



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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75¢

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Inmate dies in Coryell County Jail on August 26

BY KRISTEN MERIWETHER
Staff Writer

An inmate died in the Coryell County jail on Aug. 26, marking the first in-custody death at the jail since 2017.

Castlee Noble, 55, was found dead in his cell early Thursday morning. Noble had been in the Coryell County Jail since

June 24 on a felony charge of continuous trafficking of a person. His bail had been set at \$1 million, a price that led to multiple protests outside the jail following his booking.

It was reported in June that Noble was arrested along with seven others in a human trafficking and drug sting involving multiple local law enforce-

ment agencies. Noble was in jail awaiting trial.

"My heart goes out to the family. It's a very tragic event," Sheriff Scott Williams told the Messenger in an interview on Aug. 26. "I've been around Mr. Noble several times and he's been nothing but polite."

Lee Ford Sr., who was Noble's legal guardian, said he

stopped by the jail on Thursday morning around 8:30 a.m. to visit Noble and was notified of his death.

"They didn't notify me (before). I just happened to go visit," Ford said in an interview with the Messenger on Aug. 26.

Ford said he last visited with Noble on Aug. 19 and said Noble was distraught about being

locked up, saying he wanted to get out.

"His state of mind wasn't too good," Ford said.

Ford said his daughter tried to visit Noble on Aug. 24 but was refused twice. Ford said a nurse told his daughter that Noble had not been eating for five or six days, was not taking



PLEASE SEE **INMATE** | 2 Noble

Bills going into effect on Sept. 1

BY KRISTEN MERIWETHER
Staff Writer

The 87th Texas Legislature passed 666 bills during its session that will go into effect on Sept. 1. Here are some of the most important laws and how they will impact residents. A full list of all the laws can be found at capitol.texas.gov under the reports tab.

HB1927: Firearm Carry Act of 2021

Texans over the age of 21 will be able to legally carry a handgun in public without obtaining a state-issued license. The handgun can be carried openly or concealed.

To legally possess a handgun Texans must not have not been convicted in the previous five years of assault causing bodily injury, deadly conduct, terroristic threats or illegally discharging a firearm in a public place or displaying a firearm in a manner calculated to alarm.

Guns are still prohibited in places like schools, courthouses, bars, hospitals and amusement parks. Private business owners can choose to not allow guns to be carried in their establishments.

Anyone caught carrying a handgun in restricted locations are subject to a Class A misdemeanor or third-degree felony if they refuse to leave after being given a notice.

Texas is the 21st state to pass a Constitutional Carry law, according to Texas.gunowners.org.

HB1518: Beer/Wine Sales on Sunday

Residents will no longer have to wait until noon to purchase beer and wine in stores on Sundays. The new law amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to expand the hours stores can sell beer and wine on Sunday to 10 a.m. to midnight. The sale of liquor at stores on Sunday is still prohibited.

The law pairs with HB 1024, which passed on May 12, that permanently allows for alcoholic drinks to

PLEASE SEE **BILLS** | 2

Former trooper shines in new role at school



KRISTEN MERIWETHER | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Police Department School Resource Officer Gary Stiles holds open a door for a Gatesville Elementary School student.

BY KRISTEN MERIWETHER
Staff Writer

When the students at Gatesville Elementary arrive and leave school every morning and afternoon Sergeant Gary Stiles is there to meet them. Rain or shine, record heat or frigid cold, he opens the car door and greets both student and parent.

The School Resource Officer is in full police uniform, service pistol holstered

by his side, with his marked police cruiser parked nearby. But the students don't see him as a threat.

Giles isn't seen as a big, bad officer who punishes kids for making a mistake. Instead the kids see Giles as someone who asks how they are doing, shows interest in what they are having for lunch and is someone who the kids can go to when trouble arises.

"We are building relationships with kids and their families who have never

had a positive interaction with a police officer in uniform," Stiles said in an Aug. 27 interview with the Messenger. "It's a completely different approach to law enforcement."

For Stiles, the change has been a complete 180 from his previous 30 years in law enforcement. For decades as an investigator with the Texas Highway Patrol Stiles saw people at their worst, arresting drug dealers, investigating child predators and working fatal car

PLEASE SEE **SRO** | 2

National Waffle Day



PHOTO COURTESY HILLSIDE MEDICAL LODGE FACEBOOK PAGE.

A resident at Hillside Medical Lodge enjoys waffles and coffee on National Waffle Day, Aug. 25.

QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: When did train service end in Gatesville?

A: The last train ran to Gatesville on November 14, 1972. Two days later, the Cotton Belt Railroad company abandoned the line they had between Lime City and Gatesville.

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SRO

FROM PAGE 1

crashes.

"It's a very negative look at everybody, all day, every day," Stiles said.

But as an SRO his job is to earn trust with the students and help protect them, not punish. He also helps to train teachers to understand signs of abuse and prepare for worst-case-scenario situations like school shootings or tornadoes.

"It's the best law enforcement job I've had—and I've worked some pretty good ones," Stiles said. "You are here for a positive reason. But at the same time, you have to be prepared for when stuff hits the fan, because you are the guy who will handle everything."

The Gatesville Police Department has five SROs, one at each school in the district. Each SRO's responsibilities vary slightly based on the age of the students. At the primary school the SROs are helping with carseat safety, while at the high school they help teach students what to do if they get pulled over and the dangers of drunk driving.

At the elementary school the SRO's responsibilities are less programatic and more about being there for the students. Stiles is also able to observe changes in student behavior that may be indicative of abuse or neglect and help administrators with next steps.

"There is a lot of stuff that comes up here that school officials will bring to me and go over what they learned about a kid and home life," Stiles said. He can help administrators determine if criminal activity is occurring and get reports to CPS quicker by reporting them through the law enforcement number.

In some instances Stiles is the only person the student will speak to about abuse, the result of being a consistent friendly face on campus.

