



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

WEDNESDAY | September 29, 2021

75¢

SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 120, No. 119, ISSN No. 0894-4954



School bus drivers in demand in Gatesville

DROP OFF: Kids get off the school bus at Gatesville Elementary School in August of 2019.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



Shortage is a national trend being felt locally

BY KRISTEN MERIWETHER
Staff Writer

Three days into this school year Gatesville Independent School District Transportation Director Kris Raney was already having to shuffle bus schedules. In a normal year the district would be a few drivers short, but could make it with substitutes.

At the start of this year GISD was short by eight drivers. COVID quarantines and illness have only made

the problem worse. Raney said coaches, teachers and even an assistant superintendent have filled in. But even with the extra help routes have had to be changed to ensure the students get to school.

"Instead of being three or four short, we are, on average, eight short," Raney said. "We have a few teachers that have CDLs, but with their schedule, it's hard to do their job and drive a bus every day."

Bus driver shortages have been a nationwide issue for several years, in part, because of changes in federal testing requirements, low wages and odd schedules.

But with COVID, the problem has

PLEASE SEE **DRIVERS** | A2

Wildlife managers, trappers, landowners to gather

Wildlife managers, trappers, fur harvesters and landowners are meeting in Gatesville Oct. 15-16 at the Gatesville Civic Center located at 301 Veterans Memorial Drive.

The gathering is sponsored by the Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association and the Gatesville Civic Center. The two-day conference will feature a diversified program of wildlife management techniques. The event is free.

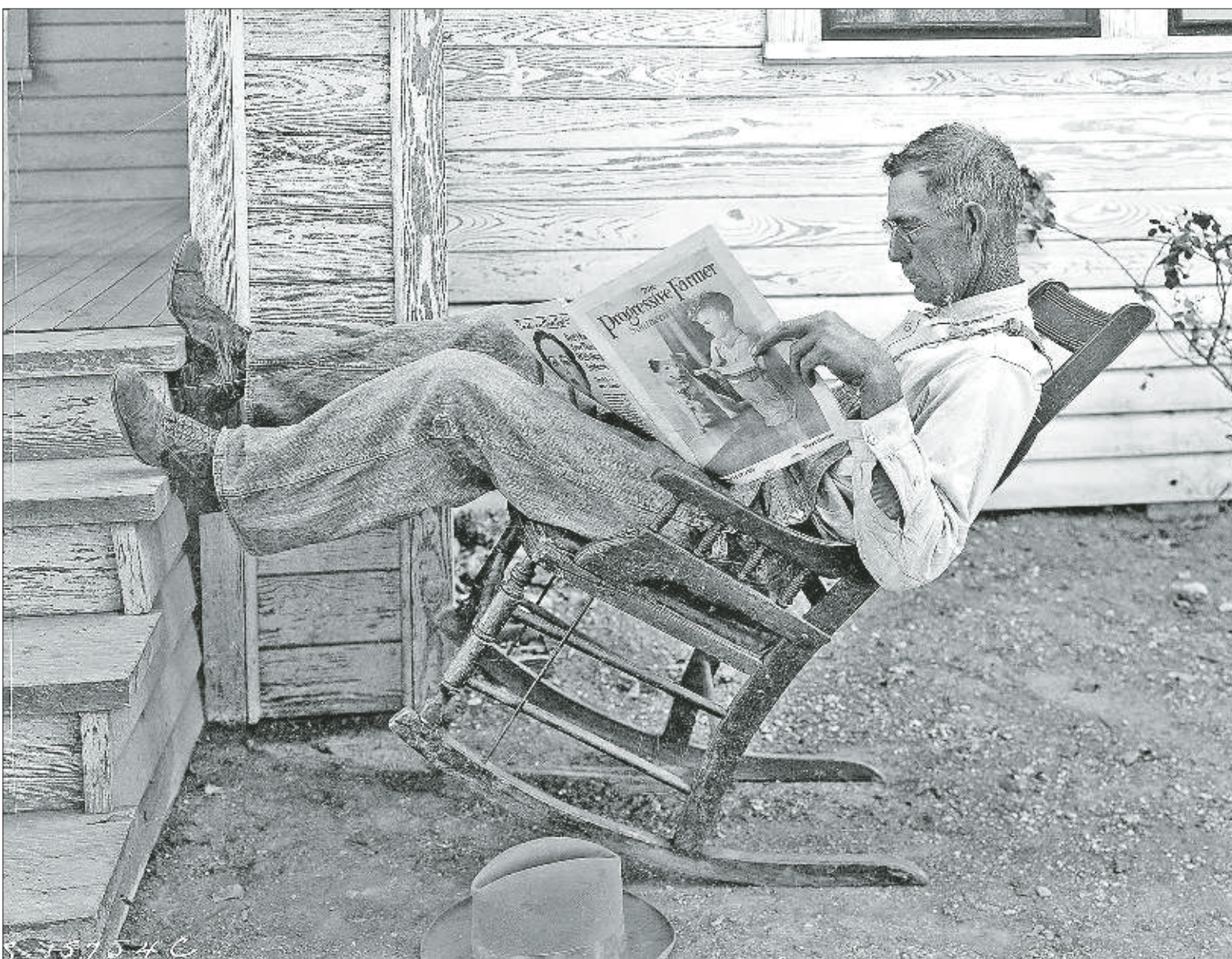
PLEASE SEE **TRAPPERS** | A3

HORNETS BATTLE BADGERS FRIDAY



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Gatesville High School lets the game against Lampasas slip away.
DIVERSIONS, A8

That iconic image George Ackerman made of William Pickens Freeman has been published widely and is easily found on the internet. Ackerman simply named the photo "Farmer reading his farm paper."



