Gorman - Home of the Annual Peanut Festival

30 Cents

The Gorman Progress

2006 Member **Texas Press Association**

NUMBER SEVEN

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

FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Jack Graham Seeks Re-Election Did You Lose A Gorman High School Yearbook Due To The Fire? For Justice of Peace - Pct. 1

My name is Jack E. Graham and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the office of Justice of the Peace-Precinct 1, Eastland County. I have served in his office for the past 13 years. I would like to ask for the continued support of the voters, that I may serve for another term.

I have always attempted to carry out the responsibilities of this office in a just, honest, and impartial manner. I feel that my past history of service in Eastland County reflects my inner desire to continue to serve. I served as a volunteer firefighter in Eastland for 50 years. I served as Eastland Fire Department Chief for 20 years. I also served on the State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association. I served as President of the Eastland Bowling League, and as a member for several years. I retired from Victor Cornelius Menu Company after 45 years of employment. I was first elected Justice of the Peace in 1992.

I am a life-long resident of Eastland County. My wife, Frances, is also an Eastland County native. My three daughters and their families reside here. I have three grandchil-



those funds.

Based on my experience, training, and temperament, I believe that I am the most qualified candidate for this office. I respectfully ask for your vote! Thank you for taking the time to read this article and for voting!

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Jack Graham, 307 N. Connellee, Eastland, Texas 76448

What A Blessing!!

If you lost an annual due to the fire, please call the school at 734-2614. We have some books from the 80's, 90's and current years, maybe even a few before the 80's. We would like to give you the opportunity to replace lost books. Just call the school or come by to get these books. If you lost them due to the fire there will be no charge. Books can also be purchased if you want to fill in any missing years from your collection.

Second Grade Celebrates 100 Days Of School



On Tuesday, January 31st, second grade celebrated the 100th day of school by taking a field trip to the American State Bank and then to the Dairy Queen. The students collected 100 pennies and cashed them in at the bank for a one dollar bill. After cashing in their pennies they took

Valentine Party Held At Church of Christ Recently



Standing, L-R: Faye Scitern, Christine Hammontree, Barbara Morrison, Carolyn Gilbert, Bernice Hewson, Vicky Brown, Edna Ann Powell, Eunice Love, Billie Stewart, Ruth Porter, Wynogene Smith. Seated L-R: Floydene Gilbert, Joy Rogers, Jerry Underwood, Lavelle Jobe and Velda Baze. Not shown were Aline Garrett and Frankie Stacy.

The Gorman Church of Christ honored the single ladies of the congregation with a fun filled Valentine party on Tuesday evening. The ladies were called for at their homes and brought to the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall where they were escorted to the three course dinner by members of the Youth Group. There they were entertained with comedy routines, musical numbers and monologues. A large group from the church planned the event and were there to make the evening a success.

Master of Ceremonies was George Simmons.

Sweetheart Singers were L-R: Linda Simmons, Larry Stogsdill, Francis Simpson, Bill Oldham, Don Underwood and Gene Foster

dren, and 3 great-grandchildren, whom I thoroughly enjoy!

I enjoy all of the challenges I have taken on in this position! I derive satisfaction from doing the best job that I can for my constituents, as well as the people who pass through this fine county!

Every component of the judicial system needs to stay current on trends and changes in the laws that we are expected to enforce, and the rules governing the administration of justice in our courts. I may not advertise, but I have strived to remain current through annual classes and seminars, of which are required, and I have glady done so each and every year. I want everyone to know that I accepted this position as a full time job and I am at my office 40 hours per week. I have not ever and never will not spend any time that is supposed to be for the citizens doing anything other than serving the people! I would also like to remind everyone that the JP 1 office handles a lot of money and is responsible for taking care of

Thank you to all of the individuals, business, and churches for the donations for the fire victims in the Carbon area. Through this time in need God's people have really out done themselves.

> Thank You, Carbon Community **Baptist Church**

Huge Gymnasium Sale

Due to all of the donations during the Wild Fires. The Carbon Community Baptist will be having a two day gymnasium sale. Items include clothes of all sizes, dishes, TV's, toys, furniture, and much...much more. This sale will be donations only. None of the items will have pricing on them. Sale dates are February 24th and 25th, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Go to the Old Carbon High School and drive around to the back of building to the Gym. All proceeds will go to the Fire Victims.

Gorman Chamber of Commerce "Heroes and Survivors" Benefit and Awards Dinner March 6, 2006 Update

The Gorman Chamber and its partners are continuing to pull together a great event for this year's awards program. Diamond D Ranch has donated 500 pounds of brisket for the BBQ Brisket Dinner. Local merchants, civic organizations and churches have become involved in the event with donations of additional food, paper goods, and personal service.

George Simmons, event coordinator, says they are expecting close to 1000 people to attend. Those to be honored at the dinner are: All members of our local Volunteer Fire Dept, all families that were affected by the fire (not just home loss, but any loss), community volunteers that helped in any form, and all 48 fire departments from around North and West Central Texas that came and rendered assistance. "We are all very grateful for the incredible response of these individuals, both professionally-trained and those that came in acts of selflessness to help their neighbors. It is still very real in our minds how much their support and efforts meant to our families and friends. We want to honor these individuals and departments. They are truly heroes."

Entertainment that evening will be provided by Award-winning The Messengers and the Howard Family, and other groups to be announced. The music will begin at 5:30 pm in the Community Center and will continue until 8:30 pm.

The BBQ meal is also available for carry-out and delivery. You can call George Simmons at 734-5948 before March 6th or that evening call ZJs at 734-3043.

All meals are on a donation only basis. Proceeds will go to area fire

their dollar and used it to buy an ice cream cone.

The Second grade class would like to thank the American State Bank of Gorman and Dairy Queen for helping to make our 100th day of school such a fun and exciting day.



USDA Rural Development Announces Availability of \$82 M For Home Loans No Down Payment Required

TEMPLE, TEXAS, February 10, 2006 - Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that more than \$82 million is available to assist rural Texans become homeowners through the Agency's Guaranteed Rural Housing loan program.

