



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Police chief finalists introduced



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSAGE

The four finalists for Gatesville Police Chief are, from left, Matthew Briggs, Brad Hunt, Cody Lee and Carrie Ellis. They met with local residents on Jan. 4 at Gatesville City Hall.

Candidates have broad depth of experience, education

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

During a meet the candidates session on Jan. 4, local residents had the opportunity to talk to the four finalists for Gatesville Police chief ahead of the selection of a new chief.

The newly appointed chief will replace outgoing chief Nathan Gohlke, whose official last day will be Jan. 31. Gohlke served the department as chief for almost 18 years and has retired to work in a much different capacity — as a local funeral director.

With the assistance of Strategic Government Resources, led by Price Robinson, senior vice president for executive recruitment who is a former police chief himself, the city narrowed the list of candidates to four finalists.

"I was looking at two things pretty closely and that was clearly stated in our recruiting brochure — experience and education," said City Manager Bill Parry, who planned to interview each of the candidates on Jan. 5 and said he hoped to make a selection quickly.

"Administrative time as a chief, and experience in patrol and CID (criminal investigation department) are all important. Also, we took a look at education, which shows you have initiative to focus on professional development."

Parry said he was pleasantly surprised by

the strong group of candidates, and also their experience level.

"We had to make some hard decisions to get down to four," he said. "There were some very well qualified candidates who were not finalists. The depth of experience we had in the candidates really surprised me."

Robinson said the fact that three of the candidates already have chief experience (the other is a longtime Gatesville Police Department employee) shows the quality of those who applied for the vacancy.

"They will have an opportunity to help build a new police station, which not many chiefs get to do," Robinson said. "It's important that they have vision to move the department forward and be able to recruit and retain quality officers."

Here is a look at each candidate and their goals for the department:

— Matthew Briggs is currently a recruiter/adjunct instructor at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Briggs previously served as police chief in Josephine from 2016-2021. Before that, he served 10 years in the Frisco Police Department.

He said his goal is to seek ways to work closely with the community, finding ways for a partnership between the police department and local residents to create a stronger community.

"There is a longstanding history in Gates-

ville where people have developed a way of life that they enjoy, and the police department should recognize and build on that to make things even better," Briggs said.

— Carrie West Ellis, is the current police chief in Willow Park, a position she has held since 2017. From 1995-2016, West served in the Corinth Police Department, where she advanced to the rank of lieutenant in charge of support services.

"I think the opportunity to build a new facility is great, and I would also like for the department to receive accreditation from the Texas Police Chiefs Association," she said. "I would spend a lot of time working on those priorities."

Ellis said the small town environment is something that led her to apply, "and the opportunity to build on what has already been done."

— Cody Lee currently serves as the operations lieutenant for the Criminal Investigation Department of the Gatesville Police Department. Lee's 25-year law enforcement career includes service with the Stephenville Police Department, and the Hamilton and Bosque County sheriff's departments. Lee joined GPD in 2010.

"One of the things I want to do if I am selected is to continue to build on the good things that Chief Gohlke put in place here," he said. "I don't think we need to make this

a completely different department. I don't see a need for huge changes."

Lee said he will also work to help continue the strong relationship the department has with Gatesville residents, and to continue to prioritize that.

— Brad Hunt, is the current police chief in Keene, a position he has held since April 2022. Before that, Hunt was a police officer and division commander with the Temple Police Department, where he served for 20 years.

Hunt has worked closely with Texas police departments in helping them to identify the 168-170 standards that must be met during the Texas Police Chiefs Association's accreditation process. He has helped other departments obtain this designation, and said he hopes to be able to do that as chief in Gatesville.

"When you first start looking at the 170 different criteria — timelines, inspection of vehicles, calls, it can be very overwhelming," he said. "I know the process and can help officers and the department with that process."

"Also, one of the biggest things for me is collaboration with other departments. You have the prisons here, Fort Hood and other law enforcement agencies. It's important that we all work together for the best for our communities."

County leaders seek community input on hazard mitigation plan

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

In an effort to help the county prepare for — and potentially avoid — disasters, Coryell County leaders are working with Natural Resources Solutions (NRS) on a hazard mitigation plan and are seeking public input.

In addition to helping prevent or offset the consequences of disasters, the plan will also help the county qualify for additional grants.

