

The Gorman Progress

2005 Member
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Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

NUMBER TWELVE

MARCH 31, 2005

Easter Treasure Hunt Rescheduled

Due to the weather, the annual Easter Treasure Hunt was cancelled on Saturday, March 26th. The Hunt has been rescheduled for this Saturday, April 2nd—weather permitting—2:00 p.m. at the City Park.

Floy F. Morrison Celebrates Her 105th Birthday

Floy F. Morrison, long time resident of this area before relocating to Lake Fork, continues to astound all concerned. She celebrated her 105th birthday Wednesday, March 30th.

Friends who would like to celebrate this landmark birthday may send cards or notes to 462 County Rd 1554, Alba, Texas 75410.

Floy, widowed twice, nursed in this area 47 years before retiring in 1975. She continues to live alone, near her son and daughter-in-law, Gene and Reta Crenshaw. She spends her time reading, quilting, crocheting, and looking forward to infrequent but cherished fishing trips. Many local residents will remember has and various fishing partners showing up with impressive fish to weigh, caught from locations they were not inclined to divulge.

A longtime member of the Church of Christ, she is presently a member of the Alba Church of Christ.

Her children include Norma Clute, Richardson, daughter of Horace Morrison; Patricia Harrington, daughter of Horace Morrison; Jo Underwood, deceased; Herbert L. Crenshaw, deceased; and James E. Crenshaw, Alba, all children of Leslie Felix Crenshaw.

There are seven grandchildren, two of whom are deceased; ten great grandchildren; and ten great-great grandchildren. She recently traveled to Rio Vista to spend the day with her most recent great-great grandchild and eagerly awaits the birth of twin girls, due in June. The great-great grandchildren keep on and on.

So does Floy. An in words that those who know and love her and those great-great grandchildren would applaud: You Go Girl!



Floy Morrison, 105 years old Wednesday, March 30, is pictured with some of her latest quilting.

Can Desdemona First Baptist Repeat Last Year's Revival

Pastor Gary Hughes says this years spring revival, April 10th thru April 13th, at Desdemona First Baptist Church will be even better than last years revival. "With Dustin Obanion from Bread of Life Ministries in Stephenville, preaching on Tuesday night, Trent Lowe from Lubbock Sunday at 6:00, Kent Battenfield from Lingleville Baptist on Sunday Morning, former country and western singer Shane Brooks, now

pastoring a 400 member church in Lubbock, preaching on Wednesday night, and the music being brought to you all week by the Howard family from Gorman, this line-up will pack the seats of the church from Sunday at 11:00am til 7:00 Wednesday night. Pastor Gary Hughes will bring the message Monday at 7:00." He goes onto say that last years revival was awesome. People got saved, rededicated lives and so many just want-

ed to pray for themselves or someone else. "We averaged 81 each night and this year we want to fill it up. We are pushing to get a 95 average every service April 10th thru the 13th. All we want is for people to realize it's not about their past. It's about right now and tomorrow, and at this revival they will realize that. Bro. Gary said, "Don't change clothes, don't dress up. Come the way you are and don't miss one single night of this life changing revival. It will be fun and exciting, and we are gonna be loud!"

Again, this revival is at Desdemona First Baptist starting Sunday morning at 11:00 with Kent Battenfield, Sunday night atm 6:00 with Trent Lowe, Monday 7:00 with Bro. Gary Hughes, Tuesday 7:00 with Dustin Obanion, and Wednesday at 7:00 with Bro. Shane Brooks, and the music all week by the Howard family. Other special music will be performed by Annette Cummings on Monday night and Tuesday night, Nelda Bartley on Monday night, and Shane Brooks sings and preaches on Wednesday night.

Come as you are and don't miss this April 10th thru the 13th at Desdemona First Baptist Church.

Gorman Grow Needs Help With Clean Up

The Gorman G.R.O.W. Committee needs the help of area residents with the annual clean up along Highway 6 this Saturday, April 2, 2005.

We will meet at the Community Center at 8 a.m. and then proceed to the area we clean up, just west of town.

If you can assist, please come and help!

Great State Trash Off Saturday, April. 2nd

It's that time of year again! The Great State Trash-Off sponsored by Keep Texas Beautiful will be held Saturday April 2.