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

FROM MY FRONT PORCH: George Ackerman snapped this picture of William Pickens Freeman 90 years ago this month..

CORYELL FARMER LIVES ON IN FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPH

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

Ninety years ago this month, George Ackerman travelled throughout the rural areas of Coryell County searching for moments to capture on film.

Ackerman, a photographer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was assigned to travel across the United States documenting rural life. Little did he know that he would take a photo in Coryell County that would become extremely popular and, considered in today's terms, viral.

PLEASE SEE **PHOTO** | A2

MESSENGER OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

The office of The Gatesville Messenger will be closed on Friday, Oct. 1 for a staff development day. Due to the Friday closure, the deadline for all advertising and editorial submissions for the Wednesday Oct. 6 edition of the newspaper will be on Thursday, Sept. 30 at noon. For more information, please call 254-865-5212.

QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: How large is Fort Hood ?

A: Fort Bragg is the largest U.S. Army base in terms of population but in size, Fort Hood spreads across 214,968 acres of land in Bell and Coryell Counties.

Send us your questions: editor@gatesvillemessenger.com

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Tim Crosby, Pastor

Halloween treat-a-thon Oct. 30

Halloween treats will be passed out Saturday, Oct. 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. on the courthouse square. Interested businesses and organizations are invited to participate as one of the following:

■ Treat Stops are businesses located on the square or the Boozaar route. They hand out treats from the sidewalk in front of their business to kids as they make their way around the route.

■ Treat stations are businesses and organizations who are not located downtown but set up booths

around the square to provide free candy, games, and activities for families. There is no charge to set up a Treat Station.

■ Vendors can host a food booth, sell Halloween related items or charge for a game or activity. Vendor booths are \$55 each for commercial businesses and \$30 for non-profit. Any items sold must be Halloween related.

There will also be a costume contest with categories for all ages.

For information, call Faye Nichols at the Gatesville Public Library at 254-865-5367.



PRAYING FOR HEALTHCARE HEROES

A community-wide candlelight prayer service was recently held in the parking lot of Coryell Health. The service, led by Pastor Daniel Crowther of Coryell Community Church, offered prayers and support for our healthcare heroes, families and patients who are currently dealing with COVID-19.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard pictured with Devyn Ayala, center, and Izaya Ayala.

Brothers Devyn Ayala and Izaya Ayala were recently placed in the student spotlight where they were honored by the GISD School Board. The two are transfer students to Gatesville ISD. Devyn Ayala is a high school freshman and his brother, Izaya Ayala, is in eighth grade at Gatesville Junior High. Suzy Penrod, Junior High Principal said, "Both are well-mannered, respectful, and hard-working students. I have only great things to say about them." The brothers first caught the attention of GISD superintendent, Dr. Barrett Pollard, when they wrote letters to him requesting to stay in the district.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard presents Velvet Jaynes with her certificate of appreciation.

Shining this month in the staff spotlight is Velvet Jaynes. She has been described as extremely hard working and continues to keep all the GISD athletic programs running smoothly. "Mrs. Jaynes has dedicated many years of loyal service to the district. Velvet sifts through calendars and requisitions and many other administrative items to make sure our students have the best athletic opportunities as possible," said GISD superintendent, Dr. Barrett Pollard. Over the past few years, each time a student passes away, Jaynes makes sure that the memorial ceremonies are thoughtful and meaningful for the families.

HORNET LEGEND SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Barrett Pollard presents Tracy and Tommy Fadal with their certificates of appreciation for being Hornet Legends.

The Hornet Legend spotlight shines on Tommy and Tracy Fadal. Both started their teaching careers in 1979. Tommy and Tracy would spend 17 years at GISD. Tommy taught predominantly Earth Science at the junior high and coached the girls' varsity basketball team. In one of his evaluations, Bobble Cole wrote, "the humor that Mr. Fadal incorporated into the presentation helped students feel more relaxed." Although she was also certified in Biology, Tracy would teach predominantly English at the junior high. Tracy was a kind and highly effective teacher. In one of her evaluations, Bill Bradley wrote, "one of the best jobs of praising students I have seen." Both of these educators are certainly worthy of being called Hornet Legends.

PHOTO

FROM PAGE A1

Ackerman found his moment as he was exploring the area around Pearl in September of 1931. He happened upon William Pickens Freeman, a 59-year-old Coryell County farmer, who was taking a break from the fields. The photo shows Freeman sitting in a rocking chair with his feet propped up reading the "Progressive Farmer" periodical.

That iconic image Ackerman made of Freeman has been published widely and is easily found on the internet. Ackerman simply named the

photo "Farmer reading his farm paper."