"Gatesville ISD and PD recognize that there are issues in our community that people think just happen in big cities," GISD Case Manager Christa Hitt said in an Aug. 27 interview with the Messenger. "But there are issues here that we want to not only protect our children, but we want to give the family support to come up out of this."

The SROs on campus can

help recognize what issues a student faces and how it effects their ability to learn. GISD is able to use that information to provide wrap-around services to students and their families. That can be providing direct support, such as meals, or connecting students or their family with government resources to aid in finding jobs, rental assistance or mental health aid.

"They are not just here for students, but here for families, for education and for the social emotional learning," Hitt said. "If they are not socially and emotionally healthy, and they don't trust officers, then how are we protecting them and meeting their needs?"

At the Aug. 23 school board meeting Stiles received a warm welcome and thank you from the board. He said he appreciated the recognition, but he felt the board had it backwards.

"Thank ya'll. You gave an old, retired cop a perfect place to be," Stiles said. "I couldn't be any happier than what I am right now. It's a phenomenal job to have."



KRISTEN MERIWETHER | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Police Department School Resource Officer Gary Stiles gets a hug from a student during afternoon dismissal at Gatesville Elementary School.

2021-2022 varsity cheerleaders



COURTESY PHOTO FROM THE GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CHEER FACEBOOK PAGE

The Gatesville High School cheerleaders invite you to cheer on the Hornests this season. Shown are back row, from left, Rylee Oliver, Anna Phillips, Georgia Rogers, Michaela High, Marlee Saunders, Kallyn Moreland and Addi Wolff. Front row, from left, Mya Ayers, Chesnea Ford, Ariel Findley, Natalie Fast and, front, Kari Dudik (Buzz).

INMATE

FROM PAGE 1

his medication and was sleeping under his bed.

Ford said Noble had a history of mental illness and multiple health issues, including diabetes and high blood pressure, that required medication.

The Messenger reached out to the Coryell County Sheriff's Office to confirm Ford's account, but the Sheriff's Office declined to comment, citing the ongoing investigation by the Texas Rangers.

The Messenger reached out to the Texas Rangers for comment, but a spokesperson said the investigation is ongoing and no details would be released at this time.

Thursday morning Sheriff Williams told the Messenger there were no signs of suicide or violence and Noble did not have any

signs of COVID prior to his death. Williams said Noble was alone in his cell at the time of his death.

Ford said by the time he arrived at the jail Thursday morning Noble's body had already been transported on the way to Dallas for an autopsy.

The family is looking into hiring someone to conduct an independent autopsy to determine the cause of death.

As of Friday evening, funeral arrangements for Noble had not been made because the family did not have custody of the body.

This is the first in-custody death at the Coryell County Jail since Kelli Leanne Page, 46, died on Oct. 8, 2017. Video showed Page struggling with jailers prior to her death and the medical examiner listed the manner of death a homicide. The family filed a wrongful death lawsuit and it is still making its way through the courts.

BILLS

FROM PAGE 1

be sold with pick-up and delivery orders at restaurants.

SB8: Texas Heartbeat Act

This bill makes it illegal for a doctor to perform or induce an abortion on a pregnant woman if a fetal heartbeat is detected. Doctors are required to test for the heartbeat prior to performing or inducing an abortion and a form certifying the detection of the heartbeat must be filled out.

An exception can be made for a medical emergency but not for rape or incest.

The enforcement of the law will not be made by the state. The new

law allows private citizens to sue abortion providers or anyone they think assisted a woman in getting an abortion or terminating a pregnancy.

The penalty for breaking the law is no less than \$10,000 plus attorney's fees.

SB 04: Star Spangled Banner Protection Act

Professional sports teams with contracts with the state of Texas will be required to play the National Anthem prior to all sporting events. Failure to comply could result in the team having to repay any money paid to the team by the state or lose the ability to contract with the state in the future.

COUNTY WIDE

Spurfest to be held Sept. 18

There will something for everyone at the 20th edition of Spurfest at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center Sept. 18. The event is free and runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Activities will include "Old Time Demonstrations," the "Shriners Karem Cowboys," a quilt raffle, fresh churned butter and chuck wagon biscuits and gravy, and several activities for children. There will be vendors and music.

Visitors to the museum can see antique cars, the soda shop, the historic log jail and view a large collection of spurs in the "Lloyd Mitchell Spur Collection."

Food vendors can rent a space for \$60. Non-food spaces cost \$30 for a spot outside and \$40 for spaces in the air-conditioned Gilbreath Room.

For more information, call Hal Davidson or Erv Adams at 254-865-5007, or email to coryellmuseumhc@yahoo.com.

Beautiful quilt donated for Spurfest raffle

The Senior Citizen Center quilting ladies have donated a

beautiful handmade quilt to the Coryell Museum to be raffled at Spurfest.

The museum will be selling 104 tickets at \$10 each. Tickets can be purchased from museum board members or by calling 254-865-5007.

Any volunteer interested in selling tickets can call Catherine Fulton at 254-223-0014.

The drawing will take place at Spurfest Sept. 18.

Best beard bragging rights

Gentlemen, ladies and children? Prepare to show your beards at Spurfest Sept. 18.

Here are the categories:

New beards — Contestants must be clean shaven on Saturday, Aug. 7. Come by the Museum on that day from 10 am-4 pm or provide us with a selfie of your clean shaven face with a timestamp (or in front of a newspaper with that date).

Existing beards — This will be judged on longest, fullest, most original, most like Grizzly Adams, etc. You can use styling tools, beard balm and waxes.

Fake beards — This will be open to men, women and children. You can be as creative as you please.

Contestants need to be at Spurfest to be judged. Times for

judging will be announced in future Messenger articles.

Crime Stoppers website, app see uptick in reporting

Since the inception of the Centex Crime Stoppers web page and mobile app, there has been an increase in new tips by more than 260%.

That is an astounding increase and it would not be possible without the help and continued support of our dedicated communities. Remember: if you see something, say something.

