



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Search for fugitive continues, sheriff gives update

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

The Coryell County Sheriff's Office, assisted by other law enforcement agencies, continues to search for Brandon Hogan, who escaped from a work detail at Seaton Cemetery on Sept. 26.

Coryell County Sheriff Scott Williams recently held a press conference to talk about the efforts to locate Hogan.

"We have been in the brush for 10 days and at it day after day," Williams said. He described the fugitive as being 5 feet, 10 inches tall, weighing about 170 pounds with blonde hair and blue eyes.

Hogan, 37, escaped from the work detail in an area "he is intimately familiar with," Williams said.

Although a perimeter was formed within a three-mile radius of the location from which Hogan escaped, he has eluded re-capture. The searchers have had the assistance of multiple law enforcement agencies, plus the Flat Volunteer Fire Department, air support from local businessman Gary Heavin, canine units, and drones.

"We have turned over every rock in that end of the county," Williams said. "We investigated a couple of potential sightings and ran those into the ground. We ask people to be vigilant. He could still be here, he could be hurt or dead, or for that matter he could just be gone (from the area)."

Williams, speaking to TV cameras gathered outside the sheriff's office, pleaded with Hogan to turn himself in.

"Mr. Hogan, it ain't too late — I am ultimately responsible for your safety," he said. "You can still turn yourself in. For those who are harboring him, we will hunt you like a dog."

Williams said Hogan was distraught at the time of his escape. He had recently received some bad news regarding additional charges against him, which might have led to Hogan's decision to escape.

"I want to reach out to this community," Williams said. "I am ultimately responsible. I was on vacation when he escaped and I returned immediately" (when learning of the incident).

Williams urged those who might have any information about Hogan's whereabouts to call the sheriff's office at 254-865-7201, or 9-1-1 if they feel it is an emergency.

"(Hogan) may be very desperate at this time, we don't want to take the risk of a citizen getting hurt," Williams said. "We ask people who might have seen him to call with whatever details they can remember."

He said that a victim Hogan had harmed was distraught when she learned of Hogan's escape, but added that the sheriff's department continues to provide protection for her.

The search has been exhausting for employees of the sheriff's office, Williams said. "We've been averaging about two and a half hours of sleep for the men and women of my department, and we won't let up until we find him."

Williams said the people who know Hogan who have been interviewed by law enforcement say that he knew that area of the

PLEASE SEE **FUGITIVE** | A2

Safety & children a top priority



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jimmy Knox talks to the Gatesville Lions Club about his experiences in safety training and raising foster children.

Knox forges career in safety, finds a calling in helping foster children

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Commitment to safety — along with a longstanding devotion to helping raise and encourage more than three dozen foster children — have given Gatesville resident Jimmy Knox some memorable experiences.

Knox said he was born and raised in Gatesville. He served on the Gatesville City Council for 12 years and worked for TTG Utilities for 19 and a half years before opening his own safety training and consulting company — Jimmy Knox Services.

He said that construction and industrial safety were not things he had originally planned to focus on, let alone build a business on.

"I hated safety training when I first got in," Knox said. "I did it for the prison system but

I didn't want to be the safety guy. Everyone wants to be safe, but they don't want to focus on all the things that need to be done for safety."

Knox said he talked with coworkers at TTG about the need for a person to focus on safety for the company, but he did not intend to volunteer himself to fill that role. However, he was selected for the task and reluctantly accepted that challenge.

"At that point I wanted to do anything but focus on safety," he said. "People hate the safety guy because of the work involved. The biggest problem is not planning (for safety). It's important to get in on the ground floor when it comes to safety."

Knox specializes in 35 subjects relating to safety, including crane operations and a variety of other construction equipment proce-

dures.

"There's just a whole lot involved," he said, adding that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration have extensive safety manuals that must be followed.

"Much of my work has been at Fort Hood or other installations, and I've been as far as Wisconsin doing training. I've been asked to do that overseas, but I'm not interested in doing that."

"It's been a blessing. I only work 10 to 15 days a month and the rest of the time I spend with the boys."

Knox is referring to two boys he has adopted. He and his wife have helped raise and care for 39 foster children.

PLEASE SEE **KNOX** | A7

City focuses on code enforcement

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

It's a never-ending battle.

To help address code enforcement issues — whether related to an excess of junk or high grass and weeds on a property or substandard structures that can house vagrants or vermin — the city of Gatesville employs two code enforcement officers. Their jobs are different, but sometimes overlap.

Kory Walters works for the Gatesville Police Department as a code enforcement officer, and Robert Featherston is employed by the city to focus on bringing substandard structures up to code.

Although it can be an overwhelming task, at times, Gatesville's code enforcement officers are making headway into helping clean up the community.

"We have two overlapping situations — code enforcement and substandard structures," city manager Bill Parry recently told the Gatesville City Council. He said although Gatesville PD code enforcement officer Kory Walters and inspector Robert Featherston work independently, they sometimes do collaborate on efforts to help improve the community.

"We have five zones in the city for code enforcement, and you can report a code violation on the city's website," Parry said. "Year to date (as of Sept. 27), we have responded to more than 600 code enforcement issues, and about 67% of the people (notified for code violations) have addressed the issues."

"Our goal is compliance. We don't want to be in a situation where we take a bulldozer down the street tearing down every house."

From 2017-2022, the Gatesville City Council had budgeted \$15,000 to address substandard structures "which enabled us to do three structures a year," Parry said. "It's been a successful program. You (the Council) budgeted twice as much (\$30,000) for the 2023 fiscal year."

Gatesville Police Chief Nathan Gohlke said it is good for the Council "to have an opportunity to see what we deal with on a regular basis. You see how complicated things get and how slow things can be."

Walters said the majority of what he deals with is "junk, junk vehicles and trash."

