The Gorman Frogress

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Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

www.gormantexas.us - Official City of Gorman Website

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

NUMBER SIX

German Lions Club and German High School To Sponsor Blood Drive

Gorman High School and the Gorman Lions Club will sponsor a blood drive on Monday, February 21. The Meek Blood Center Bloodmobile will be parked at the high school from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. "We want to give the high school students the opportunity to become blood donors," said Frances Baker, donor recruiter. "It is my hope that they will turn this opportunity into a life time of blood donation."

"Blood donors are a lifeline to cancer patients, accident victims, surgical patients, dialysis patients, newborn babies, and those with blood disorders. There are six blood drives scheduled in Gorman this year, so there are six opportunities to be a hero to someone in need. We appreciate the sacrifice blood donors make to ensure that blood is available to patients in seventeen hospitals and medical facilities in this area, Baker continued.

There is no upper age limit for blood donors. Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh a minimum of 110 pounds. Each donor gets a mini-physical, which includes a check of blood pressure, pulse, temperature and hemoglobin level. A complimentary total cholesterol result is available three days after the blood drive. "Many donors feel that regular blood donation is a great way to track their general health," said Baker. Those who have questions regarding eligibility may call Meek Blood Center at 325-670-2798.

Each donor will receive a T-shirt to thank them for giving the gift of life.

Gorman Cubs Finished Their Season; 8th Grade Boys District Champions

Gorman Cubs finish their basketball season with two wins. The 7th graders beat Ranger 28-11 then Albany 28-20. The 7th grade boys finish their season with a 7-3 district record. Congratula-. tions on a good season. The 8th grade team beat Ranger 33-12, and then destroyed Albany 56-22. These young men ended with district championship. Congratulations on a great season. Coach Doyle

More Photos In The Progress Later

Ranger; Panthers Lose A Close One

The Lady Panthers came up with the winning edge on Tuesday night to take a District 10-A win over the Lady Bulldogs of Ranger by a 36-34 margin.

The Lady Panthers jumped to a 10-5 margin in the first period, then added 8 more points in the second for an 18 - 10 margin. The Lady Bulldogs out-scored Gorman 9 - 7 in the third and added 15 in the final period while the Lady Panthers got 11 to hold the 36-34 edge. B. Carlton led Gorman with 13. Seaton hit 10 and Swanner and Keith each scored 4.

In the JV game Ranger outscored Gorman 30 to 25.

The Panthers lost a close one to the Bulldogs by a 63-59 score. Both teams played even in the first with the Bulldogs holding a 16-15 edge. In the second the Bulldogs had a 11-9 edge to lead 27-24 at halftime. In the third the Bulldogs got 22 while holding the Panthers to 13 for a 49-37 edge. But the Panthers came back in the fourth but fell short even though they out-scored the Bulldogs 22-14 and the Bulldogs got the victory 63-59. Jones led Gorman with 26 points. Lewis hit 14; Wright had 8; and Giles, Patel and Keith each scored 3.

In the JV game the Panthers won by a 29-22 margin.

Relay for Life Attention **Cancer Survivors**

The American Cancer Society would like to honor your fight against cancer! Please join fellow survivors at the Survivor's Lap, Friday, April 29, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

The American Cancer Society is preparing for the 2nd Annual Relay for Life at Gorman Football Stadium. This unique fundraising event is an opportunity to honor those who have survived cancer and remember those we have lost. We would like to extend a special invitation for you to participate in this event by walking, running or wheelchairing the first lap of Relay For Life, which symbolizes the courage survivors and their families sustain in their

Survivors are requested to arrive and register between 5 and 6:30 p.m. There will be no cost to participate in this event. Each participant will receive a unique survivor Relay for Life T-shirt.

You won't want to miss the luminaria ceremony at 9 p.m.

For more information, please call Valerie Hampton at 254/734-2174. Relay for Life, %Valerie Hampton, Rt. 1 Box 124, Gorman, Tx. 76454.



8th Grade Boys — District Champs Back Row (L to R): Codi Church, Marc Gillen, Gabe Burt, Matt Underwood, Martin Ramirez, Miles Vann; Front row: Colby Spivey, Matthew Cogburn, Tyson Swanner, and Jordan Perry

Valentine Banquet for Single Ladies at Church of Christ



Single ladies were honored with a Valentine banquet Monday at the Church of Christ Fellowship Hall . The single ladies of the congregation were called for at their homes and escorted to the Fellowship Hall for a special evening of food and entertainment. Honorees attending the event were Edna Powell, Faye Scitern, Ruth Porter, Barbara Morrison, Wynogene Smith, Zena Simpson, Vicki Brown, Velda Baze, Christine Hammontree, Billie Stewart, Jerry Underwood, Joy Rogers, Anna Lois Watson, Lavelle Jobe, Floydene Gilbert and Carolyn Gilbert. Banquet J.T. Whitfill 1st place 275 lb division 1225 lb total plates were also sent to Shut Ins of the congregation.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Dolores Underwood. The ladies were entertained with humorous stories and were honored by the hosts which included the whole congregation.

Entertaining the ladies at the Church of Christ on Monday night were the Sweetheart Singers. The talented group included Linda Simmons, Don Laminack, Larry Stogsdill, Gene Foster, Darrell Graham, Francis Simpson and Don Underwood.

Hunter Education Course Awareness Week

Saturday, February 19, 2005 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Sunday, March 6-1 2 February 20, 2005 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Gorman Baseball Park Assn. Directors Meeting Thursday, Feb. 17, 2005 - 7:00 p.m. **Community Center**

> Come Out to the Ball Park February 18, Friday, 4:00 p.m. 4:30 Starts Girls Softball and **Boys Baseball** Athletic Booster Club will be having \$1.00 Hot Dogs Come Out and Support our Teams!

