center located at 403 Pogue Avenue in Eastland.

For more information, contact John Bird at 254-629-1636 ext. 102 or ShaMarie Tamminga at 254-629-1636 ext. 107.

"On The Wilder Side"

If you would ask any preacher who they would rather work with either people who have grown up in the church and been Christian for most of their lives or Christians who were converted later in their lives and spent much of their lives chasing after lusts of the flesh you may be surprised at their answer.

I'm guessing that most preachers would rather work with actual converts than those who grew up in the church. I say this because there's absolutely nothing wrong with spending a majority of your life in the church, I did it myself. But it seems that it's easy to get into a spiritual rut when Christianity becomes a weekly mundane routine rather than zealous passion for the Lord.

It seems to me that most people who are converted to Christianity later in life have a sincere appreciation for the saving blood of Christ. Maybe it's something about being almost literally snatched from the flames of hell that makes them realize how important their responsibility to the cross really is. Just as any recovering alcoholic or drug user trembles at the thought of going back to their former way of life, a Christian should feel the same when considering life before Christ.

Luke 12:48 says "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." I have noticed that those I just spoke about who are fully aware that they were snatched from the flames are eager to work for the Lord and serve others. They are the first to volunteer their time and last to make excuses and are usually very eager to learn from God's love letter to the world. I hope none of us forget what it feels like to be lost and lose sight of the fact that we were all in sin at one time and much is expected from us all.

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

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Business Directory

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Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

First Baptist Church of Desdemona continues to have good attendance each Sunday. There was 45 in attendance last Sunday. There was 45 in attendance last Sunday. Bro. Charlie Johnson enjoys his "Special Time" each Sunday with all the young children as they Gather on the steps by the pulpit. Visitors attended from Brownwood and De Leon. Visitors are invited to attend each Sunday at 10 a.m. for Sunday School and 11 a.m. for the Morning Worship Service.

"Hello" to my classmate Alla Rae (Friday) Kelley and family on Sealy, Texas. They are having some health problems at this time.

Desdemona Homecoming and School Reunion will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2011 at the School Gym. Morning program begins at 10:00 a.m. Noon Meal will be catered. Ex-Students, Teachers and Friends are invited to attend. Mark your calendar for this date and make plans to attend. This annual affair began in 1921 and has continued thru the years except during World War II when tires and gasoline was rationed. Please contact this reporter at P. O. Box 187, Desdemona, Tx 76445 if you have a change of address. I Need This for the mailing list. Thank You.

Our hearts were said to hear our sister-in-law, Nelda Keith had passed away. Burial was on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 in the Victor Cemetery. Survivors include two sons, Mike Keith and Steve Keith; daughter, Terri Lea Lewis; two sisters, Freddie Sadberry and Ann Hinkle; grandchildren, great grandchildren, neices and nephews and a host of friends. Preceded in death by her husband, Mack "Red" Keith; son, Larry Keith; parents, Hubert and Ann Rainey; two brothers, Kenneth Rainey and Tommy Rainey; two sisters, Ruth Coutorie and Bessie Shupp. Our sincere sympathy goes out to this family.

John and Ronda James of Whitney visited last Sunday with her parents, Humpy and Betty Duke. Humpy was able to go to the Coffee Shop in town last Saturday morning.

Desdemona Monthly Musical was held last Saturday night at the Community Center. Thanks to the musical groups that attend each month and Thanks to the ladies that donate food each month.

Happy July 4th holidays. Take it easy and stay safe, Vonnie

Happenings At FBC!!!

Seven! Three adults and four children followed Christ in Baptism to begin our Morning Worship Service. Glory to God!

Mark your calendars:

July 3rd - 6pm - Area Wide Picnic at Lone Cedar Country Club.

July 4th - Independence Day!

July 9th - 8am - Brotherhood Breakfast - Come & enjoy fantastic fellowship & food.

July 10th thru 14th - Youth Camp - Please remember summer camps in your prayers.

July 25th thru 28th - Mission Camp - Please remember summer camps in your prayers.

Wednesdays: Youth at 6:30pm. Bring your friends!!!

Bro. Barry's Message: "Hoarding or Living!" - Matthew 6:34 - Hoarding is the excessive collection of items with the inability to discard; and it's an actual disease. Hoarding creates cramped living conditions with narrow pathways surrounded by clutter. When people hoard animals they create unsanitary living conditions. We discovered our mom was hoarding plastic newspaper bags under her chair.

HOARDING WORRIES:

1. Exhibits a Lack of TRUST in God. - Allowing worries to stack up makes you miserable in your Spiritual Walk. Kids bombard themselves with unnecessary stress over test scores and assignment due dates without first learning to manage time and cope with expectations. If you don't let go of what is bothering you and trust God to take care of it, then it will eventually get you. Don't take your worries to bed, trust it all to the Lord and wake renewed in Him.