"We try to work each zone on different days of the week," Gohlke said. "Sometimes we get bogged

PLEASE SEE **CITY** | A2

Celebrating 10 years of The Big Sting



Keith Bankhead, Kasen Bankhead, Lisa Bankhead, Joyce Pruitt, Ashtyn Culley, Stacy Pruitt and Brady Culley stand together during the Big Sting presentation on Oct. 7. The Big Sting is a nonprofit that has helped support Gatesville residents battling cancer.

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CITY

FROM PAGE A1

down with follow-up. We either visit with the person (receiving a complaint) in person or send a notice in the mail. The object is not to issue a citation if we don't have to, but some property owners refuse to work with us."

Mayor Gary Chumley asked if the majority of property owners who refuse to comply are from out of town.

"It's a mix," Gohlke said. "It's very time consuming and tedious. There's a lot of paperwork and it can be hard to track people down. It's much easier when we have the property owner's name, address and phone number."

"A lot of structures are vacant. For those that are occupied, we hold both the property owner and the tenant responsible. We try to work with them. They get 10 days

(to correct a problem) and then they get a citation (if action isn't taken). Then, we can get a court order to clean up the property."

"We can file a lien against the property, and sometimes it can take several months. Other times, people take care of issues right then and there."

Walters said he receives more phone calls complaining about code violations than emails, and when he receives a complaint, "I go check those out. I give at least 10 days before follow-up. I try to work with people if they put forth the effort."

"Out of town people are the hardest to deal with. We get information from CAD (Coryell County Appraisal District) but it's not always up to date or correct."

Parry said some of the bigger issues take time to resolve.

"Some of those places are pretty bad and they won't get them

cleaned up in a day. Some are elderly and need help."

Mayor Pro Tem Meredith Rainer asked if there is any way people — especially older people — can get help.

"Yes, there are churches and organizations that have service projects," Gohlke said. "They might not be savvy with a hammer and nails but they can certainly do clean-up."

Parry said the amount of those stepping up to help with clean-up efforts has diminished.

"It seems volunteer spirit has gone down significantly," he said. "We would love to see churches ask what they can do to help. We had soldiers volunteering from North Fort Hood and some people told them they didn't want them on their property and didn't want their help."

Councilwoman Barbara Burrow asked if community service could be provided for those who have

charges against them in municipal court.

"Yes," Parry said. "The problem becomes you've got to have someone to supervise them."

Featherston, who specializes in issues involving substandard structures, said there is a ranking sheet, and that "90% of houses overall you could write up for something."

He works to focus on the bigger issues.

"We have 67 houses on a list and a point system with a high of 150 points and a low of 16," Featherston said. "I look at things you can see from the road. Very seldom do we get an opportunity to go into a house for an inspection."

Featherston said while he appreciates the Council devoting \$30,000 toward addressing substandard structures, prices for services to resolve the issues have gone up, including trash removal from structures that have been condemned,

which can cost several thousand dollars.

It can cost an average of \$10,000 per house for the city to take action against substandard structures.

"It's a \$700,000 problem, we've got to be prepared to eat the cost," Parry said. "That's at least \$10,000 for 67 properties."

The top five on the list belong to one person "who has a habit of not complying," Parry said.

"Just understand that code enforcement costs money," Gohlke said.

Burrow asked if more code enforcement staff are needed.

"It would be nice to have them work under one roof," Gohlke said. "That would help with communication. Additional staffing would also be an issue. It is a slow process. If you want to speed things up, you have to have more people."

FUGITIVE

FROM PAGE A1

county well, having been up and down the river in that vicinity and doing land navigation there when he was in the Boy Scouts. He was known to stay out in the woods and brush for extended periods of time.

Initial tracking of the fugitive indicated he fled north before turning east and then going south.

Asked what the sheriff's office will do to prevent similar incidents in the future, Williams said, "I can assure you there are five buffers between me and the work desk."

There is a new policy requiring my personal approval on all work crews. This was an absolute mistake — it was a classification mistake (in allowing Hogan to participate as a member of the work crew). We will be investigating when all this is put to bed."

He said the top priority now is the safety of a woman Hogan reportedly hurt, as well as

finding Hogan.

"He needs to be treated like he is a very dangerous man," Williams said. "He has a violent history, and desperate people do desperate things. We are asking the public to not engage him, but to call 9-1-1 (if they encounter him)."

Williams said sheriff's office personnel "have gone door to door checking everything from a shack to a mansion." He said those who own property in the area but live elsewhere can call the sheriff's office if they want

their property to be checked.

"At one time, we had up to 70 people (searching) in the woods," Williams said. "It's a never-ending thing until he's caught."

Williams said he plans to re-activate the sheriff's posse again to help with searches. He said the posse had been deactivated by the previous sheriff.

"We will start vetting people to be part of the posse for incidents just like this," he said.

Fort Hood welcomes new III Armored Corps commander

The III Armored Corps and Fort Hood welcomed a new commander in Lt. Gen. Sean Bernabe while bidding farewell to Lt. Gen. Pat White during a change-of-command ceremony Oct. 4 at the III Armored Corps flagpole.

Gen. Andrew P. Poppas, commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, presided over the ceremony.

"Under (Lieutenant General White's) leadership and vision, he's shown us that personal engage-

ment is the driver of readiness enriching the community and the III Armored Corps," Poppas said.

"He's been a constant inspiration to the Soldiers, to the families through his dedication to service, and he is a proven warfighter that

has fostered a winning attitude at every level."

Bernabe takes the reins of America's only armored corps following command of 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. An infantry officer and 1992 graduate of the U.S.

Military Academy at West Point, he is no stranger to Fort Hood. He commanded the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, here and on rotation to Korea, from 2014 to 2016.

