



Helping to encourage, rebuild lives

Hidden Gem focuses on restoration

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Helping to rebuild lives of people who have been shattered or disrupted because they are the victims of crime - or the loved ones of victims - while offering encouragement, support and financial assistance is the aim of Hidden Gem Family Center, a nonprofit organization located at 115 S. Seventh St.

Since it first began operations in July under the direction of Executive Director Jenny Featherston and Program Director Julia Smith, the organization has sought to help those who are often enduring dark and difficult times because of the way crime has impacted their lives.

"We're all about family restoration," said Featherston, who is also the crime victim assistance coordinator for the Coryell County District Attorney's Office. In that role, she said she works with victims and their loved ones to refer them the resources and services that can help them.

"We were having to outsource a lot of that to other counties. Coryell County just didn't offer a whole lot when it came to those types of services, so I decided it would be good to start our own."

The name of the organization came about as a way of reflecting every person's value, which is sometimes hidden beneath the surface, Featherston said.

"As far as the name, I felt like God gave it to me," she said. "When you are going through really difficult times it's important to get past the rough and to find the gem that's hidden within, to bring out the best and shine the way that God wants it to."

Among the services the nonprofit offers is to help

PLEASE SEE **HELP** | A2



From left, Jenny Featherston, Bethany Tennison and Delisa Sandell are dedicated to helping others find help and healing through Hidden Gem, a nonprofit that offers encouragement to crime victims and their loved ones.

JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Victims, survivors honored

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Survivors of crime and relatives of victims who died because of crime gathered at Hidden Gem Family Center on the Coryell County Courthouse square recently to remember their loved ones and to thank those who stood by them through the darkest of times.

Fourteen Christmas trees were set up in honor of crime victims who died, and a 15th tree represented survivors. Family members or friends of those who died were able to place an angel or angel's wings on a tree in their memory, and survivors or their loved ones were able to place a dove on a tree to celebrate their triumph over adversity.

"We want the families to know we haven't forgotten," said Jenny Featherston, crime victims assistance coordinator for Coryell County. "We want to celebrate their loved ones with them, and it's a reunion for us to be with them and let them know we still support them."

Coryell County District Attorney Dusty Boyd, assistant DAs and other staff also attended the event, and voiced their support for victims and those who care about them.

"It's always really rewarding to see people whose cases have been finished (in the legal system) and also to visit with those whose cases continue. It's great to be able to spend time with them, especially during this time of year (before Christmas)."

Boyd praised Featherston, who has the dual role of working for the DA's office and coordinating efforts for the nonprofit Hidden Gem, and other volunteers for their efforts.

"Jenny does such a great job, along with others who

PLEASE SEE **EVENT** | A2



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Trees at Hidden Gem were decorated to honor favorite colors of crime victims and included photos nearby.



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Coryell County District Attorney Dusty Boyd talks to those gathered at a holiday event honoring crime victims.

Book focuses on experiences of WW II veterans

BY DAVID SCOTT
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Public Library recently hosted a book signing with award-winning author Kaye D. Schmitz, who was signing her most recent novel, "The Road Remembered." Her novel chronicles the lives of real World War II veterans - all of whom allowed her to use their names and actual experiences as characters and plot points in her story.

Local interest in the novel was spurred by two WW II veterans featured in her story, Erwin Davis and his twin brother, Ervin, who were natives of nearby Pearl, Texas.

"Three years ago, I flew to Texas

to meet Erwin Davis - and that really kick-started the journey of writing my latest novel. The Davis twins are featured prominently throughout the book," Schmitz said. "One of my biggest regrets is that Erwin is no longer with us. Oh, how I would have loved to have had him sitting beside me signing the book with me," she said. Erwin Davis passed away on March 9, 2018, in Waco at the age of 92. His brother, Erwin, died at age 95 at his home in Austin on July 16, 2021.

The twins were born in Pearl in 1925 to William Alvis Davis and Hattie Ruth DeLoach Davis. Upon graduating from Pearl High School,

PLEASE SEE **NOVEL** | A9



Top left, author Kaye D. Schmitz signed books at the Gatesville Public Library. Top right, Schmitz (center) with the daughters of Erwin and Ervin Davis, Darla Wilson, daughter of Erwin Davis and RuthAnn Koepcke, daughter of Erwin Davis.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER



QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: When does the Christmas parade start?
A: 10 a.m. today. It will travel down Main Street from H-E-B to Lovers Lane.

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HELP

FROM PAGE A1

nonprofit offers is to help community members obtain their general equivalency degrees if they haven't received their high school diplomas, to connect people with programs to help them break the cycle of addiction, to provide help for people who are hurting because of abuse and to help find financial resources for those who need them. It also provides opportunities for people who need to talk about their struggles, and also plans to offer Bible studies for those who are interested.

The organization is faith-based, so there is a strong emphasis on finding healing through the love and strength available through prayer and a relationship with God.

Two of the volunteers with Hidden Gem are Delisa Sandell and Bethany Tennison, who have overcome adversity in their own lives and want to encourage and support others.

"Being a victim, I came in to see Jenny and get help, and she started talking to me about Hidden Gem," Sandell said. "She and others with the group have been the army of God sent to help bring me out of my despair."

"I have come to realize that

there's only so much people can understand if they haven't been through the trauma (of being a victim) themselves. That's something I can help with. I understand personally what it is like to have gone through that. I still have trouble with trauma, but it helps to work through that with others who understand and who care and support you."

Tennison said she wants to encourage those who are struggling, and to help them know that help is available.

"My drive is being a life coach," she said. "I love to help people overcome addiction so they can be who they're meant to be through Christ. I go to the jail and talk to people so I can give them information about resources available if they want to change. I have gotten a lot of positive feedback."

