



Local police calls rose substantially in 2021

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Although the number of arrests has remained about the same, the number of service calls for the Gatesville Police Department rose significantly in 2021, with a total of 19,272, Gatesville Police Chief Nathan Gohlke told the Gatesville City Council during a recent meeting.

Gohlke presented the department's annual report to the Council on Feb. 22, and said the 19,272 calls generated 719 reports "ranging from class C misdemeanor offenses to major felony crimes."

A total of 379 arrests were made during the 2021 calendar year, which was similar to the number for the previous two years.

Overcrowding at the Coryell County Jail

has resulted in the number of arrests often being limited to the most serious offenses, Gohlke said.

"The jail was closed to us for pretty much all of 2021 except for felony offenses," he said. "We have a whole lot of municipal warrants that are unable to be served because there's no room (at the jail)."

Juvenile crime resulted in 18 arrests "for crimes that included burglary, motor vehicle theft, assault, sexual assault, criminal mischief and runaway" according to the report. The city of Gatesville has a curfew for those 17 and younger which was originally adopted in 2008. Gohlke said seven warnings were given and three citations were issued for curfew violations for 2021. That was down from 18 warnings and three citations the previous year.

"The first offense (for a curfew violation) is a warning - a citation is issued after that," Gohlke said. He added that in some cases, parents of the youth with multiple curfew violations can be given a citation, but he did not recall any instances where that had happened.

In 2021, Gatesville Police investigated 157 traffic accidents, an increase of 22 from the previous year. Officers issued 1,273 traffic citations, gave 1,360 warnings and made seven arrests for driving while intoxicated offenses during the calendar year.

GPD responded to 206 alarm calls in 2021, and 142 of these calls were determined to be false alarms. Those who register their alarms each year, as required by city ordinance, receive five free alarm calls within 12 consecutive months. Those who have more false

alarms than that are charged a fee. In 2021, the city collected \$300 in false alarm fees.

The city of Gatesville's animal control division responded to 1,264 calls for service in 2021 and issued 80 citations - with an additional 10 warnings given. In 2021, 296 animals were impounded or surrendered. Of this number, 11 were euthanized, 32 were returned to their owner, 81 were transferred to animal rescues and 67 were adopted. There were also 238 feral cats. Officers investigated 17 animal bite cases and quarantined five dogs in 2021.

GPD hired a new animal control officer, Douglas Glimp, who is also a certified peace officer.

"Our volunteers really help us out (at the

PLEASE SEE **POLICE** | A2

Snakes Alive! Rattlesnakes star in Oglesby



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Landon Schulze with the Heart of Texas Snake Handlers presents a rattlesnake for visitors to touch during the Oglesby Lions Club Rattlesnake Roundup.

Fire chief: 'Miracle' cited in woman's survival

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

A local senior citizen who was reported missing in freezing weather was found alive and Gatesville Fire Chief Billy Vaden is crediting a miracle for the woman's survival.

"If we need a miracle today for our nation, I'm here to tell you that miracles do happen," Vaden said. "We had a miracle happen on Feb. 23 in Coryell County when we had a missing person and below freezing weather."

Local first responders received a report that an 83-year-old woman had wandered away from her home and had been missing for two or three hours.

"We got out and were going to fly a drone, and it wouldn't work," Vaden said.

Sheriff Scott Williams had his personnel and volunteers join the search efforts, Vaden said, and about 75 people were involved in the rescue efforts.

Vaden and another person involved in the search efforts entered coordinates into Google Earth based on the woman's last known location and got different results.

The location that Vaden received was different by about 1,000 feet. Vaden said he went to the location based on his Google Earth result while others focused on the other location.

"I found her - she was lying in a pasture and was so stiff I could not pick her up," Vaden said. With the assistance of the sheriff's office, the woman was secured and transported to Baylor Scott & White Medical Center - Hillcrest in Waco.

Vaden said he and others later entered the coordinates again and continually got the location that was 1,000 feet off from where the woman was found. Not only was Vaden unable to duplicate his earlier results, there was no record of the coordinates he had been given.

"Google Earth saves a history of your searches, and that was missing from the iPad I had used," Vaden said. "To this day, I can't find that."

PLEASE SEE **RESCUE** | A2

Crowds gather for snake-tacular event

BY DAVID SCOTT
STAFF WRITER

The Oglesby Lions Club hosted the 52nd annual Rattlesnake Roundup Feb. 26-27. Despite cold weather and rain, the event was well attended, and the snake demonstrations were held each day which drew crowds of curious observers.

World famous snake handler Jackie Bibby, known as "The Texas Snake Man," was once again on hand to demonstrate his skills when handling and dealing with the venomous snakes. Bibby has spent 50 years handling rattlesnakes and holds five world records. According to Bibby, he got his start at rattlesnake roundups around Texas. "I've been bitten 12 times over the years," Bibby said. Despite the danger, he continues to entertain the crowds with his skills and knowledge. He was assisted in the snake demonstrations by a few members of the Heart of Texas Snake Handlers.

Bibby has five Guinness World Record titles for rattlesnake handling: Holding the most rattlesnakes in one's mouth (13), lying in a bathtub with the most snakes (195), lying in a sleeping bag with the most snakes (109), sacking 10 rattlesnakes in the fastest time (17.11 seconds), and going headfirst into a sleeping bag with the most rattlesnakes (24).

In addition to the snake handling demonstrations, the roundup also included food vendors, train and buggy rides, games, and live music.

