



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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County working on plan to reduce disasters' impact

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

Finding ways to protect Coryell County residents and their property — and also finding out what concerns people the most when it comes to natural disasters and how prepared they are — are the primary points of emphasis of the hazard mitigation plan (HMP) that Coryell County is working on with Natural Resources Solutions.

On Jan. 18, local residents had a chance to learn more about the plan, why it's important, and to give their input during a public meeting at the Gatesville City Auditorium. A

meeting was also held on Jan. 19 in Evant. County residents will have two more opportunities to talk to county leaders about their concerns or questions — from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Copperas Cove Council Chamber and from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Oglesby Community Center.

"This is being tailored to Copperas Cove, Gatesville, Oglesby, Evant and throughout the county," said County Judge Roger Miller. "A key point is trying to get your feedback to identify the hazards that are relevant to you based on your particular concerns in your geographic area of the county."

Maddie Todd with NRS, who is helping lead the efforts, said Coryell County is developing a comprehensive countywide plan that identifies dangers or threats and seeks a way to reduce or lessen their impact.

The county HMP focuses on natural disasters such as thunderstorms, flooding, tornadoes, extreme heat, drought, wildfire, winter storms, and dam failure.

"We are looking for projects or strategies to mitigate or lessen the impact (of disasters)," Todd said. "This is intended to be community-driven with the citizens' needs and concerns in mind."

Once the plan is approved, it will be updated at least once every five years.

"Hazards may occur in the future that we're not currently experiencing," Todd said.

"There are two main benefits (to having an HMP) — we want to make sure county residents and property are protected, and we want to secure future funding opportunities. This is intended to make this the most disaster-resilient community possible."

Although the HMP is a county initiative,

PLEASE SEE **HMP** | A2

A new roof for the first time since the 1980s



TODD PIERCE | COURTESY PHOTOS

Workers replace the roof shingles on the Coryell County Courthouse roof Jan. 16-17 - reportedly the first roof replacement in decades.



Historical legacy preserved

BY DAVID SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Coryell County Courthouse recently underwent a slight facelift with the installation of a new roof. It was reported that the shingles on the structure had not been replaced since the mid-1980s during the \$1-million dollar restoration of the building that was authorized by the commissioners and the state historical commission.

Since that time, some 30-plus years later, the roof of the courthouse had deteriorated to the point that, during heavy rains, a great amount of water was leaking through and causing damage. County Commissioner Ryan Basham described the roof as being in "bad shape." That fact was confirmed by courthouse senior maintenance technician Todd Pierce who said a great portion of the leakage was centered around the courthouse dome, which had last been patched about four years ago.

Basham said that before the

roof could be re-shingled, approval had to be obtained from the Texas State Historical Commission in Austin because the structure was under protection and listed as a State Antiquities Landmark as well as being listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1977. According to Basham, the Texas Historical Commission granted its approval to have the roof replaced a little over 10 days prior and work on the roof began soon afterward.

Running M Roofing company's bid was accepted and re-roofing of the building began last week and was completed within two days. Brian Riddle, with Running M Roofing, said that replacing the flashing on the roof would take longer than the actual shingling since that process was more time consuming. "The actual shingling goes pretty fast," Riddle said. He also reported that approximately 210 bundles of shingles were used to replace

PLEASE SEE **ROOF** | A2

School safety items ratified

BY JEFF OSBORNE
Senior Writer & Editor

The Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees received updates during the Jan. 17 meeting on several items that are expected to help make campuses safer.

The board approved an opioid antagonist policy that ensures Narcan is available on each campus in case of a dangerous exposure to a potentially lethal drug.

"We've probably all heard how deadly fentanyl can be — in some instances it can kill you if you touch it," said GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard. "We want to be proactive and have Narcan on hand, and only police, athletic trainers and nurses will be authorized to administer it."

The board and administration had previously discussed the presence of dangerous fentanyl pills becoming more of a common threat, including in areas such as schools.

Pollard noted that according to data provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety, 883 people in Texas died from fentanyl-related overdoses in 2020, and the number of fatalities from the drug rose to 1,672 in 2021 — an 89% increase.

"GISD wanted to have the opioid antagonist known as Narcan on hand to administer if someone were to overdose on this deadly drug," Pollard said. "Thanks to a grant, our district nurses were able to secure Narcan for each campus free of cost."

If a student is given Narcan during a medical emergency, he or she would be transported to the nearest emergency room.

Another concern campuses might face would be an extreme allergic reaction, and epinephrine devices — also known as epi-pens — can also provide a lifesaving counter action.

PLEASE SEE **GISD** | A2



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GISD school board honored by county proclamation



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell County Judge Roger Miller read a proclamation recognizing the Gatesville Independent School District Board of Trustees for their dedication in serving the students of the community at the board's Jan. 17 meeting. Pictured from left are: GISD Superintendent Barrett Pollard, Judge Miller, and board members Charles Ament, Charles Alderson, Linda Maxwell, Jimmie Ferguson, Mary Anne Leib and Calvin Ford. Not pictured is board member Cheyenne Kizer.

HMP

FROM PAGE A1

Todd said local municipalities can also benefit and apply for grants related to reducing threats to their communities.

"The main goal is to help make sure the public knows what we're doing with the HMP and why it's important to get their input," Todd said. She said the primary way people can make their concerns known is to fill out a public survey "that will take 5-10 minutes and is completely anonymous. The majority of the questions goes to the different hazards, people's level of concern about each of them, and also how prepared they feel to deal with different hazards."

The deadline for people to complete the survey, which can be found online at www.coryellcountyhmp.com or at the scheduled public meetings, is Feb. 12.

The plan is expected to be submitted to the state by April 13.

Judge Miller said that Coryell County is one of only 27 counties statewide — and the only county in the eastern half of the state — that does not have a hazard mitigation plan.

"The ultimate goal — rather than just reacting to natural disasters, hopefully we'll be proactive and reduce the impact these disasters have on people's lives and property," he said.

He added that because the county does not have an HMP, "we are prohibited from qualifying for hundreds of millions of dollars in grants every year — that's at least \$400 million has been ineligible to apply for in the last four years."

One resident attending the meeting asked about the evacuation of Flat in the spring of 2022 when wildfires threatened the community.

"People were asked to evacuate, and I looked online for information and there wasn't anything," she said. "Where are we supposed to go for information?"

Miller said that is one thing the HMP will allow the county to develop — a trusted source of information when disasters arise.

"We do not have a streamlined emergency response program, and we rely heavily on volunteers," Miller said. "That fire was going on for four or five hours before I knew about it. When we implement the plan, we'll look at (the best way to provide quick and accurate information)."

