



PAW PRINTS



Granger School News

November/December 2009

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Granger, Texas 76530

The Lions Run to San Antonio

BY JOSH DEWS

The Granger Cross Country Team had three of their runners advance to the 1A UIL Regional Cross Country Meet at the University of Texas in San Antonio.

The three competitors, Pedro Juarez, Brianna Billingsley, and Esteban Payan, were among the best in their district and were ready to run.

"I am extremely proud of the team," said Head Coach Ernest Valdez. "All the hard work they put in showed at regionals."

Billingsley, Juarez and Payan finished 15th, 27th and 62nd respectively. These were the best individual finishes by Granger runners in the past five years.

"It was amazing to run with other athletes who share our passion," said Billingsley. "I'm really proud of how well we did."

The Lions finished this year strongly. They finished fourth as a team in the district meet to qualify for the regional meet.

"Coach Valdez told me that hard work, never quitting and having fun will always pay off," said Juarez. "It was an honor to run for him."

Granger Fathers Join Program, Strong Fathers, Strong Families

BY BRIANNA BILLINGSLEY

November 6 was more than just a typical school day for pre-k through sixth grade students. It was bring-your-father-to-school day.

Fathers participated in an educational presentation about being an active parent. Cindy Butler organized the day's events by scheduling speaker, Steve Durand, of the program, Strong Fathers, Strong Families.

"Our purpose is to get fathers in a place where they can become stronger partners in their child's education," said Durand.

Strong Fathers, Strong Families has sold their purpose to more than 40,000 fathers in the last eight years.

"Children need an involved dad," said Durand. "When they are involved, their children have a better likelihood to do better in school."

The program was started by a former middle school principal, Michael Hall, who saw a need for a program like this.

"We had a thirty percent turnout," said Butler. "That is excellent because usually parent days only have a ten percent turnout."

About 50 fathers gathered in the cafeteria to hear Durand. They were able to speak up during the many open discussions.

"I had never attended anything like this. It was very neat," said father Tom Kroeker. "It's awesome that they're promoting more father involvement."

Fathers were also able to interact with each other during certain activities. One activity had them throwing rubber chickens at one another in a circle to learn each others' names.

"It is great that they had parents interacting with one another," said grandfather James P. Kaderka.

Before entering the cafeteria, fathers were able to tour their children's classrooms and meet their teachers.

"It felt like a big festival of fathers," said fifth grader Katlyn Pison.

Butler plans to provide a follow-up presentation with Strong Fathers, Strong Families in the future.

"I love my daddy," said fifth grader Paige Pearson, "and I hope he comes back to school soon."

Happy Holidays and Good Cheer in the New Year

Families Gobble Up Thanksgiving Lunch

BY BRIANNA BILLINGSLEY

On November 19, elementary students in paper Indian feather hats, and the students' families overran the Granger School cafeteria.

"It is a holiday for loving and having fun with others," said second grader Lee Ryder. "It is interesting to have Thanksgiving dinner with classmates instead of my family."

Teachers, students, family members, and most importantly, friends, gathered for a Thanksgiving celebration.

"This is a great time for families to come together," said fourth grade teacher Mrs. Terwilliger.

Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, bread and jam, stuffing, and a dessert pumpkin crunch were all on the menu.

"I like pumpkin pie and gravy," said first grader Rhett Huebner. "and I love spending time with my mommy."

This annual tradition of Granger School invites parents of children in all grades to come and feast with their children.

"We are excited about the turnout," said Elementary Principal Ike Ramos. "With busy schedules, not everyone can come together, and that's what makes this a special event."

This special event will continue to be enjoyed by families and friends for future Thanksgivings.

"The food is delicious," said parent Wendy Levine. "I look forward to it every year."

Lions Honored in District

BY LORENA LIZARDO

Multiple Granger Lion players received All-District honors in District 26-A. This list includes these fourteen players:

- Alex Cruz - Newcomer of the Year
- 1st Team Defense:
- Kyle Janke- Defensive Lineman
- Colton Mazoch- Linebacker
- Cameron Schneider- Linebacker
- Andrew Aleman- Punter
- 1st Team Offense:
- Andrew Aleman- Running Back
- 2nd Team Defense:
- Heston Luersen- Defensive Lineman
- Jaron Davis- Linebacker
- Juan Torres- Defensive Back
- 2nd Team Offense:
- Colton Mazoch- Offensive Lineman
- Nels Scott- Receiver

Honorable Mention:

- Buck Outlaw- Offensive Lineman
- Josh Dews- Receiver
- Joel Sifuentes- Running Back
- Academic All-District:
- Pedro Juarez- Receiver
- Cameron Schneider- Tight End
- Lorenzo Lizardo- Running Back
- Nels Scott- Running Back
- Heston Luersen- Offensive Lineman

Mrs. Latouf's active learners win Best Attendance Trophy for Term 2 by coming to school ready to learn. Join the action, grow smart.