"This is a good place to come and get help so that people can become who they are meant to be."

One goal Hidden Gem is working toward is transforming a former substance abuse treatment facility in the Evant area into transitional housing for those who need it.

"It surprised us how many homeless people there are, and they have no support," Featherston said. "Our goal is to give them that help and support."

Those who have been victimized

www.gatesvill messenger.com



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Loved ones of victims who died could put angels on a Christmas tree honoring them, while survivors could place doves on a tree.

often suffer long-term emotional trauma that can be difficult to overcome.

"It's important to offer people support so they don't fall into addiction as a way to cope," Sandell said. In our society, the thought is that if you go through something

bad, you just dust yourself off and pick yourself off by your bootstraps and get over it. Sometimes it's not that easy."

Sometimes people may be suffering through trauma and may not ever be aware that they need help, Featherston said.

"What's amazing is so many people don't even realize they've been victims of abuse, or they don't accept that," she said.

"I know God has been with me every step of the way (through her own struggle)," Sandell said. "When you're in that trauma there are so many thoughts and so many questions of why and how."

Featherston said that understanding of the difficulties people are facing and the desire to help them is a key to helping them heal.

"That is so important," she said. "Those who have gone through the trauma can help those who are still going through it. That also helps your relationship with the Lord grow stronger."

"We want to be able to help anyone who has been through trauma no matter what the trauma is."

Donations are welcome, Featherston said, and people can also call if they are struggling and need help.

The nonprofit's goal is to offer counseling, child care and temporary and transitional housing in 2022.

To make a donation or for more information, call 254-206-3003. Information is also available at the Hidden Gem website (hiddengemfamilycenter.com or Facebook page.

EVENT

FROM PAGE A1

devote their time and efforts," he said. "We (the staff of the DA's office) work together with them as true advocates for those who have suffered because of crime."

Addressing those attending the event, Boyd said he was glad to see those with whom he and other staff have built strong bonds.

"I missed y'all," he said. "It's been two years (since the last such gathering, because of COVID-19 disruptions), and I want to thank

Jenny Featherston and other volunteers and staff who helped put this together.

"It's always so rewarding to be able to spend time with our families that we have worked with over the past and in the present. For many of you who have been through the criminal justice process before, the criminal justice process can seem cold and long. It's our hope that you will know we care."

Boyd talked about how the staff of the DA's office has grown substantially as the county's popula-

tion has also grown.

"Our mission is to make sure we are always on the curve or ahead of the curve. It's important that people feel connected no matter how big we grow. We want you to know that we care and we give all we have for you."

Boyd recalled how in the past, Coryell County's holiday gathering for victims and survivors was held at the Bell County Expo Center.

"That was too big so we split off and went with our own event. We want to visit and talk to you," he said. "I know this time can be a

challenge. Just as we've made an impact on your lives, you have also made an impact on ours."

"I assure you, just because the doors close and the (defendant) is sent to prison or gets probation, we never forget. I drive by areas where I see a cross on the side of the road, and I relive it (the circumstances that led to court cases)."

One woman attending the event told Boyd she appreciated all the efforts by staff and volunteers to help them through times of distress and pain.

"Thank you for all you've done,"

she said. "It does mean a lot to us."

A man attending the event who asked not to be identified agreed.

"As a crime victim I don't know where I'd be without Jenny or the DA's office," he said.

"We connect at some point during the experience and it does make a difference. The hardest part is coming into the process (the crime followed by the judicial proceedings). Every little bit helps, and it makes a big difference to us."

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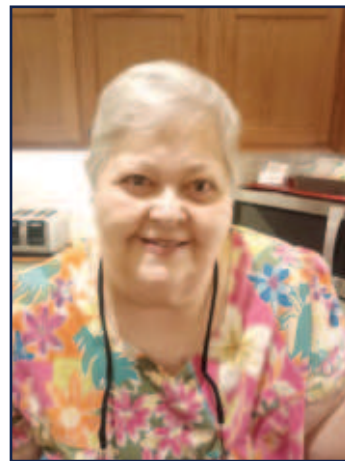
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DEADLINES:

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.

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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.

Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Car Show and Toy Drive

The Roamin Chariots car club will be hosting a car show and toy drive on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. in the parking lot of Bare Bones Barbeque. The event will be sponsored by S&W Products, Bare Bones BBQ and The Feed Mill.

The entry fee will be a new unwrapped toy with a minimum \$10 value. The toys collected will be distributed by Pathway Youth and Family Services.

Judging of the car show will end at 12:30 p.m. and winners will be announced at 1:30 p.m. when trophies will be awarded.

Neighbors supporting neighbors is one way to describe the Gatesville community. This event shows support to some of the

young neighbors for their roles they play in the community.

Bare Bones Barbeque is located at 4305 S. State Hwy. 36.

For more information about the car show and toy drive, please call Andy Cloud at 254-216-3201.

Correction: In the last edition of The Gatesville Messenger, a photograph of motorcycles was mis-identified as being the Roamin Chariots car show and toy drive. In fact, that event was the Shooter/FM Harley Davidson Toy Run. We apologize for any inconvenience.



COURTESY PHOTO

December Business of the Month



COURTESY PHOTO

LEAIRD'S FURNITURE AND APPLIANCE STORE GETS THE NOD: The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce December Business of the Month is Leaird's Furniture and Appliance Store. The owners are Clay and Carolyn McClellan. The business is located on the courthouse square at 108 S. 6th Street. They can be reached by calling 254-865-2615. Business of the Month is sponsored by Extraco Banks and The Gatesville Messenger. The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recognizes an outstanding business each month to spotlight. Nominees for Business of the Month must be a chamber member.