"With mortgage interest rates continuing near their lowest levels in recent history, now is the time to stop paying rent and purchase your own home," said Daniel. "Our Guaranteed Rural Housing loan program is the best option for eligible low and moderate-income applicants to move into a home without a down payment."

In many cases most of the closing costs associated with purchasing the house can be financed into the loan. Loans can be made to purchase new or existing homes that meet Agency requirements. In addition to allowing a Maximum Loan to Value ratio of 102%, another very attractive feature of this loan program is that the borrower is not required to pay mortgage insurance. Other zero down programs charge an up front mortgage insurance premium that is due at closing, with monthly mortgage thereafter. In comparison, the Guaranteed Rural Housing Program offers a significant savings to borrowers by charging a one-time only, two percent (2%) guarantee fee that is due at closing, and no monthly mortgage insurance. Typical savings for a family can range between \$20.00 and \$50.00 per month. A loan comparison calculator is available on our website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/ loancomp.htm.

Without expensive mortgage insurance premiums, homebuyers can qualify for a "better" home, which could mean the additional bathroom or bedroom that they may desire. Also, homebuyers may include their two percent fee in the loan. This will have a minimal impact on their payments yet maximize any cash reserves they may have. They can put down \$2,000 toward a home loan or keep their \$2,000 and pay roughly \$12 more per month.

USDA Rural Development housing programs target communities with populations of 10,000 or less and locations not closely associated with urban areas. Under certain circumstances loans can be made in towns and cities between 10,000 and 25,000 in population. Never assume an area is not eli-

Promontory Volunteer Fire Department lost their Best Truck, plus expensive Medical Supplies in the New Year's Day Fire. If you care to donate, to help them replace their loss, please send your contributions to F & M Bank, P. O. Box 230, De Leon, Tx 76444.

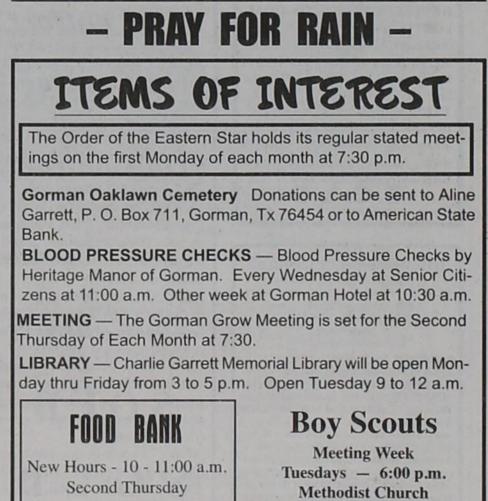


Congregational Hosts: Back Row, L-R: Larry Stogsdill, Cecil Self, Christine Self, Marceil Underwood, Linda Simmons, George Simmons, Don Underwood, Bill Oldham, Gene Foster, Ronnie Love. Front Row L-R: Corey Clark, Cameron Clark, Tyler Johnson, Dolores Underwood, Monda Oldham, Carolyn Foster, Barbara Love, Francis Simpson, Louise Smart, N.D. Smart.

gible.

Private lenders, such as mortgage companies and commercial banks make USDA Rural Development Guaranteed Loans. The loans have a 30-year term and a competitive fixed interest rate. Unlike other zero down loan programs, the Guaranteed Rural Housing Program does not have loan limits. The maximum loan is determined by the applicant's income and repayment ability.

USDA Rural Development serves rural Texans through 30 local offices that are committed to responsive, reliable, and streamlined service. To find the office that serves your area or to obtain a list of participating lenders, please call USDA Rural Development Housing Programs at (254) 742-9770, or visit our website at: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.



survivors and Gorman Volunteer Fire Dept.

Gorman ISD "Wall of Honor"

The Gorman Athletic Boosters are beginning a landscape project that will beautify the north interior section of Brogdon Field. Part of this project includes the sale of "memory bricks" to be laid around the entry of the football field. Individual engraved pavers are 4" x 8" in size, and can include three lines with twelve characters. The price of the individual paver is \$25.00 each. We will also be offering a business, family, organization, or "special event" paver that will measure 8" x 8", and can include four lines with twelve characters. The price of the large paver is \$50.00 each.

This project will also include the posting of all the student athletic records in all the sporting events. This is to honor our ex-athletes and their accomplishments; and to "inspire" our current athletes.

We encourage everyone to buy a paver and let those memories be a permanent part of the landscape at Brogdon Field. We believe this project will be a great source of pride for our school, and for our community. Anyone who wishes to purchase a memory brick; please contact, Bob Powell at 734-3322, Becky Swanner at 734-2480, or any member of the Gorman Athletic Boosters.

Specify that it is for Promontory Volunteer Fire Department. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Drawing For (2) Two Afghans

There is a drawing for (2) Two Afgahans to be given away at the Gorman Chamber of Commerce Banquet slated for March 6th at ZJ's Steakhouse in Gorman. The afgahan can be viewed at City Grocery, where you can purchase the tickets for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The tickets will be drawn during the banquet.

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15TH FROM 9 - 11 A.M.

Oakland Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. Donations can be sent to Oakland Cemetery Association, 503 N. Fisher, Gorman, Tx 76454, or American State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454.

4-H - Meets Second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall - Amy Wood - 734-2973.

VET Science 4-H Project - 4th Tuesday each Month. Technology Center / Gorman Community Center. Contact Lee or Amy Wood at 254-734-2973.

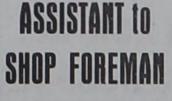
Gorman Masonic Lodge No. 716 A.F. & A.M. Regular stated meetings are 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Members are urged to attend. Visitors are always welcome. Mark Wilkerson, Master — Pat Moseley, Secretary.