PAGE 2

Paw Prints

November/December 2009

S P O R T S

The Seniors Leave Their Mark

BY JOSH DEWS

This month's football athlete of the month isn't just one athlete. It's the entire group of seniors that roam the gridiron.

These seniors are Dylan Springfield, Josh Dews, Buck Outlaw, Heston Luersen, Cameron Schneider, Jaron Davis, Kyle Janke, Pedro Juarez, Jose Santillan, Lorenzo Lizardo, Jonathan Johnson, and Justin Barrow.

"I've gotten nothing but effort and work out of this group," said Head Coach Allen

Dews. "They always gave it their best during all four years."

These seniors have been through it all. Their freshman year, they were on a Granger team that had an 8-4 record and advanced two rounds deep in the playoffs.

"When I came here, I played football to get used to Granger," said Springfield.

"There wasn't a better way to do this than to play with these boys."

During their sophomore year, they were a part of a team that went undefeated in district play. They advanced through the playoffs before losing in the state semifinal game.

"It's always been a blast playing with

these boys," said Outlaw. "No matter what sport it is, they make it fun."

In their junior season, the Lions finished at 4-7, got a playoff berth, but lost in the first round.

"It was really fun playing with the same people all the way through high school," said Luersen.

This season, the Lions finished with a final record of 1-9, but were competitive in almost all of the games they lost.

"This group of seniors is better than their record shows," said Coach Dews. "They never gave up at any point in the season."

Even though this group of senior boys

has been on a tough roller coaster ride, many good things have come out of it.

"They represented themselves well while winning and losing," said Coach Dews. "They showed class at all times."



The Lady Lions Roar Through Volleyball Playoffs

BY LORENA LIZARDO

On November 10, the Lady Lions traveled to New Braunfels to play Utopia in the area playoff game.

"I was excited to be in the playoffs, and I knew we could take Utopia down," said varsity player Morgan Repa.

The ladies won the first game with a score of 25-22, lost the second game 19-25, and finished the match strong with scores of 25-22 and 25-19.

"We felt confident in one another throughout the games, and I was proud of girls," said Head Coach Carlin Hohman.

Kayla Cervenka and Repa had the lead in attacks. Kendra Whitley had six kills and six digs.

and Shelby Hohman and Cassidy Miller led the team in serving.

"After we dominated Utopia, we were ready to play the next team," said Miller.

On Friday the 13th, they were indeed ready to play Shiner in Bremond in the regional semifinals.

"The ladies started off really strong," said Coach Hohman. "We had been playing for 15 weeks, and we always had great support throughout the season."

Unfortunately, the Lady Lions' season came to an abrupt end with a loss in four tough games.

"Even though we weren't playing our A game, we were still proud to make it that far," said senior player Brianna Billingsley.

Even though their last loss was heartbreaking, Granger volleyball fans have a lot to look forward to in the future.

Lions Battle Bulldogs

BY JOSH DEWS

On October 30, the Thorndale Bulldogs traveled to Lion Stadium to battle the Granger Lions in one of the biggest rivalry games of the year.

"We love to play each other," said senior lineman Buck Outlaw. "We bring our best games against each other, and it's really intense."

Granger was the only team to score in the first half. Andrew Aleman hooked up with Nels Scott for a 45-yard touchdown reception.

"I think we outplayed them," said Head Coach Allen Dews. "We gave up a couple of plays that hurt us, but they didn't kill us."

The Bulldogs answered on the opening kickoff of the second half.

Josh Ware returned the kick 78-yards for a touchdown.

"We just lost focus, and that was costly," said senior running back Jaron Davis.

After forcing the Lions to punt, the Bulldogs scored again when Paxton Jordan found Ware for a 17-yard touchdown strike. This made the score 14-7 in Thorndale's favor.

"It was our mental mistakes that turned into points for them," said Coach Dews.

The Bulldogs then started to wear down the Lions with their running game. Late in the third quarter, they scored again on a three-yard run by Jordan.

"Our guys woke back up after that," said Coach Dews. "It really made our team mad."

The Lions fired right back with

a 33-yard touchdown catch by Kyle Janke from Juan Torres. This cut the Bulldog lead to 20-14.

"We had the momentum, and we were not going down without a fight," said Aleman.

The Lions failed to recover the outside kick, but the Lion defense shut Thorndale down. They forced the Bulldogs into a third and long situation.