Christmas events at Mountain Baptist

Mountain Baptist Church will be hosting several Christmas programs this year. On Sunday, Dec. 12, the church will have a holiday musical beginning at 11 a.m.

Also on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m., the church will have a drive-through live nativity event featuring Biblical characters in costume, as

well as live animals depicting the story of Christmas. On Sunday, Dec. 19, the church will have a candlelight service.

Mountain Baptist Church is located at 6319 E. U.S. Highway 84 in South Mountain.

For more information about these holiday events, call 254-383-2634.

CCC to hold Christmas play, candlelight service

Coryell Community Church will present a Christmas play for the public on Sunday, December 19. The Christmas production will be held at 9 and 10:30 a.m.

On Friday, December 24, the church will hold a

Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5 and 7 p.m.

For more information, visit their website at coryell.church.

The church is located at 115 N. Levita Road in Gatesville.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of December 6-8. 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

Dec. 6
4:01 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Doras Lane.
6:29 a.m., a burglary was reported in the 300 block of Bridge Street.
11:38 a.m., harassment was reported in the 1400 block of W. Main Street.
11:57 a.m., an assault was reported in the 4300 block of E. Hwy. 84.

2:43 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 300 block of Valley View Drive.
3:44 p.m., an assault was reported in the 200 block of S. Lovers Lane.

Dec. 7
8:25 a.m., a theft was reported in the 4600 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
10:05 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of Lovers Lane.
10:10 a.m., a theft was reported in the 2500 block of Business Hwy. 36.
2:10 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 3400 block of Imperial Drive.

2:49 p.m., a fight was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.
4:44 p.m., a hit and run was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

Dec. 8
6:47 a.m., a theft was reported in the 300 block of

Hamilton Drive.
1:17 p.m., harassment was reported in the 100 block of Elm Street.
1:52 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 1300 block of Westview Drive.
3:56 p.m., harassment was reported in the 200 block of N. 8th Street.
5:01 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 1100 block of E. Leon Street.
7:37 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Business Hwy. 36.

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CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dec. 6
8:23 a.m., a theft was reported in the 400 block of Cattle Drive.
10:43 a.m., a scam was reported in the 3400 block of CR 318.
3:11 p.m., a theft was reported in the 500 block of Avenue K.
4:11 p.m., illegal dumping

was reported on FM 184.
7:22 p.m., a structure fire was reported on FM 1996.
8:30 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 4000 block of FM 930.

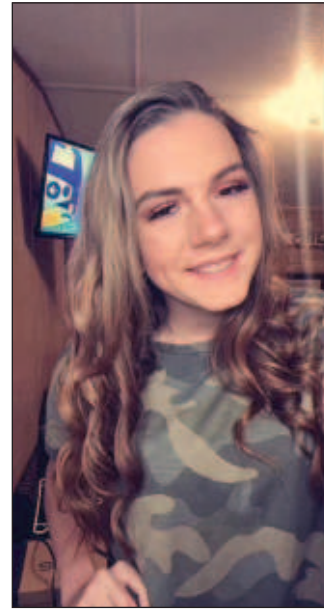
Dec. 7
8:32 a.m., a scam was reported in the 3400 block of CR 318.
12:09 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.
1:10 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on CR 334 and FM 184.
2:38 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 5500 block of FM 1783.
5:57 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1113.
6:48 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 1200 block of Straws Mill Road.

Dec. 8
8:47 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 9500 block of S. State Hwy. 36.
10:48 a.m., identity theft was reported in the 5500 block of FM 2412.
1:36 p.m., a stolen vehicle was reported at the Texas Station RV Park.
5:25 p.m., an out-of-control child was reported in 100 Putnam Drive.
6:05 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported on CR 101.
6:43 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 5200 block of 1829.

OBITUARIES

MADYSUN LASHAE FABER

Feb. 5, 2003 - Dec. 2, 2021



Madysun Lashae Faber was born on Feb. 5, 2003, in Wichita Falls to William David Faber and Kimberly LeAnn (Mowdy) Hartline. She was taken too soon along with her mother, Kimberly Hartline, on Dec. 2, 2021, at the age of 18.

Madysun was a resident of Dibble, OK. Prior to Dibble, she lived in Gatesville. She attended school in Alex, OK, and Gatesville.

Madysun loved all things fashion. She was a shopaholic and aspiring makeup artist. She enjoyed riding horses and she loved her dog, Jasmine. Madysun found enjoyment listening to music.

She loved to spoil Brinslee, Elijah, and Graycie. She was a free spirit and always spoke her mind. Madysun loved her family and spending time with them. She was a blessing to those around her and touched the lives of everyone she met. Madysun will be missed more than words can say.

Left to cherish her memory is her father, William Faber and wife, LaDonna, of Gatesville; stepfather, Scott Hartline of Dibble, OK; grandparents, Jack Faber and wife, Dotty, of Belton, Tammy Parker and husband, John, of Vian, OK, Mike Mowdy and wife, Theresa, of Pocasset, OK, and Butch Flint of Tennessee Colony, TX; her sisters, Meghan Faber of Dibble, OK, Kaylee Faber of Gatesville, Brinslee Hartline of Dibble, OK, Cheyanne Hartline

of Dibble, OK; her brothers, Kaleb Johnson of Gatesville, Dakota Hartline of Chickasha, OK, and Thomas Scott of Gatesville; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A funeral service to honor the life of Madysun and her mother, Kimberly Hartline, was held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at the Dibble Middle School Gym in Dibble, OK, with Landon Lewis officiating. She was laid to rest at the Dibble Cemetery in Dibble following the service.

