



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Volunteers making a difference with animal issues

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Staff Writer

Gatesville's Animal Control Department and animal shelter — a division of the Gatesville Police Department — have come a long way in just a few years, and several community members are working together to help accomplish even more.

With limited space, the shelter only has space for about 24 dogs at any one time. That number fluctuates based on the size of the dogs and whether more than one can be kept in a kennel. Efforts are underway to raise money to build a new shelter facility. The current shelter

is on private property, which sometimes limits public access.

Despite the limitations, animal control officers Jason Holt and Frankie Miller have worked with a strong cadre of volunteers, including Brandi Hipp and Jamie Newman, to make a big difference in rescuing animals and helping them get the care they need, along with adoption opportunities.

"The number of animals we have at any one time goes up and down," Holt said, adding that eight puppies from the Gatesville facility were recently placed with pet rescue operations.

"You think, 'sweet, we found places for eight dogs,' but then the

next day you might pick up four more and then two others the day after that. It fills up pretty fast."

Holt credited the efforts of volunteers with finding places both locally and outside the area to take and care for the dogs.

"That has made a tremendous difference," he said. "We've had dogs placed with rescues as far away as Montana and Washington state. For little bitty ol' Gatesville, that's pretty good."

Holt joined the Gatesville Police Department as animal control officer in January 2019 after serving in the Army as a tank crew member.

PLEASE SEE **ANIMAL** | A2

Money can be saved on fees for pets and livestock

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Staff Writer

Although many Gatesville residents are not aware of them, paying registration fees for pets or livestock could help save big bucks when it comes to fines.

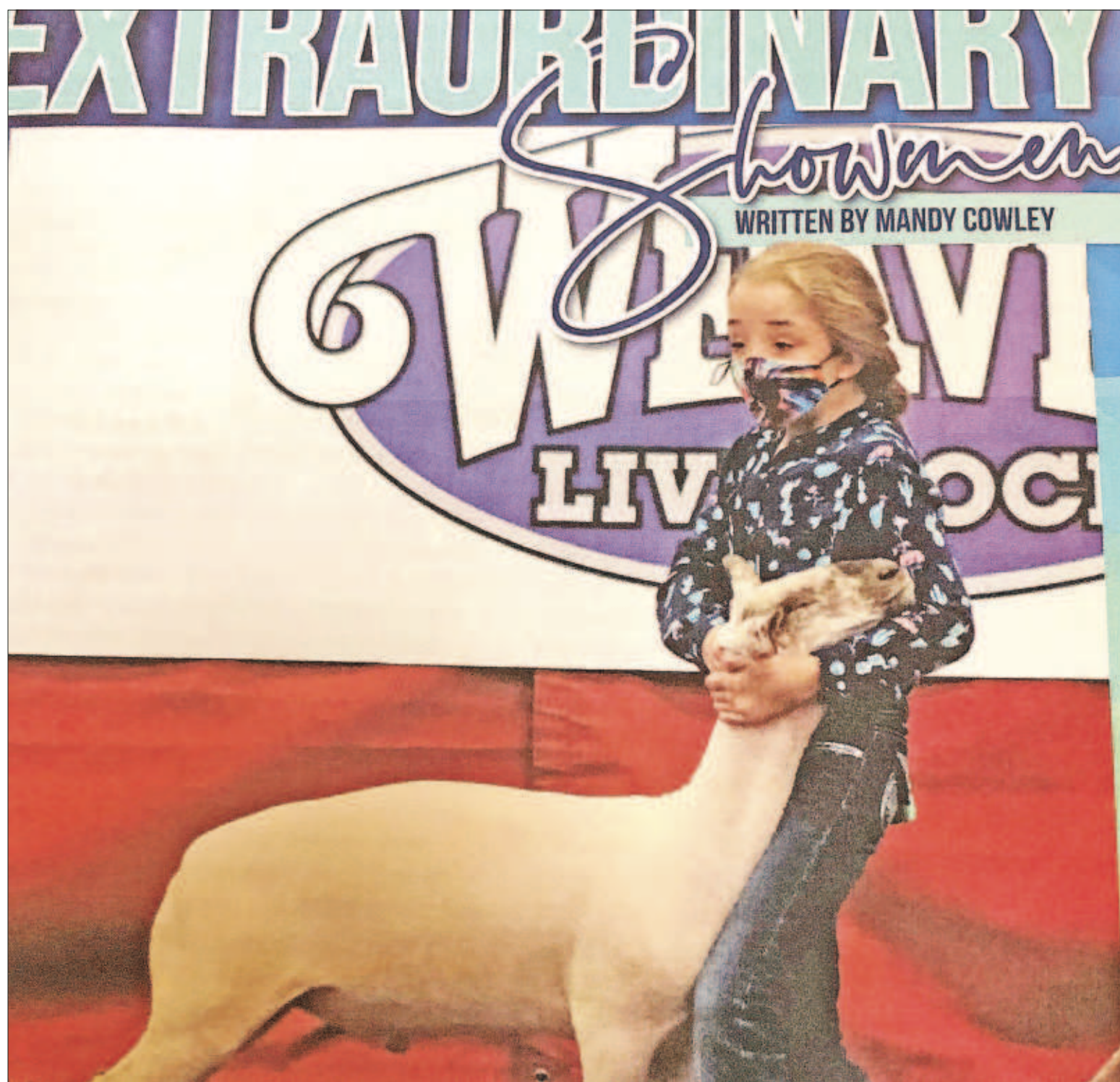
"There are people I've talked to who have lived here their

entire life and don't know that we have a tag for pets that costs \$2," said Animal Control Officer Jason Holt. "After you get your pet vaccinated for rabies, you bring in the paperwork from the veterinarian and we enter that into our database.

PLEASE SEE **FEE** | A2

HEROIC HEART

Hannah Gustin overcomes challenges to excel



COURTESY PHOTOS

AN IMPORTANT PART OF HER LIFE: Because of a rare genetic condition, Hannah Gustin could not compete in sports. Her grandmother thought working with animals would give her a worthwhile activity. Showing livestock has become an important part of Gustin's life.

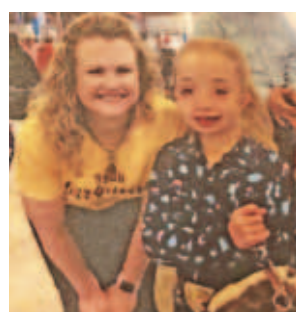
BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Staff Writer

A rare genetic condition has changed the way Hannah Gustin interacts with the world, but it has not stopped her from setting and achieving goals or living a life in which she strives to be a blessing to others.

When Hannah was born, doctors initially believed she had Down's syndrome, but discovered later that she did not, said her mother, Kendra Byrom, principal of Jonesboro School, where Hannah is a 14-year-old freshman.

"She had seizures when she was little, and there are a lot of little

PLEASE SEE **HANNAH** | A7



EARLY START: Hannah Gustin began showing animals at age 8. Hannah's mother, Kendra, said "God definitely made Hannah unique."

GISD approves purchase of bus

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Staff Writer

Working to make sure the Gatesville Independent School District avoids having to replace multiple buses at the same time and doesn't get hit with an overwhelming financial burden all at once, district leaders approved the purchase of a new bus on Oct. 18 as part of the GISD fleet replacement plan.

Kristopher Raney, transportation director for GISD, said the district received a price quote from Lonestar Bus Sales of Houston for a 71-passenger bus for \$107,353.

"That's about \$12,000 more than (the price) was last year," Raney said. "Rising costs following the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected both labor and supply, contributed to that increase."

Raney said that replacing older

PLEASE SEE **BUS** | A3

INSIDE SUPERIOR RATING FOR GHS BAND



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Gatesville High School Marching Band received a superior rating at regional competition. **DIVERSIONS**, B1

QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: When does the kids trick-or-treat when Halloween falls on a Sunday?

A: The City of Gatesville does not have a designated day for trick-or-treating. While the Boozaar will take place on Saturday, Oct. 30, children are permitted to trick-or-treat either Saturday or Sunday night.

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CRIME STOPPERS

Safety tips for Halloween revelers in Gatesville

Wear reflective material if you plan to trick or treat after dark

With spooky season fast approaching, Centex Crime Stoppers would like to take this time to share some Halloween safety tips with the community. As many of you prepare to dress your children up in their favorite Halloween costumes

in just a few days, here are a few tips to remember to keep your most precious cargo safe!