PAGE TWO

THE GORMAN PROGRESS

Fence Building **20 Years Experience References On Request** Phone 254.842.1266

ver Rainey at 254-734-5131.



a Must. Understanding Of **Basic Electricity a Plus. Entry Level Position.** Room to grow in position & with company

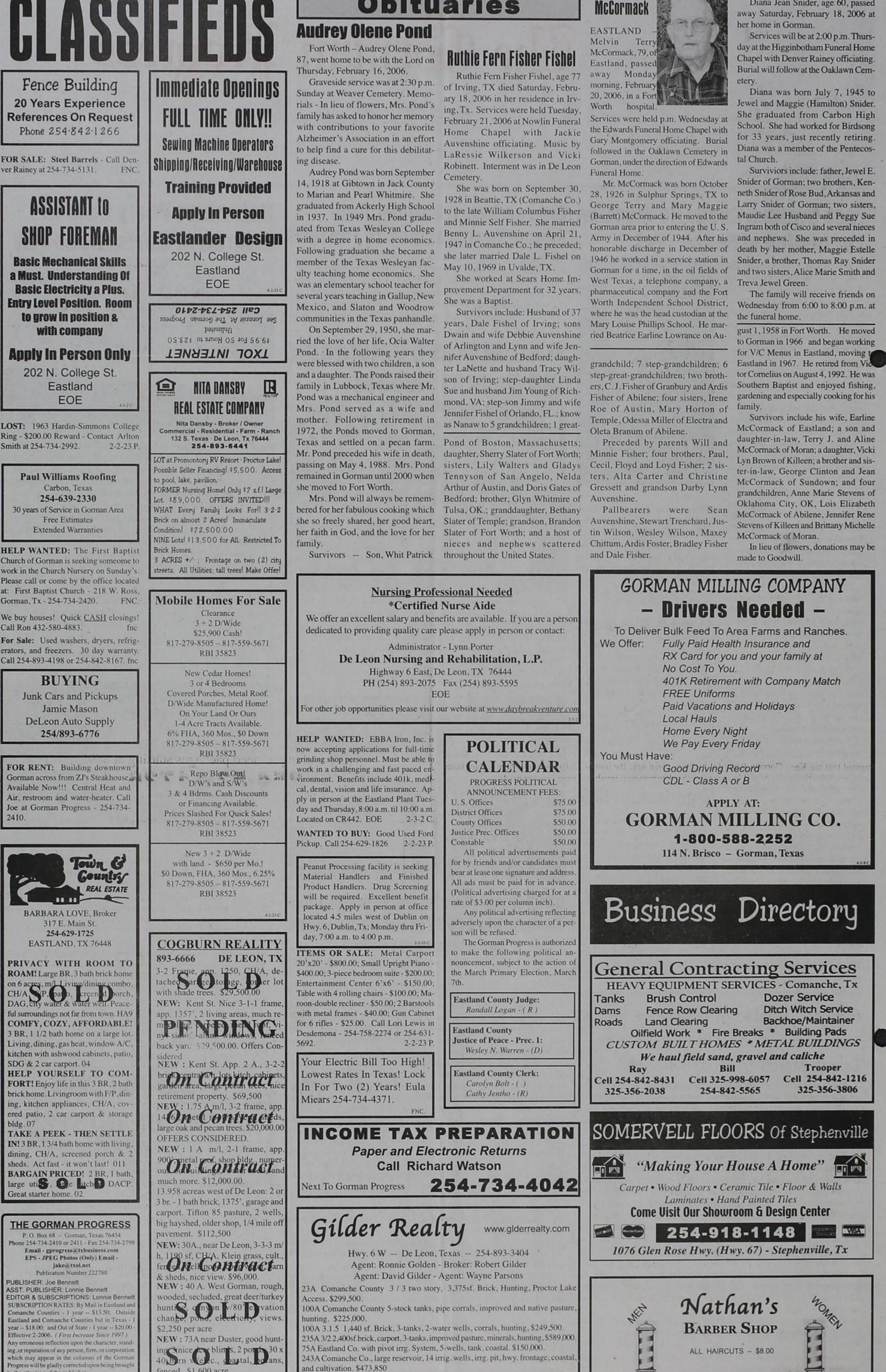
Eastland EOE

LOST: 1963 Hardin-Simmons College Ring - \$200.00 Reward - Contact Arlton Smith at 254-734-2992. 2-2-23 P.

Paul Williams Roofing Carbon, Texas 254-639-2330 30 years of Service in Gorman Area Free Estimates **Extended Warranties**

HELP WANTED: The First Baptist Church of Gorman is seeking someome to work in the Church Nursery on Sunday's Please call or come by the office located at: First Baptist Church - 218 W. Ross. Gorman, Tx - 254-734-2420. FNC

Call Ron 432-580-4883. fnc



FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Obituaries Audrey Olene Pond

Fort Worth - Audrey Olene Pond,

Melvin Terry McCormack

EASTLAND Melvin Terry McCormack, 79, of

Diana Jean Snider

Diana Jean Snider, age 60, passed away Saturday, February 18, 2006 at her home in Gorman.