If you have any information about any local crime, call Centex Crime Stoppers 24 hours a day at 1-254-865-8477 (TIPS) or visit our website at www.centexcrimestoppers.org or by downloading the "P3" mobile app available on both the Apple app store and Google Play Store. You never have to give your name, and if your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Crime Stoppers, citizens, police, and the media working together can make our community a safer place to live. Together we can make a difference.

Calling contestants for Old Time Fiddlers Contest

The Gatesville Old Time Fiddlers Contest is making a return appearance Sept. 18 at Gatesville's City Auditorium.

This Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association-sanctioned contest will kick off at noon, drawing top fiddlers from across the state to compete for cash prizes.

Contestants will compete by age in categories ranging from under 10 years to 60-plus. There will also be competitions for twin fiddles and accompanists, with the day culminating in the championship round, featuring the top fiddlers from the day.

The ending time is expected to be around 6 p.m., but is dependent on the number of overall entries.

Admission is free and spectators are welcome to come and go throughout the day.

The event is presented by the City of Gatesville with funding for fiddler prizes provided by community supporters. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or would like to be a supporter with a donation, please call Sherry Hopson at 254-223-3939 or Cheri Shepherd at 254-499-0102. You can also call them for details about entering the contest.

The Old Time Fiddlers Contest is one of three free events in

downtown Gatesville on September 18.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to view the custom and classic cars that will line the courthouse square during the Cruzin Cruiser's Car Show, visit the Coryell Museum for Spurfest activities, and drop in to hear some good old time fiddle music at the auditorium. There will also be vendors selling a variety of goods at the car show and the museum.



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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DEADLINES:

Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by 10am Friday for the Wednesday issue and 10am Wednesday for the Saturday issue.

Articles about events that have occurred 30 days prior to submission will not be accepted. However, they will be accepted as paid advertisements.

All articles and advertisements must meet our standards and

newspaper format as determined by management.

The Gatesville Messenger is not responsible for copy omission, typographical error or any unintentional error other than to publish a correction.

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PEARL NEWS

Next Pearl Bluegrass music event set for Sept. 11

BY BETSY CLARK

The next Pearl Bluegrass event will be Sept. 11, the second Saturday this month only! Call Anji Pearl Day at 325-665-7996 to schedule stage show time if you are interested in performing.



Clark

Remember also that there are 32 full hookups if you would like to stay in Pearl for a night or more! First come, first park so no reservations needed. Thirty amps are \$20/night, and 50 amps are \$25/night. Come and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Pearl!

CONDOLENCES

It is with sadness that I report that Mrs. Larue Oney Crosby passed away on Thursday, Aug. 26. Mrs. Crosby is a Pearl native and still has strong ties to the Pearl community. At the time of this writing, we do not have details about her services other than she will be buried at the Pearl Cemetery. Prayers for her family and friends are greatly appreciated.

Prayers for Roy Harris Debbie and Roy are greatly needed and appreciated. We miss them being able to come to Pearl, and they miss us, too. We are in high hopes

that Roy will be improving. The Harris family stays in our prayers.

TRASH SERVICE

As most of you in Pearl already know, Ireland Trash Service has gone out of business. Dry Creek Trash Service is the new trash service. If you have not heard from them yet or if you need to contact them, call 254-463-4988 or email them at drycreektrashservice.com.

We have a new event scheduled for October. Many people will be glad to know that the Pearl Cottage Bookstore will be hosting a "Junk-in-Your-Trunk" event on Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Pearl Community Center grounds. This will be held in conjunction with Kay Pruett's Plant and Yard sale, which will take place at her home on Oct. 8 and 9 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Kay has stunning succulents that are always potted so beautifully! So, mark

your calendars to pack the stuff in your trunk that you would like to sell and leave room to put succulents and other treasure in your back seat. Oh, and don't forget to stop by the bookstore to buy what you want and pay what you want! For more information, call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 or Kay Pruett at 254-865-5864.

FISH FRY

This Sunday, Sept. 5, will be the annual Atchley Fish Fry and Silent Auction following the 10:30 a.m. service at Pearl Church of Christ. The Fish Fry and Auction benefit scholarships for His Kids of Lampasas and local scholarships. Everyone is invited to attend. Auction items will begin to appear in the church dining room and Sunday school room around Aug. 22. Drop by and place your

bids. Bidding usually closes at noon on the day of the auction. To donate items, call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282.

The Pearl Cemetery Association is still accepting donations to build a pavilion to protect attendees from the often-harsh weather conditions during interments and services. You may send a personal donation or a donation in memory of a loved one to Pearl Cemetery Association, C/O Linda Ray, 1771 CR 152, Purmela, TX 76566. If you have any questions, you can contact Linda at 254-865-9282. Thank you in advance for your support!

BIKINI FINALE?

All good things must come to an end, and so it is with the teeny tiny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini. When last we heard, a cavorting cat was seen running through the outskirts of Pearl followed by two gentlemen in plaid Bermuda shorts, Hawaiian shirts, and knee-high socks with bright paisley designs. One of them was carrying a butterfly net.

The good news is that the cat got caught that very day, and the two mysterious, heroic gentlemen managed to secure the cat and the bikini safely at the home of Pearl's very best cat lady — Kay Pruett — where the cat came from in the first place.

All of this is from a very reliable source (sort of). And, of course, Mrs. Pruett was not happy in the least.

I was told that she decided that the bikini must be destroyed at all costs. Therefore, the Pruett family joined forces, removed the stringy suit from the cat and commenced to cut the thing into tiny pieces.

But, where did the pieces go, and how was the evidence hidden? The ever-resourceful Pruett family, including Pearl the family's best friend (a very sweet dog, too), soon delivered a beautiful potted plant to the home of Linda Ray for her 29th birthday!! Linda was so surprised and pleased ... until she decided to plant the beautiful flowers in her newly-created fall flower garden. Linda noticed something strange in the soil surrounding the plant. Something strange ... and turquoise greeny — and stringy.