When the first Rattlesnake Roundup occurred in 1970, more than 100 snakes were captured by 22 parties of daring snake hunters. The big winner of the day was Ralph Patterson of Levita who received a prize for catching the longest snake and the most pounds of snakes during a two-day hunt. Patterson received \$100 in cash and a couple of trophies.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jackie Bibby is a longtime snake handler who holds several world records.

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GHS CROSS COUNTRY STANDOUTS



Gatesville ISD's state cross country participants were recognized during the GISD Student Spotlight presentation at the GISD Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 21. Pictured are Superintendent Barrett Pollard, Carlo Martinez, Luis Macias, Bethany Penrod, Vania Martinez and Coach Elliott Kelley.

JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

POLICE

FROM PAGE A1

animal shelter)," Gohlke said. "They are go-getters who focus on trying to get the animals a new home. Rescue organizers as far away as Montana adopt the animals."

Animal Control Officer Jason Holt is transitioning to be able to help with code enforcement issues.

"Code enforcement is still a work in progress - we still have a lot of issues with it," Gohlke said.

"The overall goal of the Code Enforcement program is to enhance the quality of life for our citizens by working with property owners to eliminate nuisances on their property," the annual report stated. "The process will not only make Gatesville a more attractive place to live, but will also help reduce the overall crime rate by eliminating nuisances

and abandoned structures that provide opportunities for the criminal element.

"Unfortunately, code enforcement has not been a priority within our city for some time, resulting in many neglected properties. That, coupled with non-resident property owners, continues to slow our progress tremendously."

The police department received 149 complaints about code enforcement issues in 2021, 818 violation notices were issued and 12 citations were given. In 593 cases, property owners complied with code enforcement requirements.

The police department is still short-staffed, Gohlke said, noting that this is a problem throughout the state and also nationwide.

"So far we've been unable to fill vacancies," he said. "The city of Killeen is short 50 police officers, which is comparable to five officers for us."

Mayor Pro Tem Meredith Rainer asked if

staff shortages were affecting enforcement.

"They are affecting us - we've got to get our staffing level up," Gohlke said. He noted that there is fatigue resulting from the staff shortages, and that officers often have more overtime than they would like.

"We are short two dispatchers," he said, adding that one new hire will be training to fill a vacancy.

Rainer asked if there was anything the department needed in addition to salary increases - which the Council recently approved - to attract new officers.

"I think it's time we started sending (officer candidates) to the police academy," Gohlke said. He noted it is a nine-month process for people to complete training.

"We've got to market ourselves," he said. "We have really good benefits and we have our pay where it needs to be. It's just tough (to hire officers) right now."

Councilman John Westbrook asked about

the commitment required for officers for whom Gatesville would pay the cost to complete police academy training.

"It's at least a two-year commitment," Gohlke said, "or they have to pay back the cost."

Councilman Claude Williams asked if there are any safe places where people who feel threatened can go.

"The police department and library are safe places, and there are other safe places designated in town," Gohlke said, adding that many crime victims may not be aware of the safe places.

Mayor Gary Chumley asked about Gatesville's crime rate compared to the state crime rate.

City Manager Bill Parry noted that statewide, there are an average of 26.67 crimes per 1,000 people statewide, compared to 13.1 for the city of Gatesville.

Sid Miller speaks at Reagan dinner

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller was the speaker at the Coryell County Republican Party's annual Ronald Reagan Dinner on Feb. 26 at the Gatesville Civic Center.

Miller, of Stephenville, was first elected to the post in 2014 and was re-elected in 2018. He noted that agriculture is a \$120 billion industry in Texas, and that Texas agriculture leads the nation in several categories.

"My wife (Debra) is the hero in the family - about 25 years ago she had the idea to start a school for high school dropouts in Stephenville. She put everything she had into it and retired about six or seven years ago."

In his job, promoting Texas agriculture and looking out for the best interest of Texans are primary aims for Miller.

"Agriculture is the glue that holds this state together, and it's still our second largest in-

dustry behind gas and oil," he said.

But while serving as an ag teacher in Gustine, Miller said he quickly came to realize Texas' greatest natural resource was not gas and oil, "it's our youth."

Among the changes Miller made when he became agriculture commissioner was an emphasis on inspecting gas pumps more frequently to "make sure Texans were not getting ripped off" and to target those who placed card skimmers at pumps to defraud consumers by stealing their financial information.

"My biggest job is being responsible for millions of school meals each day - breakfast and lunch - and making sure the kids have good food to eat, and that local producers can provide it.

"One of the things I did was grant amnesty to cupcakes and cookies so they could be served at school parties."

RESCUE

FROM PAGE A1

"Miracles do happen, and this woman is still here with us. That search took us right to her, and as a result she's

still alive today."

Sheriff Williams said the woman's survival is beyond a normal explanation.

"What your guys did and what my guys did (in the search results), it's not explained but it's meant to be,"

he said. "When we found her, I could not get her core temperature to register, it was so low. We were moments away from a recovery (of a body) rather than a rescue."

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Sidewalk sale to benefit hospice house in Robinson

A fundraiser sidewalk sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 5 at 1208 N. Robinson Drive in Robinson. The sale will benefit the development of Our Hospice House, an around-the-clock hospice-

level care home where terminally ill residents will be cared for at no cost to those in need. Items for sale include home furnishings, toys, housewares, clothing, antiques and more. 100% of

the proceeds will be donated to the hospice house in Robinson. Visit ourhospicehouse.org for more info. The sidewalk sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. through 3 p.m.

National Read Across America month kicks off March 2

Every year, the month of March is National Reading Month. The start of this is initiated with 'Read Across America Day' on March 2, which is also the birthday of one of the most beloved children's book authors of all time — Dr. Seuss. Reading stories and antics about his wonderful characters is a rite of passage, and the perfect way to get children interested in reading books.