Todd said part of the HMP focuses on ways to "disseminate information so that everyone is aware of what to do in certain situations."

Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry said along with the HMP, the county is also working on a separate wildfire protection plan that addresses what needs to be done to reduce risks.

"Emergency communication is very important, but a wildfire plan is being developed separately," he said.

Miller said the state spent about \$2.2 million fighting the Crittendon Complex fire last spring, and that local fire departments spent an additional \$80,000 battling the blaze.

"There are potentially some things that can be done ahead of time to prevent fires from spreading," Miller said.

One resident asked why Coryell County can't simply copy Bell County's plan.

"For the (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant to be implemented, there has to be local input," Miller said. He added that much of the same wording used in plans from Bell, McLennan, Hamilton, Milam, and other counties would also be in the Coryell County plan, but added, "we're trying to

tailor this to the needs of people in Coryell County."

Another question asked was to give examples of ways to mitigate disasters.

"We have 72 low-water crossings in Coryell County, and we experience flooding events," Miller said. "If we can improve those, that is one example of mitigation."

"Another example goes back to the wildfire protection plan. If it is approved by (the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Texas A&M Forest Service), up to \$10 million is available for mitigation. You can do what Fort Hood did and cut firebreaks along the fence line. If funding is available to help, local residents might do that."

Miller said the county is "very fortunate to have NRS working with us and getting the word out."

He also asked community members to do their part.

"I ask you to do two things," Miller said. "Number one, take the survey. It will tell us how these hazards are impacting you. Number two, get five other people to take the survey. It's important for us to have your input."

ROOF

FROM PAGE A1

the rooftop.

Riddle said that none of the credit belonged to him, but to the 11 workers who were perched high atop the roof who were doing the treacherous work. Riddle also commented that this was the oldest building he had ever worked on — soon to be 125 years old this year.

Built between 1897 and 1898, the structure was the county's third courthouse. Built by architect Wesley Clark Dodson, the building has been described as an Italian Renaissance Revival style building. Red sandstone Corinthian columns support white sandstone pediments, with the five-pointed star of Texas inset in contrasting carved stone.

In 1986, the million dollar restoration process began on the courthouse and was completed two years later. Replacing the eagle perched atop the building and two

The Coryell County Courthouse was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

statues that had been missing from the roof for many years were included in the restoration process. During that time, an elevator and a new handicap entrance were also installed.

The county judge, county commissioners and the Coryell County Historical Commission are making preparations for the 125th anniversary of the courthouse this summer. Tentative plans for the occasion will include having games, live music, and a county-wide celebration on the courthouse lawn to mark the completion of the courthouse construction in 1898.



TODD PIERCE | COURTESY PHOTO

Renovations to the courthouse had to meet state historical commission standards.

GISD

FROM PAGE A1

"Thanks to a grant, our district nurses were also able to secure unassigned epi-pens for each campus free of cost," Pollard said. "These items could save a child's life in the event of anaphylaxis (a severe life-threatening allergic reaction). It is important to note that these epi-pens do not take the

place of a student's doctor prescribed epi-pen. However, having a couple of extras on hand will be extremely helpful."

If a student is treated with an epi-pen during an emergency, he or she would then be transported to the nearest emergency room.

Following up on policies adopted by the board in July 2022 related to the Gatesville ISD police department, the board approved a policy on the use of tasers.

A memorandum to the Council noted that policies have been approved addressing topics that include the use of force, vehicle pursuit, professional conduct of officers, domestic abuse protocols, response to missing persons, supervision of part-time officers, impartial policing, evidence collection, and eyewitness identification.

"Since that time, we have purchased tasers for each of our officers and we needed

to add a more specific taser policy that falls under the broader umbrella of use of force," the memorandum states. "Our lawyer reviewed and approved the wording of this policy. Hopefully, our officers will never have to use their taser, but it is good to have a non-lethal use of force option."

Pollard said, "the main thing we want to get across is that this is a last resort, and never for punishment."



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COURTESY PHOTO

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS: Lynn and Penny Massingill on their wedding day, December 9, 1972.

Massingills celebrate 50 year wedding anniversary Dec. 9

Lynn and Penny Massingill recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. Massingill and the former Penny Spencer were married Dec. 9, 1972, at the West Main Church of Christ in Gatesville, by minister Lewis Hunter. Their sons, Gavin and Chase, along with their wives, Holly and Diane, and children, hosted a reception in honor of the couple at The Knife & Cork in Gatesville. A catered meal was provided to more than 50 guests, as was a beautiful cake noting the 50-year milestone. As those attending approached the entrance, they viewed the Massingill's 1967 Chevelle Super Sport, which was purchased on their 10th anniversary and is identical to the one they dated in. Everyone enjoyed a video of the couple including many photos of their wedding. Their children spoke to the crowd and gave toasts to their parents. Cindy Haynes of Ft. Worth provided the photography for the evening.

Retirement reception for Police Chief Gohlke Jan. 24

The City of Gatesville and the Gatesville Police Department will host a come-and-go farewell reception for retiring police chief Nathan Gohlke. The reception is scheduled to be from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24, in the City Council Chambers at the Gatesville City Hall.

Gohlke is leaving law enforcement after 31 years in that line of work - including 29 as a licensed peace officer. Gohlke was sworn in as police chief on March 8, 2005 and has worked for

the Gatesville Police Department since April of 1998.

A native of the area, Gohlke was a 1989 graduate of Gatesville High School. Following his graduation, he attended Sam Houston State University before deciding to move closer to home and finish his law enforcement degree at McLennan Community College in Waco.

In reflecting on his years in law enforcement, Gohlke said, "doing this job was something I was set on and was passionate about."



GOHLKE

The public is invited to drop by and express appreciation to Gohlke during his retirement reception.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Everyone fails, but failure does not necessarily equal a loss

SAM HOUSTON

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



HOUSTON

This past Saturday I got up, went through my usual Saturday morning routine and then went to the office to get some work completed.

The day progressed swimmingly until I simply ran out of gas. It had been a long, trying week and I needed to clear my head. It seemed reasonable to call the workday short and retire to my house to relax for a spell. Fortunately, there was NFL playoff football on TV and the game I focused on was quite an experience.

The Jacksonville Jaguars were pitted against the Los Angeles Chargers. The Jags were led by Trevor Lawrence, an outstanding young quarterback who had been in the No. 1 selection in the NFL draft after winning a national championship in college. His season had been somewhat inconsistent as the Jags had lost five in a row at one point, but they had turned things around and were now amid a five-game win streak and making their first playoff appearance in some years.