The image is part of a series of photographs showing life across the country throughout the early 20th century, and during the Great Depression.

William Freeman is shown reading the "Progressive Farmer" which was a major farm periodical in the South that advocated rural electrification, soil conservation, rural education, and modern agricultural technology.

The subject of Ackerman's photograph, "Bill" Freeman, was born in Moore County, Tennessee. He came to Coryell County with his parents at a young age and the family

settled near the community of Pearl.

In 1900, Freeman married Lenora Vaughan and the couple moved into a two-room house (which cost about \$150) on their 400-acre farm and ranch about four miles east of Pearl — and is where they would raise 11 children.

"They produced and raised cotton, corn, oats and milo in the fields and on the range there was sheep, cattle, mules and hogs," their son, Byron Freeman, wrote in a narrative about his parents and their life on the farm. "They [his parents] lived together nearly 46 years and raised eleven children, and while doing this they took

an active part in all community affairs and accumulated about 1,800 acres of land."

In 1930, Coryell County was home to nearly 3,000 small farmers who were mainly raising cotton, sheep, cattle, and goats. It was certainly the place to be for Ackerman's work.

The photographer began his career in 1910 as a photographer by the Bureau of Plant Industry. He was paid \$900 a year.

By 1917, he was working for the Federal Extension Service traveling across the United States photographing life of rural families.

Ackerman retired in 1949 after a 40-year career with

the U.S. Department of Agriculture. While working for the government, he estimated that he took over 50,000 photographs. Many of his photos can be viewed as comfortable and nostalgic, but Ackerman wanted to capture on film the progress farmers were making.

In referring to the rural photos he made, Ackerman once commented that he tried "to paint the rural scene as I saw it, modern and up-to-date in many respects."

He wanted his images to come across as optimistic rather than downbeat depictions of the Great Depression.

The National Archives in Washington, D.C. has a traveling exhibit service and one of the exhibits honors Ackerman. The exhibit is called Photographs of Rural Life by George W. Ackerman.

"(The exhibit) rediscovers the work of a prolific and talented, but largely unknown photographer," the National Archives states.

The traveling exhibit will end in 2021.

George W. Ackerman died in 1962 at the age of 78.

DRIVERS

FROM PAGE A1

gone from bad to critical across the country. A national survey released on Aug. 31 found 91% of the 1,500 respondents said they had to alter service to elementary schools. Middle schools were altered by 90% and high schools by 83%.

In Massachusetts on Sept. 15 Gov. Charlie Baker ordered as many as 250 National Guard troops be made available to address staffing shortages in certain districts, according to a press release from Baker's office.

No such measures have been put in place yet in Texas. But districts have been trying to incentivize people

by offering higher wages and bonuses.

At their Sept. 13 meeting, the Copperas Cove ISD School Board voted to increase the starting pay for bus drivers from \$14.65 per hour to \$18 and offered a \$250 incentive after working 30 consecutive days for the school year.

GISD currently pays \$16 to \$21 per hour, depending on experience. The Gatesville ISD School Board was set to vote on an \$825 (\$25 per week) bonus for this school year to entice drivers at their Monday meeting. The results of the vote were not available.

CDL REQUIREMENTS

A commercial drivers license is required to become a school bus driver.

Federal changes made in 2016 now require applicants to complete a pre-trip inspection to get a CDL, meaning they must be able to physically identify motor components under the hood.

Raney said GISD has a robust training program that helps teach potential drivers all they need to pass the test. He said he has trained 12 new drivers in the last two years and they are having applicants pass their test the first time, which rarely happens.

"Each one of them came in thinking they couldn't do it or the bus was too big or they weren't going to be able to drive it, and each one of those people's minds were changed by the end of it," Raney said of the training.

He said he goes to Waco with the applicants as they go through the tests so they feel supported though the process.

"We will take you through the entire process if you are interested," Raney said.

That process is not quick and has only gotten longer as COVID policies shut down or altered schedules for state DMV offices. The length of time to secure a CDL continues to work against districts trying to fill positions.

"The process of getting a CDL is what really hurts us because if someone were to be interested today, it would take them at least two and a half months before they could get their license," Raney said.

He said the local DMV

has a month wait to get an appointment to take the written tests. Once that is completed an applicant has to wait 14 days before they can schedule a driving test, which takes up to a month to get scheduled. After the driving test a 20-hour bus certificate course is required and the next available test isn't until November.

Even former long haul drivers with decades of experience driving 18 wheelers and hazardous equipment have to go through the process.

"Everything is spread out and it is a long process for getting your license and that's what really hurts us," Raney said.

GISD is looking to become a third party testing/training site through the state, some-

thing Temple ISD recently started doing. It would allow all written and driving tests to be conducted here in Gatesville instead of waiting a month to get an appointment at the DMV.

Raney said the district is going through the paperwork process and hopes to roll out by summer 2022.

That may speed up the process — but the district still needs residents to step up and apply.

"What we are looking for is someone who wants to help their community, be involved in some way to get the younger generation to and from school safely, and be a good influence and role model for these kids," Raney said.



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.