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SPARKY VISITS GATESVILLE PRIMARY



PHOTOS BY: DAVID SCOTT

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9-15, and the Gatesville Primary students got involved. This year's theme is "Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape." Pictured above is Mrs. Colson's kindergarten class learning about fire safety from Robert Featherston of the Gatesville Fire Department. The students were also happy to receive a visit from the fire department's mascot, "Sparky."

Coryell City/ Osage VFD hosts fish fry

The Coryell City/Osage Volunteer Fire Department will host a fish fry and drawing on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 5-8 p.m. There will be a southern fried fish meal with all the fixins'. The cost for the meal will be \$10 for adults, and children 12 and younger will be \$6. The drawing will be for a set of lawn furniture. Tickets for the drawing may be purchased from Coryell City/Osage Volunteer Fire Department prior to and during the

event. One ticket is \$5 or six tickets are \$25. The drawing will be held at the fire department during the fish fry. Takeout orders will also be available. There will be homemade salsa for sale as well. All proceeds from the fish fry and drawing will benefit the Coryell City/Osage Volunteer Fire Department. The event will be at the fire department which is located at 301 CR 255 in Coryell City. For more information, contact 254-248-1177.

Levita VFD to host Barbeque, raffle

The Levita Volunteer Fire Department will host a barbeque meal and raffle starting on Friday, Nov. 4, and continuing the following day on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 7 a.m. until they run out. There will also be a gun raffle which will be \$20 per ticket for a T6 5.56 AR-15. There will only be 200 tickets

available. To purchase tickets, contact Jason Shepard or they can be purchased at the barbeque. This event will be located at Hometown Floors in Gatesville, 1101 W. Main St. For more information about purchasing tickets, contact Jason Shepard at 254-223-2126.

The DISPATCH

The following is a partial breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Oct. 5 - 8. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 911, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

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under 300 lb.	130-160
300-400 lb.	130-160
400-500 lb.	130-160
500-600 lb.	130-155
600-700 lb.	125-140
700-800 lb.	120-135
Slaughtering Cows	
High Yielding	65-75
Low Yielding	50-60
Fats	65-75
Thin & Shelly	20-40
Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)	
Yield Grade 1&2	65-105
Cow & Calf Pairs	
Young Choice	1300-1500
Young Fair	1100-1300
Aged Pairs	Split & Weighed
Young Pregnancy Test Stocker	
Replacement Cow	400-1200
Number of Head	1288

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CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Oct. 5
 8:24 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Osage Road.
 2:05 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.
 3:47 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2500 block of E. Main Street.
 5:50 p.m., a missing person was reported in the 800 block of Golf Course Road.
 6:53 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 600 block of Park Street.

Oct. 6
 12:52 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of E. Leon Street.
 2:13 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1400 block of Pleasant Street.
 11:19 a.m., a theft was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.
 3:25 p.m., an accident was reported in the 100 block of Vista Circle.
 11:18 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.

Oct. 7
 8:01 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of N. Lutterloh Avenue.
 4:51 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2000 block of St. Louis Street.

5:59 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 15000 block of E. Highway 84.
 7:11 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.
 10:41 p.m., a hit and run accident was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.

Oct. 8
 8:21 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3400 block of E. Main Street.
 8:02 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2500 block of E. Main Street.
 9:58 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 500 block of Bridge Street.
 11:41 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 3400 block of Jewell Drive.
 11:48 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 3400 block of Crown Drive.

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5:11 p.m., suspicious persons were reported in the 4000 block of FM 930.
 11:29 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Harrell Drive.

Oct. 6
 7:24 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 700 block of Old Georgetown Road.
 11:08 a.m., a fight was reported in the 100 block of College Street.
 4:30 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of Navaho Trail.
 10:14 p.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported on Winter Road.
 11:21 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 4200 block of FM 930.

Oct. 7
 10:45 a.m., a road hazard was reported on Hwy. 36 at FM 182.
 4:23 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of CR 149.
 5:25 p.m., animal neglect was reported in the 400 block of Thomas Street.
 9:05 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 5200 block of FM 1829.
 10:12 p.m., electric wires were reported down in the 200 block of CR 320.

Oct. 8
 6:13 a.m., deadly conduct was reported in the 2500 block of CR 267.
 11:32 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 100 block of Sims Circle.
 2:03 p.m., the burglary of a building was reported in the 8200 block of Harmon Road.
 8:22 p.m., an accidental shooting was reported in the 3400 block of Slater Road.
 10:49 p.m., shots being fired was reported on Tablerock Road.

Fall Fest Memorial to benefit family of Cody Milam

In honor of Cody Milam, a Memorial Fall Fest Playday will be held at Boots-N-Saddle Church on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 10 a.m. On-site registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. To participate will cost \$10 per event or three events for \$25. There will be a costume contest (with or without a horse), lead line and stick horse, raffles, concessions, prizes and other events including barrels, straights, and poles. The age groups to participate will be ages 8 and under; 9-12; 13-15; 16-20; and 21 and over. Boots-N-Saddle Church is located at 8727 W. Highway



Milam

84 near Gatesville. To pre-register or for more information, text or call Katie at 760-701-1242.

Mount Calvary C.O.G.I.C. to celebrate 100 years

Mount Calvary Church of God in Christ will celebrate their 100th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 16, at 3:30 p.m. The celebration will include 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. 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. The public is invited to attend the celebration located at 128 N. 12th Street.

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CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Oct. 5
 6:41 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on W. Highway 84 at CR 177.
 10:57 a.m., an out-of-control child was reported in the 100 block of College Street.
 1:12 p.m., illegal dumping was reported in the 1400 block of CR 318.