If you plan to trick or treat after dark, remember to make sure that you wear some sort of reflective material to be more visible to driv-

ers when sidewalks are not available.

Also remember that if you are walking on the roadway, Texas law requires you remain on the left side of the road as long as practical and to walk facing oncoming traffic as cited in the Texas Transportation Code 552.005.

Accompany your trick-or-treater all the way to the door and try to avoid the consumption of candy

until a parent or guardian has had the opportunity to inspect the treats.

Lastly, try to plan ahead, and have a safe Halloween! We look forward to seeing all of the spooky pictures, and creative costumes!

If you have any information about any case or 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.

ANIMAL

FROM PAGE A1

That service included nine years at Fort Hood.

"A buddy saw a job listing for animal control officer here, and I have been around animals all my life," he said. After being hired, Holt set out to help transform the department, and worked with volunteers to save as many animals as possible.

He said he is also hoping to work with other groups to establish a program to help place service dogs with military veterans.

While dogs are a primary emphasis for the department, the shelter also is working to improve the lives of local cats.

"Gatesville has a large feral cat population," Holt said. "We are working to spay or neuter them, and that keeps them from wandering around as much, which keeps them from getting run over. We actually have a feral cat colony established here in Gatesville, and are doing what we can to help them, too."

Frankie Miller has worked as an animal control officer for Gatesville for five years. She said she enjoys getting to know people through her job, plus the opportunity to work with some amazing animals each day.

"It's been a great job," she said. "You really have an opportunity to make a positive impact on the community."

Both officers credit Hipp and Newman with their efforts in helping the department.

"They do such a great job as volunteers," Holt said. "They have really made an incredible difference with helping to place dogs, their donations and everything they do to give the animals a better chance. They have been such a huge help



to us."

Hipp said that in addition to being involved herself, she has gotten her daughter Zoe involved in supporting the shelter as well.

"My husband came home one day and told me the animal shelter was full," Hipp said. "My daughter (who was 4 at the time) and I visited with (Gatesville Police Chief) Nathan Gohlke and asked what we could do to help. We went to different places in town handing out flyers. Everyone we have worked with has gone above and beyond. People have come out of the woodwork so to speak to help."

"We have partnered with Austin Pets Alive, Operation Kindness, Texas Humane Heroes and several other organizations to help find a place for pets. Jamie Newman is another volunteer who has really done a lot to help. Her father is a veterinarian at the Bar N clinic. She heard what I was doing and wanted to get involved, and she's really a key player in getting things done."

Hipp urged those who are considering getting a new pet to consider rescuing a local animal.

"Adopt local If you're thinking about adding a new furry family member," she said. "We also appreciate all the donations people have made. It goes a long way."

Those interested in donating, volunteering or adopting a pet should call Jason Holt or Frankie Miller at the Gatesville Police Department at 254-865-2226.

ADOPT LOCAL: Gatesville's Animal Control and shelter is urging those looking to adopt a pet to look for one in town.

COURTESY PHOTO

FEE

FROM PAGE A1

"It's a \$2 fee, but compare that to a \$170 fine for not having your pet registered."

Although some rabies vaccines may be labeled as being good for up to three years, in Gatesville, as well as many other communities, those vaccines are required each year.

Holt said three citations can be issued for pet owners who have not properly registered or secured their dogs — one for not having a city tag, one for not having a rabies vaccine and one for having an animal at large.

"A lot of people don't realize that, but it's a safety issue," he said.

Although the animal control officers typically work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, other officers respond to animal emergencies at night and on weekends.

"If it's something they need help with, they call us," Holt said.

Livestock are also permitted within the city limits, but they must be registered. The fee is \$10 but not having the livestock registered can cost people a hefty fine of \$300 or more.

"People are allowed to have chickens, ducks, turkeys, goats, sheep ... but they have to be permitted," Holt said.

"There are a lot of kids that raise livestock and partici-

pate in 4-H and it's fine for them to have the animals inside the city limits, they just need to pay the \$10 fee."

Those wanting to adopt a pet can call the police department at 254-865-2226 and reserve a time to visit the animal shelter.

"The fees will be going up at some point, but right now they are \$15 to adopt a dog or a cat," Holt said. The animals will still need to receive most of their vaccinations. Those kept at the shelter only receive their first round of parvo vaccine, a kennel cough vaccine and basic flea and tick treatment.

Those who adopted pets sign a contract agreeing to get the animals vaccinated for rabies within 30 days, and they have 60 days to get their pet spayed or neutered.

"Sometimes volunteers pay out of their own pocket to get a dog spayed or neutered before they are adopted and pay for their rabies shot, so we do have some animals at the shelter who are already good to go," Holt said.

The shelter also welcomes any financial support people are able to provide.

"We are always accepting donations," Holt said. "Whether it's food, blankets with cold weather approaching and donations to the medical fund, we appreciate anything people can give."

For more information or to make a donation, call the police department at 254-865-2226.



OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY: Those who adopted pets sign a contract agreeing to get the animals vaccinated for rabies within 30 days, and they have 60 days to get their pet spayed or neutered.

COURTESY PHOTO



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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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

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MOUND NEWS

Soldiers honored at Gatesville churches

BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mound Cowboy and White Mound Baptist churches honored the soldiers in Gatesville Friday afternoon. Desserts were made by the churches last week.

Nancy, Jeb and Desiree Dixon, and Barbara Hopson attended Julia's band program Monday evening at Santa Rita Elementary School in Liberty Hill. Tom and Sandra Varner lately visited with their great, great-nephew and a six-day old great, great-niece. Mrs. Pam Wolff was honored for her birthday with a dinner Sunday evening in Belton at the Dead Fish Grill with Margaret Hopson, Brent, Lori, Bailey and Jozie

Wolff. Martha Lawhorn was a Sunday lunch guest of Mrs. Josephine Pollard in Gatesville. Emma Blakley of College Station was home for the weekend. Carolyn and Emma Blakley attended Emily Lieb's wedding in Crawford and they also went to Lennox Tatro's first birthday party in Gatesville. Ruby and Jacklyn Pullen of Rockwall, great-nieces of Barbara Hopson, competed

in a barrel racing event in West on Saturday. They both had really good runs but did not place. Chris and Jennifer Miller enjoyed a couple of days in Thackerville, Oklahoma at the Winstar Casino. Caymbri Fisher spent Thursday night with her grandparents, Ronnie and Kay Fisher. Blayze Fisher had a football game in Calvert Thursday evening. Neal and Amanda Fisher went to support him and his team. Slayton Fisher spent Friday night with his (Mimi) Debbie Piller. Barbara's Notes: Happy birthday to Brooke Dixon, Raymie Moore, Frank Hopson, Charles Combs Jr., Nathaniel Eberlein, Chase McGhee, Henry Brim and Phillip Winter.



"We are still running a bus with more than 200,000 miles."

KRISTOPHER RANEY
Transportation director for GISD

BUS

FROM PAGE A1

buses on a regular schedule will help the district avoid a situation where it is paying a large amount all at once. He added that the district is still using vehicles with high mileage. "We are still running a bus with more than 200,000 miles," he said. "We would also like to get buses that have air conditioning for at least all the long routes." He said the department works to put its best buses on the longer roads so that if any problems do occur with a bus, the impact will not be as great and those affected will not have to wait as long as they might otherwise. Over the next few years, the district will continue to update and upgrade its bus fleet. "We need at least five or six additional buses," he said. GISD will have to wait a while before its newest bus arrives. "We anticipate getting the bus in four months," Raney said.

Christian adult fellowship group to attend concert

The Christian Adult Fellowship Event group will attend a concert in Belton on Oct. 26. The group will leave the United Methodist Church in Gatesville at 4:30 p.m. and will eat at the Mary Hardin-Baylor cafeteria before attending the Concert Choir directed by Michelle Roueche and Women's Chorus directed by Matt Crosby at 7:30 p.m. The performance will be held at the Sue and Frank Mayborn Performing Arts

Center in the Baugh Performance Hall. The cost of the trip is \$10, which includes transportation and the performance. The meal is self-pay. Tickets can be purchased directly from Ruth Jones, or at the church office Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Questions can be directed to Ruth Jones at 254-865-2112 or to the church office at 254-865-2520.

