



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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75¢

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County leaders set workshop on jail concerns

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As Coryell County's jail overcrowding situation continues with little relief in sight, county leaders plan to schedule a workshop for early December in an effort to make the best out of a difficult situation.

County Judge Roger Miller said he thought it would be a good idea for the district attorney's office, county attorney, law enforcement officers and the commissioners court to meet "so we can get a full picture of where the inmates are, which have been convicted and which are housed out of the county."

He said reviewing and actively participating in the process can only help alleviate the chronic over-

crowding concerns.

"I'm looking for ways we can be engaged so when we talk to the jail commission again we can show what efforts are being made," Miller said.

Sheriff Scott Williams said the concerns have been nonstop for the sheriff's office.

"I'm at the end of my rope," he said. "This week (the week of Nov. 19) we brought back 12 for court and they reset (court dates) for six. We had 110 (inmates) in a 92-bed facility, and when I testified at the capital (before the Jail Standards Commission), we had 101 with no place to go."

"McLennan County has enough beds to take all of our (excess) inmates, they just don't have the staff."

One option the county may have

to consider is to use portable jail housing facilities.

"They bring it in and set it up - I think they could get those up in 24 hours, but it's expensive, about a million dollars," Williams said.

Tent facilities are also an option, Williams said, "But they have to be minimum security."

Those inmates who would not qualify to be kept in such facilities include pedophiles and those charged with crimes such as homicide, rape and aggravated assault.

"The only light I see at the end of the tunnel is if the county started hammering away (at the number of court cases)," Williams said. "The thing that's hurting us is lawyers wanting to talk to their clients, so we bring them back (to Coryell County), then the case is reset and we're stuck with the inmate. Con-



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Overcrowding is a constant concern for the Coryell County Jail.

tracts won't allow us to send them back. We're bogged down by this contract mess."

County Attorney Brandon Belt was asked for his assessment of

the problem.

"The county attorney's office has done everything it can do to relieve

PLEASE SEE **JAIL** A2

Coming together to help the hungry

BY DAVID SCOTT
STAFF WRITER

Gatesville answered this year's 32nd annual Food for Families challenge on Friday, Nov. 19, in a big way, shattering last year's record haul to feed local families and individuals in need.

As of press time, Gatesville collected an amazing 612,140 pounds of food, far surpassing last year's record of 507,744 pounds. Donations came through both non-perishable food products and monetary donations. This record number will continue to rise when a final count is determined on Nov. 30.

Gatesville Care Center co-director Deral McWhorter was overwhelmed by the response. "Whatever I say would not capture what just happened. This town and surrounding area blows me away and makes me reel under the impact of it all."

"Deral and I have been trying to wrap our minds around what our community did for Food for Families this year. We just look at each other and shake our heads. We literally are in a state of awe," said Debbie Blanchard, co-director of the Care Center.

All donations will stay in the community and be distributed through the Gatesville Care Center that serves all of Coryell County except Copperas Cove, which has its own care center program.

Monetary donations are converted to food pounds through a formula where one dollar equals 2.5 pounds of food, based on the cost the local Care Center pays for food through the Capital Area Food Bank.

Besting previous years' efforts has become an "unofficial challenge" and something in which Gatesville residents take great



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Marie Barrows, principal of Gatesville High School, joined by members of the student council, presented a check to Rusty Garrett who was the guest anchor with KWTX for the Food for Families Drive. Gatesville High School raised \$4,278.16.

pride. In the past, McWhorter was adamant that Food for Families is not a competition, but he does appreciate all the efforts and recognizes the donations.

The largest contributor this year was the Gary and Diane Heavin Community Fund with a monetary donation of \$25,000 which converted into 62,500 pounds. Coryell Health came in behind the Heavin Community Fund with a monetary contribution which converted to 43,283

pounds in addition to actual non-perishable food products of 1,700, making Coryell Health's total 44,983 pounds. Coming in as the third highest donor was the M.J. Hanna Foundation with a monetary value of \$10,000 which converted into 25,000 pounds to round out the top three donors for this year's food drive.

Gatesville Elementary School's 22,855 pounds marked the largest school donation followed by the intermediate school at

12,863 pounds. The Gatesville High School was totaled as having 10,857 pounds while Jonesboro Independent School District followed with 8,905 pounds. The Gatesville Primary School produced 8,409 pounds followed by the Gatesville Junior High with 4,896.

Local Churches added more than 116,988 pounds to the total. The top contributor was

PLEASE SEE **FOOD** A2

Another perfect score for GISD

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Continuing a streak spanning more than a decade, the Gatesville Independent School District earned a perfect 100 on its Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas score.

"We're getting kind of used to this and I'm hoping we keep it up," said Darrell Frazier, chief financial officer for the district.

"We were fortunate to again earn a perfect score and a superior achievement."

He said every year since at least 2010, GISD has earned a 100 in the rating, which is based on a combination of factors related to financial integrity and student achievement. A passing score requires at least a 70.

The score is based on a total of 20 indicators. Frazier said fewer districts passed based on a report from the state, and fewer districts also earned a superior rating, which requires at least a 90.

Although student enrollment is down for the latest school year, attendance by those enrolled continues to rise.

"We are back close to 95 percent, which is what we base our budget on," Frazier said. "We had 85 percent (attendance for September) and 90 percent for October. It's coming up, which is good news."

"We have made some good progress in the last month so you can

PLEASE SEE **GISD** A2

Gatesville City Council approves bid for repairs along Mills Street

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Upgraded water and wastewater infrastructure will soon be placed in the Mills Street area after the Gatesville City Council approved a \$469,571 bid from Leetech Solutions.

The Alvarado-based company's bid was substantially less than three other bids submitted. Other bids were from: B-Corp Utilities for \$559,605.90; TTG Utilities for \$645,908; and \$677,530 from Royal Vista of Liberty Hill.

A Council memorandum noted that the water and wastewater infrastructure in that area is estimated to be between 70 and 100 years old, and that the condition of the water and sewer lines "require a replacement strategy as opposed to constant repairs."

City Manager Bill Parry said the city delayed the work for a while because of problems with the supply chain resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Leetech is currently doing a project for the city of Waco, and this is a good solid bid," Parry said. "It was actually under

what our city engineer estimated and \$90,000 less than the next lowest bid."

The bid was reviewed by Walker Partners engineering and surveying firm of Waco, a consultant for Gatesville, which recommended the city accept the proposal.

The work is part of the city's capital improvement plan and will include the installation of about 1,180 linear feet of 6-inch PVC water line; 1,740 linear feet of 6-inch sewer line, five new manholes, five new fire hydrants and service connections. The work is expected to begin in early 2022.

QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

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JAIL
FROM PAGE A1

the issue with the Coryell County Jail," Belt said. "Pre-trial services doesn't work for me and I have no authority over felony cases."

"I believe it's safe to say it's not just one problem, it's an accumulation that's bogged us down from the jail to the court system," Sheriff Williams said.

"Looking at the avenues we have to be able to house outside the jail, we've done everything we can to get them bond."