Every spring the State of Texas and KTB encourage affiliates to get out and enjoy the spring air and clean up the highways of our great state! Gorman is fortunate in that there are nine organizations in our little community that have pledged to help do their part in keeping Gorman Beautiful! Those organizations are FFA/Livestock Raisers Assoc., First Baptist Church Youth, Birdsong Peanuts, Masons, Lions Club, GHS National Honor Society, Gorman GROW, 7th & 8th grade Science classes, and the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

If you know someone in one of these organizations, tell them THANK YOU and better yet, offer to help on the clean-up! It leaves a good feeling to help your community. Not to mention—some people have been known to find some pretty large sums of money!

If your group or organization cannot meet on that Saturday, please be sure and set another time either the week before or immediately after to do your section of highway. And please contact Lori Dodd at 734-3933 with the number of bags of trash you collected.

Eastland Co. Commissioners Court Called Meeting Slated

A called meeting of the Eastland County Commissioners' Court, has been called for April 5, 10 a.m. at the Eastland County Commissioners' Court Room. Discussion will be the County Judge's proposal for the Unit Road System.

Public is urged to attend.

Lady Panther Track News

Track season is up and running, and for the Lady Panthers it is going very well. The first meet of the year was one of victory. That is correct the ever so small, but well trained group of girls took home a championship from Cross Plains and did Gorman proud. The second meet of the year at Goldthwaite was also a giant success. The Lady Panthers took a second place finish home from a combined 2A/1A meet. The Panthers just this last Friday competed at Munday, Texas. This extraordinarily large meet was a great chance for the Lady Panthers to test themselves and to really drive them to push hard for district. "There are so many reasons we are having success this year, but the number one reason is that there is a desire to destroy mediocrity and reach for greatness," said Coach Tooley.

Girls Jr. High Track News

The Gorman girls junior high track team has had many obstacles in their way this season, from injuries to running with a small track team. "I would rather have the people that are willing to work out there, than to have a large group of people that take time away from those wanting to better themselves", said Coach Tooley.

Many of the team have found themselves in events that they would not have thought they could participate in, but belief has been born in many of the hearts of those trying. With only the district meet track meet left (April 5) in Cross Plains the Lady Cubs are sure to be giving their all in everything that they are a part of.

Support is a great thing to have, especially from the ones close to you, so come see the Lady Cubs in their final meet of the year.

Coach Tooley

Gorman Church of Christ Youth Group News

The Youth Group of the Gorman Church of Christ will present a special program on Wednesday night, March 30 at 7:00PM. The subject will be "Living With the Choices We Make." The lesson will center on the Old Testament character King Solomon. They will show through his life what a tremendous influence one person can make. Class members will also lead singing and lead the group in prayer. Visitors are always welcome to services of the church.

Jr. High Boys Track Meet Results

7th Boys

Shot Put - Clifton Lipson - 4th place with a throw of 31'6.5", Taylor Chew - 6th place with a throw of 31'5"

High Jump - Ernest Rodriguez - 4th place with a jump of 4'4", Taylor Chew - 6th place with a jump of 4'4"

