



Uptick in COVID cases recorded in Coryell County

BY SABRINA ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Coryell County is recording more COVID cases in July than in the previous two months.

The county was previously tracking 1-3 new cases over a seven-day rolling average for the months of May and June. The average has since spiked to about 4-6 new cases in July.

For the week of July 11-17, over 38 new cases were reported in the county. The previous week saw 23

new cases. As of last Friday, the county is reporting about 75 active cases, with at least one reported case of the new Delta variant.

Coryell County Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Harrell said the county normally sees one to two new cases a day on average, but over the last couple of days the county has seen 10 times as many, which is a considerable uptick.

"We still want everyone to talk to their providers to see if they're able to get vaccinated," said Harrell.

"Not a whole lot is going to change until we get a lot more people to get vaccinated."

Harrell said it's important for everyone who is eligible to try to receive the full vaccine. He worries those under age 12 are spreading the virus to each other because they have not had the vaccine.

The rising trend of infections could force the county back to stricter COVID restrictions, he said.

In Coryell County, 30% of the population eligible to receive a

vaccine has been vaccinated, and about 35% have received at least one dose. This translates to just over 19,700 individuals over the age of 12 being fully vaccinated and about 22,600 who have received the first dose.

Texas is ranked 38th in the nation for percentage of population fully vaccinated. Vermont is first with 80% fully vaccinated. Last is Alabama with less than 35% of its people fully vaccinated.

According to the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is potentially about 20% more transmissible than other variants.

To avoid transmission of the virus, it is best to continue to socially distance whenever possible, wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer, wear a mask if not vaccinated yet and receive the vaccine(s) if eligible, according to the CDC website.

For more information, visit the CDC website.

Gatesville asks state to study truck routes



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

TRAFFIC CONNUNDRUM: A truck hauling a wind turbine blade makes its way through Gatesville stopping traffic as it navigates through tight streets.

Loads of heavy wind turbine and oil field equipment pose traffic issues, according to city officials

BY SABRINA ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry recently wrote a letter to the Texas Department of Transportation

about doing a study on the increased traffic of wind turbine and oil field equipment through town.

In the letter, Parry requests that TxDOT look at both U.S. Hwy. 84 and 36 corridors to see if there are

ways to ease traffic congestion. The city is also concerned with the weight of the vehicles hauling the equipment and how they might impact the road.

Parry wrote the city would wel-

come feasible options to bypass the downtown area of Gatesville completely.

Residents in Gatesville have voiced their frustrations on social media — saying how inconvenient

the routes have become, often stopping traffic where the two highways intersect.

Gatesville school district dates to remember

If you are a Gatesville Independent School District parent, here are a few dates to remember:

THURSDAY, AUG. 12 will be the first day of school.

MONDAY, JULY 26, 5:30 p.m., the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Gatesville High School to dedicate the renovation and additions to the high school.

TUESDAY, AUG. 3, 6th grade schedule pick up from 8:30 a.m.-noon and Wednesday, Aug. 4 from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

MONDAY, AUG. 9, 5-6:30 p.m., Pre-

K open house at the Gatesville Primary School.

TUESDAY, AUG. 10, meet the teacher and open house at the following Gatesville campuses:

- Primary (Kindergarten) 5-6:30 p.m.
- Elementary, 5:30-7 p.m.
- Intermediate, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Junior High, 5:30-7 p.m.
- High School, 7-8:30 p.m.

For more information, call 254-865-7251.

TAP THOSE TOES AS THE FIDDLE SINGS

The Elderly Brothers recently played the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame Stage Show at the City Auditorium. After a year without shows due to the pandemic, the group performed to an appreciative audience. The "Texas Elderly Brothers," five old timers from Lampasas, wooed the audience with various types of toe tappin' music.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: How long does it take for a COVID vaccine to be effective?

A: It typically takes two weeks after you are fully vaccinated for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Send us your questions:
editor@gatesvillemessenger.com
Call: 254-865-5212

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COUNTY WIDE

Event to benefit electrocuted man

A benefit will be held August 1 for Jason Shields who was recently electrocuted by a power line on Main Street. Shields remains hospitalized at Dell Seton's burn trauma center in Austin. The benefit will be held at Bare Bones Barbeque located at 4302 S. Texas Hwy. 36. The benefit will include music, a live and silent auction and a corn hole tournament.

Local church to see 'Greater Vision' show

The Christian Adult Fellowship Events group

(C.A.F.E.) at the First United Methodist Church is going to a performance by Tennessee gospel group "Greater Vision" Aug. 14.

The group will leave at 11:30 a.m. from the Methodist Church, eat at Rosa's Cafe, then go to the concert at 3 p.m.

A ticket and transportation is \$30. For more information, call Ruth Jones at 254-865-2112.

Due to the popularity of the group, tickets must be purchased no later than July 22. The church can be reached at 254-865-2520.

Senior center needs drivers

The Gatesville Senior Cen-

ter is looking for drivers for its Meals on Wheels program.

Drivers are volunteers and are not paid positions.

Anyone interested in delivering meals to the seniors and shut-ins should call the Gatesville Senior Center Director, Tonya Sikes, at 254-865-8234.

The Gatesville Senior Center is located at 208 N. Luterloh Avenue.

Message of truth, hope at Pearl Baptist

With a message of truth and hope, evangelist and Purple Heart recipient, Dave Roeveer, will speak at Pearl Baptist Church Sunday, July

25, at 6 p.m. under the tabernacle.

Food and fellowship begins at 4:30 p.m.

Roeveer uses his life as an example to help his audience with their problems. He weaves together a message of courage, commitment and survival that touches and transforms those who hear him.

The public is invited to the church which is located at 6795 FM 183 in Pearl. For more information, call Connie Long at 254-223-0621.

Vacation Bible school coming to Live Oak Baptist

Live Oak Baptist Church will hold its Vacation Bible

School July 26-28 from 5:30-8 p.m.

A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the Bible study promptly begins at 6 p.m.

The theme this year is "The Great Escape!! Featuring Jonah." The Bible School will be for children ages 4 through leaving 6th grade.

Register online at <https://forms.gle/Db5LovHJYQF8cbvA6>.

Live Oak Baptist Church is located at 113 FM 107, Gatesville. For more information, call 254-865-5681.

Williamson reunion set for early August

The descendants of Stephen and Sarah Williamson

will hold their Williamson Family Reunion in Gatesville on August 6-7, 2021.

The reunion will be held Friday, Aug. 6, at 5:30 p.m. with a dinner at The Feed Mill Restaurant. The family will then gather at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 7, at Ranchers Steakhouse in Gatesville for visiting, lunch and a brief business meeting.

Paula Melbern Weeks, of Hewitt, is the chairperson of the Williamson Reunion. Information about the reunion has been sent via mail to all known family members, but if you are a descendant and haven't received a note, please contact Paula Weeks at 254-855-6123 or Marsha Richards at 832-233-2725.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU COLUMN

5 ways local businesses can make a positive community impact

Local businesses provide a host of benefits for communities across the nation, contributing to a diverse and dynamic marketplace that strengthens and reinforces ethical business practices. In addition to the charm and personality local businesses add to a community, they also provide practical benefits such as economic and charitable contributions. As they grow and succeed, local businesses bolster the surrounding area and can make a positive impact on their community in five main ways.

GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY:

A common way that local business can make a positive community impact is through community involvement. Community involvement can take a variety of forms, including:

- Charity drives. By organizing and hosting a charity drive, local businesses are able to promote causes that are important to them or the community they serve. BBB recommends using a Wise Giving Alliance accredited nonprofit organization, which must pass the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability, and for local businesses to research a chosen charity on Give.org to

verify their legitimacy.

- Partnering with local organizations. By partnering with local organizations, local businesses can give back to their community through donations, sponsorships, volunteering or promotion. It is also a fantastic way to meet local officials and community leaders, strengthening the relationship between the business and the community they serve.

- Volunteering at community events. Interacting and volunteering at local events, such as holiday events or park cleanup initiatives, is a great way to demonstrate a local business' values and dedication to

their community. It is also a fantastic networking opportunity for a local business to understand the needs of their community and how best they could serve those needs.

CREATE A UNIQUE COMMUNITY IDENTITY

A street lock of local businesses has a much greater cultural value than one with large chain stores. Each small business brings a measure of unique character to the community, and long-established local businesses eventually become a part of the community identity, history and culture.

Local businesses are most often owned by members of

the community themselves and form meaningful relationships with their customers. Communities take pride in their unique culture and identity and often appreciate local businesses that they feel personally invested in as customers and employees.

CONTRIBUTE TO A COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC HEALTH

As a business becomes more successful and profitable, this success is recycled back into the local economy. Due to the fact that a local business must pay local taxes, a portion of their revenue goes directly back into the community. Additionally, many local businesses source services and goods that they require from other businesses in the area rather than from large corporations, strengthening the overall business in the community.

When local businesses are more successful, they create new job opportunities for the local population. These

workers will often spend the money they earn through the job in the local market, promoting business growth and contributing to local economic development.

INSPIRE, INNOVATE AND COMPETE

As a local business grows and succeeds, other community members might be inspired to start a business of their own. When those new businesses grow, they generate competition and the need for innovation, resulting in a diverse set of local businesses that are all striving to meet the needs of the community in unique ways. Small businesses can also provide hiring and training opportunities to the community, teaching people the necessary skills to eventually run their own local business.

PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLINESS

Local businesses tend to have a lighter environmental and infrastructural impact

than large chain businesses. Small businesses can usually take advantage of original or remodeled historical buildings and can often be operated from home, minimizing the environmental impact of office buildings and travel.

Local retailers and manufacturers can also produce, access and distribute goods in more sustainable ways. Manufacturers can access materials locally, restaurants can source their food and supplies from community farms and businesses can distribute locally, lowering emissions from transportation and freight.

For more business tips and to view the latest business news from BBB, visit BBB.org/SmallBusiness. To learn how you can help support local businesses, visit BBB.org.

CORYELL MUSEUM

Cattle and Leghorn Chickens

BY JANN DWORSKY

Miss Zelma Scott wrote A History of Coryell County in 1965 and found in the museum collections are hundreds of her personal letters, tied in bundles or stapled together like the Grubb family letters. Below is part of a letter in his own words from Dave Grubb in 1945:

*Dear Zelma,
When we first settled on the Dry Fork (of Plum Creek just northeast of Purlmela) father, mother, Tom and I we had an orphan boy that come to make his home with us. His name was Jim Taylor. He lived with us 18 or 20 years. In our early home life in the log home, mother had an old fashion spinning wheel and bats to weave cotton. We had quilting frames and in the*

summer mother would use scrap cloth and piece them together and quilted them on those frames and we always had plenty of cover for the beds. We also had plenty of water at all times and fish.

Our hogs and cattle were all marked the same, swallow fork and under bit in the right ear and the left ear under half crop. Horses and mules were branded the same brand on the right

hip with backwards E and R together and was put on record with the county clerk in several counties. When the cold northers would come the cattle would all drift south over a good many counties, no fences to stop them, the country was all open.

Today, I am enjoying our rain. I sold my calves about a month ago for \$40 each, keeping the best heifer calves. I am now in the white Leg-

horn chicken business and September 10th I have 100 four week old pullets coming from Sedalia Missouri in the Express Office in Hamilton. I think good Hereford cattle and white leghorns are a good combination to make money.

*Your Friend,
Dave Grubb*

Coryell Museum is open 10-4 p.m. Wednesday thru

Saturday. We love our visitors to come and see the museum. We recently had two sisters, Cindy and Barbara, who graduated from Gatesville High in the 60's come and entertain us as they went thru the museum.

Many preparations are being made for Spurfest on September 18 so mark your calendars.

Livestock disaster benefits available

Producers in Coryell County are eligible to apply for 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on small grain, native pasture, and improved pasture.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits

producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 31, 2022, for 2021 losses.

For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the Coryell County USDA Service Center at 254-865-7012 or visit fsa.usda.gov



ALONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

This lone sunflower was captured recently at the home of Trey and Jessica Smith off of Levita Road in Gatesville.

PHOTO BY BAILEY DICKIE



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Chief Operations Officer
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

Managing Editor
DAVID MONTESINO
david@hcnews.com

General Manager
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

DEADLINES:

Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by noon Friday for the Wednesday issue and noon 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. The Gatesville Messenger is not responsible for copy omission, typographical error or any unintentional error other than to publish a correction.

(ISSN-08944954) | P.O. Box 799, Gatesville, TX 76528 | 116 South 6th St., Gatesville, Texas 76528 | 254-865-5212
The Gatesville Messenger is published every Wednesday and Saturday by Messenger Publishing Co. Inc., Periodical class postage paid at Gatesville, TX 76528.

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.

NEWS FROM PEARL

Erwin Davis: Hero, fixture in community will be missed

BY BETSY CLARK

The Pearl community is sad to report the loss of Erwin Davis, a Pearl native and World War II veteran and hero. Davis passed away in Austin, Texas, where he had made his home for many years. One of the highlights of the Pearl Bluegrass Saturdays is that he attended as often as he could. He loved Pearl dearly, and Pearl loved him back. Davis was at the May grand reopening of the bluegrass event, and he was back again in June. He was unable to attend in July, but he had called Linda in early July and said that he planned to be there in August. What a wonderful man he was, and how greatly he will be missed.



Clark

and bring your family and friends! Everyone is always welcomed to attend. Pearl Cottage Bookstore will also be open on August 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shop the over 6,000 used books and various and sundry other items. It's buy what you want, pay what you want in most cases, and every penny goes to local charities. Linda, Kay, Corlisa, and I will heartily welcome you and treat you like long-lost family—well—the long, lost family that we love, anyway!

CEMETARY FUNDRAISER
The Pearl Cemetery As-

sociation has plans to build a pavilion to protect attendees from the often-harsh weather conditions during interments and services. The projected cost is \$4,000, and donations are being accepted at this time. You may send a personal donation or a donation in memory of a loved one to Pearl Cemetery Association, C/O Linda Ray, 1771 CR 152, Purmela, TX 76566. If you have any questions, you can contact Linda at 254-865-9282. Thank you in advance for your support! Also, the next Cemetery Board meeting will be Aug. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Pearl Community Center. All are welcome to attend.

HAMPTON REUNION

The annual Hampton Reunion was held at the Pearl Community Center last weekend. A large attendance was reported, and we hear everyone enjoyed themselves very much. If you would like to rent this building for a reunion or gathering, please contact Connie Long at 254-223-0621 for

more details.

The next big event at the Pearl Church of Christ is on September 5. The annual Atchley Fish Fry/Scholarship Auction will take place at the church. The auction items will be set up in the dining room/kids Bible Classroom by Sunday, August 22. The monies received from the auction will benefit local scholarships. There is no charge to enjoy the delicious fried fish, so come have a meal, enjoy the fellowship, and have fun placing your bids! Everyone is invited!