The first half of the game could not have gone worse for the Jags and Trevor. The young quarterback managed to throw three interceptions in the first quarter alone; a record for failure that no NFL quarterback had ever managed to obtain. At one point the Jags were down 27-0 and I am pretty sure, most people turned the channel to a different show or simply went to bed. The fans and the sports media analysts were filling the airways with criticism. They were expounding what everyone in the world who had been watching the game already knew — that the first half was a total failure and the blame largely lay at Trevor Lawrence's feet.

The second half was a different story. Lawrence completed 15 of 17 passes and threw three touchdown passes. The Jaguars came all the way back and won the game on a last-second field goal, 31-30. It was one of the biggest and best comebacks in NFL history and certainly a dramatic and entertaining game to watch.

How did Trevor Lawrence

do it? How did he work through the agony of four first half interceptions, and then have the fortitude to come out in the second half and not only play better, but play remarkably well and lead his team to victory? Why did he not give up, hang his head in despair and tell himself it simply was not his day? What motivated him and gave him the courage to keep moving forward even when the odds were so far against him?

There are hundreds of examples of great comebacks in history. Abraham Lincoln suffered a tremendous defeat in losing the 1858 Illinois Senate election to Stephen Douglas but rallied from the loss to become his party's candidate for the nation's highest office. He was elected in 1860 and became one of our greatest presidents.

Richard Nixon lost the 1960 presidential election, and then lost the California Senate election in 1962. The world considered former vice-president Nixon to be a political "has been," but just a few short years later he came back from political obscurity to win the presidency in the election of 1968.

In the weeks and months following the devastating defeat at Pearl Harbor there was genuine concern the Japanese might invade the mainland of the United States. With a damaged and depleted U.S. Navy, fear was rampant. Just a mere six months after Dec. 7, the U.S. military unleashed a devastating defeat upon the Imperial Japanese Navy at the Battle of Midway. The Japanese lost more than 3,000 men, four aircraft carriers and 300 aircraft. The United States suffered the loss of 360 men and 145 aircraft during what some describe as the greatest U.S. naval victory in history. The battle changed the tide of the war in the Pacific.

Seems like all these examples involve strong-willed people who had inherent

confidence in their abilities. Lincoln and Nixon knew they would not win every single vote, and Trevor Lawrence knew he would not win every single play. The U.S. military forces understood there would be regrettable, but expected losses. All of these examples played the "long game" and knew if they did their best, prepared and worked hard, eventually the table would turn in their favor.

Temporary defeats are to be expected. There is no one who has ever operated a business, been in love, or raised a child, who has not had setbacks. I have never met a cowboy who can say he has never been thrown from a horse. The question is not if the setbacks will come, but how a person deals with and works through the setbacks that matters. It is confidence in one's own skills and talents. It is maintaining faith that the hard work and dedication will eventually pay off. It is having the courage and grit to compete no matter the obstacles or odds. These are the characteristics that allow people to come through the darkest passages of life and bask in the sunshine of another day.

As this next week unfolds, there will be little setbacks in your life. It might be as small as the new puppy having an accident on the living room rug, to losing a major client at work and wondering if you can keep the doors open. Keep your focus, stay the course, be cool when others are losing their head, do what you do best, and eventually, success will be yours.

Thought for the day: Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.

Until next time I will keep ridin' the storm out.

Sam Houston | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

Raffle to benefit Dayne Zacha

A medical raffle is underway for 2022 GHS graduate Dayne Zacha, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

Zacha is in his first year of college, majoring in nursing. He plans on being an oncology nurse to help others battling cancer. Zacha has a huge love for his family and for tennis.

Those wishing to contribute to the raffle can purchase a \$50 raffle ticket for a chance to win a half of beef donated by Barnard Beef Cattle Company.

Those purchasing the raffle tickets, if their ticket is not selected, they can use their \$50 donation on any half or whole purchased in the next six months. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the family.

Four interest-free payments of \$12.50 can be made on PayPal.

To purchase a ticket or for more information, visit <https://www.barnardbeef.com/product-page/dayne-cole-affle-ticket> or call 254-22-3297.

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OBITUARIES

PAUL DAVID BUCKLEY, SR.

Nov. 22, 1946 - Jan. 14, 2023



Paul David Buckley, Sr. of Gatesville, Texas went home to the Lord on January 14, 2023, surrounded by his loved ones. He was born on November 22, 1946, on Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio to Evelyn and

Thomas Jefferson Buckley. Paul was 76 years old at the time of his passing. Growing up, he was an avid baseball player and was a 1965 graduate of Palo Duro High School in Amarillo. After graduation, he worked at Panhandle Fruit, before starting his career with the United States Postal Service. He married the love of his life and best friend, Kimberly Baldwin, on November 14, 1981, in Amarillo and recently celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary.

Paul was a proud letter carrier for the United States Postal Service, beginning his career with USPS in Amarillo in 1967 transferring to Copperas Cove in December 1983 and retiring after 40 years of service. After retiring from the Postal Service, he went on to work at the Gatesville Independent School District as a bus driver (route #14) and retired in 2018 after a dozen years of dedicated service. At GISD, Paul was known to students, coaches, and teachers alike as "Mr. Bus Driver" and was

a favorite driver for numerous extracurricular trips for Gatesville students. He also managed the Little J Ranch in Topsey for over five years prior to establishing the Lonestar B Ranch in 2001. He was a true gentleman and was rarely seen in anything other than a button-down shirt and jeans carrying a thermos, either filled with coffee or tea depending on the time of day. Paul enjoyed playing mixed-league softball, bowling, and was an avid outdoorsman as he hunted, fished, and spent countless weekends at the lake with his family and friends. His true passion in life was spending time with his family, especially his wife, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In his later years, his best buddy was his two-and-a-half-year-old great-granddaughter, Wrenlee. He was a devout Dallas Cowboys fan and looks forward to sitting next to Jesus to watch a future game. He was a Baptist.

Paul is preceded in death by his parents, his sister

Marceil Higgins, and his daughter Brandi Buckley.

Leaving to cherish his memories are his wife, Kim Buckley; his son, Paul David Buckley, Jr. (Tricia); his daughter, Paula Morgan; his grandsons, Colton Buckley, Weston Walker (Chenoa), James Walker, and Brandon Blocker; his granddaughters, Madelyn Beaver (Dylan), Ashley Blocker, Brittany Blocker (Justin), and Trinity Smith; his eight great-grandchildren, and his trusted companion, Libby, along with a large, loving extended family.

