

SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 120, No. 80, ISSN No. 0894-4954

# Trafficking charges dismissed by AG's office

**BY JEFF OSBORNE** SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

The Texas Attorney General's office has filed motions with the 440th District Court to dismiss human trafficking charges against nine people who were arrested and charged in June 2021.

Charges have been dismissed without prejudice, meaning they could be re-filed in the future. When a charge is dismissed with prejudice, that means they have been permanently dismissed. "We believe the dismissals speak for themselves and we have no further comment at this time," wrote Patty Ramon, press secretary for the Office of the Attorney General of Texas in an email response to The Messenger asking about the dismissed charges.

The dismissals were of charges against: \* Elijah Keller, for trafficking of persons, with the AG's office stating the complaining witness has requested dismissal and the alleged victim has recanted multiple times.

\* William Henderson, for continuous trafficking and sexual assault, with the AG's office stating that the complaining witness has requested dismissal, one alleged victim has recanted multiple times and another alleged victim cannot be located.

\* Lorenzo Ford, for continuous trafficking and sexual assault, with the AG's office stating that the alleged victim cannot be located.

\* Stephen Williams, for continuous trafficking of persons, with the AG's office stating that the complaining witness has requested dismissal and the alleged victim has recanted multiple times. An additional charge of having a controlled substance in a corrections facility has been dismissed with the AG's office stating that was "in the interest of justice."

\* David Peoples, for continuous trafficking and sexual assault, with the AG's office stating the alleged victim cannot be located.

\* Angela Cedillo, for continuous trafficking, with the AG's office stating the victim cannot be located.

\* Carl Ford, for continuous trafficking and sexual assault, with the AG's office stating that the alleged victim cannot be located.

# Gatesville Homecoming celebration 2022



# GISD gets health & safety updates

BY JEFF OSBORNE SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Parking lot procedures have paid off in helping keep Gatesville Independent School District students safe, the district's police department is likely weeks away from earning approval and scores of parents have expressed interest in participating on the School Health Advisory Committee.

Those updates were presented to the GISD Board of Trustees during their Sept. 19 meeting.

Gatesville High School Principal Marie Barrows said new procedures put in place in the parking lot have helped to increase student safety.

"It's a tedious procedure we put in place at the beginning of the school year," she said. It requires every student to have a parking permit and reserved space.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The 2022 Homecoming bonfire, built by members of the Gatesville High School class of 2023, lit up the night during homecoming celebration festivities Sept. 22.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER Members of the GHS Fightin' Hornet Band added great music and pageantry to the Gatesville Homecoming Fiesta on Sept. 22.

Face painting was among the fun activities at the Gatesville Homecoming Fiesta on Sept. 22.

SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER





DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER Joshua Coalston and Persephone Romero were crowned Gatesville Homecoming King and Queen at halftime of the Sept. 23 football game against Godley. "We have gotten numerous calls when students were alerted to something going on in the parking lot," Barrows said.

She said there has also been a quicker response time to any concerns. Students know the cars that are supposed to be parked there, and are quick to notify staff if there is anything unusual or questionable.

"If someone is not supposed to be in the parking lot, that can be quickly identified," she said. "It brings heightened alertness, and the turnaround time is very quick. I was on the fence about (the policy changes) because it was so tedious, but it has been very impactful."

### POLICE UPDATE

Superintendent Barrett Pollard told the board that Gatesville ISD should have its own police force in a matter of weeks. School resource officers are currently employees of the Gatesville Police Department. However, the board voted over the summer to have the school district create its own police force.

"We've been making good progress," Pollard said, adding that he has received "a very favorable response" from the law enforcement inspector who recently visited GISD. "We anticipate getting an email notifying us of approval (for a GISD police department) in the next few weeks. We are one step closer — almost to the end."

The city of Gatesville has agreed to provide police services for the district through the fall.

### HEALTH COMMITTEE

Yancey Sanderson, executive director of testing and federal programs for the district, said parents were given an option to express whether or not they would be interested in serving on the School Health Advisory Committee, and the district had an overwhelming response.

"There were almost 300 names of people who have expressed an interest in participating, and we will send out email invitations," he said.

"If we can get 20 to 30 to show up, we'll be good," Sanderson said. "If everyone shows up, we can move the meeting to the school auditorium." www.gatesvillemessenger.com

# **Gatesville High School Homecoming Fiesta 2022**



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER A wagon offered rides as part of activities during the Homecoming Fiesta.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER Those attending the Homecoming Fiesta had the opportunity to pet a kangaroo.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER Cheerleaders take time for a picture with mascot Buzz during the Homecoming Fiesta.



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER Members of the Dazzlers march during the Gatesville Homecoming Fiesta on Sept. 22.



We're running a special section in November to honor our local veterans.



HURRY! Deadline to submit is Monday, October 17th. SUBMIT YOUR VETERAN AT OUR WEBSITE: **www.gatesvillemessenger.com** 



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The Gatesville Messenger is published every Wednesday and Saturday by Messenger Publishing Co. Inc., Periodical class postage paid at Gatesville, TX 76528.

General Manager JANICE VELASQUEZ ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com **DEADLINES:** 

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

Articles about events that have occurred 30 days prior to submission will not be accepted. However, they will be accepted as paid advertisements. All articles and advertisments must meet our standards and newspaper format as determined by management. The Gatesville Messenger is not responsible for copy omission, typographical error or any unintentional error other than to publish a correction.

**OUR MISSION:** The Gatesville Messenger shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

# Hitt charged with manslaughter in man's death

Brian Lee Hitt, 44, of Gatesville has been charged with manslaughter for "intentionally, knowingly or recklessly" causing bodily injury during a shooting incident that caused the death of Cody Clayton Milam on Sept. 16.

According to a copy of the complaint filed at the Coryell County Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Ronald Dayton was notified of a shooting in the 3500 block of County Road 142 in Gatesville.

In the report, Dayton stated: "I interviewed Hitt ... and my first observation was he had a strong odor of alcohol emitting about his person and he admitted to drinking."

Hitt told Dayton that he had gone dove hunting earlier and when he returned Milam was at his residence

"He stated that they have played around before with

Davton wrote in his report. "He believed the shotgun was unloaded as he approached Milam ... who was sitting in a wooden chair in front of a glass door, he pulled the trigger, and nothing happened, he pumped the slide down which chambered a round and as he pulled the trigger the shotgun went off, striking Milam ... in the upper chest and lower throat area, causing his death."

nection with Milam's death and Hitt was transported to Coryell Memorial Hospital (Coryell Health) due to his intoxication and to be medically cleared for the jail, the report stated. He was then taken to the Coryell County Jail.

