

# The Gorman Progress

"Serving Gorman For Over 109 Years"  
Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

2009 Member – Texas Press Association

NUMBER ONE

JANUARY 8, 2009

## LARGE ITEM PICK UP JANUARY 8

Large item pick up will be January 8, 2008. Have your large item curb side for this pick up. Please remember that this is one large item. If you have questions please call City Office @ 734-2317.

## First Baptist Church Youth Take Ski Trip To Angel Fire



On December 27th the FBC-Youth went on a Ski trip to Angel Fire, New Mexico. We took 26 youth and 6 sponsors for a 5 day adventure of skiing, snowboarding, tubing, sledding, ice skating and even a snowball fight or two. It was an amazing trip full of God's Beauty, fellowship and lots of fun. FBC would like to extend an invitation to all youth from 7th grade to 12th grade to attend Sunday school and worship service every Sunday morning at 9:45 A.M. We meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 P.M. For more information call 254-734-2420.

### Card of Thanks

Thank everyone so much for the love you have shown to us with the home-going of Aunt Jo Russell! We appreciate every phone call, prayer, visit, and thought that you sent our way. Bro. Barry, Sharlene, the ladies of First Baptist Church, pallbearers, musicians, funeral home staff, and friends, a simple thanks is never enough. Thanks again to the community of Gorman for the love you give.

The Family of Jo Russell

### Thank You

### Each and Everyone

The residents of Homestead would like to Thank each and everyone who help make our Christmas so Merry and Bright. We greatly appreciate those who came and visited, brought gifts, took a name from the Tree at the bank, sent Christmas cards, came and sang or played for us. Thank you again for being such a loving, caring community.

The Residents and Staff of Homestead Nursing

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

**SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21ST FROM 9 TIL NOON.**

The Order of the Eastern Star holds its regular stated meetings on the First Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Gorman Senior Citizens meet every Wednesday at 11:30 in the Gorman Senior Center. Bring Covered Dish or \$3.00 Per Plate.

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

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 – 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. Gerald Ragland, Master – Roscoe Reeves, Secretary.

## SCHOOL MENU

Week of Jan. 12 thru Jan. 16

### LUNCH

MONDAY - Beef Stroganoff, Chicken Rings, Cream Potatoes, Green Beans, Gravy, Biscuits, Rosy Applesauce and Milk.

TUESDAY - Pork Chop, Chicken Legs, Cheese Potatoes, Broccoli Rolls, Crisp and Milk.

WEDNESDAY - Baked Ham, Corn Dog, Black-eyed Peas, Macaroni and Cheese, Bread Slice, Fruit Shape Up and Milk.

THURSDAY - Spaghetti and Meat Sauce, Tony's Pizza, Tossed Salad, Corn, Bread Stick, No Salad Bar and Milk.

FRIDAY - Chili Dog, Toasted Ham and Cheese, Pork-n-beans, French Fries, Ice Cream, No Salad Bar and Milk.

## Help Support Eastland Co. 4-Hers At Stock Show Concession Stands

The Eastland County 4-H Adult Leader's Associations will again be sponsoring the Concession stands at the 2009 Eastland County Stock Show. The public is invited to come and participate in this major fund-raising activity for area youth. Proceeds from the concession stand help send local youth to various leadership activities throughout the year.

The menu will include hamburgers and french fries, nachos, and assorted homemade baked goods from 4-H families throughout the county. 4-H Adult Leaders from each club and older 4-Hers will be manning the stands throughout the Stock Show.

So, come out and support our area youth by watching them show their animals and then come on around and enjoy the concession stands.

## Governor Proclaims School Board Recognition Month

(Austin) – Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January 2009 as School Board Recognition Month. Districts across the state will use this opportunity to show their appreciation of the vital role elected boards of education play in their local schools and communities.

"The biggest challenge of education is also one of its greatest strengths. During a time when state and national mandates rightly place more emphasis than ever on setting the bar high for education, it remains important for each community to retain control of its own educational system," Governor Rick Perry said.