2. Affects our RELATIONSHIPS. - Often worry becomes a person's companion while shutting out the people in their life. Relationships can be ruined. Home, work, Church, & play are your primary times for interaction, and determine the quality of your life.

3. Damages our HEALTH. - Worries will literally make you sick. Put your priorities in order.

4. Hinders YOUR Witness. - When some of us don't have something to worry about we make it up. Titus 2:10 - "Says that in every way we need to make the teachings of Jesus more attractive to people. We don't do that when we worry." Worry about it today and throw it away!!! Jesus Himself is what truly matters, and He knows your needs yesterday, today, and forever. "God Knows" by The Messengers played as all listened to the tremendous lyrics. Please, don't make the mistake of trying to live your life without the Lord!

If you are reading this and you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior please call Bro. Barry, ask Bro. Barry to talk with you about being saved or just ask him to pray with you, just call (254) 734-2420. Our Worship Service begins at 11:00AM on Sunday Morning - please come & join us! Remember: God loves you like no one else! Email: fbcgorman@hotmail.com

A Letter To The Editor - About The Ark

By Henry A. Buchanan

Johan Huibers of the Netherlands is building an ark. He is building an exact replica of Noah's ark which rode out the mythical flood saving the human race and enough breeding stock to restart farming operations and populate the jungles of the ancient world when interesting stories were being collected to fill the Bible so highly regarded today.

Johan's ark is the result of a dream in which the boat builder got his directions to follow The Book except in one practical matter; he's not going to fill it up with camels and lions and giraffes.

The Original Noah got his building instructions from the Master Builder of the whole universe, and Johan's dream implies that he had got his instructions from the same source. But I don't think he's playing fair by not getting the horses and cows, and I wonder if he won't run into trouble over this because I've found that He doesn't take a friendly view of people just doing a half-ass job.

I had a notion to lend my shovel to Johan until I learned that he's not going to have any horses and cattle to clean up after, but now I'll just keep it for future use here because of the performance being put on the Democrats and Republicans and Tea Partiers in Washington. That Johan's a practical minded man though. The ice caps are melting at an alarming rate and the Netherlands could go to sea along with Miami.

But seriously, I don't believe Johan Huibers is building that ark to save the world, I think he's a Biblical entrepreneur who has recognized that more than one fool is being born every day now and there's money to be made off people who will take his ark building project seriously enough to pay to get a close up look at the quarters being prepared for the elephants and the special arrangements for the monkeys. There are people still hunting for remnants of the Original Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat. Why not just get in line for a look-see at its modern version?

(s) Henry A. Buchanan
1131 N. Kent St. -- Gorman, TX 76454
254-734-4569 -- June 25, 2011

Gorman Ex-Students

Ex-Students. It's time to start planning for Homecoming 2011. We will have a few meetings at the Dairy Queen and make some plans. If you have any ideas that you think will help improve our Homecoming or Ex-Students meeting feel free to meet with us at the Dairy Queen to help in the plans. If I'm not mistaken, our Homecoming this year will be the same weekend as the Peanut Festival. We should have a home football game that Friday night. Our Ex's business meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon. The class of 1951 is having their 60th Class Reunion, and J.F. Lilley of Brady is contacting all of those classmates and urging them to be here. J.F. Has worked on a special project for this homecoming. He has taken all the old annuals and transferred the Senior pictures and the Favorites onto poster boards and laminated them. There are located at Jerry Skaggs store, and we are trying to decide how to display them for Homecoming. Any ideas??? J.F. told me by phone that Bob Enlow, the Bruising Fullback of that era was coming. Francis Simpson is working on getting her class here for their 55th reunion. We need to plan to Honor some Ex-students and come up with a criteria for honorees. Some of the past honorees have been state football champs of 1976, Girls State Basketball Tournament Qualifiers of 1957, State UIL participants, and State Baseball team participants. We need to decide who or what to honor this year. Your Input Will Be Welcomed and Appreciated. We will try to inform everyone of our meetings to be held at the Dairy Queen.

Kenneth Welch

Senior Citizens News

By Carol Ward

At our first monthly gathering on June 15 only nine people came out for lunch. We are all having health issues or Doctor appointments plus don't want to cook in this awful heat. I was hoping for more attendance since we are now getting together on the 3rd Wednesday. But it didn't happen. Even I had an appointment in Houston for tests, so couldn't be there.

I left Fish Sticks and meat loaf in the fridge for Jerry Underwood and Bernice Hews-on to prepare. Bernice brought a cake and also helped make the cornbread. Estelle Lindley brought beans, so good with cornbread. She also was kind enough to give the blessing for all. I hope they had some vegetables.