"Within the Central Texas Council of Governments (which includes Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba counties), Coryell County is the only county that

doesn't have a hazard mitigation plan," said Coryell County Judge Roger Miller. "Across the state, there are only seven or eight counties that don't have one."

"One of the reasons that is important is that there are millions of dollars available in grant funding but one of the requirements for those grants is to have a hazard mitigation plan. A great benefit is that this plan will help us prevent problems in advance instead of just reacting to them."

The Coryell County Commissioners Court reached an agreement with NRS on Dec. 13 to complete the hazard mitigation plan (HMP). The plan, which is updated every five

years, will help to identify concerns related to natural disasters and develop strategies to reduce the risks.

The county is looking for local residents to provide their concerns and priorities. Four public meetings are scheduled:

- * 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Gatesville City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St.
- * 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at Evant City Hall
- * 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Copperas Cove Council Chamber

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County youth fair begins soon

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

One of the biggest local events of the year, the annual Coryell County Youth Fair, is scheduled from Tuesday, Jan. 10 through Saturday, Jan. 14. It will showcase the talents and commitment of local youths and give them an opportunity to earn rewards and recognition for their efforts.

This year, a record 418 exhibitors are scheduled to participate. In 2022, only 362 exhibitors took part in the event, which Keith Smart, president of the Coryell County Youth Fair Board of Directors, attributed to the lingering effects of COVID-19.

Total number of entries expected in each category are:

- * Home economics, 1,462
- * Ag mechanics, 12
- * Angora goats, 19
- * Cattle, 26
- * Dairy goats, 33
- * Market goats, 64
- * Horses, 134
- * Poultry, 90
- * Swine, 91
- * Rabbits, 333
- * Sheep, 88

There are also 136 pee wee entries from children in the first and second grades.

The number of entries is up nearly across the board, said Keith Smart, president of the Coryell County Youth Fair Board of Directors.

"Poultry is up a good bit and horses are up," Smart said. "Sheep and pig entries are about the same. Rabbits are up a little bit, and goats are also up."

Judging for events will begin at 9 a.m. Jan. 10, with the home economics category kicking off the competition.

The fair will close with the annual auction sale, which begins at 6 p.m. Jan. 14. Last year, the auction generated more than \$300,000 in proceeds for participating children and teens.

"Community support has stayed strong," Smart said. "We do have a community that



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Coryell County Youth Fair is one of the area's biggest annual events, with hundreds of participants in several categories.

is very giving. People also do a great show of coming to support the youth at the fair.

"I hope people will come out this year and watch the shows. We'll have a good concession stand and we're hoping for good weather."

Coryell County Youth Fair Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 10

- * 9 a.m.-5 p.m., judging of home economics
- * 9 a.m., check-in for horse show
- * 9:30 a.m., horse show judging begins
- * Noon, record books for commercial cat-

tle due to superintendent

* 2-4 p.m., arrival of rabbits; weight and classify at 5:30 p.m. or when judging is complete

* 6-8 p.m., home economics open to the public; country store open for sale of baked goods only (except grand and reserve champion entries)

* 8 p.m., release all baked goods with the exception of grand and reserve champion entries. These will remain for display.

Wednesday, Jan. 11

- * 8:30 a.m., home economics open to the public

* 9 a.m., judging commences in the following order: Meat pens, fryers, breeding rabbits (senior, then junior showmanship to follow)

* Noon - 5:00 p.m., All other livestock entries can be unloaded into Complex Pavilion

* 5:30-6 p.m., weigh/classify sheep

* 6-6:30 p.m., weigh/classify market goats/ commercial does/dairy goats to follow

* 6:45-8 p.m., weigh/classify swine

* 6-7 p.m., weigh/classify market steers/check heifers

Thursday, Jan. 12

* 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., home economics division open to the public

* 10 a.m., judging/interviews for commercial cattle

* 11:00 a.m., judging commences in the following order: Halter classes: breeding heifers, market steers to follow halter cattle (senior, then junior halter cattle showmanship)

* Approximately 2 p.m., judging of Angora goats, following Angora show, (senior, then junior showmanship to follow)

* Approximately 4 p.m., judging starts for breeding sheep, market lambs (senior, then junior showmanship to follow)

Friday, Jan. 13

* 7:30 a.m., poultry check-in

* 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., home economics open to public

* 9 a.m., judging commences in the following order: Poultry - broilers, roasters, turkeys (senior, then junior showmanship to follow)

* Approximately 11 a.m., goat show (senior, junior doe/billy then billy showmanship to follow)

* Approximately 1 p.m., goats - commercial, market

* 4 p.m., judging commences in the following order: Swine - breeding, market

* Prior to showmanship, Coryell County 4-H Greased Pig Contest (second-graders only)

* Following pig contest, senior, then junior swine showmanship

* Following market goats, release of livestock auction items with the exception of swine, which will be released after the swine show. Release of home economics entries and pee wee entries

Saturday, Jan. 14

* 9 a.m., pee wee rabbit show (check-in at 8:30 a.m.)

