



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

WEDNESDAY | Nov. 30, 2022

75¢

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Safety concerns prompt GISD brush clearing

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Gatesville's school board has given approval for several acres of brush to be removed to help protect students and community members near the cross country track.

"There are a noticeable number of people in the community who appear to be drifting or unwell, and we want to be proactive and do something," said Gatesville Independent School District Superintendent Barrett Pollard. "We have not had anyone approached or harmed, and we want to make sure we avoid that."

"We see (discarded) cans and evidence that people are setting up camp in the brush."

Pollard said GISD staff have had to intervene when people were trespassing on school property.

"In the last couple of months, we have had to ask two different men who were loitering in the brush around the cross-country track area to leave the premises," he said. "In addition, we have found chairs and trash where people are sitting and loitering in the brushy area."

"Many people walk the cross-country track at all hours of the day. We want this to be a safe area for everyone, so the brush really needs to be cleared. We want to shred and mulch all of the cedar and underbrush and leave the beautiful mature trees for shade."

Pollard said about 6.4 acres need to be cleared.

"The brush is too thick, and it presents an opportunity for people to hide," he said.

He estimated it would cost \$25,000 to \$35,000 for the brush clearing.

"Once the project is complete, there would be a clear line of sight and no areas for people to hide or dump trash," Pollard said. "It will help keep this area safe."

Pollard said the district is eligible for a \$200,000 safety and security grant which can help pay for the clearing project.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville ISD leaders approved removing brush in an overgrown area near the cross country track . GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard said the plan is to keep the hardwood trees that provide shade in the area.

County selects NRS of Austin for hazard mitigation plan

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

After receiving six proposals by different organizations to help the county develop a local hazard mitigation plan, the Coryell County Commissioners Court chose Natural Resources Solutions of Austin for the job.

The six organizations were scored based on several criteria, including the time frame to develop the plan as well as the cost.

Commissioner Scott Weddle asked what consequences a company might face if it did not meet the time frame proposed for completing the work.

County Attorney Brandon Belt said whoever is chosen by the county (in this case, NRS) will present a contract and the court would decide the penalties for not meeting a timeline.

"Once the court approves a hazard mitigation plan, it goes to the state and then to FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency)," Belt said. "FEMA doesn't have much of a timeline. It could be three weeks, three months, or something else."

We're not going to be able to hold any contractor to FEMA's timeline because who knows what they will do."

Weddle said he would have liked more time to look through the proposed contracts. He asked if commissioners could view partial submissions before a decision is made.

"Generally, bids are not opened until the time for bidding closes," Belt said. "Opening them along the way presents if not issues, the appearance of issues."

County Judge Roger Miller said he will work to try to give commissioners more time to consider proposals.

"In the future I will try to have the submissions deadline a week before the court date," Miller said. "Then if exceptional circumstances arise, we'd still have time."

"I was trying to look through all the information to make a smart \$70,000 to \$100,000 decision," Weddle said.

Other companies that submitted proposals were: Centurion Solutions, Langford Community Services, Grantworks, H2O Partners and IEM.

Woman arrested in connection with homicide

Special to The Messenger

Members of the Lone Star Fugitive Task Force arrested Coryell County fugitive Erin Bailey Finchum on Nov. 21 at a residence in Hamilton.

Finchum, 36, was wanted by the Coryell County Sheriff's Office on warrants alleging murder and tampering/fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair related to the murder of Elizabeth Ann Romero in May.

Finchum's arrest is the latest related to the death of Romero, who was originally reported missing out of Waco by her family in April.

Jessica Colleen Robinson and her mother, Betsy Ayers Robinson, both of whom also have been charged with murder and tampering of evidence in the death of Romero, remain in custody in the Coryell County Jail. The younger Robinson's murder charge was upgraded to capital murder in August.

Cody Gene Ayers, of Gatesville, has been charged with tampering with evidence in the same case. He also was arrested in August but is out on bond.

The Gatesville Police Department had entered Romero's name into a missing persons' database in April after her family lost contact with her. Initially reported missing to Waco police, she was a Waco resident who was known by her family to frequent Gatesville.

Romero's family members later received information that she might be at an address



Erin Bailey Finchum

near Gatesville. Coryell County Sheriff's Office Deputies conducted a welfare check at that residence following a request from the Waco Police Department, which was investigating Romero's disappearance as a missing person. In May, the sheriff's office received information that Romero had been murdered at the address deputies had checked and her body had been disposed of nearby.

New county phone system expected to provide savings, better reliability

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The Coryell County Commissioners Court approved a contract during its Nov. 22 meeting for new phone service with Vested Networks.

"Our specific goals are to save Coryell County as much money as we possibly can and to provide you with the best customer service possible," said Debbie Baecht, a new ac-

count specialist with Vested.

Baecht said the county's monthly phone bill was \$6,115, and the contract with Vested will reduce that amount to \$3,130 per month.

"That's a savings of \$2,985 per month plus you'll have phones that work and aren't broken," she said.

County Judge Roger Miller said that between Vested's presentation on Nov. 8 and the Nov. 22 meeting, a number of the county's phones stopped working and were not operational

for several days.

Commissioners had delayed a decision on Vested's proposal until Nov. 22 in order to have more time to consider the contract.

Commissioner Ryan Basham said he talked with clients of Vested during that two-week period, "and I like what I heard." Vested offers VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) service. Commissioners unanimously approved the contract.

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New sound system approved for McKamie Stadium

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Frustrated by breakdowns and substandard performance in the sound system at McKamie Stadium, the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees voted to fund the replacement of the stadium's sound system.

GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard recognized Joyce Pruitt for her efforts in leading fundraising efforts for the new sound system. Pruitt, JHL Construction and TTG Utilities each donated \$5,000 toward the system. Also donating were Gatesville Ace Hardware with \$2,500, Gatesville Drug with \$2,500, Cadence Bank with \$2,000, Leaird's with \$1,000 and First National Bank with \$1,000.

"Joyce is really an asset to our school district," said school board member Jimmie Ferguson.

"Lots of people were working behind the scenes to make things better," Pollard said.

"At last year's graduation, we had fantastic sound thanks to Steve Bourgault. His sound operation, Scuba's Amplified Red Dirt, is used frequently by professional artists who perform at Bare Bones Barbecue."

Pollard said he asked Bourgault to replace the sound system at the stadium, and was referred to Zachary Towell of Temple who operates Onyx Media and Productions.

"Zachary leads the sound at UMHB (the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor), Temple High School and Bethel Church in Temple," Pollard said. "Mr. Towell was quick to analyze our current sound system and propose a new system to meet our needs."

"We want a sound system that truly works so all areas of the stadium can hear clearly. Next, we



COURTESY PHOTO

A new sound system is expected to be installed at McKamie Stadium in the spring of 2023, which will enhance the experience on site.

want a sound system that will last and not have problems in the near future. Many are willing to donate to the project, so long as we know it will be done correctly."

Towell said he started his company in 2020 to "provide support and design systems for other entities, churches and school districts."

School board President Charles Ament said he has been frustrated by breakdowns in the current sound system, and also wanted to make sure that Onyx would send

people to run the system in the beginning and to train specific GISD personnel to operate the system.

"Would you be willing to train people to run the sound system?" Ament asked.

"Yes - absolutely," Towell said. "I want to make sure whoever runs this thing is a professional, has it all down and knows exactly what to do," Ament said.

Board member Mary Anne Leib asked what the sound system would be like for those in the band.

"It's going to be loud for them - concert level sound - but not like a jet plane landing," Towell said.

Ferguson asked about a warranty to cover the system.

Towell said there is a one-year warranty for parts and labor, and beyond that a five-year warranty on parts but not labor is standard.

Ferguson asked how long it would take to install the new system.

"We hope to have everything ordered within a month," Towell said,

adding that installation would likely be completed in early spring.

"How much does it cost?" asked board member Calvin Ford.

Towell said the estimate without some of the requested training included is \$19,267.

"I am very amazed you are able to do all that for \$20,000," Ament said. "I was imagining \$50,000 or \$60,000."

Ford asked how long the system should be expected to last.

"Ten to 20 years," Towell said.

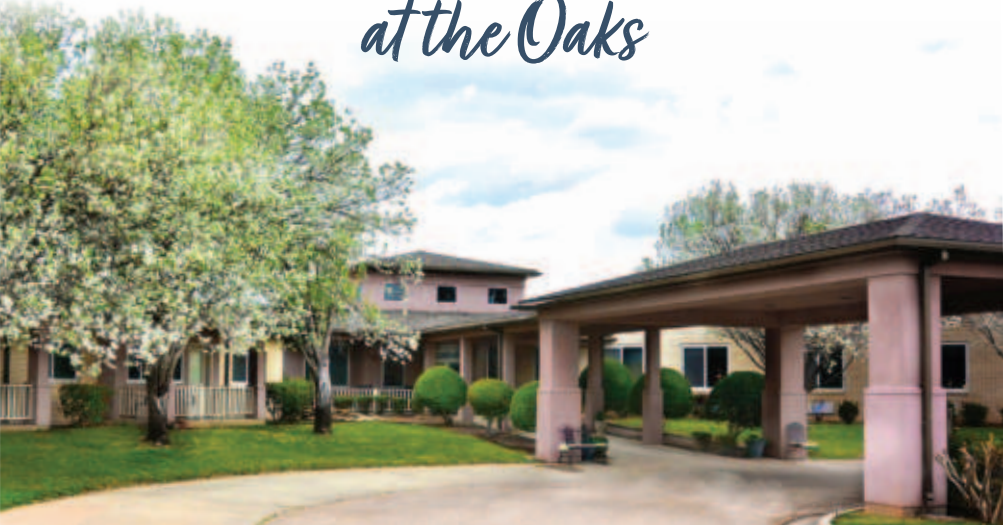


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TPWD drones help officials with rescues and an arrest

Three recent incidents requiring game warden drone support and successful coordination with local law enforcement led to an arrest in east Texas and two rescues of lost individuals in the hill country.

On the night of Nov. 3, Texas Game Warden Michael Hummert responded to an Erath County Sheriff's Office request for assistance. An elderly man had gone missing in Dublin, Texas. As the only law enforcement officer equipped with a thermal drone in the county, his services were necessary.

"The setting sun prevented us from locating him through usual means," Hummert said. "The thermal drone picks up body heat, which is necessary to locate someone at night. With the cold creeping in, it was imperative to find him quickly."

Using cell phone records, the sheriff's office determined a general location for the individual and Hummert mapped out a search area. Working out of a control station attached to his vehicle, he located the individual through a thermal scan and led deputies to the location.

Just nine days later, in Bell County, federal officials reached out for assistance in another missing person case. Without another available drone operator in the area, Warden Hummert arrived on scene. In this case, family shared vital information to the person's location while federal support provided robust mapping systems. Again, the individual was found safe and secure.

Only in his second month of the Texas Game Warden Unmanned Aerial System Program (UASP), Hummert has seen firsthand the benefit his skills and equipment bring to his community.

"The success is really about the right equipment. A helicopter is highly beneficial for any search and rescue but it's not always practical in rural areas. Responding with a drone cuts your response time and cost, allowing for more versatility. I respond to anything from car accidents to bomb threats."