Gorman Powerlifting Teams Bring Home Championship Trophies From Perrin-Whitt Meet

The Gorman Powerlifting Teams traveled to Perrin-Whitt this past Saturday and once again brought home many awards for their efforts. The boys took second overall with 43 points just behind Perrin-Whitt at 46 points. Senior lifters J.T. Whitfill and Ryan Wright received Outstanding Heavyweight Lifter and Outstanding Lightweight Lifter Trophies respectively. The Girls won their second meet of the year and kept their streak of receiving a team trophy in all meets this year alive by taking the Overall Girls Championship at the meet with 48 points just in front of Springtown at 36 points.

In addition to those honors, we had several lifters set Perrin-Whitt Meet Records on Saturday.



The Gorman girls powerlifting team took 1st place at the Perrin-Whitt powerlifting meet this past Saturday. Back row (L-R) Rosa Herrera, Summer Olvera, Kendra Swanner, Amanda Naeseth, Sharla Perez, Nikki Keith Reba Grando, and Tecia Jones. Front row (L-R) Avery Tyson, and Aurora Tyson.

On the girls side we had records set by the following:

Tecia Jones 105 lb class: bench (65 old record 60), dead lift (170 old record 160), and total (360 old record 345). Amanda Naeseth 114 lb class: Squat (195 old record 185), bench (115 old record 85), dead lift (250 old record 205), and total (560 old record 475 set by Alecia Sloan of Perrin-Whitt). Sharla Perez 123 lb class: bench (120 old record 110 set by Megan Stine of Bowie). Kendra Swanner 165 lb class: bench (115 old record 95), dead lift (295 old record 235), and total (625 old record 560 set by Jennifer Kennedy of Perrin-Whitt). Summer Olvera respective class: Squat (295 old record 205), bench (170 old record 85), dead lift (305 old record 270), and total (770 old record 560 set by Nellie Collins of Santo).

The Gorman boyspowerlifting team took 2nd place at the Perrin-Whitt Powerliftin meet this past Saturday. Back Row (L-R) Seth Johnson, J.T. Whitfill, Clint Jones, David Ibarra, Zach Bryan, Pete Ramirez. Front Row (L-R) Ryan Wright, Daniel Shirley, Brian Greer, and Toby Darville.



On the boys side we had records set by the following:

Ryan Wright 114 lb class: Squat (295 old record 220), bench (150 old record 140), dead lift (300 old record 270), and total (745 old record 620 set by Jacob Russell of Ranger). Brian Greer 123 lb class: Squat (230 old record 200), bench (160 old record 140), dead lift (280 old record 240), and total (670 old record 580 set by Ryan Gilbert of Iowa Park). J.T. Whitfill 275 lb class: Squat (425 old record 405), bench (335 old record 250), dead lift (465 old record 385), and total (1225 old record 1030 set by Pedro Hernandez of Santo).

Here are the places and totals for the Perrin-Whitt meet for all individuals: Girls:

Tecia Jones 1st place 105 lb divison 360 total (season/career high) Amanda Naeseth 1st place 114 lb division 560 total (season/career high) Sharla Perez 1st place 123 lb division 550 total (season/career high) Nikki Keith 2nd place 132 lb division 505 total (season career high) Sandra Lara 5th place 148 lb division 540 total (season/career high) Kendra Swanner 1st place 165 lb division 625 total Rosa Hererra 2nd place 181 lb division 585 total (season/career high) Reba Granado 4th place 181 lb division 545 lb total (season/career high)

Ryan Wright 1st place 114 lb division 745 lb total Daniel Shirley 2nd place 114 lb division 605 lb total Brian Greer 1st place 123 lb division 670 lb total Toby Darville 8th place 165 lb division 735 lb total David Ibarra 2nd place 181 lb division 940 lb total Zach Bryan 4th place 181 lb division 915 lb total Clint Jones 7th place 181 lb division 850 lbtotal Pete Ramirez 2nd place 198 lb division 1005 lb total Seth Johnson 2nd place 275 lb division 900 lb total

Summer Olvera 1st place 770 lb total (season/career high)

The Panthers and Lady Panthers travel to Winters on Saturday February 19th to compete in the Blizzard Powerlifting meet. This will be the last meet of the year for some of our lifters. Some lifters will compete in the Last Qualifiers Meet in Strawn on February 26th.



Ryan and J.T both received the outstanding lifter in both the light weight and heavy weight division.

Coach Tyson

Severe Weather

The Division of Emergency Contact David Guthery at 254-734-2836. Students-12 years old or Management National Weather Service has set the week of March 6-12 as Severe Weather Awareness Week. This week is set aside for learning about severe spring weather and how to prepare.

Head Start

Head Start, a pre-school grogram for 3 and 4 year olds is now accepting applications. For appointment call 254-442-4401 in Cisco, 254-893-3078 in DeLeon, 254-629-8503 in Eastland or 254-647-3998 in Ranger. Free to eligible children.

Three Positions Open for School Board Trustee

Three positions will come open for the May 7, 2005 election for school board trustee. These positions will include two three-year terms to be elected at large, one currently held by Jeff Seaton and one vacated by Glenn Glasson. The third position is an unexpired term ending May 2006, this term vacated by Lance Sharp. Applications for filing for a position on the ballot will begin on February 5, 2005. Deadline for filing will be Monday, March 7, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. Applications can be completed at the Administration office during school hours. Board trustee Jeff Seaton has filed for re-election.