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COURTESY PHOTO

RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL JOIN WORKSHOP: Attendees at the District 12 workshop include, standing from left to right, Yvonne Duschmann, Marsha Lee, Gail Johnson, Jo Ann Sugg, Gayla Linton, and Terri Phillips. Seated are Kathy Smith and Gerald Linton. Not pictured is Cherry Braziel.

Retired teachers attend district workshop

Nine retired teachers from the local Coryell Chapter of CRSP (Coryell Retired School Personnel) attended a District 12 Fall Leadership Conference in Waco on Tuesday, Sept. 20. District 12 also includes chapters from Bell, Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Killeen, Lampasas, Limestone, Mills, Navarro, Waco-McLennan counties, and the city of Copperas Cove.

This year's theme was "TRTA: Our Team Never Quits!" It was perhaps inspired by a statement from Phil Jackson, former professional basketball player, coach and executive, who said, "The strength of the team is each individual member; the strength of each member is the team!"

Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) advo-

ates for improved benefits for all retirees and promotes the well-being of all its members. District 12 goals for the coming year are (1) to increase district membership by 5% or by 175 members; (2) to increase volunteer hours by members from 187,433 to 200,000 hours; (3) to donate 8,000 books to children ages 12 and under; and (4) to continue/add scholarship programs from each local chapter.

The Coryell chapter currently has 87 members. Although they are grateful for having gained some new members, they have also lost some the last few years. They would like to encourage retirees to join them. They regularly submit around 30,000 or more volunteer hours to District 12

yearly and donate around 1,700 to 2,400 children's books yearly. They also give scholarships each year to two seniors planning to enter the field of education in college.

Among the seven District 12 officers this year, two are from the local Coryell Chapter: Jo Ann Sugg, District 12 President, and Mary Bruton, District 12 Historian. Gail Johnson is one of the 14 county presidents serving in District 12, representing Coryell County. The district is also well-represented on the State TRTA level by Earl Wall (Mills County), serving as chairman of the Organization Affairs Committee; Alicia Smith (Freestone County), serving on the State Legislative Committee; Shirley Bond (Bell County), serving on the State Mem-

bership Committee; and Jo Ann Sugg (Coryell County), serving on the Foundation Information and Silent Auction Committee.

A TRS update was given by Don Green, TRS Chief Financial Officer; K.J. Van Ackerin, a member of the TRS Investment Team; Beth Hallmark and Lori La Brie, TRS Ombuds. The guest speaker was Tim Lee, Executive Director of TRTA, who explained and updated many legislative proposals and activities for members.

After a break for lunch, members returned for a short business meeting which included reports from officers and committee chairmen, followed by results from silent auctions and door prizes. The meeting was then adjourned.

Youth football team selling raffle tickets

Gatesville Youth Tackle Football is selling tickets for an AR-15 gun raffle. Tickets are \$25 each, two for \$40, or you can purchase six tickets for \$100. The drawing will be held at their annual football banquet in November.

Funds raised from the

drawing will be used to help purchase helmets and equipment needed for future players in the program.

To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Kent Ford at 254-338-4534 or Gigi Peters at 808-636-0885.

Gatesville Adaptive Sports hosts field day

Gatesville Adaptive Sports invites everyone to learn how to play their favorite sport.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, starting at 12 p.m., Gatesville Adaptive Sports will be hosting a field day coming together with the surrounding communities for those wanting to learn how to play soc-

cer, baseball/softball, and practice cheerleading for our league in January 2023.

The event will be held at Faunt Le Roy Park located on S. 7th St. in Gatesville. For more information, contact Kara Dotson at 254-206-0064 or visit the Gatesville Adaptive Sports Facebook page.

MOORE NOMINATED FOR UMHB HOMECOMING QUEEN



COURTESY PHOTO

Mindy Moore, a 2019 graduate of Gatesville High School, was one of six nominated for the 2022 homecoming queen at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Moore is currently a senior majoring in journalism at UMHB. She is an honor student and works part-time at the Belton Journal newspaper. She is the daughter of Charles and Rose Moore of Gatesville.

MY FRONT PORCH

Timing is oh so important!



SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper publisher. He is also an actor, author, playwright, and entertainment producer and promoter.

I have always been devoted to being timely. I religiously wear a watch to make sure I am aware of the time of day and to assure I will be where I am supposed to be when I am supposed to be there. I have a Google

calendar to keep all my appointments and scheduled events clearly identified and easy to understand. I receive electronic reminder notices when an appointment time is near. I have so many appointments and attend so many meetings and events if I didn't keep a good calendar, it would be one heck of a train wreck.

The standing joke at the newspaper is I have appointments scheduled out six weeks after the date I have scheduled for my funeral!

So how is it with all my planning, devotion and commitment, unscheduled things still happen? How is it I can be grilling a nice rib-eye steak on my back yard grill and just as the steak is 50% cooked, I learn the gas tank has run out of propane? How could it be that my car's tank was seemingly full of gas yesterday but if I am in a hurry to get to work, I will not have a enough gas

in my car to get out of the driveway? Why is it when I am finished watching tv for the night and when I take my empty soft drink can into the kitchen to dispose of my refuse, the trash can is so full that it is overflowing and incapable of taking another single object? How come I never seem to notice the toilet paper roll needs to be replaced until after I am through with my business? Why is it when a storm blows in from the north and knocks out power at my place, the flashlights I have scattered throughout the house in case of such an emergency are all filled with batteries which "went south" a month ago?

Just this week I was snoring away when the smoke detector in the kitchen started its loud squall. Why is it detectors only seem to run out of power at 2 a.m. when I am in the middle of a sound sleep? Why doesn't

the battery in a smoke detector ever go bad at 10 a.m. in the morning?