Services were under the direction of Scott and Angel Wilbourn of Wilbourn Family Funeral Home in Alex, OK. Condolences may be made to the family online at www.wilbournfamilyfuneralhome.com

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GRAND RE-OPENING: The Gatesville Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Regency Inn's Grand Re-Opening. Following last winter's storm, the business remained closed for 10 months and during that time, all the rooms were re-modeled. The business is owned by V.J. and Kala Patel. It is located at 2307 E. Main Street in Gatesville. They can be reached by calling 254-865-8405.

Christmas Festivities

Sunday, Dec. 12
11 a.m. Musical
6:30 p.m. Drive-thru Live Nativity Scene

Sunday, Dec. 19
6 p.m. Candlelight Service

Mountain Baptist Church
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Meaders graduates from UMHB

Tristen Meaders, of Gatesville, recently received her B.G.S. degree in General Studies from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. The university held commencement services for the Fall 2021 semester on Friday, Dec. 3, at the Bell County Expo Center. This was the university's 165th graduating class, and a to-

tal of 417 students were awarded degrees, including 333 baccalaureate degrees, 45 master's degrees, and 39 doctoral degrees. UMHB President Dr. Randy O'Rear commended students for their dedication and determination to finish their degrees and celebrated the accomplishments of the class of 2021.

Milk and cookies with Santa

The Gatesville Public Library will be hosting "Milk and Cookies with Santa" on Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The event is completely free and the entire family is welcome to attend. Milk and cookies will be served.

Santa will be on hand to read a story and crafts will be available. Those planning to attend should bring a camera so that they can have their photo made with Santa. Gatesville Public Library is located at 111 N. 8th Street.

OISD to host Tiger Angel Christmas

The Oglesby Independent School District will be hosting a "Tiger Angel Christmas." This will be an opportunity for the Oglesby community to come together and help each other provide gifts for those in need. Beginning Tuesday, Dec. 7, there will be a tree located in Misti Sander's office at Oglesby ISD from which those interested can

pick an angel paw that will have a list of specific wants and needs (names will not be provided). If you want to donate money instead of adopting a child, you may drop off monetary donations at the Oglesby ISD front office. All gifts purchased should be delivered to Mrs. Sander's office by Wednesday, Dec. 15.

YARD OF THE MONTH



COURTESY PHOTO

DECEMBER'S PICK: Keep Gatesville Beautiful December Yard of the Month goes to Michelle and Randal Latham who live at 402 Straws Mill Road. Mrs. Claus, aka Michelle, with the help of Colten Mitchell, puts their Christmas display up each year right after Thanksgiving. Its take them two whole days. She began this tradition 20 years ago with a small collection and she adds new pieces each year. The Latham's leave their lights on from dusk to dawn each night during the Christmas Season because the children riding the school bus each morning get excited when they drive by.

Marriage licenses filed in November

Marriage licenses filed during November 2021 in the Coryell County Clerk's office include: John Taylor Melton and Betheny Joanna Findley, Clayton Tyler Haigood and Jordan Elizabeth Wright, Korey Desmond Henderson and Mary Elizabeth Henderson, Greyson Forrest Krone and Sarah

Cathryn Davis, Walter Alexander Flores and Nasreen Moreno, Korell Oshay Marquis Clark and Estephany Mary Davalos, Todd Lee Gravelyn and Lynette Denise Calabrese, Martin Mendez and Kaylie Brooke Sorel, Jonathan Roy Stricker and Elayna Marie Burrow, Christopher Matthew Mangham and Franchesca

Nichole Rodriguez, Skylar Trace Smith and Samantha Nannette Hall, Jorge Nazareth Carreon and Jajaira Tay Ramos Torres, Charles Patrick Coleman and Wendy Ramona Butler, Cody Wayne Davenport and Michaela Desirae Krueger, Edward Jonathan Belvin and Sandra Wilemon Windsor, Zachary Lane Thom-


as and Keeley Shaye Powell, RJ Kevin Paulus and Norvona Le Kelle Crook, Arthur Alvin McDonald, Jr. and Brenda Sneed, Zachary Paul Flory and Tamara Rae Thompson, Brian John Kingsley and Paige Kaylea Ponath.

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LIBRARY NEWS

Off the Shelves at the Gatesville Public Library



FAYE NICHOLS
Library Director

December is here and we have a busy month planned at the library. Key events that you don't want to miss are:

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m. - Colors & Coffee coloring group for adults will meet.

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Milk & Cookies with Santa. Come for crafts, stories, and pictures with Santa. Milk and cookies will be our refreshments.

Dec. 24-27 - Library closed for Christmas holiday

Dec. 31-Jan. 1 - Library closed for New Year's holiday

If you need a break from all the holiday hustle and bustle, we have some great

new titles to get lost in.

For our nonfiction readers: Peril by Bob Woodward. Bob Woodward and Robert Costa cover the end of the Trump presidency and the early months of the Biden presidency.

The boys: a memoir of Hollywood and family by Ron Howard & Clint Howard. With the perspective of time and success—Ron as a filmmaker, producer, and Hollywood A-lister, Clint as a busy character actor—the Howard brothers delve deep into an upbringing that seemed normal to them yet was anything but.

To rescue the republic: Ulysses S. Grant, the fragile Union, and the crisis of 1876 by Bret Baier. A riveting reassessment of Ulysses S. Grant, arguing that the great Civil War commander's battle to save the Union continued to the very end of his presidency when a crisis threatened to fracture the still fragile nation once again.

Great fiction reads: Game on: tempting twenty-eight by Janet Evanovich. #28 in the Stephanie Plum series

Autopsy: a Scarpetta novel

by Patricia Cornwell. Scarpetta is back! In this 25th in the electrifying, landmark No. 1 bestselling thriller series chief medical examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta hunts an ingenious killer who has mastered cutting-edge science for the most nefarious ends.

