

The Gorman Progress

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Eastland Co. Judge Reports On New Years Day Fire and Relief Efforts

As all of you are aware, the New Year came in with a blaze that burned nearly 40,000 acres in Southern Eastland County. 42 families lost their homes with over 120 outbuildings totally destroyed. Over one hundred head of livestock were killed or injured and 60-square miles of fence were damaged or destroyed. Many other residences were damaged and the community of Kokomo was devastated by the loss of the Church and Community Center.

Thankfully, there were no deaths and no serious injuries directly attributable to the fire.

I sincerely thank with all my heart, the emergency services personnel who worked so hard to evacuate people in harms way. There were 41 different agencies involved in fighting this fire and the citizens of our County will be eternally grateful for their heroic efforts.

I also wish to thank our local, state and national representatives for their prompt response to the suffering surrounding this fire and the fires in our neighboring counties.

For the citizens of Eastland County who have been affected by this fire, we are working closely with State, Federal and charitable entities to bring all resources possible to your aid.

On January 2nd, Governor Perry declared a State emergency which affected grand funds to offset the cost of fighting the fire.

On January 11, 2006, President Bush issued a Federal Disaster Declaration which clears the way for Public Assistance for all 254 Counties in Texas and individual assistance in nine specific counties, including Eastland and Callahan Counties.

In addition, Congressman Neugebauer is spearheading efforts to obtain resources through USDA to help with livestock and fence replacement issues.

I urge each person or family who has suffered a loss from this tragic event to register for assistance by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (or 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing impaired or speech impaired).

The FEMA Mobile Recovery Center will be in Cross Plains early next week with plans to be in Eastland County beginning Friday, January 20 at the Carbon Community Center. There is a possibility that a FEMA Community Relations Team will be here to distribute information as early as this Saturday.

A Town Hall Resource Meeting is scheduled for Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Carbon Community Center. All interested or affected parties are encouraged to attend.

For more details, please track future new releases in this paper and on KEAS 97.7 FM radio.

Again, thanks to all who have responded to the needs of those suffering from this event. It's times like these, that I am most proud to

live in this great county, in the greatest State in the Union, in the greatest Country in the History of the World. Even more, to have God looking after us, especially when we suffer.

Please, do not hesitate to contact my office at 254-629-1263 if you have questions or need assistance.

LOCAL GOVT. ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY NEEDS COUNTY JUDGES OFFICE - 254-629-1263.

Personal Insurance Provider Housing Assistance - 1. Temporary Housing - 2. Repairs - 3. Replacement - 4. Permanent Housing - 1-800-621-FEMA.

SBS Disaster Loans - Homeowners/Personal Property/Business Representatives will be in County soon.

Carolyn Bolt Announces Candidacy For County Clerk

I, Carolyn Bolt, want to be your County Clerk. I announce this plainly and with a positive spirit. As most of you know, I have spent many years in dealing with the public, and have worked in organizations both large and small. I know what it's like to operate in a political environment, in which the players on all sides of an issue may feel passionately, speak forcefully and yet can still

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Emergency Farm Loan Applications Being Accepted

"Applications for emergency farm loans caused by extreme wildfire threat that occurred on December 1, 2005, and continuing,"

"Eastland is one of 9 primary counties in Texas recently named by the President of the United States eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting

from extreme wildfire threat that occurred on December 1, 2005, and continuing."

Richard G. Young said, "Farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 100% of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agricultural business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest is 3.75 percent."

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for a FSA emergency loan," Richard G. Young said. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to figure in proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

"Applications for loans under the emergency designation will be accepted until September 11, 2006 but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season," Richard G. Young said.

FSA is a credit agency of the United State Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who meet U. S. citizen requirements and to farming partnerships, corporations or co-operatives in which U. S. citizenship requirements are met by holding a majority interest.

The FSA office in Anson is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Fish Fry For Nichola Files

Nichola Files, wife of David Files, mother of three small children, is taking treatment for cancer at M. D. Anderson in Houston. Nichola and David lost almost all of their worldly possessions including their home in the grass fire that struck the Carbon area on January 1, 2006.

A group has banded together to sponsor a Fish Fry for Nichola's Medical Expenses on January 19, 2006 at Carbon Community Center. Fish will be fried by 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the Fish Fry will last as long as the fish holds out.