He said he didn't see any immediate solutions "without spending a lot of money for portable maximum security type" facilities, "and they're expensive."

Belt said he was concerned about the number of jailers needed and the hours they have to work.

"I think eventually we're going to have staffing issues with the Coryell County Jail and commissioners will have to look at authorizing overtime to deal with some issues that I believe are coming," he said.

"The current situation has not been resolved in the least with the current overtime cutoff and they're working - they're getting plenty of hours."

Williams said he appreciates the efforts of jailers and all they do.

"That poor jail staff, all they do is ship and receive," he said. "We had one staffer that had to be told to take a vacation. We were concerned she was starting to burn out. She's one of

those who will do whatever it takes to get the job done. We have several like that.

"They do it because they have buy-in, not because they are getting compensated. Money doesn't fix everything but it sure does show some appreciation."

Judge Miller asked of the 34 jailer positions, how many were unfilled.

"Three," the sheriff said.

Miller said he thought a regular meeting between law enforcement and county officials would help to have a better understanding of the issues and what can be done.

"I visited with the Nueces County sheriff and judge and they have the prosecutors, judges, chiefs of police, and city councils come together for a workshop to see where the hiccup is," Williams said. "This week it might be in the sheriff's department, next week it might be in the police department."

"It greases the wheels and seems to work pretty good to help streamline things and fix problems. They had to be in Austin to testify for noncompliance (of jail facilities), too. Listening to them testify, it seemed like it was working pretty good."

One problem contributing to jail overcrowding is that some officers arrest a suspect for a misdemeanor charge, Williams said.

"We had 8-10 misdemeanor cases come to jail that didn't need to be there. They can cite and release (the suspect) if it's not a violent crime."

He said he thought it would be beneficial for the

different law enforcement agencies "to sit down and get on the same page."

"Unfortunately, there are some agencies, sheriff's offices included, that are stat driven," Williams said.

Belt said the majority of criminal cases for the county, "about 80 or 90 percent of our business comes out of Copperas Cove and most of those misdemeanors aren't making it to the county jail."

"I had a conversation with (Gatesville Police Chief) Nathan Gohlke and he said they'll do whatever needs to be done, so we're working with other agencies (to resolve issues)," Williams said.

He agreed that a workshop with law enforcement and elected officials and representatives of the judicial system would be welcome.

"It will show we're working together to resolve things," Williams said. "It begins and ends with my office. The jail commission doesn't see every other cog in the wheel."

GISD
FROM PAGE A1

sleep a little easier at night."

Superintendent Barrett Pollard said he appreciates the efforts the staff make to earn that perfect FIRST score year after year.

"Darrell and his crew work hard but we can't take those perfect scores for granted," Pollard said. "A lot of schools don't have that."

FOOD
FROM PAGE A1

Osage Baptist Church who weighed in at 20,000 pounds followed by Trinity Baptist Church who gave 13,330 pounds. First United Methodist Church of Gatesville contributed 12,938 pounds while Johnny Watkins Sunday School Class can be credited with 12,500 pounds. Hay Valley

Baptist Church contributed 12,500 pounds and Cedar Ridge Church of Christ can be credited with 11,575 pounds. At least 13 other churches contributed.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice also weighed in with the top contributor being the Hilltop Unit with 1,861 pounds followed by the Mountain View Unit with 819 pounds. The Lane Murray Unit contributed 268 pounds and

Woodman State Jail contributed 101 pounds.

"I thank every person, business, school, church and prison for every penny given," said McWhorter.

With sincere appreciation, Blanchard said, "To say thank you to a community such as ours is only touching the surface of thankfulness. There are no words to express a heart overflowing with gratitude."



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Representatives of Gatesville Lions Club, Tom Creek, Greg Couture, and Kathy Harte, present a check to Rusty Garrett for \$2,000 for the Food for Families Drive.

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OBITUARIES

VENNIS MENSCH

Sept. 4, 1921 - Nov. 19, 2021



Vennis Mensch, age 100, of Gatesville, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, Nov. 19, 2021. Funeral services and a celebration of his life were

held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, at Live Oak Baptist Church. Private interment was at Gatesville City Cemetery.

Vennis was born on Sept. 4, 1921, in the Flint Creek community of Coryell County, to the late Irvin and Vessie Ketcham Mensch. He grew up in the Flat area and graduated from Flat High School. He served in the Army Air Corp. from Aug. 22, 1942, to April 6, 1946, serving in the China-Burma-India Theater. After his discharge, he married Joyce Marie VanDyke on June 16, 1946, in Gatesville. They placed their membership at Live Oak Baptist Church and were dedicated, serving members for over 60 years. Vennis was a deacon of the church since 1963, where he loved serving the Lord, teaching Sunday School and RA's. He loved helping people and was readily available when there was a need. He made

everyone feel special and was loved and respected by all.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce on March 3, 2015; brother, Otha (Monk) Mensch; sister, Rozell VanDyke; and four great-grandbabies.

Vennis is survived by his daughters, Connie Ginther and husband, Jerry, of Gatesville, Linda Jones of Lorena; son, James Mensch and wife, JoAnn, of Kempner; loving niece, Frances Norman and husband, Troy, of Burseson; 10 grandchildren, Tracy Moak, Jimmy Jones, Jannette James, Warren Ginther, Charles Mensch, David Jones, Cynthia James, Billy Mensch, Rebekah Westbrook, Jeremy Ginther; 32 great-grandchildren; 13 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorials have been designated to Live Oak Baptist Church, 113 FM 107, Gatesville, TX 76528.

KIRK R. JONES

July 11, 1935 - Nov. 20, 2021



Kirk R. Jones, age 86, of Gatesville, went to be with his Heavenly Father on Saturday, November 20, 2021.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, November 27, 2021, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Don McConaughay officiating. Burial with military honors will follow services at

Restland Cemetery.

Kirk was born on July 11, 1935, in Rowena to the late Curtis and Irene Ringle Jones. He grew up in Pyote and Monahans, graduating from Monahans High School. He attended Texas Western College and the University of Texas in El Paso, where he received several degrees in physics, education, management, and testing, as well as counseling. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from El Paso Community College for his assistance in receiving their accreditation. He entered the US Air Force in 1957, serving four years and was honorably discharged in 1961 as an Airman First Class. He then went to work for the Department of Defense for 35 years, gaining the rank of Senior Scientific Advisor. Along with working, he enjoyed teaching classes at Central Texas College.

Kirk married Anita June

Norman on January 1, 1983. He enjoyed hunting, spending time outdoors, watching westerns, listening to classic country music, and playing dominoes. He delighted in taking long walks on his ranch and spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and daughter-in-law, Mary A. Jones.

Kirk is survived by his wife of 39 years, Anita June Jones; children, Kevan Jones and wife, Kathy, Keith Jones, Phyllis Wise and husband, Mark, Pam Jones, Penny Jones, Jennifer Kelley and husband, Andrew; and two stepsons. He immensely loved all his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorials be made to Pidcoke Baptist Church, 11125 FM 116, Gatesville, TX 76528.