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NEWS FROM PEARL

Teeny weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini auction finally here

BY BETSY CLARK

The next Pearl Bluegrass event will be Oct. 2. Don't forget to call Anji Pearl Day at 325-665-7996 to schedule stage show time.

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 \$20.00/night, and 50 amps are \$25.00/night. For more information, call 254-865-5864. Come and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Pearl.

Mark your calendars to bring your RV's, campers, tents, etc. to the Pearl Community Center on Nov. 5 for a barbecue for all of the campers. All you have to bring is whatever you want to cook on the grills, a covered dish, and yourselves. There will be pickin' and



Betsy Clark

grinnin' too!

Then, you will already be there for the Nov. 6 Pearl Bluegrass event.

SAVE THE DATES

■ The bookstore will be open on two Saturdays in October: Oct. 2 along with the Bluegrass event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and again on Oct. 9 for the Pearl Community Garage Sale and Junk in Your

Trunk event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All are welcome to the free Junk in Your Trunk event. Vendors and food trucks are all invited — free of charge. You can pick up a map to guide you to the various garage sales in Pearl either at the book cottage or at Kay's Giant Plant and Yard Sale (more info below). There is still time to call Kay 254-865-5864 or Linda 254-865-9282 if you live in Pearl and would like to add your name to the garage sale list.

■ Kay Pruett will be having her Giant Plant (many succulents) and Yard sale (many tools) on Oct. 8-9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at her home. There are so many items for sale at Kay's that they're too numerous to list. If you have questions, please call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 or Kay Pruett at 254-865-5864.

■ Another important event takes place at Pearl

Church of Christ on Oct. 17, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The church is celebrating its 126th anniversary. There will be a dinner following the church service. So come home to Pearl in your vintage car, horse and buggy, tractor, or however you can actually get there. Bring any old Pearl and/or church pictures you may have and would like to share. Also bring family, friends, and even casual acquaintances. Everyone is always heartily welcomed!

CEMETERY DONATIONS

Reminder: 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 donation or a donation in memory of a loved one to Pearl Cemetery Association, C/O Linda Ray,

1771 CR 152, Purlmela, TX 76566. For more information, call Linda at 254-865-9282. Thank you in advance for your support!

Please feel free to visit the local churches in Pearl. You are always welcome at any location. Pearl Community Fellowship meets at 9 a.m., Pearl Church of Christ meets at 10:30 a.m., and Pearl Baptist Church meets at 10 a.m.

HIGH NOON AUCTION

Big news at high noon Oct. 2: The teeny weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini will be auctioned off on the steps of the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop.

YOU could soon be the owner of the famous (infamous?), atrocious attire that's only big enough to fit a cat! All proceeds go to the book cottage to benefit local charities.

Bidding begins at 12

O'clock High, so be there or be square, pilgrim! Remember, the winner gets to model the outrageous raiment. It's gonna be fun.

The closing verse for the week comes from Micah 6:8—He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. ESV

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 betsyclark47@yahoo.com for information or to submit any Pearl news that you might have.

GATESVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Trustees hear bonus plan to help retain school bus drivers

The Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees held a regular board meeting on Monday, Sept. 20. Some of the items discussed included:

BUS DRIVER RETENTION BONUS

The Executive Director of Testing and Federal Programs, Yancey Sanderson, spoke to the Board concerning a bonus program for bus drivers. Like most of the country, GISD is struggling to locate and keep bus drivers. The bonus program will allow full-time and substitute drivers to earn an extra \$825 (\$25 per week) this year to reward drivers for all their hard work and dedication.

EVALUATION OF SUBSTITUTE PAY

GISD Superintendent, Dr. Barrett Pollard, provided the Board with information concerning substitute pay. "Last spring, Mr. Frazier and Mrs. Blanchard compared our substitute pay to neighboring districts of similar size and found our compensation to be very comparable," said Pollard.

Non-certified substitutes make \$70 a day and \$75 on Fridays. Certified substitutes make \$80 a day and \$85 on Fridays.

For substitutes who complete a long-term job (10 days in the same assignment), non-certified subs make \$90 a day in those

positions and certified subs make \$95 a day.

For substitutes who complete 30 days in the same assignment, non-certified substitutes receive \$105 a day and certified substitutes make \$110 a day.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

Dr. Pollard spoke to the Board about the junior high and high school athletic participation numbers. Pollard said that GISD Athletic Director, Rickey Phillips, provided participation numbers for the high school and junior high athletic programs including sports for both girls and boys.

As compared to numbers

from last year, junior high girls participation increased from 114 to 146. For junior high boys, the numbers increased from 152 to 189. In the athletic programs, the high school girls participation numbers dropped a few points from 165 to 162, while high school boys increased from 214 to 226.

The total junior high, girls and boys, increased from 266 to 335. The total high school, girls and boys, increased from 377 to 388. The total number of GISD athlete participation increased from 643 to 723. The overall total is up approximately 80 students from the 2020-2021 school year.