400 Meter Relay - Taylor Chew, Clifton Lipson, Ernest Rodriguez, Tyler Johnson - 5th place with a time of 53.15 sec.

100 Meter Dash - Tyler Johnson - 3rd place with a time of 13.18 sec.

400 Meter Dash - Ernest Rodriguez - 3rd place with a time of 64.75 sec.

200 Meter Dash - Taylor Chew - 5th place with a time of 29.24 sec.

1600 Meter Relay - Taylor Chew, Clifton Lipson, Ernest Rodriguez, Tyler Johnson - 5th place with a time of 4:33.10 sec.

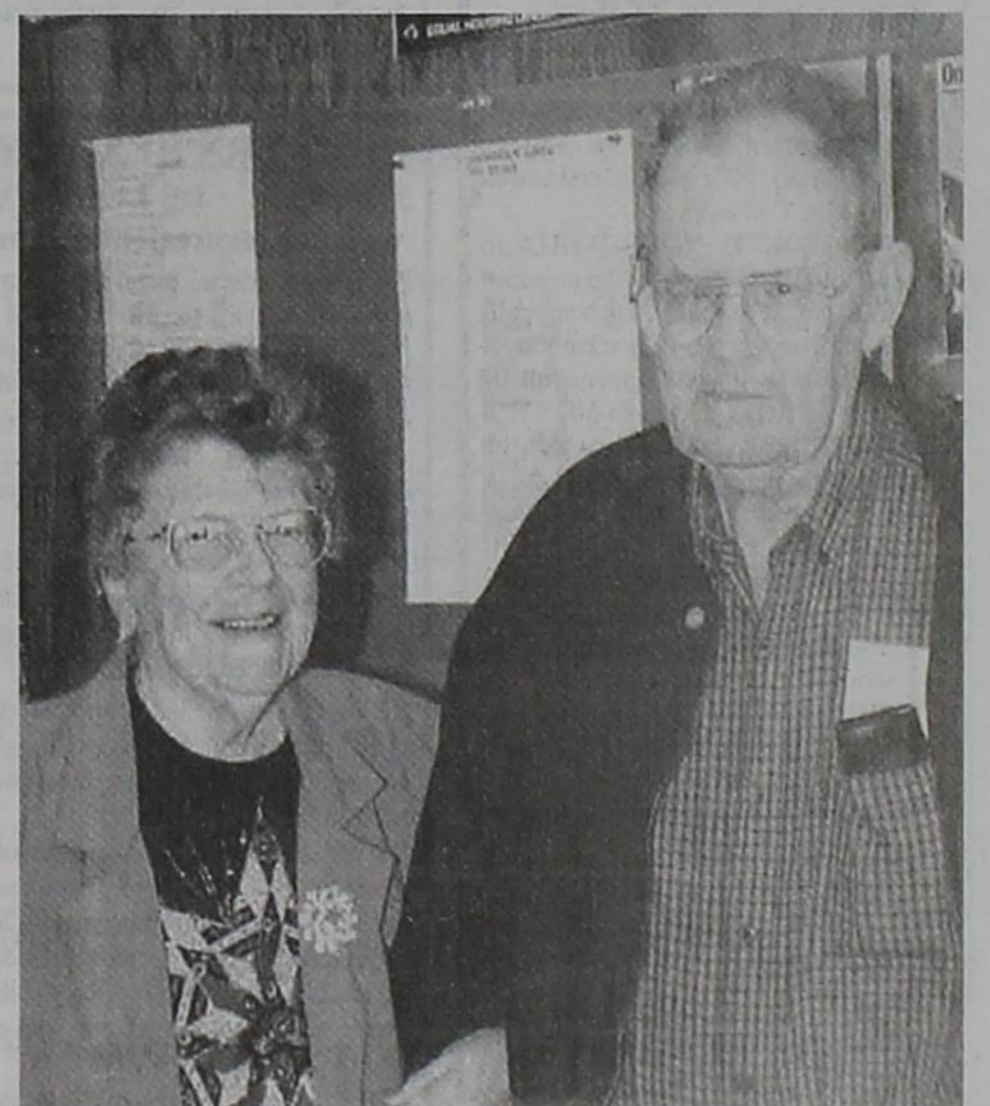
8th Boys

400 Meter Relay - Marc Gillen, Matt Underwood, Gabriel Burt, Martin Ramirez - 5th place with a time of 51.66 sec

200 Meter Dash - Matt Underwood - 3rd place with a time of 27.09 sec. ***The junior high track team will travel to Cross Plains on April 5 for the district track meet.

Coach Tooley

Happy 65th Anniversary For Elbert and Cora Lee Bennett



G.E. (Elbert) and Cora Lee Bennett married on Easter Sunday in 1940 and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on March 24, 2005. They have two children, Dwight Bennett and Sharon Jones, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They celebrated their anniversary with Dwight & Sharon and Elbert's brother and sister: Vernon Bennett and Betty Little.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

TIME BEGINS

Sunday Morning April 3rd



Kokomo News

By Zelda Jordan

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Easter with family and friends and was in a place of worship somewhere. It was an Easter day that I think we will all remember, if it snowed at your house. I was surprised to find the ground covered with snow when I got up on Sunday morning. It didn't linger long before it was all melted, but the cold wind continued all day. I can't remember it ever snowing on Easter Sunday before.