TEENEY-WEENEY, TURQUOISE GREENY, STRINGY BIKINI

As of right now, there are no further developments on the case of the traveling, teeny-weeny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini. It remains right where it was last week, green sack with the menacing note and all. I can almost promise you that it will not stay in its current location for long, so expect further developments in the next week or so. I hear someone has her thinking cap on,

and plans are being made to dispense with the offensive item in the near future. You will definitely want to stay tuned—and watch your back if you're part of the sisterhood of the traveling bikini (or soon to be new member), wink-wink!

The closing Bible verse for this week comes from Joshua 1:9—"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (NIV)

To keep up with the latest Pearl news online, you can go to the "Pearl Cottage Bookstore" Facebook page, the "Pearl Community Center" Facebook page, or the "Pearl Church of Christ" Facebook page. The Pearl Community Center also has a website: www.pearltxcommunitycenter.com. Or you can contact me at betsyclark47@yahoo.com for information or to submit any Pearl news that you might have.

Plans continue to be made for the August 7th Bluegrass event. Please call Anji Pearl Day if you would like to be part of the stage line-up at 325-665-7996. Anji and her husband, Charlie, will be going to Nashville to be featured on the #therebeccamaelawlessshow. We are so excited for them! I will have to get Anji and Charlie's au-

tographs for sure! Speaking of the Bluegrass event, remember that the doors of the Community Center open at 7 a.m. for picking and grinning. The kitchen opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. The free stage show begins at 1 p.m. Our dear Rachel Bates will host a slow jam beginning at 10 a.m. Please come

The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of July 15-18. 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

JULY 15

3:36 a.m., criminal trespassing was reported in the 6900 block of Owl Creek Park Road.
11:09 a.m., a hit and run was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
3:13 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 200 block of Mulberry Avenue.
4:26 p.m., harassment was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.
5:10 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 300 block of S. 8th Street.
6:45 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Mesa Drive.

JULY 16

9:39 a.m., burglary was reported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.
10:58 a.m., an accident was reported in the 2300 block of Ransom Road.
11:18 a.m., an accident was reported in the 1600 block of West Main Street.
7:41 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2500 block of Powell Drive.
11:29 p.m., reckless driving was reported in the 1600 block of North State Highway 36.

JULY 17

1:51 a.m., an intoxicated driver was reported in the 2300 block of East Main Street.
2:47 p.m., theft was reported in the 100 block of South 23rd Street.
3:32 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 100

block of North State Highway 36.
8:47 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36
11:14 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 2000 block of Waco Street.

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JULY 18

Midnight, a disturbance was reported in the 2500 block of Oak Drive.
11:04 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 200 block of Old Osage Road.
4:22 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 1600 block of West Main Street.
9:42 p.m., an accident was reported on FM 215.
11 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 110 block of North 24th Street.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JULY 15

12:18 a.m., a fight in progress was reported in the

1800 block of FM 580.
7:57 a.m., a K-9 search was reported on E. Hwy. 84 at the National Bank.
11:21 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 3100 block of FM 1113.
2:20 p.m., livestock was reported on Hwy. 84 10 miles outside Gatesville.
5:49 p.m., stalking was reported in the 100 block of Gates Drive.
6:18 p.m., trespassing was reported in the 3000 block of FM 1113.
7:18 p.m., a threat was reported in the 2600 block of Snow Road.

JULY 16

8:34 a.m., debris in the roadway was reported at the intersection of FM 107 and County Road 315.
11:21 a.m., livestock was reported in the 6000 block of FM 932.
11:47 a.m., trespassing was reported in the 110 block of Harrell Drive.
2:53 p.m., a reckless driver was reported at the intersection of Highway 36 and 1114.
3:10 p.m., a scam was reported in the 500 block of County Road 143.

JULY 17

2:08 a.m., suspicious vehicle was reported in the 200 block of Lindas Lane.
7:28 a.m., theft was reported in the 500 block of East Leon Street.
10:39 a.m., a reckless driver was reported at the intersection of Highway 84 and South Mountain.
7:45 p.m., shots fired at South Mountain.
8:23 p.m., animal com-

plaint was reported in the 1100 block of Sierra Vista Drive.

JULY 18

4:47 a.m., reckless driving was reported at the intersection of Clear Creek and Ser-

vice Road.
7:25 a.m., burglary was reported in the 160 block of Tom Sawyer.
1:17 p.m., shots fired in the 310 block of Hunter John Drive.
4:27 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 160

block of Tom Sawyer.
11:06 p.m., welfare concern was reported at the intersection of Highway 9 and Old George Town Road.

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THE GREAT ESCAPE!!
FEATURING: JONAH

Vacation Bible School
July 26-28
5:30pm-8pm
Meal @ 5:30-VBS starts @6

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254.865.5681

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Ages 4 thru leaving 6th Grade

Leon Word: The king of hushpuppies

BY TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Leon Word of Gladewater had a 30-year career with Eastman Chemical.

When he retired in 2004 he went to work doing what he likes to do most: make hushpuppies. His company makes a lot of them, sometimes a million and a half a week.

"I think I'm a hushpuppy connoisseur," Leon says. "I know what a good hushpuppy ought to taste like. When I started I actually used donut-manufacturing equipment to make them. It was a little hopper and you turned the crank and it spit out 3

hushpuppies into a tabletop fryer."

He experimented with a recipe one afternoon until he got it right, then started peddling his hushpuppies to stores, demonstrating them on the premises.

I kinda looked like San-

ford and Son going down the interstate. I had a trailer on the back of a pickup that had 4 freezers running off a generator but that's how I distributed my product: north of I-20 one day, south one day east to the Shreveport area one day, west one day then Sunday afternoons I'd be making dry mix for the next week."

The demand for his product grew way beyond what he could make in his kitchen, so he decided to go with a food jobber.

"I knew I had a good product. In 5 years we've grown from sitting on the front

porch wondering if we would cook today to distributing a couple of 18-wheeler loads a week all over the country including Hawaii and Alaska, even Puerto Rico.

"Our product goes exclusively to Wal-Mart under the Great Value label. You can find it next to the frozen shrimp. They're crispy on the outside and light and fluffy on the inside no matter how you cook them. The best way we've found is air frying. If you have an air fryer set the temperature at 350 degrees and go from freezer to air fryer 8 minutes and they're perfect.

"You can think of a hushpuppy as a cornbread substitute that you don't have to mix up and cook in a pan. They're great with chili and are a great accompaniment to any home cooking. I've had people just fix them as snacks."

Leon is one talented salesman. It goes with believing in his product. At trade shows he would amaze people by showing up with just an air fryer. They were surprised that he didn't have an old-fashioned hot oil frying apparatus with him. He says he could have sold a truckload of air fryers at those shows.

He was extremely reluctant to give up his recipe, knowing it was a good one. He went through several food brokers before he decided on one he could trust.

His product is made in Tennessee. Arkansas sells more hushpuppies than any other state.

"I just want people to know we started from scratch and we know where we came from. The Lord has blessed us in ways that I couldn't have ever imagined. We just want people to enjoy a good hushpuppy."

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Absent lawmakers stymie special session

BY GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

Nearly 60 Texas House Democrats left the state last Monday for Washington, D.C. in an effort to stop passage of a Republican-led elections bill. This in effect blocks all legislation since the House doesn't have a quorum present. As the Austin American Statesman and other media outlets reported, Gov. Greg Abbott has threatened to arrest the absent lawmakers upon their return. While in Washington, the legislators have met with Vice President Kamala Harris and several Democratic senators to push passage of a federal elections bill that is currently stalemated.