Services will be at 2:00 p.m. Thursday at the Higginbotham Funeral Home

Progress will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher. Entered as Periodical Postage Paid at the Post Office in Gorman, Tx 76454, under the Act of March 3, 1978. Published Weekly by Gorman Progress, 106 S. Kent, Gorman, Texas 76454. Periodical Postage Paid at Gorman, Tx 76454 DISPLAY AD RATE \$3.00 Per NAA COL. INCH NATIONAL AD RATE \$4.00 Per NAA COL. INCH Advertising Line Rate2678 NO COMMISSION DISCOUNTS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS	 40,6 rn Weller, goastal, belans, fenced. \$1,600 acre. NEW: 97a S/W Gorman: Secluded, good hunting, seasonal creek, oak/ mesquite, pond, fenced. Will divide into 27a and 70a tracts. \$1,850 acre. 100 A: near Duster: 3 - 1 1/2 - 2 brick, central A/H, fireplace, 1444', 24 x 30 shop on slab, 2 wells, 3 ponds, steel corrals, app. 36 A. coastal, some cult., and native. \$249,500.00 	 and cultivation. \$473,850 240A Comanche Co. with 5-tanks, woods, hwy. frontage, rural water, hunting. \$396,000 26A with 2/1 Frame, water well, stock tank, woods, coastal, hunting. \$79,500 Medical Clinic: 5,230 sf brick bldg, two covered carports, 280' x 282' paved parking lot. \$150,000 Nursing Home: 12,900 sf brick bldg. with kitchen, therapy room lobby, 22 double rooms, large lot. \$89,000 69A wooded, rolling terrain, corrals, 3tanks, hunting. REDUCED \$172,500. Other house available from \$18,000 to \$105,000. – We Appreciate All Listings – 	Tuesday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday - 8:00 a.m. to Noon Other Hours By Appointment Shop (254) 734-4410 Cell (254) 734-5334 Cell (254) 734-5334
20 Cents a Word Minimum Charge - \$3.00 per issue - CASH Charged - Additional Fee - \$1.00. No Commission Additional 50 cents for Borders. Wedding Announcements - \$5.00 / \$10 with Picture - Weddings - \$10.00 Minimum. ADVERTISING DEADLINE - TUESDAY NOON Card of Thanks - \$3.00 THE GORMAN PROGRESS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ADVERTISING. POSMASTER: Please Send Change of Address To: GORMAN PROGRESS, P. O. Box 68, Gorman, Texas 76454-0068	NEW : 102.81 A S/E Gorman: Na- tive pasture coastal 2 ponds by ells, new meet soles, prod rd. prans, deer & hogs, will divide. \$2,250 per acre. We <u>NEED</u> Your Listings. The market is Good. Call Us. <u>SELLING</u> GORMAN - DE LEON AREAS OVER 50 YEARS	Riley Gardner Memorial Represented By JONELL TORREZ – 254-734-2535 Our Memorial Display Is Now Located Behind Higginbotham's Funeral Home. We Guarantee You Can Buy The FIN- EST QUALITY Memorial At The LOWEST PRICE. All Work Guaran- teed.	Let Us Build Your New Home or Room Addition If You Can Dream It, We Can Build It!! T. J. Clark Construction Co., Inc (254) 734-2755 P. O. Box 176 111 E. Roberts St Gorman, Texas 76454 General Building Contractors - All Work Guaranteed Custom Homes - Remodeling - Commercial - Industrial - Farm Financing - Free Estimates - Design, Engineering & Plan Services

Leon Bosque RC&D Council Reps Attend Leadership Forum, Make Calls On Capitol Hill



Mills County Judge Rob Lindsey of Goldthwaite, Dr. Joe McFarland companies. of Stephenville, Jane Crouch of Hamilton, and Gorman EDC Director Lori Dodd represented Leon Bosque RC&D at a national meeting of American Senior Alliance Inc. and RC&Ds in Washington DC last week.

The Leon Bosque delegation, along with more than 200 RC&D coun- Inc. and owner Tina Hennessy, and cil members representing every state including Hawaii and Alaska, expressed extreme concern about proposed budget cuts for RC&Ds to the five congressmen and two senators from this 13-county district. At the same time, Congressmen Chet Edwards, John Carter, Michael Conaway nd Randy Neugebauer were thanked personally for their support that retored funding last year. The group met with staff members at the offices of Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn and Congressmen Henry Bonilla, Mac Thornberry and Silvestre Reyes.

Dr. McFarland, a former president of the Texas Association of RC&D Councils and currently a Leon Bosque board member, told the legislators about projects administered by RC&D councils including several Leon Bosque projects: a grant program for Volunteer Fire Departments, a Community Improvement Grant project, a revolving loan fund for small businesses and a compost project that utilizes dairy waste for improvement of athletic fields.

McFarland said, "Our request this year is for level funding for RC&Ds Social Security or other governin the amount of \$56 million that will continue the effectiveness of the councils by maintaining the coordinator position that is vital to our efforts to support conservation and economic development in rural communities across the US. Last year, RC&D councils leveraged the federal appropriation 8 to 1-that means jobs, businesses, cleaner lakes and streams, improved conditions for wildlife and the support rural areas need to help both local government and citizens."

The National Association of RC&Ds compiled a list of last year's num- the three are violating the Texas complaint with the Attorney bers. They found:

more than 550 new businesses created with RC&D assistance; 3,704 businesses expanded by RC&D councils;

FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Attorney General Abbott Cracks Down On Three North Texas Companies For Taking Advantage Of Seniors Ploys used to lure senior citizens across the U.S. into giving their personal information

across the country with deceptive, unsolicited mailers designed to mation. dupe them into sending the companies their personal information. The Attorney General's lawsuits allege the companies then use the information to develop sales leads for insurance, financial and other

owner George R. Katosic, America's Recommended Mailers reply with their personal informa-Lead Concepts Inc. and owner Christopher Weir. The lawsuits allege the companies induce seniors to fill out information cards under the pretext of promising updates on Social Security or Medicare laws or new investment developments regarding prepaid funeral plans, annuities and living trusts.

turning over their personal information is one of the lowest forms exempt assets from government of fraud," Attorney General Abbott said. "These companies are foolthey have to respond to these mailings or risk losing their Medicare, operating this nationwide deception from Texas, and Texas will be Insurance Code, as well as attorthe state to stop them. Seniors neys' fees and investigative costs. should ignore these fraudulent mailings."

Deceptive Trade Practices Act by General's Office by calling toll-free not disclosing in their mailers (800) 252-8011 or accessing the which companies or individuals are agency's using the returned personal infor- www.oag.state.tx.us mation. They also use deceptive association names that give a false impression of endorsement by legitimate nonprofit or senior advocacy groups. The companies also do not indicate to seniors that their personal information may be used as leads for insurance agents, telemarketers or others who may later persuade them to buy insurance or other products.

DALLAS - Texas Attorney similar, according to the Attorney General Greg Abbott today sued General's investigation. The decepthree North Texas companies for tive pieces feature bold typeface and bombarding seniors in Texas and use all-capital letters to convince seniors to send their personal infor-

The mailers purport to help educate seniors about financial planning or new developments in health care and the law. Announcements such as "Medicare supplemental coverage update" and "legislation that standardizes entitlement provi-Named in the three lawsuits are sions for persons 65 and older" are deceptively crafted as attention-getters, prompting seniors to quickly tion.

Other mailers urge seniors to act quickly to obtain "free hard facts and straight answers" regarding prescription drug benefits and how several changes in laws affecting the elderly can affect them or their heirs. The mailers trumpet new congressional legislation allowing seniors to avoid paying estate taxes "Tricking senior Texans into or taxes on investments or Social Security. Others suggest ways to collection in the event of an illness.