CITYWIDE EVENTS

December will offer plenty to get you into the holiday spirit

BY: CHERI SHEPHERD

Director, Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau

Here are a few that you won't want to miss.

SANTA'S FIRETRUCK RUNS

The Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department will chauffeur Santa through Gatesville's neighborhoods each Friday and Saturday evening from 6-9 p.m. Santa will also be at the fire station on Sundays from 6-8 p.m. Follow the Gatesville Fire Department Facebook page for updates and a listing of Santa's routes. Be sure to thank these dedicated community volunteers for giving their time during this busy season to bring some joy to our community, as well as the time they give throughout the year.

LIGHTS ON THE LEON

If you are driving around enjoying the many beautiful decorations, don't miss the City of Gatesville's lighted and animated Christmas displays. They will be available for viewing around the Courthouse Square and along Leon Street each evening in December.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA MARKET

On Saturday, Dec. 4, the Gatesville Elementary PTO will host the 3rd annual Christmas Extravaganza, featuring vendors, food trucks and photos with Santa. Mar-



Shepherd

ket hours are 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

SHOOTER FM/HARLEY DAVIDSON TOY RUN

That rumble you hear coming from the Fort Gates area on Dec. 4 won't be Fort Hood! Hundreds of motorcycles and classic cars are expected to make a stop at Bare Bones BBQ between noon and 1 p.m. on a charity toy run that starts in Waco and winds its way through Central Texas.

BOOK SIGNING AT THE GATESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

On Saturday, Dec. 4, award winning author Kay Schmitz will be signing copies of her book "A Road Remembered" at the library from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The novel is about an American soldier and a German woman who find common ground during World War II. Kay has local ties, being the cousin of Sharon Pan-

cake and Karen Massingill.

CENTRAL TEXAS HOSPITALITY HOUSE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

The Central Texas Hospitality House will show their appreciation to the community for its support by holding a free event on Tuesday, Dec. 7 from 6 - 8 p.m. They'll have a live nativity, music, refreshments, fun activities, and door prizes, including a BBQ pit giveaway from Bancorp-South.

CHRISTMAS PARADE AND CELEBRATION AT THE DEPOT

The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 11, beginning at 10 a.m. The route will be along Main Street from 14th Street to Lover's Lane. This year's theme is Gingerbread House. Santa will make an appearance in the parade and will be available for photos afterward at the Depot. The monthly Chamber Market Days will also be held at the Depot from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SANTA AT THE LIBRARY

Santa will make one of his last local appearances before he heads back to the North Pole when he visits the Gatesville Public Library on Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. - noon.

Just a reminder to shop local, dine local and keep your dollars local this holiday season!

Gatesville student wins VFW essay contest

Kate Campbell, a 7th grade student at Gatesville Junior High, was the recent winner of the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest sponsored by the VFW Post 9191 in Killeen.

Established in 1947, the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Voice of Democracy" audio-

essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 64,500 students from 9th to 12th grade across the country enter to win their

share of more than \$2 million in educational scholarships through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college, or vocational/technical school.

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OBITUARIES

MARY (AYRES) REETER HUNT

Feb. 27, 1942 - Nov. 12, 2021



Mary Jo Ayres Reeter Hunt was born on Feb. 27, 1942, in Gatesville, to Robert Joseph Ayres and Mary Dorothy Fay Franklin Ayres. After an unforeseen diagnosis of a brain tumor, she went to be with her Lord and Savior on Nov. 12, 2021.

A celebration of Mary's life will be held at Scott's Funeral Home located at 2425 E. Main Street on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at 2 p.m., with Deral McWhorter officiating.

Mary grew up in Gatesville and graduated with honors from Gatesville High School in 1960. She was elected to the school's roster of Who's Who for the 1959-1960 school year. Her Daddy bought a piano so she could learn to play "Under the Double Eagle" and she was able to accomplish this without the benefit of one single piano lesson. She possessed the extraordinary talent of being able to play music by ear. She could simply hear the song

and then turn around and play it. Mary utilized these talents to play hymns in the church. Her musical gifts did not stop with the piano. She also played the snare drums in the high school band.

She attended Durham Business School and then worked as a Dental Assistant until she met and married Jed Norman Rueter in 1960. They moved to Odessa and were married for 34 years. While living in Odessa, Mary was a member of the Temple Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School lessons to children. She took real estate courses and worked for her good friend Karen Stepp who owned Gold Key Realtors. Mary also owned and operated MJR Income Tax Service and developed a clientele that turned into many lifetime friends.

In 2007, she had the opportunity to travel to Israel to visit the Holy Land with a group from her church.

Being the adventurous spirit, Mary moved alone to Waynesville, NC, during the Fall of 2013. Mary loved the cool, wet weather, the green plants, grass, trees and the wide range of wildlife found in the mountains. If there was one thing that Mary really enjoyed, it was camping. All one had to do is mention the word and she was ready to drop everything and go. She especially enjoyed going to the Elkmont Campground located in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to view the spectacular synchronized fireflies. She also loved spending time when she could at her cabin in Westcliffe, CO, and at her ranch in

Coleman, TX.

After an eight-year long distance courtship with John Wayne "Skipper" Hunt from San Angelo, that began with some "match making" from a friend, Mary and Skipper were married on May 11, 2021. The marriage took place at the historic Miss Caroline's Wedding Chapel in Maggie Valley, NC. It was truly a fairy tale wedding and ended with a camping trip to the Outer Banks on the Atlantic coast.

After her relocation to North Carolina, Mary became a "virtual member" of the First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC. She faithfully watched the televised sermons delivered by Dr. Don Wilton and supported the ministries of this church long distance. This was the church that Billy Graham attended before he passed.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, her younger brother, Robert Dale Ayres, and her favorite aunt, Frankie Lee Anderson.

She is survived by her husband, Skipper; her daughter, Laurie Reeter-Brown and her husband, Jay, of Irving; her son, Jeffrey Keith Rueter of Bedford; granddaughter, Mia Winter, and her husband, Matthew, of Westbrook, ME; three sisters, Doris Turner of Bryan, Pat Kasting of Gatesville, Bobbie Tippit and her husband, Jerry, of Gatesville; many cousins, nieces, and nephews; Uncle Robert (Bob) Clinton Anderson of Rockwall; and dear friend, Susan Wise and her husband, Greg, of Austin. Additional survivors include the members of Skipper's family; Jalain Scott

and her husband, Colin, of Midland; Robert Hunt and his fiancée, Yesenia, also of Midland; Laura Macias and her husband, Sean, of Moore, OK; Wesley Hunt and his wife, Marissa, of Albuquerque, NM; and Haley Standridge and her husband, Sam, of The Colony; grandchildren from Skipper's family, Kylee and Chandler Bagley of Weatherford; Bailey, Callie, and Caleb Macias of Moore, OK; Claire Hunt of Midland; Lilly and Wesley Hunt of Albuquerque, NM; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. She also leaves behind her furry children, Tseena, and Sweet Pea.

Too many to mention by name, Mary was well known for her generosity to numerous charitable organizations. The family would be honored if memorials were made, in lieu of flowers, in Mary's name to a charity of your choice.

