



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Coryell joins other counties for Sexual Assault Response Team

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Coryell County is joining with several other local counties to create a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) after a presentation recently by Coryell County District Attorney Dusty Boyd.

This will help determine what resources are needed and to ensure that local victims of sexual assault have more services available without having to travel as far.

Other counties joining with Coryell in the effort include Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam and Mills counties.

"All counties must submit a SART plan.

Right now, 24 counties across the state have these SART response teams," Boyd said. "Counties with under 200,000 population may join with contiguous (neighboring) counties to create a SART, with prosecutors, chiefs to the largest communities and representatives from health care and mental health providers participating."

Although Milam County is technically not adjoining any of the other participating counties, being separated from Coryell County by Bell, Boyd said it was close enough that it will be able to join with the other counties and participate.

"I think it's a good idea and it's also one of those things that sound really good in Austin

(among Texas legislators) but quite frankly it comes at a busy time when we are trying to move more cases efficiently," he said. "We certainly appreciate the idea but it's another unfunded state mandate."

Pct. 1 County Commissioner Kyle Matthews said Lampasas and Hamilton counties are not courts of record, and asked if that would affect their participation in the SART.

"Their counties are not but they do have district court there, so we still could join with them," Boyd said.

The cooperative efforts between multiple counties is intended to benefit the residents of each county, Boyd said.

"Counties like us share a lot of profession-

als, and we can work together so that there's a long-range plan so victims from here don't have to go to Temple for those (sexual assault) examinations," he said. "Our prosecutors and medical professionals are meeting together. It's a challenging time to do that with trying to get past the post-COVID haze and move as many cases as possible."

Pct. 3 County Commissioner Ryan Basham asked if the formation of the SART could actually result in cases moving through the system quicker in the future.

"It could," Boyd said. "We are working to formalize the way a complaint is handled.

PLEASE SEE SART | A6



Members of the 2021-2022 Gatesville ISD PALS program.

DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

PALS helps enrich students' lives

BY DAVID SCOTT
STAFF WRITER

A program known as PALS at the Gatesville Independent School District, has become an instrumental way for older students to influence, help and mentor younger students in the school system.

According to GISD's assistant superintendent, Scott Harper, the Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) program began in 1980 as a peer support system that provides an opportunity for older students to engage with, listen to, and help younger middle school and elementary school students. "Students helping students; high school students who have 'been there' and 'done that' during their school career are helping younger students make better choices as they begin their school careers," Harper said.

Upper grade students are assigned students in the lower grades at each campus to mentor, become friends with and guide as they progress to the upper grades. "It is a great opportunity for

the young-almost-adult students to give back to the younger generation. I tend to view this program like a grow-your-mentor program," Harper said.

The PAL program first began at GISD in 1992 under the guidance of teacher Karen Turner. Four years later, teacher-coach Phyllis Barnett assumed control of the program. "Because of increasing curriculum demands, changes in the state's graduation requirements, and more recently the global pandemic, the PALS program was on hiatus until now. Once again, secondary-aged students are working with our younger Hornets," Harper said.

The current director of the program, Coach Elliott Kelley, said that this year he has 23 students in class and Brittney Hamilton has seven, making a total of 30 in the program. "This year, we got together with the counselors and principals, and we told them if we already know they're pretty decent kids and they're good examples and good leaders, let's put them in there, so that's how we got our numbers up this year and we're

pleased." Kelley said.

In addition to mentoring younger school children, PALS also volunteers in the community in various ways that are needed.

"I have a relationship with Deral McWhorter who runs the Care Center. The PALS program visits the Care Center on Monday and Friday each week for 30 minutes to help. We're always looking for other ways to help and once the community finds out what good we can do and what more things we can offer to do, we can help," Kelley said. "These high school students are absorbing a lot of responsibility and becoming some great leaders for Gatesville."

GHS junior, Gracie Penrod, shared her thoughts about the PALS program. "It's meant a lot to me. It's really fun to connect with the kids and to get to know about them and have a personal relationship with them." Penrod said she plans to participate in the PALS program during her senior year as well.

PLEASE SEE PALS | A7

Four seeking election as county judge

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Four candidates are seeking election to the office of Coryell County judge - as contenders Joey Acfalle, Jack Barcroft and Celia J. Sellers are challenging incumbent Roger A. Miller.

Barcroft, who previously served as Republican Party chairman for Coryell County, had filed on the last day of filing - Dec. 13 - according to the Secretary of State's website. He had not been listed as a candidate on that official website before the Messenger's deadline for the previous filing article.

According to the website, Acfalle is retired from the military, Barcroft is a businessman and Sellers is an educator. Miller, the current county judge, is also retired from the military.