> You are cordially invited to share in a special occasion as the friends and family of Marge Hudson gather to celebrate her retirement after 25 Years of Dedicated Service to the First Baptist Church of Gorman, Texas Sunday, February 27, 2005 3:00 to 4:30 p.m First Baptist Church

Obituaries

Vera Lyerla

Vera Lyerla, 81 of Flatwood, passed away Monday morning, February 14, 2005 at the Eastland Memorial Hospital. Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Flatwood with Rev. Jimmy Lively officiating. Visitation will be 4-6 Thursday at the Edwards Funeral Home of Eastland.

Mrs. Lyerla was born November 8, 1923 in Awin, Alabama to Leslie W. and Josephine Brewer Jones. She was one of 12 children and her father died at an early age. She met Guy Lyerla while he was in the service in WWII, and moved to Flatwood to the Lyerla farm. Guy returned from the service and married Vera on January 12, 1946 in Carbon. They farmed and ranched many years in Flatwood where they raised two sons. They were active in the Mangum Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School. Guy was elected Justice of Peace and served until his death in 1989. Vera served out his term as Judge. She was primarily a farm wife and mother, canning, cooking and quilting. She enjoyed fishing and visiting.

She is survived by one son, Billy G. Lyerla of Flatwood; one brother, Dan Jones of Alabama; grandchildren, Bobby Lee Lyerla and Samuel Jack Lyerla. One son preceded her in death-Jack Dan Lyerla in 1976.

Elsie Lee Shaw

Elsie Lee Shaw, 97, of Dublin, passed away on Friday, February 11, 2005 at the DeLeon Hospital. Graveside services were on Saturday, February 12, 2005 at the Rowe Cemetery in Hedley, Texas, with Rev. Gary that took place while he was there. Boles officiating.

Mrs. Shaw was born on August 22, 1907 in Hedley to John L. Lamberson and Celia Cooper Lamberson. She married Jasper Shaw on May 30, 1925 in Claredon, Texas. She was a member of the 1st United Methodist Church and a member of the Texas Retired Teachers Associa-

She is survived by two daughters, Jo Ann Ragan of Dublin and Wanda Lea Patterson of Gorman; two granddaughters, Debbie Taylor Melton of Dublin and Terri Moon of Beatty, NV; two grandsons, Duane Taylor of Dublin and Steve Patterson of Laredo; fourteen great grandchildren and twelve great-great grandchildren.

Letter to the Editor

This is my first time ever to write a letter to the editor for the editions in the Abilene paper makes my day for so many pros and cons in everything going on. My reason for writing this is, 'why did Gorman get a grant to build a basketball court on the Senior Citizen parking lot?' For those that don't know it, the Senior Citizen building was left for the Senior Citizens and now it's not even called the Senior Citizens. But here comes the Gorman Grow and what has Gorman Grow done to make Gorman grow? Now they are wanting to raise taxes for that extra to go into Gorman Grow fund. Wake up Gorman, it's dying as it is and with taxes going up toward Gorman Grow that's something useless. Why in the world didn't Gorman go for a grant to fix all the streets in Gorman-for the street going to the cemetery is a disgrace, but they say as long as all those trucks are coming and going it will always be like that. It wouldn't if it had been paved right to start with.

Talking about the basketball court, they have one at school and there is usually always some kids there playing. With this one right in the heart of town the ball is going to go in the street. So guess we just have to wait and see how much the basketball court is going to help Gorman.

Some come on, let's get the editor page going to see if we can't get a little life in Gorman. Used to couldn't wait till the Gorman paper come out for we knew we were going to get the news and now it's gone down to nothing and we are just paying to get to read the advertising.

s/ Barbara Tucker



ASSISTANT MANAGER POSITION available at Eastland DQ. Must be able to work flexible day and night shifts, be responsible for customer service, food cost, cash handling, etc. Vacation and holiday pay. Smoke and drug free working environment. Drug test and background check required. Apply in person today with Manager Mae Jones.

Estate Sale: Saturday, Feb. 19th. 9 a.m. until? Opera House - 113 W. Roberts,

For Sale: Day-old chicks. \$1.00 each. Call Lee or Amy Wood. 254-734-2973.

LVN/RN needed for in-home pediatric private duty nursing in Stephenville and May, Tx. FT/PT. 1-888-801-6228, 325-673-5596 or fax resume to 325-673-2916. 4-2-24-C

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NEW: 10.45 A. south Duster: Im-

proved REEND IN Gemote

area, lots of wildlife. \$2,000 acre. NEW: 11.69 A. south Duster: Old

Pecan Perapport Nicgame,

located near a nice creek \$2,000 acre.

NEW: 15a M/L edge town, nice re-

modeled 2 - 2 brick, central a/h, car-

peted, fireplace, large game room, 24

x 60 PENDING floor,

water and sewer, pecans, pave-

47.65 A. 4 miles west of Gorman,

ponds, barn / pens, good dear area,

NEW 58A. Desdemona, app. 10

coastal, 50a wooded, water well,

shed, pond, pavement, hunting, wild-

NEW: 105 A., Comanche Co., near

De Leon, 30 A. Coastal, 52 A. culti-

vated, 23 A. pasture, 3 stock ponds,

2 wells (previously used for irriga-

tion), steel corrals, electricity, paved

@ CR frontage, deer/wildlife in area,

combintion stocker/wildlife prop-

NEW: 192 A. s/w Gorman, over 1/

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tion, stock pond, lots of deer & tur-

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U. S. Army Medical Department Internship



received the opportunity to intern at the U.S. Army Research Institute for Environmental Medicine (USARIEM) at the Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Massachusetts in the summer of 2004. The Soldier Systems Center is responsible for researching, developing, fielding, and managing food, clothing, shelters, airdrop systems and soldier support items. Where he worked, USARIEM, conducts research to determine how a variety of factors affect the health and performance of military personnel from all branches of service.