Hitt was released from jail on Sept. 18 after posting bail on a \$50,000 bond.

# pointing guns at each other,"

# Hitt was arrested in con-

# **CHAMBER HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR HIDDEN GEM**



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting event for Hidden Gem located at 115 S. 7th Street on the square in Gatesville. Hidden Gem is a nonprofit organization that focuses on families, victims of crime and those who are in dire need of assistance. They strive to provide programs and services that will strengthen the family and share with them the love of Jesus. They are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. They can be reached by calling 254-206-3003.

# The DISPATCH

*The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of September 21 – 24. 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** Sept. 21

12:27 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of N. 29th Street.

8:42 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of White's Lane.

8:57 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Old Pidcoke Road.

10:33 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 1400 block of S. Highway 36. Sept. 22

9:21 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Trails Private Drive. 12:47 p.m., a brush/grass

fire was reported in the 13000 block of E. Highway 3100 block of S. State Highway 36. Sept. 23

12:50 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 400

block of Pidcoke Street. 11:38 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 2300

block of Old Georgetown Road. 12:17 p.m., a disturbance

was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street. 2:21 p.m., a welfare con-

cern was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.

3:32 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of Hamilton Drive.

7:51 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Petsick Lane.

Valley View Drive. 8:52 p.m., an armed suspect was reported in the 100 block of N. 8th Street.

10:30 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1400 block of

Pidcoke Street. **A FREEDOM** Serving Coryell & Hamilton Counties Lowest rates in town! Financing & Payment Plans 120 S. 6th St. • Gatesville, TX 76528 (across from the jail)

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### **CORYELL COUNTY**

stop. Sept. 22

9:49 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.

10:07 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 800 block of Moccasin Bend Road.

12:47 p.m., a fire was reported in the 13000 block of E. Highway 84.

5:02 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of Slatter Road.

5:28 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on W.

Highway 84 and FM 2412. 6:10 p.m., a possible fire was reported in the 14000 block of E. Highway 84.

Sept. 23 1:31 a.m., a prowler was reported in the 800 block of Old Georgetown Road. 8:30 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of FM 931. 9:34 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1800 block of CR 177. 10:44 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of N. FM 183. 11:39 a.m., a grass fire was reported in the 2300 block of Old Georgetown Road. 8:13 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of Lutheran Church Road.

# National Night Out set for October 4

The Gatesville Police Department has set the annual National Night Out event Tuesday, Oct. 4, at the Sports Complex.

Activities will take place from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

National Night Out is designed to heighten drug and crime awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partners, and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are orga-

all ages. There will be free food, safety demonstrations, educational materials, fun games, music, local city/ county information, free giveaways and a chance to visit with your local first responders. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs. For more information,

nized and fighting back.

This event will be fun for

please contact the Gatesville Police Department at 254-865-2226.

# **Drive Thru Rabies/Vaccination Clinic** Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30–11:30 a.m. • South side of Bar N Clinic **Vaccine Discounts Available** "We Chip Pets" will offer Discounted Microchips for \$10-12

**Bar N Veterinary** Clinic. PC www.BarNVeterinaryClinic.com 4706 S. State Hwy. 36, Gatesville | (254) 865-8466 🚹



4:21 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.

5:09 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2500 block of Marshall

7:57 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 200 block of Lovers Lane.

8:57 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the

### Sept. 24

3:01 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Dixon Drive.

12:03 p.m., an accident was reported in the 100 block of State Highway 36 Bypass.

12:32 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of N. Lovers Lane. 8:30 p.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of

SHERIFF'S OFFICE Sept. 21

7:40 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 215 and CR 223.

9:48 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2900 block of Poplar Drive. 4:56 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Leisure Acres Road.

6:10 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1700 block of FM 1996. 6:32 p.m., a civil matter

was reported in the 1300 block of CR 137.

10:24 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Highway 84 near the rest

CORYELL * COMMI SALE EVERYS CATTLE AT Saturday, Sep Jody & Robin Thoma	SATURDAY NOON Dt. 24, 2022				
No. 1 Steers Under 300 lb. 300-400 lb. 400-500 lb. 500-600 lb. 600-700 lb. 700-800 lb.	190-240 185-245 165-195 150-175 150-170 140-165				
No. 1 Heifers under 300 lb. 300-400 lb. 400-500 lb. 500-600 lb. 600-700 lb. 700-800 lb.	160-195 160-185 150-175 140-160 135-155 130-150				
Slaughter Cows High Yielding Low Yielding Fats Thin & Shelly	75-88 60-72 75-85 35-50				
Packer Bulls (1250 Yield Grade 1&2	<b>)-2075 lb.)</b> 65-113				
Cow & Calf Pairs Young Choice Young Fair Aged Pairs					
Young Pregnancy Replacement Cow Number of Head	650-1250				
Hwy. 36, Gatesville (254) 865-9121					

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### Sept. 24

2:02 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on CR 136 on the Hwighway 84 side.

9:40 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 7500 block of FM 929.

6:50 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Vista Road.

9:29 p.m., a possible fire was reported in the 1500 block of Quail Point.

10:56 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 2800 block of Mulberry Drive.

11:51 p.m., a noise complaint was reported on Mulberry Drive.



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### PEARL NEWS

# Pearl Church of Christ to celebrate their 127th Homecoming

store and Resale Shop will

### **BETSY CLARK**

Pearl News Correspondent The Pearl Community Center Flea Market will be held on Oct. 14-15 this year. Friday's hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday's hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Community Center kitchen will have homemade breakfast, lunch and dessert items for sale both days. For more information, please check out the Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop Facebook page. There are still booths and spaces available to rent. You can text or call 254-595-1096 to rent spaces.

The Pearl Church of Christ will celebrate their 127th Homecoming on Oct. 16 with Edward Schaub as the speaker. A catered lunch on the grounds will follow the service. Everyone is invited to attend. Feel free to drive your vintage vehicle to Pearl Church of Christ that day. The Pearl Cottage Bookbe open on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Now that Linda, Corlisa, and Kay are famous (since they recently made the front page of The Gatesville Messenger), you can visit with celebrities (ask for autographs!), purchase some great books for some relaxing fall reading, and shop for treasures that will make you smile. At Pearl Cottage Bookstore, you may come in as a customer, but you will leave as a friend. Plus, all proceeds go toward the local charities that the bookstore supports.