Hmmm, she thought, must be a new kind of fertilizer. "No matter," she reasoned, "I'll just bury the roots, soil, and fertilizer all together." But, there was still a nagging feeling about that strange plant's presence. "Haven't I seen something like that before," she thought. What do you think? Will Linda ever figure out that the traveling bikini is now back home

for good, the place that it all began? Maybe she will never notice that the saga of the Teeny Tiny, Turquoise Greeny, Stringy Bikini that first made an appearance at her house has now been memorialized in a special garden project, never to be seen or heard from again. Pearl is once again at peace, and all Pearl citizens can soon forget that bothersome bikini ever existed. We hope! But, and we can't stress this enough, there's no place like Pearl!

CLOSING VERSE

The closing verses for this week come from I Thessalonians 5:14:

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

FOR THE LATEST

To keep up with the latest Pearl news online, you can go to the "Pearl Cottage Bookstore" Facebook page, the "Pearl Community Center" Facebook page, or the "Pearl Church of Christ" Facebook page. The Pearl Community Center also has a website: www.pearltxcommunitycenter.com. Or you can contact me at betsy-clark47@yahoo.com for information or to submit any Pearl news that you might have.

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO

(2001)

- Charles O'Reilly took over as senior warden of the Hughes Unit, succeeding Herbert Scott, who retired.
- Air Force Airman Samantha D. Vazquez graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.
- Gatesville Primary School teacher Debbie Grmela was selected as the "Teacher of the Month" for August by the Gatesville Lions Club.
- Ruby Lee Maxwell was honored at a 90th birthday celebration at the First Presbyterian Church in Gatesville. She moved with her family to Turnersville when she was 1 year old.
- Work had started to install a new traffic light at the intersection of 26th and Main Street in Gatesville in order to help with the

school traffic flow.

- Grayson Petty was honored on his 11th birthday with a party given by his mother, Lanelle Petty, at the home of his grandparents, Pat and Sherry Hopson.

30 YEARS AGO

(1991)

- A large crowd gathered to witness the ribbon cutting at the new Sheriff's Office and Jail facility at the corner of Leon and 7th Street.
- Army National Guard Private David L. Wolff had completed the heavy wheel mechanic course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.
- Susan Hawkins, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. W.M. Patterson of Gatesville, was selected to receive the National Association of Home Builders Excellence Award at its annual national meet-

ing in Wisconsin.

- Pvt. David C. Thill had completed training at the U.S. Army Infantry School in Fort Benning, Georgia. He was the son of Tonya Z. Honea of Gatesville. The private was a 1988 graduate of Gatesville High School.
- James Walter Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Harris of Mound, received the degree of Master of Science in Art upon graduating from Texas A&I University in Kingsville.
- Joe Foote, a 1991 graduate of Jonesboro High School, had been selected to receive a scholarship at Tarleton University. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. N. Foote Jr. of Gatesville.

40 YEARS AGO

(1981)

- In a surprise announcement, Ollie and Ruth Little announced the sale of their

Chateau Ville Motor Hotel and Restaurant at 2503 Main Street to Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lahti of Denver, Colorado.

- Willie West of Gatesville was awarded a \$250 scholarship by Central Texas College in Killeen after being chosen the outstanding participant in the Central Texas Manpower youth program in Gatesville.

■ Kevin C. Riley, son of William Riley, had been commissioned an Army second lieutenant upon completion of advanced ROTC training at Fort Lewis, Washington.

- The first day of September took the Gatesville area by storm dumping 3.95 inches of rain over the area.
- Lloyd P. Brown Jr. completed submarine indoctrination at the Navy Submarine Support Facility in San Diego, Calif. Brown, a 1979 graduate of Gatesville High School, was a midshipman

at Texas A&M University.

- William R. (Billy Bob) Ford of the U. S. Navy, was attending the Atlantic Fleet Engineering Schoolship in Newport, R. I.

50 YEARS AGO

(1971)

- Edwin Riddle, Coryell Church cotton farmer, brought in Coryell County's initial bale of 1971 cotton. It was ginned at Oglesby, with the finished bale weighing 500 pounds.

■ Dwain Place, personnel director at the Gatesville State Schools for Boys the last six years, had been promoted to assistant general superintendent of the institution by the Texas Youth Council.

- Eric McCorkle of Gatesville had been nominated to receive the American Farmer Degree, the highest degree

presented by the national FFA organization. He was the first Gatesville person to win the honor.

- Rodney Davidson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Davidson Jr. of Mound, received his bachelor of science degree in graduation exercises at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

■ Joe Pat Donaldson, former Coryell County school superintendent and son of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Donaldson, was promoted to the post of vice president, fiscal affairs, of Navarro Junior College in Corsicana.

- Roy Newell Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Roy Johnson of Gatesville, received a bachelor of science degree in engineering technology with a mechanical engineering option from Texas A&M University.

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Bill Burdett's Family is Very Thankful!

The family of John W. (Bill) Burdett would like to thank each and every one of you for your visits, calls, texts, flowers, prayers, and the generous donations to the scholarship in loving memory of his grandson, John Paul Massingill. We could never thank Scott's Funeral Home enough for their kindness, patience, and excellent care. Thank you, Daren Moore, Bill Cole, James Ragsdale, Jamie Ament, and Carl Kietzer, and the entire team. You have such servant's hearts and are doing such a wonderful job in the career God has placed you all.

A very special thank you to Interim Hospice. Jan Lamar you are a God send! Thank you for all you did for us and for the "angels" you brought. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts Jeanetta, April, Tracy, Chaplains Nate and Kera, and the whole team. We thank God for the tender loving care you showed to Bill and the whole family.

The service was an amazing tribute and honor to Bill. Thank you, Matt Dossey, for the passionate and personal message you gave, for your friendship with Bill, and for everything you and your family did for us. Matt Massingill, your music could not have blessed your grandfather more. The songs you sang were beautiful, and we know it was so very difficult for you to do, but you did it because Poppa asked you to. You are a very special man of God. Thank you, Dr. Lynn Parks, for your sweet prayers at the service and at Bill's home, the visits, and care you gave to Sue and Bill. Thank you and Eastwood Baptist Church for all you did, including the delicious meal.