Other candidates listed on the official state website are:

- * County Court at Law Judge John Lee, the incumbent, who is unopposed
- * District Clerk Becky Moore, the incumbent, who is unopposed
- * County Clerk Jennifer Newton, the incumbent, who is unopposed
- * County Treasurer Randi McFarlin, who is unopposed
- * Billy Vaden, the Gatesville fire chief, and Scott Weddle, whose occupation is listed as a branch manager, who are running for Coryell County commissioner, precinct 2. The incumbent, Daren Moore, is not seeking re-election.
- * Incumbent Ray Ashby Jr. and challengers Bradi Diaz and Keith Taylor, who are seeking election to the Coryell County commissioner, precinct 4 post. Diaz is retired and Taylor is self-employed.
- * Coryell County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 John Guinn, the incumbent, who is unopposed.
- * Coryell County Justice of the Peace Pct. 2 F.W. "Bill" Price, who is unopposed.
- * Coryell County Justice of the Peace Pct. 4 Coy Latham, who is unopposed.

The 2022 Republican Primary is scheduled for March 1. The Secretary of State website does not list any Democratic candidates for Coryell County.

For state and federal candidates, visit www.sos.texas.gov.

Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department seeks grant for new uniforms



BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department is hoping that the old adage "if at first you don't succeed, try and try again" rings true in the new year, as the department is seeking a grant which would fund the purchase of new protective coats and pants for firefighters.

Fire Chief Billy Vaden asked the Gatesville City Council to fund a 5% match in order to apply for the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant, and estimated the cost of the equipment would be about \$93,340. That would allow the purchase of 28 sets of coats

and pants for firefighters.

"We are applying for the grant for the third year, and we were not successful the first two years," he said. "It's a long process, and the grant would not be awarded until sometime in 2022."

Over the years, Vaden said the Gatesville fire department has been awarded at least four grants, but it has not been approved for one for the past 10 or 12 years.

"Our grant writer thinks we have a really good chance this year," he said. "With a city this size we don't have enough runs to compete with some of the cities in the northeast. They have a fire department on every

other street corner, and they call out all their units when there's a fire. Each one of those is counted as a run. We might respond to the same number of calls, but we keep our equipment in one place."

Vaden said while he is hopeful the GVFD will obtain the grant, the purchase will have to be made soon either way.

"If we don't get the grant, we're going to have to find another way to pay for it," he said. "The Fire Protection Commission allows career departments to use this equipment for 10 years, so (under those guidelines) it

PLEASE SEE GVFD | A6

QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: Will the newspaper have different hours for New Year's?
A: The Gatesville Messenger office will be closed on New Year's Eve - Dec. 31.

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Bill Cole retiring after 31 years as funeral director

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Seventeen years after graduating high school, Bill Cole embarked on a new career that would take him into retirement, working in the funeral home business.

It's a role he said he first became interested in as a teenager. When he was a sophomore at Gatesville High School, a classmate died and Cole said he saw the value of being able to serve, encourage and support family members during one of the most difficult and emotional times of their lives.

Cole graduated from GHS in 1973 but set those dreams aside until 1989. In the meantime, he attended Temple College for two years and spent a semester at the University of Texas before working in the Temple and Belton areas.

In 1989, Cole attended mortuary school in Dallas, which was an 11-month program back then. He apprenticed with Lamar & Smith Funeral Home before having the opportunity to move back to Gatesville. He started working for Scott's Funeral Home in Gatesville in May 1990.

Cole's wife Annette, whom he met while they were attending Gatesville High School, helped him to purchase Scott's Funeral Home in 2007. It had been owned by different corporations for several years before that, until the Coles had the opportunity to purchase the business "and it became locally owned again."

Cole said Annette is the reason for his success.

"If it wasn't for Annette I couldn't have done this - it wouldn't have been possible," he said. "We've been married 45 years, and our first date was 50



Bill Cole, who has owned Scott's Funeral Home since 2007, is retiring.

JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

years ago in November."

The Coles moved the business to its location on East Main Street in 2014, but they still own the previous location on East Leon Street. Cole said he and Annette plan to turn that building into an office suite. Annette, a certified public accountant, will have her office there.

Asked what the biggest chal-

lenge of his job is, Cole said it is the 24-hour a day, seven-day a week nature of the business.

"It can take time away from family," he said. Sometimes you might be attending a birthday party and you have to leave because you get a call (to serve a family).

"Of course, that means you're taking care of someone else's family.

"This is a rewarding job. I wouldn't trade it for another in the world. The community has been very good to us and we're very thankful."

Cole said he is gratified by "being able to comfort families, and I know most of the people because this is my hometown. I think they are more comfortable dealing with somebody they know."

There have been plenty of changes in the funeral business over the years as technology has increased, giving people the option for online obituaries, the ability to print registry books, provide video memories and in some cases live streaming.

"One thing that has not changed is the basic funeral service provided to families," he said, adding that Scott's Funeral Home still strives to provide comfort to families just as it has since 1907.

"Being able to offer that service to the families has really not changed and it should never change," Cole said.

Asked about plans for the next chapter of his life, Cole said those are still being determined.

"I'll still help out here if I'm needed," he said. "I want to spend more time with our three grandkids (two of whom live in Temple and another who lives in the Denton area), and I want to spend some time fishing and traveling."