Don't forget that vendors, booths, Junk-in-Your-Trunkers, and fruit and vegetable markets are invited for the day. They will park on the north side of the Book Store and Cabin. First come, first park. A small \$5 fee will be charged, and that money will go to the Community Center.

dates are Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3. The doors to the Community Center open at 7 a.m. The kitchen opens from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

To donate to the Pearl Cemetery Pavilion Project, please contact Linda Ray at 254-865-9282. The new pavilion is now underway, and everyone says it already looks great. This pavilion is going to be such a blessing during inclement weather. We hope we don't have to use it anytime soon but isn't it comforting to know that it will be there.

This week's Bible verse-'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts." NIV

Contact me at betsyclark47@yahoo.com to submit any Pearl news.

Check out Jennifer Rushton's Facebook page, Pearl Community Center, Texas. There's no place like Pearl.

Upcoming Pearl Bluegrass

# **STORY TIME AT GATESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**



BY DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Representatives of the Elite Therapy Center recently visited the storytime for children at the Gatesville Public Library. The Elite Therapy Center specializes in children's speech, physical and occupational therapy services. Pictured above is occupational therapist, Kaylen Echols, reading to the children from a book entitled "Authentically Addie" by Stephanie Wolfe. The author's intent was to raise awareness about children with disabilities and to "assure the readers of the limitless possibilities and positive potential in life, regardless of circumstances."



COURTESY PHOTO

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS: Mount Calvary Church of God in Christ to celebrate 100th anniversary Oct. 16. The church is located at 128 N. 12th Street in Gatesville.

# Mount Calvary Church of God in Christ celebrating 100 years

Mount Calvary Church of God in Christ will celebrate their 100th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 16, at 3:30 p.m.

There will be preaching, testimonials and a reading of the church's history. Bishop Maurice Green, of Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ, will be the guest speaker at the special event. Green is the bishop of the Southwestern Jurisdiction First.

The theme for the celebration is "We've come this far by faith," Hebrews 10:23.

The church was established in 1922 with Rev. Dennis Williams as the first pastor. The first church building was described as a small frame building. In later years, records show that the church moved to North 12th Street where Dennis Williams had donated land. That church was constructed in 1945 by the members with a visiting evangelist, J.E. Boswell, of Chicago in charge.

In 1997, it was reported that two of the church's charter members were still living - Alene Armstrong and Rev. N.R. Henderson. At that time, Mrs. Nellie Mayberry was reing member and the "Mother" of the church was Mrs. Cornelius Johnson.

In 1992, Elder Lee O. Ford became the pastor and continues in that capacity today. In 1995, Ford said the Lord gave him a vision and a dream to build the current church.

In 2011, Gatesville Mayor David Byrom declared October 16 as Mt. Calvary Church of God in Christ Day in Gatesville.

The public is invited to attend the celebration. The church is located at 128 N. corded as being the oldest liv- 12th Street in Gatesville.

# FROM MY FRONT PORCH Does familiarity breed contempt or comfort?



time when someone could be hurt or injured.

I once knew a man who was a demolition expert. I asked him how he dealt with the danger of handling exploalways the experience is transcendent and takes you to a better place than where you were before you got "comfortable "

There are many kinds of

**SAM HOUSTON** Sam Houston is a publisher, actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.

Most of us have heard the old expression, "familiarity breeds contempt." It is an adage that advises that extensive knowledge or close association with someone or something leads to a loss of respect for them or it.

A good example might be the zoo worker who goes through the process of feeding his charges, day after day. The animals eventually bond with the keeper and become the worker's "friend." All the while the worker must keep in mind the animals are predators by nature and they cannot afford to let their guard down and become so familiar they act in a slipshod or reckless way. The familiarity of the task can easily create an environment where a worker becomes complacent or casual — and that is exactly the

sives every single workday and what was his greatest fear. He told me he always had to keep on guard to not be casual and take things for granted. He had to mentally prepare himself to treat every single motion and act he did with complete concentration. For him, letting his mind wander or becoming "familiar" could mean devastation and death. He smiled at me and told me "You can always tell who the best demolitionist is. He is the oldest, and the guy with all his fingers and other body parts." In the demolition business, familiarity

could lead to death. The wisdom of old adages aside, I associate familiarity with the best things in life. Like the feel of my recliner when I come home after a long day of work. My chair "knows" me and understands the simple pleasure it provides by being comfortable and relaxing. I bet you get the same sort of feeling from things like that certain pillow you sleep with, the snoring of your dog as he sits at your feet, or peaceful experience gazing at the sky or the lake and taking in the beauty of God's creation. This type of familiarity breeds the best of human emotions. Certainly comfort, sometimes relaxation and peace, but almost

comfort. There are comfortable clothes, comfortable shoes, and even comfort food. This past week my wife came up with a new recipe with crawfish, shrimp, sausage, and potatoes. It was very good. In fact, it was terrific. But I told my wife I could not wait for her to make the same meal on a Sunday night when it was 40 degrees colder, and the Cowboys were playing a game on TV. The thought of my wife's good food, the joy of football and a peaceful Sunday night at home with my family, made good food become comfort food.

It has been a long and productive week. I am looking forward to Sunday and after getting some chores done in the morning, I fully expect to get on my comfortable bed and take a long and luxurious nap. There will be no contempt, just pure comfort. Sometimes, that is as good as it gets.

Hope you find some comfort this weekend too!

Thought for the day: The best things in life are often at the end of the exit ramp from our comfort zone. Until next time.

sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

# Pecan Grove Baptist Church to celebrate 140th anniversary

Pecan Grove Baptist Church will be having a 140th anniversary celebration on Sunday, Oct. 2, at 10:45 a.m. The special guest speaker will be Dr. O.S. Hawkins, the president and CEO of Guidestone Financial Services. The special music leader will be Nathan Cook of Waco along with a special pianist, Dodie Morris, also of Waco.

The small community church of Pecan Grove is nestled among towering pecan and oak trees on the banks of Coryell Creek and has been a distinctive location in the religious life of Coryell County for 140 years.

The church, first known as the Coryell Creek Baptist Church, was organized in 1882 with Monroe M. Smith, James M. Davidson, Sr., Cordelia Beaty, Joe and Martha Alsup, and a Mr. Smith as charter members. The Davidson name has been on the church roll ever since - generation after generation.

The first pastor of the church was John Harding. A. J. Armstrong served as pas-

tor from 1912 to 1922, the longest tenure of any of the church's ministers.