The House Democrats have vowed to stay in Washington until the special session ends on Aug. 7. They are using private funds as well as campaign accounts to finance their decampment to the nation's capital and are mounting fundraising campaigns. San Antonio lawmaker Trey Martinez Fischer, one of the leaders of breaking the quorum, said Democrats are spending \$10,000 a day for hotel rooms and meals.

Abbott has blasted the Democrats' absences as a "taxpayer-funded junket." Abbott orders investigation of juvenile justice department

Abbott last week directed the Texas Rangers to investigate "multiple allegations" of potentially illegal behavior among certain staff members of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The department operates five secure facilities and six half-way houses across the state for youthful offenders. The move comes after numerous complaints that children in state lockups are subject to widespread sexual assault and other violations.

In late 2020, Texas Appelleed and Disability Rights Texas filed a complaint with the Civil Rights Divi-

sion of the U.S. Department of Justice, claiming "grievous violations of children's constitutional rights." TJJD has been under criticism for more than a decade for what critics term chronic understaffing, abuse and scandal, according to previous published reports.

INVASIVE SILVER CARP FOUND IN TEXAS WATERS

Invasive silver carp has been found in Texas waters, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The invasive species was found in last month in Choctaw Creek, a tributary of the Red River, about 15 miles downstream from Lake Texoma.

"These are the first reports of silver carp from Texas waters, although they have previously been found in other areas of the Red River including just downstream from Lake Texoma in Oklahoma waters in 2019," said Dan Bennett, TPWD fisheries management biologist. "Invasive carp pose a significant risk to Lake Texoma's ecosystem and boaters and there is adequate flow and upstream river area for them to become established and reproduce in the lake if introduced."

The carp are not native to the United States but have become prolific primarily in the Mississippi River Basin. They compete with other species, such as shad and buffalo, and can even pose a risk to humans. They can jump up to 10 feet out of water when startled by boat engines, sometimes injuring boaters. Some can reach more than 4 feet in length and weigh nearly 90 pounds.

Anyone who catches either silver or bighead carp in Texas waters is asked to report the sighting with location information and photos to AquaticInvasives@tpwd.texas.gov. Silver and bighead carp are prohibited exotic species in Texas and must be killed upon possession by beheading, gutting, gill-cutting or other means or placed on ice. Neither species can be possessed live.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is receiving more than \$210 million in federal emergency funding for mental health and substance abuse prevention services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic has created much higher demand for mental health and substance use disorder services across Texas," said Sonja Gaines, HHS deputy executive commissioner for Intellectual and Developmental Disability and Behavioral Health Services. "The federal emergency funding will allow us to address challenges associated with the impact of COVID-19 and help get Texans who need behavioral support on the road to recovery."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that drug overdose deaths set a record in 2020, driven primarily by opioids. HHSC is using the emergency funding to create and imple-

ment a number of initiatives, including expanded access to treatment and recovery programs and diversion services that keep folks with mental health or substance abuse issues out of jails and emergency rooms.

NEW COVID-19 CASES RISING SHARPLY

Largely because of the delta variant of COVID-19 and a large percentage of unvaccinated Texans, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose sharply in the past week, with 22,773 new cases

reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That's close to double the number of cases the week before, and deaths reported also increased to 192. The Centers for Disease Control reports that 99% of deaths attributed to the virus are people who have not been vaccinated.

Hospitalizations of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients also rose sharply, to 2,834 currently in Texas hospitals as of Sunday. That's up nearly 50% from the previous week. The number of Texans

who are fully vaccinated rose slightly to 12.353 million — 42.3% of all the total state population.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.



84th Annual Gatesville Riding Club

RODEO

July 29-31 ★ 7:30 PM
301 Veteran's Memorial Loop, Gatesville, Texas 76528

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Thursday: Military Appreciation Night \$8 adults, \$4 kids 6-12 (w/military ID)

Friday: Back the Blue - Wear blue to support our law enforcement officers

Saturday: First Responder Recognition

EVERY NIGHT:

BUBBLE BALLS AND BULLS MUTTON BUSTIN' — Limited to 10 riders/night, \$30 Entry Fee

CALF SCRAMBLE — Does not require pre-registration

JR. BARRELS — Call in Monday, July 26th 7-9 PM 254-493-8954

TICKETS:

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GATES OPEN AT 6 PM

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Uptick in COVID cases recorded in Coryell County

BY SABINA ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Coryell County is recording more COVID cases in July than in the previous month. The county was previously tracking 1-3 new cases every week during the month of May and June. The average for that time was about 4-6 new cases a week. For the week of July 11-17, over 20 new cases were reported in the county. The previous week saw 21 new cases, as of last Friday, the county is reporting about 7-8 new cases, with at least one reported case of the more Delta variant.

Coryell County Executive Bob Harrell said the county normally sees one to two new cases a day on average, but over the last couple of days the county has seen 10 cases in three days, which is a considerable uptick. "We will want everyone to talk to their providers to see if they're being vaccinated," said Harrell.

"Not a whole lot is going to change until we get a lot more people to get vaccinated," Harrell said. It's important for everyone who is eligible to try to receive the full vaccine. He stresses these rules to each other but says they have not had the vaccine. They have not had the vaccine, he said. He said the county has to work with the state to get the vaccine to people eligible to receive a vaccine has been vaccinated, and about 200 have received at least one dose. This translates to just over 15,000 individuals in the county of 22,000 who have received the full vaccine.

Case Control and Prevention (CCP) of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is particularly about 20% more transmissible than other variants. To avoid transmission of the virus, it is best to continue to wear masks, whenever possible, with distance whenever possible, with hands with soap and water regularly, and avoid the vaccine. It is best to avoid the vaccine if eligible, according to the CDC website. For more information, visit the CDC website.

Gatesville asks state to study truck routes



Large equipment makes its way through Gatesville shopping traffic as it navigates through tight streets. The owners have become, often, single-point traffic where the two high-way interchanges.

OBITUARIES



CONNIE SMITH

Aug. 24, 1929 - July 11, 2021

Connie Smith, age 91, of Gatesville, passed away on the evening of July 11, 2021 in Gatesville. A Celebration of Life service is scheduled for 11 a.m., Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at The Presbyterian Church of Gatesville.

Connie was born on August 24, 1929 in Pulaski, Wisconsin to the late Rev. Walter

T. Gigstad and Selma Winingstad Gigstad.

Connie was very proud of her Norwegian heritage. Whether it was the lefsa or the lutefisk (dried cod) that did it, something permeated that descendent for generations. Even the most Americanized person of Norwegian lineage is pleased to be descended from that Viking line.

Some of Connie's favorite things to do were to cook

and travel. She was always ready to go on the next adventure. If you mentioned going, her bags were packed and ready.

While attending Clifton Jr. College she met and married Gordon Smith whom she adored. After Gordon graduated N.T.S.U. they moved to Gatesville where Gordon coached and taught for GISD. Connie finished her education graduating from Mary Hardin Baylor College with

a B.A. degree in education. They both taught for many years for GISD. Connie and Gordon both loved what they did.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon; two brothers, Wally and Gig; and two sisters, Marie and Karen.