Read Across America Day is more than a reading program, which calls upon everyone to read and engage with children to make reading a more fun and interactive experience. From the time when the build-

ing blocks of our character are laid, to adulthood when we seek to escape from the humdrum of daily life in the pages of a book, reading plays an integral role in shaping us into who we are. With the advent of smartphones and tablets, it is more essential than ever to motivate children to read.

The National Education Association has been leading the Read Across America initiative since 1998. Their primary purpose is to work for the betterment of public education. Reading has been promoted across the nation with events organized in libraries, schools, book clubs, and communities. Teach-

ers and group organizers can also take a pledge and post their idea on the NEA's website. This way, more attention and attendance are drawn to the event.

It is not only teachers and librarians who are doing their part in creating another generation of readers, but celebrities as well. Ever since the day has been official, actors, sports stars, and other popular figures have used their platforms to spread the message of the joys of reading, and some have also participated in children reading circles to put a spotlight on this cause.

Commissioners attend annual school

Coryell County Commissioners recently attended the 64th Annual VG Young School for County Commissioners Courts. The event was sponsored by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and McCreary, Vasselka Bragg & Allen P.C. Attorneys at Law.

Topics discussed included: Leadership and Team Building, Federal Policies and

Impact On Counties, Law-making; Legislative Update, Commissioners Court Authority Over Other Elected Officials, County Retirement, and Communications: Rural Broadband.

Additionally, they covered Texas Dam Safety, Considerations for Paving County Roads, Restoring Lives After a Disaster, and Planning

County Road Improvements. Also discussed was The American Rescue Plan, Feral Hog Damage, Shifting Population in Texas: Rural and Urban Change Characteristics, Personnel Policies, Documenting for Liability: Employment and EEOC Claims, and Subdivision Regulations were also reviewed.



COURTESY PHOTO

FURTHERING EDUCATION: Coryell County Commissioners recently attended the annual VG Young School for Commissioners Courts. Pictured left to right are Ray Ashby, Pct. 4, Ryan Basham, Pct. 3, and Kyle Matthews, Pct. 1.

OBITUARIES

MARY ANN MOORE JOHNSON

Aug. 6, 1943 - Feb. 21, 2022



Mary Ann Moore Johnson, age 78, of Gatesville, passed away on Monday, Feb. 21,

2022, in Waco.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2022, at Grace Assembly Christian Church, 2315 Osage Road in Gatesville, with Pastor Wray Nunn officiating. Visitation with Mary Ann's family will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 4 at Scott's Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Oak Grove Cemetery.

Mary Ann was born on Aug. 6, 1943, in Gatesville, to the late George Williams and Ruby Kelly Williams. She grew up and went to school in Gatesville. She worked as a C.N.A. at Osage Care Center and Hillside Nursing Home until her retirement. She married Eddie Johnson on May 15, 1988. She was a member of Mt. Calvary Church of God in Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Eddie Johnson on Feb. 15, 2022; brothers, Troy Glenn, Lacy Williams, Hershel Williams, Donald Williams, Francis Williams, Bobby Ray Williams; sister, Ruby Williams; grandsons, Dominique, Roche, Dylan, Rayne, Jordan and Sorya Moore.

Mary Ann is survived by her children, Dianna Smith, Benny Moore, Kenny Moore and wife, Cynthia, James (J.J.) Moore, Jr. and wife, Jennifer, Tina Hines, James Glenn Moore; sister, Dorothy Norman; and seventeen grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.

Turnersville Cemetery Association to meet March 8

The Turnersville Community Cemetery Association, Inc. will hold its first quarterly meeting on Tuesday March 8, at 7 p.m. The Community Center will be used as the polling place for their Precinct on March 1, which is their usual meeting date. They welcome those interested to attend.

Donations for maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery may be sent to the Turnersville Community Cemetery Association

in care of Nancy McKnown Gilmore, Maintenance Fund Treasurer, 8070 FM 182, Gatesville, TX 76528, or donations to the Memorial Fund may be sent to the Turnersville Community Cemetery Association in care of James Baize, Memorial Fund Treasurer, 2320 CR 108, Gatesville, TX 76528.

It takes everyone working together. Attendance at meetings, the work done when called upon, and all the support given to the Turners-

ville Cemetery Association is gratefully appreciated.

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PEARL NEWS

Music Festival and Flea Market coming soon to Pearl



BETSY CLARK

The next Pearl Music Festival will be March 5, 2022, at the Pearl Community Center. Acoustic gospel, country/western, and bluegrass bands are welcome to play on the stage for free. Kids' bands are always welcome as well. Please call Ronald Medart at 254-865-6013 to schedule your time on the stage. The Community Center opens at 7 a.m. until 7, and the kitchen is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Since the purpose of the kitchen is to help to raise funds to pay the expenses of the Community Center, no ice chests are allowed in the center during the bluegrass events. However, you will enjoy the delicious foods the kitchen offers right along with the great music and fellowship. Y'all come!

The Pearl Cottage Book Store will be open from 10

a.m. until 5 p.m. on March 5 in conjunction with the Pearl Music Festival Event. Vendors, Junk in Your Trunk sales, and fruit and vegetable sales are welcomed to set up on the north side of the book store. A \$5 fee per vehicle/booth will be collected to benefit the Pearl Community Center. So, bring your items to sell (except for prepared food and drink items which are not allowed), and join in the fun for the day!