Thank you to Dr. Tim Maynard. Our family appreciates beyond words all you have done for Bill over the years. We're grateful for a Godly doctor who spoke many words Bill needed to hear.



The kindness, love, and support from all of you have helped our family tremendously in the days before and after Bill's Homegoing. Our hearts ache terribly at Bill's passing, but we know he is at rest and in God's Holy Presence.

We love you all and thank you again.

*God Bless you,
Sue, Kim, Gwen, Angie, and Families*

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through law enforcement dispatchers during the period of August 26 -28. While there were many calls, this is a partial list of more significant activity. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

August 26

2:37 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2600 block of Jackson Drive.
8:30 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 100 block of E. Main Street.
3:30 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
7:18 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.
8:40 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Old Waco Road.

August 27

11:19 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1400 block of W. Main Street.

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11:40 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.
11:46 a.m., an accident was reported in the 700 block of S. Lovers Lane.
11:59 a.m., an accident was

reported in the 11000 block of E. Hwy. 36.
12:02 p.m., a hit and run was reported in the 2500 block of Bridge Street.
6:38 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 200 block of FM 1783.

August 28

7:41 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of N. 29th Street.
9:19 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of Bridge Street.
12:06 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 200 block of N. 10th Street.
2:30 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of Saunders Street.
3:55 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200

block of River Place West.
5:26 p.m., an intoxicated driver was reported in the 10000 block of S. State Highway 36.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

August 26

9:17 a.m., a noise complaint was reported in the 400 block of Royal Oak Drive.
9:50 a.m., a minor accident was reported on Susan Street.
10:19 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1300 block of Duncan Road.
12:45 p.m., a scam was reported in the 700 block of Bluestem Drive.
3:03 p.m., a livestock com-

plaint was reported on FM 2412 at Plum Creek.
6:18 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on S. Hwy. 36 at Fort Hood.

August 27

4:05 a.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 11000 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
8:04 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on CR 357 and Hwy. 36.
10:45 a.m., a scam was reported in the 4500 block of E. Hwy. 84.
4:41 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 8600 block of FM 182.
6:40 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of FM 1783.
9:29 p.m., a reckless driver

was reported on Hwy. 36 at Fort Gates.

August 28

10:23 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported at FM 580 and FM 1113.
10:36 a.m., a missing person was reported in the 500 block of Summers Road.
3:26 p.m., illegal burning was reported in the 2900 block of Willow Loop.
4:27 p.m., an assault was reported in the 3500 block of W. FM 217.
7:32 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported at S. Hwy. 36 and CR 357.
11:15 a.m., a minor accident was reported in the 400 block of Thomas Street.

Texas 4-H enrollment now open for intrested students

BY BECKY COWARD

Texas 4-H, part of one of the largest youth organizations in the nation, is once again getting ready to welcome new members as well as existing members through its annual enrollment process.

Texas 4-H is administered through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. AgriLife Extension offices throughout the state will be hosting events to introduce youth and adults to the program's variety of fun and educational opportunities for helping young people find their "spark."

Texas 4-H programs in science, healthy living, civic engagement and a variety of other interests are backed

by universities and a robust community of 4-H volunteers and professionals. Through hands-on learning, youth build confidence, creativity and curiosity, while also developing life skills such as leadership and resiliency to help them thrive in today's world.

Research shows Texas 4-H members excel in comparison to other Texas students. Youth who are involved in 4-H programs are four times more likely to give back to their communities, two times more likely to make healthier lifestyle choices and two times more likely to participate in STEM activities.

"Texas 4-H is for kids of almost any age," said Montza

Williams, state 4-H program director. "Children in kindergarten to second grade can be Clover Kids if that option is offered in your area. Young people in third to 12th grade can be bona fide 4-H members who can experience every opportunity the Texas 4-H program provides."

Williams said more than 550,000 youth are involved in Texas 4-H programs each year.

"All 4-H members must be enrolled in at least one project," Williams said. "When you choose a project, you will be given the opportunity to participate in activities and instruction that will provide a breadth of information and give an overall un-

derstanding of that topic."

He said there are 42 total 4-H projects that are separated into five main groupings:

- Agriculture and Livestock.
- Family and Community Health.
- Leadership and Citizenship.
- Natural Resources.
- Science, Technology, Science and Engineering, STEM.

"Through Texas 4-H, young people can participate in various hands-on activities, learn new skills, serve their community and develop their leadership qualities," Williams said. "The programs address a wide variety of interests and focus on the development of life skills and individual charac-

ter."

He said current or new Texas 4-H members should sign up on 4HOnline at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/4honline> once they have found a project and club that is right for them.

"4HOnline is the official registration system for youth members and adult volunteers directly involved with 4-H," Williams noted.

He said an active enrollment is required in order to register and participate in all 4-H activities and events. Each year on Aug. 15, all membership in Texas 4-H goes to inactive and all youth and adult volunteers must re-enroll. Adults and youth will need to enroll on 4HOnline and be active to be con-

sidered an official member of Texas 4-H. The 4-H year officially begins Sept. 1.

There is a \$25 participation fee for 4-H youth members enrolled by Oct. 31, and a \$30 participation fee for those enrolled from Nov. 1 to the completion of the 4-H year. Adults pay a \$10 volunteer application fee.

For more information on the Texas 4-H program, go to <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>. For detailed information on 4-H in Coryell County, you can contact your local AgriLife Extension Office at 254-865-2414. Also see our new member guide for a complete list for all 12 clubs available in Coryell County at <https://coryell.agrilife.org/>.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Gatesville Chamber hosts job fair

HEATHER MINONNO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will be participating in a job fair. The flyers have gone out. You can have your own table at the job fair for a fee. I would like to put together a list of Gatesville Chamber businesses that are hiring. The information I need should include, but is not limited to, the following: Company name, position(s) you are hiring, starting pay and contact information. Please email me at Chamber@Gatesvilletx.info. I would like this to be an opportunity to show people that we have many positions in all fields that are hiring locally.