I heard Wilburn Overstreet was back and feeling improved. Sorry to have missed seeing him and visiting. Sandra Cagle out tax lady came to eat and visit with Wilburn Overstreet. She calls him Uncle Buddy as he is kindfolk. Lib Brudnak came and visited with all, but didn't eat this time.

I attended the Miss Gorman contest as my granddaughter, Alaina Swanner was in the running. The girls all looked beautiful. She was first runner up. The girls all worked so hard to earn their funds. Also the Mothers and families right along with them. We wanted her to win, but all can't be winners.

We will get together next on July 20th, the 3rd Wednesday. I do hope more will turnout. We have missed seeing Ruthie Porter, Ima Brown, Geraldene Wright and Ellen Parker. Ellen had knee replacement a month or so ago. Lays you up for awhile, how well I remember. You have so much therapy to go through, it is quite difficult. Billie Bennett still having therapy on her hand. Hope some of these people can be back with us in July.

I'm supposed to go back to Houston on the 1st, but afraid to leave. My granddaughter Kendra Wright is due any time for her baby. We will just have to pray he will wait on our return. This is an important appointment as I will find out if I need surgery or not.

I did go visit Daisy Slaton on Saturday the 25th. She is looking good and walking with her walker. Her daughter Bennie Gail has been visiting from Alabama. I had hoped she could go home for a few days, but didn't work out.

Hasn't the heat been terrible!!! I don't get out much in this kind of weather. Are we going to be able to stand July and August?

I want to Thank all the ladies for keeping out little group together in my absence. Hope all are improved and see you next time - Carol

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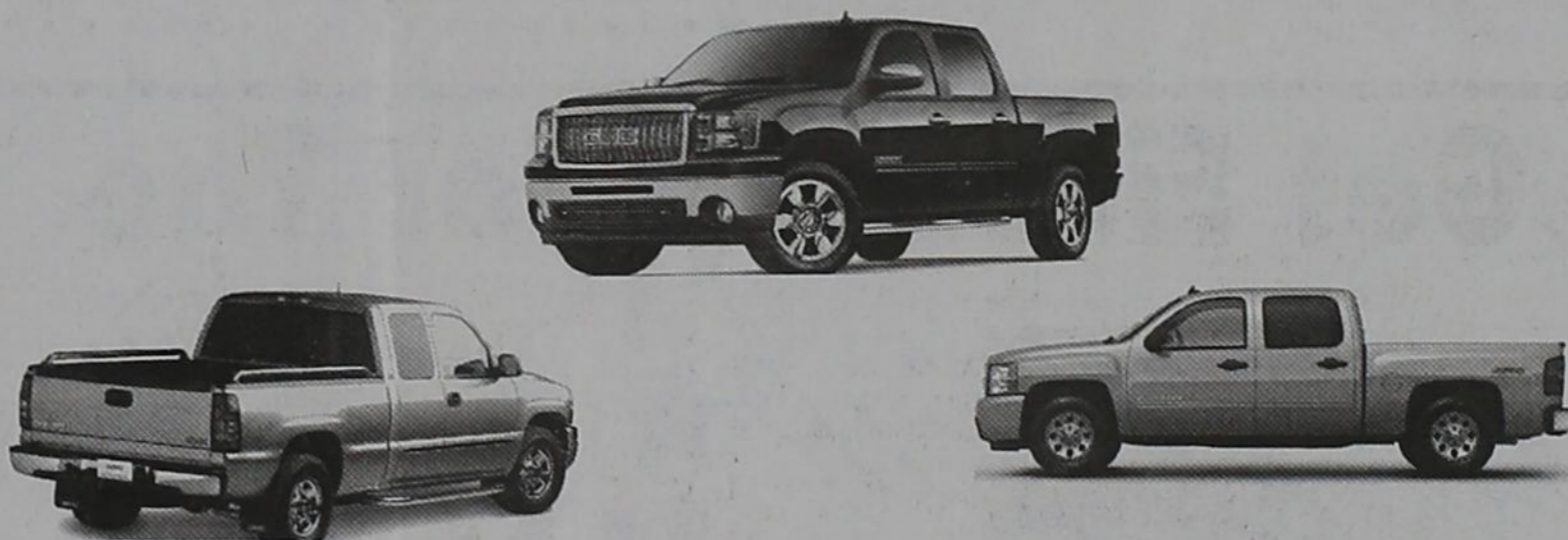
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USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Juan M. Garcia today announced four webinars (internet-based virtual meeting) to discuss the USDA Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Settlement Claims Process and current FSA loan programs. These webinars are scheduled for June 30th, July 14th, July 28th and August 11th at 7:00 PM.