The Buckley family would like to sincerely thank Dr. Bates, Dr. Battles, Dr. Bawduniak, and Dr. Korteweg, and the amazing staff at Coryell Memorial Hospital for their excellent care of our loved one.

A Service of Remembrance will Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the chapel at Scott's Funeral Home.

HELEN LAVETA GARNETT FAHLSING

April 28, 1944 - Dec. 23, 2022

Helen LaVeta Garnett Fahlsing of Flat passed away Friday, December 23, 2022, at the age of 78. No local funeral services will be held.

She will be laid to rest at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Maquoketa, Iowa at a later date.

Helen was born April 28, 1944, in Maquoketa to the late Edward Reed and Helen Elizabeth (Botkin) Garnett. Helen served in the U.S. Army, was active in the Women's Army Corp, Women's Army Nurse Corps, and the U.S. Navy Reserves. She earned her master's degree

in nursing and worked as the Director of Nursing for many years at TDCJ in Gatesville. Helen was also a past member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Maquoketa, Iowa.

She was preceded in death by her parents; former husband, Robert Fahlsing; and his sons, Joseph Michael Fahlsing, John Robert Fahlsing, and Robert Clark Fahlsing.

She is survived by her sister, Bea Niblock of Iowa; brother, Lee Niblock of Florida; niece, Alissa Spencer, her husband, Sam, and daughter Evelyn of California; former sister-in-law, Constance Cameron of Florida; and friends, Brenda and Samantha.

LAVILLAS VERNON CLAWSON

Nov. 25, 1938 - Dec. 11, 2022



Lavillas Vernon Clawson, age 84, passed away on December 11, 2022, in League City. She was born November 25, 1938, to the late

Grady and Pauline Vernon. Lavillas grew up in Coryell County, and in 1957 she married the love of her life, Jim Clawson, from Flat. Jim joined the military hoping they would travel the world, but he got stationed 10 minutes down the road in Ft. Hood, then later in Ft. Polk, Louisiana. Starting in the 60s, they would take annual trips to Acapulco, Mexico, where she loved the beach. They traveled extensively with their family internationally and in the States. Even in her 80s, Lavillas would take road trips by herself to the Southwest and loved every minute of it. One place that held a special place in Lavillas' heart was the family ranch in Flat where the family has hosted Christmas celebrations for over 55 years.

Lavillas resided for over

30 years on Galveston Bay in the community of Bayview, Texas, and worked for the family business, Kemah Hardware, for many years. She was known for her daily walks and lengthy discussions with all her neighbors, whom she considered close friends and extended family. One of her greatest pleasures was having interesting conversations with people from different cultures and backgrounds, and she was very well-read. She had a hilarious and somewhat inappropriate sense of humor and would frequently laugh until she cried. She will be greatly missed by all who know her.

Lavillas was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Clawson; parents, Grady and Pauline Vernon; and sisters, Joan Copeland Voss and Jane Copeland Peter-

son. She is survived by her son, Jim Clawson Jr. and wife, Susan; daughter, Toni Clawson Randall and husband, Randy; grandsons, Tres Clawson and Chandler Randall; great-granddaughter, Addison Randall; and a large extended family of nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held this spring for Lavillas in the community she loved so much. Please follow Toni Randall on Facebook for updates.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Clawson Endowed Chair at Shriners Burn Institute in Galveston, Texas, or the Clawson Endowment at Blocker Burn Unit at UTMB Galveston, Texas.

United Women in Faith holds monthly meeting Jan. 10

United Women in Faith met on Jan. 10, in the Banquet Room of the Methodist Church in Gatesville, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Fourteen members were present. Hostesses were Kathleen Blankemeyer and Amber Featherston.

President Patsy Smart started the meeting by leading in the Blessing. Following refreshments, Smart thanked the hostesses and read the Purpose. Spiritual Growth Coordinator Mary Beth Rivers read from the Daily Prayer Guide. Vice President Velva Riddle read from the Response Magazine.

Kathleen Blankemeyer gave the program, beginning a new book, "Who Can We Be Together?" based on Luke 13. The first les-

son was called "Repent or Perish," using verses 1-5. Jesus spoke about sin, telling people to focus on their own because all have sinned. Everyone needs to repent from our sins. We cannot assume that bad things happen because the person sinned.

President Smart called the business meeting to order. Old business included the presentation of a Special Mission Recognition Pin for last year to Shirleen Chandler for her work in their unit. New business was the presentation of their new yearbooks and a big "thank you" to Amber Featherston for her hard work getting the yearbook together.

The meeting adjourned with the Benediction.



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Volunteers needed for Meals on Wheels.

Meals on Wheels in need of volunteers for deliveries

Meals on Wheels is currently in need of volunteer drivers. Meals on Wheels is a federally funded program for older adults who are homebound, unable to prepare a meal, don't drive, and have no one to cook for them. The program provides home-delivered nutritious meals to seniors in our community on local routes only.

The Gatesville Senior Center is looking for four drivers per day to drive four different routes. The shifts will be Monday through Friday, starting at 10:30 a.m. The Meals on Wheels run will take approximately one hour to complete. Volunteers can build their own schedules with no contract necessary. If you are a volunteer age 55 or older, you may be eligible for different perks.

Meals on Wheels America is the oldest and largest national organization

supporting the more than 5,000 community-based senior nutrition programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation. This network exists in virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million volunteers, delivers the nutritious meals, friendly visits, and safety checks that enable America's seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity. By providing funding, leadership, research, education, and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time.

The Gatesville Senior Center is located at 208 N. Lutterloh in Gatesville. For more information contact the Senior Center Director, Pam Rudolph at 254-865-8234.

Retired school personnel hold first meeting of 2023

The first meeting of Coryell Retired School Personnel (CRSP) will be on Thursday, Jan. 26, at Rancher's Steakhouse. It will be an important meeting as the primary activity will be raising money for CRSP's scholarship fund. This will be accomplished through a "silent auction."

Members are asked to provide items for the auc-

tion by donating such things as baked goods (cakes, candy, cookies, pies, breads, jams, and jellies for example). Items like gift cards, gift certificates, dishes, hand-crafted items, apparel, jewelry, quilts, knives, books, and a wide variety of other items are acceptable, too.

Money from the silent auction will be placed in

the CRSP scholarship fund. Chairman of the Scholarship Committee Velva Riddle explained, "Each year, retired school personnel present two scholarships to deserving high school graduates from Coryell County who are planning to enroll in college in the fall and pursue a career in education."