A special recognition and note of thanks are extended to Jerry Hunt and Greg Pitmon for the love, support, and care that they extended to Mary during this most difficult time.

Mary Reeter Hunt definitely was a free spirit and she entertained one and all with her exciting magical adventurous stories that were always concluded with these words, "It's the truth, I can't make this stuff up!" She will be greatly missed.

The care of Mrs. Hunt has been entrusted to Wells Funeral Home of Waynesville and an online memorial register is available at "Obituaries" at www.wellsfuneralhome.com

First United Methodist to have Christmas musical

The First United Methodist Church invites the community to attend their Christmas musical "Why Can't It Be Christmas All Year Long," on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The music pianist and director will be Charles Ament. Choir conductor will be guest, Nathan Cook. Soloists

will be Mary Kafer and Karen Schmidt. Narration will be by the pastor, Stephen Schmidt.

There is no admission charge, but an offering for local missions will be taken.

First United Methodist Church is located at 115 N. 29th Street in Gatesville. For more information, call 254-865-2524.



Stanley Auto Group to host blood drive

Carter BloodCare encourages blood donors to give in November in honor and support of U.S. military veterans and active-duty service members.

To boost the ongoing mission of keeping a safe and sufficient blood supply on hand, Stanley Auto Group will host a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, at 210 S. Highway 36 Bypass North in the parking lot on the Carter BloodCare bus. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Kia Huggins at (254) 248-3000.

Residents can also host their own community blood drives in memory of veterans that made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. Drives are a lifesaving way to honor a veteran's life or to support an

active-duty service member of the U.S. military.

People who have had COVID-19 vaccinations are still eligible to donate blood. Carter BloodCare staff and unvaccinated donors are required to wear facial coverings at blood drives or donation centers, except when temperature is taken during screening, or when eating and drinking after the donation. Vaccinated donors are strongly encouraged to continue wearing masks. Carter BloodCare will comply with required mask mandates, as applicable.

Potential blood donors may volunteer at age 16 with parental consent; 17-year-olds can give independently and there is no upper age limit. For more information visit CarterBloodCare.org.

Centex Crime Stoppers asking for help solving burglary

Centex crime stoppers can use your help in solving a case of burglary which occurred in the 400 block of E. Main St. sometime between Nov. 5 and Nov. 8. Unknown person(s) entered the proper-

ty of Ideal Self Storage at 401 E. Main Street and proceeded to forcibly remove the lock from a storage unit that contained several hundreds of dollars' worth of items. Some of the stolen items include:

4 Pelican 1660 boxes, 1 Bluepoint rolling toolbox (red in color), 2 cowboy dusters, an arborist climbing belt, a queen size Serta mattress and box spring, 2 level 3 ballistic vests, 1 set of Snap-On

SAE/Metric sockets with "XX" or "BJ" engraved on the handles, 1 set of half inch drive wrenches with "XX" or "BJ" engraved on the handles, and a used washing machine.

The total cost to replace

these items is well over \$6,500.

If you have any information about any local crime, call Centex Crime Stoppers 24 hours a day at 1-254-865-8477 (TIPS) or visit www.centexcrimestoppers.org

or download the "P3" mobile app. You never have to give your name, and if your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

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MOUND NEWS

Barbara to take the next two weeks off, returns Dec. 18

BY BARBARA HOPSON

Mrs. Melba Stephens of South Lake came Tuesday for a short visit. Mrs. Melba Stephens and John Stephens went shopping in Waco Wednesday. Melba is the sister of Ray Stephens.

John Stephens went up to Flower Mound for the day to visit her son, John Paul Stephens and family.

Jean Rose was a Sunday lunch guest of Ray and John Stephens.

Jacklyn Pearl Pullen of Rock Wall is a great-niece of Barbara Hopson. Jacklyn and her horse, Jazzy, won their first Belt buckle Saturday at the Kings Trail Cowboy Church Pee Wee Barrel Race.

Jean Rose spent the past week in Fort

Worth visiting with family and friends.

Brodie Fisher played in the regional play-off game in Comanche against the Richland Springs "Coyotes." The Oglesby Tigers lost 53-0. Brodie's supporters were Joseph, Helen and Debbie Piller, Chris and Jennifer Miller, Claudia Brown, Ronnie, Kay, Neal, Amanda, Blayze, Slayton, and Caymbri Fisher.



Barbara Hopson

Don and Sue Jones had Russ, Christy, Kili and Kase Cox, Case and Kristen Jones, Scott, Kelby and Sterlin Shults for supper Wednesday evening.

Volunteers from local churches have been packing shoe boxes of gifts for shipment to children throughout the world for the annual Operation Christmas Child Collection Week.

Several people from Mound attended the annual Gatesville High School Varsity Tennis Fall Banquet at a local restaurant in Gatesville.

Several people from Mound attended the annual Food For Families in Gatesville at

the Gatesville Fire Department.

Several people from Mound attended the Christmas Celebration Open House on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Central Texas Hospitality House in Gatesville.

Those who had birthdays this month were Nancy Dixon, Jennifer Miller, Lyndi Poynter, Dorthiea Odenbach, Billy Argabright, Jimmy Argabright, Jean Rose, Johnathan Watts, Sidnee Rives, Kay Fisher, Cindy Crum, Kimberly Gossett, Don Jones, Canyon Carothers, Dennis Harris, Skye August, Thomas Belt, Samuel Belt, Emily Cupps, Caleigh Carothers, Elizabeth Harris, Nelda Carothers, Jr Quiroz, Polly West, Brenda Helms, Kari Hopson, Susan Nase and Will Mann.

Barbara's Notes: THERE WILL BE NO MOUND NEWS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

Locals inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society

Eighty-one Temple College students were inducted this fall into Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for students in two-year colleges.

The Gatesville students who were inducted include: Rachel Conner, Stefanie Fuller, Patricia Hickman, and Amber Lara.

Founded in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa recognizes academic achievement and provides opportuni-

ties for students to grow as scholars and leaders. The Temple College chapter of PTK, which is known as the Lambda Theta chapter, was chartered in 1960.

Temple College is a public, two-year college with teaching locations in Temple, Taylor and Hutto. The college offers more than 60 certificate and degree programs, as well as dual credit courses for high school students.

Letters to Santa due Dec. 3

The Gatesville Messenger will once again print "Letters to Santa" from local children in our special Christmas issue on Dec. 25. Students up to the third

grade are encouraged to write a letter for submission. All local school campuses have been notified. If your child does not attend school and you would like your

child's letter printed in The Gatesville Messenger, please turn in to our office at 116 S. 6th Street or send by email to circulation@gatesvillemessenger.com.

Deadline for all letter submissions is Friday, Dec. 3. For more information, please call The Messenger office at 254-865-5466.



Santa for Seniors

Hillside Medical Lodge is looking for people to be Santa for their seniors. Hillside's "Wish List" of gift ideas for their residents can be found by visiting: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GZVN04R6A2ZB?ref_=wl_share

Some of the items included on the list include sleeping pants, body mist, slippers, coin purses, Hershey's Kisses, drawstring backpacks, hand cream, candy assortments, women's Christmas socks and Brach's mini candy canes.