The annual Pearl Flea Market will be on April 23 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Vendors, personal Junk-in-Your-Trunkers, booths, food trucks, and vegetable/fruit markets are invited. All sellers will park outside around the Community Center on a "first come first park" basis. A small fee of \$5 will be charged for each booth/vendor/trunk to benefit the Pearl Community Center. The kitchen will be open for something new—the first Meet and Greet in Pearl. Needed are volunteers to work the kitchen. Bring your favorite snack to donate to the kitchen to sell to benefit the Community Center. If you wish to sign up to volunteer for "kitchen duty" that day, please call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282. Bring your favorite desserts, snacks, or breakfast/lunch items. Everyone

is invited. For more information or to volunteer to work in the kitchen, please call Linda Pruett at 254-865-9282.

Linda Ray has acquired two new friends that she has had the privilege of naming Lenny and Squiggy. In fact, they follow her from the Pearl Church of Christ to the Pearl Cottage Bookstore as she makes her daily rounds. I guess "friends" is not the right word for these visitors – "stalkers" is more apropos for these two buzzards. Linda swears that when she leaves the church, Lenny and Squiggy leave their posts on the fence line and fly over her all the way to the bookstore. She has tried to discourage them by shaking her fist and yelling, "Not today, you bad buzzards, not today," at the top of her lungs. So far, Linda's threats have served to keep them at a good, safe distance. I think the buzzards are only after the cookie crumbs and the good books she drops as she unloads her wares at each destination. Therefore, she may have made some lifelong but less than desirable friends whether she likes it or not.

The closing verse for this week comes from Psalm 150:1,2—Praise the Lord.

Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens. Praise Him for his acts of power; praise Him for his surpassing greatness." NIV

To keep up with the latest Pearl news online, you can go to the "Pearl Cottage Bookstore" Facebook page, the "Pearl Church of Christ" Facebook page, or the Pearl

Community Center, Texas Facebook page. Or contact me at betsyclark47@yahoo.com for more information or to submit any Pearl news.

LIONS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Lions Club recently welcomed three new members. The club welcomes new members who want to take part in the organization and help to serve others. Pictured left to right are Oliver Puhr and new member Todd Gravelyn, Bob Bates and new member Justin Stephens, new member Dr. Landon Belcher and Dr. Jeff Bates.

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of February 23-26. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, 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

Feb. 23
8:25 a.m., a theft was reported in the 400 block of E. Leon Street.
8:48 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1400 block of Mills Street.
10:28 a.m., harassment was reported in the 1000 block of W. Leon Street.
3:28 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 400 block of S. 6th Street.
3:30 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 300 block of S. 6th Street.
6:51 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2700 block of S. State Highway 36.
Feb. 24
5:54 a.m., an accident was reported in the 7000 block of E. Highway 84.
10:10 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 6300 block of 6300 block of E. Highway 84.
10:40 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200

block of Old Osage Road.
3:20 p.m., harassment was reported in the 1300 block of Westview Drive.
7:16 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of S. 23rd Street.
8:59 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.
Feb. 25
2:00 a.m., stolen property was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.
3:31 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3400 block of Crown Drive.
3:41 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 8800 block of S. State Highway 36.
6:37 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 4600 block of S. State Highway 36.
9:09 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
Feb. 26
1:14 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1300 block of St. Louis Street.
2:54 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2500

block of Jackson Drive.
6:51 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street.
7:06 p.m., an assault was reported in the 100 block of White's Lane.
7:26 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 1000 block of Winters Road.
8:04 p.m., an assault was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.

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CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Feb. 23
7:42 a.m., deadly conduct

was reported in the 11000 block of N. Highway 36.
10:30 a.m., the seizure of property was reported in the 2200 block of Austin Avenue.
4:19 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1500 block of Old Osage Road.
6:09 p.m., a lost animal was reported in the 1700 block of Old Osage Road.
7:04 p.m., a missing person was reported in the 5200 block of CR 226.
Feb. 24
5:02 a.m., a minor accident was reported on N. Hwy. 36 and FM 182.
5:59 a.m., a major accident was reported on E. Hwy. 84 at Coryell Creek.
7:22 a.m., a major accident was reported on Hwy. 281 south of Evant.
1:47 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 80 block of Boone.
2:07 p.m., an animal complaint in the 600 block of Dove Lane.
11:45 p.m., an out-of-control child was reported in

the 200 block of Jack Butler Road.
Feb. 25
11:57 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on S. Hwy. 36 and FM 184.
12:00 p.m., harassment was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.
2:01 p.m., a scam was reported in the 2900 block of CR 322.
2:50 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 2600 block of Snow Road.
3:59 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Mother Neff Parkway and FM 107.
8:23 p.m., a minor accident was reported on S. Hwy. 36

south of North Fort Hood.
Feb. 26
8:41 a.m., a minor accident was reported on FM 929 and Winters Road.
11:25 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 4100 block of S. Highway 36.
11:51 a.m., a controlled burn was reported in the 1800 block of CR 303.
4:14 p.m., a reckless driver was reported travelling east on Highway 84.
7:27 p.m., a fire call was reported in the 1000 block of Winters Road.
8:45 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 100 block of FM 1996.

JOHNSON VETERINARY SERVICES

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CORYELL MUSEUM

Cotton Davidson Roast with Ricky Thompson

JANN DWORSKY

This is an article transcribed from the Cotton Davidson Roast that we have on a VHS tape preserved in our Accessions Room in Coryell Museum. The humor is priceless.

Coryell Museum's own Helen Swift introduced Grant Teaff to begin the official Roast of Cotton Davidson at the Civic Center in Gatesville in 1994. Cotton was the Quarterback for the Gatesville Hornets, for Baylor University, professionally for the Oakland Raiders and several other teams. He then went on to 21 years of coaching at Baylor University with Grant Teaff.