"I've been working since I was 15. That's 51 years. It's kind of scary to get away but at the same time I want to enjoy what time I have left."

Daren Moore will continue to work at Scott's and take over operations, Cole said, and he added that he knows the same quality and commitment to service will continue.

"We are so thankful to the community for supporting us - we appreciate their trust. Scott's will continue to serve the community and offer that same level of care and service."

A retirement reception will be held for Cole from 2-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30 at 904 East Leon St.

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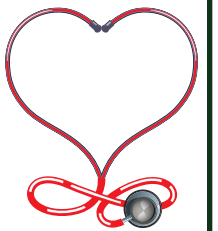
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Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

Managing Editor
DAVID MONTESINO
david@hcnews.com

General Manager
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvill messenger.com

DEADLINES:

Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by 10:00am Friday for the Wednesday issue and 10:00am 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

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AMERICAN SAFETY COUNCIL

New Year's Eve Safety Tips

New Year's Eve is a great chance to celebrate the year gone by and the coming of a new one. However, these celebrations also come with great dangers and responsibilities. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you make your New Year's plans!

New Year's Eve Driving

After midnight, New Year's celebrations end and millions take to roads and public transportation to make their way home. The combination of sheer number of travelers plus the inevitability of irresponsibly impaired drivers makes for a dangerous evening on the roads and one of the deadliest days for

drunk driving in our nation. Over 50% of accidents on New Year's Day involve high blood alcohol concentration.

If you are celebrating New Year's Eve away from your home or will be traveling at all, here are some ideas to keep you safe.

- Plan your travel options ahead of time, arranging for a designated driver, a hotel stay, shuttle/limo service, public transportation and extra "Plan B" options before your night out.

- SoberRides.org provides a desktop and mobile site with options for how to get home safely. <http://www.soberrides.org>

- Use public transportation or cabs both to and from your destination so you can avoid leaving your car in a strange place overnight. Otherwise, lock all doors and ensure all valuables are left at home or secured out of sight.

- Bring only what you need with you - including identification, money and one credit card. Leave any department store cards or unneeded valuables at home.

New Year's Day is also the most hazardous day of the year for pedestrians. Not only are drivers potentially impaired, but those on foot can also ignore traffic lights or crosswalks. If you are

walking, make sure to stay on pedestrian paths and observe traffic laws; only cross at crosswalks and try to remain in well-lit areas. If you are driving, take extra care to consider those on foot.

For Party Hosts

- Make sure smoke alarms are working and have fresh batteries.

- Research numbers for local hospitals and authorities and have them ready in the case of an accident.

- Contact a local cab company to provide rides for your guests or have a trusted designated driver ready to take guests home if necessary.

- Offer non-alcoholic drink options and have plenty of water available.

- Use differently colored cups for alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Dump unattended cups so kids and pets do not consume them.

- Stop serving alcohol several hours before the party ends (and stick to it!).

- Provide food and snacks so guests aren't drinking on an empty stomach. Avoid salty snacks, which can encourage people to drink more.

- Do not provide alcohol to minors. Keep an eye on all drinks and supplies.

- Provide guests a place to stay overnight should they need to. Even if accommodations are less than ideal (like a blanket on the floor), they will be safe.

Fireworks

First of all, personal use of fireworks is prohibited inside the city limits of Gatesville. If you decide to use legal fireworks, make sure to keep children and pets away from the area - even sparklers, which are often used

by kids, burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees and can be incredibly dangerous. Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose at the ready. Light fireworks one at a time, then move back away from them. Never attempt to relight a firework that did not go off the first time; douse them and other spent fireworks with plenty of water before discarding them. And of course, never point or throw fireworks at another person.

Pets

Between fireworks, noise-makers and general revelry, pets can experience high anxiety on New Year's Eve. Scared pets can bite or run and potentially get hurt, cause accidents or become lost. The best way to keep pets safe is to keep them indoors and comfortable; consider playing relaxing music to drown out any startling outside noises. Make sure fences and gates are secure and that your pet has a current ID tag and that all microchip information is up to date.

GETTING A CLOSER LOOK



COURTESY PHOTO

GARDEN CLUB ADMIRES THEIR PROGRESS: Gatesville Boys and Girls club 4-H garden group inspects the broccoli blooms growing in their fall garden. The club members have maintained raised beds growing spinach, lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli, and several herbs.

New Year's Closures

In observance of the New Year's holiday, many local businesses and governmental offices will be observing special hours.

Closings and special hours in the immediate area include:

GOVERNMENT

The City of Gatesville and the City of Evant will be closed on Dec. 31. The City of Oglesby will be open. The Coryell County Courthouse will be closed on Dec. 31. The Farm Service Agency will be closed on Dec. 31.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

BanCorpSouth and Extraco Bank will be closed on Jan. 1. The First National Bank of Gatesville, Evant and Oglesby

will close at 2 p.m. on Dec. 31. They will be closed on Jan. 1.