Meanwhile, further east, Hummert's drone teammate Texas Game Warden Doug Williams received a request for assistance to locate a suspect who shot at and physically assaulted two individuals, then fled. Using another thermal drone, Williams circled the residence and spotted a heat signature in the woods.

Due to the freezing temperatures, the suspect was hiding in the brush curled in the fetal position. He was arrested and later treated for hypothermia.

"Empowering our division with the drone program in cooperation with Gear Up for Game Wardens donations creates a lifeline where there wasn't," said UASP supervisor Lt. Matthew Bridgefarmer. "Game warden drone operators arrive first on scene to locate lost boaters and hikers. We search in the aftermath of natural disasters. At the end of the day, this program saves lives."

Area Fishing Reports

Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 13.41 feet low. The white hot white bass fishing is past its peak thanks to a steady decline in the water temperature after the strong Veterans' Day cold front moved through. The morning bite has been longer and stronger than the afternoon, fishing is best mid-morning from 8:30-10:15 A.M. Clouds and wind always enhance the bite, while fog and calm are detrimental. Enough gulls are now present to lead the way to fish most mornings. The most productive bait is still the MAL Original with white tail worked vertically, but bring the slabbing rods just in case. A fair number of largemouth bass are beginning to show up as by catch, with another ten-percent of the bycatch consisting of un-

dersized hybrid striped bass. Crappie are fair on brush piles and timber in 20-30 feet of water using minnows and jigs. Blue catfish are steady dragging fresh cut shad on midlake flats. Yellow catfish are slow to bite and become more dormant in the cold water temperature. Report by Jason "Spud" Barton, Cat-tin' Around Adventures.

Stillhouse

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 11.21 feet low. White bass fishing at Stillhouse has moderated and will likely stay "just okay" between now and mid-late-December, then pick up once again when the water drops to around 58 degrees, birds arrive, fish begin to consolidate into large schools, and the fish begin to relate to near-channel topography. Days with winds from a southerly

component and pre-frontal weather days are excellent. Calm, clear, cold post-frontal conditions are to be avoided. No helpful bird activity has yet materialized. The upper third of the lake nearest the Lampasas River has now cleared up after being muddied by the Veterans' Day storm. Hydrilla has begun its winter die-back cycle but the deeper, more dense, more green hydrilla is still holding largemouth bass.

Waco

FAIR. Water stained; 64 degrees; 11.67 feet low. Crappie are fair on brush piles and timber in 20-30 feet of water using minnows and jigs. Crappie are in shallow creeks chasing bait fish in 6-10 feet of water, or out close to the main river channel in 15-25 feet of water using artificial baits by snacky lures with an eyehole jig.

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.

What the heck happened to October and November?



Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.

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



COURTESY PHOTO BY FINDAGRAVE

Turnersville Cemetery

Dec. 6 meeting set for T-ville Cemetery Association

For more information about the quarterly meeting of the Turnersville Cemetery Association, contact Debra Conlin at 254-496-1055.

First Methodist Church to hold Christmas musical

Admission will be free.
First Methodist Church is lo-
cated at 2600 E. Main Street.

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Who? What? Where? When? How?

While the **Kid Scoop** news article below is very silly—we wrote our article in the format of a real news article.

News reports tell **WHO** did **WHAT WHEN** and **WHERE** and, when possible, **HOW**.

Kid Scoop reporter Woodward is working on a silly article for the very silly **Kid Scoop Fun Times**. Can you help him out?

Caution! This article is not real news! It is just for fun!

FIRST STEP: GET THE FACTS

News Articles Lead with the FACTS

Who, what, when and **where** are often the first questions people ask when something happens. News reporters put those facts into the first paragraph—sometimes the first sentence—of the news article. This is called the **lead**.

Read Woodward's article. Then fill in the facts in his notes.

WHO is the news event about?

WHAT happened?

WHERE did it happen?

WHEN did it happen?

Choose a HEADLINE

The **headline** of a news article could also be called the title. It is written in bold type above the story. Most headlines have a subject and a verb that tell the topic of the article and summarize the main idea, or most important part of the topic.

Read the three headlines that Woodward has written. Circle the headline you think is the best for this silly article.

POLICE CAPTURE UNUSUAL PIZZA CHEF AT PETE'S

CROCODILE ESCAPES FROM ZOO

PIZZA-LOVING CROCODILE ARRESTED

Choose a PHOTO for the Article

The photos that go with a news article can give more information. A photo can also create a feeling about a news event. The text that describes a photo is called a **cutline** and is usually below the photo.

Which picture would you use? Cut and paste it onto the above news article. Write a cutline for the photo you select on the lines at right.

Cutline:

Extra! Extra!

Headline Funnies

Rewrite one or more headlines in today's newspaper so that they say the opposite of what they say now. For example, **Heavy Snow Predicted for City** could become **Hot Weather Predicted for Countryside**.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Distinguish between fact and opinion.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

PROOF READING

Proofreading a news article is important to make sure it is accurate and fair. Each headline below has an error. Circle the errors and rewrite the headlines correctly.

OWNER SAYS NEW STORE IS NOW OPEN

AUTHOR'S LATEST BOOK IS A BEST CELLAR

Double Double Word Search

ARTICLE

BOLD

FACT

HEADLINE

HOW

LEAD

NEWS

PHOTO

PIZZA

REPORTER

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN

WHO

ZOO

Find the words in the puzzle.
How many of them can you find on this page?