Easter Sunday was a good day at Kokomo. There was a large crowd at the Kokomo Baptist Church as many who came back to the community to visit with family attended the church services on Sunday morning. The visitors were Joe and Viki Miles of Austin, Glenda Black of Abilene, Sheri, Wade, Ryan, Kody, and Emily Daniell of Abilene, Judy and Sarah Porter, Amanda Porter and Tino and Scarlett Torres all of Austin, Jon Melde of Elgin, Donna, Gary, Lesley, Melanie and Garrett Gatlin and Gary, Rebecca and Emily Browning all of Graham, Randy, Deliah, Chris and Jon Lewis of Ennis, Bailey Underwood and Brylee Johnson of Gorman, George and Shirley Christie of Eastland and their grandson, Darren Christi of San Angelo, Dale, Kathy, Scott and Matt Collum of Huckabay, Terry, Arleen, Andrew, Jonathan, Michael and Lauren Barfield of Tyler, Stacy, LaDawn and Alexis Snapp of Lewisville, Doug and Carole Little of Midland, Karen Patterson of Eastland, Glenn, Donna, Reba and Seth Burgess of Jourdanton and Ben Burgess of Gorman, Haley Buckley of Desdemona, and Alan, Justin and Ally Little. Since there were many of the Little family in attendance together, they were asked to stand up and a large portion of one side of the congregation stood up. It is wonderful to see families attending church together. Little Michelle Snider was attending her first church service, (with her parents and big sister, Mike, Crystal and Rachel) and she got lots of attention. I hope that I haven't missed anyone, but if I have, please forgive me and be assured you were welcome.

Woodrow Browning directed the congregation as they sang the beautiful songs about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, with Helen Browning at the piano and Ruby Lee Kinser at the organ. Daryl Hirst rendered the special music, singing "It Is Finished". Bro. Clarence Wilson brought a very meaningful Easter message, reminding us that because Jesus Christ was resurrected from death and the grave, those who accept Jesus as Savior will have a new life.

Our thanks to Daryl and Cecilia Hirst for the beautiful Hydrangea plant arrangement and to Kelly Buchanan of West Columbia and his grandmother, Nancy Hendricks for the beautiful Easter Lily.

Following the church service, even though the cold wind was blowing, there was an egg hunt for the children in the churchyard. The children didn't seem to mind the cold wind as they ran about finding the bright colored eggs to put in their pretty Easter baskets, but it seemed pretty cold to some of the adults.

Deliah, Randy, Chris and Jon Lewis of Ennis spent the Easter weekend with her parents, Delmon and Joyce Eaves, and helped Delmon clean up some of the destruction of the burned shop. Kenneth Eaves of Eastland came on Saturday to help them.

Donna, Gary, Lesley, Melanie and Garrett Gatlin and Gary, Rebecca and Emily Browning of Graham spent the Easter weekend with their parents, Woodrow and Helen Browning.

Nelda and Jarad Fails of Arlington, Ray Neal and Melissa Little of Eastland and James, Jill, Ashley and Breckley Little of Lake Leon enjoyed an Easter visit with their parents and grandparents, Jimmy and Verna Lee Little on Saturday night.

Doug and Carole Little of Midland, Joe Little of Las Cruces, NM, and Karen Patterson of Eastland visited during the Easter holidays with their mother and grandmother, Betty Little.

Those visiting with Charles and Carolyn Little on Friday night were Caye, Scotty, Zack and Zane Mauney of Santo, Charla and Danny Burgess of Gorman, Alan, Shellie, Justin and Ally Little, Doug and Carole Little of Midland, Joe Little of Las Cruces, NM and Betty Little.

Arleen, Terry, Andrew, Jonathan, Michael and Lauren Barfield of Tyler, LaDawn, Stacy and Alexis Snapp of Lewisville visited during the Easter weekend with their parents and grandparents, Bobby and Mary Jane Little.