Connie is survived by her children, Becky Berry, Larry Smith and wife, Christie; five grandchildren, Kimberley Pearce, Krista Moreland, April Gregg, Amanda

Fritz and Adam Smith; seven great-grandchildren, Macie Pearce, McKenzie Moreland, Kallyn Moreland, Connor Gregg, Caroline Gregg, Anna Fritz and Erica Fritz; and two sisters, Audni and Jordice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the charity of your choice or The Presbyterian Church, 1110 E. Main St. Gatesville, TX 76528.



JOHN WILLIAM (BILL) BURDETT

Nov. 13, 1938 - July 16, 2021

John William (Bill) Burdett, age 82, of Gatesville, passed away on Friday morning, July 16, 2021 at his home.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Matt Dossey and Dr. Lynn Parks officiating. Burial with Masonic Rites, under the auspices of Gatesville Masonic Lodge #197 A.F. & A. M. will follow at Restland Cemetery. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to services at the funeral home.

Bill was born in West Point, Georgia on November 13, 1938 to John and Myrtis Bishop Burdett. He grew up in Alabama, Kentucky, and Louisiana. In 1951, he moved to Gatesville, where he attended school. He was a natural athlete in all sports, but especially excelled in football. He fell in love and married his high school sweetheart, Florence Sue Keener on June 2, 1956 at Keener Chapel Methodist Church in Gatesville.

Bill was a hard worker, a jack of all trades and when he did anything, he was all in! So over the years, he had a successful career in a variety of professions, and was involved in many activities. Bill worked as a barber at Ft. Hood and in Gatesville and for a time, he even owned his own barber shop. He then worked as a painter in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. He was a painter of many things, such as homes, large bridges, Ft. Hood military barracks, and even painted the Drive-In Theater's big screen. Bill loved Texas and moved here just as soon as he could! He always considered himself a Texan, even though he was born in Georgia. His painting job took him out of Texas at times, but he made sure he and Sue were in Texas before their babies were born because they had to be Texans. In Texas, Bill continued working as a painter, contractor, and builder. He painted homes in Gatesville, Copperas Cove, and Killeen. He built many homes including four for his family. Bill had a gift and talent for woodworking. He built beautiful pieces of furniture and clocks. He was a rural mail carrier and retired after 29 years of service. Bill was a member of the Methodist Church, member and Past Master of Gatesville

Masonic Lodge #197 A.F. & A.M. and Waco Scottish Rite Bodies.

Bill was an avid outdoorsman! He loved hunting and fishing of every kind and went on many hunting and fishing trips during his life, hunting deer, quail, dove, turkey, and squirrel. Bill loved fishing for catfish, bass, and crappie. Fishing for catfish and hunting deer were his favorites. He has provided many families in Coryell County with deer meat and fish over many years. Bill just had a love for animals and during his life, he raised bird dogs, snow quail, and roosters. He owned and raised cattle at his ranch in Jonesboro. Bill also owned four racehorses and enjoyed going to the horse races. Playing dominoes with his friends in Jonesboro was a favorite activity until his health declined. Bill was a sports enthusiast. He enjoyed watching his grandchildren and great-grandchildren play in a variety of sports and activities. He especially loved six-man football. Bill played softball for many years with the Gatesville Jaycees and coached youth basketball and baseball. Bill had many accomplishments over the years, but he always said he was most proud of his wife, daughters and their families. He counted them as his greatest accomplishments. He always insisted his girls get a college education and they accomplished his request. Bill always valued his friends, they were very important to him and considered them as family.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, John and Myrtis Burdett; daughter, Jacqueline Dawn Burdett; grandson, John Paul Massingill; and his mother and father-in-law, Jessie and Nora Keener, who he loved like parents. He was also preceded in death by his beloved dog, Mollie Burdett.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Florence Sue Keener Burdett, three daughters, Kimberly Lynn Patterson and husband, Buster, Gwendolyn Sue Grant and husband, LaMont, Angela Faith Meyers and husband, Joepaul; sister, Sue Robinson and husband, Mike; grandchildren, Matthew Massingill and wife, Stephanie, Kelly Burdett Grant Murphy and husband, Chase, Christy Klein and husband, Waylen, Robert Patterson, Matthew Patterson, and wife, Kristina; great-grandchildren, JP Austin Massingill, Aspen Lynlee Massingill, Adam Matthew Massingill, Wyatt Klein, Madi Patterson, Easton Patterson, KyAnne and Aubrey; and by many nieces, nephews, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, Bill requested memorials be made to honor the memory of his late grandson, John Paul Massingill Memorial Scholarship Fund, Jonesboro I.S.D., c/o Tommie Necessary, P.O. Box 125, Jonesboro, TX 76538.

Meeks Rosson. Norma married James Emmitt Flynn on January 24, 1952 at First Baptist Church in Monahans, Texas. She attended school in Grandfalls, Royalty and Monahans. She went on to attend college at Howard Payne University in Brownwood. She was a pastor's wife and homemaker, who played and taught piano, held Bible studies, was talented in crafts. She made

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many of her own home accessories and clothes.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Sam & Odell Rosson; husband, James Emmitt Flynn; son, Danny Flynn; sister, Joy Carmon Lovelace; brothers, James Arthur Rosson and Travis Leon Rosson.

Norma is survived by her nephew James "Darryl" Rosson and wife, Jackie, Virgil Chapman and wife, Chae; nieces Pat Osborn and hus-



HERMIONE ASHBY

Jan. 25, 1926 - July 16, 2021

Hermione Ashby, age 95 of Jonesboro passed away on

Friday, July 16, 2021 at her home, surrounded by her family.

There will not be any public memorial services, private family inurnment will be at Gatesville Masonic Cemetery. Flowers and cards may be sent to Seaborn Ashby, 350 CR 193, Jonesboro Texas 76538.

Laurel Hermione Ashby was born on January 25, 1926 in the Ewing community of Coryell County, now part of Ft. Hood. She was the daughter of the late A. E. and Willie Stockton Whisenhunt, who were both school teachers. She married her high school sweetheart from the age of 15 on April 7, 1946,

MARK COLLIN DAVIS

June 18, 1961 - July 8, 2021

Mark Collin Davis passed away on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at home after a brief illness.

Memorial services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 31, 2021 at Hay Valley Baptist Church, 3110 Hay Valley Road, Gatesville, TX 76528.

Mark was a man who loved life. He was born in Gatesville, on June 18, 1961 to the late Thelma and Curtis A. Davis, Sr. He was raised in a wonderful Christian home and forever loved his family, his friends and the town of Gatesville. Mark attended The University of Texas and then went on to a successful career as a land developer, broker and ranch expert.

In 2004, Mark married Rebecca Nelson of Austin whom he loved and cherished until his death. His affection for her was inspiring to all who knew them. They shared a love of Labradors, the outdoors, travel, music and entertaining. They also shared many fun adventures including South Texas bird hunts, fly fishing trips on the Texas coast and summers in Montana.

Mark's career in real estate spanned 40 years. When he looked at a ranch or any other piece of land, it seemed like it spoke to him. He observed "the dirt," the flowers, the trees, the cattle, the birds ... whatever was there. Then he started to share - quietly but with the authority and knowledge that years of experience and study bring - as he laid out what the property's future could and should be. His vision always left the honor and integrity of the land intact while its evolution would be part of its natural destiny. He loved the land of Texas. And, like so many others, it loved him back.

Mark's special gift and passion were his friends. He was charismatic, loyal and a true friend to untold numbers. A born communicator, he was not interested in texts or email; he wanted to hear your voice and talk to you either in person or on the telephone. He was direct and not shy about offering his opinion.