The Attorney General is requesting senior citizens into believing ing penalties of up to \$20,000 per violation, plus an added penalty of up to \$250,000 for acts that harm anyone 65 or older. In addition, the ment benefits. These businesses are lawsuit requests penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation of the Texas

Consumers who believe they may have been defrauded by a de-The Attorney General alleges ceptive mail business may file a site · at Web

Marine Corps Pfc. Crystal L. **Martinez Completes Basic**

(FHTNC)--Marine Corps Pfc. Crystal L. Martinez, daughter of Lupe Martinez and Lucio Moreno of De Leon, Texas, recently completed the Marine Corps Enlisted Warehouse Basic Course.

During the course with Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools Training Command, Camp Lejeune, N. C, students are provided with a comprehensive theoretical and practical background in the performance and administration of duties as a warehouse clerk. Studies include storage and issue procedures, record keeping, inventory of materials, storing gear, and running warehouse machinery such as a forklift.

Martinez is a 2005 graduate of DeLeon High School of De Leon, Texas and joined the Marine Corps in June 2005.

Gardening Time Again ! We Have What You Need! **ONION PLANTS** SEED POTATOES **Pre-Emergent Grass Burr Killer** Candy **Nuts - Snacks Hirst Nut & Produce Co.** P.O. Box 255 Gorman, Tx 76454 — Phone 254-734-4059

Daryl and Cecilia Hirst - Owners

4,104 businesses financially assisted; approximately 5,900 jobs created;

councils helped improve 1,861.191 acres of wildlife habitat, 550,750

acres of lakes and 9,835 miles of streams; more than 8,950 workshops and training sessions held; and

RC&D projects assisted at least 5,341,375 economically or socially disadvantaged people nationwide.

McFarland went on to say that, "Leon Bosque RC&D conducts community assessments such as the 2000 Gorman assessment that many residents will recall as the catalyst for several local initiatives. Dodd commented that the Keep Gorman Beautiful highway clean-ups, the downtown beautification projects and increase in school/community involvement were among the suggestions at the Assessment listening sessions and follow-up town hall meetings.

Judge Lindsey said, "RC&D is a great resource for rural counties-the business, but their misleading coordinator can give technical assistance and advice and the council administers federal grant programs including grant searches that no other governmental or non-governmental organization provides. Mills County has taken advantage of most of the opportunities provided by Leon Bosque. We wouldn't have even known about these resources if RC&D hadn't told us."

"In the Capitol offices, we provided a lot of information, statistics and personal knowledge about the value of RC&D to the rural areas of Texas," said Lindsey. "As a county judge, I can tell you that the RC&D council is a valuable resource available to us for help with issue or funding needs that affect our rural counties. Both council and staff of Leon Bosque RC&D understand our rural challenges, are willing to initiate projects and lead the process as no other entity, government or otherwise, can or will do."

Leon Bosque RC&D, made up of 13 central Texas counties, is led by a council of volunteers from Bosque, Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Somervell, Hamilton, Mills, Palo Pinto, Shackelford, Stephens and Hood Counties. Headquartered in Glen Rose, the council is assisted by Coordinator Lee Standley of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"RC&D councils exist in every state in the union," according to Jane major disaster areas in the State of Crouch who chairs the Leon Bosque Council. "Rob, Joe, Lori and I met in DC with other board members from Texas who interacted with board members there from across the US. We had been invited to come to the Leadership Forum, a 2-day training session on budget and issue matters related to rural problems, after which we visited with our home state congressmen, their staff and senate offices."

Leon Bosque RC&D's stated purpose is to help people care for and protect natural resources in a way that improves the local economy, environment and living standards.

Crouch talked about the Leon Bosque RC&D's newest federal grant project: the revolving loan fund for emerging or expanding small businesses. "USDA Rural Development awarded Leon Bosque a \$100,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant. We wrote a proposal that provides for the Small Business Development Center at Tarleton State University to accept applications, screen and make recommendations that are then reviewed by a professional banking committee. After a USDA environmen- Assistance and \$394,098 in Other tal evaluation and approval by the state Rural Development office, a business may receive up to \$20,000 in a low interest, long term loan agreement. This new program will encourage business start-up, growth, job creation and retention by making available funds to businesses that have (DRCs) that operated throughout problems with costs of start-up as well as cash flow," she said.

Lori Dodd, Vice Chairman of the Leon-Bosque Council, told the legislators about the devastating grassfires she saw in Eastland County that been requested. 204 have been

The three companies operate independently and even compete for methods to induce seniors to act are

Texas Wildfire **Disaster Recovery** Aid Exceeds 900,738

AUSTIN, Texas - As of close of business Feb. 9, families and individuals who suffered damage from the recent Texas Wildfires have been approved to receive more than \$900,738 in assistance.

On Jan. 11, 2006, President George W. Bush declared nine counties stricken by wildfires as Texas. The presidential declaration made individual assistance available to affected individuals and businesses in the counties of Callahan, Cooke, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Montague, Palo Pinto, Tarrant and Wise.

Recovery Services Summary as of close of business Feb. 9, 2006:

 371 individuals have registered for Individual Assistance.

 \$900,738 has been approved through the Individuals and Household Program. Of that, FEMA has provided \$506,640 in Individual Needs Assistance.

 358 applicants visited two mobile Disaster Recovery Centers the nine declared counties until Feb. 3, 2006.

209 home inspections have

Summers - Bakker Funeral Home

Pre-need Special \$2995 - Complete services of the funeral home, graveside service and your choice of a Trindex casket

Cremation pre-need packages starting at \$895



Eastland County's Family Owned Funeral Provider

On the road to your financial future, YOU'LL NEED ADVICE, NOT DIRECTIONS.





4-2-23 1

Where do you find someone you can trust to help keep your financial future on the right path? Driving all over town to see brokers, investment planners and insurance agents can be expensive and unproductive. Financial advisors at American State Financial Management are Registered Representatives of INVEST Financial Corporation, and are dedicated to guiding you toward a successful financial future.