Ricky Thompson spoke at the Roast, and he was one of a number of All Conference, All Americans that Cotton Davidson coached. Ricky said, "I don't know of any coach in the Southwest Conference that coached this many wide receivers. They include Charlie Dancer, myself, Ricky Thompson, Tommy Davidson, Gerald McNeil, Matt Clark and Melvin Bonner. He also coached quarterbacks Neil Jeffery, Mark Jackson, Brannon, J. Jeffrey, Cody, Tom Mickey and J. J. Jones.

Ricky Thompson begins to speak. "You know, coach, I used to think you were pretty smart, but you ran me until I stepped on my toe, threw me the ball until you broke all my fingers, and then you would start over again on Monday and you would still let me come up here to this

roast. You have screwed up. I am gonna tell on you!"

Ricky said, "Carolyn (Cotton's wife) said you were not very romantic. Coach Teaff told me that one night Cotton called Carolyn to say the moonlight is very bright, let's go out to the lake. She was so excited that he would even call to say that. So, Coach Teaff asked what it was like and Carolyn said it was so bright you could read the paper. Teaff asked so what did he do. Carolyn said, 'He read the sports.'

"Cotton, you made up for it later. Carolyn was sick and not feeling well at all, so you took her to the doctor to check on her and the doctor finally called you in. He talked to you for a while and finally said that it was really simple. All you need to do is this, and the doctor reached over and hugged her and loved on her for a second. The doctor said, 'Just two or three times a day and that will solve the problem.'"

"Well,' Cotton said, 'that is fine, but I don't think I can get her in here two or three times a day!'

"Carolyn finally got her chance when you had your little problem lately, Cotton. She told me about it. She got you back. Cotton went into the doctor by himself, and the doctors talked to him and really had him concerned about his condition. Then they called Carolyn in and sent Cotton to the waiting room. They talked to Carolyn for a long time and said what you need to do is cook him three good meals

a day, each night at bedtime you need to rub his back and massage his shoulders. In the morning, rub his back again and make him feel as good as you can and really, that is all you need to do. So, they are on the way home and Cotton is real worried because the doctor had not said anything to him. He was just sitting there thinking the worst and what could be wrong with him. About halfway home he can't stand it any longer and he turns to Carolyn and asks, 'what did he say?' She thought a minute and looked at him and said, 'You are going to die.'"

"After Cotton quit coaching, he and Coach Teaff decided they would go fishing and neither one of them had done much fishing, so they decided they would fish together and learn as they went. So, they went out the first day to Lake Belton and on the way, they decided to buy some worms and he saw a sign that said, \$1 for all the worms you need. He looked at that sign a while and then said, he would take \$2 worth." (This caused a long rippling laugh with someone calling from the podium, "Good one.")

Coryell Museum is open 10 to 4 Wednesday thru Saturday. We would like to invite everyone to come and bring your friends and family to see the museum. If you would like a copy of the book "The Rifleman" about Cotton Davidson, come to the museum Gift Shop. Our phone number is 254-865-5007.

SEALED WITH A KISSSSSS



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Landon Schulze of Cleburne was one of the H.O.T. Snake Handlers on site at the recent Oglesby Rattlesnake Roundup hosted by Oglesby Lions Club. Schulze is pictured kissing a rattlesnake during one of the live snake demonstrations.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recently selected Leon River Mercantile as February's Business of the Month. The mercantile, owned by Jesse Bolgiano, has a large selection of western wear, boots, gifts and vast variety of inventory. It is located at 1512 E. Main Street in Gatesville and can be reached by calling 254-865-1372. Pictured are employees of Leon River Mercantile along with representatives from the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce. The Business of the Month award is sponsored by Extraco Banks and The Gatesville Messenger. Each month, the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recognizes an outstanding business and those winners will also be in the running for Business of the Year awarded each year at the annual Chamber Banquet. Nominees must be a member of the Chamber.

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2002)

Ruth Edwards was honored with a 90th birthday reception at Ranchers Steakhouse. Mrs. Edwards was a long-time fixture in Gatesville, including more than 60 years with The Gatesville Messenger.

Students in the industrial cleaning class at the Lane Murray Unit received some practical experience working at the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce's Cotton Belt Depot office. Wal-Mart's donation of the building cleared the way for work squads from the prison to assist the chamber.

Four members of the Gatesville High School choir qualified for the University Interscholastic League State Solo and Ensemble contest. They were Sara Valenquela, Violet Badger, Megan Griffith and Lauren Whittle.

Karen L. Botkin, a Tarleton State University student from Gatesville had been included in the 2001-2002 list of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She was the daughter of Mike and Judy Botkin of Gatesville.

30 YEARS AGO (1992)

Megan Penny took top honors at the annual Valentine's Day Twirling Festival in Fort Worth. She is the daughter of Don and Leora Penny of Gatesville and the granddaughter of Jim and Peggy Morris of Gatesville and Richard and Ruth Penny of Pearl.

Rusty Cole of Gatesville was chosen as Fireman of the Week by the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department. Cole was a 1990 graduate of Gatesville High School and is the son of Earnest Cole, president of the fire department, and a Fort Hood fire fighter.

Susan Carol Jones, daughter of W.T. and Minnie Ola Perryman of Pearl, was planning to graduate in the spring from the University of Houston. Jones had majored in social work and would receive

her master's degree from the university.

Robert L. Brown II, son of Jeanne and Robert L. (Bob) Brown and brother of Betty Brown and Reb Brown, all of Gatesville, was named senior vice president of Finance of the Kansas City Southern Industries, Inc., Railway company.