Visitors with Durwood and Aletha Burgess during the Easter weekend were Glenn, Donna, Reba and Seth Burgess of Jourdanton, Ben Burgess and a friend, Taylor of Gorman, Danny and Charla Burgess of Gorman, Angela, Jeff, Chelsea and Haley Buckley of Desdemona, and Aline Garrett of Gorman. On Sunday afternoon they all attended the annual Easter Egg hunt and hamburger cook-out at the home of Jeff and Angela Burgess along with many of the Buckley family.

Kelly and Tina Buchanan of West Columbia visited during the Easter weekend with his mother, Sylvia Buchanan. Others visiting with them were Billy, Laura, Lucas and Joseph Eppler of Wylie, Tina's Dad, Charlie Sisson of Stephenville, Nancy Hendricks and Laneta Freeman.

Beverley and Bob Phariss of Haskell visited with Larry and Betty Strube on Saturday. Johnnie B. Griffith visited with a sister-in-law, Hattie Griffith of Forsan and some of her family who were spending the weekend at their Lake Leon home.

Those visiting with Oren and Norma Webb during Easter were Judy and Sarah Porter, Tino and Scarlett Torres and Amanda Porter all of Austin, Jon Melde of Elgin, James, Jantzen and Chelsea Webb of Granbury, Jacob Webb of Burleson, Alice Bergmark and Steven Bergmark of Comanche, Randall, Kaci, Aaron and Kaelee Suniga and Chad and Kish Suniga all of Comanche.

Those enjoying dinner on Easter Sunday with Gene and Kay Snider were Kathy, Dale, Scott and Matt Collum of Huckabay, Mike, Crystal, Rachel and Michelle Snider of Gorman, and Dwayne and Connie Snider of Stephenville.

Those visiting with Nancy Hendricks were Kelly and Tina Buchanan of West Columbia, and Billy, Laura, Joseph and Lucas Eppler of Wylie.

Those visiting with Joe, Barbara and Michael Fields on Easter were Caylea and Jamie Thomas of Gorman, Lisa Fields of Abilene and Richard and Teresa Nachtigall of Morgan Mill.

John and Troy Scitern, Alvis and Bonnie Scitern, Louise Tinkler of Abilene, Faye Scitern of Gorman and Carolyn and Gene Foster of Gorman attended the funeral of a cousin, Shorty Treadway in Ranger on Wednesday.

Alvis and Bonnie Scitern visited with John and Troy Scitern on Sunday. Zelda Jordan spent a few days last week in Abilene with Glenda and Leon Black, and underwent cataract surgery on her left eye at the Eye Institute of Abilene on Friday, and is thrilled to be able to see so well without glasses. Glenda, Sheri, Ryan, Kody and Emily Daniell and Zelda did some shopping and also visited with Loyd and Gail Daniell. On Friday night, Glenda and Leon and Zelda met Wade and Sheri and family at the Golden Corral for dinner.

Glenda Black of Abilene, and Joe and Viki Miles of Austin spent the weekend with Zelda Jordan and they

enjoyed dinner at ZJ's on Saturday night, and while there enjoyed a short visit with Neal and Joyce Gilbert of Katy. Wade, Sheri, Ryan, Kody and Emily Daniell of Abilene came for an Easter visit on Sunday with Zelda, Glenda and Joe and Viki.

When I got home from Abilene on Saturday there was four inches of rain in the rain gauge. I understand there was quite a thunderstorm came through the community on Friday night.

Gorman Student Accepted Into People To People Academic Program

Miles Vann, a student at Gorman Independent School District, has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum. Miles Vann will join a select group of students in Washington, D.C., April 4-10, 2005 to earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring some of our nation's most prominent monuments and institutions.

From Capitol Hill to the Smithsonian Institute, and from Colonial Williamsburg to the National Museum of American History, Vann will examine the characteristics of American leadership during times of national challenge and prosperity. Forum delegates will also participate in small-group discussions and exercises to experience first-hand how successful leaders develop strategies, make decisions, build consensus, and foster change.

Miles Vann was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

The program is coordinated by People to People Student Ambassador Programs to fulfill the vision Dwight D. Eisenhower had for fostering world citizenship when he founded People to People during his presidency in 1956.