And they're a part of the American State team, so you know they're easy to find.

sparked the interest of the Leon Bosque Council. Dodd invited the whole completed. Three inspectors are in council to Carbon so they could see firsthand the damage to homes and the field. businesses. She expressed her pride in her council's reaction to that visit saying, "I was impressed that the RC&D came to Eastland County quickly and immediately figured out a way to help Volunteer Fire Departments be able to claim disaster unemploywith their damaged or nonexistent equipment. The council coordinator designed a grant program, wrote letters and notified all our county judges of the available funds in one week's time. That's the kind of problemsolving the RC&D is doing in North Central Texas!"

"Leon Bosque RC&D administers programs and projects, supports existing activities and brings people together to learn about matters of importance to rural areas and, perhaps as important, to learn from each other how progress can happen," Crouch said. Lindsey added that Texas RC&D counties and who sustained losses councils leverage approximately 28 times the federal investment. "Given our track record, return on investment and the opportunities ahead of us, I believe funding ought to be continued for RC&Ds. Hopefully, Congress will agree and restore the funding," he said.

The Leon Bosque RC&D's address is P.O. Box 359, Glen Rose TX trations also can be made online at 76043 and phone number is 254/897-3747.

 Texas workers who lost their jobs due to the recent wildfires may ment benefits. To file a claim or to talk with a representative, eligible applicants should call the Texas Workforce Commission Hotline at 1-800-939-6631, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

 Individuals located in the nine should register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing- and speech-impaired. Regiswww.fema.gov.

AmericanState Financial Management

734-2255 * www.asbonline.com

Customer Service Available: M-F 7 am - 7 pm; Sat 9 am - 5 pm 9857GO

INVEST Financial Corporation (INVEST), member NASD, SIPC, a Registered Broker Dealer, and federally Registered Investment Advisor, is not affiliated with American State Bank or American State Financial Management. Securities, advisory services and insurance products offered through INVEST and affiliated insurance agencies are: • not FDIC insured • not deposits, obligations of, or guaranteed by any bank, and • are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of principal amount invested.

PAGE FOUR

Super Notes

By David K. Perry dperry@gorman.esc14.net 734-3171

I apologize for missing press time last week, but due to an illness, I was unable to submit the article. Now, in reflection, I am extremely grateful to modern medicine and Dr. Dan and his staff. It is amazing how much better two injections and four prescriptions will make you feel. That's important when you begin the week with our regularly scheduled school board meeting and end the week with a conference in Austin.

Our school board was extremely pleased to have five of our top U.I.L. Mykisha Hampton, Veridiana Maldonado, and Allie Little all did a wonderful job. I thank their teachers and their parents for sharing them with us.

After the readers performed, the board proceeded to address the regular agenda items. All members were present with the exception of Melinda Harrington who was ill. Visitors present in addition to the students mentioned above were Melissa Madera, Charlene Wilson, Imelda Maldonado, and Shellie Little. All of the consent agenda was approved and reports were received from Latricia Hampton (counselor), Coby Tyson (Athletic Director), Mary Reeves (Elementary Principal), Rick Panter (Secondary Principal), and David Perry (Superintendent). The board then approved a resolution to move \$359,860.00 to a fund designated for new construction and renovations. This was done at the direction of the school auditor, Burl Lowery of Brownwood, who had stated at the regular meeting in January that our financial condition was so good that he felt we needed to move this amount out of general funds. The resolution was approved 6-0. The board then approved, 6-0, the district's basic Emergency Operations Plan. The TASB policy update 77 was then read for good food. Sylvia Buchanan and Jimmy and Maggie Nelson also visited the first time and approved 6-0. The board then called for a school board election to be held on May 13, 2006 to fill the expiring terms of Daryl Hirst and Mark Simmons. The board then approved the 2006-2007 school calendar 6-0 pending state approval of a late start date. The district will hold a public meeting at noon on March 20th, 2006 in the high school auditorium to receive public comments regarding the proposed early start date.

The board then took formal action on items under personnel. First, the board accepted the resignation of Nell Bailey effective May 26, 2006, 6-0. Second, they extended the contract of the principal for another year by a vote of 6-0, and then they extended the contract of the athletic director for another year by a vote of 4-2 with Beth Underwood and Larry Thompson voting against. Their last action prior to adjournment was to extend the contract of the counselor for another year by a vote of 6-0. The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on March 13 at 7:00pm in the high school auditorium.

Girl's softball and boy's baseball got off to a good start last week. The girls defeated DeLeon 17-8 and lost to Dublin 14-9. The boys thumped Gordon pretty good, winning 13-0. This week, our boys travel to Coleman and our girls face Evant here. Both teams will be playing in our tournament this week that begins on Thursday with the girls facing Dublin again and last through Saturday. It looks like we will have a very competitive baseball and softball season. I invite you to come out and support these young athletes by cheering them on to victory. I know it's still cold outside, but you'd be there if it was football and these teams deserve your support just as much!

FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Kokomo News

By Zelda Jordan

The weather was really cold over the weekend, but not much moisture fell. Just enough to form a thin sheet of ice on the trees to make them beautiful, but we are thankful for each drop of rain, mist or whatever came.

The Sunday services at the Kokomo Baptist Church were cancelled due to the cold weather.

Work has begun on the frame work of the Kokomo Baptist Church's elementary readers perform for them. Yulissa Madera, Lacy Wilson, new building. Thanks and appreciation is extended to all who have donated to the building fund. It will all be used for the Glory of God.

> James Hunter of Gorman will be the guest preacher for the services at the Kokomo Baptist church on Sunday, February 26. The church is meeting at the home of Bobby and Mary Jane Little. Visitors are always welcome.

> Helen Browning spent several days in the hospital at Stephenville, but returned home on Monday, and reports that she is doing well. We send get well wishes to her. Donna, Gary, Leslie, Melanie and Garrett Gatlin and Gary, Rebecca and Emily Browning of Graham visited with Helen and Woodrow at the hospital on Thursday night.

> Bob and Beverly Phariss of Haskell had lunch with Larry and Betty Strube on Thursday.

> Those enjoying a delayed family Christmas 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, Viki and Justin Miles of Austin, Cindy and Kayla Jordan of Lubbock and Clinton Fawver of Welch.