* 10:30 a.m., pee wee goat show/lamb (check in 9:30 a.m.)

* 11:30 a.m., home economics pictures for newspaper (grand and reserve only) and all home economic auction photos

* 11:45 a.m., all home economic auction items including freshly baked goods should be placed on auction exhibit table

* 5:30 p.m., announcements, auction dedication ceremony and special awards

* 6 p.m., auction sale



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Coryell County Youth Fair gives local children and teens an opportunity to showcase their skills in raising livestock and showmanship, and also to display their talents in the home economics division, with entries ranging from artwork and making clothing to preparing baked goods.

COUNTY

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* 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at Oglesby Community Center

The county and NRS have also set up a website, www.coryell-countyhmp.com and will also have a Facebook page for the HMP that will provide updates and information and will have a survey for people to give their input on local

hazards and concerns.

"Both state and federal agencies look at community involvement, and we want to do our due diligence and involve the community and get their feedback," Miller said.

This process could help the county greatly multiply its efforts to improve local safety, Miller said.

"One of our priorities is replacing low-water crossing, but with limited funding available we've

only been able to do two or three a year," Miller said. "There are grant funds available that would help us to do much more and getting the hazard mitigation plan in place is an important part of that."

The process will potentially provide significant financial benefits for the county.

"The return on the taxpayer investment (for the HMP) is astronomical," Miller said. "We are applying for \$14.5 million in grants

and have budgeted \$500,000 for grant support. If we are able to get all of these grants, it would be a 3000% return for our taxpayers. I don't see how you cannot do that."

Miller said the county expects to be notified within the next 60 to 90 days which grants they will receive.

The county is working to submit its HMP to the state this spring.

"The goal is that we have our hazard mitigation plan written

and ready to submit to the state for their approval by April 15," Miller said. "The Texas Department of Emergency Management is involved in the process. They have an interest and will give interim approval. Then it goes to FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) for approval."

"We are working to see what we can do to lessen the impact of disaster events before they happen."



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

General Manager
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

DEADLINES:

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

Articles about events that have occurred 30 days prior to submission will not be accepted. However, they will be accepted as paid advertisements.

All articles and advertisements must meet our standards and

newspaper format as determined by management.

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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.

2023
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 Abigail Ball
 Charles Belt
 Thomas Belt
 Brooke Blanchard
 Cash Blanchard
 Shelbi Bomar
 Steven Bomar
 Lane Brookshire
 Thomas C. Brookshire
 Ryli Bryson
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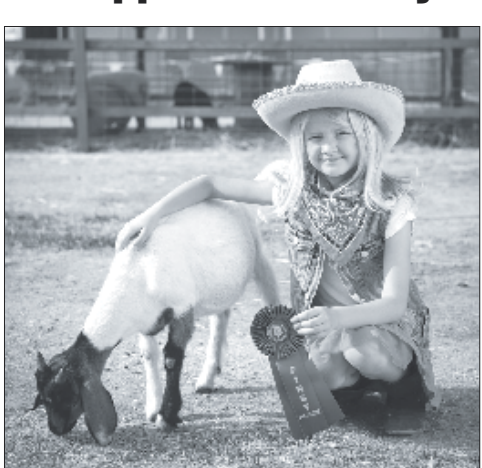
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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

How do you start the new year?

SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is a newspaper publisher, an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.

The start of the new year gives cause for a lot of self-reflection. In many cases a survey of the past and frequently a projection for the future.

I know when I open the search engine on my computer, the screen is flooded with promotions for weight loss. If we all had a dollar for every person who starts a diet on Jan. 1, we could all go to Belize and sit on the beach with nothing to do but figure out how we are going to spend all that money. Talk of weight loss is everywhere! Seems like every advertiser ramps up its promotions, attempting to get a piece of the weight loss sales dollar, as millions of people resolve to take better care of themselves. Goodness knows I could stand to lose some weight, but I cannot help but think most of the "resolutions" will be gone and forgotten by the time the first March wind blows.