Gifts can be shipped directly to the facility or delivered unwrapped by December 13.

Hillside Medical Lodge is located at 300 S. Highway 36 Bypass in Gatesville. For those interested in participating in this year's Santa for Seniors can contact their Wellness Department for more information. Hillside can be reached by calling 254-865-7575.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of November 19 - 22. 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.

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CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 19
 3:16 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.
 7:47 a.m., an assault was reported in the 100 block of S. 7th Street.
 7:52 a.m., an assault was reported in the 1400 block of Pidcocke Street.
 10:06 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2300 block of Bus. Hwy. 36.
 4:49 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
Nov. 20
 9:12 a.m., harassment was reported in the 2200 block of Brdge Street.
 9:54 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
 10:42 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 2900

block of CR 114.
 10:46 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.
 4:42 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 1500 block of Bald Knob Road.
 7:43 p.m., an accident was reported in the 10000 block of E. Hwy. 84.

Nov. 21
 1:27 a.m., a theft was reported in the 500 block of Live Oak Street.
 3:44 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 2500 block of Powell Drive.
 1:01 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2600 block of E. Main Street.
 4:33 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 100 block of Golf Course Road.
 5:27 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 700 block of N. State Hwy. 36 Bypass.
 6:30 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1300 block of St. Louis Street.
Nov. 22
 10:44 a.m., harassment was reported in the 400 block of N. 16th Street.
 10:48 a.m., an accident was reported in the 1800 block of E. Main Street.
 4:04 p.m., an assault was reported in the 200 block of State School Road.
 6:13 p.m., a fight was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.
 7:20 p.m., a theft was re-

ported in the 2900 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Nov. 19
 3:40 a.m., a fire was reported in the 100 block of Doras Lane.
 7:43 a.m., a welfare concern was reported on Straws Mill Road.
 7:47 a.m., an animal complaint was filed in the 600 block of Whispering Oaks Drive.
 12:25 p.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of Hollis Lane.
 4:39 p.m., a runaway was reported in the 300 block of CR 385.
 9:49 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.
Nov. 20
 10:37 a.m., the theft of a firearm was reported in the 1300 block of CR 137.
 10:44 a.m., a grass fire was reported in the 2900 block of CR 114.
 11:02 a.m., trespassing was reported in the 1100 block of King Country Road.
 3:19 p.m., shots being fired was reported in the 900 block of Kubitz Road.
 4:45 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 1500 block of Bald Knob Road.
 11:43 p.m., a domestic dis-

turbance was reported in the 100 block of Sims Circle.

Nov. 21
 12:54 a.m., a stranded motorist was reported in the 7300 block of E. Hwy. 84.
 9:53 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Rainer Road.
 11:02 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of

Big Valley Road.
 12:13 p.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Stillhouse Road.
 7:20 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 5500 block of FM 215.

Nov. 22
 8:54 a.m., a runaway was reported in the 100 block of Sims Circle.

12:06 p.m., a scam was reported in the 800 block of Hudson Road.
 2:04 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of Fowler Street.
 3:46 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 500 block of Whispering Oaks.
 7:54 p.m., a minor accident was reported on FM 116 at Tablerock Creek.



CELEBRATING FALL: RehabLiving recently celebrated with a fall festival for their residents and staff. The event included music, treats and a visit from baby pigs and goats that residents were able to hold and pet as well as a corn shucking contest. Staff members who dressed up in "farmer" attire and helped with the event include, top row, left to right, Dianna Shell (Unit 4 Manager), Helen Munday (Administrator), Vicky Marwitz (Unit 3 Manager), Kami Sibley (Activity Director) and bottom row, Lisa Moore (DON), Denise Fueston (Medical Records), Morgan Friedan (ADON) and Kelly Mullins (Therapy Director).

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON, EAGLES & TIGERS!



**Jonesboro Eagles (11-1)
 Class 1A, Division I Area Qualifiers**

(Top row) Demarcus Acoff, Dakota Riley, Caleb Christel, Jimmy Lee Whatley, Jaden Dome, Ian Shoaf, Tyler Wilson, Jacob Cisneros and Manuel Torres. (Bottom row) Zach Chapman, Cooper Blanchard, Garrett Young and Nat Hilliker.

**Oglesby Tigers (9-3)
 Class 1A, Division II Area Qualifiers**

(Back row) Ian Philip, Cash Lee, Jorge Gonzalez, Matthew Castillo, Rain Chapman. (Middle row) Aiden Deskins, Kyler Fossett, Cash McCown, Aydan Anderson, Brodie Fisher, Ronaldo Gonzales, Tanner Brinkley, Landon Robinson. Kneeling, Jakson Tippitt, Hunter Ewing, Hunter Walter, Johnny Gomez, Joel Rodriguez, Alex Castillo and Blake Thompson.



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- 9.24 acres in just south of Pearl, TX in Coryell County in Cross Timber Subdivision. The property has had the cedar removed & is ready to build on, scattered tree cover, nice views & paved county road. \$101,640.
- 10.01 acres east of Evant, Stone Creek Ranch Subdivision, great tree cover, good elevation to build a home overlooking Langford Branch. The property also has a second branch that runs along the east side of the property with rock bluffs along the branch. Electricity is at the property; you would need to drill a water well for water. \$199,900
- 10.01 acres, Lot 21 Phase 6 Rio Escondido, corner lot, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, great views to the south. Fiber Optic Internet service is available. \$128,000
- 10.01 acres, Lot 28 Phase 4 Rio Escondido, north of Evant, Tx, good tree cover, great views, electric pole set on the property & an area has been cleared that would be an idea location for a home, Fiber Optic Internet available, \$150,000
- 14.89 acres east of Evant, TX, located on CR 160. Good tree cover & rolling terrain. Known as Lots 66 & 67 in the Indian Creek Ranch Subdivision, \$150,000
- 22 acres north of Purlmela, TX, CR 102 & FM 932, has good tree cover, rolling terrain, electricity at the road, & water meter is available, good views to the southwest, Jonesboro ISD. \$253,000
- 23 acres north of Purlmela, TX, CR 102, good tree cover, rolling terrain, electricity at the road & a water meter is available, Jonesboro ISD \$264,500
- 24.85 +/- acres south of Evant, TX in Lampasas County. barn, 1 stock pond & scattered tree cover with good views. \$310,625
- 26 acres south of Pearl, TX in Coryell County on Blakely Rd. rolling terrain, good tree cover. South Bee House creek runs through the property, great views. \$250,000
- 37.28 acres east of Evant, Tx in Indian Creek Subdivision, Indian Creek runs through the property, 60 ft. of change in elevation, good tree cover, \$466,000
- 43 acres 3 Br 2 Ba brick home, detached garage, barn-workshop & 1 water well, open floor plan, granite counter tops, vaulted ceilings, 8 ft. front porch across the front & back of the house, wood burning stove, well-maintained yard & a rain harvest system at the barn, rolling terrain with scattered tree cover. \$625,000
- 74.7 acres west of Purlmela, FM 1241, barn, cattle pens, good fences, nice view, centrally located. \$511,695.
- 105 acres south of Pearl, TX on Self Rd. good tree cover, rolling terrain, small branch that run through the property, barn that is approx. 38 ft. x 42 ft. in size with a rain harvest system that collects rain water from the roof of the barn. Electricity is along the property line in the northwest corner of the property \$743,775
- 115.59 acres north of Purlmela, TX, Coryell County. Rolling terrain, good tree cover, great views. 1 tank, small seasonal creek along the north boundary, 20 ft. storage contain. \$795,000
- 166.94 acres east of Hamilton, TX. The ranch is secluded with a nice 2 Br 1 Ba frame home with a windmill water well, small equipment barn, grain bin & 2 stock tanks. The property has rolling terrain with scattered tree cover. \$749,000
- 179.562 acres 1.6 miles south of Gatesville, TX FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. Multi-County Water & City of Gatesville have water line running down the front of the property on FM 116. \$1,230,000