There will be no refunds given after the deadline to purchase tickets of each event. Money cannot be transferred to a future trip if you are unable to attend.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through law enforcement dispatchers. 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

Oct. 17
 12:05 a.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 2500 block of Jackson Drive.
 12:20 a.m., an intoxicated driver was reported in the 10000 block of E. Hwy. 84.
 1:21 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Austin Street.
 1:51 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Business Hwy. 36.
 8:23 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 600 block of E. Hwy. 84.
 9:16 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 10000 block of State Hwy. 36.

Oct. 18

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12:25 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1700 block of E. Main Street.
 3:15 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.
 12:05 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

2:00 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 400 block of N. 14th Street.
 4:01 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.
 5:21 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.

Oct. 19

7:20 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 5000 block of N. State Hwy. 36.
 9:51 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of White's Lane.
 10:24 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of N. 11th Street.
 12:08 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1700 block of CR 133.

5:03 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
 11:07 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Cedar Lane.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Oct. 17
 10:35 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 200 block of CR 132.
 12:53 p.m., a vehicle was reported stolen in the 200 block of Harrell Drive.
 1:14 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on Hwy. 84 and CR 268.
 4:47 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 6700 block of FM 107 near CR 301.

7:42 p.m., a threat was reported in the 300 block of Deer Ridge Road.
 9:47 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 700 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

Oct. 18

4:26 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 600 block of W. Hwy. 84.
 10:22 a.m., identity theft was reported in the 600 block of Liberty Street.
 3:48 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1800 block of CR 106.
 5:51 p.m., a fight in progress was reported in the 400 block of Coryell City Road.
 6:05 p.m., an assault was reported in the 800 block of Glenwood Drive.

7:32 p.m., illegal dumping was reported in the 3300 block of FM 1113.

Oct. 19

8:26 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 200 block of Harrell.
 12:04 p.m., a major accident was reported in the 6300 block of FM 116.
 12:30 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1700 block of CR 133.
 12:41 p.m., an assault was reported in the 800 block of Moccasin Bend Road.
 3:35 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 4600 block of FM 932.
 4:41 p.m., an assault was reported in the 6000 block of E. Hwy. 84.

United Methodist Women meet on Oct. 12

The regular meeting of the United Methodist Women was held Oct. 12, in the Foyer of the First United Methodist Church in Gatesville. Nine members were present: several sent word as to their absence. Patsy Smart and Linda Klontz were the hostesses. President Smart called the meeting to order by leading in the blessing. During refreshment time, Klontz led the group in a Prayer Partner

activity, choosing new ones for October. Following refreshments, President Smart thanked the hostesses, welcomed everyone and read the Purpose. Velva Riddle read from the Prayer Calendar and the Response Magazine. Shirleen Chandler led the group in singing, "God Will Take Care of You," and then presented the program, the first chapter of a book titled "Women

Rise Up" by Katey Zeh. The book gave a woman's point of view from scripture where women are mentioned. The chapter takes the story of Hagar from Genesis 16: 1-16. Regardless of the details as to how it happened, Egyptian slave Hagar finds herself pregnant with Abram's child and running away through the wilderness to escape abuse of her master Sarai. Fortunately, God shows


up and tells her to go back to her abuser. Perhaps God knew the road ahead for her was too dangerous. But he speaks to her with words of encouragement about her child. She speaks back and now has a relationship with God. She knows now that she is a child of God, a woman of sacred worth, and a person with a story to be told. Smart called the business meeting to order. She

presented two certificates received from the district for their mission work. She also read a thank-you note from the Ronald McDonald House for the pull tabs that the group had donated. The slate of officers for 2022 was presented for a vote and the slate was approved. OLD BUSINESS: The garage sale and the bake/craft sale for the church will be held

on Nov. 13. Members were asked to help with the baking and the crafts. NEW BUSINESS: October is Minister Appreciation Month. A card was passed around for members to sign for Pastor Schmidt. The meeting was adjourned with the Benediction.


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EDITOR'S NOTE: Sylvanus Castleman's story is told by his fourth great-grandson, Ron Sutton. Ron is a member of The Descendants of Stephen F. Austin's Old 300 and The Sons of the Republic Texas, and serves as president of the David Crockett Chapter in Granbury.

My name is Sylvanus Castleman. The first thing I want to say is I'm so thankful for and proud of my family's contribution to the building of the United States, the Lone Star Republic of Texas and great state of Texas!

I was born in Tennessee in 1776, but my story starts in 1709 when my third great-grandfather, Hans Dietrick Casselman, came to America from Germany, aboard the good ship Midford landing in New York. Thankfully the Casselman clan moved south to Virginia. The Casselman River in Pennsylvania is named for my grandfather, Jacob Casselman.

My father, Jacob Castleman, was born in Virginia (1756). He was always looking for better lands and more opportunities, so he moved the family west to Davidson County, Tennessee. Pa was killed by Indians in 1791.

I inherited, owned and worked land in Sumner County, Tennessee as early as 1794 when I was only 17 years old. In 1797, because I had worked hard and saved money, I was able to buy more land on "the waters" of Richland Creek, Williamson County, Tennessee.

The spring of 1803 something wonderful happened to me. I met the most beautiful woman I had ever seen in my whole life. Guess what? On Aug. 19, 1803, I married Elizabeth "Betsy" Lucas in Davidson County, Tennessee. I was 26 and Betsy was 17 when we got married. She was a Christian, hard worker and extremely smart. I knew she would be an excellent



mother for our children. Speaking of children, our first five — Nancy, Andrew, Sarah, Elizabeth and LaVina — were born right there in Davidson County, Tennessee. Did I mention that she was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen?

Things were great for me, Betsy and the kids, but something awful happened in December of 1811. A giant earthquake struck and lasted 53 days; it became known as the New Madrid earthquake. The course of the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers were

completely changed and the entire town of New Madrid, Missouri, was swallowed up. The fear, death of people and livestock and the destruction of property and even the land is still very fresh in our minds. It's something I will never forget.

The War of 1812 made things even worse. I enlisted in Capt. John Crawford's Mounted Rangers of the Tennessee Militia to fight the British and some mercenaries from Ireland. I was easy with horses and a good rider, but more important, I was deadly accurate with my pistol and rifle. They said I was an excellent marksman; they were right. We won the war and secured the United States' liberty once more. One thing for sure, we can never take our liberty for granted, and we must be willing to defend it regardless of cost.

Like my Pa, I was always on the lookout for better lands and more opportunities. Shortly after my discharge from the militia I moved my family to Saint Genevieve, Missouri, where two more children, Benjamin and Jacob, were born. Next to God, family is most important to Betsy and me. Betsy was great at home schooling our kids; she taught them to read from the Bible, how to do their numbers and how to write. We were very thankful for and proud of our children. They all would become very good citizens.