There are even more timing issues in my life. How come I discover there is only a single tablespoon of liquid in the milk carton after I have just poured myself a huge bowl of breakfast cereal? Why did I take a load of shirts to the cleaners yesterday to find I needed a specific shirt the next morning? Why is the last paper towel gone, just prior to my needing to clean up a mess by one of my dogs?

Life is uncertain. Timing is everything. I sure wish my bookie would let me bet on Monday night football on Tuesday morning. It would make things so much more effective.

Thought for the day: The early bird still gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Until next time.
sam@hcnews.com

Fall and Halloween happenings in Gatesville

PUMPKIN DROP-OFF AT GATESVILLE CHAMBER

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is asking for pumpkins for their Fall Family Fun Night set for Oct. 22.

Those who drop off a pumpkin at the Chamber during regular business hours will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a free admission ticket to the Nov. 12 Corks & Kegs event. Donors will receive one raffle ticket for each pumpkin given.

After the pumpkins are used for photos on Oct. 22 and are no longer ripe, they will be donated to local farmers and ranchers for their animals.

For more information, contact Tiffany Hoops-Turner at 254-865-2617. The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce is located in the Cotton Belt Railroad Depot at 2307 S. Highway 36.

GJHS FALL FESTIVAL

OCT. 18

Gatesville Junior High will be hosting a fall festival on Tuesday, Oct. 18, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The festival will include Nipa Food Truck, Pretty Pig Boutique, Southern Dandelion, Haute and Gaudy, Thirty One, Dizzy Sweet Treats, Loaded Pig, Charlotte's Pies, Lawson's General Store, Rocking T, Coffee Saloon, Green Rooster Café, Heavin Cakes and Cookies, Cheerleaders, Science Club Table, Adopt-A-School, and Food, Fire, Family. All families are welcome!

Gatesville Junior High School is located in Gatesville at 307 S. Lovers, Ln. For more information, please call 254-865-8271.

FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT OCT. 22

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will host a Fall Family Fun Night on Oct. 22 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the parking lot of the Cotton Belt

Railroad Depot, located at 2307 S. Highway 36.

Families will have an opportunity to take free pumpkin patch pictures and the chamber will sell hot chocolate and cider. A variety of local food trucks and a coffee truck will also be on hand to offer goodies. Vintage Royalty Boutique has partnered with the chamber for this event and will also be open for some holiday shopping.

For more information, contact Tiffany Hoops-Turner at 254-865-2617.

HALLOWEEN HUSTLE OCT. 22

The Gatesville Fitness Center will host Halloween Hustle on Saturday, Oct. 22. There will be a 5K fun run as well as a costume contest. The first 50 participants to register are guaranteed a medal. Medals are awarded for the best costumes. This will not be a timed event.

Registration will be online

at runsignup.com/halloweenhustlefunrun. For more information about this event, contact the Gatesville Fitness Center at 254-865-4012.

HALLOWEEN CANDY MAZE AND LOCAL FOOD DRIVE OCT. 29

The Halloween Candy Maze and Local Food Drive will be on Oct. 29, from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. It will be sponsored by the VFW post 8577, Barnard Beef Cattle Company, and Liberators L.E.M.C.

Admission cost will be any canned or non-perishable food items, which will be donated to the Gatesville Care Center and to the Hidden Gem Family Care Center. The newest attraction this year will be the one-dollar train ride.

The food drive will include a children's maze, adult/big kid scary maze, and live actors. The Halloween Candy Maze will be held at 1518

Golf Course Road in Gatesville.

BOOZAAR OCT. 29

Gatesville's annual Boozaar Halloween Celebration around the square in Gatesville will be held on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 6-8 p.m.

This free, family event is the most well attended event of the year and provides fun for the citizens of all ages from Gatesville and the surrounding area. Those attending can participate in the costume contest and make their way around the square trick-or-treating at local businesses and play games set up by local businesses and organizations. There is no admission charge, and most treats and attractions are free.

There are always vendors selling food and drinks if you choose to take advantage of some of the authentic and delicious items that are available.

Interested businesses and organizations are invited to participate as one of the following:

Treat Stops are businesses located on the square or the Boozaar route that encompasses several blocks around the downtown area. They hand out treats to kids as they make their way around the route.

Treat stations are businesses and organizations who are not located downtown but set up booths around the square to provide free candy, games, and activities for families. There is no charge to set up a Treat Station.

Vendors can host a food booth, sell Halloween related items or charge for a game or activity. Vendor booths are \$55 each for commercial businesses and \$25 for non-profit. Any items sold must be Halloween related.

The costume contest will include categories for all ages.

OBITUARIES

BILL NELSON

Oct. 31, 1941 - Oct. 3, 2022



Bill Nelson, age 80, of Gatesville, passed away on Monday, October 3, 2022, in McGregor.

Graveside services with full military honors were held at 10 a.m. Monday, October 10, 2022, at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen. Funeral services followed the graveside service at 12 noon, Monday at Trin-

ity Baptist Church, with Rev. Sam Crosby officiating.

Billy Wayne Nelson was born on October 31, 1941, in LaFayette, Georgia to the late Daniel and Goma Chastain Nelson. He grew up in Chicago, Illinois and entered the United States Army at a young age. During his military career, he was stationed in Belgium and Korea, and retired in 1988. He married Bonnie King on November 8, 1975. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his son, Jason Nelson. Bill is survived by his wife, Bonnie Nelson; children, Mitchell, Eric, Lola, Sheila, Rodney, Brandon, and Lynetta; grandchildren, Margaret, Tyler, Sarah, Amos, Camilla, Joseph, Luciana, Mauricio, Jairo, Ashley; and numerous great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be designated to Trinity Baptist Church, 1506 W. Main Street, Gatesville, TX 76528.