I am making lots of plans for 2023, but I resist calling them resolutions. To me they are goals, and the only way I know to achieve a goal is to dig in, go to work and strive to get to where I want to be. I am upbeat and encouraged about a great many things at work as well as in my personal life. I am convinced 2023 is going to be one of the best years of my life.

Perhaps I feel that way because I am a little older, and I realize my time keeps drawing shorter. If I do not hit my goals soon, I might not ever attain them. Some-

times a man doesn't want to think he lost; he simply ran out of time, and the game simply ended before he has the last chance to bat and go ahead. Makes one think about putting off things one wants to accomplish. Perhaps it creates an interesting challenge, doesn't it?

One goal I have set for myself is to finish another book. I have something I have been working on called "Tales from the Trail." It is a collection of short stories similar in style and tenor to my column. My goal is to have it for sale this fall, prior to the Christmas season. I will keep you posted when it is available, because I think a lot of you will really enjoy it. Having the freedom to tell a story without the restriction of the size of a newspaper column makes for a better story. Some are funny, some are poignant, and others will touch somewhere deep inside you. You readers keep my feet to the fire to get this task completed!

As I look back at life, I know I can't change the times when I have failed; where I fell short or disappointed myself and others. Still, I think it is positive to remember those times and situations. By doing so, perhaps we are not as likely to step into the same "snare."

The tough part of looking back is accepting those shortcomings and lessons

learned without hanging your head or thinking a "life lesson" learned is a "life sentence."

This year, I will spend more time with friends. I will be sure to take every opportunity to be kind and forgiving to those in need. I will give my family all the attention they deserve, and I will support those at work with kind words and the opportunity to reach their own goals.

My hope for all of you is to be excited about the life we are living, mindful of your choices, and thankful for all you have. Don't set a goal that drives you away from all you treasure, or keeps you from enjoying "the ride" as you go through life. It is a long road, and it takes a whole lot of turns in the road to get to the end. Together we can all make it.

I think 2023 is going to be one heck of a "party."

Thought for the day: there are far better things ahead than what we leave behind.

Until next time, I will be riding the storm out.



Houston

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This year, I will spend more time with friends. I will be sure to take every opportunity to be kind and forgiving to those in need. I will give my family all the attention they deserve, and I will support those at work with kind words and the opportunity to reach their own goals.

