



GHS Assistant Principal Becky Lanham has been nominated for the Association of Texas Professional Educators Educator of the Year Award in the administrator category. The winner will be announced at their convention to be held this summer. Courtesy Photo

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. GHS with a smile that moves mountains

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The way I see it is that if I impact just one kid, then through them I will impact others. That is amazing.”

Amazing doesn't begin to cover Rashaud's four years of high school.

“Being a Bear has impacted me hard,” Rashaud said. “I've learned how to carry myself and show people who I am.”

Rashaud has racked up the honors while in high school including being named Mr. GHS this past Saturday night in Spotlight on GHS. That honor comes from the vote of the student body and faculty, as well as the consideration of character and service. That friendly and warm spirit also led to Rashaud being named Most Courteous, while his athletic prowess earned him the title of Most Athletic.

Mr. Athletic was this year's District 8-3A All District MVP, in 2017 he was an All District linebacker and earned second team honors as fullback as well. The standout was also named Most Outstanding Student for the first three years of high school, a class favorite, football beau and both a Rotary and Lion's Club Student of the Month.

“Coach Berry and Coach Lindsey have always pushed me to drive hard. And when I feel like stopping they encourage me to keep going,” Rashaud said. “That makes me come out victorious.”

With ambitions of being an engineer Rashaud credits the whole Gladewater High School staff for “always encouraging me.”

“GHS is like a home for everyone,” Rashaud said. “The staff, everyone just gets along and they have great relationships with us.”

His inner strength comes from his faith and his mother Tamica Green.

“My Mom is my backbone and has shown me what a man should do and how he should act,” Rashaud said. “I strive so hard because I need to take care of her in the future. I knew we didn't have much and saw how hard it was on my mom. So, I have always been humble and happy for every blessing I have.”

Although well on his way to being a grounded man, Rashaud still the kid, cites his favorite movie as “Cars”.

“Lightning McQueen made an amazing self change. He valued others, loved deeply and had no arrogance,” Rashaud said. “My favorite TV show is “Dragon Ball” because I am a nerd. Just kidding. Really because, the main character loves deeply and will do anything for his friends. Also he loves the challenges he has to endure.”

Much like the young man who is much loved and respected throughout the community. And with good reason.

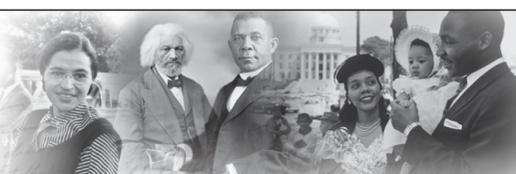
“My three most important values are: family, because no matter what, they will always be there for me. I have a special bond I just can't hold back,” Rashaud said. “God, because He is my Almighty Father whom I will love forever, and finally, my self because I need to be the best I can be.”

Rashaud Johnson is well on his way to being that best.

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Upshur Co. methamphetamine trafficking operation busted

TYLER – U.S. Attorney Joseph D. Brown announced today that seven individuals have been arrested and indicted as the result of a lengthy investigation into drug trafficking activities in the Eastern District of Texas.

Beginning in 2017, a combined task force of federal, state and local law enforcement began a multi-agency investigation into the trafficking of methamphetamine in and around Upshur County, Texas. During the course of the investigation, law enforcement agencies conducted numerous audio- and video-recorded controlled purchases of methamphetamine from suspects. Furthermore, law enforcement officers and agents executed search and arrest warrants, seizing additional quantities of methamphetamine and firearms.

This operation resulted in the arrests of Roger Dale Hall, 53; Denise Michelle Taylor, 35; Christopher Dewayne Bunn, 43; Shaun Dale Weeks, 43; Jessie Darwin Ezell, 37; Darrell Lynn Gage, Jr., 41; and Kenny Okeith Harris, 32, all of Gilmer, Texas.

The defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury on Dec. 13, 2018, and charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. In addition, Weeks, Bunn, and Harris are charged with firearms offenses including felon in possession of a firearm and use,

carrying, and possession of a firearm during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Hall, Taylor, Bunn, Weeks, Ezell, and Gage each have prior federal or state felony convictions relating to the possession and distribution of controlled substances. The defendants have appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Roy Payne. The indictment remained sealed by the court until Feb. 4, 2019, and after the final defendant, Roger Dale Hall, was arrested.

If convicted, the defendants could each face from five to 40 years in federal prison.

“These arrests have made a big impact on the supply of methamphetamine in this part of East Texas,” said U.S. Attorney Joe Brown. “The defendants were moving large amounts of drugs, and staying in the more rural areas to avoid detection. Credit really goes to the cooperation of several local, state, and federal agencies which worked together to take these people off the street.”

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Upshur County Sheriff's Office, the Gregg County Sheriff's Office, the Upshur County District Attorney's Office, the Gregg County Organized Drug Enforcement (CODE) Unit, and the Gilmer Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lucas Machicek.

KC Theatre to host HS One-Act Play Workshop

The Kilgore College Theatre department will host its annual One-Act-Play Workshop for area high school drama programs competing this spring in the University Interscholastic League's statewide theatre competition.

The workshop is set for Feb. 20-23 and Feb. 25-27 in Van Cliburn Auditorium on the Kilgore campus.

Students from all over Texas will attend the workshop to perform their one-act plays and receive critiques from KC Theatre faculty and Texas Shakespeare Festival staff members.

They will also have the chance to tour KC, including the Texas Shakespeare Festival Center, to get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes of producing such a massive theatrical festival.

“Workshop enrollment has grown from five to 30 school districts over the last five years, attracting more than 700 students and teachers each season,” said Micah Gooding, KC theatre instructor.

“This is now this one of the best-attended one-act events in the state, resulting in increased enrollment for the KC Theatre program.”

Happy Valentine's Day

To Suzanne From Jim