During his stay at USARIEM, Luke worked directly with several

Medical Service Corps (MSC) Officers and learned what an Officer in the MSC does. Luke says his duties at USARIEM ranged from being directly involved with an ongoing study dealing with human growth hormones and soldier performance during sustained operations, to conducting a 100% inventory accountability check for the institution and planning and organizing for the detachment change of command ceremony

Lindaman's most memorable moment revolved around his study on the effects of certain human growth hormones for soldiers in sustained training environments. He was able to study the complexities of the human body and be an integral part of ground floor medical research that may produce new policies for the military in the future. Lindaman hopes to establish a career as a chemist.

Due to the new technology at Niagara University in the state of New York, Lindaman, is able to continue research he started in the summer of 2004 at U.S. ARMY Research Institute of Environmental Medicine. His work focused on theoretical drug design and growth hormones.

Prison Sentence For Possession of Drugs

Angela Denise Jernigan, age 19, formerly of Cisco, was sentenced to 4 years confinement in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice facility by 91st District Court Judge Steven Herod after entering a plea of guilty to the offense of Possession of a Controlled Substance, Friday--Sausage, gravy, biscuits, Methamphetamine, one gram or milk, juice more but less than four grams.

Jernigan is awaiting transport to Taylor County prior to transfer to the state prison to face charges pending for other drug related offenses. Jernigan was represented Wednesday--Chicken nuggets, by defense attorneys Landon Thompson and Gary D. Peak.

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School Menu Week of Feb 21

Breakfast

Monday--Cereal, yogurt, milk, juice Tuesday--French Toast Stixs, oranges, milk, juice Wednesday--Pancakes, apples,

milk, juice

Thursday--Oatmeal, toast, milk,

Lunch

Monday--Taco salad, cheese, milk Tuesday-Corndogs, pork-n-beans, tater tots, fruit, milk

cream potatoes, green beans, chocolate cake, milk

Thursday--Hamburger, fries, milk Friday--Pizza, salad, corn, milk

> Call 254-734-2410 man Progress

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New Listing: 201 Acre. on Leon River, several ponds, woods, pecans, pasture, hunting. \$331,650

90 A. Eastland Co., Hwy. frontage, 3 tanks, heavy cover for hunting, cultivation, homesite. \$149,500 82 Acres at Proctor Lake, well, tank, home site, hunting & fishing. \$164,500 157 A. Callahan Co., 2 tanks, 6 wells, home site, coastal, cropland. \$196,250

99A 5/4, 4300 sf brick, metal barn, 5 water wells, large reservoir, rock drive, and much more. \$477,500 97A 5/4.5, 5632 sf brick, swimming pool, deck with hot tub, metal barn, pecan trees,

tanks, corral, and much more. \$750,000 77 A. Palo Pinto Co., Woods, creek, hunting, might divide. \$240,000

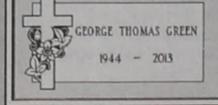
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Chemistry Major Luke Lindaman Lindaman said "he found that some patients suffering from HIV and AIDS are receiving growth hormone therapy to slow their loss of body mass. These patients also have to take sometimes up to as many as 20 different drugs per day as part of the 'AIDS Cocktail.' What he is trying to do is perhaps find a way, computationally, to attach some of these drugs to the growth hormone itself, in hopes that it will 'kill two birds with one stone' so to speak. Patients would then be able to receive the growth hormone therapy and take fewer medications each day, for some of the drugs would already be in their system as a result of them being 'attached' to the hormone."

> Luke is the son of Jim and Teresa (Underwood) Lindaman. Grandson of (the late Ted Underwood) and Ruth Underwood and John Grace.

Luke has been accepted into Medical Service Corp but he will not know where he will be sent to duty station until graduation in May at which time Luke will become a Second Lieutenant in the U.S.ARMY.

The Gorman Livestock Raisers Association has some of the Fresh Country products left over from the fall meat sale. Listed are the items still available:

Sportman's Pak, Cajun Meat Pies, Beef Fajita Meat, Pork Tamales, Peppered Turkey Breast, Cheese Sausage Kolaches, and Peanut Butter and Snickerdoodle Cookie Dough.

If you would like to purchase one or more of these items please contact Cecilia Hirst @ 734-2266 or 734-2464 or call Tacy Warren @ 734-2317. Thank you for your continued support.

Benefit For Hanna Johnston Of Gustine

Sunday, February 20th **COOK'S FISH BARN**

11 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

On November 28, 2004 Hanna sustained a head injury and was at Cook's Children Hospital for an extended period of time. She is home now and doing well, but the enormous Medical Expenses remain.

Please Come and Help Hanna

Hirst Nut & Produce Co. Pre-Planting Specials

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EDC TALK

Several weeks ago during a City Commission meeting, the Gorman EDC gave a review of grants that had been received since hiring a director and operating an active Economic Development Corporation in 2000. After that review, it was mentioned that it would be good to publish these awards in the paper, so that the community could indeed see what the current 4B Sales Tax funds are used for. Some of the grants required a match which came from the Sales Tax funds; some were 100% free to the community but the sales tax paid the director's salary, therefore contributing to the income indirectly. Please note these do not include all the Fire Dept .grant awards and the good work Stephen Watson and that group does acquiring grants for our community.