> All had a great time opening gifts, playing games and enjoying lots of with them.

> Zelda Jordan received word on Saturday, February 18, 2006 of the death of an aunt, Mrs. Lillie Mae Brandon of Eden. Zelda and her daughter Glenda Black of Abilene attended the funeral in Eden on Tuesday.

Please continue to pray for rain.

'04 Chevy 1500 X-Cab

'04 Chevy Tahoe Z-71

'04 Chevy Trailblazer

'04 Ford F150 Reg. Cab

'04 Ford F150 Crew Cab

'04 Ford Escape

'04 Olds Alero

'04 Pontiac Vibe

603 Chevy Avalanche

'03 Chevy Monte Carlo

'03 Chevy 3500 X-Cab

'03 Chevy Trailblazer

03 Chevy Suburban

'03 Dodge Stratus

'03 Ford Mustang

'02 Chevy Malibu

GM

'02 Chevy 1500 X-Cab

'02 Chevy Trailblazer

'02 Ford F250 X-Cab

'01 Buick Le Sabre

'02 Dodge 1500 Crew Cab

THE RIGHT WAY. THE RIGHT CAR

'02 Jeep Liberty Limited

63 Volvo V70

03 Chevy 1500 Reg. Cab

'03 Chevy 2500 Reg. Cab

'04 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab

'04 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab

'04 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab

'04 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab

Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

Desdemona Monthly Musical will be held on Saturday, February 25 at the Community Center (school building). The concession stand will open at 5:30 p.m. with good food, homemade pies and drinks. Come early to enjoy supper and have fellowship with the group before the music program begins at 6:00 p.m. All area musicians, singers and visitors are invited to attend.

Cold and Icy weather kept everything at a slow pace the past weekend in "Hogtown". We are hoping Spring is just around the corner with some much needed rain. Remember to pray for rain.

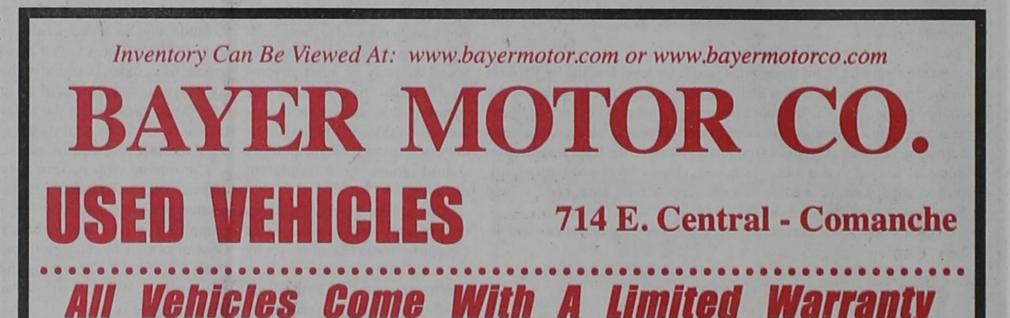
Robert and Ima Brown spent the past weekend in Amarillo with his sister, Marge Johnson. Marge celebrated her 80th birthday with family and friends. Marge graduated from Desdemona High School with the Class of 1942.

Kaley Garcia spent the past weekend in Whitney visiting with her dad, George and Crystal Garcia and son, Gavin.

Desdemona Firemen Benefit will be held on Saturday, March 25 at the Desdemona Community Center School Gym. This benefit will be in connection with the regular monthly musical. Stew and cornbread will be served by donation only. Serving time begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by country and western music at 6:00 p.m. Make plans to attend and show your appreciation for our local firemen.

"Wall Of Memories"

Desdemona Community Center and Foundation will construct a "Memory Wall" in the hall of the present school building. Individual memory bricks will be sold for \$25.00 each. These bricks are 4"x8" size which includes three lines with twelve spaces to each line to engli names, dates, etc. This project will be of great interest to remember those ex-students, teachers and friends who have passed on. Also to honor others and those who have worked endless hours to keep the Desdemona Community Center active. We are excited about this "Memory Wall" and we encourage everyone to buy a brick to let those memories continue for years to come. To purchase a member brick contact Vonnie Guthery - P. O. Box 187, Desdemona, TX 76445, or call 254-758-2665.



There is a T-Shirt Fundraiser that the P.T.O. is doing at the Elementary campus. If you want to see what the T-Shirt looks like, it is on the bulletin board in the hallway of the two-story building. The P.T.O. uses funds that they earn to purchase needed items to enhance your student's education. Please participate if you can.

Baseball Sign-Up sheets were sent home with elementary students Monday. If you have a child that is interested, please complete the form and turn it in. If you have any questions, please call the elementary campus.

Report Cards will be mailed Wednesday, February 22nd. If you have any concerns about your child's grades, please set up a conference with their teacher. They will be glad you called and set up a meeting with you. The Awards Assembly will be on Wednesday. The first assembly will start at 2:15 (Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grades. The second assembly will start at 2:45 (First, Second, and Third Grade.)

Last, but not least, is the long awaited, recently postponed, Student Council Valentine's Dinner and Dance being held at the Gorman Opera House Saturday night from 7:00pm until Midnight. The dance will begin at 8:00pm with dinner at 7:00pm. All activities will be chaperoned by teacher sponsors and is for Gorman students only. The cost is \$6.00 per person and that includes a delicious lasagna dinner with breadsticks, and the cover charge for the dance. There will be a \$2.00 cover charge per person for those not eating. We don't have nearly enough activities like this locally for our youth and I encourage you to encourage your child to participate and enjoy themselves this weekend at the dinner and dance.

I always feel like I am forgetting something or someone each time I submit this article for publication. If I missed any event that you would like to have seen covered, please let me know. It takes community involvement for a school to be successful and you are welcome to get involved at Gorman ISD anytime. Remember, this is your school; these are your children; and these children are your future! Come help us shape the future.