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP

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BETHEHEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH: Elder, Hugh Montgomery, pastor; Peabody community 5 miles south of Pearl on FM 1690; Sunday services - Morning worship 4th Sunday each month at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Steven L. Bogan, pastor; Hwy. 84 and FM 116; Sunday services - Bible study 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.

COLD SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH: Bob Phillips, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 5:30 p.m.

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH: Lynn Parks, pastor; 2518 East Main; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.; Wednesday evening services, 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EVANT: Andrew Newton, pastor; Live Oak Street and Memory Lane; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FLAT: Sunday School 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.; Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.; Wednesday Youth Group & Kid Knights 7 p.m.; Wednesday Supper first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Men's Breakfast second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GATESVILLE: Mark Rich, Pastor; 912 E. Main Street; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OGLESBY: Jeremy Sanders, pastor; Sunday services - Bible study 9:45 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.

GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH: Michael Bragdon, Pastor; Hwy. 36 East; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH: A.C. Painter, pastor; 1750 FM 215; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.

HAY VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH: 3110 Hay Valley Road, off Hwy 36 North. Sunday morning services - Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am. AWANA children's ministry Sunday evening 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Bible Study for men and women on Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

JONESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH: Matt Dossey, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m.

KING BAPTIST CHURCH: Charles W. McKamie, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH: Royse T. Cockrell, DMin., Pastor; Corner of FM 107 & HWY 36 in Gatesville; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Morning Service 11:00 a.m., Second Service 1:00 p.m., Family Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

LIVE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH: Bro. Ken Laney, pastor; FM 107; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:15 a.m., morning worship 10:30 a.m., Wed. evening Adult, Youth and Children's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH: Rev. Kurt Fuessel, pastor; Hwy. 84 East in South Mountain community; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m. Prayer meeting 7:00 p.m. Wednesday.

OSAGE BAPTIST CHURCH: Chris Thomas, pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is many people's favorite holiday, perhaps because it resonates on so many different levels. It is a holiday with social, historical and religious significance. Socially, it is a time when family and friends gather together to thank God communally and to share the bounty which nature provides. Historically, we call to mind the early colonists who broke bread with the native Americans, just as many today will share their Thanksgiving meals with visitors or immigrants. That the colonists took time to thank God after a difficult first year is something we should emulate, and that the Wampanoag tribe helped the colonists survive that first year should give us pause to reflect on how we treat immigrants. The religious significance of Thanksgiving is no doubt the most important aspect of the holiday, however. Whether we recognize it or not, we are all dependent on a higher power for our existence. None of us is self-created. And when we consider how generously nature provides for our needs, most are inclined to be thankful. Our thankfulness increases our happiness, as we realize all that we have to be thankful for. We should perhaps start by being thankful for our very lives, and from there to being thankful for our families and our friends, and finally we should be thankful that we live in a country where we can live and pray freely and enjoy the fruits of our labor. There is much to be thankful for.

—Christopher Simon



"Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Psalm 103:1-2 NIV

PEARL BAPTIST CHURCH: Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

PECAN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH: Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

PIDCOKE BAPTIST CHURCH: Donald McConaughay, pastor; 11125 FM 116, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., worship service 11 a.m. www.pidcokebaptist.com

PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH: Chris Post, Pastor; CR 301, Jonesboro, TX; Sunday school at 10 a.m. and Sunday worship at 11 a.m.

PRIMERO IGLESIA EMANUEL: One mile north of Evant on Hwy. 281; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

PURMELA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

SWEET HOME BAPTIST CHURCH: 511 North 14th; Sunday services - Sunday morning worship 10 a.m., church school 5 p.m., evening worship 6 p.m.

SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH: Ezequiel Casas, pastor; 113 Veazy Dr.; Sunday Services; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH: Tim Crosby, pastor; 1506 West Main; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:50 a.m. Wednesday Services - Prayer Meeting/Youth Ministry 6:00 p.m., TBC Kids at 6 p.m. Email: trinitybctx@centurylink.net. Church: 254-865-8495 or Pre-school: 254-248-0041.

TURNERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH: Jon Crosby, Pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study, 6 p.m.

WESTVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 84 West; Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

WHITE HALL BAPTIST CHURCH: Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school at 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship services 11 a.m.; Prayer & Devotional meeting fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.; 254-865-2106.

WHITE MOUND BAPTIST CHURCH/MOUND COWBOY CHURCH (meet at 9:30 a.m.): Bruce Cox, pastor; Sun. services - Sun. School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m. For more info., call 254-865-5908.

CATHOLIC
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH: Rev. Jayaraju Polishetty; 1108 W. Main; Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. (English) & 12:00 p.m. (Spanish Mass), Weekday Mass Tuesday through Friday at 12:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
CEDAR RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST: Deral McWhorter, minister; Osage Road and Cedar Ridge Drive; Sunday services - Morning worship 10 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.

EVANT CHURCH OF CHRIST: Will Vann, Preacher; Sunday services-Bible Study 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:20 a.m., evening worship 12:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FORT GATES CHURCH OF CHRIST: Hwy. 36 S.; Sunday services - Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

GATESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST: Justin Hall, minister; 2417 E Main; Sunday Bible class 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible classes 6:30 p.m.

LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO: 2413 East Main; classes y

servicios en Español, 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m., Solamente en domingos.

MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST: 1955 CR 3640, Copperas Cove, TX 76522; Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Worship; Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. Bible Study; Royce 512-734-5390 or Steve 254-865-3559.

PEARL CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sunday services - morning worship 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF GOD
CORNERSTONE, Greg Demmitt, pastor; 338 State School Road; Sunday services - morning worship 11 a.m. www.facebook.com/pages/cornerstone/140632994733

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REFUGE-MINISTRIES PURMELA CHURCH CAMPUS: Josh Morrison, Campus Pastor; 115 FM 183, Purmela, Texas, 10:45 a.m. Sunday worship, 512-425-2828.