Here are the grants and totals since receiving our first grant in February 2001 through July 2004: WCTCOG-Community Clean up-1,000; CJD-Police Dept. cameras, etc.-11,000; WCTCOG-Brush Chipper-32,000; Leon RC&D -Community Improvements-4,000; TP&WD-Bass Lake Project -6,100; TIF-Community Network-525,000; ORCA-MUCSMIP/Dr. Dan-50,000; HHSC-Computer Access for the Disabled-289,000; ORCA-AED for Gorman VFD-2,000; WCTCOG-Environment Officer-12,000; WCTCOG-Solid Waste Management-20,000.

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS

Added matching funds (cash only)

\$952,100 \$51,200

\$1,003,300 IN THREE YEARS

TOTAL GRANT IMPROVEMENTS All these things came into your community, raising the quality of life for you and your family, and didn't cost you anything more than of ONE cent (to the dollar) when you and others shopped locally.

An economic development sales tax—properly administered—can be a good thing for a small rural community. It brings improvements without having to have significant tax increases to your property.

Good News About Texas Public Schools

Submitted by Leslie Vann

There is good news about Texas public schools, in spite of what people hear. A new organization, Friends of Texas Public Schools, has set as its mission to promote the positives and strengthen the public's faith in Texas

Friends of Texas Public Schools is a grassroots 501(c)3 organization whose sole purpose is to boost public confidence and raise morale in Texas public schools.

Currently, its Web site contains pages dedicated to positive press about Texas public schools. In addition, a section called "The Truth about Texas Public Schools" focuses on the success stories happening every day.

A recent story in The Dallas Morning News, reprinted here, was circulated by the group through e-mail. The group suggested forwarding the article to local media contacts to help kick start the positive "buzz" we are looking for about Texas public schools.

What a great idea!

The following is reprinted with permission of *The Dallas Morning News* and was first published Sunday, December 12, 2004.

One couple's radical suggestion: Focus By: Steve Blow, sblow@dallasnews.com

Texas public schools are a mess. You know that, right? Well, Scott and Leslie Milder have a little message for us: Wrong, wrong, wrong!

The Milders are mild-mannered sorts. So they might not deliver the message quite so bluntly. But the Rockwall couple are passionate about public education. And they're sick of the constant bashing of our schools.

"We just got fed up," Scott said. So they launched what they hope will be a grassroots, multimillion-dollar campaign to set the record straight.

As Scott puts it, they want to "unleash the power of the truth about our schools—that they really are doing remarkably well."

That's certainly not a message you hear these days. On the contrary, someone is always going on about the "crisis in education."

In fact, those were exactly the words spread across the cover of Life magazine-in March 1958. It seems people have always fretted about the schools.

"People talk about wanting to 'get back' to some golden age of education," Scott said. "The truth is that

there never was such a time-unless it's today." People forget that a century ago, the high school graduation rate in this country was 3 percent. It didn't

exceed 50 percent until after World War II. Today the on-time graduation rate is 83 percent and rises to 91 percent when you include GEDs. Scott and Leslie get to see the success of public schools firsthand. Leslie teaches high school in Mesquite.

Scott is a former public information officer for school districts. Now he works for a school-design firm.

This perception that schools are a mess is partly our fault—the media, I mean. It's our job to highlight problems. But we're not so good at also conveying the bigger picture, the overall success story.

Politicians are also to blame. One of the easiest ways to win votes is promise to fix "failing schools." Never mind the truth.

And let's face it. The problem is also in ourselves. Happy school stories are soon forgotten. The outrageous ones linger and linger.

Are the Milders saying our schools are perfect? That there are no problems, no room to improve?

Lady Panthers to Begin Softball Season

The Gorman Lady Panthers softball team has started practice and will be getting their season underway this week. There are 16 ladies out for this year's team that hopes to challenge for a play-off spot out of District 6. The biannual UIL realignment that took place last February effective for this season places a huge task on our Ladies by adding the Eula Lady Pirates in the same district. Eula, down from class AA, was in the State Softball Tournament last season and returns almost all of their team in tact. Also in the district is Albany who was a district foe last season that the Lady Panthers fought hard but were unable to beat. Other teams placed in district 6 are May and Ranger. May just recently dropped their softball program again. To add to the challenge facing our district representatives in the play-offs out of district 6 is the fact that there will be no first round bye this year. Adding another obstacle for our district is the fact that our representatives will face more than likely Windthorst (Class A State Champions 2004) or Petrolia (Class A Regional Finalist 2004) in the first round of the play-offs.

With this in mind but realizing that all of that is a long way off (we have many steps on the ladder to worry about first), the Ladies have began practice and are working hard to ready themselves for the challenge. Out for this years team at this time are Ashlee Hornback, Kendra Swanner, Nikki Keith, Megan Lewis, Brandy Carlton, Kristy Carlton, Shanna Hair, Mindy Keaton, Holly Wright, Summer Olvera, Krista Brown, Amanda Regian, Rosa Herrera, Reba Granado, Sharla Perez, and Tecia Jones.