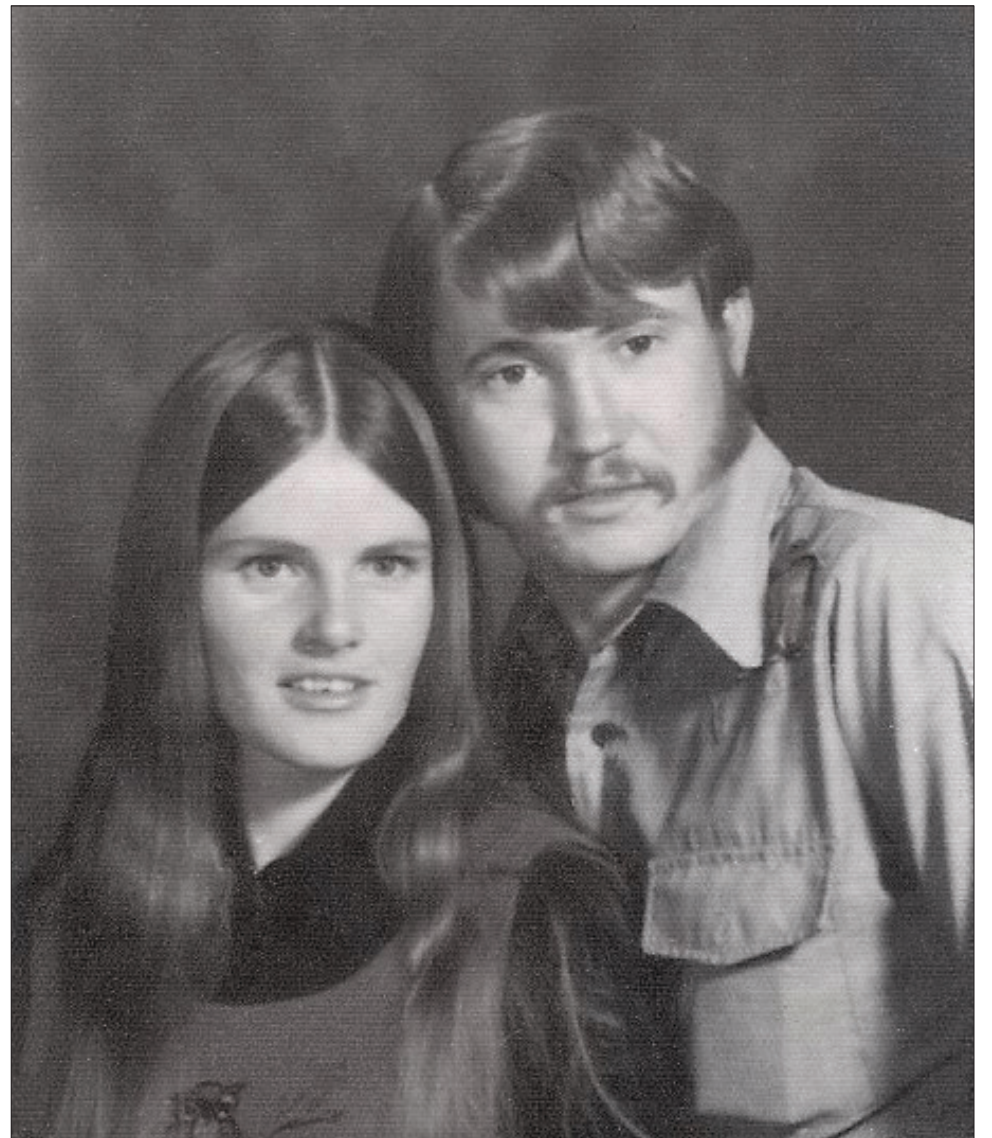
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COURTESY PHOTO

Bud and Lauralee Jenkins

Jenkins to celebrate 50th anniversary

Bud and Lauralee Jenkins will be feted with a luncheon to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 7, 2023, at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen in Austin.

Bud Jenkins and the former Lauralee Small were married on January 6, 1973, at College Avenue Baptist Church in McGregor with the Reverend Dewey Baldwin officiating.

Bud and Lauralee have two sons, Bobby Jenkins and wife, Melissa, of Gatesville and Tim Jenkins and wife, Darcie, of San Antonio. They have two grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

December marriage licenses filed at Coryell County Courthouse

Marriage licenses filed during December 2022 in the Coryell County Clerk's Office included:

L.D. Doty and Gladys Hoppe; Charlie Fredrich and Ottilie Leugefeld; Branda Nicole Orians and Patricia Ann Weir; Kirk Lee Jones and Cheyenne Autumn Bray; Dewey Logan Wright and Alisen Paige Ingram; Arthur Louis Tovar II and Beverly Ann Bivolcic; Duncan Danley Kleshick and Valarie Melssa-Rashelle Davis; Martin Guadalupe Pelayo III

and Kimberly Ashley Rivera; Alexander Jude Guerra and Abby Mia Elizabeth Harviel; Levi Dylan Smith and Baylei Madison Alvarado; Dylan Lawrence Buete and Heidy Ruby Navarro Nieves; Tyler Logan Lewis and Rachel Lopez; Katrina Louise Pacheco and Jessica Denise Acevedo; Michael Pacquing Viloria and Simona Niedvaraitte; Philip Rodriguez III and Linda Renee Jackson; Bryan Nathaniel Valentin and Jennifer M. Littlewolfe Campbell; Steven Brodie Frayer and

Pamela Jean Dorothy Gregg Samuel Vera and Alexxis Jade Smith; Robert Michael Talley and Kodi Lee Wiley; Tristan Anthony Perez and Rachel Vanessa Hernandez; Josiah Ethan Goodsbey and Isabella Dawn Garrett; Brian Wade Pierce and Crystal Lee Yurisich; Geoffreon Edward Barbee and Autumn Oksana Goryance Anton; James Allen Howry III and Madison May Elizabethann Warren; and John Joseph Lawrence and Terri Lynn Jackson.