Lion middle linebacker Colton Mazoch hit the Bulldog running back in the backfield to force fourth down. But a late flag gave the Bulldogs the first down.

"I am upset that this game had to be decided by a questionable call," said Coach Dews. "But we will fight through it and move on."

rolling, and then we started clicking," said senior lineman Heston Luersen.

The Bulldogs responded by giving the ball to

running back Eric Walker. Walker bolted to the end zone for a 55-yard touchdown run.

"Our offense was good, but our defense hurt us," said sophomore lineman Cody Strmiska.

Then the Lions scored on an Alex Cruz touchdown to pull the Lions to within two points of the Bulldogs. Bartlett answered with a quick score before the half.

"We just didn't play defense well, and that was the difference," said sophomore running back Nels Scott.

The Lions wasted no time scoring on the opening drive of the second half. They quickly

scored to reduce the deficit to 24-20.

"We went out and played like we didn't have anything to lose," said senior lineman Buck Outlaw.

Bartlett then broke the game open with three touchdowns to pull away from the Lions. The Lions were able to add one more score on a Cruz touchdown.

"I am proud of our football team and how they fought this season," said Coach Dews. "I think we have a bright future ahead of us."

The Lions have no regrets for this season and have high hopes for next year.

"I think we played hard," said senior lineman Dylan Springfield. "I know we left it all out on the field."

Granger Finishes the Season Strong

BY JOSH DEWS

On November 6, the Granger Lions traveled to Bartlett and took on the Bulldogs in the Battle of Highway 95 to close out the 2009 season.

"This game is always adrenaline-filled because of the great historic rivalry between us," said Head Coach Allen Dews.

The Bulldogs scored first on a 38-yard scamper by quarterback Gabriel Gadison.

"We weren't all there on defense on that first drive," said Coach Dews.

The Lions answered with a 56-yard kickoff return by Andrew Aleman. Nels Scott finished off the drive eight plays later with a one-yard touchdown run.

"We got our momentum



SEEN ANY GOOD PICTURES LATELY?

Mr. Bassett is posting his Granger School pictures to Flickr, and you are welcome to download those you like. School event pictures uploaded weekly.

Type in the following website and enjoy:

www.flickr.com/photos/grangerschool/

Junior High One-Act Play Gears Up for Contest

BY J.D. VARGAS
The junior high One-Act Play team is performing their new play, *Antic Spring*, by Robert Nail for this year's contest. "This is an outstanding group of students," said director Amy Vargas.



There are a few new actors along with several returning actors. Those who are returning include Quinlan Kubacak, Susie Pineda, Corey Miller, Jesse Dews, Bergé Bassett and Dylan Newsom.

"It's a fun to act and bond with my teammates," said Kubacak. The play is about six teenagers who go out for a picnic. During the picnic, friendships are made and tested as they fight and bicker.

"It's a fun and challenging play having so few props," said student director Kaitlynn Beavers.

The play's props consist of six chairs arranged like a car and a few small items. Additional props are created by the imaginative actions of the cast.

"It's a thrill to work with my team," said Mrs. Vargas.

The crew, extras and alternates include Colten Marek, Christian Rangel, Erin Pastajovsky, Nancy Papan, Nicholas Mallone, Garrett Drake, Shelby Knappe, Cheyenne Schmidt, and Wayde Sweeting.

"The teams in our zone are wonderful. It will be a challenge competing against them," said Mrs. Vargas.

Competition will be held in Temple on January 8th at the Temple College Performing Arts Center. Granger will compete at 4:00 P.M., and their performance will be open to the public.

Poetry Corner

The Storms of My Soul

BY ALEX REED
Thoughts—
Whirl inside my mind
With the force of a hurricane
Banging the wooden shutters
Of sand-blasted houses

Memories—
Swirl around my head
Like a fierce tornado vortex
Ripping skyscrapers
From the cemented ground

Desires—
Fill my brain
Like a blazing fire
Burning a tall, oak tree
Turning cold wood into hot ash

Fears—
Take control of my judgment
Like an earthquake
Splitting the terrain
Causing a chasm

You—
Take my soul
Like the Spirit You are
And calm the storms
That are always raging
inside me

Senseless Day

BY TYLER CANTWELL
Ridiculous—
Silly—
Foolish you might say,
But how is it your business?
It's my senseless day.
I won't listen—
I won't talk—
I'll just sit here and gawk.
It's my senseless day
So you might as well walk.



Movie Review: Wolves, Vampires and Rotten Reviews, Oh My

BY KIRSTEN MESSEX
Teenagers everywhere awaited the opening of the movie *New Moon*. The screams, tears and hysterics were only slightly justified by the movie itself.