Go tell the bees that I am gone by Diana Gabaldon. It is 1779 and Claire and Jamie are at last reunited with their daughter, Brianna, her husband, Roger, and their children on Fraser's Ridge.

Rogue Asset by Brian Andrews. The secretary of state has been kidnapped by Islamic extremists and his only hope for survival is a reconstituted Presidential Agent team.

Be sure to keep an eye on our website at gatesvillex.com/library for more great reads and our event calendar. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram @gateslib. For questions or more information, please call the library at 254-865-5367 or email me at fnichols@gatesvillex.com.

May you and yours all have a blessed and memorable holiday season!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM SPARKY & SANTA



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER: Santa and Sparky recently greeted the public in front of the Gatesville Fire Department. They were joined by the Grinch and a Gingerbread Man. Santa will continue to greet the public each Sunday evening at the fire station through Dec. 19th before heading back to the North Pole to get ready for Christmas.

Pitts scholarship accepting applications

The Susan Patricia Pitts 2021 Memorial Scholarship is being sponsored by the John H. Reagan Chapter 325 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The \$250 scholarship will be available to high school seniors (including home-schooled) in Coryell and Hamilton County

schools, and college-level (scholar or vocational) students whose home residence is in Coryell or Hamilton Counties.

Those wishing to participate must write an essay of approximately 750 words or more on the topic of either Holt Collier, Jeff Hamilton,

or William Mack Lee. The essay must explain about how this person's life story continues to have an influence in today's society by using research to support their thesis. Four sources minimum are required. Wikipedia will not be considered a reliable source and use of the site will

be an automatic dismissal.

The essays will be emailed to the membership and voted upon at their May meeting in which the final decision will be announced. The scholarship will be given to the participant as soon as a winner is chosen, and a cashier's check is printed. A press release

will also appear in The Gatesville Messenger and/or the winner's local newspaper, if different.

Completed essays must be received by April 15, 2022. Essays received after this date will not be accepted. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will constitute an auto-

matic dismissal.

For essay style rules or for more information, contact Jane Pitts at 254-723-4727 or johnhreagan325udc@yahoo.com

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9 & 10:30 AM

— CANDLELIGHT SERVICE —

DECEMBER 24
5 & 7 PM

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP

BAPTIST

BETHEL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH: Hemmeline Cemetery Rd.; Sunday services - Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

BETHLEHEM 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.



Leaders Are Servants

"You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
—Mark 10: 42-45 NIV

In order to be a good leader one must be willing to be a servant. Government officials and political leaders who do their job well invariably stress that they are public servants and therefore take pains to actually serve and benefit the public. Religious leaders must do the same, serving their flocks as a good shepherd does his sheep. Jesus did not consider it beneath him to wash the feet of his apostles on the night before he was arrested. And in our working lives, we all know that the best managers and supervisors aren't afraid to get their hands dirty and serve their employees almost in the same way that a loving parent serves his or her children, educating them and helping them when necessary with difficult tasks. We are all called to serve God by serving our fellow man and in the process of doing so we lead by example. Don't consider it beneath you to serve others. Service to others is our highest calling. — Christopher Simon

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 McConnaughay, 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

EVANGELICAL METHODIST

REFUGEE-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: Dennis Dutton, 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 reunen 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 am.

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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- ▶ 9.97 acres southwest of Gatesville in King Ranch Subdivision, good tree cover, rolling terrain, nice home site. The property has a water meter. \$144,500
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 12.1 acres, FM 929 frontage & CR 255 frontage, property is level with good views to the north, approx. 4.5 acres of Coastal Bermuda & the remaining is native grasses. Coryell City Water & electric are available along CR 255. \$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
- ▶ 17 acres, FM 929 Frontage & CR 255 frontage. The property is level with good views to the north, approx. 8 acres of Coastal Bermuda & the remaining is native grasses. Coryell City Water & electric are available along CR 255. \$195,000
- ▶ 20.02 acres, Evant, TX in Hamilton County, rolling terrain, good tree cover & a seasonal creek on the south boundary of the property. The property will have electric serviced by Hamilton County Electric Co. & Fiber Optic Internet service from Central Texas Telephone Company. \$265,000
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 36 +/- acres west of Evant, TX, Hamilton County. The property is completely fenced w/electric along the front of the property, scattered tree cover & rolling terrain & pond that is on the neighbors property that back up water onto the property. Fiber Optic Internet Service, you will need to drill a water well for water. \$387,000
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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. \$1,230,000