NAMING THE NEW GATESVILLE JUNIOR HIGH GYMNASIUM

Dr. Pollard presented to the Board GISD's wish to honor a former coach and teacher, Mary Bishop, by naming the new junior high school gym after her. Mary Bishop began her teaching career in 1970. In 1972, she

began teaching health, PE, teen leadership and coached as well at Gatesville ISD. Bishop became a much-admired fixture at the school until her retirement in 2002 after thirty years of service. Even after her retirement, Bishop would come back and drive a bus. Coach Bishop impacted the lives of her students — this was especially true for the athletes that she coached. In a school evaluation of Bishop, Greg Hines wrote, "You are always very positive and supportive of your students and try to encourage them at every opportunity."

Dr. Pollard recommended to the Board that the new junior high school gym be named the "GJHS Mary Bishop Gymnasium." The Board agreed and the motion was carried.

NAMING OF THE JACK MAXWELL ATHLETIC COMPLEX

A proposal was also made by Dr. Pollard to name the athletic complex after long-

time teacher and coach, Jack Maxwell. He attended Gatesville ISD for his entire public school education. He participated in all sports from grades 7-12 with football and track being his primary sports. After serving in the U.S. Army, Maxwell attended Sam Houston State University and graduated in 1970 with a B.S. degree in physical education with a minor in Biology. In 1973, he returned to GISD as a teacher and a coach. Known by the students as "Happy Jack," he would primarily teach junior high science and coach football and track. Coach Maxwell would retire with having served in education for over 50 years.

Dr. Pollard recommended to the Board that the group of Gatesville High School athletic buildings including the field house, athletic trainer's office and weight rooms be named the "Jack Maxwell Athletic Complex." The Board agreed and the motion was carried.



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TRAPPERS

FROM PAGE A1

Instructors from across the country will demonstrate effective methods to minimize damage from feral hogs, coyotes, bobcats, beavers and more.

A field trip to a nearby ranch will demonstrate techniques applied in a natural setting. CEU's for pesticide applicators will be awarded for General and IPM credits. This seminar will be held in conjunction with the TTFHA annual Fall Convention.

Fur harvesting and predator control supplies as well as wildlife related crafts will be available throughout the

A field trip to a nearby ranch will demonstrate techniques applied in a natural setting. CEU's for pesticide applicators will be awarded for General and IPM credits.

convention. A fundraising auction will take place Friday evening and sale items will be on display throughout the day.

This is a family-oriented event with ladies crafts and youth crafts sessions taking place for participants on Saturday as well as a trap setting session for youth.

There will also be trap

setting and skillet tossing contests for all ages. Concessions will be available throughout both days. Activities will begin at 1:00 pm on Friday and 7:30 am on Saturday.

For more information, call Bill Applegate at (432) 729-3349.

The Gatesville Messenger is seeking a self-motivated, hardworking, team player to serve as a *staff reporter*.

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janice.velasquez@gatesvillmessenger.com

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through law enforcement dispatchers during the period of September 3 - 7. 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

Sept. 22
12:49 a.m., an accident was reported in the 600 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.
1:12 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Austin Street.
7:34 a.m., a hit and run was reported in the 1900 block of Waco Street.
12:29 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Regal Lane.
6:01 p.m., a hazmat spill was reported in the 1300 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.
6:55 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

Sept. 23
12:08 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of Regal Lane.
3:09 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
4:01 p.m., an accident was reported in the 200 block of N. Lovers Lane.
7:06 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of N. 29th Street.

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10:35 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of W. Main Street.
11:31 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of N. 12th Street.

Sept. 24
7:22 a.m., an accident was reported in the 9000 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
12:12 p.m., a fight was reported in the 200 block of S. Lovers Lane.
4:57 p.m., a hit and run was reported in the 2600 block of Business Hwy. 36.
5:07 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of N. 10th Street.
7:51 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1300

block of W. Main Street.
9:36 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Tippit Lane.

Sept. 25
4:04 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Avenue C.
6:29 a.m., an accident was reported in the 1600 block of State School Road.
11:49 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 800 block of S. 7th Street.
2:50 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
5:24 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 1300 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.
6:09 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of King Country Road.

Sept. 26
1:47 a.m., an intoxicated driver was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.
2:18 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 200 block of CR 193.
2:12 p.m., an assault was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.

4:09 p.m., a gas leak was reported in the 1000 block of College Street.
4:17 p.m., an assault was reported in the 300 block of Fennimore Street.
4:18 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sept. 22
3:07 p.m., a threat was reported in the 600 block of Liberty Street.
5:58 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 6200 block of FM 116.
6:03 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1241 and CR 181.
6:37 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 1800 block of N. FM 116.
7:24 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1100 block of Sierra Vista Road.
10:25 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 7100 block of FM 217.

Sept. 23
10:24 a.m., fraud was reported in the 7200 block of

FM 2412.
10:25 a.m., a theft was reported in the 11000 block of N. Hwy. 36.
12:31 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 700 block of Old Pidcoke Road.
2:04 p.m., a theft was reported in the 900 block of Greystone Drive.
3:11 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 5400 block of FM 929.
4:58 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on E. Hwy. 84 at the city limits.

Sept. 24
4:42 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 107 near Hwy. 36.
11:08 a.m., illegal dumping was reported in the 2800 block of N. FM 116.
1:27 p.m., a scam was reported in the 3000 block of E. FM 931.
1:38 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 13000 block of W. Hwy. 84.
5:13 p.m., harassment was reported in the 300 block of Cedar Mountain Road.
7:31 p.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1900 block of N. FM 116.