Minutes (Draft) Special Meeting GISD

March 28, 2005

Invocation: Jeff Seaton

Quorum Present:

Bobby Rich, Jeff Seaton, Melinda Harrington, Mark Simmons

Absent-Beth Underwood (illness)

Others Present: Leslie Vann, Mary Reeves

Visitors Present: Sue Spivey, Laneta Freeman, David Freeman, Lisa Laminack, Betty Heathington, Gene Smith, Kenneth Heathington

Pledge of Allegiance

Election Judge:

Mr. Vann informed the Board that Mrs. Pam Childers declined to serve as the election judge and due to the complaint letters issued to the board by Gene Smith and David Freeman at the last meeting. Mr. Vann presented two names, G. W. Maxfield and Bob Powell, to the board as recommendation for the election judge position.

Bobby Rich stated that in addition to Mrs. Childers's declining the appointment, the decision to pursue other individuals for the election judge position was made to avoid addition legal counsel fees. He stated that over the past two years GISD has paid \$20,397.40 in legal counsel fees addressing issues raised by various visitors present at the meeting.

Jeff Seaton moved that the GISD Board appoint G. W. Maxfield as the election judge and Bob Powell as the assistant election judge. Seconded by Melinda Harrington. Vote 4-0

Personnel:

(1) Mark Simmons moved that the board approve the contracts for the East End Special Education Cooperative as presented. Seconded by Melinda Harrington. Vote 4-0

(2) Mark Simmons moved that the Board approve Mr. Vann's recommendation to employ Mary Reeves as the Elementary Principal for 2005-2006. Seconded by Jeff Seaton. Vote 4-0. Following the vote Jeff Seaton commented on outstanding job Mrs. Reeves had done as a teacher.

Adjourned: 7:15 pm

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<p>2005 Chevrolet Colorado</p> <p>2WD LS Crew Cab- Silver Birch Metallic</p> <p>Stock #5136D</p>  <p>MSRP - \$26,585.00 Rebate - \$3,000 Fullen Disc. - \$1,990</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$21,595</p> <p>+ TT&L</p>	<p>2005 Chev. Trailblazer</p> <p>Stock #5924A Summit White</p>  <p>MSRP - \$32,300.00 Rebate - \$4,000 Fullen Disc. - \$2,550</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$25,750</p> <p>+ TT&L</p>

Photos Of Vehicles Are File Copies

Articles Of Interest To Local Area

To All the Taxpayers of Eastland County Precinct 1, Precinct 2, Precinct 3, Precinct 4

Recently the County Judge wanted to adopt the Unit Road system Section "252.301" by the Texas Transportation code. He brought this to Commissioners Court as an agenda item.

The entire Commissioners Court did reject this proposal, and unanimously voted "no" on this proposal "4 to 0." The reason for this unanimous vote of "no" by all four commissioners was to stand up and voice the opinion of the taxpayers of Eastland County.

We, the Commissioners, and you, the taxpayer, do not want to lose control and our voice in our local County Government.

We all have the best system in County Government that is available. You have four full time Commissioners that work hard to have and protect your tax dollars, and voice your concerns and opinions. We do not want to jeopardize this standard of protection.

We four Commissioners are always on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week for you. If you have a concern or a problem you have the comfort of knowing that you may call us anytime to get your problems resolved in a quick and professional time and manner.

The Unit Road System is for a rich county, not a poor retirement town such as Eastland County. You have a lot of money to switch to this unit road system in order to try to make it work. A lot of money is not something that Eastland County has a lot of.

First of all, all the used equipment has to be sold and new equipment must be purchased and on a five year buy back program. Which means every five years the taxpayer incurs a bigger deficit on equipment that will never be paid for and you will always be making payments on this equipment.

Second, the number of equipment as well as employees for road and bridge will be cut at least in half, which means it will take more time to blade and fix the roads. Less project on roads will get done. The County roads will suffer greatly and get worse.

Your County Judge proposes to put all the money in our Precinct for the whole year and provide no money for the other three precincts for that year, and rotate that system every year. Which would mean a precinct will receive all the money and upkeep that year but would do without any money for the next three years.

Third, all the County barns would be sold and one "new," "Big," county Barn would be built that is centrally located for the use of road and bridge. This would be another debt incurred by the taxpayer.