H	E	A	D	L	I	N	E	A	Z
B	M	O	T	O	H	P	T	R	R
O	E	Q	W	F	L	H	O	T	E
L	V	R	H	T	A	Z	Z	I	P
D	E	Z	E	L	X	C	O	C	O
W	K	A	N	H	U	H	T	L	R
P	Q	E	D	N	W	J	C	E	T
N	W	U	N	A	H	B	E	W	E
S	O	W	H	V	A	O	O	Z	R
A	D	S	Z	O	T	L	W	V	Y

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Lesson LIBRARY

Photo Talk

Select a newspaper photo and cover the outline or caption before reading it. Next, identify the **who, what, when, where** of the photo. Using these facts, write a cutline for the photo. Compare yours to the one published.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Analyze intention in written text.

Write On!

Your News

Write a sentence reporting about something new in your life. Be sure to include who, what, when and where!

OBITUARIES

BLAKE E. LOVELACE, JR.
Nov. 21, 1932 - Nov. 22, 2022



Blake E. Lovelace, Jr., age 90, of Gatesville, left this life to be with our Lord and Savior on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022, at his home.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Peter Mafwal officiating. Interment followed at Ireland Cemetery in Hamilton County.

Blake E. Lovelace, Jr. was born one of five sons to the late Blake and Alice Lovelace on Nov. 21, 1932, in the Ireland community of Hamilton County. His mother said that he was "born on the hill just south of their 386-acre farm that his family bought during hard times in Ireland." He grew up in Ireland and graduated as Valedictorian of the Class of 1950 in Evant. He then attended Texas A&M University, graduating with honors in 1954.

He was a member of the Corps of Cadets, the swim team and Alpha Zeta. He worked at Sbisa Dining Hall among several other jobs to pay his tuition. He married his co-pilot in life, Dorothy M. Harrell, of Jonesboro, on July 17, 1954. He began a career with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and retired after 30 years of service with numerous awards and promotions. Blake was the official weather recorder of daily rainfall, temperatures, snow and barometric pressure in Gaines County. He was also selected through the USDA to study and monitor radiation during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1960. His final posting was in Mt. Pleasant as the Area Conservationist. In 1996, he received a special award for excellence from Howard E. Butts, head of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

His many interests included cattle ranching, all aspects of gardening, fishing and woodworking. Each of his family members has a treasured item crafted by him. He was always a leader in his community and volunteered throughout his life including three decades at the Gatesville Care Center. After his retirement in 1989, he and his wife moved to Gatesville and built a home on Levita Road, where he ranched and raised Black Angus cattle. They had the privilege of traveling to several European and South American countries, Alaska and Hawaii. Blake

was always busy, hard at work and doing something productive. He was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday School for many years. He recently began attending services at Levita Fellowship and Bible Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Blake E. Lovelace, Sr. and Alice Taylor Lovelace, and a brother, Dale A. Lovelace.

Blake is survived by his wife of 68 years, Dorothy Lovelace; three children, Stanley Blake and wife, Carianne, Judy A. Brown and husband, Barron, Lynley Lovelace, Courtney Stucky and husband, Evan; four great-grandchildren, Sully, Everett Blake, Lelan and Jack.

Blake was a truly wonderful man who gave generously and everywhere he lived is a better place because of him. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

For those wishing to make a memorial contribution, the family requests that they be made to a charity that Blake was passionate about, the Gatesville Care Center, 105 N. 7th ST, Gatesville, TX 76528.

BETTIE LEE HOOKER
Sept. 11, 1937 - Nov. 19, 2022



Bettie Lee Hooker, age 85, the oldest daughter of the late Pearl Estelle Sims and Robert Lee Featherston, died Saturday, November 19, 2022, in her home in Gatesville, the town where she was born, went to school, married, worked, and raised her family.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Scott's Funeral Home. Burial followed at Greenbriar Cemetery.

Bettie, the oldest of nine children, worked hard her entire life. She carried her family through the tough times, she kept her children fed, and clothed. She paid for speech therapy, glasses and saw to it her children's needs were met. She did this as a single mother on a factory wage.

In her early years she married and moved to Kansas. Bettie returned to Gatesville with her children and married Bill Hooker and his seven children, bringing the blended family together under her wing.

She would later open her home further to Pa and Granny Hooker, Bill's parents, until their deaths. When that chapter closed and the children raised, she and Bill moved from her longtime home on Barton Lane to West Main in Gatesville where she and Bill operated Hooker Upholstery.

She was a good mother and her children loved her. Her life was one where, no matter what the challenge, she gave of herself.

Her passing was a peaceful ending to a good life. She was and is loved and leaves behind a thankful family.

Bettie was preceded in death by husband, Bill; Nelda McGehee, Katherine Smith, Alice Breckenridge, and five of her grandchildren, Patricia, Jeff, Chester, Katrina, and Aaron.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory her children, Connie Lee, Mary Breshears, Bobby Brown, and Larry Brown; brothers and sisters; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Help the Lions with their bell-ringing

The Gatesville Lions Club will be administering the Red Kettle Campaign with the Salvation Army this year. All contributions will stay in our local community to help those in need.

The Gatesville Lions Club would like to have community volunteers to help them ring the bell. Please contact Lion Jeremy Stills at 267-221-7752 or email jlse6@yahoo.com.

The bell-ringing will take place from Nov. 25 until Dec. 23 from noon to 6 p.m. (excluding Sundays) at the Gatesville Walmart. Bell ringers will be at each door and will do two-hour shifts.

Those wishing to contribute to the cause can mail in a donation, making the check payable to Salvation Army Gatesville and sending it to P.O. Box 213, Gatesville, TX 76528.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a partial breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of November 21-26. 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.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 21

12:09 a.m., a prowler was reported in the 100 block of N. 30th Street.

12:25 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1600 block of Saunders Street.

1:54 p.m., an accident was reported in the 6100 block of CR 137.

3:13 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of Carroll Drive.

6:40 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported on CR 139.

Nov. 22

1:11 a.m. suspicious activity was reported in the 3100 block of E. Main Street.