40 YEARS AGO (1982)

Mayor Creston Brazzil named the week of February 20-27 as the Future Farmers of America Week in Gatesville. Present for the proclamation ceremony was Shawn Kettler and Barry Kellerman of the Gatesville High School FFA chapter.

The 13th annual Snake Show awards in Oglesby, hosted by the Oglesby Lions Club, declared the winners of the rattlesnake hunt as Bill Truelove and Jerry Pitts. The pair brought in 220.25 pounds of snakes that they had hunted in the area.

The Gatesville High School debate team of Jesse Johns and Charles Basham placed second to provide vital points towards the school's winning the sweepstakes award in a literary meet at Copperas Cove. Also scoring for GHS was Todd Massingill who placed second in persuasive speaking.

A building permit had been issued for a new \$80,000 Dairy Queen. The new restaurant was to be constructed at 1606 Main Street. The old Dairy Queen was torn down and plans for a new building was in the works.

50 YEARS AGO (1972)

Elizabeth Jann Maxwell had been named Oglesby High School's Betty Crocker Home-maker of Tomorrow for 1972. She had been chosen on the basis of her score in a written knowledge and attitude examination taken by senior girls.

John Baize, one-time star grass-judger on Gatesville

High School's Future Farmer teams, was continuing his winning ways while on a teaching fellowship at Colorado State University. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clebe Baize of Route 2, Gatesville.

Lloyd W. Mitchell, veteran history teacher at Gatesville High School, had been named as the recipient of the national award known as the Valley Forge Teachers Medal which was awarded by the Freedoms Foundation for furthering patriotism among students.

Miss Wilhelmina Cayce, a much beloved teacher in Gatesville history, had decided to end her career in the elementary school classroom. Mrs. Cayce had been teaching local youngsters for 42 years and planned to retire due to health issues.

60 YEARS AGO (1962)

Clayton Moseley, a former resident of the Pearl community, was being sent abroad to the country of Africa where he was to remain for two years. His trip was being sponsored by Oklahoma A&M College.

Jean Richter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman G. Richter of Gatesville, had won a position on the honor roll at Tarleton State College in Stephenville. She was one of five students out of the 1,389-fall enrollment to make the honor roll.

Donald Flentge, a young Gatesville pharmacist, had been named chairman of the 1962 Red Cross campaign in Coryell County. His top aides were Hal Anderson and Sam Powell, Jr. The trio were perfecting the campaign's organization and plans.

Jim Miller was chosen to serve as president of the Gatesville Lions Youth Baseball Leagues for 1962. Miller had been elected at a meeting of the Lions Club directors, who also chose Porter Adams as the program's vice president.

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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William A. Henderson, a/k/a William Aaron Henderson, Deceased, were issued on February 10, 2022, in Cause No. 22-10598, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: James B. Henderson.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Devon S. Linzy Attorney at Law**
PO Box 428
Temple, TX 76503

DATED the 25th day of February, 2022.

Devon S. Linzy
Attorney for James B. Henderson
State Bar No.: 24086218
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Ocampo, Victoria/Brown, John	H02
Powell, Ann	A20
Stevenson, Melvin	K06

The auction will be held at 9:00 am., Saturday, March 5, 2021, (weather permitting), at Gatesville Storage, 2215 E. Main St., Gatesville, Texas.

Terms: Cash 00029129

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Burnet tops Lady Hornets in home softball game

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Lady Hornets softball team fell to the Burnet Lady Bulldogs 4-14 on Feb. 20, at the GHS softball field.

The Lady Hornets were originally scheduled to play on Tuesday, Feb. 21, but pushed it to Monday because of the GHS boys' basketball playoff game in Aledo. The Lady Hornets fell to 1-7 on the season with the defeat.

According to GHS softball coach Andrea Holdbrook, the Lady Hornets are still working on placement on defense that will give the pitchers something to depend on. During the game, there were some errors on the defensive side.

Riann Tippit went 2 for 3 with an RBI, while teammate Cera Touchet was 1 for 3 with a sacrifice fly and two RBI, and Kagen Hunt went 1 for 2 and drove in one run.

The Lady Hornets participated in the NFCA Lead-off Classic at Bryan High School on Feb. 17-19. The Lady Hornets had a 1-6 record in the tournament.

On Feb. 17, the Lady Hornets were defeated by Del Valle 8-5. Later that day, Gatesville defeated Fort Bend 3-2. On Feb. 18, the Lady Hornets were beaten by Byron Nelson High School, 17-1 and College Station High School, 13-1. The last day consisted of two

losses, to Klein Cane 10-0, and to Plano High 7-0.

The Lady Hornets had planned to play in the Gatesville Invitational scheduled for Feb. 24-26, but it was canceled due to the weather.

The Lady Hornets played at Jarrell High School on Tuesday, March 1. Results from that game will be in a future edition.



CAYLEIGH COURSEY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Members of the Lady Hornet softball team confer with Coach Andrea Holdbrook during a game against Burnet.

Soccer teams fall to Burnet

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

Chilling temperatures did not delay the District 18-4A boys soccer game on Friday as the Burnet Bulldogs edged the Gatesville Hornets 2-1 at Burnet High School.

Luis Macias scored the lone goal for the Hornets in their loss to the Bulldogs. The Hornets (6-3) stayed in the second spot in District 18, still only trailing Salado (10-0), which is in the first spot.

The Hornets played the Salado Eagles on Tuesday at Salado High School. Earlier in the season, Feb. 4, the Eagles defeated the Hornets 3-1 at Tommy Davidson Field at McKamie Stadium. Gatesville has aspirations to notch the first loss on Salado's district record.