In Saint Genevieve I met and became friends with

PLEASE SEE **LEGEND** | A6

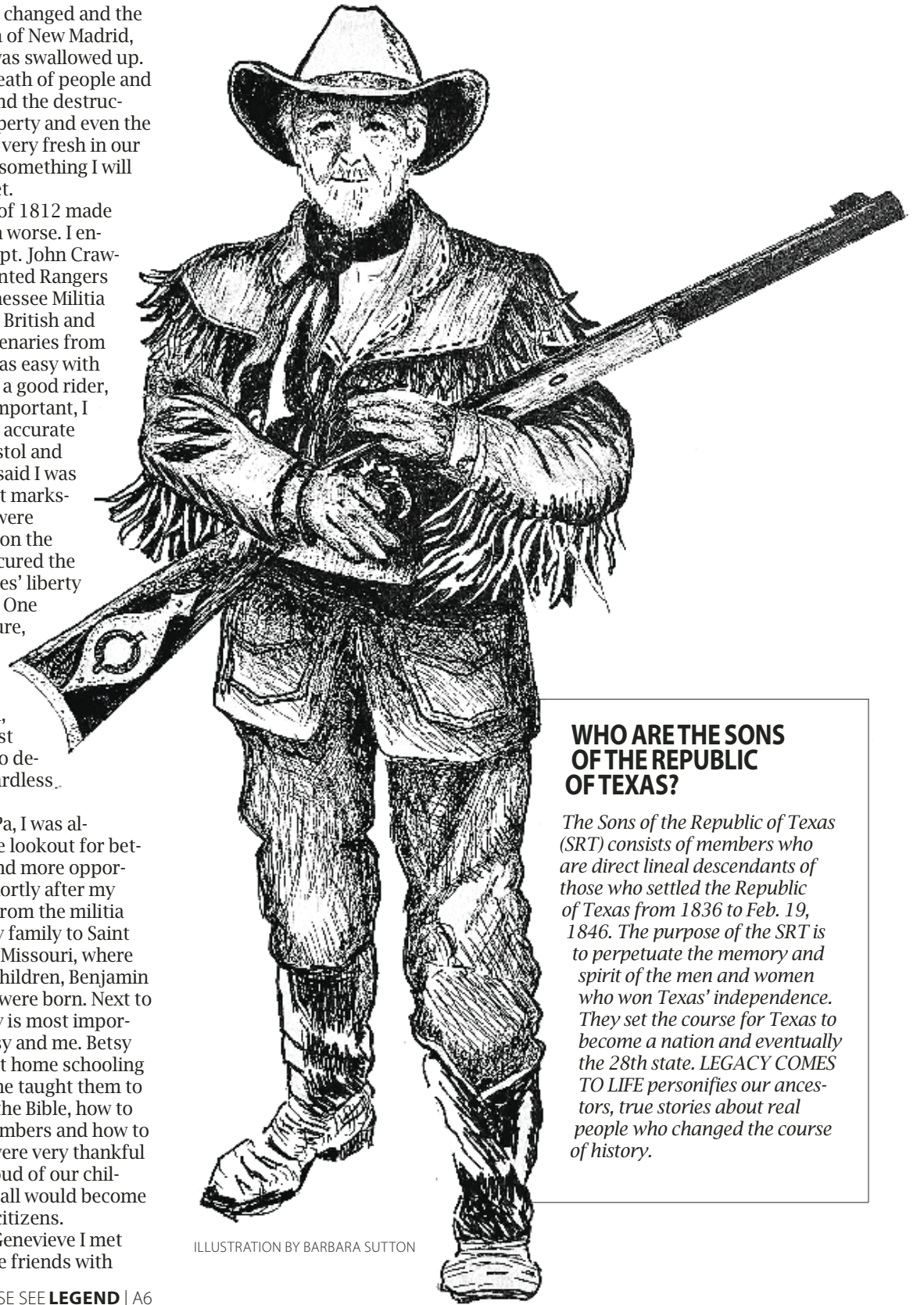


ILLUSTRATION BY BARBARA SUTTON

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The Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) consists of members who are direct lineal descendants of those who settled the Republic of Texas from 1836 to Feb. 19, 1846. The purpose of the SRT is to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who won Texas' independence. They set the course for Texas to become a nation and eventually the 28th state. LEGACY COMES TO LIFE personifies our ancestors, true stories about real people who changed the course of history.

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A message from Dr. Melissa Bello

After 28 years of practicing optometry in the city of Gatesville, I am making this announcement with mixed emotions. I am retiring from my practice effective October 31, 2021. This has not been an easy decision for me to make but I would like to thank all my patients for trusting me with their eyecare and I would like to express my sincere appreciation for having the chance to be your eye doctor. I have valued my relationship with my patients and I thank you for the many years of loyalty and friendliness. I would like to thank my staff for their years of commitment to my patients and practice because I would not have survived without them, especially during COVID 2020.

I am excited to introduce to you Dr. Joshua McCown who will be taking care of all your eyecare needs. Dr. McCown is from a small town in the state of Washington. He received his Bachelors in Biology from Western Washington University. He then moved to the great state of Texas to attend the Rosenberg School of Optometry in San Antonio where he earned his Doctorate of Optometry. He enjoys hiking, camping, kayaking, and traveling with his wife. Dr. McCown performs comprehensive eye exams to detect any eye diseases and he strives to make sure each patient leaves with smile and a prescription that gives them crisp and clear vision. He is licensed by the Texas State Board of Optometry as an Optometric Glaucoma Specialist and is a member of the Texas Optometric Association and American Optometric Association. He looks forward to meeting the people of Gatesville.

Your medical records are confidential and will remain on file with the Vision Concepts practice. All warranties on frames and lenses will still be honored at Vision Concepts. If you have any questions, the awesome staff members will be able to help you.



DR. MCCOWN



Vision Concepts

Fall and Halloween upcoming schedule of events

SUNDAY, OCT. 24

Hay Valley Baptist Church will host a Fall Festival at 5:30 p.m. They will be having carnival games, train rides, a hayride, face painting, a photo booth and a chili dog supper. Hay Valley Baptist Church is located at 3110 Hay Valley Road.

TUESDAY, OCT. 26

Gatesville Junior High will host a Fall Band Concert and a baked potato supper fundraiser. The baked potato supper will be at the high school cafeteria from 5 - 6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$6 per meal.

The 6th to 8th grade band concert will be held at 6:30 in the high school auditorium.

THURSDAY, OCT. 28

■ Stanley Chrysler will be hosting its 2nd annual Trunk-or-Treat from 4-7 p.m. There will be candy, costumes, food trucks, Halloween photos and a bounce house. Stanley Chrysler is located at 106 S. Highway 36 Bypass.

■ The Gatesville Intermediate School will host a Fall Festival from 5-7:30 p.m. The festival will include glow disc golf, a haunted house,

cornhole, cake and pie walks, bottle toss, sack races and a dunking booth. Gatesville Intermediate is located at 311 S. 26th Street.

FRIDAY, OCT. 29

■ Hillside Medical Lodge will be hosting a Trunk or Treat at 4 p.m. Hillside is located at 300 S. Highway 36 Bypass.

■ Coryell Health RehabLiving will be hosting its annual Tiny Tots Costume contest at 2 p.m. for children as old as 4. Coryell Health RehabLiving is located at 110 Chicktown Road.

SATURDAY, OCT. 30

■ Live Oak Baptist Church will be hosting a Fall Festival from 2 - 4 p.m. There will be games, a hayride, train ride, face painting and treats. Live Oak Baptist is located at 113 FM 107.

■ The Presbyterian Church will be hosting its first annual Trunk or Treat event from 6 - 8 p.m. There will be games, food, bouncy houses, and prizes awarded for the best decorated car. The Presbyterian Church is located at 1110 E. Main Street.

■ Gatesville's Boozaar will be taking place on the

courthouse square from 6 - 8 p.m. Between 60 and 70 businesses will be handing out candy and providing games for the children. There will be Treat Stops and Treat Stations located around the square along with vendors and a costume contest for all ages.

■ First Baptist Church of Gatesville will be hosting a Fall Festival from 6 - 8 p.m. There will be fun and fellowship for the whole family. First Baptist is located at 912 E. Main Street.

SUNDAY, OCT. 31

■ First United Methodist Church will be hosting a Trunk or Treat from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the church parking lot. The church is located at 2600 E. Main Street.

■ The 2021 Gatesville Halloween Candy Maze will be from 5 - 10 p.m. There will be a children's maze and an adult/older kids maze. Food vendors will be present. The event will take place at 1518 Golf Course Road.

LEGEND

FROM PAGE A5

Moses Austin and his son Stephen F. Austin. Moses was 16 years older than I and Stephen F was 16 years younger. At that time Moses was engaged in negotiating a deal with the Spanish Government to settle a colony in Northern Mexico's South-Central area called Tejas. His vision for the future intrigued me.

I traveled to Tejas in the spring of 1820 with Moses Austin and learned it was everything he said it was — fertile land good for farming, ranching and raising a family. Wild game was plentiful and so was good water. It was love at first sight because I knew opportunities would be endless. I headed back to Missouri to tell Betsy and the kids Tejas would be our new home

Moses did not head back to Missouri until January of the next year. He had a very difficult trip back to Missouri. His mule with all his supplies was stolen, he was attacked by a panther and he became very ill. He made it back to Saint Genevieve but died

June 10, 1821

Mr. Moses Austin was a man of high morals and great intellect, a true gentleman. I consider his friendship a blessing and to call him friend, an honor. Before his death Moses, along with others, convinced his son SFA to embrace his vision for a colony in Northern Mexico. Stephen was committed to see his father's dream come to life.