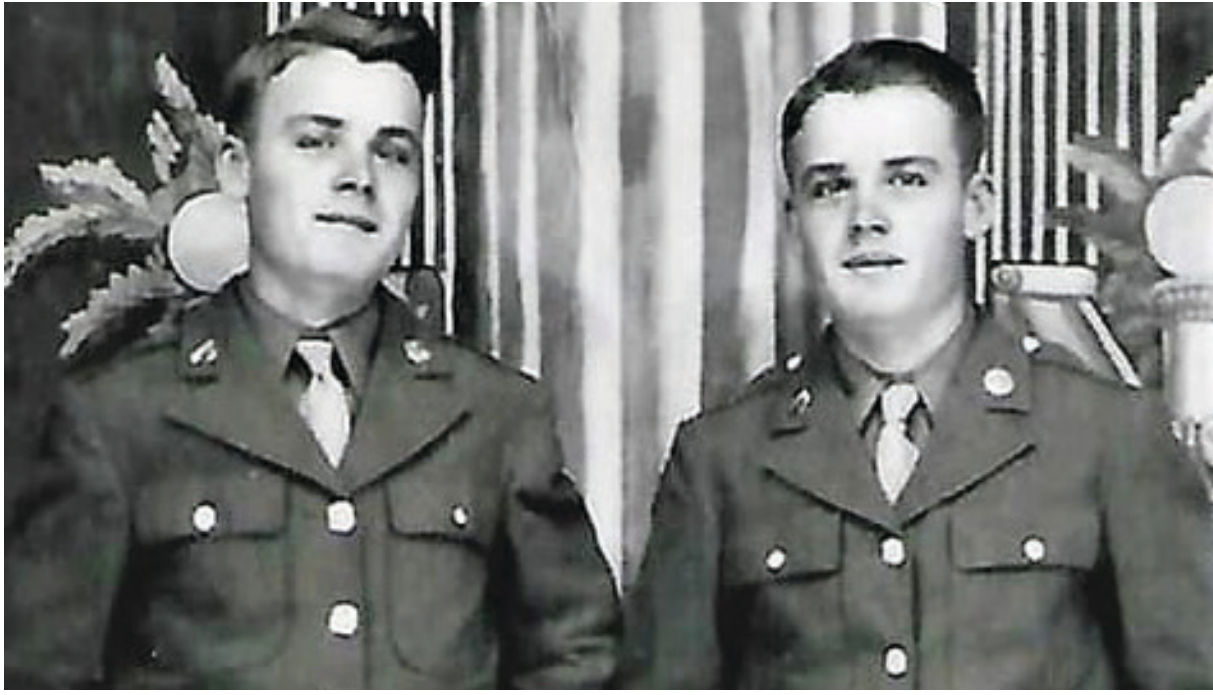
NOVEL

FROM PAGE A1

they entered military service during WWII. Erwin and Ervin requested to stay together and the two became a bazooka team in the 89th Infantry Division in the European Theater of Operations from May 27, 1944, until April 25, 1946. In combat, the bazooka team was comprised of Erwin loading and Ervin firing.

The Davis twins helped to set up Camp Lucky Strike in France which was a tent city with streets. They were then sent to Luxembourg for a short while. They faced combat at the Mosell River bordering Germany and Luxembourg where they crossed the river at 2 a.m. in a rowboat.

Erwin and Ervin were both honorably discharged on April 25, 1946, at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. Upon returning home, they managed to catch a ride to Gatesville, but had



A wartime photo of the Davis twins, (from left) Erwin and Ervin, who served in Gen. George Patton's Third Army.

COURTESY PHOTO

to walk from Gatesville back to their home in Pearl - approximately 22 miles.

Concerning the recent novel by Schmitz, Erwin Davis was quoted as saying, "I have just finished reading your manuscript of 'The Road Remembered.' It is truly a masterpiece. Even though it had to include some sadness, I'm glad you were able to end it on a pleasant note. I am glad your dad and I served together in the 89th Infantry Division."

On her decision to write the historical novel, Schmitz said, "After my dad died, I found the map of his journey across Europe at the end of WWII. Then I found a transcript he had done of his experiences in the war. I read that with the map open in front of me and I knew I had to tell his story."

Her father's story began to expand, and she decided to include the stories of other WWII veterans who had experiences of their own to relate.

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

The Gatesville High School Varsity Choir performed a selection of Christmas songs for the Gatesville Lions Club on Dec. 8 at the Junction on Route 36. Among the songs sung were "Still, Still, Still," "Santa's Job is a Snap," "Walking into Air" and "Heaven Everywhere."

The right solution? Maybe, or maybe no

During my times in the horse business, I employed a man by the name of Esteban.

He had worked with horses all his life and for the 10 or so years before he came to work for me, had supervised all the other hands at a ranch in the middle of horse country. The owner of the old ranch had passed on, and Esteban did not like the change in ownership that resulted. He was needing a change of environment and I was fortunate to have him come work with me.

Esteban's vast work experience made him very good at anticipating problems before they happened. He made sure plenty of supplies were on hand and was first rate in taking care of the animals.

I declare, Esteban could tell a horse was getting sick before the horse knew he was starting to feel ill. He needed very little direction because he knew what needed to be done and simply saw it was taken care of. He was a valuable addition and a trusted and much-appreciated compadre.

If Esteban had a fault, it was when a piece of machinery would

FROM MY FRONT PORCH**SAM HOUSTON**

Sam Houston is publisher of the Gatesville Messenger. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.

break down. From his vast experience he could gerrymander solutions to many problems that saved the ranch a bunch of money, but at the same time, computerized

machinery or electronics were very frustrating to him. Esteban has spent a lifetime working only with a manure fork or a shovel, and he found troubleshooting mechanical issues a real challenge.

One day, Esteban had driven the tractor to a far part of the ranch. Once he got there and was ready to return to the barn, he could not get the tractor to start.

I was out checking stock and I could see the tractor sitting in the same spot and noticed Esteban had the hood to the engine compartment open.

I drove over and parked my truck and got out. When I did, I could see Esteban had a hammer in his hand and was utilizing it to bang on the engine block of the John Deere and then on the battery. He would strike several blows at one, and then switch to the other, all the while muttering words in Spanish with which I was unfamiliar.

I walked up to the tractor and stood for a brief second before asking, "what is wrong with it?" Esteban never looked up and kept hammering away, muttered the re-

sponse, "it no start."

I watched for another second or two, as the ranch hand kept pounding away with the vigor of Mickey Mantle swinging a baseball bat.

Admittedly I am no mechanic, but I was at a loss of how beating the machinery into submission was going to solve the problem. Finally, after a few more resounding hammer thuds, I inquired sheepishly, "Does that help?"

Esteban never looked up. He kept hitting the mechanical devil he was trying to exorcise, and uttered, "Maybe. Or Maybe no."

I finally suggested we take the battery off and go and get it checked. He did and sure enough, the battery was bad, and the problem was solved.