The Ladies will have begun the season before this article is out by having scrimmaged the Lady BlueCats of Coleman here in Gorman this past Tuesday at 4:00. The rest of the schedule for 2005 is as follows: *all times and dates are subject to change and games may be deleted or added as the need arises

Tuesday	February 15 th	Coleman	Here	4:00 pm
Friday	February 18 th	***Perrin	Here	4:30 pm
Monday	February 21st	TBA		
Fri/Sat	Feb 25 th /26 th 25 th	Gorman Tourney		
		Gorman vs Perrin		10:00 am
		Goldthwaite vs Dublin		12:30 pm
		Gorman vs Di	ublin	3:00 pm
	26 th	26 th Perrin vs Goldthwaite Perrin vs Dublin Gorman vs Goldthwaite		10:00 am
				12:30 pm
				3:00 pm
Tuesday	March 1st	Goldthwaite	There	4:30 pm
Tuesday	March 8th	Dublin	Here	4:30 pm
Friday	March 11th	Goldthwaite	Here	4:30 pm
Tuesday	March 15th	TBA		
Monday	March 21st	TBA		
Thursday	March 24th	*Eula	Here	4:30 pm
Friday	April 1st	TBA		
Tuesday	April 5 th	*Albany	There	4:30 pm
Friday	April 8th	*Ranger	Here	4:30 pm
Tuesday	April 12th	*Eula	There	4:30 pm
Saturday	April 16 th	*Albany	Here	10:00 am
Monday	April 18 th	*Ranger	There	4:30 pm

* Denotes District 6A Games

*** Denotes Gorman Athletic Booster Club Dollar Hot Dog Night. Come on out and watch our Lady Panthers Softball Team and Panther Baseball Team kick-off their seasons and enjoy a Dollar Hot Dog from our Athletic Boosters. Support Gorman Athletics! Coach Tyson

Not at all. "But we believe that celebrating success and continuing to improve are not mutually exclusive," Scott said.

They believe that this crisis mentality actually hinders school improvement. It saps support, demoralizes educators and obscures issues that really do need fixing.

The reality is this: Most of our public schools are doing great. Test scores are high. Teachers are dedicated. And students succeed.

Our biggest challenge is in urban, low-income schools. They need the most and often get the least. That's inexcusable.

"We're not going to sugarcoat anything," Scott said. "Most public schools are doing really well. Let's celebrate that. Some are struggling. Let's help them out.

Why are the Milders doing this? "Because it's good for kids," they answer. Simply that.

The organization they created, Friends of Texas Public Schools, is not affiliated with any teacher or education group. It won't lobby or take political stands.

Its only purpose is to wage a public-awareness campaign that gives a clearer picture of the good work public schools are doing.

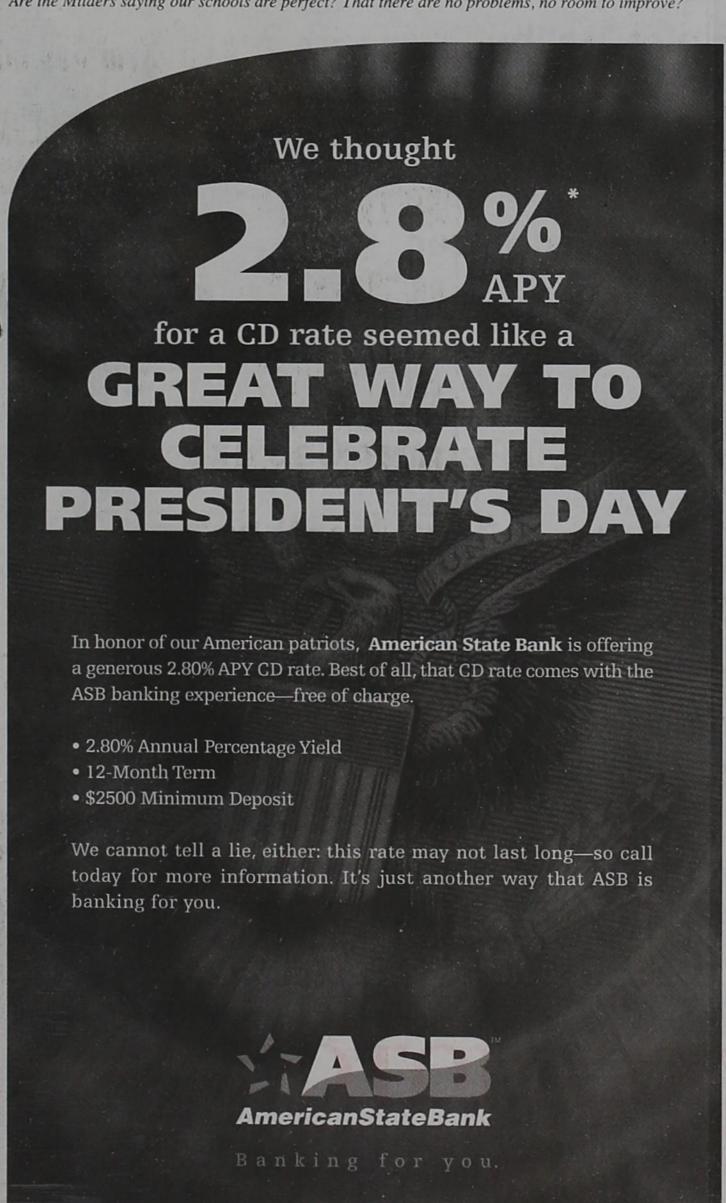
And what a great purpose that is. Public education really is the backbone of this country—the thing that makes "land of opportunity" a reality.

To make this a genuine grassroots campaign, the Milders hope 100,000 Texans will become Friends of Texas Public Schools. It takes just \$25 to join.

What a great way to show appreciation for a great teacher or honor past ones—with a donation and a nice note to let them know.

Go to www.fotps.org to learn more. Or send a donation directly to Friends, 4000 McEwen Road North, Dallas, Texas, 75244.