"Balancing the need for local control with directives coming down from larger governmental bodies is neither an easy nor oftentimes appreciated task, but for over two centuries, school boards have risen to such challenges. Complicating matters further are issues such as the rapidly-expanding role of technology in the classroom, the challenge to keep our children both educated and physically active, and—as always—the difficulties inherent in dealing with budgetary priorities.

"The people who make up these boards are uncompensated and, all too often, unsung for their efforts. These people volunteer their time because they care; they care about their communities, they care about their schools and, most importantly, they care about the children. Each year the Texas Association of School Boards designates January as School Board Recognition Month, to emphasize to all of us the importance of the services these dedicated men and women provide to the schools and children of Texas. At this time I urge all Texans to recognize the invaluable contributions realized through the work of our school boards," he said.

"Today's public schools face tremendous challenges and opportunities, making the school board's role more critical than ever before," said James B. Crow, TASB executive director. "Local trustees diligently work with community leaders, parents, and educators to develop sound education policies. They help set high standards in the education system, encouraging us to strive to reach those goals and better prepare the next generation of leaders in our state and nation," Crow said.

"We urge every community to acknowledge the commitment that board service requires of more than 7,000 locally elected school board members in Texas and support them as they tackle the enormous task of governing school districts. We applaud their dedication as they offer vision and leadership and work to empower every child to succeed," Crow said.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve more than 4.6 million students.

## Editorially Speaking Representative Keffer To Make Run For Speaker of The Texas House of Representatives

The economic health of Texas and the quality of life depend on many things, not the least of which is qualified, dedicated leadership by elected officials.

Because of our concern for good state government we enthusiastically endorse the effort by Rep. Jim Keffer in his quest to attain the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The 55-year-old Keffer has represented District 60 since 1997, and has risen in leadership continually.

As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, rep. Keffer has been a key player in work for the citizens of Texas. He has also served as a member of the House Pensions and Investments, Legislative Audit Committees and as a member of the Legislative Budget Board, Rural Caucus, House Republican Caucus and is former chairman of the House Economic Development Committee.

As president of EBAA Iron Sales, Rep. Keffer understands the concerns of businesses, and has dedicated himself to reducing homeowner school property tax rates and reform of the property tax appraisal process.

He is on record as committed to illegal immigration reforms, protecting 2nd admendment rights, opposing state income tax, opposing sale or leasing of highways to foreign companies, fighting for conservative family values and protecting local water supplies.

Rep. Keffer supports legislation increasing the penalties of sex offenders, child molesters and drug trafficking.

Rep. Keffer's district includes Brown, Eastland, Hood, Palo Pinto, Shackelford and Stephens Counties.

He and his wife Leslie have three sons and in July, 2008 became proud grandparents. He is a deacon in his church, he has been honored by the Texas Association of Business, Texas Economic Development Council, and the Texas Industrial Vocational Association.

Representative Jim Keffer is the excellent choice for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

## Super Notes

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

Happy New Year! School is off to a cold start for the beginning of 2009, but it will warm up soon. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and that the New Year brings you good health, joy, and peace. As usual, I can't believe the first semester went by so quickly, but experience tells me this semester will go by even faster. There are so many things going on that it will be over before we know it, especially with the 81st Legislative session beginning on January 13th. I know I will be in Austin a few times representing the needs of the school district and public education in general and I will do my best to represent our community. However, while I'm there I certainly don't mind speaking up for other local interest so if there is anything you would like for me to say regarding any other local issues like: farming, fuel prices, utilities, retail sales, etc. just let me know.

I want to remind everyone that in case of bad weather, please listen to the following radio stations: KSTV 93.1 or KYOX 94.3, or tune in to the following television stations: KTAB-Channel 32, KTXS-Channel 12 or KRBC-Channel 9 in Abilene. We don't like to cancel school or change our usual schedule because we know what a burden it places on the parents of our students, but sometimes we can't help it for safety sake. Please rest assured that we take our responsibility very seriously and won't ever intentionally place your child at risk. We appreciate the trust placed in us and will always act with your child's best interest at heart.