On February 25, 2011, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General Tony West announced a process created to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert they faced discrimination when seeking USDA farm loans during certain periods between years 1981 and 2000. The optional claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers.

The interactive webinars will provide an overview of the USDA Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process as well as FSA farm loan program updates. Farm loan program topics to be discussed include interest rates, terms, and eligibility and security requirements.

"I encourage producers who want more information about the claims process or about FSA farm loan programs to register for one of these webinars," said Garcia. "The webinars are free and open to the first 100 participants who register," he said.

Garcia emphasizes that these webinars are intended as forums to discuss the general plan for the claims process and FSA webinar hosts will not be able to discuss the details of any individual claim during the course of the webinars.

To view the webinar schedule and register, please go to www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tx_hvwwebinar_2011.pdf.

For more information regarding the USDA Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process and FSA Lending Program webinars, please contact Eddie Trevino in the Texas State FSA Office at (979) 680-5221 or via email at eddie.trevino@tx.usda.gov.

AG VIEW POINT

By: Heath Begeman

Culling Cow Herds in Drought

No rainfall is affecting everyone these days, but it can cause cattle producers in Eastland County to make hard decisions. With grass and standing water running out, some producers have to decide how to cull their herd. This article will give producers a strategy for culling their cow herd.

A primary objective of partial herd reductions is to optimize animal performance of the remaining breeding herd relative to forage supply. The first culls should be any spring or summer calving cow that does not have a calf at side. Normal rates of pregnancy loss and calf death loss will result in 5 to 15% of the cow herd meeting these culling criteria. If a cow calved last fall, winter or this spring and lost a calf, sell regardless of age or pregnancy status. This is no time to wait for next years income. This just accelerates recommended or normally practiced culling procedures. Also included in this first round of culling are replacement heifers that have been purchased or raised but not already in production. During drought, first calf heifers will wean the lightest calves and have the lowest rebreeding potential of any age class.

Next, cull shortbred fall calving cows and long bred spring/summer calving cows. Few cows will meet these criteria unless the breeding season was extended last year due to dry conditions. In contrast, 5 to 15% of the cows may be identified as late-bred in herds with extended or year-round calving seasons. Palpation and identification of cows by stage of pregnancy will be required to use this culling practice. At this point, a 15 to 40% reduction in cow numbers can be attained without significantly impacting this year's weaned calf crop.

Continued decline in forage conditions will require culling cows raising the current year's calf crop. While such drastic measures will affect this year's income, culling marginal cows will improve production capability in the remaining herd. Shipping cows with calves is difficult for most producers. Therefore, culling producing cows should be based on historic production records, the current calf at side or soundness. The goal of this culling phase is to remove a sufficient number of cows to ensure adequate forage is available to carry the remaining herd at least through weaning. Short and broken mouth cows should be culled first because they will not have acceptable productivity under drought conditions. The next step would be to cull the genetic bottom of the herd until targeted levels of herd reduction are met. At this state, the culling priority on 40-70% of the cow herd has been established. Before culling deeper into the productive cow herd, determine whether the remaining cows are bred and consider whether to sell open cow-calf pairs before weaning. If calves weigh 400 pounds or greater consider weaning and selling the calf and open female separately. Calves weighing less than 400 pounds, and their dams, should be marketed as pairs.

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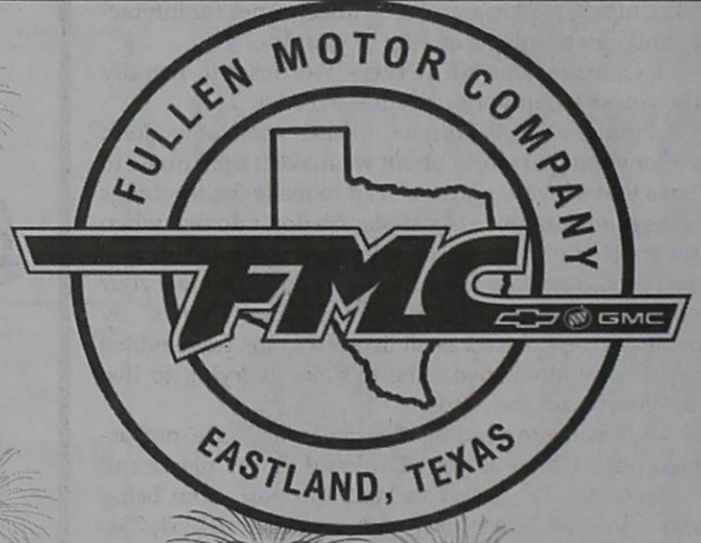
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