For 47 years, the congregation met regularly at the Blackfoot and Davidson schools, a mile or so from the present church, and at annual brush arbor meetings at Pecan Grove on the west side of Coryell Creek. In 1903, the congregation built a tabernacle on the east side of Coryell Creek on two acres mentioned her association of land donated by Frank M. Martin. In 1929, during the pastorate of a promising young minister named W.A. Criswell, changes were made.

Criswell, a Baylor University student who was to become one of the Southern Baptist denomination's most effective voices and for years pastored the First Baptist Church in Dallas, led the Coryell Creek Baptists in a building program that resulted in the erection of the present church structure. One of the community's pioneers, Charlotte "Lottie"

Davidson, spaded the first shovel of dirt at the ground-

breaking ceremony in October 1929.

With the new building, the church took on a new name, that of Pecan Grove Baptist Church.

During its first 100 years, the church had 41 pastors, most of whom were students at Baylor University or Southwestern Baptist Seminary. In 1995, long-time church member, Inez Martin, with the church.

"My mama took me to the church for the first time when I was two weeks old," said Martin. "I've been attending since. I haven't missed many sermons. I remember before the sanctuary was built, we met in the tabernacle by the light of gasoline torches," she said.

In May 1995, a historical marker was placed on the property by the Coryell County Historical Commission. Jeff Huckeby is the current pastor of Pecan Grove Baptist Church. For those wishing to attend the 140th anniversary of the church, it is located at 6545 FM 107.

# Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association to meet Oct. 14-15

A gathering of landowners, wildlife managers, trappers, and fur harvesters will be held on October 14-15, 2022, at the Gatesville Civic Center.

This event is sponsored by the Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association and the Gatesville Civic Center. Everyone is welcome to attend as instructors from across the Nation will offer free of charge to the public a diversified program of wildlife

management techniques. Instructors will demonstrate effective methods to minimize damage from feral hogs. coyotes, bobcats, beaver, and more. Included will be a field trip to a nearby ranch to demonstrate some of these techniques applied in a natural setting, weather permitting.

This seminar will be held in conjunction with the Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association's fall Rendezvous.

CEU's for pesticide applicators will be awarded for General and IPM credits. Fur harvesting and predator control supplies along with wildlife related crafts will be available throughout the convention. A live fundraising auction will take place Friday evening with auction items on display through the day. Please join them again Saturday for this family-oriented event. They will have Ladies and Youth

crafts sessions, along with youth trap setting sessions. Also Saturday, they will have Trap setting and Skillet tossing contests for all ages with winners receiving trophies. Concessions will be available throughout both days. Activities will begin at 1 p.m. Friday, and 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

Make plans to attend and learn more about how trapping and fur harvesting help the environment and econ-

omy. The TTFHA is a 501c3 non-profit organization committed to public education, to the conservation of the natural resources of Texas, and to the responsibility to coexist with the wildlife of Texas. All hunting and trapping activities are regulated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to ensure a continued thriving population of all wildlife species. Harvesting excess wildlife insures a stable and sustainable balance of wildlife to habitat ratio. It also reduces wildlife conflicts with humans. Wildlife is a renewable resource. Natural fur is an environmentally friendly alternative to man made products that are made from synthetic products based on petroleum. Most harvested furs are sold to international buyers. These sales help to lower the Nation's foreign trade deficit.



CELEBRATING 100TH BIRTHDAY: Bernice Hemphill pictured at her 100th birthday celebration with her three children. Pictured left to right are Sue, Danny, Bernice (birthday girl) and Jerry Hemphill.

# Bernice Hemphill celebrates 100th birthday with party

On Saturday, Sept. 17, friends, and family joined Bernice McDonald Hemphill to celebrate her 100th birthday at Rancher's Steak House in Gatesville.

Bernice was born at home near Red Rock, in Bastrop County. Her dad Cecil had to "fetch" a doctor in a pouring rain. The family lived on and worked several farms along the Colorado River while Bernice was growing up. The middle of five children, she attended Red Rock, Webberville, and Elgin schools. In order to graduate from high school, Bernice roomed with and worked for a family in Bastrop. She graduated at 16 and then married William Lenon Hemphill on Nov. 11, 1939. They moved to Austin and had their first child (Jerry) there in 1941. Later they moved to the Luling area, where Lenon worked in the oil field and trained and competed on calf roping horses and Bernice worked at Dismukes Pharmacy. In 1947 they had their second child, Linda Sue, after Lenon competed in calf roping that evening.

In the spring of 1952, Lenon approached Louis Crouch in Lockhart. Louis' wife Mary Elizabeth Brahman Crouch had inherited ۱4,500-acre ranch on the Colorado River in Matagorda County, and they needed a ranch foreman. That turned

out to be the most fortuitous meeting of the young couple's lives. Lenon, Bernice and little Sue rode to the ranch with Mr. Crouch; they made a deal, and the Hemphills moved onto the ranch seven miles from Markham in March 1952.

Danny was born that December. That property had never been used as a separate entity — a working cattle ranch. It had been part of a much larger estate and was "wild and untamed"

 complete with water moccasins, alligators, nutria, wild hogs, huge mosquitoes, wolves, deer, blow flies, screw worms, and cats that screamed in the night.

Lenon managed the Crouch Ranch for 33 years. Jerry, Sue, and Danny graduated from Tidehaven High School and from Sam Houston, Texas, and Texas A&M University, respectively. Bernice helped put the kids through college by working at the First National Bank in Bay City and then working at and retiring from Production Credit Association there.

While in Matagorda County, the Hemphills began building their own cattle herd on leased properties. At age 67, Lenon (in dire need of a hip replacement) retired from the Cr Ranch, and he and Bernice bought 200 acres near Purmela. The second fortuitous

decision the Hemphills made was to submit a sealed bid for the more than 800-acre Brooks Ranch near Purmela. As the successful bidders, they then owned over a thousand acres in Coryell County and leased a good deal more as they again built their cattle herd. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in November 1989 with a catered barbecue for family and friends.

In August of 1995, after battling colon cancer for five years, Lenon died at age 77. Bernice remained in their home near Purmela until May 2021, when she became a resident at The Oaks in Gatesville, where she now resides. Besides her three kids, Bernice has one remaining daughter-in-law, seven grandkids and 15 greatgrandkids. (Danny's wife Susan passed away earlier this year).