LUTHERAN
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH: David Reedy, International Interim Pastor; 922 Lutheran Church Rd. in Copperas Cove; Sunday morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH: Rev. Christopher Richman, PhD; FM 929 in Coryell City; Sunday services - Morning worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH: Rev. John Heckmann, pastor; Hwy. 36 and FM 1114 in The Grove; Sunday services - Sunday School 9 a.m., worship 10:15 a.m.

METHODIST
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Sunday services - 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays. 2 miles north of Ireland on FM 932

EVANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Judith Sellers, Pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 9 a.m., morning worship 10 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GATESVILLE: 2600 E. Main St.; Stephen Schmidt, pastor; Sunday worship - 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY WORD: Meal at 5:30 p.m. \$3; youth, Children and Adult Bible Studies at 6:00 p.m. AA meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. Visit us at fumcgatesville.org for more information.

JONESBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 101 CR 193; Rita Hotz, Pastor; Sunday services - 11 a.m., each 1st and 3rd Sunday.

OGLESBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Sunday services - morning worship 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

PIDCOKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Bill Jones, Pastor; Hwy. 116; Worship service Sundays at 10 a.m. 254-677-6242.

MORMON
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 206 South 26th; Sunday services -Sacrament services 10 a.m., Sun. School 10 a.m

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH: Frank Rosenstern, pastor; Hwy. 84 West; Sunday services, 10:30 a.m.; Thursday services, 7:00 p.m.

CORYELL COMMUNITY CHURCH: Daniel Crowther, Pastor; 115 N. Levita Rd., Gatesville, 248-0849. Sunday Worship services 9am & 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services 6pm; Adult Bible Study, Children's Ministry and C3 Student Ministry.

CORYELL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH: Doran Belknap

Ill, Pastor; Sunday service 11:00 a.m., 8205 FM 182 in Turnersville; (254) 218-5901.

COVER2COVER MINISTRIES: Pastor: Rev. Brandy Spiker, Sunday morning service 10 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. 1409 West Main.

GATESVILLE REVIVAL CENTER: Wes Covey, Pastor; Sunday school 10:00 a.m., Sunday morning 11:00 a.m., Sunday evening 6 p.m., Thursday evening 7 p.m. 2518 Bridge St., Gatesville.

GRACE ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH: Wray Nunn, pastor; Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m. & Wednesday evening worship at 6:30 p.m. at Gateway Learning Center, 2315 Osage Road.

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday Services at 10:45 a.m. 4012 US Hwy. 84, Gatesville.

HARVESTING SOULS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH: Mike & Martha Johnson pastors, 503 N. 11th Street, Gatesville, 865-6222. Sunday morning worship 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study Ministries (Men, Women, children) 6:00 p.m. "Overcomers" a TDC and state approved 12-step recovery program meets Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

JOHNNY WATKIN'S MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Sundays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. aqui se reune La Iglesia de Cristo, in the 2400 block of East Main Street.

LEVITA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: Peter M. Mafwal, Pastor; 4460 FM 930, Levita; Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship at 10:45 a.m.

MOTHER NEFF FAITH TABERNACLE: William Bertelsen, Pastor; 1415 Texas Hwy. 236; Sunday services - 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

PEARL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP: 6735 FM 183 in Pearl. Sunday Services- 9:00 a.m.

THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT: Bill Trotter, pastor; 3412 E. Main St.; Sunday service 11 a.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

PENTECOSTAL
TABERNACLE OF PRAISE UPC: Rev. Jimmy Skiles, pastor; 202 E. Main, Gatesville; Worship services - Sunday mornings at 10:00 am; Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm; www.gatesvilletop.org. 254-206-1826.

MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST: Rev. Lee O. Ford, pastor; 128 North 12th Street; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., weekly services, Wed. Bible Study 6:30p.m.-7:30 p.m., Wed. night service, 7:30p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, pastor; 1110 E. Main, Gatesville; Sunday services - Sunday School 9:45 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

WESLEYAN
CORYELL VALLEY CHURCH: 4995 FM 929, 3.5 miles from S.H. 36; Worship Saturdays at 5 p.m. coryellvalleytexas.com

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
BOOTS -N- SADDLE COWBOY CHURCH: Max Gunn, pastor; 254-248-1850; 10 miles west of Gatesville on HWY 84; Sunday Service @ 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service @ 7:00 p.m.; Youth Sunday Service @9:45 a.m.

HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN BIKER CHURCH: Monty & Tammy VanHorn, pastors; 1608 W. Main St., Gatesville; Sunday Praise and Worship 11 am, Wednesday Bible Study Rally-6 pm, 254-865-4076.

THE POINT FELLOWSHIP: James & Laurinda Paine, Pastors; 2315 Osage Road, Gatesville; Wednesday Services at 7:00 p.m. (Adults, youth & children); Sunday services - Destiny Discovery Class at 9:00 a.m. and Regular services at 10:30 a.m. 254-248-1265.

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Hornets fall short against Lake Belton, 59-49

BY MARK GOODSON
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Hornets ran out of gas late in their Monday matchup with the Lake Belton Broncos.

"We've been getting good shots, we just didn't make any late," Gatesville coach Brit Campbell said. "Our offense has been carrying us, but it should be the other way around with our defense leading us to our offense."

Junior Tyler Shea turned in a solid game with 24 points and 12 rebounds in the 59-49 defeat at Gatesville.

Shea had six of his rebounds and nine of his points in the first quarter. The 6-foot-4 player got a lot of his points in the rhythm of the offense.

He was effective on drives and from the perimeter.

Shae had nine points in each of the first two quarters. Carter Williams also had a fast start with nine of his 10 points in the first half.

Gatesville led 31-22 at halftime. Lake Belton put together a good run in the third quarter. The Hornets led 41-39 entering the fourth quarter. The Broncos hit a big 3-pointer with 2:27 left to give Lake Belton a 53-46 advantage.

Rayshon Smith finished with six points and ran the offense at point guard.

Jarrell 50, Gatesville 42: on Nov. 19, the Hornets dropped a tough game against Jarrell on the road.

Jarrell outscored the Hornets 17-11 to win by eight points.

Leading the Hornets was Carter Williams with 24 points (5-10 from



Tyler Shea drives toward the basket in Gatesville's contest against Lake Belton on Nov. 22. Shea scored 24 points and pulled down 12 rebounds for the Hornets.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

three) and seven rebounds. Other contributors were Ashtyn Culley with eight points and six rebounds.

Trae Miller had six rebounds. "We played hard and competed well, especially without two start-

ers," Campbell said. "We're still not shooting the ball great, we shot better from three

but struggled to put it in the hole inside, even though we got the looks we wanted."

Extreme weather could still threaten Texas power grid

BY GARY BORDERS
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The state's power grid could still be at risk under extreme winter conditions, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, but should operate fine under normal conditions.

The Seasonal Assessment of Resource Adequacy, issued Nov. 19, said the grid can meet normal and even moderately challenging weather conditions but could break down if the state faces winter storms such as occurred last February.

During Winter Storm Uri, much of the state experienced prolonged blackouts.