Sept. 25
7:45 a.m., a missing child was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hwy. 36.
9:28 a.m., an animal complaint was reported on Old Osage Road.
12:42 p.m., a dog bite was reported in the 100 block of Boone Avenue.
1:35 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 10000 block of FM 215.
6:10 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 2300 block of FM 217.
9:57 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 400 block of CR 339.

Sept. 26
2:39 a.m., a fire call was reported on CR 193 near Jonesboro.
7:30 a.m., a stranded motorist was reported on N. Hwy. 36 and State School Road.
3:47 p.m., a minor accident was reported on Hwy. 190.
7:44 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on E. Hwy. 84.
11:48 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 1300 block of FM 116.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Women knit together in prayer, mission

The regular meeting of the United Methodist Women was held on Sept. 14, in the foyer of the First United Methodist Church in Gatesville. Eleven members were present. Hostesses were Doris Nichols and Kathleen Blankemeyer.
President Patsy Smart called the meeting to order by leading in the blessing. Linda Klontz then led the group in the prayer partner activity, choosing new partners for September.
Following refreshments, Smart thanked the hostesses, welcomed everyone, and read the Purpose. Velva Riddle read from the prayer calendar and the Response Magazine.
Nichols presented the program titled "Persistence in Mission." It focused on a story from Matthew about a persistent gentile woman whose daughter was sick, and how

Jesus responded to her faith and healed her daughter. As women pray, study and act together, they are knit together into a creative and supportive fellowship for the work of mission.
Members were given a paper candle onto which to write a prayer request to be shared, shining the light of God's mercy into the world. Shirleen Chandler led in singing "We're Marching to Zion."
Smart called the business meeting to order. Among the reports was one given by Carol Dildine, mission coordinator for education and interpretation, mentioning that box tops for education were sent to Red Bird Mission; she passed around a newsletter which she had received from them. In addition to the box tops, the UMW organization is also collecting pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.
Smart read a thank you

note from the ladies of The Presbyterian Church, for inviting them to a salad supper in August. Present were about 40 ladies from Mountain Baptist Church, The Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church meeting together for a salad supper.
Under new business, Riddle led the group in discussion of the upcoming UMW Sunday on Sept. 26. She went over the agenda and asked for volunteers to help with the service.
Riddle announced that the UMW would be able to have a garage sale and a combination bake sale/craft sale, all outdoors in the parking lot in November. Details will follow.
The meeting adjourned with the Benediction.

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700-800 lb.	115-135
No. 1 Heifers	
under 300 lb.	130-165
300-400 lb.	130-150
400-500 lb.	125-140
500-600 lb.	120-135
600-700 lb.	115-130
700-800 lb.	110-120
Slaughter Cows	
High Yielding	66-76
Low Yielding	47-57
Fats	65-73
Thin & Shelly	20-35
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	60-92
Cow & Calf Pairs	
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A BOOK REVIEW

For the fan with deep knowledge of football

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

This weekend, your team is going to win. You can see it already, the way they've been playing so far this season, and you're sure they can take it all the way to February. For now, though, this weekend's a must-see and everybody looks good; as in "The Forgotten First" by Keyshawn Johnson and Bob Glauber, some even play on the shoulders of giants.

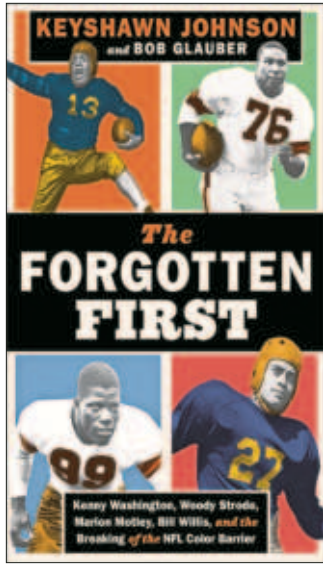
If you're a baseball fan, you surely know the story of how Jackie Robinson became the first Black ball player in the major leagues. What you might not know is that four Black men integrated pro football a year before Robinson's history-making at-bat.

Abandoned by his mother and raised by a paternal uncle because his father had other interests, Kenny Washington, who signed with the Los Angeles Rams on March 21, 1946, was first drawn to baseball but the truth was, he could play any sport. Having battled rickets as a young boy, he suffered deformities in both his legs, but that didn't matter - Johnson and Glauber report that Washington was fast.

So was Woody Strode, who signed up with the Rams

not long after Washington. Strode's mother was Native American; his father was Black, and though Strode had a modeling career as a young man (he'd once posed nude for a Nazi artist) and he'd served in the Army Air Corps, his life always circled back to football.