Mark loved to plan festive events, gather friends, have lunch, and tell long hilarious stories, all while lighting up a room with his warm smile and cheerful personality. He had a gift with children and made them feel like they were the center of the world. When he got tickled a whole room could find themselves laughing. He was the camp director and the ring leader, and kids and adults alike were the beneficiaries. He also knew how to be with friends in their times of need. He understood tough times, was unwavering and was always there to listen and offer a broad shoulder to lean on.

Mark was honest and offered leadership and vision to his business partners and associates. He was generous, kind and devoted to his family, friends and community. He will be missed beyond measure and will endure in our hearts forever.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Curtis A. Davis, Jr.

In addition to his wife, Rebecca, Mark is survived by his brother Gary J. Davis and wife, Sherri; mother-in-law, Carol Corley Nelson; brothers-in-law, Tom E. Nelson III and John C. Nelson and wife, Kristen; many nieces, nephews, cousins and his beloved dogs, Jud and Duke.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to his many wonderful caregivers. May he rest in Peace.

In lieu of flowers, Rebecca has designated that memorials be made to The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (<https://gsaustin.org>); Gatesville I.S.D. Education Foundation, P.O. Box 245, Gatesville, TX 76528; Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation - Priority Land Conservation Acquisitions (<https://tpwd.texas.gov>), or a charity of your choice.

Rev. Keith Dyer will officiate the memorial service.

Seaborn Ashby, Jr. They raised three sons, Seaborn, Bill and Jim on the Whisenhunt farm in Jonesboro. She was a housewife raising their family, until later in life, when she went to work for Miller Motor Ford, for many years and then for the Coryell County Tax Assessor's office, until her retirement. After her retirement, she and her husband enjoyed traveling with their close friends and rock hunting all over the United States. She will be most remembered for all her crochet items and quilts that she made for her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Bill

Ashby; and sister, Azalea Kirkpatrick.

Hermione is survived by her husband of 75 years, Seaborn Ashby, Jr.; sons, Jim Ashby and wife, Carol, Seaborn Kenneth Ashby and wife, Sandra; grandchildren, Tiffany Coble and husband, Rusty, Chris Ashby and wife, Angie, Paul Ashby, Lydia Moore and husband, Paul; great grandchildren, Lauren and Lariat Jackson, Cassidy and Kolby Taylor, Katie Kuzenka, Ryan Kuzenka, Caitlin and Paul Brown, Keegan Coble and Seaborn Braden Ashby.



BRYAN ALAN COOK

March 2, 1966 - July 5, 2021

Bryan Alan Cook age 55, passed away July 5, 2021 at his home in Killeen, following a short battle with cancer.

At Bryan's request, no services will be held. His only request was to have his ashes scattered over Hodge Branch on the family farm where he was raised.

Bryan was born March 2, 1966 in Gatesville, to the late Harold Ray Cook and Eva Mae Price Cook. Bryan's birth was a much anticipated event for all the cousins living on Whitehall Road who were at least a decade older. He attended school in Gatesville and was a proud member of the graduating Class of 1984. After graduation, he enrolled at TSTC obtaining a degree in Commercial Art. For many years, Bryan owned and operated a sign and advertising business. During this time he attended University of Mary Hardin Baylor. Bryan



JOHN L. FREEMAN

Jan. 28, 1929 - July 17, 2021

John L. Freeman, age 92 of Comanche, formerly of Coryell County, passed away on Saturday, July 17, 2021 in Abilene.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at Pearl Cemetery, with Pastor Preston Atkinson officiating.

Johnny was born on January 28, 1929 in Gatesville, to

graduated from Mary Hardin Baylor in May 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in English. He taught English for 12 years at Central Texas College.

Bryan truly enjoyed his years teaching at Central Texas College and spending time with his family and lifelong friends. Bryan could often be found discussing history, politics, books, movies, and the many mysteries of life. He was multi-talented and spent many hours sketching, painting, and hand crafting bows and arrows. Anyone who knew Bryan could testify to his intelligence, quick wit, unique sense of humor and love of a good story. He most certainly will be missed by us all.

Bryan was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Jesse and Ruby Cook and William Price and Gladys Price; uncles, Knox Cook, J.R. Cook, Billie Joe Price and Wayne Price; aunts, Wilma Ponice Hightower Smith and Doris Marie Phillips.

He is survived by his wife Marieta of Killeen; brother, Gregory Cook of Artesia New Mexico; uncles, Steve Cook of Temple and Perry Price of Gatesville.

Bryan was blessed with three childhood friends, whose friendship has stood the test of time. Randy, David, and Danny were Bryan's best friends from the beginning to the end.

the late C.E. (Charley) and Edith Walker Freeman. He graduated from Pearl High School in 1946. Shortly after high school, he entered the U.S. Navy, serving four years until being honorably discharged. He was a farmer and rancher for many years. He also owned apartments in Gatesville and Copperas Cove, until retiring. He has resided in Comanche for the last several years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Mary.

Johnny is survived by a daughter, Kim Holden and husband, Billy; son, Steve Freeman; sisters, Dolious Williamson, Inez Arnold; grandson, Quade Holden; three nephews and one niece.

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037 HELP WANTED

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Lee Healthcare is accepting applications for Registered Nurses, full or part time for our Hamilton area. Flexible scheduling. Benefits and company car for full time. Part time position is flexible weekdays. Weekend work is available if desired. Home health experience preferred but not necessary. Must have a Texas Registered Nurse license. Great team of co-workers! For information, call Christine at 254-386-8971 or visit our website at www.lee-healthcare.com.
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037 HELP WANTED

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Coryell County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for communications officers/dispatchers and jailers. High school diploma required. Must pass background check. Pick up and return application at the Coryell County Sheriff's Office.
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099 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nettie Norene Guess, Deceased, were issued on July 9, 2021, in Cause No. 21-10487, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Sharon Wise.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney at Law
109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528

DATED the 9th day of July, 2021.

Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney for Sharon Wise
State Bar No.: 16058500
109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-8475
Facsimile: (254) 865-5274
E-mail: allenplacejr@aol.com
00028630

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nancy Thomas Jackson, Deceased, were issued on July 9, 2021, in Cause No. 21-10466, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Deral McWhorter.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney at Law
109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528

DATED the 9th day of July, 2021.

Allen D. Place, Jr.
Attorney for Deral McWhorter
State Bar No.: 16058500
109 S. 7th Street
Gatesville, Texas 76528
Telephone: (254) 865-8475
Facsimile: (254) 865-5274
E-mail: allenplacejr@aol.com
00028631

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary for the Estate of EFFIE L. TOWNSEND, Deceased, were issued on June 23, 2021, in Cause No. 21-10478, in the Bell County Court-at-Law, No. 1, Texas, to GORDON I. TOWNSEND. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. The Independent Executor prefers that claims be addressed as follows:

GORDON I. TOWNSEND
c/o Silverblatt Law Office
GENE S. SILVERBLATT
Attorney at Law
120 West Centex Expressway,
Suite 104
Harker Heights, TX 76548

DATED the 7 day of July, 2021.

