

The Gorman Progress

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Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

www.gormantexas.us - Official City of Gorman Website

NUMBER SIX

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Gorman Lions Club and Gorman 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. Congratulations 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

Lady Panthers Edge 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 out-scored 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 wheelchairs the first lap of Relay For Life, which symbolizes the courage survivors and their families sustain in their lives.

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 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

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

Contact David Guthery at 254-734-2836. Students—12 years old or older.

**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 division 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 Herrera 2nd place 181 lb division 585 total (season/career high)
Reba Grando 4th place 181 lb division 545 lb total (season/career high)
Summer Olvera 1st place 770 lb total (season/career high)

Boys:

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 lb total
Pete Ramirez 2nd place 198 lb division 1005 lb total
Seth Johnson 2nd place 275 lb division 900 lb total
J.T. Whitfill 1st place 275 lb division 1225 lb total

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.

Coach Tyson

Severe Weather Awareness Week March 6-12

The Division of Emergency 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 program 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

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	\$952,100
Added matching funds (cash only)	\$51,200
TOTAL GRANT IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,003,300 IN THREE YEARS

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 1/100th 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 public schools.

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 on what schools do right
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 begun practice and are working hard to ready themselves for the challenge. Out for this year's 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 21 st	TBA		
Fri/Sat	Feb 25 th / 26 th	Gorman Tourney		
		Gorman vs Perrin		10:00 am
		Goldthwaite vs Dublin		12:30 pm
		Gorman vs Dublin		3:00 pm
		Perrin vs Goldthwaite		10:00 am
		Perrin vs Dublin		12:30 pm
		Gorman vs Goldthwaite		3:00 pm
		Goldthwaite	There	4:30 pm
		Dublin	Here	4:30 pm
		Goldthwaite	Here	4:30 pm
Tuesday	March 1 st	TBA		
Tuesday	March 8 th	TBA		
Friday	March 11 th	*Eula	Here	4:30 pm
Tuesday	March 15 th	TBA		
Monday	March 21 st	TBA		
Thursday	March 24 th	*Eula	Here	4:30 pm
Friday	April 1 st	TBA		
Tuesday	April 5 th	*Albany	There	4:30 pm
Friday	April 8 th	*Ranger	Here	4:30 pm
Tuesday	April 12 th	*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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