Although we were out of school over the holidays, the building process slowed but did not stop. The shingle roof on the gym is complete and they are now working on the front gable and will begin on the positive slope roofs. We also have a new red standing seam steel roof being installed on the old Home Economics building. It looks great!

Basketball starts right up beginning this Tuesday here at home with the high school playing Perrin-Whitt and then the girls will be playing DeLeon away at 6:00pm on Friday and the boys will begin at 5:00pm in Olney. I know that sounds weird, but the girl's district play begins a week earlier than the boys. The junior high will play Evant here at 4:00pm on Thursday. All junior high games will now be on Thursday.

I know that there are a lot of rumors going around regarding our secondary principal Mr. Panter. Just so everyone gets their facts straight, I want you to know that he has turned in his resignation and will be leaving at the end of this school year. He has done a great job for the children of this district and I hate to see him go. We have worked very well together. He will be seeking employment in the Dallas area near his family. He will certainly receive the highest recommendations from us. In the mean time, we are accepting applications through the month of January and will begin the interview process shortly thereafter. The job is posted on our website (www.gorman.esc14.net), region 14's website (www.esc14.net), and the Texas Association of School Administrator website (http://www.tasanet.org).

Remember, it takes community involvement for a school to be successful and you are welcome to get involved at Gorman ISD anytime. This is your school; these are your children; and these children are your future! Your input is always welcome. Come help us shape the future. Thank you for all you do to support us!

## Obituaries

### Vernon E. Bennett

Vernon E. Bennett, 85, of Crane passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2008 in the Crane Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

Vernon was born February 2, 1923 in Eastland County, Texas. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Crane. He graduated from Gorman High School and married Alva Mae Wheeler on May 17, 1941. Vernon then went on to serve his country in WWII as a Corporal in the Army Air Corp. from 1943-1945. While serving his country, he was stationed on Saipan with the B-29 tech supply and bomb squadron.

After being honorably discharged from the military, Vernon began his career with Phillips Petroleum in January 1946 and retired as field operations manager in July 1985.

Vernon is preceded in death by his wife Alva, who passed away in June 2000.

Survivors include two sons, Gary Bennett and wife, Anita of Mesquite and Ted Bennett and wife, Karen of Conroe; a brother, Elbert Bennett of Gorman; a sister, Betty Little of Eastland; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 13, 2008 at the First Baptist Church with Reverend John Swedlund officiating. Burial followed in Crane County Cemetery under the direction of the Shaffer-Nichols Funeral Home of Crane.

### Hershel W. Griffith - SSG Ret.

Hershel W. Griffith, age 71 of De Leon passed away on January 1, 2009 at Comanche County Medical Center. Graveside services were held Thursday, January 8th at 2 p.m. at Desdemona Cemetery with Bro. Tim White officiating.

Hershel was born on May 19, 1937 in Gorman to the late Jessie Atlas and Willa Gladys Hooper Griffith. He married Virginia Ellen Penland on December 18, 1969 in Mission, Texas.

He was a Retired Military Policeman, also served as a Police Officer for the McAllen Police Department. Mr. Griffith grew up in Desdemona, was a 1956 high school graduate of the Hogtown Porkers. In his later years he enjoyed having coffee and reminiscing with friends. He was married to his beloved wife Virginia for 39 years.

Survivors include his wife Virgivina; children, Mary Ellen (Eddie) Martinez, James Atlas (Anna) Griffith, Charles Michael (Stephanie) Griffith, Lisa Denise (Bob) Yeager, Bobby Dean (Tammy) Hicks and 11 grandchildren. Other family members include: Pete (Deborah) Hooper, Mrs. R. D. (Bertha) Griffith, Grace Stokes and families.