She requests that scholarship committee members arrive a few minutes early to help set up the silent auction items. Members should bring their donated items at about 9:30 a.m., and they will have an opportunity to visit, socialize, get that all-important cup of coffee, look over items

and place a few bids. Financial donations are also acceptable.

The regular meeting will begin at 10 a.m. The guest speaker will be Stephen Schmidt from the Methodist Church, who will be speaking on "Beginning a New Year."

President Gail Johnson has announced a big legislative event coming up on April 12, "A Day at the Capitol." A bus will take retired school employees from Waco or Belton to Austin and drop them off on the Capitol steps. She explained, "We will visit with the House Gallery around 9:30 a.m. and the Senate Gallery around 10:30 a.m.

Amy's ice cream will be served on the East Lawn between 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. Legislators will join us, and we can discuss retirees' needs."

Bus tickets are \$20. If any members are interested in going, Gail can be texted, emailed, or called at 254-865-4388 or gg4johnson@yahoo.com.

There are only three meetings and a workshop remaining before the group's summer break. If members want to mark their calendar, they are as follows: (Feb. 22) "Bingo for Books" to support their Children's Book Project; (March 23) "Love Story of Elizabeth Barrett Browning" as pre-

sented by M.J. Wofford; (April 27) "What's New in 4-H?" with Becky Coward and members of 4-H; (May 16) District XII Spring Leadership Meeting at the Region 12 Service Center in Waco, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

One final reminder for members: Debbie Grmela, chairman of Local Community Volunteer Services, requests, "Members who have not turned in ALL volunteer service hours for 2022, PLEASE turn them in at this meeting. Our chapter's total count is due very soon." Members are also welcome to turn in their volunteer hours for this January, but keep them separate from those in 2022.

Card of Thanks

To those who sent flowers, brought food, made donations, or offered condolences, we thank you one and all. We appreciate the kindness, thought and prayers. Addresses are hard to find so please let us say "Thank You" publicly.

The family of Dwaine Lee

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DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of January 16 - 18. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

City of Gatesville Police Department

Jan. 16
1:22 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

1:39 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1400 block of Pidcocke Street.

1:50 p.m., an assault was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

2:10 p.m., a threat was reported in the 2100 block of Waco Street.

8:19 p.m., an assault was reported in the 1300 block of Green's Private Drive.

9:19 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.

Jan. 17
3:31 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.

7:35 a.m., harassment was reported in the 1200 block of Coryell City Road.

10:19 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.

3:27 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of FM 107.

5:03 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 1200 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.

6:51 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of Pate Drive.

Jan. 18
1:15 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.

8:20 a.m., a structure fire was reported in the 100 block of College Avenue.

11:30 a.m., an accident was reported in the 3100 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

6:15 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1100 block of E. Leon Street.

8:47 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of State School Road.

11:48 p.m., an industrial accident was reported in the 1000 block of Straws Mill Road.

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Coryell County Sheriff's Office

Jan. 16
7:43 a.m., suspicious persons were reported on S. Hwy. 36 at Smith Creek.

10:20 a.m., illegal burning was reported in the 600 block of River Oaks.

11:22 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported on FM 931.

12:53 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 7500 block of E. Hwy. 84.

2:21 p.m., a civil mat-

ter was reported in the 500 block of Mountain Drive.

2:43 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1829 and South Hwy. 36.

Jan. 17
6:56 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 4100 block of Greenbriar Road.

11:08 a.m., trespassing was reported in the 200 block of Dadds Creek.

2:54 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1000 block of Lutheran Church Road.

4:13 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 1200 block of W. Ave. D.

6:53 p.m., suspicious activity was reported at the Flat Post Office.

9:39 p.m., a stranded motorist was reported in the 11000 block of E. Hwy. 84 near CR 267.

Jan. 18
9:55 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. FM 182.

11:02 a.m., a stranded motorist was reported on Hwy. 190.

4:28 p.m., a threat was reported in the 2800 block of CR 315.

5:15 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 9300 block of FM 183.

6:26 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 1500 block of CR 132.

11:46 p.m., a road hazard was reported on Watts Lane and Straws Mill Road.

Murder and mystery set for Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Banquet

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce members and members of the community are invited to the annual Chamber Banquet, to be held on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The banquet will be held at Windmill Hill located at 1808 Bridge Street in Gatesville.

Tickets for the event can be purchased by visiting the Chamber's Facebook

website and can also be purchased at the door. Individual tickets will cost \$33.81 and for those preferring to reserve a table (which seats eight), the cost will be \$219.79.

This year's banquet theme will be a "Murder and Mystery" and will be based with a vintage New Orleans setting. To go along with the theme, Cajun food will be

served. There will also be a raffle with proceeds going to the Chamber Scholarship fund. Door prizes will also be presented throughout the evening.

For more information about the 2023 Chamber Banquet, please stop by the Chamber at 2307 S. Hwy 36, or call the office at 254-865-2617.



COURTESY PHOTO

Annual Homer Davis chili supper.

Gatesville Lions Club hosts annual chili supper Friday, Jan. 27

The Gatesville Lions Club will host its 46th annual Homer Davis Chili Supper on Friday, Jan. 27, at the Gatesville High School cafeteria. The supper will begin at 4 p.m. and continue through 7 p.m.

There will be a choice of chili or soup served with beans, a drink, and dessert.

The cost for adults is \$7 per person, and \$4 for children. Tickets for the supper are available at Extraco Bank or can be purchased at the door.

The Gatesville Lions Club is a strong supporter of many Gatesville community functions and humanitarian programs. Weekly meetings

are held at the Junction on Route 36 every Wednesday starting at noon.

Gatesville High School is located at 205 S. Lovers Ln. in Gatesville. For any further information about the event contact the Gatesville Lions Club at 254-865-4626, or by email at gatesvillelionclub@gmail.com.

CENTEX CRIME STOPPERS

Criminal trespass of a business in the 1200 block of N. SH-36 Bypass

Centex Crime Stoppers can use your help in solving a case of criminal trespass. Between Jan. 16 at approximately 5 p.m. and Jan. 17 at approximately 8 a.m., an unknown person(s) forced entry to the property of a business in the 1200 block of N. SH-36 Bypass. An open door leading to the inside of the business was found as well. No suspect description is available. The victim reported

the subject(s) gained entry by forcing the gates to the property open. As of this writing, it is unknown what items may have been taken. The business specializes in secondhand tools and military surplus equipment.