By the fall of 1821 Stephen had selected the site for his colony. It was the land between the Colorado and Brazos rivers all the way down to the coast. In 1822 I arranged with SFA for a survey of the land that I wanted to homestead with my family. Seth Ingram did the actual survey. I paid Stephen, for the survey, with a lot that Betsy and I owned in Saint Genevieve. I headed back to Missouri get my family.

We were so proud and thankful to be part of SFA's 300. The list of American settlers in the Colorado District of San Felipe de Austin on March 4, 1823 included me (Sylvanus) age 46, Elizabeth 37, Nancy 15, Andrew 17, Sarah 16, Elizabeth 13, LaVina 10, Benjamin 7, and

Jacob 2. Later that year Betsy had the first Castleman born in Texas, our son John.

It was sometimes dangerous and always very hard work making a good life in Tejas, but with the good Lord's blessings we were able to do just that. I was known as a farmer, rancher, surveyor and Indian fighter. I worked and fought hard to be the very best at every one of them.

1824 started out as a good year. I was even elected Alcalde (judge) of the San Felipe de Austin Colony in Jan. 1824. Our two oldest daughters, Nancy and Sarah, married the Crownover brothers. The Crownovers are a great family, and we welcomed their sons into ours.

July 7, 1824, I received official title grants of two leagues/sitios (8,856 acres) of land in present-day Wharton County, one half league/sitio (2,214 acres) in present-day Fayette County and two labors (340 acres) in present-day Austin County.

John Rabb and I were the first two members of the SFA 300 to receive our land grants. Our home was located on Indian Hill, at the big bend, on the westside of

the Colorado River (about six or seven miles North of present-day LaGrange). We always had a lot of company stop and stay the night at our home. Mainly because Betsy was a great cook, but the location was great for travelers. SFA was a regular guest as was Baron de Bastrop.

1824 was a good year except for problems with the Indians. I sent a letter to SFA to tell him the Waco Indians came to my house and plundered and carried off the following articles: two sheets, two quilts, a wagon cover and nearly all our wearing clothing and table furniture. It appears from the conduct of those Indians that we cannot settle the frontiers of this colony unless we have an understanding with them, for if they are allowed to rob us and plunder it will be impossible. I am determined to kill the first one that undertakes to rob me again, which will commence a war.

In August of 1828, my son Andrew and I were working in the fields when we were surprised by Indians and forced by them into the Colorado River bottoms

where another group of Indians already had captured Nancy, Andrew's wife, and their three-week old daughter Milly, my granddaughter. The Indians had come to their home and Nancy, being alone with the baby, had fled to the river bottoms with her daughter to hide and there they were captured. They threatened to throw Milly in the river but did not. After much pleading by Nancy and with the help of an Indian boy who lived with me, interpreting for us, the Indians released all of us unharmed.

Things were bad with the Indians but worse with the Mexican government. This hombre named Santa Anna had become president but was really a dictator. He actually said, "Mexican people are not capable of taking care of themselves; I must do it for them." The situation worsened when Santa Anna completely voided the Mexican Constitution in 1824.

June 26, 1832, my son Andrew, only 26 years old, was killed in the Battle of Velasco. This was the first bloodshed in our fight for liberty, the beginning of Texas' march to independence from Mexico; no turning back.

1833 — Things went from bad to awful; SFA imprisoned in Mexico City

1835 — SFA is released and returns to Texas but war is inevitable.

Battle of Gonzales October 2, "COME AND TAKE IT!"

1836 — Independence Convention convened March 1

— Declaration of Independence March 2

— Fall of the Alamo

— Goliad Massacre Palm Sunday, March 27

— Battle of San Jacinto April 21, Texas' liberty secured!

My second to the youngest son Jacob, only 16 years old, was in Company H, 1st Regiment Texas Volunteers. He served under Gen. Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto where we won our independence from Mexico. I sure wish Andrew and I could have been there with Jacob and Gen. Sam.

So now you can see and understand why I'm so thankful for and proud of my family's contribution to the building of the United States, the Lone Star Republic of Texas and the great state of Texas!

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HANNAH

FROM PAGE A1

things we pay attention to, but she is able to do a lot of things that doctors never thought she would do — including walk and talk," Kendra said. "Doctors thought she would be deaf or a dwarf, but so far they've been wrong."

"She is proof that we are unique. God definitely made Hannah unique."

Although she is smaller than the average teenager, those who know her well see an indomitable spirit, a passion for raising animals and showing them in several livestock shows and a connection with younger children that encourages and affirms them.

"I've told Hannah after she finishes school, she should be a pre-kindergarten teacher," Kendra said. "She has such a way to interacting with them and motivating them. Instead of going to athletics, Hannah spends that class period working with the pre-K students."

Because participation in athletics is a family tradition and Hannah's stature and weakened joints in her arms and legs prevent her from competing in sports, it was Brenda Byrom, Hannah's grandmother, who suggested another avenue of extracurricular activities.

Brenda, a longtime member of the Coryell County Fair Board, thought Hannah might enjoy showing livestock. At age 8 and in third grade, Hannah began showing animals and that pursuit has become an important part of her life. Hannah shows goats and lambs, and has showed other animals as well, including pigs and rabbits.

Helping her in that task is her younger sister Ella (as known as Campbell), age 12, a seventh-grader, as well as Kendra and Jonesboro agriculture teacher BethAnne Gann.

"It's really fun," Kendra said. "We get the animals ready to go and take them to places like the HOT (Heart o' Texas) Fair (In Waco) and San Angelo, and of course the Coryell County Fair in January."

Kendra dabbled in showing livestock when she was younger, but says she didn't have the dedication that Hannah has for it.

Showing pigs but for me it was more of a social thing," she said. "Hannah is so devoted to showing animals, and it's something she does really well."



DEVOTED TO HER ANIMALS: Hannah Gustin's mother, Kendra, said "Hannah is so devoted to showing animals, and it's something she does really well."

COURTESY PHOTOS

Watching her daughter endure medical procedures over the years has been difficult for Kendra, but she said that she is amazing by Hannah's resilience and toughness.

"I've seen her go through so much, and for me the hardest part is not knowing what her condition

is because it is so rare. It took me a long time to realize that all of us face that, really. None of us know for sure what we'll face in the future.

"The Bible says we are uniquely made and we see that in Hannah, for sure. She's proof of that."

One of the recent challenges that Hannah has had to face was growth modulation surgery, in which rods were inserted into her legs.

"You can't tell me that having the rods put in her legs didn't hurt, but a short time later she was at a football game watching her cousin and

working with her animals the next day," Kendra said.

"When I see other students face a challenge, I don't handle the 'poor pitiful me' thing very well. I've seen what Hannah can do, and I know others can overcome difficulties, too."

"We rely on the Bible and our faith in God. In the Bible, there are struggles and challenges that the people face. Things aren't easy, but you trust in God, pick yourself up and move forward."

Asked if she could be interviewed for the article, Kendra said Hannah is shy and wouldn't have much — it anything — to say to an adult stranger she just met.

But in the pre-K classroom helping kids or in the show barns of Central Texas and beyond, Hannah is in her element.

"She really has a gift in working with the little ones and is active in our church, and she has really done an amazing job showing animals," Kendra said.

Whatever goals she has, those well acquainted with Hannah know not to count the determined teenager out.

"She's flourished, and (showing livestock) is her opportunity to shine," said Brenda Byrom, Hannah's grandmother. "She's in high school but she's the size of a second-grader, but that hasn't stopped her. She's 65 pounds, and at one event she showed a 120-pound lamb. It makes me cry thinking about how much she has accomplished."

"There is just an aura around her, and everybody is so supportive. It's been such fun so see her have the opportunity to do well. When she was little, doctors didn't even know if she'd be able to sit up, and look at what she's doing now. She walks into the show ring and she is transformed. It's really a testament to her faith in God and her determination. She is not letting her challenges stop her."

"It's a phenomenal story of faith, courage and pushing through difficulties to achieve."

Brenda said she hopes others are inspired by Hannah's story, as well.

"No matter what limitations a person has, they can achieve and there's a place in this world for them. That's what Hannah has done. She's overcome so much and is such an inspiration."