POST OFFICES

All local post offices will be closed on Jan. 1.

LIBRARY

The library will close at 8 p.m. on Dec. 30 and be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

MUSEUM

The Coryell Museum and Historical Center will be closed on Jan. 1.

SENIOR CENTER

The Gatesville Senior Multi-Service Center will be closed Dec. 31 to Jan. 3. Beginning Dec. 20, lunches will not be served until Monday, Jan. 3.

The Gatesville Messenger office will be closed Friday, Dec. 31.

Whatever happened to ...

20 YEARS AGO (2001)

* Gatesville Messenger news editor Larry Kennedy was honored with a surprise "Larry Kennedy Day" proclamation during a meeting of the Gatesville Exchange Club. The club presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his work with that group.

* American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 gave books as Christmas presents to students at the Gatesville Head Start school. Auxiliary president Kitty Heim and vice president Leona Biggs distributed the gifts to each child.

* A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the Children's Advocacy Center for the Central Texas office in Gatesville. The center, located in the MHMR building, conducted forensic interviews with children who were victims of abuses and referred by local law enforcement agencies.

* Bee House Lodge 550 of Evant presented a certificate of appreciation to Zonnell Haynes of Haynes Jewelry for his faithful service and personal contribution of time and effort to the Masonic Lodge.

* New Image Salon, located at 3829 E. Hwy. 84 in Gatesville, had recently opened for business. Owner Glenda Floyd invited customers in for professional hair care, tanning sessions and Brandi's Body Wraps.

* More than 40 Coryell County 4-H'ers and several adult volunteers participated in the Coryell County 4-H Council's second annual

lock-in held at the Coryell Activities Complex in Gatesville.

30 YEARS AGO (1991)

* Teena Kennedy was named to the Dean's List for academic achievement during the fall semester at the University of North Texas in Denton. Miss Kennedy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Kennedy, earned a 3.8 grade-point average. She was a 1988 graduate of Gatesville High School.

* Robert Marvin Paul had completed the Federal Aviation Administration's 9-week Air Traffic Controller basic course at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City. Paul was the son of B.M. and JoAnn Paul of Gatesville.

* John Davidson, a sophomore at Texas Tech University, was named to the Dean's List. The 1989 graduate of Gatesville High School was the son of Robert and Gloria Davidson.

* Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rhudy of Levita celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary at Levita Baptist Church. The couple's children and grandchildren hosted a reception. Bob Rhudy and Pat Hall were married Jan. 4, 1952, in Dallas.

* A coach and six players from Coryell County were named to the Waco Tribune-Herald's 1991 Super Centex Six-Man Football Team. Jonesboro coach Larry Pruitt was named Coach of the Year after guiding the Eagles to an 11-1-1 record and a berth in the

state quarterfinals.

* Brian Smith, a student at Jonesboro High School, was one of 62 students from this area included in the 25th-annual edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1990-91.

40 YEARS AGO (1981)

* Navy Seaman Recruit Thomas V. Balderas Jr., son of Thomas M. and Margie Balderas of Oglesby, had completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center in San Diego. He was a 1981 graduate of Oglesby High School.

* Moving up the ladder at the Gatesville Mental Health-Mental Retardation Center, Mrs. Lana Davidson was promoted to Caseworker Assistant working in the adult day treatment program as a counselor and teacher.

* There was a full house in the Coryell Memorial Hospital nursery during the last week of 1981, when 10 babies were born. That made it a record week for newborns at the hospital.

* Burt Reynolds was starring in the recently released movie, "Paternity," which was showing at the Cinema.

* Mrs. Roy K. Robb, was the guest artist of the Morris Federation. Mrs. Robb was the music director at Trinity Baptist Church and music instructor at the Mountainview Unit of Texas Department of Corrections.

* Geneva McCauley, a licensed vocational

nurse for two years at Coryell Memorial Hospital, was surprised when she was named the hospital's Employee of the Month.

50 YEARS AGO (1971)

* David Sandefur, chief of social services and director of reception and classification at the Gatesville State Schools for Boys since September of 1964, was promoted to the post of director of childcare and training for the Texas-Youth Council.

* L. C. McKamie, superintendent of the Gatesville public school system, had been appointed to participate in a statewide study of technical-vocational education.

* Entries by Gatesville pecan grower Ted Brumbalow won first and second places in the regional pecan show held in Arlington.

* Linda Faubion Richmond, received a B. S. degree in elementary education from Tarleton State College. Mrs. Richmond, then began teaching in the Neal Armstrong Elementary School in San Antonio.

* U. S. Air Force Staff Sergeant James F. Grinstead Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Grinstead of Gatesville, had arrived for duty at Taegu AB, Republic of Korea.

* Only two players from Oglesby's championship ball club - quarterback Craig Peveto and end Manuel Marquez - were named on the all-district six-man football team for 1971 picked by the circuit's coaches.