Above all, smile next time you pass a public school. Good work is going on in there.



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Heritage Manor News

By Nancy Hendricks

Peace of Mind

There passes not a sing day that I don't speak your name, and though I feel unworthy, God, I ask you just the same-To give me strength to face whatever problems lie ahead,

and should I start to worry-

give me "peace of mind" instead. Then let someone's path cross mine who needs a helping hand, and let me show that someone that I care and understnad. When the day draws to a closelet my thoughts be of You, for You are such a vital part of everything I do.

Heritage Manor will be celebrating three birthdays this month on Monday, February 21st after the Gospel singing. Be sure and come at 2:30 p.m. and enjoy the singing and the party.

Some guests were Rodney and Vicki Roberts of Stephenville, Kennard and Doylena Roberts of Gustine, Dorothy Roberts of Desdemona, Winston Brown, Bo and Anna Lee Roberts, Shaylor Roberts, Levi Roberts, Kendra Roberts, Shannon and Trinity Roberts.

On Sunday morning, those coming from the First Baptist Church were Tootie Campbell, Vicki Seay and Frances Warren. Tootie taught the lesson, "If God Really Loves Me?" Is god trying to tell me something through the bad things happening to me? Bible passage Hosea 1:1-3:5 and 3:1-5. Key verse Hosea 3:1. A resident led the opening prayer and another gave the closing prayer. There were 27 residents present and guests Howard and Pat Hagood.

Some visitors were Bonnie Croft of Lake Leon, Max and Janice Grice of Brownfield, Irene West, Ann Warren, Tisha and Daniel Grice of

On Sunday afternoon, those coming from the First Baptist Church were Rev. Bill and Tootie Campbell, Brent Lasater, Pam Childers, Kathy Ervin, Ann Warren, Steve and Derenda Menten, Winston Brown and guest Connie Cate. Brent led singing accompanied by Pam. Bro. Bill's message, "An Understanding Heart." Bible passage 1 Kings 3:9. A resident gave the closing prayer. There were twenty seven present.

Recent visitors were Cecil and Rena Mae Robertson of Brownwood, Billie Marble, Mary Jeffs, Howard and Pat Hagood, Sue Seaton, Winelle Browning, Woodrow and Helen Browning.

On Monday morning, Karen Guthery came and opened the beauty shop for residents.

Monday morning, Pat Graham, Judy Killebrew, Jason Killebrew and Ina Smith had bingo for nine residents. They enjoyed breakfast drinks.

Some guests were Sylvia Estes and Marie Cook of Carbon, James and Mary Jesse, Ruby Lee Kinser.

On Monday afternoon Gospel singers coming were Billy Joe Dennis, Ruby Lee Kinser, Woodrow and Helen Browning, Sue Seaton, Nelda Mauney, Pat Hagood, Winelle Browning, Johnnie B. Griffith, Ann Warren, Daisy Slaton, Marjorie Treadway, Ernestine Campbell and Nancy Hendricks. Special music by Ruby Lee, Billy Joe, Woodrow and Helen. Also a trio by Ruby Lee, Sue and Nelda. A resident gave the dismissal prayer. Fifteen residents were present. Everyone enjoyed the punch that Ina served.

Recent visitors were Maudie Husband, Bill Moll of Cisco, Jackie Whitlock of DeLeon, Lee and Sue Pettigrew of Desdemona, Diana Snider, Larry and DeLinda Snider.

On Tuesday morning a happy bunch of residents enjoyed 'alphabet bingo' with Ina Smith and enjoyed the prizes and treats.

Some guests were Fred McMullen of Melrose, NM, Durward Webb, Sharron Thornton, Larry Stogsdill, Tommy Lee, Payton lee, Elizabeth Lee, George Rodgers, Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Standridge.

Tuesday afternoon, Betty Duke of Desdemona came played the electric keyboard and led singing for twelve residents and guests Johnnie B. Griffith and Nancy Hendricks.

Visiting were Ima Brown, Ruthie Porter, John and Georgia Lee Hopper of Georgetown, Vicki Seay, Daisy Slaton, Kathy Ervin and Billie

Bennett. On Wednesday morning, Tootie Campbell came and had chapel for sixteen residents. The topic was "Let Us kiss the Feet of Jesus," reading

Luke 7:36-50. Some guests were Connie Cate, Emmett and Kay Lasater, Larry and Colene Barnett of Wylie, Jason Killebrew and Judy Killebrew.

On Wednesday, R.A.s and G.A.s of First Baptist Church came and visited and gave each resident a Valentine. Leaders were Bobby Rich, Ashley Rich, Ed Rodgers, James and Ellen Tucker. R.A.s and G.A.s were Rachel Tucker, Taylor Bouchier, Rasha Rainey, Grace Ann Watson, Stephanie Rescenio, Rebecca Rainey, Carley Jackson, Courtney Shirley, Katie Nabors, Maressa Gillen, Alex Borrego, Ashley hare, Alaina Swanner, Cheyenne Gibbs, Kinsey Johnston, Britney Burns, Ally Little, Mallary May, Dakota Pacheco, Ethan May, Jordan Watson, Stetson Thompson, Austin Marlow, Hunter Childers, Rylan Laminack, Brice Campbell, Nathan Ettinger and Keifer Wilson. Residents sure appreciated the thoughtfulness.

Some visitors were Jimmy and Verna Lee Little of Eastland, Nell Files of Carbon, Ed Rodgers, Brent Lasater and Kathy Ervin.