6:41 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 500 block of State School Road.

8:42 a.m., a missing person was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

9:41 a.m., an accident was reported in the 1400 block of St. Louis Street.

5:55 p.m., an accident was reported in the 300 block of E. Main Street.

Nov. 23

1:02 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2200 block of Coryell City Road.

11:24 a.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 9700 block of E. Highway 84.

5:41 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1200 block of Coryell City Road.

9:58 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of Saunders Street.

10:28 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Carroll Drive.

Nov. 24

1:27 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of State School Road.

5:49 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of State Highway 36 Bypass.

5:26 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 300 block of S. State Highway 36 Bypass.

9:01 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

10:39 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Surrey Lane.

Nov. 25

6:49 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street.

12:27 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.

4:39 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.

5:45 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 100 block of Cottonwood Drive.

6:38 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 29th Street.

7:53 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 200 block of FM 116.

Nov. 26

8:03 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 2500 block of Ransom Road.

11:59 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 100 block of N. 30th Street.

1:47 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of E. Leon Street.

6:04 p.m., an assault was reported in the 300 block of Indian Creek Road.

9:18 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

11:24 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2100 block of Waco Street.

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CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Nov. 21

11:31 a.m., a possible fire was reported in the 100 block of FM 215.

11:33 a.m., a runaway was reported on Lutheran Church Road and Summers.

1:41 p.m., a runaway was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.

3:16 p.m., an out-of-control child was reported in the 300 block of FM 107.

Nov. 22

9:12 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Cedar Lane West.

11:13 a.m., identity theft was reported in the 2300 block of Whitney Drive.

11:56 a.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 2400 block of E. Bridge Street.

2:21 p.m., an out-of-control child was reported in the 1200 block of Straws Mill Road.

4:51 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1400 block of N. Highway 36.

7:54 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 400 block of Greenbriar Road.

Nov. 23

12:34 a.m., a minor accident was reported on FM 116 near Cactus Lane.

6:34 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on FM 1113 and Oak Springs Road.

9:58 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 1200 block of Twin Mountain Road.

10:49 a.m., animal neglect was reported on Hwy. 84 and South Mountain.

8:38 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 200 block of CR 341.

Nov. 24

11:53 a.m., a minor accident was reported on CR 107.

3:50 p.m., a hit and run accident was reported in the 2900 block of S. FM 116.

6:40 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Jack Butler Road.

10:05 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on FM 1113 at Oak Springs Road.

November 25

10:58 a.m., a scam was reported in the 10000 block of S. Highway 36.

1:59 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 1700 block of FM 1996.

4:49 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 100 block of Linda's Lane.

6:31 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 1800 block of CR 269.

8:18 p.m., a theft was reported in the 8600 block of E. Highway 84.

Nov. 26

1:29 p.m., missing livestock was reported in the 300 block of Stillhouse Road.

2:04 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 107 near FM 1829.

2:26 p.m., debris in the roadway was reported on FM 1829 north of Mound.

5:29 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1996 near Oglesby.

6:06 p.m., an assault was reported on Indian Creek Lane.

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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

PEARL NEWS

Carrie Self estate sale to provide funds for scholarship fund



BETSY CLARK
Pearl News Correspondent

Connie Long is facilitating a Ladies Bible Study beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 10 a.m. at Pearl Country Church also known as Pearl Baptist Church. All are invited. If interested, please let Connie Long know so books may be made available. The book is by Susan J. Heck, and it is entitled "With the Master; In the School of Tested Faith; A Ladies' Bible Study in the Epistle of James."

Linda Ray continues to work on the Carrie Self estate which is generously providing funds for the Pearl Church of Christ Scholarship Fund. This fund benefits graduating seniors in the Pearl area and the His Kids organization. Thank you to Mandy and Rick Self for generously donating the contents of the Self home and barns to the church for this purpose. The following information is from Linda,

and please be aware that you will need to call her to check on times to shop as the estate is not open except at select times:

- The six quilts embroidered and quilted by Leon and Oleta Hahn have a minimum of \$300 starting bid each. All the other quilts and afghans and other items located at the church are "make an offer."
- Items still at the Self home:
- Large dining room table with 2 leaves and 8 chairs and matching China cabinet, possibly mahogany, all in excellent condition.
- Cedar chest, sewing machine, miscellaneous tables and chairs, clocks, dishes, crystal, punch bowl and much more.
- Older appliances: chest deep freezer; washer/dryer; safe-make us an offer
- Old farm equipment, a garage full of tools
- All of the above are "make an offer."
- Two free refrigerators as is.
- Cash or check on day of purchase.
- Call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282 or 254-206-1999.

The next Pearl Bluegrass event and The Pearl Cottage Bookstore Day will be Dec. 3. However, you can come as early as Friday to the Community Center when jamming

begins around 5 p.m. On Saturday, open mic and beginners jam begin at 10 a.m., and the kitchen opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. Jamming in the various rooms and under the pavilion happens all day Saturday. Participate in or listen to classic country, gospel, folk and bluegrass music. The Book Cottage is open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Don't forget about the Junk in Your Trunk which takes place around the bookstore. RV parking with full hookups is available all year long; \$25 for 30 amps and \$30 for 50 amps. For more information about the Bluegrass event, please call Ronald Medart at 254-865-6013. For RV information, please call Connie Long at 254-223-0621. For more information about the Pearl Book Cottage and the Junk in Your Trunk event, please call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282. If you haven't been to Pearl, plan a trip and spend the day or more. There's no place like Pearl!

This week's Bible Verse: "Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your Word." Psalm 11:37 NIV

Be sure and like the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page. Please send any Pearl news to betsy-clark47@yahoo.com.