Bernice's family members say that her longevity can be attributed to a lifetime of hard work, abstinence from tobacco and any over-indulgences, raising and eating good food, exercise, and good Christian living. She's been an active member of the Church of Christ her entire life and loves God, Jesus, the Church, her family, and friends. All enjoyed celebrat ing and sharing memories and her momentous occasion with her.

# Jonesboro senior to perform at the 81st Pearl Harbor Memorial

Emma-Cookie Rodriguez, a senior at Jonesboro High School, has made school history and will perform at the 81st Pearl Harbor Memorial on Dec. 7.

Voted UCA All American Cheerleader, Rodriguez will represent Varsity Spirit, the global leader in cheerleading, dance, band, camps and competitions and a division of varsity brands.

Cheerleaders and dancers who are invited to perform in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade are part of a select group of All-Americans identified at the Varsity Spirit Summer Camps across the USA. Only the top 12% of the cheerleaders and dancers from Varsity Spirit Camps across USA will earn a spot to participate in a performance of this caliber.

UCA All-American means cheerleaders demonstrated the appropriate skills of cheerleading with enthusiasm, sharp motions, dance, cheer, facial expression and jumps. It is also based on superior cheerleading and leadership skills at the camp operated by Universal



Rodriguez

Cheerleaders Association, Universal Dance Association, National Cheerleaders Association, National Dance Alliance, United Spirit Association or Urban Cheerleading Experience.

Rodriguez will perform with Varsity Spirit All-Americans in this exclusive performance prior to the opening

ceremony of the Pearl Harbor Parade before thousands of fans on Waikiki Beach. This parade will mark the 81st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The theme this year is "Remembering the Past and Celebrating Our Future." The parade will be broadcast live on Dec. 7.

Rodriguez is the only one from Jonesboro to be selected and only the second from Coryell County. She is the daughter of Cecilia Rodriguez and the granddaughter of Richard and Patricia Rodriguez. Emma gives credit not only to her mother but to her cheer coach, Kayla Sellers, for teaching her dedication, discipline and determination and never giving up on her. Sellers has been coaching Rodriguez for the last four vears.

Rodriguez said that she is very excited and honored not only to represent her school, which she truly loves, and the teachers who are like family, but she is truly thankful for the brave men and women that sacrificed for our freedom.

Dixon Family reunion Oct. 9

The descendants of Noah Lodrick and Sarah Harris Dixon will have their reunion from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, at the Gober Party House in Temple. Family and friends are invited to attend. Please bring

a favorite dish and/or dessert. Drinks will be provided. Gober Party House is located at 1516 W. Avenue H.

# Gatesville Library genealogy room offers abundance of resources

Today, with so many people interested in discovering their history and family roots, most turn to the internet. Some folks in Corvell County may not realize there are amazing sources of information in the genealogy room at the Gatesville Public Library.

The room, dedicated to the memory of the parents of Georgia Grubb Creel. Myrtle and Thomas Grubb, was opened in June 2013. The library has always had a genealogy section, but it wasn't patrons, but visitors from housed in one specific room until a larger children's room entire country. Earlier this was added to the library and the genealogy section was moved into the old children's room. According to the library's director, Faye Nichols, "probably an average of four to five people per week use the room for genealogy research." Nichols said the room also gets used for other purposes such as studying, tutoring and small meetings. Those visiting the room will find a vast collection of local history information,

which includes family histories, cemetery records, census records, delayed birth and death records, marriage records and much more. In addition to their print collection, the library subscribes to Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com which are available to the general public to utilize. They also have a Texas reference section as well and general geographical genealogy information.

The Grubb Genealogy Room receives not only local all over Texas as well as the month, the genealogy room's guestbook was signed by Vasily Karmenchenkov, who wrote that he was visiting from the Russian Federation. In cooperation with the Gatesville Public Library, the Coryell County Genealogical Society, which was formed in 1979, plays an enormous role in association with the library. According to a genealogical society official, Sherry Lawrence, "We are now scanning our obituary file to an

the collection more accessible and provide more options for the public to copy the material. The hard drive will be available at the library desk and can be used with any of the library computers."

According to Lawrence, another project that the genealogical society is planning is to scan updated Coryell County cemetery records to a hard drive. These updated records will include tombstone photos and burial location diagrams for six Corvell County cemeteries

# Fundraiser Oct. 8 in Hamilton

The Blue Ridge Cemetery Association will have a fundraising event on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., at 151 Blue Ridge Church Road in Hamilton. There will be catered food for sale.

The chapel at Blue Ridge

is in need of repair, so the cemetery association will be selling tools and donated items to raise money to finish the work on the building. The association is hoping to have the facility ready for funerals, weddings and event rentals by spring. herrod@gmail.com.

Those wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution can mail their donation to Blue Ridge Cemetery Association, 506 S. Williams, Hamilton, TX 76531. For more information, contact D'Ann Herrod at de-

The updated cemeteries are Bethel, Station Creek, Davidson, Seaton, Oak Grove, and Prairie View.

Lawrence said that their plans also include scanning the loose documents located in the library's vertical files to the hard drive.

More information about the Grubb Genealogy Room and the Coryell County Genealogical Society can be obtained by calling the library at 254-865-5367 or visiting the Gatesville Public Library at 111 N. 8th St.

# Slater Cemetery Workday set

Slater Cemetery will have a workday, meeting and lunch on Sat, Oct. 1, at 9 a.m. Make sure to bring your work

gloves, a chair and a dish to share. If you will not be able to attend, you may donate to the Slater Cemetery Associa-

external hard drive to make

tion, Bancorp South, P.O. Box 779, Gatesville, TX 76528. For further information, call Lee Campbell at 254-216-3642.



### Tuesday, October 4, 2022 Gatesville Sports Complex ★ 5:30 PM-8:00 PM Safety Demonstrations!! Free Food!! Educational Materials!! • Fun Games!! Local City/County Information!! Music!! Visit With Your First Responders!! Free Giveaways!! Fun for all ages!! Don't forget your lawn chairs!



### **POLICE · COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

National Night Out is designed to: Heighten drug and crime prevention awareness; Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. This year's event is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the Gatesville Police Department.

# CLASSIFIEDS

### 015 **FARM & RANCH**

Backhoe, Dozer, Maintainer, Dump Truck: brush clearing, roads, driveways, waterlines, pits, demolition, fence row clearing, culverts. Small jobs ok. Ben Roberts, 254-248-4707 or 254-865-5754.

