

Weather Record							
Date	1-29	1-30	1-31	2-1	2-2	2-3	2-4
High	31	25.6	27.8	44.4	58.5	67	61.4
Low	15.7	7.2	7.5	27.9	24.9	41	45.6
Prec	0	0	0	0.01	0	0	0.13

Reporting period for each day runs from midnight to midnight. Statistics from Kentucky Mesonet's Bengal Station.



Billy "Bud" Gartin was the guest speaker at the Black History Month celebration.



At the conclusion of the Black History Month program at GCHS Saturday, those in attendance joined hands and sang, "Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand."

Gartin speaks at annual Black History event

BY CLEVIS JEFFRIES
STAFF WRITER

The Greensburg/Lea County League of Citizens Foundation hosted its 20th annual Black History Month Celebration Saturday evening at Green County High School.

Greensburg native Billy Brandon "Bud" Gartin was the guest speaker.

The theme was "20 Years of Unity."

Larry and Carolyn Compton served as Master and Mistress of Ceremony with Breanna Embry reading the Purpose of Black History Month. The Second Baptist Choir provided the special music.

League of Citizens Foundation President Jerry Cowherd recognized elected officials who were in attendance.

Samanthia Embry and James "Sonny" Shively presented Breanna Embry with the Outstanding Youth Award.

Guest speaker Billy "Bud" Gartin of Garner, North Carolina, currently serves as sergeant over the reality-based training unit with the Raleigh Police Department.

A 1997 Green County High School graduate and member of the GCHS Football Hall of Fame, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion and Counseling from Liberty University.

Sgt. Gartin has



Rev. Andre Calhoun presented the U.J. Wood Good Neighbor Award to Nancy Henry.

been employed the last 16 years with the Raleigh Police Department and in 2013 was awarded the department's highest honor, The Medal of Valor.

He is a specialized instructor in firearms, subject control arrest techniques, physical fitness, pepper spray, ground fighting, crowd control and chemical munitions.

The police sergeant is a military veteran, having served in the United States Marine Corps.

The Greensburg native is also a co-founder/owner of a small product development and training company, SpearPoint Technologies LLC, that assists LLC in protecting themselves and provides

classes and training to individuals and companies.

He is married to his wife of 17 years, Tiffany, and they have two children, son James and daughter Kylei.

Police Sergeant Gartin delivered a powerful and inspiring message, directed primarily toward the young people in attendance.

The sergeant shared his life experiences with the audience and spoke of the five truths to accomplishing one's goals.

His concluding remarks were, "Achieving success is not a matter of luck, but rather a matter of delivered and focused process, coupled with sound decision-making. Success is not an accident; it's a result. So be mindful by the truth, set goals and attack them, understanding that wanting something is not enough, it's only part of the process. Base your decisions and make your decisions well beyond the implications of the day.

Never mind the nay-sayers, your future is in your own hands and most important, spend your time at the top of the hill. Build a foundation of faith and seeking God's purpose for your life. It's my prayer that all of you are blessed with the wonderful experience of setting and achieving your goals."

Reflecting on the importance of celebrating Black History Month, LCF President Jerry Cowherd provided a thought taken from part of the "Circle of Life" lyrics of the famous musical "The Lion King" which said, "It's the circle of life, and it moves us all, through despair and hope, through faith and love, till we find our place, on the path unwinding."

"Dr. King and others laid the foundation for a better society and it's up to us to know our history and improve upon the many opportunities that have been presented to us as a people," he said.



Photos by Clevis Jeffries

Samanthia Embry, left, presented Breanna Embry with the Outstanding Youth Award.



LCF President Jerry Cowherd recognized the elected officials in attendance.



Alberta Thornton presented a memorial moment of local African Americans.



Mary Cowherd gave the welcome.



Breanna Embry read the Purpose of Black History Month.



Larry and Carolyn Compton served as Master and Mistress of Ceremony at the Black History Month program.



LCF member Mike Ingram presents a program to Gaye McCubbin during the annual Black History Month Celebration Saturday evening at GCHS.



The Second Baptist Choir provided the special music.