Bella, the protagonist, is faced with the all encompassing problem of a broken heart. Her love interest from the first movie, Edward, has left her, and she is forced to console herself by being generally stupid. She also manages to fall in love with her best friend.

This plot, seen many times before, is only spiced up with the inclusion of supernatural creatures.

The unique take on the werewolves and vampires in this movie is the only interesting quality it possesses. The CGI and graphics used to create the werewolves are



extremely captivating. The ground literally shakes when the pack steps into the shot and each hair on their body quivers. They are one of the few redeeming parts of *New Moon*.

The landscape of the movie is also fantastic. Filmed in Vancouver, Canada, it is absolutely beautiful. It certainly distracts from the other aspects of the movie.

Yes, the actors are very good looking, but their acting skills are almost nonexistent. Kristen Stewart, who plays Bella, seems to think that rapid blinking is the way to show great emotion.

"It looked like she was having a spasm every time she talked," said movie-goer Jessica Curtis. "I felt this movie was horribly cheesy."

The chemistry between the lead actors is iffy and never high volume. At times, they aren't even looking at each other when they deliver the lines. Of course, it didn't help that they were delivering ridiculous lines.

"The absence of him is everywhere I look. It is like a big hole has been punched through my chest (Trailer)."

"For fans who have read the book, this movie can hold its own. However, it cannot be held up to the standard of other movies. *New Moon* is only for a specific type of movie-goer: those who have read the book.

The chemistry between the

Fiction Corner

Lamb Chops, Part 3

BY KIRSTEN MESSEX
Shearing season was one of the worst for Gerard. It meant that all the sheep had to be herded into the barn, and he hated when the farmer let out Bert and Jephia. Bert was kind of vicious, and he'd snapped at Gerard on more than one occasion to get him to follow the flock.

Frank stuck close to Gerard as Bert came streaking towards them, only veering slightly as a whistle from the farmer caught his attention. Bert nipped at Gerard's heels, dark eyes gleaming behind

his messy black and white fur. He snarled at the sheep, following the commands of the farmer.

Jephia was the sleeker of the two, with a merle grey coat and one blue eye and one brown eye.

"I'll gore him with my horns," Frank offered as they were herded into a tight group. Bert and Jephia circling them. The lambs looked frightened as Jephia barked at them and shunted them into the rest of the flock. They were too young to be sheared, but the dogs always brought everyone in.

Gerard didn't reply to Frank, but jumped as Bert nipped at his heels again.

Mikay pressed into Ray's fur as they shuffled along, and behind them, Patrick had to block Pete from going after Bert.

"It's shearing," Patrick told Pete as he wheezed at the dogs.

Pete hated the dogs, and after all, it was his job to protect his lambs from other dogs, so why not Bert and Jephia, who seemed to enjoy scaring the sheep whenever they had to bring them in?

Pete didn't stop trying to attack Bert and Jephia, but they'd been around long enough, and with the farmer's commands, they separated the lambs, snapping them into the rest of the group.

Drunken Night

BY COURTNEY MATTICE

The drizzle begins to fall, and the water raises the oil on the road's surface, but the damage is already done. The metal remains of the vehicles rise like grotesquely disfigured monsters from the asphalt.

Small fiber glass bits are strewn about the pavement, the only remnants of an obliterated European sports car. A Ford Mustang lies with its great metal belly facing the night sky; its midnight blue hood laying further down the road. Held secure by his seatbelt, the driver stares out over the small pieces of glass that crackle in his blood spilt over the asphalt.

He cannot feel the pain of his battered body or the sting of the flames that surround him. The sound of the sirens, that lonely piercing sound that designates help, will never reach his ears. He will never smell the exhaust fumes. He will simply close his bloody eyes and slide away into the dark.

Check out the Granger Website:

Game highlight videos: all sports.

Created by the BIMM Class with Mr. Bassett.

Click on the Video tab in the tabs list at the top.

Jessica Jots What-Nots Horoscope

BY JESSICA CURTIS

Aries (March 21 - April 19) – A problem is troubling you. You can't beat yourself up forever. A motto to live by is: "forgive and forget." Lucky Days for Next Month: 6 and 13.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) – You are busy, busy, busy. But you can't rely on your friends to make all of the plans. This is a two-way street. Be sure to give your friends a call. Lucky Days for Next Month: 7 and 24.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) – A new wave is coming to shore. Be sure to catch the wave because there are a lot of great new possibilities. There may even be a new love prospect floating in. Lucky Days for Next Month: 12 and 22.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) – There are people trying to change your qualities and your looks. Stay true to yourself. Lucky Days for Next Month: 3 and 11.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) – You have been a little shy this month, which really isn't like you. Speak up and make sure your voice is heard. Lucky Days for Next Month: 9 and 20.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) – Your self-confidence has been lacking a bit this month. Believe in yourself, and remember your life is what YOU make it. Lucky Days for Next Month: 2 and 14.