If you have any information about any case or any local crime, call Centex Crime Stoppers 24 hours a day at 1-254-865-8477 (TIPS) or visit our website at www.Centexcrimestoppers.org or by downloading the "P3" mobile app available on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. You never have to give your name, and if your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Crime Stoppers, citizens, police, and the news media working together can make our community a safer place to live. Together we can make a difference.

Bell County Master Gardener Association to host special event

The Bell County Master Gardener Association and the Harker Heights Activities Center presents "Spring Gardening Starts Now." The seminar is scheduled for 6

p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, at the Harker Heights Activities Center, 400 Indian Trail, in Harker Heights. The class is limited to the first 30 people. Those in-

terested in attending may register at the email link bit.ly/3CbSuLc or use the QR Code on the BCMGA Facebook page.

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.



Don't mess with Texas Scholarship Contest is underway

The Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship Contest is now accepting applications for the 2023 school year.

Any Texas high school senior currently attending public, private or home school, and planning to attend an accredited Texas college or university in the fall 2023 semester is eligible to apply.

Judges will select winners based on the students' proven results in leading projects or efforts focused on educating communities about the importance of keeping the state clean and litter-free.

Presented in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, the Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship Contest will award a total of \$9,000 in

scholarships in May 2023. The 2023 scholarship contest awards are sponsored by iHeart Media and Ozarka.

"It's imperative that future generations understand they are empowered to create long-term solutions that can transform their environment and communities into ones that are litter-free," said Martha Martin, section director of services, projects, and campaigns.

Don't Mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. The program includes a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, annual "Trash-Off" community outreach events and the Adopt-a-

Highway volunteer program.

To apply for the Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship Contest, visit dontmesswithtexas.org online. Applications must be received via online submission by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 31.

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Coryell County 4-H Greased Pig Contest at the Youth Fair

The greased pig contest is held each year during the swine show at the fair. According to Coryell County Extension agent, Becky Coward, the children's division is non-competitive, and everyone gets a blue ribbon. The pig scramblers each received a certificate to cash in for \$100 towards the purchase of their first official CCYF project to show at the 2024 youth fair. Participating this year were: Ashby Barnett, Bliss Buckner, Rylie Cooley, Elli Kinnear, Mia Varona, Elizabeth Whisenhunt, Mason Williams, and Charles Yarbrough. Photos by Gina Ament.



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SCHOOL

School Resource Officers honored on national appreciation day

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is celebrated annually on Jan. 9. The holiday was founded in 2015 as a tribute to men and women across America who have made the sworn commitment to protect and serve our communities at all costs. The National Association of School Resource Officers

was brought to light in 1991 in order to provide the highest quality of training for school-based law enforcement. School-based policing is the fastest-growing area of law enforcement. With more than 3,000 NASRO members around the globe, the NASRO guarantees a safe learning environment for our youth

with the goal of protecting all children, so they can reach their full potential.

Gatesville Independent School District formed its own Police Department in October 2022, and their SROs include:

Officer Carol Brown, who has served at Gatesville Primary since 2019; Chief Gary

Stiles, who has served at Gatesville Elementary since 2019; Officer Justin Burgan, who has served at Gatesville Intermediate since 2020; Officer Bobby Cole, who has served at Gatesville Junior High since 2022; and SGT Damian White, who has served at the Gatesville High School since 2019.

The students of GISD honored their SROs by hanging "thank you" posters along the hallways and by presenting certificates of appreciation to each officer.

With more than 900,000 officers in the United States, it is essential to support law enforcers during difficult times — and a holiday dedi-

cated to them does exactly that. The day also raises awareness on the importance of understanding that the difficult decisions taken by officers are in the best interests of citizens and the law.



COURTESY PHOTO

Officer Carol Brown



COURTESY PHOTO

Officer Justin Burgan



COURTESY PHOTO

Officer Bobby Cole



COURTESY PHOTO

Chief Gary Stiles



COURTESY PHOTO

SGT Damian White

Tippit recognized at Temple College

Riann Tippit, a 2022 graduate of Gatesville High School, was recently placed on the President's Honor List at Temple College for the fall 2022 semester. Tippit is in her first year at Temple College where she is pursuing a degree to become a dental hygienist.

The college's criteria for a student to be placed on the President's Honor List is that a student must complete at least nine hours a semester and earn a 4.0 grade-point average.

Temple Junior College was founded in 1926 in response to the need for a postsecondary institution in Temple. The college is a result of the joint efforts of civic, business, and educational leaders. In the early years, the college was operated by the public school system and classes were held in the basement of the old Temple High School building.

In 1996, the name of the college was changed to Temple College to reflect its role as a comprehensive college,

offering transfer programs, technical education, community education, career and workforce training, and cultural activities. The college now offers day and evening classes; technical and workforce training; on-campus, online, hybrid, and web-enhanced courses; and continuing education classes. The campus in Temple now exceeds 108 acres, including 27 buildings.

GHS Band program to host mattress fundraiser Feb. 4

The Gatesville High School Band will hold a fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Gatesville High School located at 205 S. Lovers Lane. The event will be a "mattress fundraiser" and every purchase will benefit the school's band

program. The Beautyrest mattresses sold will include an adjustable base, luxury pillows, and mattress protectors. All sizes will be available, with 25 styles on display. The mattresses are brand new with full factory warranties including the

offer of delivery. All forms of payment are accepted with financing available. Those purchasing mattresses can save an extra \$50 off on any set over \$299.

Gatesville Junior High releases A, A/B honor roll students

Gatesville Junior High School recently released the names of students who qualified for the A and the A/B Honor Roll. The students included:

A HONOR ROLL 7th Grade

Olivia Aguilar, Lucas Appelman, Thomas Belt, Brooke Blanchard, Emily Boose, Kiley Branum, Tristin Campbell, Casey Comstock, Kenlee Daniels, Annalina Gutierrez, William Heath, Donovan Herrera, Gabriella Horton, Quinton Ivy, Grady Keeton, Lilly Kinsey, Annabelle Lea, Reagan Lea, Lila Long, Joseph Lonsetta, Alexis Miller, Austyn Pickle, Brensyn Pope, Colin Rainer, Sophia Salinas, Payton Sanderson, Mia Schenk, Adalyn Shelton, Jaxon Shepherd, Elliot Shoaf, Charlene Sutton, Jaelee Thornton, Elijah Tyson, Cal-

len Webb, Camden Webb, Emily Webb, Bracyn Wise.

8th Grade

Isabella Algood, Wyatt Baker, Trinity Barrow, Brooklyn Blanchard, Thomas Dean, Bradyn Gist, Riley Higginbotham, Samuel Howard, Bo Kelley, Anna McPherson, Lily Nielsen, Cody Norwood, Paisley Patterson, Fielder Shirley, Joshua Stephens, Levi Villagrana, Makaylie Williams, Bailey Wolff.