Fourth, the Commissioners salary would be cut in half or may be paid a very small amount to attend the meetings and would be called as needed, and/or placed behind a desk in the courthouse, which means one room and four desks for all four commissioners.

Fifth, the Commissioners cannot personally talk to road crews nor can they tell them what to do. "This creates another layer of bureaucracy between the commissioners and the people."

Sixth, will also have "prioritized work orders." Which means a list of all projects would be made. Each project will be brought to Commissioners Court and voted on to do them or not to do them. If the project is voted "yes" to do it. It would then come back to Commissioners Court where a blue print would be made and a price estimate established of how much money would be spent on this project. If it is voted "yes" again, it would be placed on the project list. Once a project is placed on the list it cannot be done until its turn. Which means if it is 10 years down on the list it will not be done until it is its turn. You cannot bump a project up the list.

Seventh, an engineer foreman must be employed by the County as the road administrator who is in charge and responsible for all the road work to be done. He must be a licensed professional engineer and meet TxDOT qualifications: Administrator must be experienced in road building and maintenance. "Which means" he would be paid a very large salary. "And is not elected by the taxpayers."

Eighth, the Unite Road System would work just like a union. Each employee would be assigned to one piece of equipment and that one piece of equipment is all that he is allowed to operate. A mechanic/service man would have to be hired to fix and service all equipment. He would be a full time employee.

Ninth, the number of constables and JPs would be cut in half and placed in the courthouse as well as eliminating the treasurer office.

Tenth, many counties that tried the Unit Road System could not make it work. And after the devastating unrecovery had to go through the same voting process to return back to the elected Commissioner System that we currently have now. And this means that they have a larger deficit now than they had before.

So yes, we did our job and voted responsibly in the taxpayers behalf. Eleventh, all problems and concerns of the taxpayer would have to come through the Commissioners Court to be resolved.

Twelfth, with your four full time elected commissioners you do have representation and someone who cares and will fix any of your problems, "because you, the taxpayer means a lot to us." This is something that you will not have with part time commissioners.

There is more information available that will be released at a later time. We, the Commissioners, appreciate your support on this issue.

Sincerely,
Wayne Honea
Eastland County Commissioner
Precinct 1

Article taken from *Eastland Telegram*, Sunday, March 27, 2005

County Road Superintendent: Is This Right For Eastland County?

The Editor recently requested in his editorial we concisely state our positions on the Unit Road System proposed for Eastland County.

On February 14, 2005, I asked the Commissioner's Court to place this issue on the ballot next November so that you "the voters" could make that decision. On a 4-0 vote, with little discussion or consideration, the Commissioners rejected the request to let the voters have an opportunity to vote on the issue.

It doesn't have to end there. It is within your power and control to take the next step, to circulate a petition by registered voters from Eastland County to place the issue on a ballot.

Only after the proposal has been studied, debated and finally voted upon by our county taxpayers with this question be settled.

I can only tell you what I believe after years of study and contemplation on this proposal. Simply stated, the function of County Government has changed in unimaginable ways since the mid 1800's, when our state Constitution was formed.

I suggest you travel any of the 700 miles of county roads in Eastland County and think you will agree, we could, and should do better.

Sit through the County's annual budget process and I think you will agree that we could and should do a better job of allocating your tax dollars.

Under the current system, our Commissioners are responsible for managing four separate road crews and four separate stashes of equipment supported by an inadequate budget to do an adequate job. This facet of the job requires specific skill and experience to be qualified to deal with the significant task.

The second part of a commissioner's job is budgetary control and administration of county finances. Once again, this portion of the job requires specific experience, skill and training, no always commensurate with the primary function of road maintenance.

Remember that the county budget funds the judiciary, law enforcement, county jail, indigent health care, emergency services (ambulance, fire and dispatch) records management, tax assessment, collection and many other services, which are critical to the citizens of our County.

It is my belief that the citizens and taxpayers would be better served if we hired one qualified road superintendent and elected four part time business minded Commissioners.

Reallocation of the Road and Bridge budget, disposing of duplicate and under utilized equipment/facilities and consolidation of the road crews would result in freeing up \$238,000.00 for better roads and offsetting unfunded mandates from Washington and Austin.