Your Donation at the door will be your ticket to the Fish Fry. Please come.

Panthers Win First Place/Lady Panthers Win Second In 4th Powerlifting Meet



Back Row: Martin Ramirez, Matt Underwood, David Ibarra, Seth Johnson, Armando Giles, Tyson Swanner, Orlando Rodriguez, Coach Gerick, Paul Burt, Aaron Keith, Gabe Burt. Front Row: Codi Church, Matthew Cogburn, Zach Bryan, Pete Ramirez, Daniel Shirley, and Colby Spivey.

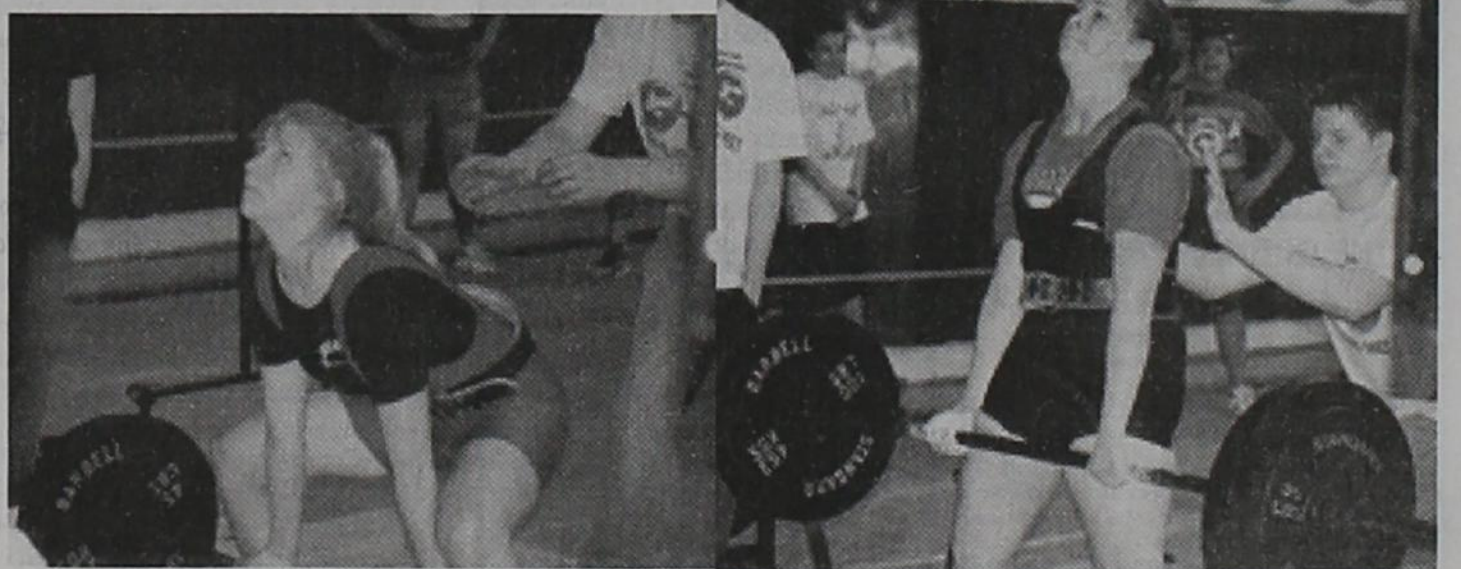


Lady Panthers - Nikki Keith, Rosa Herrera, Kendra Swanner, Sharla Perez, Tecia Jones, April Keaton, with Coach Tyson

The Gorman Powerlifting Teams began their season this week at home as Gorman hosted the 4th Annual Gorman Powerlifting Meet. It proved to be a successful day as the Gorman Boys' Team took 1st place overall with 27 points among the 9 boys' teams present. The Lady Panthers took second overall with a total of 21 points among the 8 girls' teams in attendance.