Morris Federation Christmas luncheon

The next Morris Federation meeting will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 11:30 a.m. at The Feed Mill. It will be a Dutch treat Christmas luncheon with members ordering from the menu. Members may invite guests. If members are involved in the Christmas parade, they can join the luncheon after

the parade. The program will be presented by Marsha Lee but will involve participation from members. Those attending will be asked to share one or two Christmas traditions enjoyed by their family, or special Christmas ornaments or decorations to share, or just special memo-

ries. They will also take a quick look at a few legends or traditions associated with Christmas. Members are also invited to bring a "stocking stuffer" type gift to be donated to the Care Center for its Christmas for clients' children ages 12 and under.

Fundraiser set for Deniece Clifton

On Saturday, Dec. 10, a fundraiser will be held for Deniece Clifton at the Texas Station Event Center. Clifton was diagnosed with glioblastoma, a brain tumor, and underwent radiation. Donations are accepted, and all donations raised from the fundraiser will go towards medical expenses.

Doors will open at 10 a.m., with no admission. The beauty pageant will begin at 11 a.m. with a \$10 entry fee. Age groups will consist of two through four, five and six, and seven and eight years old. Prizes are to be determined depending on how many children are in

each age group. There will be a talent showcase from 1-3 p.m. which will include an open stage with 10 minutes each. A microphone and Bluetooth speaker will be available. Other activities will include free Santa pictures, a silent auction, vendors, food and a cornhole tournament.

To partake in the cornhole tournament, sign up on the day of the event for \$20 per team.

Live music begins at 4 p.m. and will continue until 11 p.m. with performances from Clayton Landua, Bodie James, Ryan Turner, Billy Latham, Hayden Huse,

Colton Hawkins and more. The Texas Station Event Center is located at 305 Old Fort Gates Road in Gatesville. For more information, the contact list includes: Music contact: Randall Green at 254-223-3595. Donations, Food, T-shirts, and auction items: contact Brandi Saunders at 254-223-2872. Pageant, talent showcase and silent auction items: contact Kaylie Mendez at 254-223-3101. Cornhole tournament, auction items, and talent showcase: contact Christa Hitt at 940-232-1332.

Christmas with the Chamber Dec. 10

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will be holding a day-long event called "Christmas with the Chamber" on Saturday, Dec. 10. The day will begin with Chamber Market Days from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and will be located at the chamber depot. The Christmas Parade will commence at 10 a.m. and

will start behind H-E-B. This year's theme is "'Tis the reason for the season!" When the parade is finished, there will be a chance for the little ones to get their photo with Santa. Families are welcome to stop by the chamber for individual or family photos. There will be activities for the kids, as

well as hot chocolate, hot apple cider and coffee will be served for \$1 each. Christmas with the Chamber will end with a Christmas Family Night Sweater Party. The party will be at the chamber from 6 - 9 p.m. The chamber is located at 2307 S. Highway 36 in Gatesville.

Central Texas Hospitality House to host annual Christmas Celebration

The Central Texas Hospitality House will host their Christmas Celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The celebration will include various family activities. There will be a special nutcracker exhibit, a bounce house, live music,

door prizes, refreshments, a tour of the Central Texas Hospitality House, and a live Christmas story with a free giveaway for the kids. The Christmas Celebration is given as an appreciation celebration with the Gatesville community, families, and surrounding areas for

their support of the Central Texas Hospitality House. The Central Texas Hospitality House is located at 708 Highway 36 in Gatesville. For more information, contact 254-404-2260 or email cthospitalityhouse@gmail.com.

Elementary hosts Christmas Extravaganza

Gatesville Elementary School will hold their fourth annual Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday, Dec. 3. The extravaganza will start and 9 a.m. and continue through 2 p.m. at the el-

ementary campus. Activities throughout the day will consist of pictures with Santa, food trucks, vendors, shopping, and other fun activities. Amber Colson Photography will be taking photos with

Santa. Gatesville Elementary is located at 2537 East Main Street in Gatesville. For more information on this extravaganza, contact the school at 254-865-7262.

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00029742

Featuring new items starting 11/29! The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Tuesday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. & Saturday, 9a.m.-3p.m.

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TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS
UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF DONNA JEAN MORRIS, DECEASED. CAUSE NO 22-10663, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. PHILLIP MORRIS FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 4TH DAY OF MAY 2022, AN APPLICATION FOR DELIVERY OF WILL PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.201 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE OF SAID DONNA JEAN MORRIS, DECEASED.

SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 5TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2022, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY AT THE SAME ABOVE MENTIONED TIME AND PLACE BY FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER CONTESTING SUCH APPLICATION SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO DO SO.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS ON THE 21ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

JENNIFER NEWTON
CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT
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00029743

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060 GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE!
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Mother Neff Christmas celebration to be held Dec. 3

Mother Neff State Park is eager to celebrate the upcoming holiday with A Mother Neff Christmas. The event will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the park.

Activities will include crafts, cookie decorating, scavenger hunts, a visit from Santa, a storybook trail, guided hikes and shopping through Mother Neff's unique gift selections.

There will only be a park entrance fee. Adults will cost \$2 each person, and children 12 and under get in free.

Mother Neff State Park is located at 1921 State Park Rd. 14 near Moody. For more information, contact the park at 254-853-2309.

Hillside Medical Lodge to hold annual Christmas party Dec. 13

The residents of Hillside Medical Lodge will hold their annual Christmas party on Tuesday, Dec. 13. The party will begin at 2 p.m. The residents will enjoy Christmas cookies and punch while visiting with Santa. Gifts will be opened that have donated from members of the community.

If you are interested in adopting a resident this upcoming holiday by providing a gift, contact Steve Fisher, the Hillside activities director. Gifts should be dropped off at Hillside Medical Lodge by Thursday, Dec. 8.