APP ANNOUNCEMENT

We are currently working on a new app for our Chamber members and communi-

ty! The exciting part is every Chamber member will have their name listed. However, if you would like your logo to be shown with your name, it will be an additional yearly fee. We only have 3 exclusive advertisers shown on the landing page each year. If this is something you are interested in please call me on my cell phone at 254-248-5760 or email me at chamber@gatesvilletx.info.

UPCOMING EVENT

The Chamber of Commerce Corks and Kegs event will be the first Saturday in November, Nov. 6, benefiting The Gatesville Senior Center. Times for this event have not yet been posted.

We are bringing on new members every month! If you have any items with your logo that you would like to go in a gift bag for new

members, please drop them by the Chamber between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call me; I can come pick them up.

VISITORS

I am excited to say that we have had more and more visitors coming into the depot. I am running low/completely out of some business cards. Please drop by and check your stock.

I would like to remind everyone if you would like a ribbon cutting, please let me know. Let's get you on the calendar today!

Lastly, I would like to thank our community, our businesses and everyone who helped and sponsored our 2021 Shivaree. It was a huge success with six events, five locations, two days and 15 volunteers. We are looking forward to Shivaree 2022.

Republican Party fish fry set for Sept. 18 co-hosted by Gary and Diane Heavin

The Republican Party of Coryell County has scheduled its 2021 annual fish fry, which will be sponsored and co-hosted by Gary and Diane Heavin. The fish fry will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at The Texas Station Event Center located at

305 Old Fort Gates Road. Catering will be by Bare Bones BBQ. The keynote speaker for the event will be Congressman Roger Williams.

Tickets will be \$35 per person or \$50 per couple. Sponsorships will be available with speaking opportunities

included with the sponsorships.

For more information, contact the Coryell County Republican Party at 254-216-9017. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 12, Gatesville, Texas, 76528.

'Remember & Serve' ceremony set for Sept. 11

Keep Gatesville Beautiful invites the public to "Remember & Serve" at a 9/11 remembrance ceremony that will be held on Sept. 11, 2021

at 7:45 a.m. at the Coryell County Courthouse.

Anyone who is able is encouraged to stay after the ceremony to clean up down-

town Gatesville in an act of service for the community.

OBITUARIES

PEGGY GRIMES

November 27, 1940 - August 26, 2021



Peggy Grimes, age 80 of Gatesville, passed away on Thursday, August 26, 2021 in Temple.

Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Terry Hill officiating.

Peggy was born on November 27, 1940 in Cherry Tree,

Pennsylvania. She grew up in Cherry Tree, until moving to Sandusky, Ohio later in her childhood. She moved to Gatesville in 1981. Peggy worked for Anchor Industries, Deck Boat for several years, until going to work at Smead Manufacturing in McGregor until her retirement in 2006 after 20 years of service. She also was as a home health worker for Coryell Health, for many years. She was a member of Coryell Community Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Grace Hopkins; and a great grandchild, Paisen Caldwell.

Peggy is survived by her children, Diane Ristagno, Susan Herring, Danny Grimes, Michael Grimes; brother, Sonny Hopkins; grandchildren, Nicholas Ristagno, Jennifer Ristagno, Melissa Sanchez, Alicia Pruitt, Shae Caldwell, Kayla Rhymes, Dustin Nichols, Brandon Steed; eleven great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

CHARLA ANN STIFFLEMIRE

October 13, 1974 - August 24, 2021



Charla Ann Stifflemire of Gatesville, passed away peacefully in her sleep in the morning hours of Tuesday August 24, 2021 at the age of 47.

Funeral services will be 10:00 am Monday, August 30, 2021 at Scott's Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Coffey cemetery. Visitation with the family will be one hour prior to the service.

Charla was born on October 13, 1973 in Hamilton

to the late Charles W. Stifflemire and Ruth Cantrell Stifflemire. Charla was a wonderful wife and mother who spent the last few years of her life at home raising her two boys and teaching them lessons that they will remember for years to come. Charla never turned down the chance to go fishing, where she would reminisce on memories and tell stories about fish, and boats, and snakes in trees. She will be missed by her family, friends, and others whom were inspired by her strength.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Ruth Stifflemire; uncles Ray Floyd Stifflemire, Glenn Earl Stifflemire, David Stifflemire, and Raymond Cantrell.

Charla is survived by her two sons, Blake and Rowdy Stifflemire; along with husband, Frederick Harris; sister, Carla and husband, Robert Genovese; uncles, Keith Stifflemire and Robert Stifflemire; cousin, Duane Cantrell; and a great aunt, Tooter.

GERARDO TINOCO

July 15, 1961 - August 19, 2021



Gerardo Tinoco, age 60 of Gatesville, passed away on the evening of August 19, 2021 in Temple.

Funeral services will be 11:00 am Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at Scott's Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Hemmeline cemetery. Visitation with the family will be 5 - 7 pm Tuesday, at Scott's Funeral Home.

Gerardo was born on July 15, 1961 in Michoacán, Mex-

ico to Juan Tinoco and Carolina Fernandez Tinoco. He grew up and attended school in Michoacán. Gerardo was a very hard-working man who loved his family very much. He was an incredibly generous man who always took great joy in sharing all he had. He instilled these same values to his children and his grandchildren. The grandchildren just like his kids could always count on grandpa showing up with bags filled with snacks. He always had so much love for them. He loved His God, The Lord Jesus very much, and his most favorite Hymn was, "How Great Thou Art". He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his son, Jesus Tinoco.

Gerardo is survived by his wife of 34 years, Bertha; daughters; Yessi Argabright and husband, Alex, Wendy Sanchez and husband, Michael; son, Gerardo Junior Tinoco; grandchildren, Abby, Isaac, Jacob, Priscilla, Willow and Madelyn.