I learned a little about life that day. Sometimes we all act in ways that really have no goal or purpose, other than to make us feel better at the time.

In coping with our frustration, fears or anger, we act in a way that makes us feel better for the second but does nothing toward solving the underlying problem.

For Esteban, fixing the tractor had become personal and if he could not figure out the issue and repair it, he was going to make sure the tractor paid a price for its disobedience.

He kept hammering away and did not know if it was solving the problem or not — but in the instant, it made him feel better.

After that day when I found myself acting out of anger, frustration, or passion, I would stop and ask myself if what I was doing would help with the problem at hand. Many times, the answer I had to give myself was "Maybe. Maybe no."

On those occasions I realized it was probably better to simply get the "battery checked" and solve the problem than seeking retribution or to keep pounding away.

Thanks, Esteban, for teaching me an important life lesson.

Thought for the day: Explain your anger instead of expressing it and you'll find solutions instead of arguments.

Until next time...

AREA FISHING REPORT**Lake Belton**

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 1.98 feet low. This week's warm and stable weather, impacted only by a weak front on Wednesday, kept the bite turned on all week, boosted by a lake week warmup. White bass are good using MAL Heavy Lures under birds and whenever fish showed to be feeding in the water column. Switching to Bladed Hazy Eye Slabs when the fish settled to the bottom was an effective 1-2 punch. Some catches of freshwater drum, striped bass, and largemouth mixed in. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Lake Stillhouse Hollow

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 1.51 feet low. This week's warm and stable weather, impacted only by a weak front on

Wednesday, kept the bite turned on all week, boosted by a lake week warmup. White bass are good using MAL Heavy Lures under birds and whenever fish showed to be feeding in the water column. Switching to Bladed Hazy Eye Slabs when the fish settled to the bottom was an effective 1-2 punch. Some catches of freshwater drum, striped bass, and largemouth mixed in. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Lake Waco

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 2.62 feet low. Catfish are good when drifting main lake flats and channel ledges on fresh-cut baits like shad and perch. White bass and hybrid bass are in the main lake. Report by Jason "SPUD" Barton, Cattin' Around Adventure's Professional Guide Service.

Whitney

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 2.13 feet low. Striped bass are good on live bait and down rigged jigs from the Island to Bear Creek. Follow the bird actions to locate

schooling fish. Report by Michael Acosta, Unfair Advantage Charters.

Proctor

SLOW. Water clear; 57 degrees; 1.51 feet low. Fishing is slow as we enter into the winter season. Crappie are fair near brush piles in Copperas Creek Park. Catfish are fair drifting in the high point area. White bass and hybrid stripers are slow on slabs. Black bass are slow.

Austin

GOOD. Water clear; 52 degrees; 0.69 feet low. Fishing is holding true until the cold fronts roll in more consistently. The wind will influence the bite by pushing the baitfish, so look to windblown points to find fish chasing their food source. Largemouth bass are good, on deep rocky banks with crawfish imitation plastics and early on top waters and shad imitation swimbaits. Crappie are fair around brush piles on jigs and minnows. White bass are good trolling crankbaits and minnows in the green lights at night. Blue

catfish are good on cut live shad. Report by Lee Benton, Fishing Guide Austin.

Brownwood

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 1.24 feet low. Largemouth bass are good with perch like crankbaits, brown or green Texas-rigged plastic worms, chartreuse bladed spinners, and shaky head jigs near timber, rocky shorelines, and docks. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in brush piles and near bridge pilings. White bass and hybrids are good on slabs, swimbaits, and live bait along the main lake channels, humps, and ridges. Look for birds diving over feeding schools of white bass. Catfish are good on shrimp, chicken liver, and live bait.

Buchanan

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 4.77 feet low. Fishing is holding true until the cold fronts roll in more consistently. The wind will influence the bite by pushing the baitfish, so look to windblown points to find fish chasing their food source.

Hornets battle, fall short vs. Ducks

BY MARK GOODSON
STAFF WRITER

Gatesville High School junior Tyler Shea scored 23 points and pulled down 10 rebounds Tuesday to pace the Hornets in a 54-43 home loss to the Taylor Ducks.

The Hornets (5-7) will travel to Little River Academy for a tournament, Dec. 9-11.

Against Taylor, the Hornets trailed 19-17 at halftime before the Ducks erupted for an 18-11 third quarter run.

With 51 seconds left in the third quarter, Shea hit a follow shot to cut into the lead at 35-28.

Rayshon Smith, who finished with six points, had a key steal with 3:37 left in the game to pull the Hornets to within three at 44-41.

Smith scored two more for the Hornets' only points in the final three minutes.

Xavier Green and Conner Cobb led the Ducks with 13 points apiece.

"Team is getting better and coming together," Gatesville coach Brit Campbell said. "Last night we came into the game overconfident after playing better teams and playing better in the Salado tournament, and we didn't play the way we are capable of, and had an off night. We need to learn that we have to show up and play to win every game."

"Tyler (Shea) has had great moments where he steps up and makes something happen for us. Carter (Williams) is playing well all around both ends of the court."

Against Taylor, Williams had seven points and seven rebounds. Jack Carroll also had seven rebounds.

For the season, Shea is averaging 16.6 points and 9.6 rebounds



Tyler Shea, who led the Hornets offense, defends the court in Tuesday's home game against the Taylor Ducks.

MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

per game. Carroll is averaging 13.2 points and 4.0 rebounds. Williams is averaging 11.1 points and 7.1 rebounds. Smith is averaging 4.4 rebounds.

In the Salado Tournament, the Hornets won four of five games. Tournament results:

Gatesville 46, China Spring 45:

The Hornets led 19-18 at halftime.