### MISCELLANEOUS

00029560

032

Remington model 770, caliber 30.06, all black, several boxes of ammo, \$950 cash, Belton Texas. Call (254) 690-5145 00029600

### 037 **HELP WANTED**

NOW HIRING: \$500 Hiring Bonus! Residential Framing (Structural Superintendent Framing) AND Experienced Roofing Metal Framers. Email Resume' to lfuller@ jroof.com. 00029471

Research Technician II Position Texas A&M AgriLife Re-

search Center - McGregor, Texas

Must have 3 years experience in beef cattle production. Will work with cattle in a re-

search setting. Call (254) 840-2878 for infor-

mation. Apply at https://agrilifeas. tamu.edu 00029596

# **SERVICES**

Central Texas Landscaping & Services, LLC:

Mowing, Landscaping, Brush Clearing, Trash Clean Up, Pipe Fence Painting (Ospho), Road Installation. John Capella, 254-216-3684. Licensed & Insured.

### **HONEY'S ROOFING** LLC

Residential & Commercial Complete Re-Roofs and Repairs. Fully Insured. Insurance Assistance. 254 662-9900 or Toll Free 1-855-662-9900. 00029022

Jason Paul Constuction: Painting, Decks, Roofs, Texture, Flooring, Windows, Sheetrock, Porches Add Ons. Metal Buildings **Trash Haul Off and Dump** Trailer Rental. 254-383-3305 or 254-404-3367.

HUNT FENCING Farm & Ranch Fence, Residential, Corrals, Automatic Solar Gates, Custom Entryways & Gates, Welding Projects. John Hunt, Owner, (254)248-2613 00029559

TREE WORKS Tree Service: tree trimming, removal & stump grinding. Free estimates. Call Lloyd, (254)223-3287. 00029558

Job summaries at



off: (254) 404-2500 110 Chicktown Rd. Gatesville, TX 76528 fax: (254) 248-6288



### **R&M FENCING & DOZ-ING:** barbed wire, custom pipe, entryways, corrals,

**SERVICES** 

barns, fence row clearing, metal buildings, residential & game fencing, solar gate openers, dozer work. Free estimates. Larry Riddle, 254-248-2205; Joyce Mc-Adams, 254-248-4318.

**CENTRAL TEXAS REMODELING AND** HANDYMAN Tile, sheetrock, painting, decks, fences, flooring windows, siding, roofing, texturing. Cecil Woodson, 254-216-3835. 00029562



### **GARAGE SALE**

25 CENT SALE! Tues, 09/27 Sat, 10/01. The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m. 00029541

HUGE Backyard Sale: Saturday, October 1, 1208 Pidcoke St. Furniture, tools, home decor, misc. Priced to sell!

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday OCTOBER 1st, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.-SALVAGE SISTA'S semi-annual garage sale! If you've ever been to our sales you already know....You will NOT find a better sale this weekend! Vintage, antiques, purses, back packs, patio ta- LER & WHITAKER, P.C. bles, nice JEWELRY! Kitch- c/c: en, home decor, bath, outdoor BRISCHKE

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

Notice of Public Sale

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Ideal Self Storage425 Texas 36, Gatesville, Texas 76528 will have an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy the landlord's lien. The sale will be at www.storageauctions.com beginning 10/3/22 @ 11am ending 10/12/22 @ 11am. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full. Units to be sold are: Skyler Franks, Margie Palmer, Victor Martinez, Barbara Martin, Patrick Tatum, Michael Duncan, Mary Davis, Jason Reubin, Amanda Zacha. New: furniture, clothing, electronics, household items, misc boxes/tote. 00029601

No. 22-10713

IN THE ESTATE OF ROBERTA JEAN HEUER A/K/A ROBERTA J. HEUER, DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEX-

AS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Roberta Jean Heuer a/k/a Robert J. Heuer, Deceased, were issued on August 24, 2022, in Cause No. 22-10713, pending in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: David S. Heuer.

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

BAIRD, CREWS, SCHIL-STEPHEN T.

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

JENNIFER NEWTON CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT P.O. BOX 237 GATESVILLE, TX 76528

ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE FRANK D. THOMAS WASH & THOMAS LAW 6613 SANGER AVE. WACO, TEXAS 76710

TO: DECEDENT'S UN-KNOWN HEIRS AND NON-TEXAS RESI-DENTS

UNKNOWN ADDRESS UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF CORYELL TO ALL PERSONS INTER-ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN ELLIS PAYNE, DE-CEASED. CAUSE NO 22-10724. COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUN-TY, TEXAS. MURIEL ROSE PAYNE f/k/a MURIEL ROSE PAYNE-FISHER FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUN-TY, TEXAS ON THE 2ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022, AN APPLICATION TO PRO-BATE WILL AND FOR IS-SUANCE OF LETTERS TES-TAMENTARY SAID JOHN ELLIS PAYNE, DECEASED. **SAID APPLICATION SHALL** BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MON-DAY NEXT AFTER THE EX-PIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS.

ALL PERSONS INTEREST-ED IN SAID ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO AP-PEAR BEFORE THE COUN-TY COURT AT LAW OF CO-RYELL COUNTY AT THE SAME ABOVE MENTIONED TIME AND PLACE BY FIL-

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

JENNIFER NEWTON CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT P.O. BOX 237 GATESVILLE, TX 76528

ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE HARRIS LAW OFFICE EIGHTH 425 NORTH STREET KILLEEN, TEXAS 76540

TO: DECEDENT'S UN-KNOWN HEIRS UNKNOWN ADDRESS UNKNOWN STATE

### THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTER-ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF **GWENDOLYN RANEE WIL-**LIS, DECEASED. CAUSE NO 22-10736, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. LINDA S. ADAMS FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2022, AP-PLICATION TO DETER-MINE HEIRSHIP SEEKING INDEPENDENT ADMINIS-TRATION OR IN THE AL-TERNATIVE DEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRA-TION PURSUANT TO SEC-TION 202-204 OF THE TEX-AS ESTATES CODE SAID **GWENDOLYN RANEE WIL-**LIS. DECEASED.

SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AF-TER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRA-TION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CI-TATION, THE SAME BEING THE 11TH DAY OF OCTO-BER 2022, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATES-VILLE, TEXAS.