LADY HORNETS

The Gatesville Lady Hornets fell by a 1-0 margin to the Burnet Lady Bulldogs in a District 18-4A girls soccer contest at Burnet High School.

Burnet (8-2) has now beaten Gatesville (6-4) twice this season in district play. On Feb. 1, the Lady Hornets were defeated on penalty kicks.

The Lady Hornets will play three of their last four games on the road to conclude the regular season. The Lady Hornets remained in the fourth spot in the district after the loss.

The Lady Hornets played the Salado Lady Eagles (8-2) at Salado High School on Tuesday. Earlier in the season, the Lady Eagles also topped the Lady Hornets, 3-1 at Tommy Davidson Field at McKamie Stadium.

GHS tennis earns victories in Waco tourney

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The cold did not stop the Gatesville High School tennis team from reeling in two gold medals, two silver, and a bronze on Friday in the Waco ISD tournament at the Waco Regional Tennis Center.

Stormy Tatum won first place in girls singles for GHS. In boys doubles, Alex Scott and Carlo Martinez also won first place.

Slone Early took second place for the Hornets in boys singles, while in girls doubles, the GHS team of Callie Smith and Kasey Fitzer also brought home a

silver medal.

Gatesville's Ty Warren and Julee Sun placed third in mixed doubles.

The Hornets will travel to Belton on Friday to compete in the Belton High School tournament. The tournament is set to begin at 8:30 a.m.

Golfers competes in Llano

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville boys golf team competed in tournaments at the Llano Invitational at the Llano River Golf Course on Feb. 16 and the Waco Invitational at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course on Feb. 22.

The Hornets placed seventh with a score of 357 out of 15 teams in the Llano In-

vitational. Kasen Bankhead placed in the top ten, shooting an 80. Bankhead's teammate Camden Morra finished with an 86, while Zane Foster had a 94. Gage Ford shot a 97, while Cooper Boyd shot 107.

In the Waco Invitational, the Hornet boys finished in fifth place with a score of 378 as a team, in a field of ten teams, with Bankhead

tying for ninth place with an 87. Foster followed with a 93, Ford with a 95, Morra shot a 103, and Boyd with 106.

The Lady Hornets only had one golfer competing, Avery Streetman. Streetman finished in third place individually, shooting a 93.

The next tournament for the Gatesville golfers is set for March 7 at Glen Rose's Squaw Valley Golf Course.

Hubbard tops Jonesboro

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

It was a heartbreaking loss in the bi-district round of the boys basketball playoffs for the Jonesboro Eagles as they fell to the Hubbard Jaguars 62-52 in a game played Feb. 22 at Bruceville-Eddy High School.

The Eagles had a difficult 17-7 deficit early and came close to overcoming the margin but fell short. The key time span in the Jaguars victory came in the second quarter when they managed a 20-9 run on the Eagles, ending the first half on top by a 54-29 margin.

The Eagles tried to narrow the gap in the second half, scoring 15 points in the third and 23 points in the fourth.

According to JHS head coach Chris Simon,

the first half brought some "costly turnovers and too many extra shots," but he was proud of how his players finished the game, overcoming some of the obstacles they faced in the first half.

"The fourth quarter we really battled and played our (butt) off," Simon said. I was very proud of how we ended the game. We just ran out of time, sadly."

Jonesboro was led in scoring by Ian Shoaf with 18 points, followed by Garrett Young with eight. Jacob Cisneros, Dakota Riley, Nat Hiliker and Layton Blanchard each scored 5 points. Costin Allison finished with four points, while Manny Torres scored two.

The Eagles ended their season with a 13-12 overall record. They posted a 9-3 district record, finishing third in District 25-1A.

Oglesby falls to Trinidad

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

It was not the night the Oglesby Tigers were seeking as their season was ended by the Trinidad Trojans 63-42 in their boys basketball bi-district playoff game at Mexia High School on Feb. 22.

The Trojans' height advantage troubled the Tigers throughout the game. The Tigers had a rough start and trailed 24-11, while also being outscored in the second quarter, 12-9, which led to a

36-20 halftime deficit.

The Trojans outscored the Tigers 15-5 in the third quarter, but then the Tigers established a bit of momentum in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Trojans 17-12 to close out the contest and the season.

The Tigers have a young team, with only two graduating seniors, Blake Thompson, and Ronaldo Gonzales. The playoff run this season puts the younger team in a position to grow for the next campaign.

According to OHS head coach Jeb Dixon, the young players gained valuable experience for growth into next season.

Thompson led the Tigers with 24 points, followed by Hunter Walters with 10 points. Kyler Fossett with four, while Brodie Fisher and Johnny Gomez each scored two points.

Oglesby finished 6-10 overall on the season, and had a 4-7 record in District 25.

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Hornets fall to Rogers in slugfest

RHS outscores Gatesville in 23-19 duel

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

Freezing temperatures with sporadic rainfall and mist were constant at Ryan Powell Memorial Ballpark in Gatesville on Friday as the Gatesville Hornets and the Rogers Eagles boys' baseball teams braved the conditions in a non-district game, with the Eagles outscoring the Hornets 23-19.

This game was played because of the cancellation of the Salado tournament, which was scheduled to take place on Feb. 24-26. The frigid weather conditions played a factor in the cancellation. The temperature was 36 degrees, and the wind made it feel even colder during the game, according to the Weather Channel app.

The Hornets (0-2) trailed the Eagles 3-15 at the bottom of the fourth inning, but as the game went on, the Hornets climbed back. They trailed the visiting Eagles by only one run, 15-14, by the top of the sixth inning.