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Changing Others by Changing Yourself

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."
Ephesians 6:4 NIV

There are a series of books by the author Kevin Leman which purport to tell us how to rapidly change someone. I have been reading "Have a New Teenager by Friday" because I have a teenage stepdaughter who I wish behaved better. Though I was initially skeptical of the idea that we could change her within the week, what I soon realized was that the thrust of the book is about changing how I react to her. Instead of launching into a long-winded lecture which your teenager will tune out after five or ten seconds, why not wait until they want a favor from you and then simply tell them they cannot do or have the requested thing if they are going to treat others disrespectfully. Rather than insist on them being home more often, why not make your home somewhere that your kids enjoy hanging out at. In short, the advice is about changing you and your response to your children rather than trying to force them to change. Your children will naturally change in response to your change. In my case, I have noticed that when I start out by raising my voice and insisting my stepdaughter change something she is doing, there is firm resistance. On the other hand, if I calmly ask her to please turn down her music or clean up a mess she has made, she usually responds positively. And of course, it helps to have clear rules and to follow them consistently.
-Christopher Simon




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BETHLEHEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH: Elder, Hugh Montgomery, pastor; Peabody community 5 miles south of Pearl on FM 1690; Sunday services - Morning worship 4th Sunday each month at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 and FM 116; Sunday services - Bible study 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.
COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH: Bob Phillips, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 5:30 p.m.
EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH: Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.; Wednesday evening services, 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EVANT: Andrew Newton, pastor; Live Oak Street and Memory Lane; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FLAT: Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Wednesday Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Wednesday Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GATESVILLE: Mark Rich, Pastor; 912 E. Main Street; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OGLESBY: Jeremy Sanders, pastor; Sunday services - Bible study 9:45 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.
GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH: Michael Bragdon, Pastor; Hwy. 36 East; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH: A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.
HAY VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH: 3110 Hay Valley Road, off Hwy 36 North. Sunday morning services - Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am. AWANA children's ministry Sunday evening 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Bible Study for men and women on Wednesday at 6:30 pm.
JONESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH: Matt Dossey, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.
KING BAPTIST CHURCH: Charles W. McKamie, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH: Roysie T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36 in Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 am, Morning Service 11:00 a.m., Second Service 1:00 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
LIVE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH: Bro. Ken Laney, pastor; FM 107; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:15 a.m., morning worship 10:30 a.m., Wed. evening Adult, Youth and Children's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH: Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; Hwy. 84 East in South Mountain community; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7:00 p.m. Wednesday.
OSAGE BAPTIST CHURCH: Chris Thomas, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning

worship 11 a.m.
PEARL BAPTIST CHURCH: Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.
PECAN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH: Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.
PIDCOKE BAPTIST CHURCH: Donald McConnaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., worship service 11 a.m. www.pidcokebaptist.com
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH: Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro, TX; Sunday school at 10 a.m. and Sunday worship at 11 a.m.
PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL: One mile north of Evant on Hwy. 281; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.
PURMELA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.
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SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH: Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Dr.; Sunday Services; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m.
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH: Tim Crosby, pastor; 1506 West Main; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m. Wednesday Services - Prayer Meeting/Youth Ministry 6:00 p.m., TBC Kids at 6 p.m. Email: trinitybctx@centurylink.net. Church: 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.
TURNERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH: Jon Crosby, Pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.
WESTVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 84 West; Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.
WHITE HALL BAPTIST CHURCH: Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school at 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship services 11 a.m.; Prayer & Devotional meeting fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.; 254-865-2106.
WHITE MOUND BAPTIST CHURCH/MOUND COWBOY CHURCH (meet at 9:30 a.m.): Bruce Cox, pastor; Sun. services - Sun. School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m. For more info., call 254-865-5908.

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Church of Christ
CEDAR RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST: Deral McWhorter, minister; Osage Road and Cedar Ridge Drive; Sunday services - Morning worship 10 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.
EVANT CHURCH OF CHRIST: Will Vann, Preacher; Sunday services-Bible Study 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:20 a.m., evening worship 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
FORT GATES CHURCH OF CHRIST: Hwy. 36 S.; Sunday services - Morning worship 10:30 a.m.
GATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST: Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E Main; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes

6:30 p.m.
LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO: 2413 East Main; clases y servicios en Español, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.
MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST: 1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove, TX 76522; Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Worship; Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. Bible Study; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.
PEARL CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sunday services - morning worship 10:30 a.m.

Church of God
CORNERSTONE, Greg Demmitt, pastor; 338 State School Road; Sunday services - morning worship 11 a.m. www.facebook.com/pages/cornerstone/140632994733
Evangelical Methodist
REFUGE-MINISTRIES PURMELA CHURCH CAMPUS: Josh Morrison, Campus Pastor; 115 FM 183, Purmela, Texas, 10:45 a.m. Sunday worship, 512-425-2828.

Lutheran
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH: David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd. in Copperas Cove; Sunday morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m.
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH: Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; FM 929 in Coryell City; Sunday services - Morning worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH: Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 and FM 1114 in The Grove; Sunday services - Sunday School 9 a.m., worship 10:15 a.m.

Methodist
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Sunday services - 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays. 2 miles north of Ireland on FM 932
EVANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Judith Sellers, Pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 9 a.m., morning worship 10 a.m.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GATESVILLE: 2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship - 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD: Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children and Adult Bible Studies at 6:00 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. Visit us at fumcgatesville.org for more information.
JONESBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 101 CR 193; Rita Hotz, Pastor; Sunday services - 11 a.m., each 1st and 3rd Sunday.
OGLESBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Sunday services - morning worship 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
PIDCOKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Bill Jones, Pastor; Hwy. 116; Worship service Sundays at 10 a.m. 254-677-6242.

Mormon
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 206 South 26th; Sunday services -Sacrament services 10 a.m., Sun. School 10 a.m

Non-Denominational
CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH: Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 West; Sunday services, 10:30 a.m.; Thursday services, 7:00 p.m.
CORYELL COMMUNITY CHURCH: Daniel Crowther, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday Worship services 9am & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6pm; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry and C3 Student

Ministry.
CORYELL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH: Doran Belknap III, Pastor; Sunday service 11:00 a.m., 8205 FM 182 in Turnersville; (254) 218-5901.
GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER: Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10:00 a.m., Sunday morning 11:00 a.m., Sunday evening 6 p.m., Thursday evening 7 p.m. 2518 Bridge St., Gatesville.
GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH: Wray Nunn, pastor; Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m. & Wednesday evening worship at 6:30 p.m. at Gateway Learning Center, 2315 Osage Road.
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday Services at 10:45 a.m. 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.
HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH: Mike & Martha Johnson pastors, 503 N. 11th Street, Gatesville, 865-6222. Sunday morning worship 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study Ministries (Men, Women, children) 6:00 p.m. "Overcomers" a TDC and state approved 12-step recovery program meets Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Sundays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. aqui se reunen La Iglesia de Cristo, in the 2400 block of East Main Street.
LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: Peter M. Mafwal, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship at 10:45 am.
MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE: William Bertelsen, Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy. 236; Sunday services - 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP: 6735 FM 183 in Pearl. Sunday Services- 9:00 a.m.
THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT: Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St.; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

Pentecostal
TABERNACLE OF PRAISE UPC: Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Worship services - Sunday mornings at 10:00 am; Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm; www.gatesvilletop.org. 254-206-1826.
MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST: Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 128 North 12th Street; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., weekly services, Wed. Bible Study 6:30p.m.-7:30 p.m., Wed. night service, 7:30p.m.