Area Roundup

Cold front coming

For the rest of the week, local residents will be able to enjoy unseasonably warm temperatures with highs in the 70s and 80s. However, a change is on the way according to the National Weather Service.

A strong cold front is expected to blanket Texas starting late Saturday night, Jan. 1 or early Sunday, Jan. 2, with high temperatures in the 40s and a freeze plunging temperatures into the 20s by Monday morning.

People should make plans now to protect their outdoor pets, plants and pipes from the frigid conditions.

Gatesville City athletics

The city of Gatesville's Park and Recreation Department has announced some key dates for its programs.

Youth soccer registration continues through Jan. 13 and sponsorships are due by Jan. 17. The soccer draft is scheduled from Jan. 20-29.

Baseball and softball registration will be held Jan. 24 through Feb. 24.

Forms are available at www.gatesvilletx.com/parksrec/page/athletics or at the Gatesville Fitness Center, located at 203 N. 34th St.

The soccer season is set to begin Feb. 21, and soccer picture day will be determined at a future date.

Updates are available on the Gatesville Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

Volunteers are needed to coach youth soccer. Games are played twice a week, on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays depending on the division. Criminal background checks are required.

For more information, call Martè J. Bailey at 254-499-1015 or email mbailey@gatesvilletx.com.

Coryell Health seeks donations of crutches due to aluminium shortage

An aluminum shortage tied to the global supply chain crunch has led to a new medical supply shortage - crutches.

The latest example of pandemic-spurred medical supply chain problems has become a bigger problem for health systems across the nation. Crutches are walking aids used to reduce weight placed on the lower body and provide support and balance.

"Our hospital, short-term inpatient thera-

py, physical therapy, home health and clinic provide crutches for patients on a daily basis. All surgery volumes spike at the end of the year, including orthopedic surgeries, but if we do not have crutches to use post-operatively, some patients may have to delay care," said Heather Rambeau, Coryell Health chief nursing officer. "We have run out of crutches and our suppliers don't know when they'll have more available to sell." Rambeau adds

the hospital's supplier told them there is an aluminum shortage and "we just cannot get them there."

"Just because it's something that we've always had a surplus of and then it got down to having zero of certain sizes, so it really just put us in a bad situation," she said. "The impacts of the global pandemic continue to affect so many aspects of healthcare. We're hopeful that there are plenty of used crutch-

es gathering dust in closets that can be put to good use for our patients."

Any donated crutches will be sanitized and inspected for safety before being issued to patients.

Individuals are asked to drop off crutches at the main entrance of the hospital anytime between 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Anyone with questions may call Monica Salter at (254) 248-6247.

OBITUARIES

SEABORN L. ASHBY

May 9, 1926 - Dec. 13, 2021



Seaborn L. Ashby, age 95 of Jonesboro, passed away on Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, at his home, surrounded by his family.

There will not be a public memorial service. Private family inurnment will be held at the Gatesville Masonic Cemetery. Flowers and

cards may be sent to Chris Ashby, 350 CR 193, Jonesboro, Texas 76538.

Seaborn Lawrence Ashby, Jr., was born on May 9, 1926, to Seaborn Lawrence Ashby, Sr., and Clara Blair in Gatesville. He grew up in Gatesville and graduated from Gatesville High School. He enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and served on U.S.S. Sacramento. He dated Hermione Ashby for five years and then spent another 75 years with her. Throughout the years, he worked at various jobs including working on the Hill Crest Farms Dairy in Austin, running the family farm, doing maintenance work at M.A.T.E.S., running a filling station with his brother-in-law Francis Sanders, building cabinets at Sellers Cabinet Shop, and delivering mail for the U.S. Postal Service. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1987 to travel with his wife and their close friends

while rock hunting all over the U.S. He tumbled and cut the rocks they found and made jewelry for his family. He also liked to hunt. Seaborn and his wife spent the last of their years surrounded by family on the farm and enjoyed watching their great-grandchildren's activities.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Hermione Ashby; son, Bill Ashby; and sisters, Barbara Sanders and Pat Averett.

Seaborn is survived by his sons, Seaborn K. Ashby and wife, Sandra; Jim Ashby and wife, Carol; grandchildren, Tiffany Coble and husband, Rusty, Chris Ashby and wife, Angie, Paul Ashby, Lydia Moore and husband, Paul; great-grandchildren, Lauren and Lariat Jackson, Cassidy and Kolby Taylor, Katie Kuzenka, Ryan Kuzenka, Caitlin and Paul Brown, Keegan Coble and Seaborn Braden Ashby.

MAHLON LEE "BUD" MASSINGILL SR.

Sept. 8, 1932 - Dec. 24, 2021



Mahlon Lee Massingill Sr. "Bud", age 89 of Gatesville, Texas, passed away in Gatesville on Friday, Dec. 24, 2021.

Graveside services are scheduled for 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021, at Mur-

phree Cemetery in Evant.