The Panthers had 15 lifters compete in the meet which is the most lifters we can remember ever having lift. Taking first place finishes were Seth Johnson who totaled 1035lbs in the 275 division, Zachary Bryan who totaled 945lbs in the 198 class, and Daniel Shirley who totaled 705lb in the 123 class. Panthers who placed and received medals were: Colby Spivey 123 class 500lb total 3rd place; Aaron Keith 148 class 720lb total 4th place; Pete Ramirez 181 class 1020lb total 4th place; David Ibarra 181 class 985lb total 5th place; Gabe Burt 148 class 705lb total 5th place; Other Panthers who placed were: Tyson Swanner 132 class 500lb total 7th place; Orlando Rodriguez 148 class 670lb total 6th place; Martin Ramirez 148 class 605lb total 7th place; Matt Underwood 148 class 595lb total 8th place; Paul Burt 165 class 720lb total 9th place; Other Panthers who competed were: Codi Church and Matthew Cogburn

The Lady Panthers had 6 lifters in the meet and here are their results: Rosa Herrera 181 class 610lb total 2nd place; Kendra Swanner 165 class 660lb total 2nd place; Nikki Keith 132 class 530lb total 2nd place; Sharla Perez 123 class 545lb total 2nd place; April Keaton 123 class 360 total 5th place; Tecia Jones



The following girls set meet records on Saturday with their performances: Tecia Jones set the record in the 105 class squat at 140 lbs and the deadlift at 190lbs.; Sharla Perez set the meet record in the 123 class bench at 125 lbs.; Nikki Keith set the record in the 132 class deadlift with a lift of 255lbs.; Kendra Swanner set the meet record in the 165 class deadlift with a lift of 315 lbs.

Boys' Team Standings: 1. Gorman 27 points, 2. Hamilton 24, 3. Santo 22, 4. Perrin 18, 5. Strawn 15, 6. Eastland 10, 7. Kopperl 7, 8. Evant 5, 9. Goldthwaite 1

Girls' Team Standings: 1. Santo 42 points, 2. Gorman 21, 3. Goldthwaite 13, 4. Perrin 12, 5. Sidney 12, 6. Eastland 9, 7. Evant 7, 8. Hamilton 0

The Gorman Powerlifting Teams will be traveling to Clyde this Saturday with lifting beginning around 9:00 am.

The rest of the schedule looks like this:

January 21st Clyde
February 4th Perrin
February 25th Strawn (last qualifiers meet)

January 28th Dublin
February 11th Winters

March 4th Girls' Region I Championships in Abilene at McMurry University

March 11th Boys' Region I Div II/III Championships at Brownfield

March 17th/18th Girls' State Championships at Killeen (Convention Center)

March 24th/25th Boys' State Championships at Aldine

EDITOR'S NOTE: More News Next Week on The Panthers and Lady Panthers of the Week Award Photo and Basketball Ball News which did not make the paper this week. Also the Honor Roll and interesting news will be in next week.

Sorry About That!

Eastland County Vol. Fire Depts. Benefit and Dance Set Jan. 29th

Eastland County Volunteer Fire Departments will hold an Benefit and Dance on Sunday, January 29th at 2:00 p.m. til 9:00 p.m. at the Ranger Rodeo Grounds. \$5.00 Donation - All proceeds go to the Fire Departments of Eastland County.

Live Entertainment is planned with Door Prizes. Live Auction with auctioneer Danny Burgess. Food available for Purchase.

Live Music featuring: Robert Weeks, Brandy Weeks, Raymond Proctor, Jim Snyder, Kelly Spinks & Miles of Texas, Jerry Webb, Jimmy Fincher, Joe Paul Clark and Other Special Guests!! Master of Ceremonies will be Mr. Roger Terrell.

For more information, contact Bonnie (Weeks) Pagitt at 254-629-8834 - Robert Weeks (903) 372-1399 or Rebekah Weeks (806)239-1173.

Eastland County Livestock Show Slated January 18-21

Thursday, January 19, 2006

8:00 am - Beef Cattle
10:00 am - Dairy Cattle
11:00 am - Broilers
1:00 pm - Breeding Swine
3:00 pm - Market Swine

Friday, January 20, 2006

8:00 am - Dairy Goats
9:00 am - Angora Goats
10:00 am - Breeding Sheep
11:00 am - Market Lambs
2:30 pm - Meat Goats (market followed by breeding)

Saturday, January 21, 2006

9:00 am - Rabbits (market followed immediately by breeding)
4:00 pm - Buyers Banquet
6:00 pm - Auction and Presentation of Awards

FEMA Representatives

To Be Carbon on January 20th and 21st
from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
At Carbon Community Center
For Wildfire Victims Assistance Hearings.