Preceded by his father - Jessie Atlas Griffith; mother - Willa Gladys (Hooper) Griffith; Paternal Grandfather - Jesse Mercer (Uncle Jess) Griffith; Paternal Grandmother - Ardella (Wilcox) Griffith; Maternal Grandfather - William Ervin Hooper; Maternal Grandmother - Senia (Holmes) Hooper and Close cousins: R. D. Griffith and Eddie Stewart.

### Lovena

### "Vennie" Kinser Sherrod

Lovena "Vennie" Kinser Sherrod, age 96, passed away Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at a Stephenville nursing home.

Graveside services were 2:00 P.M. Friday at Oakland Cemetery in Comanche County with Denver Rainey officiating, services under the direction of Higginbotham Funeral Home in Gorman.

Mrs. Sherrod was born August 3, 1912 in Lampasas County, Texas to George Porter and Millie Powell Porter. She was a retired licensed vocational nurse and a member of the Baptist Church.

Survivors include one son, C. R. Kinser and wife, Shirley of Eastland; one granddaughter, Courtney Hansen and husband, Kaleb of Granbury. She was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Holly Kinser; two sisters, Willibea Cornwell and Cordelia Hall; five brothers, Stanley, Floyd, Sam, John and C. P. Porter.

### Harold Basil Frasure

Harold Basil Frasure age 86 of De Leon passed away Thursday, January 1, 2009 at his home. Private services were held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, January 7th with burial in Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park in Colleyville.

Mr. Frasure was born on August 26, 1922 to the late Everett and Garah Hester Heam Frasure. He married Marie Sharp on October 19, 1946 in Weatherford.

He was a WWII Army Veteran, with a two year term in the Pacific and another 9 months in Canada and the states. He was building contractor with vast experience, homes, office building, church, schools, motels and thousands of apartment buildings all over Texas and four other states. He was a very avid fisherman and the very lucky husband of Marie Sharp Frasure for 62 years. Had lived in De Leon since 1994 moving here from Weatherford and was a Baptist. Harold always had a garden, loved to grow everything and gave away at least half.

Survivors include his wife of DeLeon; grandson Brian Frasure of Frisco and several nieces and nephews.

Preceded by his parents, three sons, Edwin Bert (Eddie), Harold Ray (Ray), and Randy Lee (Ran) all of whom were killed in accidents. Two brothers preceded: Rev. O. L. Frasure, Edwin Frasure and two sisters, Iva Frost and Jimmie Dawson.

Family request memorials: American Cancer Society

### HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER

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### Gilder REALTY

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Comanche Office: 325-356-3739

Broker: Robert Gilder

Agents: Ronnie Golden, David Gilder, Wayne Parsons, Bobby Newman, Debbie Gilder, Neal Butler

455A, wells, tanks, creek, tree covered, hunting, Hwy.6 frontage [RS01] \$1,912,000  
320±A, on Turkey Creek, creek, wildlife cover, tanks, well, hunting [ET01] \$880,000  
SOLD 250±A, on Copperas Creek, wooded, coastal, lake, cabin, rural water [LB01] \$795,000  
243A, reservoir, wells, irrig. pit, on hwy., cultivation, costal, pasture [AB01] \$2,500/acre  
REDUCED 236±A, wells, tanks, rolling terrain, hunting [DS02] \$2,495/acre \$1,995/acre  
SOLD 234A, on Leon River, wells, pecan trees, hunting [DK01] \$665,280  
81A, Pecan Orchard, 900± improved variety, underground irrig., wells [REM01] \$405,000  
52A, 4-3 Brick Home, carport, wells, tanks, corrals, barns [LP01] \$239,500  
51A, highway frontage, spring creek and hunting [RP01] \$182,000  
45A, 7 irrig. wells & pit, buried mainline w/risers, minerals available [NF01] \$2,500/acre  
30A, 3-2 1/2 Custom Home, garage, porch, shed/shop, barn, wells, tanks [DB01] \$450,000  
21±A, 2-2 1/2 mobile home, well, World Feeder Coastal Bermuda grass [MS03] \$105,000  
20A, excellent home site, costal, rural water avail, hunting, minerals neg. [WMO1] \$75,000  
19±A, rolling terrain, Live Oaks, hunting, near Proctor Lk, will divide [LR03] \$2,750/acre  
4±A, 4-3 Remodeled Brick Home, additional recreational room, water well [RH02] \$149,900  
REDUCED 5A, 3-1 Frame Home, near Proctor Lk, barn, rural water [LC01] \$92,500 \$89,500  
5A, 4-2 Brick Home, metal roof, carport, pecan trees, wells & tank, fenced [WK01] \$90,000  
3-2 Frame Home, CH&A, water well, carport, storage building, large lot [LR04] \$39,900  
REDUCED 2-2 Mobile Home 14X70, 12x28 add-on, strg. bldg./carport [PA01] \$29,900 \$22,500  
REDUCED 2-1 1/2 Frame Home, attached garage, storage building [ST01] \$75,000 \$69,000  
2-1 Frame Home, 2.3 A, screened porch, water well, storage bldg. [GB02] \$55,000  
2-1 Fleetwood 14x52, shaded corner lot, well, underground sprinkler, carport [JT03] \$35,000