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church to celebrate 75th anniversary Feb. 12

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Gatesville will be celebrating its 75th anniversary as a church on Feb. 12, 2023. Bishop Joe S. Vasquez, the Bishop of the Diocese of Austin, will come and celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes at 1108 West Main St. in Gatesville with the parishioners and anyone who would like to attend.

After the Mass there will be a celebration at 1 p.m. at the Gatesville Civic Center with a meal, entertainment, social time, children's games, a talent show, and

Loteria (Spanish BINGO). There will also be an Our Lady of Lourdes History Book and Directory available for \$35 per copy.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was established in 1943 as a mission church under St. Mary's in Lampasas. It was the first Catholic Church in Coryell County. Five years later, Bishop Reicher designated Our Lady of Lourdes a separate parish with the responsibility of ministering to the Catholics at the State School for Boys in Gatesville. The parish also served

the many Catholics in the military who were stationed at Fort Hood during World War II.

The church would like to invite the public to the celebration. They are encouraging those who want to attend the meal to purchase meal tickets ahead of time at the cost of \$5 each so that a head count can be taken. Tickets may be purchased after Sunday Masses, or you may call the church office at 254-865-6710 for more information.

Morris Federation to meet Jan. 14

Members of The Morris Federation will have their first meeting of the new year on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 10:15 a.m. in the James Coryell Room of the Coryell Museum and Historical Center.

The program, titled, "Things Seniors Need to Know," will be presented by David Myers, Clinical Social Worker Specialist in Gatesville. Myers has more than seven years of diverse experiences, especially in

Clinical Social Work, and he cooperates with many other doctors and specialists in the medical group at Coryell County Memorial Hospital Authority.

Raise up Radio becoming a popular way to share information

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Tumbleweed Smith is a newspaper columnist and radio producer

So many good things developed during the COVID pandemic. One of them originated at the University of North Texas in Denton and is called Raise Up Radio. Dr. Sarah Evans, an ex-librarian, was visiting with her colleagues about ways to increase sharing information from libraries in small communities during the shutdown.

One solution was radio. "People in rural areas depend on radio," she said. "It's a perfect medium for libraries to use."

She managed to get a government grant to launch the program. It started in the community of Pottsboro, 60 miles from Denton. "We met with the library staff and residents to find out what they would like to learn more about. Students got involved and the thing

that was mentioned most was raising chickens. They decided to interview experts in the business and create a 4-segment series of radio programs, each about 8 or 9 minutes long. These would be on the library's web site, with the ultimate goal of getting them on radio stations."

Dr. Evans sent me the 4 segments on raising chickens. They all start with a young voice saying, "Welcome to a chicken fact

broadcast brought to you by the egg-ceptional Pottsboro Area Library and Raise Up Radio." Dr. Evans said the heart of the program is getting community members together, exploring different topics and then creating audio programs. "We want the programs to be meaningful to the communities."

Grant money is available for libraries to get audio production equipment. "We have a tool kit for libraries

who want to do this."

The students who did the programs in Pottsboro were in grades 4 through 12. Some parents got involved and learned something themselves. "We had a mom and her teenage daughter who were part of the program. The daughter was really interested in learning about chickens, but the mom was actually interested in learning about podcasting and audio production."

Some libraries that signed up for the program are doing oral histories, getting stories and experiences from older residents, and exploring how the school systems and other entities got started. Dr. Evans said that to keep interest up, each segment has a science experiment that families can do together. "We'll be exploring how to fit an egg into a bottle," said the student narrator.

Sarah said it took about three months to get the project started. "There was really a lot of excitement about it. A couple of family members asked, 'when will we do another series of programs and what are they going to be about?'"

She said that so many good things have come



Smith

from Raise Up Radio. "Kids get experience in meeting different people and interviewing them, then editing the recorded interviews and producing a finished audio product."

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099 PUBLIC NOTICES


NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS OGLESBY ISD State Financial Accountability Rating

OGLESBY ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM on the 19th of January, 2023 in the Oglesby ISD Board Room at 125 College Ave Oglesby, TX 76561

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Oglesby ISO rating on the state's Financial accountability system

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
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Hornets battle Badgers in nondistrict basketball



Kameron Higginbotham races downcourt for the Hornets in action Jan. 3 against the Lampasas Badgers. The Badgers defeated the Hornets 46-36. Gatesville is now 9-14 and began district play on Friday. SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



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COURTESY PHOTOS
Laci Heiner (above) and her cousin Nicholas O'Neal (below) and their 10 point and 9 point bucks shot on their grandparents' ranch in southeastern Coryell County. Laci, daughter of Duane and Shannon Heiner of Oglesby, is a freshman studying animal science at Tarleton State University. Nicholas, son of Brian and Mindy O'Neal, attends school in Montgomery, Texas. Laci and Nicholas are grandchildren of Clarence and Donna Heiner.