JANELL "NELL" ZEIGLER

August 25, 1927 - August 24, 2021



Janelle "Nell" (Haines) Zeigler passed away on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, one day before her 94th birthday. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., at Scott's Funeral Home. Reverend Brady Dennis will be officiating the service. The family will receive visitors at 9:00 a.m., preceding the service.

Nell was born August 25, 1927 in Arnett Community, Coryell County, Texas, the daughter of Jennings Bryan Haines and Lois Ellen Van-

noy Haines. She married Carol Dean Zeigler on Aug 12, 1951 in Arnett Community, and they shared their lives together until Carol's death on November 27, 2018.

Nell was known as a community-minded woman. She and Carol were long-time supporters of the Gatesville Boys and Girls Club, maintaining a steadfast interest in the teens of our community. In 2019, Nell donated a generous amount that enabled the organization to break ground on the Teen Center, which was opened

in 2020.

Nell was an accomplished Master Gardener and a Lifetime Member of the State Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. She served as President, Flower Show Judge and was named Woman of the Year at the National Convention of the Garden Clubs of America. Nell taught Master Gardener classes at Texas A&M University, and was instrumental to the development and continuation of the Landscape Design Study Course series

of the Landscape Design School in the Bryan/College Station area.

Nell also contributed countless hours at the Coryell Museum and Historical Center. She and Carol were members of the Coryell Art League.

Nell was preceded in death by Carol Zeigler, her husband of 67 years; her parents Jennings Bryan Haines and Lois Ellen Vannoy Haines; and her sister Dorothy F. Haines. She is survived by nieces Suzanne Bounds (Steve) and Linda

Murray (Robert), and nephews John Zeigler (Joy) and Roy Clark. And numerous friends and extended family.

Memorials may be made to the Gatesville Boys and Girls Club Teen Center 2533 E. Main Street, Gatesville, TX 76528.

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Jonesboro thumps Coolidge, 67-26

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Jonesboro had a wild night Friday that ended 15 minutes before midnight.

Because of miscommunication with officials, the team scrambled to get in its season opener against the Coolidge Yellow Jackets.

The two schools wound up moving the game to Oglesby as the nightcap game of a last-minute doubleheader.

"It was a miscommunication with the referees," Eagles coach Eddie Gallegos said. "It's on me, it's never happened before, and this will be the last time. We've got a new assigner now."

The Eagles, the No. 6-ranked team in the six-man Division I state rankings, had a tough start, but bounced back to defeat Coolidge, 67-26.

"It affected us a little bit, but we came back and responded," Gallegos said.

After falling behind 12-0, the Eagles regrouped thanks to a big interception from Jaden Domel. Two plays later quarterback Garrett Young delivered a play-action pass of 21 yards in the back of the end zone to Nat Hilliker to spark the Eagles.

The Eagles rushing attack was well balanced with six ball carriers, led by Tyler Wilson and Caleb Christel.

Wilson had seven carries for 125 yards and two touchdowns. Christel had eight carries for 110 yards and two scores.

Other rushers were: Jacob Cisneros four carries, 15 yards; Ian Shoaf six carries, 95 yards, two TDs; Manny Torres three carries, 21 yards; and Jaden Domel, two carries, eight yards, one TD.

Other offensive leaders were: Young was 2 for 2, 34 yards passing with one touchdown and Caleb Christel 2 for 4, 44 yards, one touchdown while Hilliker finished with three catches for 65 yards and two scores. DeMarcus Acoff had one catch for 13 yards.

Defensive leaders were: Nat Hilliker, five total tackles, one forced fumble; Christel, nine total tackles, one forced fumble; Domel, six total tackles, one interception; Manny Torres, six total tackles; Cisneros five tackles; Zach Chapman, eight tackles; Shoaf, four tackles, one pass breakup; Young, four tackles, one pass breakup, one interception, one forced fumble; Acoff, four total tackles.

The Eagles will travel to Perrin-Whitt this Friday for their second game of the season.

Oglesby starts with bang in 52-32 win over Ranger

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Oglesby High School football coach Jeb Dixon said the Tigers have some work to do, despite posting a 52-32 victory over the Ranger Bulldogs Friday.

Senior Blake Thompson helped lift the Tigers in their season opener with 15 carries for 162 yards. He had a hand in three touchdowns and also picked up 10 tackles on defense.

Johnny Gomez added 72 yards rushing or the Tigers offense.

"We're really young," Dixon said. "We're learning, we made too many mistakes. We can get better."

The Oglesby defense was

sparked by sophomore Cash Lee with 15 tackles, Matthew Castillo with 14 tackles and Thompson with 10 stops.

Lee and Castillo had two receptions each for a total of 62 yards.

The Tigers are scheduled to face Morgan starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday, on the road.

Hornets shine in cross country debut

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Gatesville High School's cross country runners opened their season Saturday by winning two gold medals individually at Valley Mills High School.

Carlo Martinez started the season with a 17:16 time to earn first place in the boys varsity division to lead the team to first place overall.

Freshman Vania Martinez was first overall for Gatesville in the varsity girls division.

Martinez ran a 12:50.3 time to hold off Priddy's Sydney Partin, who ran a 13:27.2.

The girls were second in the overall varsity team standings.

For the Gatesville girls, Bethany Penrod placed seventh at 14:13.5.

Other Gatesville girls were: Kyla Hinojosa, 21st at 15:34.3; Grace Penrod, 26th at 15:55.1; Valeria Jimenez, 36th at 16:25.2; and Jaycee McKown, 39th at 16:30.2.

For the boys, Luis Macias

took third place with a time 18:08.8. Angel Almandariz was seventh at 19:03 while Morgan Clary was 16th at 20:06 and Abraham Almandariz was 24th at 20:32.

Braeden Shuemake took 37th at 21:14.9 and Jack Armstrong was 38th at 21:17.2.

Gatesville's junior high boys finished fourth overall.

The varsity girls and boys teams will compete at Brownwood on Wednesday.

Leon River watershed workshop set

From Staff Reports

The Texas Water Resources Institute, TWRI, will host a free Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 7 in Gatesville for area residents interested in land and water stewardship in the Leon River watershed.