Hillside Medical Lodge Medical lodge is located at 300 TX-36 in Gatesville. For further information, contact Steve Fisher at 254-248-3408.

Lord / Roy to wed in January

Jacob Lord and Havyn Roy of Amarillo announce their engagement and approaching marriage.

Jacob is a graduate of Jonesboro High School and is an engineer for BNSF Railroad. He is the son of Elizabeth Lord and James and Kathy Lord and grandson of Joan Hill and the late Neil Hill and the late Norman and Audrey Lord, all of Jonesboro.

Havyn is a graduate of Amarillo High School and is a licensed cosmetologist at Mosaic Beauty Salon in Amarillo. She is the daughter of the late Lisa Chrane and Jeremy and Roxana Roy and granddaughter of Lester Baldock and the late Lynda Baldock and the late Pam George, all of Amarillo.

They are planning a January wedding.



COURTESY PHOTO

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED: Jacob Lord and Havyn Roy have announced their upcoming wedding in January.

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High jump prowess lands Gary Kafer in Hall of Fame

BY DANS MOCK
Contributing Writer

When Cotton Davidson showed up at Gary Kafer's house with some foam bales the summer after Kafer's sophomore year, Davidson was just trying to help a local kid get better at the high jump. Neither of them could have predicted that it would lead to Kafer's induction into the Baylor University Athletics Hall of Fame this year.

Kafer and his family had moved to Gatesville when he was in the seventh grade, and their next-door neighbor was Lowell Bishop, the junior high football coach, and he asked Kafer to be the football team manager the following year.

Bishop went on to be the track coach in Kafer's freshman and sophomore years, and he encouraged Kafer in his high jump efforts, which Kafer focused on in addition to running the 100-meter high hurdles.

Kafer had a couple of solid seasons on the Gatesville High School track team in the high jump, but both his coach and Davidson thought he could do more. And to do that, he would need to practice, and change his form slightly.

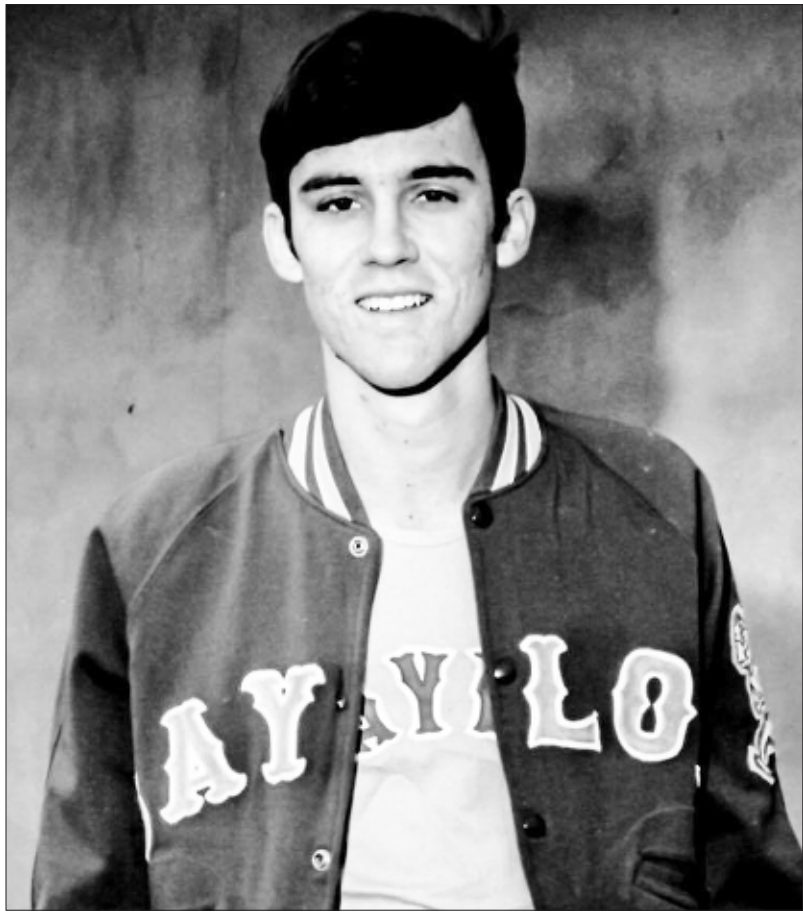
It all came together the summer after his sophomore year, as Kafer added nearly six inches to his high jump going into his junior season, where he set the state high jump record, if only briefly.

As a smaller school, Gatesville competed on Friday night, set-



COURTESY PHOTO

FLYING HIGH AGAIN: Gatesville High School graduate and Baylor University track and field standout Gary Kafer was recently honored for his excellent athletic career.



COURTESY PHOTO

ting the state record with a jump of 6 feet, 8.5 inches, but that mark was surpassed by someone from a larger school during the Saturday events.

During that season, despite losing out on the state record, Kafer set the Gatesville High School high jump record with a mark of 6 feet, 9.25 inches, a record that still stands today.

Kafer went on to compete in and win at the Junior Olympics after his junior year of high school and performed well enough to catch the eye of Baylor track coach Clyde Hart, who was recruiting new talent at district events at the time.

Other colleges had noticed, too, and scholarship offers had already come in, but when Kafer met Hart, he knew that Baylor was where he wanted to be.

HEART OF A CHAMPION: After winning back-to-back state championships in high school, Gary Kafer continued his dominance at the college level. Kafer's school record high jump mark of 6 feet, 9.25 inches has stood the test of time for decades, still remaining the standard of excellence in Hornet track and field today.

"Clyde Hart was the whole reason I went to Baylor," Kafer said. "I didn't even have an official visit or see the campus. He recruited me, I signed, and there I was."