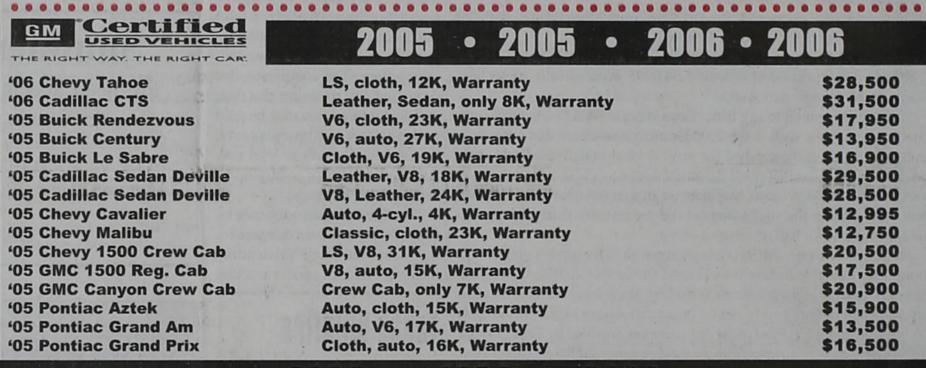
> David K. Perry Superintendent Gorman I.S.D.

Big Country Area Plagued By Suspected Arson Fires

Firefighters in the Eastland, Stephens, Comanche and Shackleford counties have not only been dealing with the worst winter fire season Texas has seen, but they are also battling fires that are suspected arson starts.

"We're extremely concerned that we may have an arsonist working in the Eastland County area," said County Judge Brad Stephenson. "Not all have been arson fires, but we've had more than 40,000 acres burned in Eastland County alone since New Year's Day. The population is scared. We've lost more than 50 homes, countless other structures and at least \$4 million lost just in fences. That doesn't take into consideration the loss of income and revenue. It is a miracle that we haven't lost a life."

Investigators are looking into multiple fires that occurred between Feb. 12 and 17 that appear suspicious. The cluster of suspicious fires includes the Olden, West Eastland, Cisco, Gunsight and the Rising Star fires on Feb. 12. Investigators are looking into several fires that ignited on Feb. 16 in Comanche County, including the Clenendon and CR 285 fires, as well as four



2004 2004 . .

Z-71, 4X4, 52K, Warranty	\$19,000	
LT, cloth, 23K, Warranty	\$22,250	
LS, 4X4, 46K, Warranty	\$23,995	
Duramax, 4X4, 24K, Warranty	\$32,500	
5 Spd., V8, 2K, Warranty	\$20,900	
4X4, leather, 34K, Warranty	\$28,900	
LS, cloth, 38K, Warranty	\$17,500	
XLT, V6, 18K, Warranty	\$16,900	
STX, Auto, V6, 9K, Warranty	\$14,900	
XLT, 4X4, 17K, Warranty	\$26,500	
4 Dr., auto, 26K, Warranty	\$11,500	
 Auto, 4-Cyl., 21K, Warranty	\$14,250	

2003 2003 2003 GM . ۲ THE RIGHT

Cloth, V8, 18K, Warranty	\$20,500
V6, cloth, 38K, Warranty	\$13,500
Sportside, V8, 51K, Warranty	\$14,900
4X4, 5 Sp., 56K, Warranty	\$15,900
Duramax, dually, 117K	\$18,900
LS, cloth, 39K, Warranty	\$16,250
LS, cloth, 48K, Warranty	\$19,900
2-Dr., 4-Cyl., 43K, Warranty	\$ 9,995
V6, auto, 21K, Warranty	\$13,500
Leather, sunroof, 26K, Warranty	\$23,500

2002 2002 2002 • .

Auto, V6, 41K, Warranty	\$ 8,995
Cloth, LS, 61K, Warranty	\$14,750
LS, cloth, 45K, Warranty	\$14,900
Diesel, 4X4, 101K, Warranty	\$22,500
V8, auto, 48K, Warranty	\$14,900
Limited, 6-Cyl., 45K, Warranty	\$12,995

1997

۲

2001 2001 2001 ۲ .

Cloth, V6, 36K, Warranty 4X4, auto, 61K, Warranty

1999

.

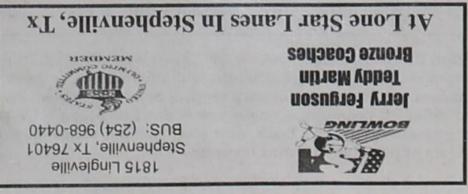
\$11,500 \$ 8,250

small fires in along Hwy. 16.

Arson is a 2nd degree felony, punishable by up to \$10,000 and two to 20 vears in prison. That is enhanced to a 1st degree felony if an arson fire injures or kills someone.

"If anyone sees anything suspicious, please contact the local authorities or the arson hotline, which is 1-800-364-3470," said Chief Law Enforcement Officer Gary Bennett with Texas Forest Service. "We need folks to be observant."

A reward of up to \$2,000 is offered for information leading to the arrest and grand jury indictment of the person or persons responsible for these fires.



01 Chevy Tracker '01 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab '01 Ford F150 Super Crew '01 GMC Sonoma X-Cab **'01 Jeep Wrangler Sport '01 Mercury Grand Marquis**

Certified USED VEHICLES

4X4, leather, 149K, Warranty XLT, 4X4, 101K, Warranty Auto, V6, 81K, Warranty 4X4, 6-Cyl., 58K, Warranty Leather, V8, 61K, Warranty

111

\$12,995 \$14,500 \$ 8,995 \$14,995 \$11,500

1995

\$ 9,750 Cloth, V6, 59K, Warranty \$ 9,500 XLT, V6, 71K, Warranty Leather, 4X4, 120K, Warranty \$ 9,995 \$ 9,250 Cloth, V10, 79K, \$16,900 Leather, sunroof, 71K, Warranty \$ 7,995 V8, auto, 91K, Warranty 6,995 V6, Auto, 90K, Warranty \$ 9,500 Z-71, 4X4, 90K, Warranty \$ 6,750 4X4, 5 Spd., 105K, Warranty

۲

1-800-968-1877 325-356-2530 or

'00 Buick Le Sabre '00 Ford Explorer '99 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab **'99 Ford Conversion Van** '99 Lexus G5 300 '98 Chevy 1500 X-Cab '98 Ford Ranger X-Cab '97 Chevy 1500 X-Cab '95 Nissan X-Cab