"It was nice to see them battle back there," GHS baseball coach Chris Smith said. "It's kind of a testament to them that they are not going to hang their head and give in."

The Hornets scored twice in the bottom of the fourth and nine in the bottom of the fifth.

The Eagles then retaliated in the top of the seventh inning with eight runners crossing home plate for their final runs. The Hornets in the bottom of the seventh had five runners come home.

Hayden Mooney and Cayden Mata scored four runs each, while James Hamilton followed with three runs. Wesley Brown and Kody Hernandez each scored twice, while Parker Allman, Mason Mooney, Trevor Smith, and Kason Herbelin scored one run each.

The Hornets played the Clifton Cubs on Monday. Results from the game will be in a future edition.

HORNETS FALL TO JARRELL

The Gatesville Hornets baseball team lost its season opener to the Jarrell Cougars 7-3 on the road in a non-district contest played Monday, Feb. 21.

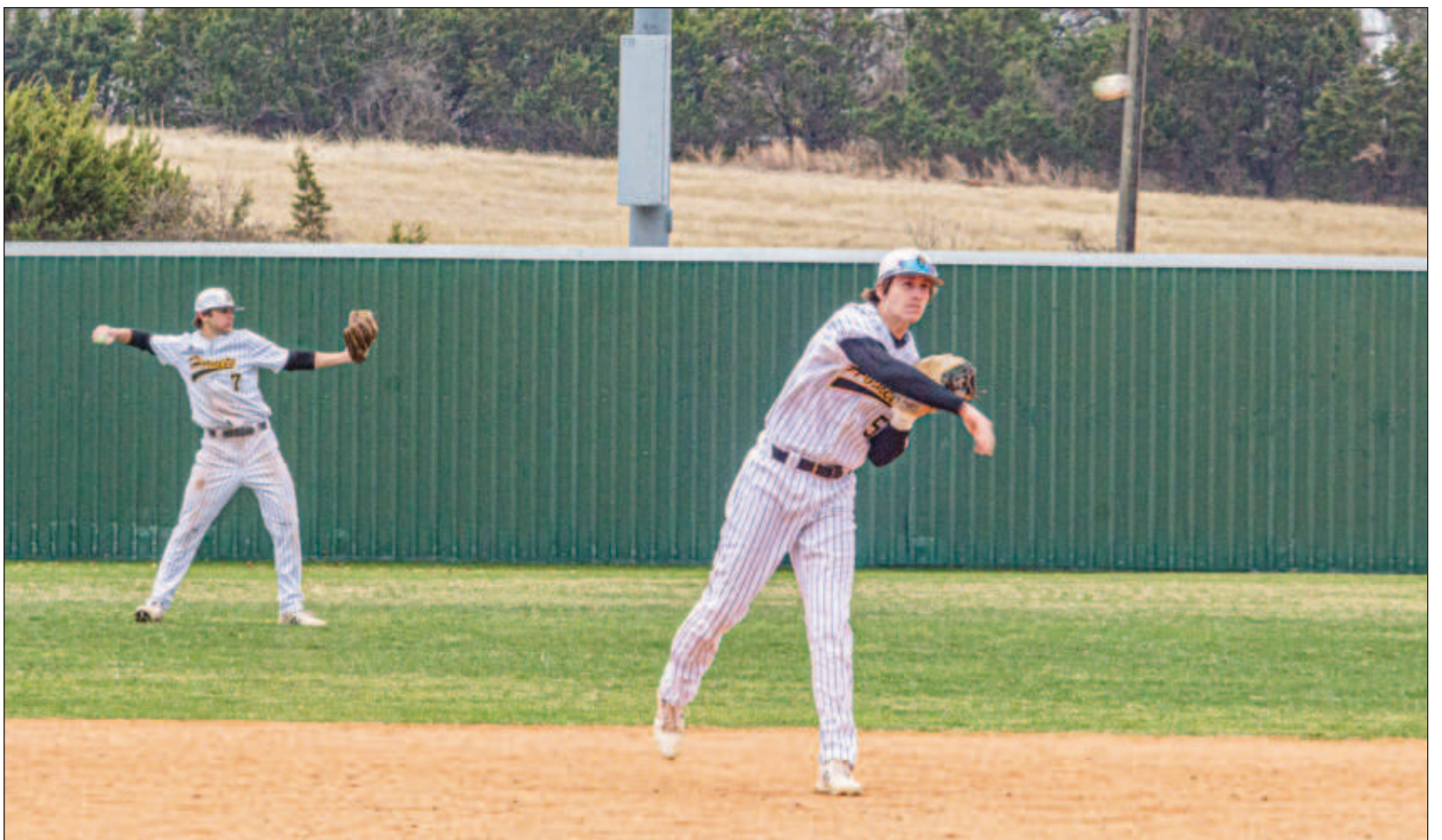
According to GHS head coach Chase Smith the boys faced their "first little taste of adversity" and he knows that the Hornets will bounce back.

Parker Allman went 1 for 2 at the plate for the Hornets, drawing two walks and scoring one run. Hayden Mooney was 1 for 3 and also scored a run. Teammate Camden Galindo was 2 for 3 with a triple and one



Cayden Mata looks to make a play for Gatesville in the Hornets Feb. 25 home game against the Rogers Eagles.

TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER



Carter Williams warms up between innings during the Feb. 25 game between Gatesville and Rogers.

TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

RBI, while Wesley Brown went 1 for 1, with a double and a run scored.



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

James Hamilton crosses the plate to score a run in the Hornets' baseball game against the Rogers Eagles on Feb. 25.

Send your sports info to triston@gatesvillemessenger.com