Bud was born Sept. 8, 1932, to the late Ira Isaac Massingill and Wilferd Lee Moore Massingill. He was the second oldest of eleven siblings and grew up in Central Texas. Bud married the love of his life, Dixie Ruth Hopson, on June 9, 1951, in Gatesville. Bud and Dixie spent many years traveling the state of Texas as he followed his career in ironworking. They eventually settled in Everman where they reared their two sons, Mahlon Lee Jr. and Gary Dean.

Eventually, they became the proud grandparents of Mahlon Lee "Trey" Massingill and Laurel Massingill-Bartlett. Five great-grandchildren were eventually added to the family.

Bud was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years; brothers, Norris Wayne (Sonny) Massingill, John Robert (Rob) Massingill, Ira Massingill (Junior); and his sister, Billie

Jean Massingill Bond.

He is survived by sons, Mahlon and wife, Alicia, of Godley, and Gary of Gatesville; grandson, Trey and wife, Shawn, of Cleburne; granddaughter, Laurel and husband, Scott, of Godley; five great-grandchildren, Dillon, Tanner and Maycie Massingill, Kolby Bartlett and Maddox Bartlett; and siblings, Raymond Earl Massingill, Sybil Massingill Beaty, Ned Massingill, Ted Massingill, Joye Massingill Thackston, and Lynn Massingill, as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. In the weeks prior to his homegoing, Bud expressed to the family that he knew in whom he believed and is now at rest and at peace with his heavenly father. Bud, also known as dad and Papa (Paw-Paw) was loved and will be greatly missed, but "we do not grieve as those without hope." (1 Thes. 4:13)

DARRELL EDWARD (BENNY) BENSON

Feb. 6, 1929 - Dec. 19, 2021



Darrell Edward (Benny) Benson, age 92, of Levita, passed away Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, in Gatesville.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2021, at Coffey Cemetery.

Darrell was born, Feb. 6, 1929, in Casa Grande, Arizona. He was the son of the late James Fredrick Benson and Zelma Irene Long Benson. Darrell married Juanita Graves on Jan. 6, 1951. He was a member of the U.S. Army, retiring in 1968. Darrell worked at Lawns of Beauty in San Antonio as an assistant manager.

He also worked as a truck driver before his final retirement. Darrell loved his pets and two of his favorites were Bonnie and Gunner. He also like watching westerns on television.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Juanita, and son Eddie Benson.

He is survived by his son Johnny Benson and wife, Vicki; sister, Barbara Huffaker and husband, Richard; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of recent activity reported through dispatchers during the period of Dec. 22-25. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police dept. at 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dec. 22
1:39 a.m., shots being fired was reported on CR 155 and Merriot.

10:03 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Harrell Drive.

2:02 p.m., a fire was reported in the 9700 block of Hwy. 84.

5:55 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3000 block of FM 1113.

7:30 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Straws Mill Road.

Dec. 23
10:47 a.m., an assault was reported in the 2300 block of Bridge Street.

11:15 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 3800 block of Slater Road.

1:38 p.m., a theft was reported in the 3400 block of E. Main Street.

3:28 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 3700 block of E. Main Street.

Dec. 24
9:43 a.m., a theft was reported in the 900 block of Bridge Street.

12:33 p.m., a theft was reported in the 1100 block of Westview Drive.

4:09 p.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of N. 24th Street.

8:07 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 200 block of E. Main Street.

11:23 p.m., family violence was reported in the 500 block of Liberty Street.

Dec. 25
2:29 a.m., harassment was reported on Petsick Lane.

4:00 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 3800 block of CR 269.

7:00 p.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 2600 block of Powell Drive.

7:02 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of Austin Street.

11:23 p.m., an accident was reported in the 1400 block of State School Road.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dec. 22
12:18 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 1783.

1:39 a.m., shots being fired was reported on CR 155 and Merriot.

10:03 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 100 block of Harrell Drive.

5:00 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of CR 231.

Dec. 23
5:37 a.m., a minor accident was reported on FM 1783 and CR 139.

11:07 a.m., debris in the roadway was reported on W. Hwy. 84 near the Boots and Saddle Church.

11:18 a.m., a grass fire was reported in the 3800 block of Slater Road.

11:31 a.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 400 block of CR 321.

1:52 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the

100 block of Coleton Drive.

Dec. 24
7:44 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Old Georgetown Road and Bald Knob.

9:54 a.m., a reckless driver was reported on N. Hwy. 36 and FM 1602.

8:57 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on Horse-shoe Bend.

9:43 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 300 block of Moccasin Bend Road.

11:26 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 500 block of Liberty Street.

Dec. 25
2:50 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 5800 block of Moccasin Bend Road.

3:37 a.m., a welfare concern was reported on Old Osage Road.

11:21 a.m., a hit-and-run was reported in the 7500 block of FM 116.

1:25 p.m., an out-of-control burn was reported in the 3500 block of CR 431.