Presbyterian
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

Wesleyan
CORYELL VALLEY CHURCH: 4995 FM 929, 3.5 miles from S.H. 36; Worship Saturdays at 5 p.m. coryellvalleytexas.com

Inter-Denominational
BOOTS -N- SADDLE COWBOY CHURCH: Max Gunn, pastor; 254-248-1850; 10 miles west of Gatesville on HWY 84; Sunday Service @ 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service @ 7:00 p.m.; Youth Sunday Service @9:45 a.m.
HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH: Monty & Tammy VanHorn, pastors; 1608 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday Praise and Worship 11 am, Wednesday Bible Study Rally-6 pm, 254-865-4076.
THE POINT FELLOWSHIP: James & Laurinda Paine, Pastors; 2315 Osage Road, Gatesville; Wednesday Services at 7:00 p.m. (Adults, youth & children); Sunday services - Destiny Discovery Class at 9:00 a.m. and Regular services at 10:30 a.m. 254-248-1265.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kyla Hinojosa, an 11th grade student at Gatesville High School, was recently placed in the Student Spotlight by the GISD School Board. Kyla runs cross country and displayed an incredible act of kindness at the recent Rill Bradley Invitational. A runner from Meridian, who has Down Syndrome, was the very last runner. Even though Kyla had already finished the race, she went back to run alongside that student and encouraged her all the way to the finish line. Because most people had already left the race, having this encouragement was very special to the young lady with Down Syndrome as well as her mother. The girl's mother gave Kyla a big hug and thanked her for running with her daughter. Congratulations to Kyla for being a compassionate individual.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

The GISD School Board recently placed Angela Tyree in the Staff Spotlight where she was recognized for her dedication to the students of GISD. Tyree provides students with excellent, real-world instruction in the culinary arts. She instills in them the discipline and structure needed to have a successful culinary operation. Tyree also leads by example and her work ethic is second to none. She consistently helps with events at GISD, especially those related to honoring our military service members such as in the Veterans Day program. Her hard work and dedication to the students of GISD is greatly appreciated.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Brian Reeder was recently placed in the Staff Spotlight where he was commended for the countless hours he spends serving the district. In addition to his job as lead custodian at the high school, he also coordinates staff and duties at other campuses as well. Any time there is a special event at the high school, Reeder is there to help with the setup, the sound booth, and the clean-up. COVID-19 brought many challenges to the GISD custodial crew, but they continue to work hard to clean even more thoroughly to combat the virus. Reeder very rarely misses work and always goes above and beyond the call of duty and has remained a loyal member of GISD for many years.

OBITUARIES

RAY ROBERT CASANOVER
April 23, 1945 - October 15, 2021



Ray Casanover, age 76 of Gatesville, passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends and family on October 15, 2021 at Coryell Health in Gatesville. Graveside services will be 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 23, 2021 at Restland Cemetery in Gatesville. Visitation with the family will be 5-7 p.m. Friday, October 22, 2021 at Scott's Funeral Home.

Ray Robert Casanover was born in Houston on April 23, 1945. Ray was one of seven children born to Wilton Casanover and Rosalie Kridner Casanover of Houston. Ray attended school at Sam Houston, until he was drafted into the Army on Oc-

tober 28, 1965. He went on to serve in the Vietnam War, until his honorable discharge on August 3, 1967. During his service he earned several medals including the National Defense Service medal, Vietnam Campaign Service Medal, Expert Rifle M14, Sharpshooter Pistol 45, and many others.

After his service, Ray continued his education and went on to receive his Master Electricians License. He worked for several companies both on and off shore as a Maintenance Electrician. On June 27, 1975, he married the Love of his Life, Susan Jeanette Smallwood. In 1985, Ray and his family moved to Gatesville and started City Electric and Supply and The Tater Patch Family Restaurant. After serving the Gatesville community for four years as a business owner, Ray went to work for TDCJ at the Hilltop Unit, as a Master Electrician and Area Maintenance Electrician. He retired from TDCJ in 2001 and dedicated the rest of his life to his wife, children, and grandchildren. Ray was a wonderful story teller, a natural comedian, an amazing teacher and an all-around "Jack of All Trades". Ray was an avid player of Luck, he also enjoyed horse racing, casinos, bingo, Jacks or better and of course his scratch

offs. He also loved to teach others how to play poker, but it is suspected that he may have let people win. Ray loved working with his hands and loved making home improvements, he was also at home in the kitchen and made chicken fried steak and pecan pie that were matched by none. He also enjoyed fishing, watching "Let's Make a Deal", "MASH" and just sitting for hours on the back porch sharing tales from the Good Ole Days.

Ray was preceded in death by his siblings, Wilton (Billy), Thomas (Tommy), Charles, Cecil, Joyce Ward, and his wife, Susan Casanover.

Ray is survived by his sister, Mary Wilson of Splendor; daughter, Virginia Renee James of Round Rock; sons, Trey Casanover and wife, Terri of Eagletown, Oklahoma, Patrick Casanover and wife, Frances of Gatesville; five grandchildren, Tyler, Tate, Joshua, Logan and Braelynn; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

Those who wish to remember Ray in a special way, the family is requesting in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to The Boys and Girls Club of Gatesville, TX 2533 E. Main Street, Gatesville, TX 76528.

RHONDA NELL EARL TORRES
July 25, 1966 - Oct. 14, 2021



Rhonda Nell Earl Torres, age 55 of Fort Worth, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021, at a Fort Worth Hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 23 at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel in Gatesville, with Charlie Gilmore officiating. Burial will follow at Restland Cemetery in Gatesville. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to services at the funeral home.

Rhonda was born on July 25, 1966, to the late Rufus Henry Earl and Juanell Gilmore Earl, in Fort Worth. She grew up in Fort Worth, graduating from Castleberry High School in 1984.

She then attended junior college in Fort Worth Texas, graduating with two Associate Degrees in Business Administration. She married Michael Torres and together they raised their children, Christina and J. R. (John) Torres. Rhonda worked at Home Depot for fourteen years in Fort Worth. She loved her job and customers, always greeting them with her beautiful smile and a sweet hello.

Rhonda was a beautiful girl that loved her Gilmore family! The family would come to Turnersville and stay the weekends, sometimes staying for a couple of weeks. She loved having this special time with her mama and daddy, coming down and visiting with everyone around Turnersville. She talked of going down to Hazel Latham's home and visiting with Hazel, eating cookies. She loved going to their place on Cave Creek with her beloved granddaddy, Douglas Gilmore, and checking the cows and riding around the place. Rhonda and her daddy Rufus, also spent many hours on the Cave Creek place. One of her fondest memories is when her daddy let her drive down in the bottom by herself and she ran into

the fence. She told him what happened, and he took her down there with fencing supplies and she had to fix it herself! Special friends and caregivers, Christina Chavez and Sam Dickson loved taking care of her. They included Rhonda in their daily life and holiday celebrations. With tears in their eyes, Christina said, "she was a part of our family" and Sam said, "she was a sweet and special lady". Rhonda always had a smile on her face and sweet words for everyone she met.

Rhonda was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Rufus Henry Earl and Juanell Gilmore Earl.

She is survived by stepchildren, Christina Torres and J. R. (John) Torres; special friends and caregivers, Christina Chavez and Sam Dickens, Daniel Stevens; and many cousins and extended family that loved her dearly.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to be made in Rhonda's name to the Scottish Rite for Children, <https://secure3.convio.net/tsrh/site/Donation>, or Turnersville Community Center, P.O. Box 701, Gatesville, TX 76528.

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FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Hornets head into stretch run in search of momentum

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Gatesville High School's football team is heading into the final three games of the regular season looking for some momentum.

The Hornets need to pull off at least two wins to clinch a playoff spot. They need to win all three to avoid facing defending state champion Carthage in the first round.

District 9-4A, Division II is led by China Spring and Salado. They met Friday night with both undefeated in the league after two games.

The other four teams are in a battle for the final two

Special night slated for youth football

A special night for Gatesville Youth Hornet Football is scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2 at Tommy Davidson Field at McKamie Stadium.

All Gatesville youth football players (flag and tackle football) are invited to attend along with their teams and coaches. Players are encouraged to wear their team uniforms.

All current seventh and eighth grade football players will be in attendance,

too.

The big run-through Hornet helmet will be set up and all teams/kids in attendance will get to run through the helmet with their teams starting at around 6 p.m.

Parents will be allowed on the field to take pictures, during this time as well.

There will be some Hornet high school football players there signing autographs and taking pictures

with kids throughout the night.

Admission is free.

At about 6:30 p.m., junior high teams that don't have a game that week will hold an intrasquad scrimmage.

"We look forward to sharing this night with the community and celebrating football in Gatesville," junior high coach Graig Keeton said.

playoff berths.

The Hornets will have two road games with Robinson and Jarrell sandwiched around a home game with Waco Connally.

Through seven games, the Hornets offense has been led by senior quarterback Wesley Brown. Brown has thrown for 597 yards and rushed for 532 yards.

He has completed 52 of 99 passes for 11.5 yards per reception.

He has two touchdown passes and three interceptions.

He has eight rushing touchdowns.

Carson Brizendine leads

GHS in receptions with 29 for 272 followed by Trevor Smith with 21 for 128. The receivers have one touchdown reception apiece.

Hayden Mooney has 145 tackles to lead the defense. Thiele Alvarado follows with 72, while Mason Mooney has 68 and Lawson Mooney has 66. Lawson Mooney has had two fumble recoveries, and Cooper Sutton also has two.