When he was a child, Marion Motley grew to be so much larger than his peers that when he was at football practice, other kids' parents begged for him to wear more padding so that collisions with him "wouldn't hurt quite so much." Much later, Motley played for the Cleveland Browns, along with Bill Willis, who almost didn't take up football because he didn't think he could play as well as his brother, Claude. Within mere months, these



"The Forgotten First: Kenny Washington, Woody Strode, Marion Motley, Bill Willis, and the Breaking of the NFL Color Barrier" by Keyshawn Johnson and Bob Glauber

c.2021, Grand Central Publishing \$28.00 / \$35.00 Canada 335 pages

four men broke the color barrier in pro football. And, say the authors, "That history is not told enough..." Another thing that's not told enough: what hap-

pened before these four men signed on with their respective teams, and how their first year proceeded. It's infuriating, it's astounding, and it's all laid out here inside "The Forgotten First."

And yet, getting to it might not be so easy.

Authors Keyshawn Johnson and Bob Glauber are a former pro-baller and an NFL columnist, respectively, and the tale they tell speaks to the heart of the fan with deep knowledge of mid-twentieth-century football teams, players, coaches, and college ball. It's a wide story that encompasses decades and dozens of peripheral people who had a hand in integrating the sport generations ago, from secondary education on up. Then it brings readers full-circle to reveal the inside of the game as it is today.

And all this will be irresistible if you're a fan. If you're not a history-minded, live-for-football-season, paint-your-face fan, you may be in well over your head with this book. If you're obsessive about the game, though, "The Forgotten First" is a big win.



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRIS SCAGLIONE

NFL PEDIGREE: Authors Bob Glauber, above, an NFL columnist, and Keyshawn Johnson, a former pro-baller, tell a tale that speaks to the heart of the fan with deep knowledge of mid-twentieth-century football teams, players and coaches.

HORNETS

FROM PAGE A8

The Hornets defense allowed Case Brister to gain 180 yards on 19 carries and scores of 64 yards and four in the second half.

Hornets quarterback Wesley Brown was Gatesville's offensive leader with 25 carries for 92 yards rushing. Brown completed five of 19 passes for 48 yards.

He had a hand in three scores.

The Hornets scored twice in the final 2:33 of the first quarter, both on runs by Brown. He scored from two yards out to finish off a six-play drive of 22 yards then added a second score from four yards out to build a 16-0 lead.

Sanchez answered with a 69-yard run down the sideline to keep the Badgers in touch.

Both kickers were solid for the night.

Gatesville's Luis Macias had a 40-yard field goal and was perfect on two PATS.

The Hornets added second half scores on a 33-yard run by Hayden Mooney and a six-yard pass from Brown to Carson Brizendine.

Lampasas (2-3) came into the game with losses to Brownwood, Wimberley and China Spring. The Hornets (2-3) two wins are over Llano and Hillsboro.

The difference Friday was Lampasas pulling off big plays.

The Badgers big threats were Bekker, Sanchez, Brister and Joshua Carter.

The Hornets will have the week off before opening District 9-4A, Division II play, Oct. 8 with Salado.



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SHADOW MOVE: Hornet defender Lawson Mooney tries to cut off Lampasas quarterback Dylan Sanchez on the perimeter.

EVANT

FROM PAGE A8

Hunter White had 12 carries for 185 yards rushing and scored three touchdowns rushing to go with two receiving touchdowns.

Luis Arellano added two carries 45 yards rushing and was four of five passing for

161 yards.

Kenny Jones was two of three passing for 30 yards and one touchdown.

Edgar Morales had one catch for 25 yards and a score.

Daniel Honea had a 40-yard touchdown catch.

White's two catches were good for 106 yards and two scores.

Arellano added one catch for five yards.

Canyon Smith had one reception for 16 yards.

Kenny Jones paced the defense with seven tackles and a 25-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Other tacklers were Daniel Honea 14, Arellano nine, Morales nine, White seven and Canyon Smith two.

OGLESBY

FROM PAGE A8

and Johnny Gomez with a 35-yard score.

Cash Lee and Matthew Castillo added receiving touchdowns of 40 and 25 yards, respectively.

Thompson hooked up with Lee for the 40-yarder

and Brodie Fisher connected with Castillo for 25 yards.

The team finished with 289 yards rushing in the mercy-rule victory. The Tigers averaged 26.3 yards per carry on the ground. They averaged 32.5 on the two passes.

The Tigers had four interceptions, one each from Tippit and Fossett. Thompson

had two picks. Lee and Joel Gonzalez had fumble recoveries.

Leading tacklers were Joel Gonzalez with eight, Lee seven, Castillo six, Fossett six and Tippit six.

Brodie Fisher kicked 10 of 12 PATS.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

<p>GATESVILLE HORNETS Luis Macias 40-yard field goal</p>	<p>JONESBORO EAGLES Jaden Domel 11 carries 79 yards, TD, 8 tackles, 2 INTS, 2 pass breakups</p>
<p>EVANT ELKS Hunter White 12 carries for 185 yards rushing, 5 TDs total</p>	<p>OGLESBY TIGERS Cash Lee 7 tackles, fumble recovery, TD receiving</p>

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ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE A8

Gatesville won, 19-25, 25-21, 25-19, 26-24, behind a solid effort from its rotation of players.

"That was a nice way to finish," coach Janey Weber said. "We've got some players that have accepted their roles and they are all contributing."

Gatesville, who is ranked 12th in the state according to the Texas Girls Coaches Association, are coached by District 6-4A play. The Hornets are 23-5

headed into the slate that includes Brownwood, Glen Rose, Lampasas, and Stephenville.