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00028958

**037
HELP WANTED**

All positions available at meat processing plant. Apply in person at Hamilton Quality Meats, 1205 S. Rice, Hamilton, TX. For more info., call 254-386-4646. 00028952

Dry Creek Trash Service needs a driver with good record (non CDL) and a picker. Needs to be dependable, drug free and able to work in any weather. CALL Debbie 254-206-1512. 00028997

**037
HELP WANTED**

**037
HELP WANTED**



110 Chicktown Rd. Gatesville, TX 76528 off: (254) 404-2500 fax: (254) 248-6288

RN Unit Manager: FT • RN FT & PRN; All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing
****LVN FT & PRN:** All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing \$10,000.00 FT sign-on bonus 1-year commitment
****CNA/NA:** FT - All Shifts \$4,000.00 FT sign-on bonus 1-year commitment
****CMA/CNA:** FT - \$4,000.00 FT sign-on bonus, 1 year commitment. Must be a Certified Medication Aide for Texas and must maintain a Certified Nurse Aide for Texas
****Full Time Sign On Bonus Offered**

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Please go to our website: www.CoryellHealth.org for summary of posted jobs. If you have a great attitude, love helping people and want to be part of a quality team, apply in person or download an application from our web site:
 E-mail us: humanresources@coryellhealth.org EOE

The Gatesville Police Department has the following openings:

POLICE OFFICER- TCOLE Certification required. Is assigned to the Patrol Division and is responsible for responding to calls for service, enforcing laws and ordinances, and overall crime prevention.


SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER- TCOLE Certification required. Is assigned to a Gatesville ISD campus and is tasked with assisting school administration in providing a safe, productive learning environment for students and employees.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER- Is responsible for answering 911 and administrative calls, gathering information and dispatching appropriate responders, and entering and retrieving information in department computers.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER- Is responsible for addressing and following up with animal complaints within the City, enforcing animal laws and ordinances, removing dead, injured or dangerous animals from city streets and residential premises, and maintaining the City's Animal Shelter.

For a full description of job duties/requirements, and to download an application, please visit gatesvilletx.com
 Look under the employment tab.

**037
HELP WANTED**



1507 W. Main St. Gatesville, TX 76528 off: (254) 248-6386 fax: (254) 248-6288

Assisted/Independent Living: **CNA - FT, Days and nights \$4,000 FT sign on bonus 1-year commitment
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Coryell Health Home Health: RN Case Manager - FT • Community Service Clerk - FT • PCA PRN - for Gatesville, Evant and Copperas Cove
Culinary: Cook or Cook Assistant - FT Food Handlers Certification preferred • Dish Washer - FT
EMS: **Paramedic or Licensed Paramedic - FT sign on bonus of \$8000 • **EMT P Clinical Manager - FT sign on bonus of \$8000 • **EMT B - PRN or FT sign on bonus of \$4000
Laboratory: Medical Lab Tech - FT Night Shift, 3p to 3a or Days - Wed. Thur. & Fri.
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****LVN FT & PRN:** All Shifts for Charge Nurse and Nursing \$10,000.00 FT sign-on bonus 1-year commitment
****CNA/NA:** FT - All Shifts \$4,000.00 FT sign-on bonus 1-year commitment
****CMA/CNA:** FT - \$4,000.00 FT sign-on bonus, 1 year commitment. Must be a Certified Medication Aide for Texas and must maintain a Certified Nurse Aide for Texas
****Full Time Sign On Bonus Offered**

Benefits Offered:
 Competitive compensation • Paid Vacation • Sick time accrual • Matching 457B investments
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**060
GARAGE SALE**

The Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop will be closed from noon on Fri., Dec. 24 through Mon., Jan. 3. Please, no donations during this time.
 00028981

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.
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**078
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**072
HOUSES FOR SALE**

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**099
PUBLIC NOTICES**

JENNIFER NEWTON
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 GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528

ATTORNEY OR PERSON FILING CAUSE
LANE HIGGINBOTHAM
 425 NORTH EIGHTH STREET
 KILLEEN, TX 76540

TO: DECEDENT'S UNKNOWN HEIRS
 UNKNOWN ADDRESS
 UNKNOWN STATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CORYELL

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL ANTHONY SALIMBENI, DECEASED. CAUSE NO. 21-10579, COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS. SUSAN SALIMBENI FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021 APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP SEEKING INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 202-204 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE SAID MICHAEL ANTHONY SALIMBENI, DECEASED.

SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE HEARD AND ACTED ON BY SAID COURT ON OR AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF TEN DAYS FROM DATE OF POSTING THIS CITATION, THE SAME BEING THE 3RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2022 AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY AT THE SAME ABOVE MENTIONED TIME AND PLACE BY FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER CONTESTING SUCH APPLICATION SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO DO SO.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF CORYELL COUNTY IN GATESVILLE, TEXAS THE 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2021.

JENNIFER NEWTON
 CORYELL COUNTY CLERK
 CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS
 BY: **MORGAN BUSTER**
 00029001

**078
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**099
PUBLIC NOTICES**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Michael Karl Skillings, Deceased, were issued on 12-20-21, in Cause No. 21-10561, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Rita Jane Skillings.