Kafer's talent continued to shine early on in his track career after high school as well, and he made an impression right away, becoming the first jumper in Southwest Conference history to break the 7-foot mark in the high jump, clearing that mark by just a quarter of an inch. He repeated the feat twice more his freshman year, at the Border Olympics and the Texas Relay.

Unfortunately, an injury later that year resulted in a tear in his patellar tendon, but coach Clyde Hart was not going to give up on Kafer.

"I appreciate Coach Hart because after I tweaked my knee, he continued to support me," Kafer said. "It would have been an easy way out for him to let me go."

Kafer was never able to clear that same mark again, only managing 6 feet, 11 inches in competitions following the injury. That was still good enough as a senior to win the indoor conference championship, but nowhere near his previous winning form.

Kafer graduated from Baylor University in 1975 with a major in physical education and a minor in history, and returned to Gatesville to teach high school, marry his wife Mary, and raise a son, Canyon.

He retired from teaching in 2004 and was inducted into the Gatesville High School Hall of Fame in 2019.

Kafer left the track world behind a long time ago, and he never expected to get the call he did from Walter Abercrombie. Abercrombie, himself a Baylor Athletics Sports Hall of Fame running back and head of the Baylor "B" Association, a group made up of former Baylor athletes like Kafer, was calling to tell him that Kafer had been selected for induction into the hall of fame this year.

"I had never dreamed of something like this," Kafer said. "It happened because I was the first one in the Southwest Conference to break that 7-foot mark" in his freshman year.

Kafer was inducted into the Baylor Athletics Hall of Fame in a ceremony on Nov. 18 and recognized along with other inductees at the football game vs. TCU on Nov. 19.

Hornets rout Jarrell to continue strong start to hoops season

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports correspondent

West Allman hit six three-pointers on his way to a 22-point night and Banner Allman had 17 points and seven rebounds as Gatesville routed Jarrell 76-40.

Just like they did in their season opening win over Rogers, the Hornets used a dominant stretch to turn a comfortable lead into a blowout. Ahead 39-23 at halftime,

they overwhelmed the Cougars in the third outscoring them 23-2 in the quarter - including a 16-0 run to close the period.

"These guys don't want to let up. And they flip that switch and it stays on," head coach Brit Campbell said. "They don't want it to switch off."

The Hornets were relentless defensively all game long picking up an astounding 20 steals and scoring 28 points off turnovers. Tyler

Shea had seven steals while Trae Miller had five to go along with six points and seven assists. Miller, a versatile junior guard, was a nuisance to the Cougars all game long.

"(Miller) makes so many things happen on both ends of the court. He's like the glue a lot of times for us all over the court," Campbell said. "He's not going to force stuff offensively but he's going to make so many things happen. It's great to have a guy like that."

The pressure wasn't just on the defensive end. The Hornets had 23 offensive rebounds and converted that to 16 second-chance points. They also hit 10 threes on the night - six from West Allman, two from Banner Allman, one from Rayshon Smith and one from Carter Williams.

West Allman, a sophomore, was the lead aggressor from the start. He scored the first eight points of the game via two three-pointers

and a jumper to give the Hornets an 8-5 lead.

Two possessions later, Shea forced a turnover that was picked up by Miller, who dropped it back to Shea for a dunk that started a 12-2 run to end the first quarter and pushed the Hornets out to a 20-7 lead.

Carter Williams and Rayshon Smith each scored nine points in the win while Shea had eight points and 10 rebounds.

Spectacular football seasons come to end for Eagles, Tigers

The Jonesboro Eagles and Oglesby Tigers

both ended the 2022 football seasons with

close losses in the playoffs, capping off superlative seasons for the teams.

The Eagles fell to the Irion County Hornets, 44-43, in a state quarterfinal battle that went to the wire. Jonesboro finished the year with a 12-2 record.

Although game stats were not available for the Eagles' quarterfinal game, MaxPreps high school sports website did provide season stats for the team.

Caleb Christel was Jonesboro's top weapon on offense, rushing for nearly 104 yards per contest, followed by Jacob Cisneros with 42 yards per game and Jaden Domel with 40.6.

Demarcus Acoff averaged 40.7 yards receiving per game for the Eagles.

Christel was listed with 21 touchdowns, followed by Acoff with 19 and Cisneros with 16.

Garrett Young was listed as the team's top tackler with 7.4 stops per game, followed by Domel with 6.7 and Cisneros with 6.5.

The Tigers ended the season with a 38-32

loss to the Oakwood Panthers on Nov. 18 in the area championship game.

Oglesby closed out the year with an 11-1 record which included both district and bi-district championships.









Heading into the game vs. Oakwood, Kyler Fossett was Oglesby's leading scorer, with 42 touchdowns for the Tigers, followed by Brodie Fisher with 12 and Johnny Gomez with 10.

Hunter Walter threw for 17 touchdowns for OHS, with Fossett contributing four TD passes and Alex Castillo adding one.

Jack Hendricks was the Tigers leading tackler with an average of 10.3 per game, followed by Fossett with 7.5 and Joel Gonzales with 7.4.

Fossett made four interceptions for the Oglesby defense, while Castillo and Gomez each had two pickoffs.

Gonzales recovered seven fumbles for the Tiger defense followed by Fisher with two and Jakson Tippit with two.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK			
	GATESVILLE HORNETS Season ended		JONESBORO EAGLES #16 Demarcus Acoff 2 receptions for 55 yards 2 touchdowns, 5 solo tackles, 3 assists, 4 TFL
	EVANT ELKS Season ended		OGLESBY TIGERS Season ended
***** PLAYERS OF THE WEEK BROUGHT TO YOU BY *****			
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		 117 FM 1996 Oglesby 254-470-2261	