The Hornets got solid performances from starters Tasha Thoms, Barrett Boyd, Avery Mullins, Haywood, Khloe Mathews, Lola Barron and Charlee Barron.

Marlee Williams was solid off the bench as a server.

EVANT BEATS THREE WAY Evant's varsity volleyball team beat Three Way, 25-17, 25-16, 25-16, on Tuesday, Sept. 21. Statistical leaders were:

Harley Weeks. 15 assists, 1kills, 8 aces
Emiliegh Burton. 13 kills, 3 aces, 1 block

Caeleigh Burkham 15 digs, 2 kills, Luwi Rodriguez 10 digs, 1 kill

Bree Ramirez 6 aces, 2 kills, 5 digs
Izzy Gandy 1 aces, 2 digs
Molly Waldrum 4 kills

In a Friday Sept. 24 match, Evant fell 19-25, 20-25, 25-20, 18-25 to Hico. Emiliegh Burton had 10 kills and Caeleigh Burkham had 21 digs.

JONESBORO 64, SAINT JO 50

Undefeated Eagles hold off feisty Saint Jo Panthers

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Jonesboro relied on its ground game to hold off the Saint Jo Panthers in Friday's 64-50 football road win. The Eagles were scheduled to

play Milford, but that game was canceled. Saint Jo filled in. Leading the ground assault for the unbeaten Eagles were workhorses Caleb Christel and Jaden Domel. Christel had 16 carries for 158 yards and two touchdowns. He also

completed two of eight passes for 33 yards and a scoring pass of 33 yards to Zach Chapman. Jacob Cisneros was efficient with seven carries for 60 yards. Cisneros had three touchdown runs. Also adding to the run game were

Manny Torres with eight carries for 55 yards and two touchdowns. Ian Shoaf had four carries for 49 yards and Tyler Wilson added three carries for 32 yards. Leading the defense was Domel with eight tackles, two intercep-

tions and two passes broken up. Nat Hilliker added eight tackles followed by Christel with six, Demarcus Acoff six, Chapman three, Cisneros one and Shoaf one. Jonesboro (5-0) takes on Turkey Valley at Trent Oct. 1.

LAMPASAS 41, GATESVILLE 33

Hornets let game slip away against Badgers



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

BIG PLAY ON SPECIAL TEAMS: Senior Jacob Baker makes a big punt return early to set up the Hornets in the first quarter.

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Gatesville had a good start Friday night against Lampasas, but a big swing in momentum late in the second quarter allowed Lampasas to take a 41-33 football victory in Gatesville.

With just 25 seconds left before half, the Badgers senior quarterback Dylan Sanchez found Carson Bekker open in left side of the end zone for a 23-yard touchdown.

With the extra point kick, Lampasas took its first lead of the evening, 24-19 into the halftime break.

The Badgers had plenty of big plays in the game and finished with a 433-180 edge in total yards for the game.

PLEASE SEE **HORNETS** | A7



LOOKING FOR YARDS: Quarterback Wesley Brown turns up field for a good gain for the Hornets.

EVANT 62, PENELOPE 16 Elks' balanced attack pacifies Wolverines

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

The Evant Elks bounced back big this week with a 62-16 mercy-rule victory over Penelope Wolverines on the road.

The Elks (4-1) relied on a balanced offense and solid defense in the 62-16 football victory. The game went into the fourth quarter before the Elks put it away.

Evant was coming off a loss to No. 1 state-ranked May.

PLEASE SEE **EVANT** | A7

OGLESBY 92, WACO EAGLE 6

Tigers net 14 TDs in home field rout

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Oglesby scored 14 touchdowns in a 92-6 football rout over Waco Eagle Christian Friday in Oglesby.

The Tigers (5-0) will take on Waco Live Oak this week at home.

The Tigers had nine rushing touchdowns from six players led by Blake Thompson, Ronaldo Gonzales and Kyler Fossett with two each.

Thompson had touchdown runs of 45 and 31 yards. Gonzales had scores of 49 yards and seven yards.

Fossett added runs of 38 and 18 to the total.

Others with rushing touchdowns were Jarkes Tippit from 26 yards, Joel Gonzalez with two carries and a long of 20 yards

PLEASE SEE **OGLESBY** | A7

VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Gatesville spikers break into state rankings



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

POINT TO CELEBRATE: Hornets celebrate a point during last week's win over Salado. The Hornets opened district with a win over Lampasas Friday.

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Gatesville volleyball is rolling and state-ranked.

On Friday night, the Lady Hornets opened District 6-4A with an impressive 25-14 25-14 25-21 victory over Lampasas at Gatesville.

"We came out with a lot of fire to start district," Gatesville coach Janey Weber said. "It was also teacher appreciation night and the girls had a teacher who had made a big impact on them run out with them before the game."

On Tuesday, Sept. 21 Gatesville junior Kaleigh Haywood had three straight kills to finish off a come-from-behind non-district victory over Salado Eagles at Gatesville High School.

After dropping the first game, the Hornets battled Salado to the wire in three straight games.

PLEASE SEE **ROUNDUP** | A7