More Info & Pictures at: [www.GilderRealty.com](http://www.GilderRealty.com)

### COGBURN REALTY

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NEW: De Leon: Nice older 3-1 Frame home, 1308 sf, new roof & Plumbing, 2 car garage, fenced yard, corner lot, large Pecan trees. \$33,900.

NEW: Desdemona, 4 A, older 3-1 frame, well & septic, workshop, beautiful location, large trees. \$59,900.

NEW: S/E Gorman: 45 A, sandy land, few Pecan trees, 7 water wells, irrigation reservoir, close to pavement. \$2,500 Acre.

NEW: S/E Gorman: 60 A, good sandy soil, some coastal, good fences, elec., nice pond site. \$2,800 Acre.

38 A M/L south Gorman: Fronts FM 679, about 10 A. large Pecan Trees, nice location for pond, good fences, sandy land. \$2,500 Acre

40 A m/l, south Gorman, pasture, fenced, small cabin, water well, small pond, elec., sandy soil, paved road. \$2,500 acre.

77A Sipe Springs, deer, turkey & 2 stocked ponds, Live and Post Oak, mineral rights. Insulated 30x40 steel Bldg., a/c, 7 living quarters. Nice Getaway! \$3,250 A.

NEW: Gorman, 44A, 2-2 bi-level frame home, 1728 sf, central a/h, metal roof, covered upper deck, several wells, buildings, coastal, Deer & other wildlife \$250,000.00

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.

NEW: 130 A, West Carbon, approximately 40a cult., 35a coastal, pond, elec., county water. \$2,400 Acre.

NEW: S/W De Leon: 131 A with 12 acre lake! 66a coastal, 53a farm land, well, 3 ponds, great fences, good horse place, hunting. \$3,000 Acre.

156 A. Carbon, 1/2 wooded - 1/2 fields, deer, turkey, 3 ponds, nice 2 - 2 mh, central a/c, barn, corral, county water. \$4,000 acre.

179 A. south of Gorman: Part wooded, part old fields, deer & hogs, 2 nice ponds, sandy soil, elec., several water wells, condition is unknown. \$1,950.00 acre. **SELLERS SAYS MAKE OFFER!!**

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## Pig Tales From Hogtown

As I am writing this, everything is frosty white outside my window. By the time you read this, it will be warm again. Such is winter in Texas! And we will take the rain in whatever form it chooses to come to us!

We had a great time on New Year's Eve at the DAC. We had friends, food and games to play - you can't beat it! If you didn't make it this time, put it on your calendar for next year.

Thank you to all who came New Year's Eve and to all who came to 'Breakfast at the DAC' last Saturday.