GENE S. SILVERBLATT
Attorney for the Independent
Executor 00028632

099 PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (The City Of Oglesby)

The City of Oglesby, Texas has received an allocation from the American Rescue Plan Act program from the U. S. Department of Treasury and is soliciting proposals to provide administration services for the ARP Act eligible projects. Proposals must be received no later than August 2nd, 2021 by 12pm. Please electronically submit your proposal in email at jthompson@oglesby-texas.com or submit your proposal to City of Oglesby, P.O. Box 185, Oglesby, Texas 76561 attn: Jennifer Thomson on a thumb drive to the address provided. It is the responsibility of the submitting firm to ensure that the proposal is received in a timely manner. The City of Oglesby reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Oglesby is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

CAUSE NUMBER 19-10157

ESTATE OF FUMI SAKAI STEPHENS, DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Fumi Sakai Stephens, Deceased, were issued on May 20, 2020 in Cause No. 19-10157 in the County Court of Coryell County, Texas, to: James Lee Cunningham, Independent Executor.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 1st day of July, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FROM:
Lane Heginbotham
HARRIS LAW OFFICE
425 North Eighth Street
Killeen, Texas 76541
Phone (254) 526-0108
Fax (254) 526-7141
Lane Heginbotham
State Bar No.: 24000323
lane@centexlawyers.net
Cheyenne Minick
State Bar No.: 24001161
lane@centexlawyers.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ELVIN D. JOHNSON, Deceased, were issued on June 24, 2021, in Cause No. 21-10475, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: CHARLES R. JOHNSON. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Est. ELVIN D. JOHNSON
c/o: J. ERIC STOEBNER, At-
torney at Law
2106 Bird Creek Drive
Temple, Texas 76502
DATED the 2nd day of July, 2021.

J. Eric Stoebner
Attorney for CHARLES R. JOHNSON
State Bar No.: 24105509
2106 Bird Creek Drive
Temple, Texas 76502
PH: (254) 771-1855
Fax: (254) 771-2082
Email: eric@templalawoffice.com

ch Coryell HEALTH REHABILITATING AT THE MEADOWS
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Please go to our website: www.CoryellHealth.org for summary of posted jobs.
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Nursing: RN House Supervisor - FT 7p to 7a
Physical Therapy: Occupational Therapist - PRN
Radiology: CT/X-Ray Staff Radiological Technologist - PRN
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Benefits Offered:

- Competitive compensation • Paid Vacation & Sick Leave
- Matching 457B investments
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EOE.
Please go to our web site: www.CoryellHealth.org for summary of posted jobs.
If you have a great attitude, love helping people and want to be part of a quality team, apply in person or download an application from the web site.
E-mail us: humanresources@coryellhealth.org

GATESVILLE RIDING CLUB RODEO

Yeehaw! Rodeo coming to town

BY MARK GOODSON
Messenger Sports Editor

The 84th annual Gatesville Riding Club Rodeo will be July 29-31 at the Gatesville Riding Club Arena. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the rodeo starts at 7:30 p.m. each night.

The rodeo will feature all the normal rodeo events.

Registration is open to first-come, first-ride competitors with a limit of 10 per ride at 7:30 p.m. for ju-

Opening night is Military Appreciation Night and will have the Fort Hood Calvary performing.

nior barrels.

Opening night is Military Appreciation Night and will have the Fort Hood Calvary performing. Friday is Family Night and Women's saddle bronc is the featured event.

Saturday concludes the three-day event with a full slate of events and a dance. Admission is \$10 for adults. Kids six to 12 are admitted for \$5. Five and under patrons get in free.

Military Night prices are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

The rodeo contractor is Champion Rodeo Company.

Other popular events for kids are mutton busting and a calf scramble.

For more information contact LaDonna Favor at 254-493-8954 or check out www.gatesvilleringclub.com

The arena is on Highway 84 next to the Gatesville Civic Center.

Gatesville T-ball team finish 2-2

The Gatesville Bar N Vet T-ball team went 2-2 in the Texas Teen-Age Baseball-

Softball State Tournament in Belton.

The team was eliminated

on Thursday, losing 31-23 to the Belton Bears.

The team lost to the Belton Brewers, 22-11, in the first round before taking wins over the San Saba Heat,

25-18, and the Hillsboro Sharks, 31-23.

SHORTS

FROM PAGE 8

GATESVILLE CAMPS

Gatesville High School will hold a volleyball camp July 26-28 for incoming first through ninth graders at Sydney L. Pruitt Gymnasium. Sessions are 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$40.

Contact: coach Janey Weber at (254) 216-2976.

Football will hold a camp for seventh through ninth

graders will be from July 26-28 at Tommy Davidson Field. Cost is \$40.

Contact: coach Luke Howard at (254) 679-9061.

Tennis will be July 29-31 at the GHS tennis courts for kindergarten-ninth graders. Sessions are 2-4 p.m. on the 29th and from 8-10 a.m. on the 30th and 31st.

Contact: coach Wendell Jones at (254) 258-2585.

A GISD Wrestling Camp for first through eighth

graders will be held July 21-23 (Wed-Fri) from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. The GISD Wrestling Facility is located on

Marshall Street next to the GHS Fieldhouse.

Registration will be allowed on the first day of camp. Cost is \$40. GHS Wrestling Head Coach Robert Clater Jr. will be the director. He can be contacted at raclater@gatesvilleisd.org or 254-339-7033.

POOL TIME

The Gatesville city pool is offering season passes for \$70 that include up to four family members. Addition-

al family members can be added for \$10 a piece.

Daily passes are \$3 per patron.

The city pool hours are noon to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the pool hours are noon to 10 p.m.

Sunday hours are 1 to 6 p.m.

The pool is open throughout the summer.

Neighbor to Neighbor Benefit

Thank You!

Thank you to Bare Bones BBQ - The Hills and The Feed Mill - The Snoddys for planning the benefit and opening your facility. Also thanks to Monica and Trey Hinds for planning and hosting the Cornhole Tournament.

May 2 was one of the best, most humbling days of my life! To ANYONE who volunteered their time, donated auction items, purchased auction items, volunteered their musical talents, participated in the cornhole tournament, purchased a T-shirt, donated money, but most of all, came to hang out and visit and enjoy the beautiful day! I really enjoyed seeing so many people I haven't seen in so long!

The hugs were the BEST!!

Once again, the community of Gatesville showed up for three neighbors in need and I am so grateful and blessed to be a recipient of your kindness!

We are forever grateful!

Cindy Ament Venable and family

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2021 Football schedules

GATESVILLE HORNETS VARSITY

Friday, Aug.13	@ McGregor scrimmage	7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Aug.19	Fairfield scrimmage	6:15 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 27	Llano	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 3	@ Glen Rose	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 10	@ Lorena	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 17	@ Hillsboro	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 24	Lampasas	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 1	bye	
Friday, Oct. 8	Salado*	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 15	China Spring*	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 22	@ Robinson*	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 29	Connally*	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 5	@ Jarrell*	7:30 p.m.

* denotes District 9-4A, Div. II games

GATESVILLE HORNETS FRESHMEN/JV

Friday, Aug.13	@ McGregor scrimmage	6 p.m.
Thursday, Aug.19	Fairfield scrimmage	5 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 26	@Llano	5/6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 2	Glen Rose	5/6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 9	Lorena	5/6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 16	Hillsboro	5/6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 23	@Lampasas	5/6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 29	bye	
Thursday, Oct. 7	@Salado*	5/6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 14	@China Spring*	5/6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 21	Robinson*	5/6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 28	@Connally*	5/6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 4	Jarrell*	5/6:30 p.m.

* denotes District 9-4A, Div. II games

JONESBORO EAGLES

Thursday, Aug. 12	St. Jo	5 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 19	@ May	6 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 27	Coolidge	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 3	@ Perrin Whitt	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 10	JCCA	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 17	Blum	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 24	@ Milford	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 30	Turkey Valley @ Trent	5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 8	bye	
Friday, Oct. 15	bye	
Friday, Oct. 22	Zephyr*	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 29	Lometa*	7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 5	@ Evant*	7 p.m.