ALL PERSONS INTER-ESTED IN SAID ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY AT THE SAME TIME ABOVE IENTIONED TIME AND LACE BY FILING A WRIT-EN ANSWER CONTEST-NG SUCH APPLICATION HOULD THEY DESIRE TO

humanresources@coryellhealth.or NOW HIRING Assisted/Independent Living:	*\$8.000 BONUS	items and M cluding free 228 Reno Ro you there! Stay off grass	linens, toys, pet AUCH morein- bies! Gatesville- bad. GPS will get watch for signs. s if ground is wet! AP PRICES!	DATED the 20th d tember, 2022. BAIRD, CREWS,	01 ay of Sep- , SCHIL-	TIME AND PLACE BY FIL- ING A WRITTEN ANSWER CONTESTING SUCH AP- PLICATION SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO DO SO. GIVE UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE	TEN ANSW ING SUCH SHOULD TH DO SO.	D TIME AI TLING A WR ER CONTES APPLICATIO
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Waco: • LVN - FT • CCMA – FT • Phlebotomist - FT	*\$4,000 SIGN ON BONUS • RN or LVN PRN all shifts Mills County Medical Clinic - Goldthwaite:	<sup>099</sup> PUBLIC NO	DTICES	099 PUBLIC NOTICES	;	099 PUBLIC NOTICES	<sup>099</sup> PUBLIC NO	TICES
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SCOTT WILLIAMS Sheriff, Coryell County, Texas

DATED the 89 day of September, 2022, at Gatesville, Texas

You may contact the attorney for the taxing units at (254) 756-7755

# **Gatesville Homecoming 2022**



**DAVID SCOTT** THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

(Top) Gatesville football players march during the Homecoming Fiesta on Sept. 22. (Below) Firefighters were on hand to make sure the bonfire stayed under control.





**DAVID SCOTT** | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER **Gatesville High School students stand atop the bonfire while it is being built on Sept. 22.** 

# **Gatesville Junior High Football**

7B vs. Burnet

Leading Tacklers/Defensive players: Jacob Taylor- 1 fumble recovery; Payden Garrett-3 tackles, 1 TFL, 1 forced fumble, 1 fumble recovery; Keegan Redford- 4 tackles; Klayton Baker- 3 tackles, 1 TFL; Hunter Hill- 3 tackles; Wayne Brumbalow- 3 tackles, Callen Webb- 2 tackles

Season Record: 2-1

 8B vs. Burnet

 1
 2
 3
 4
 FINAL

 Gatesville
 0
 6
 0
 0
 6

Burnet 0 0 0 0 0 Leading Rushers: Andrew Ballantine- 6 rushes for 31 yards; Bo Kelley- 2 for 10; Preston Seager- 6 for 39, TD Leading Tacklers/Defensive players: Ballantine- 7 tackles, 4 TFL, 1 sack; Jacob Desormeaux- 6 tackles, 5 TFL, 1 sack; Tristan Pagluica- 3 tackles, 1 TFL; Seager- 2 tackles, INT; Ivan Resendiz- 4 tackles

Season Record: 2-1.

### 7A vs. Burnet

Leading Receivers: Draven Henderson-1 for 51, TD; Grady Keeton, 1 for 50, TD; Kaydon Buster-1 for 11; Camden Webb-1 for 11

Leading Tacklers/Defensive players: Henderson- 3 tackles, 1 TFL; Phillips- 9 tackles, 1 Forced fumble; Keeton- 6 tackles; Stephen Walker- 4 tackles, 1 TFL; Braxton Brown- 3 tackles, 1 TFL, 1 fumble recovery for a 10 yard TD; Isaac Crawford- 4 tackles; Aiden Zachary- 13 tackles, 2 TFL; Camden Webb- 1 INT; Havik Appelton- 2 tackles; 1 INT for a 20 yard TD; Austyn Pickle- 3 tackles

Kicker Leonardo Leon made 5 extra points Season Record: 3-0.

### 8A vs. Burnet

1 2 3 4 FINAL Gatesville 16 8 8 0 32 Burnet 6 6 0 6 18 Leading Rushers: 3 for 16; Brady Gist 6 for 30, TD, 2 pt conversion; Trey Howard- 10 for 72, TD, 2 pt conversion

Leading Passers: Gist- 9/16 - 100 yards, 2 TD, 2 2 pt conversions; Graham Barron- 1/1 for 31 yards

Leading Receivers: Seth Baize- 1 for 13, TD; Wyatt Baker- 1 for 3, 2 pt conversion; Gorge Carmona- 1 for 15; Howard- 4 for 44, 2 pt conversion; Graham Barron- 1 for 23, TD; Brady Gist- 1 for 31; Aiden Holden- 1 for 3

Leading Tackle/Defensive players: Brady Gist- 9 tackles; Wyatt Baker- 11 tackles, 2 TFL; Trey Howard- 5 tackles; Zay Nunn- 6 tackles, 2 TFL; Aiden Holden- 3 tackles; Graham Barron- 3 tackles, 1 TFL; Nick Shafer- 2 tackles

Special Teams: Graham Barron- 3 kickoff returns for 68 yards total Season Record: 3-0.



# DIVERSIONS GATESVILLE ★ OGLESBY ★ EVANT ★ JONESBORO MESSENGER

# Smith's historic night leads Hornets past Godley

**BY CHRIS ALLMAN** SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Rayshon Smith carried 32 times for 268 yards and scored five touchdowns as Gatesville rolled to a 56-42 win over Godley on Friday

In addition to Smith's dominance, quarterback Jacob Newkirk threw for 312 yards as the Hornets tallied 614 yards of offense and rolled to their highest single-game scoring mark since 2016. They've topped 40 points in their last two outings and have won three games in a row for the first time since 2017.

Though historic, neither the 268 yards nor the five touchdowns are a school record. Records were not readily available but it's likely the school record for single-game rushing yards belongs to Taurean Henderson, who ran for almost 197 yards per game during the Hornet's state title winning season of 2000. In 2021, quarterback Wesley Brown ran for seven touchdowns in a 49-30 win over Jarrell.

While it was not a record night, Smith's performance - in just his fifth varsity game was no less memorable. In front of a packed homecoming crowd that featured a slew of former Hornets on the sideline, Smith provided a glimpse of the future.

"The 'tired' was there but when you are in that atmosphere of good people (you) just want to keep pushing and make it a good night," Smith said.

Boy, did he make it a good night.

Down 7-0 in the first quarter, he got the Hornets (4-1) on the board for the first time with a 17-yard scoring run. In the second quarter he punched in a one-yard run to make it 14-13 Godley then scored again from three yards out to make it 21-14 Hornets. The three-yard run from Smith featured an escape that would make Houdini jealous.