How does a bowl of chili sound - come to the DAC Saturday, January 10 at 6:00 P.M. We will have a huge pot of chili made up and the great cooks of Desdemona will provide desserts. Thank you, Ladies! The charge for the chili supper is by donation. Hope to see you there.

Our general meeting will be held on January 22 at 7:00 P.M. It is time to renew memberships at \$25.00 per year. Being a member entitles you to vote on who will be on the board of directors and gives you a discount if you rent the building.

You all haven't forgotten how to dance, have you? Johnny Johnson and the Memory Makers will be back at the DAC on Thursday, January 29. The band will play from 7:00 - 9:30 P.M.

I would like to express our sorrow at the passing of Herschel Griffith. He and Virginia were in the process of moving to Desdemona from DeLeon when Herschel passed away on New Year's Day. Please say a prayer for Virginia and her family.

See you in Desdemona!  
Carol Pell

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The City of Gorman has two vehicles up for public bid. Please submit you bid in writing and take it to the City office at 116 S Kent St., or you may mail it to City of Gorman, P O Box 236, Gormann Tx 76454 The City of Gorman reserves the right to refuse any or all bids submitted.

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### The Gorman Progress

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Email: [jake@txol.net](mailto:jake@txol.net) or [gprogress@txbusiness.com](mailto:gprogress@txbusiness.com)

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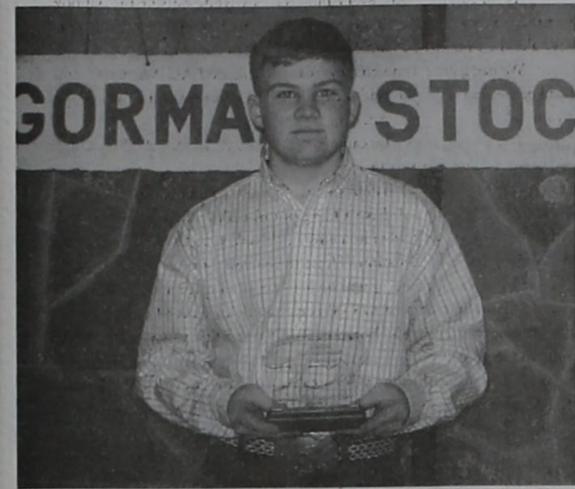


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Sr Showmanship Swine: Stetson Thompson



Showing Market Goats in the Ring



Sr. Showmanship Market Goat: Tyler Johnson



Champ Berk: Stetson Thompson



Pee Wee Showman are: Dylan Carlton, Keaton Moore (Blue Ribbon), Nashton Guthery, Kameron Sparger, Jordan Scitern, and Reece Scitern



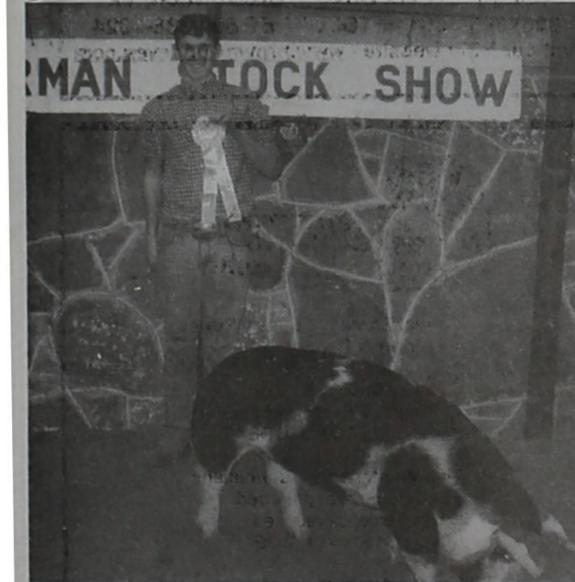
Showmanship Angora: Kendall Coan



Senior Showmanship Angora Goats: Bethany Oliver



Reserve Cross - Colby Spivey



Reserve Spot: Ben Burgess



Grand Champion Market Swine: Nathan Gee  
Pee Wee Showmanship Swine: Keaton Moore



Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat: Bethany Oliver

**Market Meat Goats:**

- Grand Champ. Market Goat: Madison Warren
- Res. Grand Market Goat: Bethany Oliver
- Sr. Showmanship Market Goat: Tyler Johnson
- Jr. Showmanship Market Goat: Madison Warren
- Pee Wee Showmanship: Jordan Scitern

**Angora Goats:**

- Grand Champ: Madison Warren
- Res Grand : Madison Warren
- Sr. Showmanship Angora: Bethany Oliver
- Jr. Showmanship Angora: Kendall Coan

**Swine**

- Champ Berk: Stetson Thompson
- Res. Berk: TJ Trevino
- Champ Duroc: Colby Spivey
- Res. Duroc: Ben Burgess
- Champ Hamp: Nathan Gee
- Champ Poland: Keaton Moore
- Res. Poland: Stetson Thompson
- Champ Spot: Keaton Moore
- Res Spot: Ben Burgess
- Champ York: Nathan Gee
- Champ Cross: Keaton Moore
- Res. Cross: Colby Spivey



Reserve Berk and Junior Showmanship Swine - T J Trevino



Grand Champion Market Goat: Madison Warren

- Grand Champion Market Swine: Nathan Gee
- Res. Grand Champ Market Swine: Keaton Moore
- Sr Showmanship Swine: Stetson Thompson
- Jr Showmanship Swine: TJ Trevino
- Pee Wee Showmanship Swine: Keaton Moore
- Pee Wee Showman are: Dylan Carlton, Keaton Moore (Blue Ribbon), Nashton Guthery, Kameron Sparger, Jordan Scitern, and Reece Scitern

## AG VIEWPOINT

By Heath Begeman

January is the most likely month to have a wildfire. With all the cold dry weather we have had in December a fire could happen very easily. So this time of year it is important to know what you can do to prevent a fire and help protect your home or property. If you see a wildfire, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called. Describe the location of the fire, speak slowly and clearly, and answer any questions asked by the dispatcher.

To prevent from starting a wildfire you need to do the following. Dispose of cigarettes correctly. Cigarettes cause a large portion of wildfires every year. Do not burn garbage or any other material during a burn ban. Eastland County is in a burn ban along with surrounding counties. Burn bans are put in place by the County Commissioners Court for your safety. Avoid driving over tall grass or brush. It only takes one spark to cause thousands of dollars in damage.

Before a fire approaches your house, evacuate your pets and all family members who are not essential to preparing the home. Anyone with medical or physical limitations and the young and the elderly should be evacuated immediately. Clear any items that will burn from around the house, including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills, tarp coverings, etc. Move them outside of your defensible space. Close outside attic, eaves and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds or heavy non-combustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat. Shut off any natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplies at the source. Fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water. Place valuable papers, mementos and anything "you can't live without" inside the car in the garage, ready for quick departure. Any pets still with you should also be put in the car.

If you get caught in the path of a wildfire you can survive by doing the following. If you get caught in your car, roll up windows and close air vents. Drive slowly with headlights on. Watch for over vehicles and pedestrians. Do not drive through heavy smoke. If you have to stop, park away from the heaviest trees and brush. Turn headlights on and ignition off. Roll up windows and close air vents. Get on the floor and cover up with a blanket or coat. Stay in your car, do not run! Engine may stall and not restart. Air currents may rock the car. Some smoke and sparks may enter the vehicle. Temperature inside will increase. Metal gas tanks and containers rarely explode.