Williams scored 20 points and pulled down seven rebounds. Carroll scored 16 points, and Shea had six rebounds.

Salado 58, Gatesville 50: Carroll scored 21 points (7-of-11 on 3-pointers) and grabbed eight rebounds. Shea had eight points and

eight rebounds. Williams had seven points and nine rebounds. Trae Miller added seven points.

Gatesville 57, Geronimo Navarro 32: Shea scored 25 points and pulled down eight rebounds. Carroll had nine points. Williams grabbed seven rebounds.

Gatesville 48, LASA 30: Tyler

Shea scored 12 points in the win over Liberal Arts and Science Academy of Austin.

Smith and Carroll combined for 17 points.

Gatesville 64, Bastrop 55: Carroll scored 25 points and Shea added 20 points in the third-place game.

A STANDOUT & A SCHOLAR



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Tasha Thoms, a Gatesville High School senior, was named to the Texas Girls Coaches association academic all-state volleyball team. This recognition requires student-athletes to maintain a grade point average of at least 94.

Elks open district with win

BY MARK GOODSON
STAFF WRITER

The Evant Lady Elks rolled past the Blanket Tigers, 64-30, Tuesday, Dec. 7 in their District 18-1A basketball opener.

"We needed a game like this after our loss to Gordon," Evant coach Chad Baker said. "We started off attacking the basket well and never really let up the whole game, so I was happy with our effort and aggressiveness this game."

The Lady Elks (4-3) had three players in double figures. Emileigh Burton scored 23 points followed by Caeleigh Burkham with 12 points and Bree Ranirez 10 points.

All eight players scored.

Molly Waldrum scored six, Harley Weeks and Luwi Rodriguez scored four each. Hailey Neri scored three and Izzy Gandy two points.

Evant started fast with a 13-2 run through the first quarter.

The Lady Elks led 29-14 at halftime, and 47-25 entering the fourth quarter.

Next, Evant will compete in the Zephyr Tournament, Dec. 9-11.

The Lady Elks will face the May Tigers in the opener of the tournament.

"May is one of the tougher opponents we have faced so far this season," Baker said. "We will need to bring our A game to compete with them."

District 18 includes Blanket, Evant, Gustin, Mullin, Priddy, Sidney and Zephyr.

McGregor tops GHS, 47-43

BY MARK GOODSON
STAFF WRITER

Gatesville High School's Lady Hornets dropped a non-district girls basketball game on the road Tuesday to the McGregor Lady Bulldogs, 47-43.

Next, Gatesville were scheduled to play in the Fairfield Tournament from Dec.

9-11.

On Tuesday, post Taylor Coward led the Lady Hornets with 17 points. Guard Karmryn Higginbotham added nine points for Gatesville.

Other scorers for the Lady Hornets were Charlie Sommerfeld with six points, Laura Trejo four, Tamiah Miller three, and Matti Mann and Kagen Hunt two points each.

McGregor outscored the Lady Hornets 13-3 in the second quarter to build a 26-17 halftime edge.

The Lady Hornets clawed back into the game with a 15-10 run in the third quarter.

The Gatesville junior varsity Gold Team posted a 28-12 victory.

Wrestlers grab win in quad meet

BY MARK GOODSON
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville High School wrestling team is off to a strong start this season, and added even more victories to their slate, even against competition from schools that are significantly bigger.

Brett Byler and Romi Bomar both went unbeaten in three matches for the Gatesville High School Hornets' wrestling team in the Killeen Harker Heights quad meet Dec. 8.

The team lost to Copperas Cove 13-4, lost to Killeen High 7-2, lost to Harker Heights

15-3. Killeen, Harker Heights and Copperas Cove are all in Texas athletics' largest classification - 6A - while Gatesville is designated as a Class 4A school.

The Hornets will travel to Bryan for the Bryan ISD Doc Hess Classic, Dec 18.

The Gatesville Hornets' boys went 3-9 vs Copperas Cove, 1-10 vs Harker Heights and 1-6 vs Killeen high.

The girls were 1-1 vs. Killeen High School, 2-5 vs Harker Heights and 1-4 vs Copperas Cove.

Hornets, Lady Hornets have a full schedule for upcoming basketball

Both the Gatesville High School boys and girls basketball teams have tournaments on the road this month before opening up district play in January.

Hornets

Thurs.-Sat., Dec 9-11 at Academy varsity tournament, TBA

Thurs.-Sat., Dec 9-11 at Hamilton sub-varsity tournament, TBA

Tuesday, Dec. 14 at West, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 17 vs. McGregor, 6:30 p.m.

Tues.-Wed., Dec. 28-29 at Reagan County Tournament

Tuesday, Jan. 4 at Burnet, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 7 vs. Robinson, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 14 at Brownwood, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 18 vs. Stephenville, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 21 at Glen Rose, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 25 at Lampasas, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 28 at Lorena (JV, freshmen)

Saturday, Jan. 29 vs. Kennedale, 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 1 vs. Brownwood, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 4 at Stephenville, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 vs. Glen Rose, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11 vs. Lampasas, 7:30 p.m.

Lady Hornets

Thurs.-Sat., Dec 9-11 at Fairfield varsity tournament, TBA

Tuesday, Dec. 14 vs. Robinson, 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 17 at China Spring 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 21 vs. Jarrell, 11:15 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 30 at Brock, 2:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 31 vs. San Saba, 2:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 4 vs. Connally, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 7 vs. Lampasas, 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 14 at Brownwood, 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 18 vs. Stephenville, 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 21 at Glen Rose, 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 25 at Lampasas, 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 1 vs. Brownwood, 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 4 at Stephenville, 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 vs. Glen Rose, 6:15 p.m.