The morning session will be at the M.J. Hanna Ranch, 500 Hanna Ranch Road, Gatesville. The afternoon session will include a walk and presentations along the river.

All attendees must RSVP online or by email to Clare.Entwistle@ag.tamu.edu by Sept. 1. The program will include a lunchtime presentation. A catered lunch is being offered for \$15 or participants may select to bring their own lunch.

The workshop is co-hosted locally by the Natural Resources Institute, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Coryell County, Texas Riparian Association and TWRI.

benefits and economic impacts from proper functioning riparian systems.

"Riparian areas — the green vegetated land area adjacent to the bank of a stream, creek, bayou, river or lake — are unique and important ecosystems that provide many benefits including habitat and forage," Escamilla said. "The goal of the workshop is for participants to better understand riparian and watershed processes, the benefits of healthy riparian areas and what resources are available to prevent degradation while improving water quality."

Workshop presentations will be given by representatives of TWRI, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, AgriLife Extension, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas Riparian Association.

Escamilla said they are able to offer the workshop without cost thanks to program funding provided through a Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

OPPORTUNITIES

Robert Ferguson, AgriLife Extension agent for Coryell County, said participants will receive a certificate of completion and appropriate continuing education unit certificates at the conclusion of the training.

The workshop offers many types of continuing education units, including three units — two general and one integrated pest management — for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide license holders. Foresters and professional loggers can receive six hours from the Texas Forestry Association and six hours from the Society of American Foresters. It offers one unit from TWRI, seven credits from Texas Floodplain Management Association, seven hours for Certified Crop Advisors, and six hours for Texas Nutrient Management Planning specialists. The program may also be used for continuing education units for professional engineers.

The riparian education program is managed by the Texas Water Resources

Institute, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University.

For more information, contact Escamilla, visit <http://texasriparian.org> or go to Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TexasRiparianAssociation>.



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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

LEON RIVER WATERSHED

The Leon River, a 190-mile stream in north Central Texas, is the focus of watershed planning efforts by stakeholders.

"Stakeholders recognize successful implementation of a watershed protection plan requires implementing a variety of management strategies," said Andy James, AgriLife Extension program coordinator and Leon River watershed coordinator. "The riparian and stream workshop is an educational event supporting this effort."

Clare Escamilla, TWRI research associate, San Antonio, said the workshop will focus on the nature and function of stream and riparian zones as well as the

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PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

GATESVILLE HORNETS Hayden Mooney 22 tackles	JONESBORO EAGLES Tyler Wilson 7 carries, 125 yards rushing and 2 TDs
EVANT ELKS Hunter White 250 rushing yards and 5 rushing TDs	OGLESBY TIGERS Blake Thompson 205 yards, 3 TDs, 10 tackles and 1 interception

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Hornets sting Llano Yellow Jackets in first game of the season

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Gatesville's Parker Allman was the man in the right spot Friday with just under four minutes left in the Hornets' season opening 27-7 home football win over the Llano Yellow Jackets.

Allman stepped up when his teammates were looking to close the door.

"We needed a big play," said Allman, a defensive back for the Hornets. "I saw the ball coming in kind of high and he (the receiver) tipped it. The ball came down right in my hands."

Allman gripped the interception and made a nifty run toward the end zone to seal the fate of the visitors from the hill country.

"That was a great play," said defensive nose guard Ryan Smiley. "I leaped as high as I ever have."

The 52-yard play set off a big celebration as the Hornets won their season opener

for the first time since 2017.

"This is big," Gatesville coach Luke Howard said. "We needed to face some adversity and bounce back from it."

The Hornets stood up well led by a stingy defense that held Llano in check for most of the game.

"We wanted to keep them from making the big plays and we pretty much did that," Howard said.

Five Hornets finished with double-figure tackles led by Hayden Mooney with 22 tackles, 14 solo.

Mason Mooney had 14, Banner Allman 11, Lawson Mooney 11 and Theile Alvarado 10.

Defense set the tone for the game for both sides.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Hornets got on the scoreboard with a short field goal from Luis Macias.

The Hornets put together enough big plays to build a comfortable lead and had every answer to keep the Yellow Jackets in check.

Quarterback Wesley Brown was effective with 12 completions in 17 attempts for 177 yards passing to go with 24 rushes for 134 yards.

Brown also had two short rushing touchdowns. One of his biggest plays was a 51-yard connection with Logan Edwards. Edwards turned a short pass on the flank into an exciting race to the north end of the field. The 51-yard catch and run set up Brown for a 2-yard scoring run and a 10-0 lead.

Llano came out and scored its only touchdown on the first possession of the third quarter.

Macias had a career-best 42-yard field goal with 6:21 left in the game.

The Hornets outgained Llano, 370-212, in total yards and also won the turnover battle, 4-1.

Gatesville's next game is set for a 7 p.m. kickoff this Friday at Glen Rose.



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Mason Mooney and Ryan Smiley combine for a tackle.



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Wesley Brown celebrates with an assistant coach just after the clock hit zero.



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Banner Allman makes one of his five receptions Friday.

Evant Elks whip Cranfills Gap in season opener, 68-49



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Hunter White had a huge game rushing the ball against Cranfills Gap.



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Luis Arellano picks off pass during first half of the Elks' season opener.

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Evant opened its football season last Friday by introducing another hard-nosed runner to the six-man ranks.

Hunter White has stepped into the lead role in the Elks' attack. He reeled off 250 yards rushing and five touch-

downs in the home opener for the Elks in a 68-49 showdown with the Cranfills Gap Lions at Evant last Thursday.

"He had a busy night," said second-year Evant head coach Brandon Johnson. "He can make things happen."

The Elks also had big nights from Luis Arellano, Edgar Morales and Daniel

Honea.

Helping coach on the sideline Thursday was Evant graduate and standout for the last four years, Ethan Hightower.

"I'm working as an EMT (emergency medical technician)," Hightower said. "I've been driving to Round Rock three times a week. I like it."