Hornets finish second in Brownwood tourney

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports Correspondent

The 23rd-ranked Gatesville Hornets boys basketball team suffered its first defeat in 29 days on Dec. 30, falling to eventual tournament champion Abilene Wylie 67-54 in their final game of the Texas Bank Holiday Classic in Brownwood.

The tournament champion was determined by two rounds of pool play. The Hornets won both games in the first round of pool play - defeating Dublin and Wall - and advanced to the championship pool along with Abilene Wylie and Little River Academy. Their 58-51 win over Academy coupled with Academy's 54-45 loss to Wylie meant the Hornets finished second in the tournament.

Playing their fourth game in three days and third morning start, the Hornets ran out of steam against the depth of Wylie's Class 5A Bulldogs.

"I thought fatigue was a factor but I thought all the teams showed fatigue," said Gatesville head coach Brit Campbell. "Us coming off of a break with only one day of practice then playing four games as well also played a part as did the way Wylie played, rotating in a new five guys every so often."

The Hornets trailed 17-15 after one quarter before the Bulldogs opened up a 10-point halftime lead at 40-30. In the third quarter the Hornets suffered their lowest-scoring quarter of the season and tallied just seven points to make their deficit 17 after three quarters.

Banner Allman scored 27 points in the loss while Tyler Shea was the only other Hornet in double figures with 10. Allman averaged 22.5 points per game in the tournament.

No coach likes to lose, but Brit Campbell acknowledged that there were takeaways from the loss that will benefit the Hornets with the start of district less than two weeks away.

"I learned that we need to refocus and get back to doing the little things correctly. We have had some really good games and wins lately, but a loss like this against a quality team gets us back to focus on ourselves to do



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

West Allman, shown here in action earlier this season, had a career high 26 points against the Dublin Lions in a basketball tournament in Brownwood.

better in preparation for big games coming up," he said.

The Hornets opened the tournament by adding three more wins to their streak. They routed Dublin 94-53, defeated a very good Wall team 63-49, then beat the Bumblebees for the third time this season to run their record to 19-1.

Against Dublin the Hornets exploded over the middle two quarters, outscoring the Lions 58-26 during that span. They were led in scoring by West Allman's career-high 26 points and Banner Allman's 24-point, 10 rebound performance. Tyler Shea added 16 points, while Carter Williams had seven points, nine rebounds, and seven assists, and

Trae Miller had 10 points, dished out eight assists and had five rebounds with just one turnover.

In the win over Wall - champions of its district in eight of the last nine seasons - the Hornets jumped out to a 13-0 lead. Banner Allman led with 19 points and 13 rebounds while Shea had 14 points and 12 rebounds. Carter Williams added 11 points and Miller had five steals.

The win over Academy was marked by two different tones. Facing each other for the third time in a month, the teams seemed moderately disinterested in playing each other again throughout the first half.

But the second was a different story. The Bees looked like a team that badly wanted to avenge their two earlier losses - the most recent without standout Colt Shackelford - and the Hornets responded like a team trying to keep a streak alive.

Banner Allman scored 16 first half points while Shackelford was held to two points as the Hornets led 27-23 at the break. In the second half, Shackelford got loose for 13 points but was countered by a terrific half from Shea who scored 13 points of his own.

The Hornets led just 52-48 with less than a minute to play before icing the game from the foul line down the stretch to win 58-51.