* denotes District 15-1A division games

OGLESBY TIGERS

Friday, Aug. 13	Waco Parkview/ Holy Trinity	6 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 20	Gholsen	6 p.m.
Regular season		
Friday, Aug.27	Ranger	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept.3	@ Morgan	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept.10	Iredell	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept.17	Kopperl (Homecoming)	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept.24	Eagle Christian	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct.1	Live Oak Classical	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct.8	St. Stephens Episcopal	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct.15	Bye	
Friday, Oct.22*	Mount Calm	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct.29*	@ Buckholts	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov.5	*@ Dime Box	7:30 p.m.

* District 14-1A, Div. II

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE A1

to move up in the pecking order.

China Spring, Waco Connally and Salado are the top three teams in the district.

The Hornets will report for pre-season drills Aug. 2.

The team will have two scrimmages before opening the regular season Aug. 27 with a home game against Llano at McKamie Stadium.

FISHING

FROM PAGE A1

Catching and releasing white bass, or as we call them in Texas, sand bass, is fairly successful even in the summer. Survival rates are higher in the winter, but sand bass are pretty robust and they survive. Catching a limit of 25 per person at 10 inch minimum is typically not a problem on many area lakes.

Most species if caught quickly before all the fight is out of them and released quickly will have a better chance for survival. Striped bass and hybrid striped bass on the other hand will generally perish if released in the heat of the summer. Even though they swim away when released, experts say 60 to 70 percent will typically die due to stress. It is generally recommended that you keep the legal strippers/hybrids you catch in the summer (up to your limit, of course) and do not practice catch and release.

Most species can be successfully released in the winter months with a high survival rate. Catch and release for the striped bass/hybrid striped bass works in the winter.

Any bleeding fish that has swallowed a hook or has had their gills torn, will most likely die no matter what season. This is generally com-

mon sense. You should keep these damaged fish for the table. If the fish has swallowed the hook and is not bleeding, you can cut the line and release the fish. There is a chance the fish will survive as the hook should eventually dissolve in its gut.

I think the point here is, don't be greedy. Take what you need and release the rest. If you are to release in the summer, take extra precautions to better the chances for the fish's survival. Enjoy our Texas fisheries as they have been stocked and maintained by the TPWD to be able to do just that. Catch and grease or catch and release — both are allowed on our Texas waters.

OTHER AREAS

On other reservoirs, Lake Whitney striped bass and sand bass are good on live bait and top water near McCown and near the Island.

Lake Graham hybrid striped bass are good on live shad. Lake Bridgeport sand bass are good on slabs fished near Tin Can Island and mid lake humps. Proctor Lake sand bass and hybrids are fair to good on slabs and live bait.

michael.acosta@att.net | 254-396-4855



CORYELL HEALTH PRESENTS

NURSING JOB FAIR

July 27th • 3pm-5pm

Coryell Health 2nd Floor

1507 West Main Street | Gatesville, Texas

Enter at main hospital entrance and follow signs



This event will allow potential candidates

- On-the-spot interviews and job offers
- Explore the benefit packages offered with a Human Resources representative

Coryell Health current job openings

- RNs
- LVNs
- CNAs
- CMAs
- Cath Lab Technicians
- Nurse Techs

COMPETITIVE PAY WITH ANNUAL BONUSES

REMINDERS

- Bring copies of resume
- No appointment needed
- Applications can be completed in person or online at www.coryellhealth.org
- For inquiries humanresources@coryellhealth.org

ON FISHING

Catch and release in summer not always good option



DAVID MONTESINO | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
ON THE HOOK: Catfish is one of the many species that anglers keep.

MICHAEL ACOSTA

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. He has been fishing all of his life, and has been a licensed guide since 1998.

This is a timely article I like to run during the heat of summer. Many believe catch and release provides an opportunity for a better fishery. In many cases it does, but not always. There are many factors that the biologists have to consider for each fishery. There are many reasons to catch and release, but most of our Texas waters are also designed to catch and take.

First of all, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains the fishery to allow for anglers to catch and take if they desire. They set up limits for gamefish as necessary and restock as necessary to allow anglers the opportunity to catch

and keep fish if desired. There is nothing wrong with keeping your limit. Some lakes like Texoma have a higher limit to allow anglers to remove numbers of smaller striped bass. Some species are more likely kept

for the table such as crappie, catfish, white bass and striped bass/hybrid striped bass. It is generally considered a "sin" for many anglers to keep a largemouth bass for the table but some folks do keep largemouth bass. Returning black bass to the lake is pretty typical, but there are those who enjoy this fish on the table as well.

On the other hand, returning a fish to the water may give someone else the chance to catch that fish again if it survives. There are many survival studies for many different species, and many of those are positive for catch and release. Other studies on certain species reflect low survival rates. One thing in common is that if you are going to release fish in the summer, the chances for survival are less.

PLEASE SEE **FISHING** | 7

Hornets 'starting in best shape' in years



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

STAYING FIT: Hornets varsity players run sprints early Monday as part of strength and conditioning workouts. The Hornets start pre-season drills Aug. 2. The Hornet coaches are at the annual coaching school this week in San Antonio. Evan Hanson is in the yellow T-shirt.

Evan Hanson thinks Gatesville will 'surprise some people'



BY MARK GOODSON
Messenger Sports Editor

Evan Hanson returns for his third year as a starting lineman for the Gatesville Hornets football team.

Hanson is beginning his senior year in the best shape of his life and he hopes to be a centerpiece for the Hornets up front.

"I'm going to start at right guard or center," said the senior Monday after the Hornets finished off a crisp workout for strength and conditioning.

"We're working hard," Hanson said. "We're starting in the best shape we've been in the three years I've been here."

The leaders in Monday's sprint drills included receiver Carson Brizendine, quarterback Wesley Brown and Hansen among the linemen.

The Hornets are hoping to turn some heads this season in District 9-4A, Division II.

"We're picked fourth, but I think we can surprise some people," he said.

The Hornets are coming off a four-win season. The Hornets two district wins were over Jarrell and Robinson. The Hornets are hoping

We're starting in the best shape we've been in the three years I've been here."

EVAN HANSON
Lineman



FEATURED RECEIVER: Senior receiver Carson Brizendine sprints to the finish line for the Hornets. Brizendine will be one of the featured receivers for Gatesville this season.

PLEASE SEE **FOOTBALL** | 7

SPORTS SHORTS

CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT AUG. 7

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will be Saturday, Aug. 7 at the Gatesville Country Club.

The four-person scramble tournament begins with a noon shotgun start.

Entry fee is \$100 per player and \$400 per team.

The fee includes a meal.

There is also a silent auction.

Prizes and contests included for closest to the pin and longest drive.

Proceeds will be used for further expanding the services and resources the local chamber provides its members.

For more information contact Gatesville Country Club at 254-865-6917 or the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at 254-865-2617.

SOFTBALL

Adult softball registration for the men's and women's divisions in the City of Gatesville league closes July 21. Players can sign up at the Gatesville Fitness Center.

Cost is \$375 per team. Individuals can sign up for \$45 per player.

Rosters and rule packets are available at the Fitness Center.

For more information contact Seth Phillips at sphillips@gatesvilletx.com

PLEASE SEE **SHORTS** | 7