Libra (September 23 - October 22) – Your romantic feelings are raging this month, but this isn't a good month for love. Just hang in there, and the winds of love will

blow your way soon. Lucky Days for Next Month: 5 and 29.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) – Your caring and loving nature will pay off this month. You will be recognized for your sweet nature, which is much needed. Lucky days for Next Month: 13 and 24.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) – Your motto this month is to be happy. Laughter is the best medicine, and it is just what you need this month. Smile and get better. Lucky Days for Next Month: 15 and 23.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) – You seem to be on a faster pace this month. This change is good; everyone needs to mix it up a little. Be sure you don't get overwhelmed. Keep your priorities straight. Days: 14 and 26.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) – It seems as if your brick wall of hardships is growing taller and taller. Now is the time to start breaking away at it, even if it's only one brick at a time. Most importantly, don't be afraid to ask for help. You have many people that care about you. Lucky Days: 16 and 23.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) – You have that spontaneous nature in your blood this month. This is a great trait to have, though driving around without a map for too long will lead to the ultimate sense of being lost. This is a great time to find a map, plan your route, and still have bits of spontaneity along the way. Lucky Days: 4 and 18.



Granger Rocks Their Stock (Show)

BY COURTNEY MATTICE

On November 30 through December 5, students in Granger's FFA program showed their various livestock animals at the Williamson County Stock Show. Twenty-two students showed everything from lambs to rabbits at the show.

The students had to purchase their project animals, raise and train them, and carry a passing average in all of their classes.

Some of the students auctioned off their animals on the final day of the show. Others kept their animals, and will continue to show in Dallas, Austin, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio.

For many of the students, their time and effort was apparent in the show ring. Congratulations!

Rabbits:
Alexis Garrick 8th place

Goats:
Hunter Klaus 1st place

Alyssa Adams 3rd place
Natalie Martinka 5th place
Dylan Newsom 6th place

Emory Sutton 7th place
Joshua Garrick 7th place
Cameron Langley 9th place

Aaron Finn 12th place
Lambs:
Alyssa Adams 5th place
Megan Hajda 6th place

Hogs:
Colton Prinz 7th place

Steers:
Colby Hajda 3rd

Honorable Mentions:
Alyssa Blomquist
Dylan Filla

Dalton Huebner
Jonathan Johnson
Caleb Johnson
Cheyenne Marek

Taylor Prinz
Kayla Vittek
Callen Hajda



December/January

December 17- Prom Committee Meeting in the cafeteria at 7 p.m.
Christmas Concert in Granger Park at 6 p.m.
December 18- Early Release at 1 p.m.

JV & Varsity boys basketball game, Rouse, away
December 19- "Santa's Workshop" (babysitting service while you shop for the holidays)

December 20-24- Free gift wrapping at Gagestop, Taylor, provided by FCCIA

December 24- Santa is coming!
December 25- Merry Christmas!

December 29-30- Varsity boys/girls basketball tournament
Rosebud

January 1- Happy New Year!
January 7- Junior high & JV boys, junior high girls basketball game, A. Harmony N, home

Junior High One-Act Play practice in Temple, TX
January 8- JV and varsity boys basketball game vs. Riesel, away
JV and varsity girls basketball game vs. Holland, away
Junior High One-Act Play competes

January 8-9 - Junior high boys basketball tournament in Taylor
January 11- Junior high boys (away) and girls (home) basketball game, Thorndale

January 12- JV & varsity girls basketball game, Milano, here
January 14- PTO Bake Sale
January 15- JV & varsity boys & girls basketball game, Thrall, away

January 16- JV boys basketball tournament, Thorndale
January 18- No School

January 19- JV & varsity boys & girls basketball game, Thorndale, away

January 21- Basketball games: junior high boys, Bartlett, home
JV boys, Gateway Academy
junior high girls, Bartlett, away

January 22- JV & varsity boys & girls basketball game, Bartlett, home

January 25- Basketball games: junior high boys, Holland, home
and junior high girls, Holland, away

January 26- JV & varsity boys & girls basketball game, Holland, home

January 28- 4th and 5th grade's "Wax Museum" in the cafeteria from 6-7 p.m.

January 29- Early release at 1 p.m.
JV & Varsity boys & girls basketball game, Milano, away

January 30- junior high boys basketball tournament in Thorndale

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