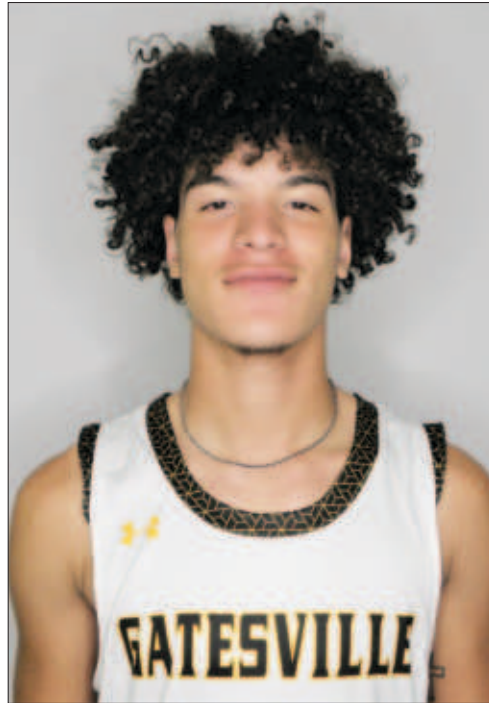
The Hornets hosted Australian travel team Diamond Valley on Jan. 2 and were then scheduled to play former district foe Brownwood on Friday. They travel to Stephenville for a final non-district matchup on Jan. 10 before opening league play Jan. 13 against No. 19-ranked Connally.



Trae Miller



Banner Allman



Tyler Shea

Opportunities to catch rainbow trout continue

The annual Texas winter tradition of rainbow trout stocking is heading back to waterbodies across the state to kick off the holiday season. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will continue stocking thousands of rainbow trout through early March.

"TPWD stocks catchable sized fish during winter months to create unique winter angling opportunities throughout Texas," said Carl Kittel, TPWD Rainbow Trout Program director. "Rainbow trout love cold water and can be caught on a variety of baits and lures (worms, commercially available pastes, corn, spinners, spoons, flies and more), and are great to take home and eat. Our winter rainbow trout program has been a favorite of anglers for over 40 years."

TPWD plans to stock 337,469 rainbow trout in Texas through March 5. Because rainbow trout are unable to survive in Texas after winter, anglers are encouraged to keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout. Rainbow trout are an attractive, tasty fish and anglers can easily find recipes to prepare them online.

The Neighborhood Fishin' program offers some outstanding opportunities to catch rainbow trout for fami-

lies and new anglers in and around major cities. TPWD manages 18 Neighborhood Fishin' lakes statewide in most major urban centers, including Austin, the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Houston and San Antonio. These lakes are frequently stocked with rainbow trout during the winter stocking season and offer plenty of amenities so family members of all ages can enjoy a fun and relaxing day fishing and connecting in nature.

Tailrace fishing is popular during trout season. TPWD will stock rainbow trout into the Canyon Tailrace on the Guadalupe River below Canyon Lake, and the Possum Kingdom Tailrace on the Brazos River below Possum Kingdom Lake for anglers willing to try their hand in tailrace fishing. Those locations often have very cool water and provide excellent conditions for trout fishing.

Other stocking locations include dozens of local city and county managed park ponds, the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center casting pond, and several rivers including the Frio, South Llano and Guadalupe rivers and the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

In addition, anglers can pursue a fish in a Texas State Park from a bank, dock or

pier for free without a fishing license. TPWD recommends anyone planning a trip to a park reserve a day pass in advance. Day passes can be reserved online through the TPWD website or over the phone by calling (512) 389-8900.

The good news is it doesn't take a lot of sophisticated fishing equipment to reel in a rainbow trout. They can be caught using simple, light tackle or on hand-tied flies using a fly rod. However, anglers should keep an array of baits and lures nearby as well as ice to keep trout fresh. For more tips on how to catch rainbow trout, gain some insight from TPWD staff on the TPWD YouTube channel.

In Texas, children under 17 fish for free, but adults must have a fishing license with a freshwater fishing endorsement. An angler fishing in a Community Fishing Lake or from a dock, pier or jetty within a Texas State Park may use no more than two poles. The statewide bag limit is five trout, except on parts of the Guadalupe River where special limits are in effect.

The dates and locations are subject to change due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Be sure to check the 2022-23 Trout Stocking Schedule

online (on the TPWD website) before you go fishing to confirm the stocking date, check fishing regulations, and to find other winter trout stocking program angling tips.

Among the area sites that will be stocked are:

* Amsler Park in McGregor, Feb. 7.

* Buena Vista Park Lake in Waco, Jan. 6, Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17 and March 3.

* Carl Levin City Park Pond in Harker Heights, Jan. 11.

* Copperas Cove City Park, March 5.

* Meridian State Park, Jan. 12.

* Miller Park Pond in Temple, Feb. 26.

* W.M. Brook Park Lake in Lampasas, Jan. 5.

Other dates and sites can be found at www.tpwd.texas.gov.

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