Dutch Oven Gang to host fundraiser for historic Coryell County Church

The locally known "Leon River Dutch Oven Gang" will be providing some down-home cooking to benefit the ongoing restoration process of the historic Eagle Springs Baptist Church located in southeastern Coryell County. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 22. The gang will begin serving lunch around 11 a.m., and provided on the menu will be Sloppy Joe sliders, cowboy potatoes, baked beans and Apple Dump Cake - all cooked on location in genuine old-time dutch ovens. The meal can be paid for by simply making a love donation to the church restoration. Charlotte Weiss, a member of the Leon River Dutch Oven Gang said, "we love helping out as well as teaching about dutch oven cooking."

The Eagle Springs Baptist Church, an offspring of the Union Creek Baptist Church, was built in 1878 in the community of Eagle Springs. The church was constructed primarily from cypress wood, which was hauled to the location by oxen-drawn wagons from Galveston. The small, one-room church is considered to be a rare type of architecture due to the two front doors - one for the men to enter through and one for the women. Very few of these historic churches are still in existence in Texas today. The inside of the church remains much the same as it did when Governor Pat Neff attended there as a child. The church pews, pulpit and pulpit chairs are original to the building. About 17 years ago, the

Historic Eagle Springs Baptist Church Association was formed in order to raise funding to have the church repaired and restored. Repair work remains continuous on the soon to be 145-year-old structure. Although funds were recently raised to have the floor of the church professionally leveled, the building continues to slant to the east. The siding, windowsills and parts of the eaves of the church need to be replaced, and of course, the building needs to be painted. Association member, Martha Deeringer, said "The Leon River Dutch Oven Gang is a group of amazing folks who can cook up culinary magic in dutch ovens." The church will be open to visitors who can see how their

ancestors worshiped nearly 150 years ago, she said. There will be no need to bring a rifle -- the Comanche aren't on the warpath anymore -- although early-day parishioners once attended services with rifles across their knees to guard against Indian attacks. The public is strongly encouraged to attend this worthwhile fundraising event. "Don't miss your chance to taste some delightful cooking, have a great lunch, and help out a historic Coryell County church at the same time," Deeringer said. The historic Eagle Springs Baptist Church is located at 14225 FM 107, a few miles from Mother Neff State Park.

PEARL NEWS

On the move, but Pearl News will continue



Albert Einstein once said, "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." Based on that, I must be a genius since I just moved from Central Texas to East Texas just a little more than two weeks ago. Talk about a change.

However, this move is a blessing in so many ways even though I will miss physically seeing my Pearl and Evant friends and kinfolk. But it's not like the days of

old when you had to wait for a letter via Pony Express. People, we now have cell phones, email, Facebook, Twitter (which I do not do and have no desire to learn), etc. I talk to Linda Ray daily, and it sounds like she's sitting across the table having coffee with me. Therefore, I can easily keep up with all of the news and goings-on in Pearl just like I was standing in the middle of FM 183!

So, rest assured, I may be at my granddaughter's rodeo in some far-off land (i.e. Groesbeck or Athens (Texas, not Greece) and still know just as much about Pearl as I ever did! And believe me, I will share with you just like I did before for as long as I can, Lord willing and the creek don't rise.

I have so many people to thank for planning and manning the garage sale after my move. I just want you all to know how blessed I am to have friends like these precious ladies (and you know who you are). I am so thankful they are still speaking to me after that sale. My prayer for these sweet ladies is "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give

you peace." Truly, "there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" and these sisters fit that bill to a T.

News flash: The Pearl Flea Market is this weekend, Oct. 14, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Oct. 15, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. If you have rented a booth or space, you may set up on Oct. 13. Booth spaces on the grounds are \$10 per space and on a first-come, first-park basis. For information on renting the pavilion spaces and inside spaces, contact Rhonda Dick-ey at 254-595-1096. All shoppers are welcome.

There will be food to purchase in the kitchen each day. All proceeds go toward the Pearl Community Center for building maintenance, upkeep, and other expenses. Come one, come all. It's going to be a great weekend in Pearl. The Pearl Cottage Bookstore will be open those two days as well, and you never know what you may find.

To round out the weekend, the Pearl Church of Christ will celebrate its 127th year in existence on Oct. 16. Services are set to begin at 10:30 a.m. with Edward Schaub speaking. Following the service there will be a catered barbecue lunch on the grounds. Plaques will be giv-

en for the farthest traveled, the longest attending member, the youngest in attendance, and the longest-married couple. Drive your vintage cars to Pearl that day, too. All are invited to attend and bring family, friends, and anyone you want to bless with a wonderful day of worship and fellowship that can't be beat.

The news just keeps getting better and better, and here is the part where I wish I could do a drum roll. The Pavilion at the Pearl Cemetery is almost completed. There are so many people to thank for their parts in this project that I don't have enough space to list them all in this article!! I have been told that it looks wonderful, and the service it will provide during inclement weather during a funeral will be priceless. Stop by and take a look. You will be more than pleased.

This week's Bible verse: "In God is my salvation and my glory, the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God." — Psalm 62:7 NIV

Contact me at betsy-clark47@yahoo.com to submit any Pearl news.

Check out Jennifer Rush-ton's Facebook page, Pearl Community Center, Texas! There's no place like Pearl.

Golf tourney Nov. 12

A golf tournament will be held Saturday, Nov. 12, at 9 a.m. to benefit the Gatesville American Legion Post 42 with their community programs. There will be a barbeque lunch, door prizes, and a raffle for a 12 gauge BullPup Shotgun. The prizes and contests include cash prizes, closest to the Pin Par 3's, and longest drive.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. This will be a four-person scramble costing two-hundred dollars per team. This event will be held at the Gatesville Country Club.

The Gatesville Country Club is located at 1308 Golf Course Rd. For more information, call 254-865-4134. To register, contact the Country Club at 254-865-6917.