Let me make this final point. Under this system, you will not lose your Commissioner or representation. You will gain a qualified road engineer or superintendent with a budget more amenable to performing the required and complex task. The Constitution requires representation by precinct on the Commissioners' Court. The Road Superintendent is under the budgetary and management controls of the Commissioners' Court and may be fired or hired by the Court.

Please seriously consider this proposal. If you want it, Great! If you don't that's fine too. However, we need to look at every serious option that will provide better service and offset our increasing tax burden.

In future letters, I will lay out a comparison of this year's budget and my proposal of what the budget would look like if we currently operated under this new system.

If you are interested in circulating or signing this petition to vote on this issue, please contact my office at 629-1263.

Sincerely,
Brad Stephenson
Eastland County Judge

The Unit Road System, Not For Eastland County Response to article by County Judge

If you will read the minutes of the February 14th Commissioner's Court meeting, you will see the Commissioners voted 4-0 against the Unit Road System and would let the people decide if necessary. I said I believe the people in my precinct are against the Unit Road System and until they showed me otherwise, I would fight against it. I ask that you not sign any petition for the Unit Road system, and if it should come to a vote, please save what we still have left, vote NO.

We have already lost a lot of things in the southern part of the county. Gorman no longer has a Justice of the Peace or a Constable. When the current County Judge took office, he lead the Commissioners to believe that it was not legal for an individual precinct to have a reserve fund, where di the money go? Before this happened, if one precinct fell short another helped out, no budget amendment. The precincts now all work together on big projects.

If you centrally locate all equipment and personnel, it will take more than one hour just to get to parts of the county, how much fuel and labor to install one culvert?

Precinct 3 has approximately 300 miles of county roads, 5 motorgraders and operators. This figures out to 60 miles per motorgrader of this ratio we cannot grade all roads before the moisture is gone. We used to have 6 motorgraders and operators, which allowed us to do a much better job. If you scale back to 12 motorgraders for 700 miles of county roads, when will your road get graded?

Unfunded mandates, growing cost of operations, along with wanting things to be 1st class have all grown out of control, but let's not sacrifice Road and Bridge to bail something else out.

If we lose our precinct's barns, land equipment and Commissioner's overseeing the upkeep of our roads, we will not get it back.

I ask for your support, don't let the Unit Road System happen in Eastland County.

Thank you,
Bill Underwood
Eastland County Commissioner
Precinct #3

Photos Of Girls Softball



Kendra Swanner - Pitcher shown with Ashlee Hornback and Brandy Carlton



First Base - Ashlee Hornback

"Freddie and his Gang" Visit the Gilberts



Jack Gilbert, grandson of Neal and Joyce Gilbert of Houston arrived in Gorman for an Easter visit only to find a yard full of pink flamingos at the home of his aunts, Carolyn Gilbert and Floydene Gilbert. After cheerfully making a contribution to Allie and Kaylee, daughters of Tiffany Troutman, the Flamingo removal service relocated the flock of birds.

"Freddie the Pink Flamingo and his Gang" are part of a fund raising effort of the Cancer Crusaders of Gorman. The proceeds of this effort will benefit the American Cancer Society. Allie and Kaylee's grandmother, Cherry Troutman, part of the Cancer Crusaders, received the donation from Jack this weekend. If you would like "Freddie and his Gang" to make a stop in your yard, call 734-2668.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FREE CLOTHING STORE - Bride of Christ Church - Every 3rd Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. and Every 3rd. Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m.

FOOD BANK

New Hours - 10 - 11:00 a.m.
Second Thursday

Boy Scouts

Meeting Week
Tuesdays — 6:30 p.m.
Methodist Church

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.

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT - THIRD WEDNESDAY - APRIL 20TH FROM 9 - 12 NOON.

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. Bob Wilkerson, Master — Pat Moseley, Secretary.

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

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS — Blood Pressure Checks by Heritage Manor of Gorman. Every Wednesday at Senior Citizens at 11:00 a.m. Other week at Gorman Hotel at 10:30 a.m.

Gorman Oaklawn Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or In Honor of someone, please send to Aline Garrett, P O Box 711, Gorman, Texas 76454, or American State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454.

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