A/B HONOR ROLL 7th Grade

Omar Aguilar, Brycen Ashby, Aspy Austin, Lila Ayers, Jaelie Bajovich, Allison Barnett, Abigail Barron, Anabel Barron, Evelyn Bernquist, Jeremiah Breed, Braxton Brown, Kaydon Buster, Tomas Carrillo, Jacob Chambers, Kayleigh Cizek, Robert Conway, Isaac Crawford, Kevin Daniels, Kylee Davenport, Isa-

bella Davis, Bentley Dayton, Payton Dubay, Martin Foster, Braylynn Fritze, Giovanni Gamez, Paydon Garrett, Aubrianna Gilson, Lillian Goins, Julianna Harman, Draven Henderson, Hunter Hill, Abigail Hogan, Elizabeth Isaacs, Jaci Janisch, Krystiana Jimenez, Jordan Johns, Jennifer Johnson, Riley Kennedy, Jillianna Kim, Angelique Knox, Leonardo Leon, Asa Lynn-Hilton, Elizabeth Manczak-Taft, Kynlee Mangum, Lillian Mann, Maria Martinez Jaramillo, Preslee Mayberry, Yazlin Mejia, Jordan Miles, Seth Morris, Sofi Moya, Genesis Ortiz, Elijah Phillips, Kegan Redford, Wacey Saunders, Honor Searcy, Brenna Sharp, Eduardo Silva Hernandez, Callie Smith, Rogan Smith, Hailey Sutton, Leah Torres, Logan Waters, Jaycob Webb, Ryley Worster, Makenzie Wright.

8th Grade

Colby Aaron, Christine Abrahamson, Giovanni Arjon, Seth Baize, Graham Barron, Kyndal Beeman, Holton Bolting, Braxton Boyd, Kaiden Brennan, Caleb Bruschi, Katelyn Campbell, Chloe Corp, Emily Courson, Kala Davenport, Bradley Dickerson, Jaiden Ducette, Calie Earls, Jason Eaves, Jacob Ellerbe, Charlee Ferris, Cheyenne Geiken, Maygen

Glennon, Carson Griffith, Gabriel Hall, Noah Hill, Branson Hodges, Aiden Holden, Robin Johns, Brooklyn King, Madelyn Kipphen, Carlee Klutts, Amelia Langenstrass, Ethan Lara, Daniela Lee, Kayleen Lira, Justin Lowe, Kayla Mabry, Hunter Martin, Dominik Medina, Meghan Mehafeey, Jadan Moore, Jimmy Navejas, Christopher Newman, Braylen Nichols, Elihu Ortiz, Aiden Pankow,

Lextin Perkins, Kaylee Prince, Brooke Reavis, Javier Resendiz, Gerardo Rodriguez, Braxton Ruiz, Alyssa Saxon, Galileah Segura, Brylie Spencer, Payton Steel, Blake Stifflemire, Kaylen Thomas, Chloe Thompson, Lana Nicole Tyson, Daniel Uriarte, Brooklyn Wallace, Nathan Watson, Haeven Whitenburg, Kylie Williams.

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 JD 3039R/ Loader - 1412 transmission- 2017 model \$29,500
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 JD 5075m/ Loader - 2012 model - open station 4wd- 75 h.p. \$44,000
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- Cook - PRN
- Clinical Informatics Nurse - FT
- RN (\$10,000 sign on bonus) or LVN (Nights) - FT
- Admissions Clerk (Sat & Sun) - PT
- Admissions Clerk - FT & PRN
- Pharmacy Technician - FT
- Physical Therapist Assistant - FT
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- RN/LVN - FT nights
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- CNA - FT All Shifts
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GHS soccer teams continue success



GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Morgan Clary works to move the ball past an opposing defender. In their Jan. 17 game, the Hornets tied Mexia, 1-1. The Gatesville boys soccer team has a 4-0-2 record this season.



GLADYS WHITENBURG | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Andrea Ortiz kicks the ball for the Gatesville girls soccer team. The Hornets defeated Mexia 5-0 on Jan. 17 - their fifth straight victory.

Showing Gatesville grit



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Kamryn Higginbotham works the ball down court for the Hornets against Salado. The Gatesville girls were defeated by the Eagles, 52-35, on Jan. 17.

Eagles battle Bulldogs



ANGELA ASHBY | COURTESY PHOTO
Truett Foote scored 12 points for the Jonesboro JV Eagles in a 39-33 loss to the Hamilton Bulldogs. Jeremiah Forrest scored 11 for JHS.

GJHS boys beat Cadets, Oglesby falls to Mount Calm

Gatesville 8th grade A beats Connally

	1	2	3	4	OT	FINAL
Gatesville	9	7	6	11	5	38
Brownwood	12	6	10	5	2	35

Leading Scorers: Howard 11, Baker 8, Gist 7, Barron 7, Resendiz 2

with 10 points, Jaxon Markum with 10 points and Abram Shaw with four points. Aiden Oxford had four rebounds and two assists. Kayson Campbell had five rebounds.

CORRECTION

A Jan. 14 article about an Oglesby Junior High School basketball game incorrectly listed Holdyn Goff's point total. He scored 27 points.

Oglesby JH fall to Mount Calm
Standouts for Oglesby were: Holdyn Goff

Hall of Fame nominations sought

Nominations are now being taken for the Gatesville High School Athletics' Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

All nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 10 and inductees will be announced the week of Feb. 13-17.

The most recent class of inductees in 2022 featured Becca Whittle Wilhite, Jerry Sullivan, Larry Moore and the late Tommy Davidson,

along with basketball and track coach Gerald Poe and the 2009 Lady Hornets powerlifting team, which won the state championship.

Copies of the nomination form can be requested by emailing GISD Athletic Director Rickey Phillips at rgphilli@gatesvilleisd.org. Completed forms can be returned via email to Phillips or by mail to 215 South Lovers Lane, Gatesville Texas 76528.

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Improbable comeback leads Hornets past Eagles



SE'VETTE EARLY | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

Tyler Shea (23) and Rayshon Smith (1) team up to provide a smothering defense for the Hornets in their Jan. 17 win over Salado.

Gatesville erases 9-point deficit in thrilling OT victory

BY CHRIS ALLMAN
Sports Correspondent

In what was arguably one of the best games and undoubtedly the most remarkable finish in Gatesville basketball history, the Hornets erased a nine-point deficit over a 38-second stretch in the final minute of the fourth quarter to defeat Salado 95-84 in overtime on Tuesday.