Pruitt reunion Oct. 15

The Pruitt family reunion will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Turnersville Community Center. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and a covered-dish dinner will begin at 6 p.m. The reunion brings

together the descendants of Jesse Levy and Alice Fredonia Johnson Pruitt of Turnersville, including relatives and family friends.

The Community Center is located at 8115 FM 182.

The Lions Club of Gatesville wants to thank the following sponsors for their support to our 22nd Annual Golf Tournament that was held Saturday, September 10, 2022. All donations will be used to support our local community.

PLATINUM SPONSORS	SILVER SPONSORS	
Coryell Vet	Clay, Britt	Fincher's Body Shop
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	Farm Bureau (Dan Davidson)	Lone Star Auto/KBJ Enterprise
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	Farm Bureau (Justin Stephens)	Miller, Zack & Shawnee
	Farm Bureau (Denise Veach)	ND Nails

Ogletree Gap Heritage Festival returns Oct. 15

The Ogletree Gap Heritage Festival returns Oct. 15 after an absence of more than a decade.

The Heritage Festival will be held at Ogletree Gap Park in Copperas Cove from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ogletree Gap Park is located in the 1000 block of W. Business Highway 190.

The festival, which began in 1984, was presented by the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce until 2008, the last year the festival was held. The Copperas Cove His-

torical Society is bringing the festival back and a preview of the festival was held at the Copperas Cove Library last October.

The festival will feature historical demonstrations in and around the old stagecoach stop and post office in the park, which is the oldest building in Copperas Cove. There will be carriage rides by "Mr. and Mrs. Ogletree" and the First Cavalry Horse Detachment will perform at 1 p.m. Olaf the longhorn will also be on hand for photos.

Following the welcoming ceremony at 10 a.m., Danny Corbett, chairman of the Coryell County Historical Commission, will unveil a plaque placing the site on the National Register of Historic Places. The plaque will be attached to the current historical marker at the Ogletree Stagecoach stop.

Admission and parking at the event will be free.

For more information, call Joyce Hauk, president of the Copperas Cove Historical Society, at 254-577-2443.

Marriage licenses filed in Coryell County during September

Marriage licenses filed during September 2022 in the Coryell County Clerk's Office included: Emmanuel Timoteo Aguilar Garcia and Maura Martinez, Angel Margarito Aguilar and Alexah Payge Schock, Raymond Allen Bauer and Kathleen Patricia Handley, Eugene Harold Bradfute and Shawna Brooke Roscom, Ethan Alan Breckenridge and Jaymie Christine McDonald, Joshua Dewayne Buster, Jr. and Ashton Justine McCa-rley, Reid Patrick Carlise and Christina Marie Denote, Brandon Shane Collier and Samantha Christine Corbett, Juan Carlos Cruz Martinez and Alma P. Martinez, Gary Wayne Davis and Kerry Joan Zacharias, Rodrigo De Souza and Paty Lenny Coelho De Jesus Souza, David Thomas

Demarest and Karen Leigh Bayer, Silvestre Gamez Pardon and Mayra Alejandra Guevara Rocha, Derek Jason Greaves and Declan Joseph Williams, Montie Ray Greenwood and Melissa Ann Knapp, Chance David Griffith and Kylie Dianne Chumney, Austin James Harlan and Alyssa Jo Alberson, Har-leigh Bricey Hunt and Krystal Morgana-Lynn Currie, Jarryd Cornell Jackson and Jessica Ann Perkins, Thomas Daniel Jett III and Andrea Beth Young, Chad Steven Johnson and Leslie Anita Hays, Jesse Raymond Kissel and Nicole Marie Hibbitts, Cole Wade Krueger and Naomi Michele Stewart, Andrew Taylor Lain and Victoria Paige Melton, Clinton Dale McWhirter and Tammy Lynn Gamblin, Ken-

neth O'Neil Novy and Rebecca Lynn Mowery, James Bradley Paul and Jordan Taylor Evans, Jonathan Luke Pierce and Tullilamanu Rose Faleafa, Chad Michael Pruett and Jamie LeeAnn Wood, Isaac Gerardo Ramos and Danni Jo Miller, Kyle Michael Raymond Riley and Ashlye Michelle Osbourn, Shaka Nicholas Rock and Ana Maria Mendoza Montoy, Tyler Glenn Ross and MacKenzie Leighana Love Smith, Andrew David Savage and Elyse Jean Lovgren, Thomas Eugene Shifflett and Billie Jean Kujat, Brian Scott Smalling, Jr. and Milanka Nicole Mastan, Wilford Allen Vannote and Dawn Renee Jones, James Paul-Robert Winters and Amaranta Jo Gamboa, Ian Chester Zdral and Olivia MacKenzie Swanson.

Hornets fall to Cadets in district-opener

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Gatesville Hornets had their four-game winning streak snapped with a 35-6 loss to Connally in the district opener for both teams on Friday.

The Cadets, who were briefly ranked in the 4A Division II top 10 early in the year, had been without quarterback and Oklahoma St commit Jelani McDonald since Sept. 9. At full strength for the first time in a month, the Cadets looked every bit like one of the state's best 10 teams.

McDonald accounted for almost 200 yards of offense and three touchdowns and was also used most of the night as a defensive back as the Cadets attempted to thwart a Hornets offense that came into the game averaging 32 points per game.

While they were successful, holding the Hornets to a pair of Javier Bonilla field goals, the Hornet defense was equally as stingy in the first half.

Connally led 7-6 at the half but a pivotal swing in the third quarter proved to be the difference.

First, McDonald threw a 36-yard touchdown pass to Ke'Are Riley. Then, on the ensuing possession, Kaiden Turner picked off a pass and returned it 30 yards for a score and a 21-6 lead. In 90 seconds, the Hornets deficit went from down one to down 15.