"We expect there's a 10% chance that demand will exceed what ERCOT considers to be their extreme peak load scenario," Andrew Dessler, a professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M who has been researching the grid, told KUT.org. "In my opinion that's not a great worst-case scenario. One in 10 things happen all the time."

The assessment from ERCOT came just days after a similar assessment from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, which said Texas is under "extreme weather risk" if winter weather conditions exceed projections, spawning rolling blackouts as experienced last winter.

KUT reported recently that natural gas producers and suppliers can opt out of any mandates to winterize their pro-

duction facilities, while power plants must do so under a bill passed by the Texas Legislature during the regular session.

Election Audit Division funds allocated Gov. Greg Abbott and GOP legislative leaders announced Friday that \$4 million has been shifted from the state prison system to the secretary of state's office to pay for county election audits as required under the state's new elections law.

The Dallas Morning News reported the secretary of state's office, which is under the governor's control, would create an Election Audit Division that could conduct random county audits of elections under the new law.

"Ensuring the integrity of our elections is critical to our democracy, and the Texas Secretary of State's office deserves the resources and support needed to thoroughly complete this ongoing task," Abbott said.

Abbott said the audit of Dallas, Harris, Tarrant and Collin counties is "the largest forensic audit in the country." Former President Trump called for a statewide review of the 2020 presidential election despite winning the state by more than 600,000 votes.

Shipping containers used to create border wall Abbott directed National Guard and Department of Public Safety troops to place about 20 large shipping containers along the banks of the Rio Grande to form a "steel curtain" to prevent illegal crossings from Mexico.

The Houston Chronicle reported the move came while the world is facing a shortage in shipping containers that is contributing to the supply chain disruptions being experienced as a result of pandemic-related shutdowns.

The shipping containers were placed next to the international bridge at Eagle Pass.

"Large shipping containers, resources, and personnel are being used to protect communities and property owners. Texas is securing the border," Abbott said in a tweet.

Winter rainbow trout stocking begins The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department begins its annual stocking of more than 350,000 rainbow trout throughout the state this week, a program that continues until early March. "TPWD stocks catchable-sized fish during winter months to create angling opportunities throughout Texas," Carl Kit-

tel, rainbow trout program director, said. "Rainbow trout love cold water, can be caught on a variety of baits and lures and are great to take home and eat. Our winter rainbow trout program has been a favorite with anglers for over 40 years."

TPWD manages 18 neighborhood fishing lakes in the state's major urban areas, as well a number of city- and county-managed park ponds. Anglers are encouraged to take their daily legal limit, because the trout can't survive in the state's summer heat.

The 2021-2022 Trout Stocking Schedule can be found online at: <https://tinyurl.com/8ayk2nbs>.

COVID-19 cases steady but deaths drop The number of new COVID-19 cases in the past week in the state was largely unchanged from the previous week, with 22,976 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

A total of 591 deaths were reported, down 30% from the previous week. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas stood at 2,663 as of Sunday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. That is down just slightly from the previous week.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated totals 15.78 million, which is 54.1% of the state's population, according to DSHS.

In addition, 2.42 million people in the state have received an additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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.

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Lady Hornets upend Leopards, 54-48

BY MARK GOODSON
STAFF WRITER

Gatesville coach Ryan Ocheskey was hopeful his girls' basketball team would learn from last week's time on the court in tournament play at Merkel.

Monday, the Hornets returned to their home court and showed they can play the game.

"The ball movement was great," Ocheskey said. "This is the type of team we can be. We had a lot of energy out there today."

The Hornets won, 54-48, over a talented Lorena Leopard team to snap an eight-game losing streak. Lorena fell to 2-3.

"We just decided to show what we can do as a team," said junior guard Kegan Hunt. "It felt good."

Hunt scored 12 points and was one of the igniters in the attack with her drives and slick passes to teammates. In the last minute she hit three of four clutch free throws.

The guards were sharp with their passes all game. Just a week ago, the team had more than 30 turnovers in a loss to the Belton Tigers.

Post player Taylor Coward was the top scorer with 19 points. McKenzie Feldman, the team's lone senior, added five points in the paint.

Eight Hornets scored in the game.

Guard Kamryn Higginbotham finished with seven points and was solid keeping the ball moving in the offense.

The team's defense was excellent rotating to keep Lorena in check. Charlie Sommerfield, Tamiyah Miller, Aliyah Trotter and Hunt were solid on defense, forcing loose balls. Trotter had a big defensive rebound and a block down the stretch.

Lorena's top scorers were Avery Harris with 25 points and Leigh Jaspersen with 10 points.



Kagen Hunt brings the ball up court for Gatesville in the Lady Hornets victory over the Lorena Leopards on Nov. 22.

Prior to the win over Lorena, the team dropped five games at the Merkel Tournament in three days.

They lost to Greenwood, 61-48; Samford,

90-23; Merkel, 76-29; Cisco, 69-14; and Odesa, 55-35.

Ocheskey said he hopes the team will carry the momentum of the win into a solid run.

The team returns to action Nov. 30 at Whitney. Dec. 2-4 they will be in the Lorena Tournament.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Members of the Gatesville varsity girls basketball team celebrate their victory over the Lorena Lady Leopards, the first victory of the season for the Lady Hornets.

Oglesby football season ends vs. Richland Springs

BY MARK GOODSON
STAFF WRITER

For the second straight season, the Richland Springs Coyotes halted Oglesby's run in the playoffs.

This season the Coyotes started fast and ran off a 53-0 victory in the second round of the Class 1A, Division II playoffs at Comanche.

Richland Springs (9-1) advances to meet Oakwood. The Coyotes state titles have been 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2019.

Oglesby has turned the corner with its program the last two seasons under Jeb Dixon. The Tigers have posted 10-2 and 9-3 seasons, respectively under Dixon.

Tigers 2021 season recap

Oglesby 52, Ranger 32

Oglesby 36, Morgan 31

Oglesby wins vs. CenTex Homeschool (via forfeit)

Oglesby 70, Kopperl 6



Oglesby 92, Eagle Christian Academy 6
Oglesby 8, Live Oak Classical 54
Oglesby 22, St. Stephen's Episcopal 70
Oglesby 60, Mount Calm 0
Oglesby 68, Buckholts 0
Oglesby wins vs. Dime Box (via forfeit)
Oglesby 48, Calvert 30
Oglesby 0, Richland Springs 53



We invite you to join us for a

Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony of Seaton Cemetery

Sunday, November 28, 2021

2:00 p.m. at Seaton Cemetery

333 Seaton Road, Leon Junction, TX

If inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the Cowboy Church at Leon Junction.



Seaton Cemetery, established 1875 on land owned by early settlers John Isbell and Ann Eliza (O'Keefe) Lamb in what is now known as the community of Leon Junction.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

<p>GATESVILLE HORNETS Season ended</p>	<p>JONESBORO EAGLES Caleb Christel 20 carries, 146 yards, 3 TDs, three of eight passing for 46 yards, five tackles</p>
<p>EVANT ELKS Season ended</p>	<p>OGLESBY TIGERS Blake Thompson Led team in rushing</p>

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