West Allman buried a three-pointer from the top of the key with 10 seconds left to tie the game at 76-76 and the Hornets survived a potential game winner from Salado's Noah Self to force overtime. In the extra period, Gatesville (22-4, 1-1) outscored the Eagles by a 19-8 margin to secure the Hornets' first district win.

The Eagles (8-18, 1-1) led 76-67 with exactly one minute to play after Salado's Darius Wilson made the first of his two free throw attempts. He missed the second, giving Gatesville the ball and beginning the process of the most unlikely of finishes.

Below is a play-by-play of the furious final minute:

- Banner Allman converts a driving layup and is fouled with 48 seconds left. He misses the free throw attempt. Salado leads 76-69.

- West Allman steals the ensuing inbound pass and lays it in with 42 seconds left. Salado leads 76-71.

- Following a Gatesville timeout, Kase Cox picks up a steal and passes to West Allman. Allman tries to hit a cutting Rayshon Smith but Salado knocks the ball out of bounds and Gatesville retains possession with 32 seconds left trailing 76-71.

- Banner Allman scores on another driving layup with 29 seconds left. Salado leads 76-73.

- Salado calls timeout with 22 seconds left to avoid a backcourt violation.

- After the timeout, Salado mishandles the inbound pass and the ball goes out of bounds and back to the Hornets.

- West Allman tries to hit Banner Allman at the top of the key but the ball is knocked out of bounds by the Eagles. The Hornets retain possession trailing 76-73 with 18 seconds left.



Banner Allman

- West Allman takes the inbound pass from Smith, takes two dribbles to his right, slips to a knee, regains his footing, and hits a three-pointer with 10 seconds left. Game tied 76-76.

- Allman said he was intent on getting a game-tying shot away, he just needed the room to do it.

- "I knew that I was going to shoot the ball so all I was trying to do was create a little space and shoot," he said.

- "That was crazy," Banner Allman said. "The first thing I thought (when the game-tying three went in) was 'oh my gosh he just made that' but then I realized there was still time on the clock and I was just trying to get everybody to realize that and get back."

- Admittedly, most hope seemed lost by the time Wilson's free throw put the Eagles up by nine.

- "I really didn't think we had much of a chance and I think everybody kind of thought that but we didn't act like it," said Banner Allman. "We still played as hard as we



West Allman

- could and didn't show any signs of doubt."

- "I know how good our team is and that we had a chance to win but I also knew how hard it was going to be to win that game," added West Allman.

- In the overtime period the Eagles scored first to make it 78-76 but Smith responded with a driving layup to tie it.

- After Salado went up 80-78, Smith struck again with another penetration and score to tie the game at 80-80. The sophomore guard was terrific for the Hornets scoring seven points in the opening frame and then getting six of his 18 points in overtime.

- Gatesville seemed to create some breathing room when Banner Allman knocked down two free throws to make it 84-81 with 2:04 to play, but the Eagles came right back and tied the game at 84-84 on a three-point play from Ball.

- On the ensuing possession, Shea drove and passed to West Allman, who hit a three-pointer that turned out to be the game-winner. It gave the Hornets an 87-84 lead that

they would not relinquish as they scored the final eight points of the game from the foul line for the 95-84 win.

That the Hornets were even in a position to need a comeback was a bit of a surprise.

For starters, Salado came into game with a record of 8-17 and had lost five straight before squeaking past Robinson 57-54 in their district opener. Then they found themselves down 29-21 after the first quarter and trailed 39-25 early in the second quarter before mounting a charge thanks to Self's hot hand.

The senior guard scored eight points in the quarter - including a pair of three-pointers to pull the Eagles to within 10 points, 46-36, at halftime.

The Eagles continued their three-point barrage into the second half.

In the third quarter, junior Luke Law hit a pair of threes for the Eagles as they cut the deficit to 57-52 after three quarters. To open the fourth quarter Self hit a three to make it 57-55, then the Eagles tied it at 57-57 thanks to two free throws from freshman Levi Ball.

A three from Self gave Salado the lead at 60-57 and he extended it to 63-58 with his fifth three of the game. The Eagles' final three-pointer from Darius Wilson later extended the lead to 66-60.

The Eagles made 11 three-pointers and shot 44% from behind the arc. They also picked up 22 offensive rebounds that led to 16 second-chance points.

The Hornets shot just 26% from the three-point line but forced 20 turnovers - while committing just nine of their own - and converting those turnovers into 28 points. They also scored 52 points in the paint.

Banner Allman led all scorers with 26 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for his eighth double-double of the season. West Allman finished with 24 points, six rebounds, and six steals. Smith had six rebounds and four assists to go with his 18 points and Shea scored 16 points - 12 of which came in the fourth quarter and overtime.

The Hornets join the Eagles, China Spring and Waco La Vega at 1-1 in District 23-4A. Connally leads the district at 2-0 while Robinson is 0-2. Gatesville travels to La Vega on Jan. 20 while Salado hosts China Spring.

Area Fishing Report

Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 13.75 feet below pool. The recent weather warmup has improved the white bass and hybrid fishing in 24-34 feet of water. Bird action is not consistent enough to plan a trip around, but rather enough to provide a bonus. The smallest Bladed Hazy Eye Slab, 3/8 ounce, in white with a stinger hook is a good default bait. A slow-smoking retrieve or a long, slow pull upward off bottom works well for active fish, and snap-jiggling on bottom works well for inactive fish. If immobile, suspended fish are found on sonar, deadsticking is a good approach for

such fish. Mid-morning and just before sunset seem to be the most consistently productive times. Eater catfish are good in depths under 20 feet of water. Larger blue and flathead catfish have been caught on shallow points near ledges using fresh cut bait. Channel catfish have been fair around brush piles in warmer water areas. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing. Crappie are fair with a few catches in deep water off the river channel with ATX lures.

Stillhouse

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 11.62 feet below pool. The recent warmup and stable weather has improved

white bass fishing. As is often the case on Stillhouse, these January and February fish are of high quality in length and girth. As a bonus, quality largemouth bass are also beginning to show up in the catch.

Bird action by gulls and terns is slowly making a comeback. Just a handful, under a dozen birds, seen working a patch of water is worth investigating, as only low numbers of gulls and terns typically use this lake in the winter. Use the smallest Bladed Hazy Eye Slab, 3/8 ounce, in white with a stinger hook. A slow-smoking retrieve or a long, slow pull upward off bottom works well for active fish.