### Is Christ still in Christmas

*As I sat in thoughtful silence,  
This thought hit me like a blow.  
Is Christ really still in Christmas,  
As He was so long ago*

*Is His presence still important,  
In our present state of mind.  
In our frenzied dashing hurry,  
Seeking what we cannot find.*

*Do we ever pause to wonder,  
What is all this bustle worth.  
Will this frantic way of going,  
Ever bring me peace on earth?*

*What I need is gentle cleansing,  
Of my mind and heart and soul.  
Need to fix my eyes on Jesus,  
Let His words have full control.*

*Words of hope like 'I'll be with you',  
And with me you cannot fall.  
Words of grace like 'love your brother',  
Words of peace that beckons all.*

*Words of comfort when in sorrow,  
Or in trial, grief, or pain.  
Words of 'I have paid the ransom',  
And your life is not in vain.*

*Ah-to put Christ back in Christmas,  
I'll have to make a brand new start.  
Have to humbly bow before Him,  
Have to still my hurried heart.*

*Jesus must be first and foremost,  
In my thoughts all through this day.  
For if we don't have Christ in Christmas,  
We've completely lost our way.*

Darrell Graham 2008

## Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

"Ladies Monthly Social" will be held on Monday, January 12th at the Desdemona Community Center (former school building). Hostesses will provide the food for this morning event. Visitors are welcome. Arrive at 9 a.m.

Joan Baker is in the Brownwood Hospital recovering from recent hip surgery. Friends of Desdemona sends Get Well Wishes to Joan.

There is a lot of sickness in our area with bronchitis, colds, flue and some recovering from surgery. Remember these and other shut-ins with your cards and prayers.

Our sincere sympathy to the family of Hershell Wayne Griffith, 71, of De Leon. A memorial service was held on Thursday, January 8th at the Desdemona Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Virginia Griffith of De Leon; his children and step children. Preceded in death by his parents, Atlas and Gladys (Hooper) Griffith; his grandparents, Jess and Della Griffith. Hershel attended school in Desdemona.

Monday morning January 5th this area received some rain, also ice in the low spots.

Have a great day, Vonnie.

## Happenings At FBC!!

Happy New Year! Let the Love of God, the Word of God, and the Light of God shine in 2009!

Children's Sermon: Liz asked all of the children if they had a good Christmas, and then asked them to name the gifts they got. The thing that all the gifts had in common was that they would eventually go out of style, stop working, or be outgrown. The Bible tells us that there is one gift that will last forever. John 3:16 tells us that God gave His only begotten son for those who believe. God's gift of His son will last forever, so give thanks to God!

Youth Director, Liz Caraway, led a presentation of the Youth's Angel Fire Experience. The group of thirty-three went to New Mexico to enjoy the majesty of God's creations and the fellowship with one another.

Many thanks to the six incredible sponsors: Tiffany Childers, Becky Swanner, Jeff and Veronica Seaton, and Liz and Shane Caraway. Special thanks to Tiffany who prepared meals to take along.

This is the "Top Ten" list from the Youth trip:

- 10) Majesty of the Mountains.
- 9) Bathroom converted to Kitchen / bathtub converted to sink to make the most of space.
- 8) Sean snowboarding.
- 7) Trever and Matt won a pool game against Jeff and Shane after 103 pool games were played.
- 6) Kinsey and Ally eating ice on the skating rink - they couldn't stay up.
- 5) Liz couldn't walk on the snow and fell twenty times a day.
- 4) Tyson wearing banana yellow pants, and the pants glowed.
- 3) Trever and JC denying holding hands to stay up ice-skating, picture to prove it.
- 2) Ally stood tall defending her faith to a guy that said all people that go to Church are hypocrites.
- 1) Shane's amazing flight while tubing - he went over a fence and caused minor injuries.

The observation of the sponsors was that the Youth have grown in their maturity and spirituality year to year. Tyson Swanner started and was followed by several of the Youth who stood at the pulpit to give thanks to God and their Church Family for letting them go on this trip, and each youth also shared a unique experience from the trip. The slopes were awesome and peaceful. The Youth returned with a greater appreciation of the awesomeness of God, new friendships forged, new bonds made, and each of them tried something new. Each of them exemplified being a FBC Youth. Please keep praying for our Youth, they are our future.

Our Worship Service begins at 11:00AM on Sunday mornings - please come and join us!

Remember: God loves you like no one else! Email us at fbcgorman@hotmail.com

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