He was wrapped up immediately after receiving the handoff and escaped the tackle only to be grabbed by another defender who quickly found himself laying on the ground holding onto Smith's jersey. After slipping out of that tackle, Smith quickly shot to his right past two defenders and bulled past two others into the end zone.

"We have known he had that in him. He has that 'it' factor and he finally had a game where he just busted out," said Hornet head coach Aaron Hunter.

On the following Godley drive, Sean Aguilar got the ball back for the Hornets with a diving interception of Godley's Kole Allen. The highlight of the Hornets ensuing possession was a 47-yard catch and run from Smith that was called back due to an ineligible man downfield. On the play, Smith ran past, around and away from all 11 Godley defenders.

Despite the highlight being called back, Gatesville would eventually pushed their lead to 28-14 late in the first half thanks to Newkirk's 6-yard touchdown pass to Adrian Smith. Smith, a versatile junior back, had his best night receiving with five catches for 67 yards.



Gatesville High School sophomore Rayshon Smith had outstanding performances against both the Mexia Black Cats and Godley Wildcats. In the Sept. 23 game against Godley, Smith ran for 268 yards and scored five touchdowns for the Hornets.



**Jacob Newkirk** 

tended the lead to 35-21 in the third quarter thanks to another long scoring drive that was the best of what the Hornets' offense can be when it gets rolling.

The drive featured a variety of runs from Rayshon Smith, a pair of stellar catches from Trevor Smith, and a 21-yard run from Jimmy Hall before Newkirk snuck in behind center Steven Bomar to make it 35-21.

Godley was able to battle back and tie the game at 35-35 thanks to 64-yard halfback pass with 2:34 left in the third, but the Hornets struck again quickly.

Adrian Smith returned the kickoff to the Hornets 46-yard line. Two plays later, Newkirk hit Aguilar on a screen and he dodged two would-be tacklers before scampering 50 yards down to the Godley fouryard line. From there, Smith punched in his



Lawson Mooney

until varsity how much those guys affect the game. There are times I don't even get touched until I'm five yards into my run," Smith said. "Every time I get a chance I tell those guys how good they're doing.'

Though the Hornets scored at will all night - they punted just once in the game - they found themselves holding on to a 42-35 lead to start the fourth quarter. Even more perilous, Godley had fourth-and-goal from the two-yard line and a chance to tie it up on the first play of the quarter.

But Hornets overwhelmed Godley's Drew Coleman at the goal line, forcing a turnover on downs. What followed was a 99-yard scoring drive that showed how far Hunter's squad has come in five weeks.

"It has been a long time since Gatesville, Texas has seen a 99-yard scoring drive. That shows where this football team is headed,' Hunter said. On the first play of the drive, with the nose of the ball on Godley's goal line, Smith took a handoff and rumbled 20 yards for a first down.



CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

**Rayshon Smith** 

The rest of the drive ate up five minutes of game clock and ended with a 41-yard touchdown pass from Newkirk to Kyle Shafer on fourth down that effectively drove the nail in the Godley coffin and made it 49-35.

Hunter said going for it on fourth down was a no-brainer.

"When you don't hesitate and just give them a call, it shows your confidence in them. It was a great play call and great execution," he said. "Tyler Shea had a huge block on that play. If Tyler doesn't block, Kyle doesn't score."

Shafer had five catches for 80 yards to go along with his score. He leads the Hornets in receiving touchdowns with five. Hunter praised the strong, versatile Shafer after the game.

"He's very multiple. Because of his body

A Godley score before the half made it 28-21 but the Hornets came right back and exfourth touchdown for a 42-35 lead.

With electric results almost every time he touched the ball, Smith was quick to deflect credit to the Hornets offensive line - an inexperienced unit getting better every game.

"Man, I love my O-line. I didn't really know



Kason Herbelin has been a standout on defense, and leads the Hornets with four interceptions so far this season.

CHRIS ALLMAN | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

he can do that," he said. "Early in the year he wasn't a great blocker but he has really evolved in that area and he makes our offense so much harder to stop. He's a weapon for sure."

Godley threatened again but was thwarted by Kason Herbelin's team-leading fourth interception of the year in the end zone. A few plays later, Smith's fifth touchdown made it 56-35 adding a figurative exclamation point to the win.

The literal punctuation mark came on the ensuing kickoff when safety Lawson Mooney delivered a bone-rattling hit on Coleman, sending the Hornet faithful into a frenzy. Mooney had 15 tackles to lead the team, one week after securing 20 in just three quarters against Mexia.

"You never have to tell him 'giddy up'," Hunter said. "He sets the energy of our team. He has one speed and I'm not going to be the one to tell him to slow down."

Aguilar and Aydan Necessary each had 11 tackles while Herbelin, Ashtyn Culley, and Thiele Alvarado each had nine tackles. Alvarado forced a fumble on Godley's first possession that Herbelin recovered.

Hall had 38 yards rushing on nine carries. Shea had four catches for 60 yards and Trevor Smith had seven catches for 55 yards. Smith is averaging 72 receiving yards per game to lead the Hornets.

The Hornets wrap the non-district slate on Friday at Mineral Wells. The Rams are 3-2 on the season. The game is more than just a final chance at district prep, according to Hunter. It's a chance to see how his team fights over-confidence and complacency.

"The teams that get better now in the middle of the season are the ones who will keep getting better at the end," he said.



# Jonesboro, Oglesby win again

The Jonesboro Eagles and Oglesby Tigers both earned big victories on Sept. 23, with the Eagles topping Smoking for Jesus Christian School, 58-44, and the Tigers defeating Methodist Children's Home 68-22.

The Evant Elks fell to Rochelle, 66-19 in Sept. 23 action.

Kyler Fossett led Oglesby's rushing attack, gaining 283 yards and scoring five touchdowns on 15 carries, while Johnny Gomez

chipped in 55 yards and a touchdown on one carry. Hunter Walter threw for 61 vards and a touchdown, while Fossett had an eight yard completion.

Jack Hendricks led Oglesby's defense with 14 tackles and an interception, followed by Fossett with eight tackles and an interception, Joel Gonzales with seven tackles and three fumble recoveries, Johnny Gomez with five tackles and an interception, Alex Castillo with

five tackles and Brodie Fisher with three tackles.

Caleb Christel is Jonesboro's leading rusher with 96.5 yards per game while Nathan Forrest is the Eagles' leading passer with 41 yards per game.

Jacob Cisneros is Jonesboro's leading tackler with 7.8 stops per game, while Layden Nichols is the team's leading scorer, averaging 13 points per game.

All stats are courtesy of MaxPreps.