Residents appreciated the Valentines from Kokomo Baptist Church. Some visitors were Jewel Morris and Bonnie Stewart of DeLeon, Annie Fay Foster, Pam Childers, Edith Grumbles, Lendon and Shirley Morgan of Garland, R.J. Hankins of Abilene.

Wednesday afternoon, Judy Killebrew, Jason Killebew and Ina Smith had 'crazy bingo' for a number of residents.

Recent guests were Don Landers of Springtown, Marjorie Treadway, and Ernestine Campbell of Carbon, Jerry Majors of DeLeon, Steve and

Derenda Menten. On Thursday morning, residents enjoyed 'reminiscing' and telling

about the good old days. Recent visitors were Paul and Pat Johnson of Lubbock, Clyde and DeSha Johnson of Stephenville, Kay Ann Craddock, Estelle Craddock,

Glenn and Nancy Lawless of DeLeon. Residents sent "Get Well Wishes" to Annie Fay Foster. Some visitors were Becky Moore, Emily Green and Monica Moore

Thursday noon was 'shake and make time' ice cream.

Kokomo News

By Zelda Jordan

I want to thank all who had concern for me and prayed for me during the time of my cataract surgery on my right eye on Tuesday at the Eye Institute in Abilene. The surgery went well, and I am seeing much better. I spent Monday and Tuesday nights in Abilene with my daughter and son-in-law, Glenda and Leon Black. I thank them, and all my family and friends for the love and care shown to me. The Lord fills my cup of blessings to overflowing every day.

"Victory In Jesus" was beautifully rendered at the Sunday morning service at the Kokomo Baptist Church by the Choir: Kay Snider, Aletha Burgess, Karen Patterson, Leona Wilson, Sylvia Buchanan, Helen Browning, Woodrow Browning, Joe Bond and Oren Webb with Daryl Hirst at the piano. Bro. Clarence Wilson's message was about the Old Rugged Cross and the Victory that Jesus Christ won for us while he was on the cross. Lara Jane Cooper of San Angelo was a visitor.

Those from the Kokomo Baptist Church going to Heritage Manor in Gorman for the Sunday afternoon church service were Bro. Clarence and Leona Wilson, Woodrow and Helen Browning, Joe Bond, Nancy Hendricks and Zelda Jordan.

February 27th will be Ministerial Student Day and a ministerial student from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene will be the speaker for the morning service at the Kokomo Baptist Church.

Lara Jane Cooper of San Angelo spent the weekend with her grandmother, Johnnie B. Griffith. Oren and Norma Webb met a granddaughter, Amanda Porter of Aus-

tin and her fiance', Jon Melde, in Elgin on Tuesday for lunch and a visit, Woodrow and Helen Browning were in Graham several days last week caring for their grandchildren, Leslie, Melanie and Garrett Gatlin while their parents, Gary and Donna Gatlin were away on a business trip. They also kept another granddaughter, Emily Browning some during the day,

and visited with Gary and Rebecca Browning.

Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

Several members of the First Baptist Church were in Dallas last Saturday night to attend the Gaither Family Singing Concert. They reported a good trip.

Ladies monthly social was held last Monday at the Desdemona Community Center. Hostesses were Evah Sparkman, Dorothy Roberts and Kristi Hughes. Twenty five ladies attended and enjoyed the good food and fellowship. The room was decorated with the Valentine theme. Several ladies from the Gorman area attended. One came from Stephenville.

James Ryon and Louise Maltby are having some health problems and they are in a Fort Worth hospital at this time. Remember them with your cards and prayers. Also others in our area on the sick list needs your prayers.

Bobbie McKillip enjoyed a trip to Abilene last Monday to have lunch with her cousin. They share the same birthday (25th) and enjoying this annual luncheon date together.

Remember the monthly musical in Desdemona on Saturday, February 26 at the Community Center. Concession stand will open at 5:30 p.m. Musicians, singers and visitors are welcome to attend.

Renee White of Stephenville enjoyed a visit with her mother, Gay Moore and others at the ladies monthly social last Monday.

Thought for today— "It's not the distance, but the direction you travel that counts."

Please contact this reporter with your weekly news. Thanks and have a good day, Vonnie.

Visitors with Nancy Hendricks were Elizabeth Vaughn, Johnnie B. Griffith, Zelda Jordan, Bertie Stacy, and Sylvia Buchanan.

Nancy Hendricks and Sylvia Buchanan had an early Valentine dinner with Doris Bradshaw on Sunday.

LaVon Snider had lunch in Stephenville on Thursday with Dwayne and Connie Snider. Danny Snider visited with LaVon.

Alvis and Bonnie Scitern visited with Larry and Betty Strube on Thursday. Bobby and Nina Koonce of Stephenville visited with Larry and Betty on Friday, and Billie Craddock of Sundown and Bob and Beverley Pharris of Haskell visited with them on Sunday.

Larry and Betty Strube visited with Delmon and Joyce Eaves on Thursday night.

The Kokomo-Simpson Cemetery Association Committee met on Thursday night at the Kokomo Community Center to discuss the needs of the cemetery and to plan for the annual meeting, which will be on the first Saturday in May. Those present for the meeting were Delmon Eaves, Bryan Lee Johnson, Larry Strube, Zelda Jordan, Norma Webb and Patsy and Pat Collins.

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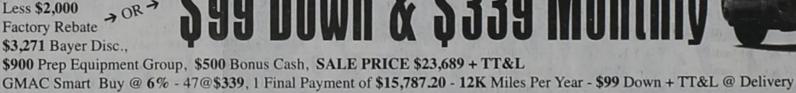
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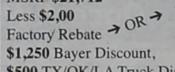
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