Jacob Baker leads GHS in interceptions with two.

BAND

FROM PAGE A12

Pfaff and Michael Hamilton, as well as color guard sponsor Jeanette Collins, the band continues to add to its trophy case and give students a taste of success and sustained excellence.

Sanchez, in his sixth year leading the GHS band, and Victor Garza, in his fourth year here, both experienced success with the Robinson High School band — known for decades as one of the top marching bands in Texas — before coming to Gatesville.

GHS is in a highly competitive region in which not only Robinson but China Spring have won honor band recognition in recent years, which Sanchez said is the band equivalent of winning a state championship. He aspires to meet and exceed that level of excellence in Gatesville.

With about 100 members, the band's performance dur-

The Gatesville band has been close before, but is still working to enter that elite company of bands that compete at the state level. If the GHS band excels during area competition, it could advance to state competition at the Alamodome in San Antonio on Nov. 10.

ing football games is a highlight for many community members, and that is where most Gatesville residents see the band. But behind the scenes, countless hours of practice that begin in the sweltering heat of summer and extend well into the chilly weather of fall is what leads to the band's success.

The Gatesville band has been close before, but is still working to enter that elite company of bands that compete at the state level. If the GHS band excels during area competition, it could advance to state competition at the Alamodome in San Antonio on Nov. 10.

"We are constantly seeking perfection, and tell the band that every day is an opportunity to be the best version of themselves," Sanchez said. "We put a lot on the kids, but at the end of the day this is their program."

"None of the UIL trophies here have the band director's names on them, and that may seem unusual to some programs. Yes, we helped them earn it but this is about them and what they have accomplished. We are just working alongside them to help them get there."

While Robinson and China Spring have longstanding traditions, they are far from

the only top bands Gatesville competes against.

"Region 8 is super competitive," Sanchez said.

"There are a lot of bands that are outstanding, including Kennedale, Springtown and Fredericksburg. If we get to the state level, we'll compete against Melissa and they have an indoor practice facility."

Band directors form a tight-knit community, spending a lot of hours working with students to help them reach their potential. Beyond all the hours Sanchez himself devotes to band, his wife Alexa is a band director at Midway

High School, and they have twin 1-year-olds.

The directors rely on the student leadership team to help set the tone for success and challenge their fellow band members to always do their best.

"The leadership team is really strong — the kids have to audition for that and build a resume," Sanchez said. "We also want them to build life skills while they participate in band."

Senior drum majors Chris Johnson and Jozy Jackson are at the forefront of providing strong student leadership, Sanchez said.

This year's production for the GHS band is "Royal," with the theme of a young princess being elevated to queen and the various trials and challenges she faces. There is a combination of pop and classical music in the performance, as well as plenty of royal pageantry.

"This show is very much about taking our audience

on a journey," Sanchez said. "Band has changed so much in the last five to 10 years. For me, the focus has been on sounding good and marching well. But these days it is so much more than that. Now it's also about the pageantry and about providing really engaging visuals. The assistant directors and the students have helped me adjust to those changes."

As for the band's success, Sanchez said that behind the scenes the parents and band boosters play a vital role.

"Their support is truly outstanding," he said. "The amount of time and energy they spend is incredible and it's definitely appreciated. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without them."

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DANCE

FROM PAGE A12

They play at Glen Rose and Stephenville to wrap up the regular season.

The Stephenville match is Tuesday, Oct. 26.

Evant volleyball drops match

Evant lost 25-22, 25-15, 25-14 to Hico on the road Tuesday.

Emiliegh Burton paced the Elks with 12 kills.

The senior also had two service aces, four blocks and

eight digs.

Caeleigh Burkham added six digs and three kills.

Luwi Rodriguez had two assists and six digs.

Other dig leaders were Bree Ramirez with six, Izzy Gandy 10 and Hailey Neri eight.

TANNER

FROM PAGE A12

tempts, hitting from 21, 39, 21 and 29 yards.

The Cowboys rallied to outscore the Longhorns in

the fourth quarter, 16-0.

Tanner Brown was born in Santa Clarita, California. He is a 2018 graduate of Saugus High School in Santa Clarita. He played two seasons at the College of the Canyons before walking on to play foot-

ball for UNLV in 2020.

He joined Oklahoma State and has kicked five field goals while the Cowboys have raced to a 6-0 start this season.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE A12

The team will be guard-heavy, led by underclassmen Kamryn Higginbotham, Kagen Hunt, Aliyah Trotter and Kyla Hinojosa."

Sophomore Trotter showed an excellent shooter's touch in Wednesday's first workout. She is also a solid ballhandler.

The team showed a lot of aggressiveness and energy.

Sophomore post Taylor Coward showed her skills on the low block with her ability to make power moves to the basket and receiving passes from the playmakers.

The Hornets will have their first scrimmage Oct. 30 at Lorena when they go up against the Lady Leopards and the China Spring Lady Cougars.

This year's assistant coaches are Brian Bays and Cynthia Moore.

The regular season begins Nov. 6 with a trip to Burnet.

The Hornets compete in District 6-4A against Lampasas, Glen Rose, Brownwood and Stephenville.

This year's tournaments will be in Merkel, Lorena and Fairfield.

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EARLY DRILL: The Hornets girls basketball team are young with roster spots up for grabs. Kagen Hunt, right, drives to the basket during a drill.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GATESVILLE BASKETBALL

Hornets show depth at guard early

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Punctual and ready was the tone on Wednesday for the Gatesville High School girls basketball team's first official day of workouts.

The team opened the day at 6 a.m. with 20 girls having their initial tryouts for the varsity.

"It was a good day," said Gatesville coach Ryan Ocheskey, who is entering his third season over the girls program. "They came in ready. This year we want them not just being on time, but to be here

15 minutes ahead of the time you are supposed to be here. They did that and they did some stretching and got mentally ready to go. I was impressed."

The team did some dribble drills early and then held a pickup scrimmage.

Ocheskey explained to the girls what he was looking for from them in the first workout.

This year's team is young, with post McKenzie Feldman being the only senior.

Ocheskey said the roster spots are wide-open. He said the success



Ocheskey

relying on fundamentals will be important.

of the team will rely on how they come together.

"It's going to be an interesting year," he said.

"We're not going to be taller than most of the teams we play."

Playing smart basketball and relying on fundamentals will be important.

PLEASE SEE **HOOPS** | A11

GHS Marching Band earns superior rating



PHOTOS BY JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

ADDING ACCOLADES: The Gatesville High School Marching Band got affirmation as one of the best bands in a very competitive region.

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Staff Writer

Continuing a tradition of excellence while also striving to reach the next level, the Gatesville High School Marching Band earned a superior rating at the area contest for the eighth consecutive year.

The outstanding performance at the regional contest at Panther Stadium in Hewitt earned the GHS band a trip to the area round at The Pfield in Pflugerville on Oct. 30.

Under the leadership of band director Jose Sanchez and assistant directors Victor Garza, Lindsey

PLEASE SEE **BAND** | A11



HIGHLIGHT OF THE GAME: For many at Hornets football games, the 100-member ensemble's performances can be the highlight of their evening.

Brown scores 12 points in OSU's win over Longhorns

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

Oklahoma State University place-kicker Tanner Brown booted four field goals, including the one that put the Cowboys ahead for good with 3:36 left in game, Saturday in their 32-24 victory over the Texas Longhorns in Austin.

Brown's parents are Brian Brown (Gatesville) and Veronica Brown. Veronica Brown is a former Baylor University track athlete. Tanner Brown's grandmother, Barbara Herndon of Gatesville, attended the game.

Brown was perfect on all four of his field goal at-

PLEASE SEE **TANNER** | A11



A BIT OF FUN: Andrea Ortiz gets in the groove Tuesday.

'Break' dance: Hornets enjoy open date in schedule

BY MARK GOODSON
Staff Writer

The Gatesville Hornets utilized a rare open date in the middle of district play to hold a dance contest Tuesday.

The junior class won the fun-filled activity between members of the Lady Hornets volleyball team.

The team members split up among grade levels for the event.

The girls sported some different looks ranging from skirts to sun glasses to simple workout shirts.

The Hornets are in the stretch work for the playoffs.

PLEASE SEE **DANCE** | A11