The Hornets coaches track "explosive plays" - a play in which their opponent gains 25 yards or more on a play. Connally had just two on the night. In addition to the 36-yard touchdown pass to Riley, McDonald hit Isaac Perez for a 49-yard touchdown early in the fourth.

"I loved how we played defensively," said head coach Aaron Hunter. "You take away two plays and we really played great defensively all night long."

Offensively, the Hornets were limited coming into the game. Running back Rayshon Smith was injured in the second half of last week's win over Mineral Wells and the standout sophomore had only eight carries against Connally. Junior Jimmy Hall led the Hornets with 53 yards rushing in the loss but was also banged up in the first half against the Cadets.

Hunter noted that McDonald's move to defensive back as well as the lack of consistent run game made for a tough night for the Hornets offense. He was also quick to credit Connally's Terry Gerik and his team.

"They did a heck of a job, and they had a good game plan," he said. "Our run game kind of went away and (Connally) are just dudes."

Though they didn't have their running back tandem at full strength, the Hornets were still able to move the ball effectively in the first half, getting into the Connally red zone three times.

After forcing a turnover on downs on the Cadets opening possession, the Hornets drove down to the Connally ten-yard line before settling for the field goal and a 3-0 lead. The drive was highlighted by a pair of



Finding running room was tough for Gatesville against a stout Connally defense, but the Hornets kept battling.

SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



Adrian Smith



Thiele Alvarado



Lawson Mooney

fourth down conversions - a 36-yard run from Lawson Mooney and a fourth down grab from Adrian Smith both kept the drive alive.

After Connally took a 7-3 lead, Adrian Smith returned the kickoff 71 yards and the Hornets got down to the Cadet two-yard line before cutting the lead to 7-6.

The long kickoff return nearly broke a drought that started long before any current Hornets were born. According to Hunter, it is

believed that the Hornets have not returned a kickoff for a touchdown in 25 years.

Smith is one of several under-sized but talented, dogged, and fiery players that have helped guide the Hornets to their 5-2 mark this season. Though they aren't built like the four and five-stars that Connally touts, defensive coordinator Jose Aguirre has described his defensive players like Smith, Mooney, Sean Aguilar, and Aydan Necessary as "some of the best guys in the state".

Smith has tallied almost 450 yards with the ball in his hands this season. He has 205 return yards, 163 receiving yards, and 78 rushing, all while registering 48 tackles and breaking up four passes for the defense.

"Adrian is a kid who has grown so much this year. He makes some big catches, had the big kickoff return, and makes a ton of plays you wouldn't expect him to make. He plays both ways so we have to be smart with him, but we want to keep getting him the ball," Hunter said.

Against Connally, quarterback Jacob Newkirk completed 11 passes to 5 different receivers. Trevor Smith had four catches while Aguilar, Shea, and Adrian Smith each had 2 catches. Kyle Shafer had one catch on the night.

The Hornet defense was led by the usual suspects against Connally. Mooney had 21 tackles while Thiele Alvarado had 20 - one for a loss. Mason Mooney had 14 tackles and Ashtyn Cully played his second straight outstanding game tallying 12 tackles including one for a loss. Aguilar had ten tackles on the night.

The Hornets now turn their attention to Salado, who opened district with a 33-24 win over Robinson. Hunter believes his team's response to Connally will resonate over the final three regular season games.

"It's just as important right now how we handle this. We can let this dictate the rest of our season or you can take it as 'we had them right where we want them and didn't finish.' You can't look at it like a negative thing. You look at it as a positive thing," he said.

"The next three games are big games for this program. We have to come back and go to work," he added. "You have to have the same focus and intensity after that loss after you do a win. That's what OTA stands for, it's not just when good things are happening. It's the hard times."

After traveling to Salado, the Hornets will host Madisonville on Oct. 21 before finishing the regular season at Robinson on Oct. 28.



Members of the Gatesville Hornet football team carry the American flag before the start of the Oct. 7 football game.

SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



GATESVILLE HORNETS
Information
unavailable as of
press time



JONESBORO EAGLES
#14 Caleb Christel
27 passing yards; 7 carries for 118
yards; 5 solo tackles, 2 assists
4 touchdowns



EVANT ELKS
Information
unavailable as of
press time



OGLESBY TIGERS
#1 Alex Castillo
25 passing yards
2 solo tackles
1 interception

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK BROUGHT TO YOU BY



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Gatesville Evant Oglesby
254-865-2783 254-471-5531 254-470-2261

Oglesby, Jonesboro win big

The Oglesby Tigers improved to 7-0 on the season with a 66-20 win over the Bronte Longhorns on Oct. 7. Meanwhile, the Jonesboro Eagles beat the Lometa Hornets 57-8 to move to 6-1 this season.

The Evant Elks fell to the state powerhouse May Tigers 60-0.

Hunter Walter completed two passes for 92 yards and a pair of touchdowns, including a 51-yard scoring strike.

Alex Castillo added a 25-

yard TD pass for Oglesby.

Kyler Fossett ran for 287 yards and six touchdowns on seven carries, and had a long run of 71 yards.

Johnny Gomez, Cash Lee and Hunter Walter each had touchdown receptions for the Tigers

Jack Hendricks led the Oglesby defense with eight tackles, followed by Joel Gonzales with seven and Jackson Tippit and Johnny Gomez, each with five.

Alex Castillo and Kyler Fossett each has intercep-

tions for the Tigers.

Stats for Jonesboro and Evant were not available.

Oglesby will host Evant at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13 in a non-district showdown.

Jonesboro will travel to Santa Anna for a 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14 district contest.

For the season, Caleb Christel is averaging 107 yards rushing per game, Layden Nichols is scoring 17.7 points per game and Jacob Cisneros is averaging 7.7 tackles per game.