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

c/o: Rita Jane Skillings
 Estate of Michael Karl Skillings
 927 Randa Street
 Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

DATED the 21st day of December, 2021.

Dori Ray Mistic
 Attorney for Rita Jane Skillings
 State Bar No.: 04091800
 P.O. Box 246
 Copperas Cove, Texas 76522
 Telephone: (254) 547-6000 or 6800
 Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
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**099
PUBLIC NOTICES**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nancy Lee Carroll, Deceased, were issued on 12-20-21, in Cause No. 21-10585, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Robert Lee Carroll.

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

c/o: Robert Lee Carroll
 Estate of Nancy Lee Carroll
 1908 Potter Drive
 Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

DATED the 21st day of December, 2021.

Dori Ray Mistic
 Attorney for Robert Lee Carroll
 State Bar No.: 04091800
 P.O. Box 246
 Copperas Cove, Texas 76522
 Telephone: (254) 547-6000 or 6800
 Facsimile: (254) 547-4157
 E-mail: doriraymistic@hotmail.com
 00029003

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James Ronald Steel, Deceased, were issued on 12-20-21, in Cause No. 21-10560, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Derrick C. Steel.

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

c/o: Derrick C. Steel
 105 West Reagan Avenue
 Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

DATED the 21st day of December, 2021.

Dori Ray Mistic
 Attorney for Derrick C. Steel
 State Bar No.: 04091800
 P.O. Box 246
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Reflections on 2021 interrupted by a bigger priority

Jeff's Reflections & Lu's Views

By Jeff Osborne & Tallulah

Jeff Osborne is senior staff writer and editor for the Gatesville Messenger and Tallulah is his trusted border collie-Jack Russell terrier mix.



look ahead at what the future may hold.

Tallulah: I'm too busy focusing on what's happening now to worry

about what happened earlier or what might happen someday. You people spend way too much energy worrying about that!

Jeff: That's probably true, Lu.

Tallulah: Oh well. Can we go for a walk?

Jeff: Maybe in a little bit. But I have to see what the temperature is first.

Tallulah: (sighs) People are so smart. You can build really great things like big houses to live in, cars, boats, planes and trains to get you places, the kennels you send kids to every day between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. ...

Jeff: Those are called schools, Tallulah.

Tallulah: Oh, OK. You mean like obedience school?

Jeff: Well, not exactly. I mean yes, there are rules that have to be followed, but it's more about learning things like math, science, reading, history and health, and of course athletics, band, drama, choir, things like that.

Tallulah: Oh! Do the kids like to go there?

Jeff: Well, sometimes they do and sometimes they don't.

Tallulah: Hmmm ... if they have to go there and don't really have a choice, and it might be something they like and something they don't, that sounds like a kennel to me.

Jeff: Not really, Lu. They have more space at school and they don't have to stay there all night.

Tallulah: Oh, good point. Now can we go for a walk?

Jeff: Oh yeah. That depends on the weather.

Tallulah: That's what I was starting to say. People are so smart and can make really great things.

You can control the weather inside our house, making it cooler or warmer or making it rain in the shower, but you can't control the weather outside. Why?

Jeff: Well, it's a lot harder to do, a lot larger area and would take a lot more money to do something like that.

Tallulah: Well, you've watched movies about people going in spaceships into outer space. Isn't that hard and doesn't it take a lot of money?

Jeff: Well, sure ...

Tallulah: I wish all that money had been spent on a way you people could make the weather nice outside all the time like you can make the weather nice inside.

That way, you could take me for a walk every day. It can be too hot, or too cold, or too wet outside.

Jeff: You have a good point, Lu. I guess people just have different priorities.

Tallulah: OK. But I still want to go for a walk, and I don't want to wait until next year.

Jeff: You got it, Lu. And if it's not nice enough for a walk, I can at least get you a treat.

Tallulah: Now you're talking! How about both!

Jeff Osborne & Tallulah can be reached at jeff@gatesvill messenger.com.

Bid 2021 farewell with a first day hike at a park in 2022

Welcome 2022 with a First Day Hike at one of 89 Texas State Parks. Parks statewide will be hosting a variety of self-guided and guided events so visitors can walk, bike or paddle their way into the new year.

First Day Hikes at Texas' state parks and natural areas aim to help visitors commit to their New Year's resolutions to get healthy. Last year, 2,668 visitors ushered in 2021 by hiking, biking and riding a total of 8,173 miles statewide. Find a list of this year's First Day Hikes on the TPWD calendar page.

"Each new year brings about new opportunities and a fresh start for a new adventure," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks. "Many first-time park users chose state parks last year and discovered the joys of getting outdoors. We cannot wait to welcome those visitors back again in 2022. I want to invite all visitors, new and returning, to join us in beginning 2022 with a First Day Hike at your favorite Texas State Park."

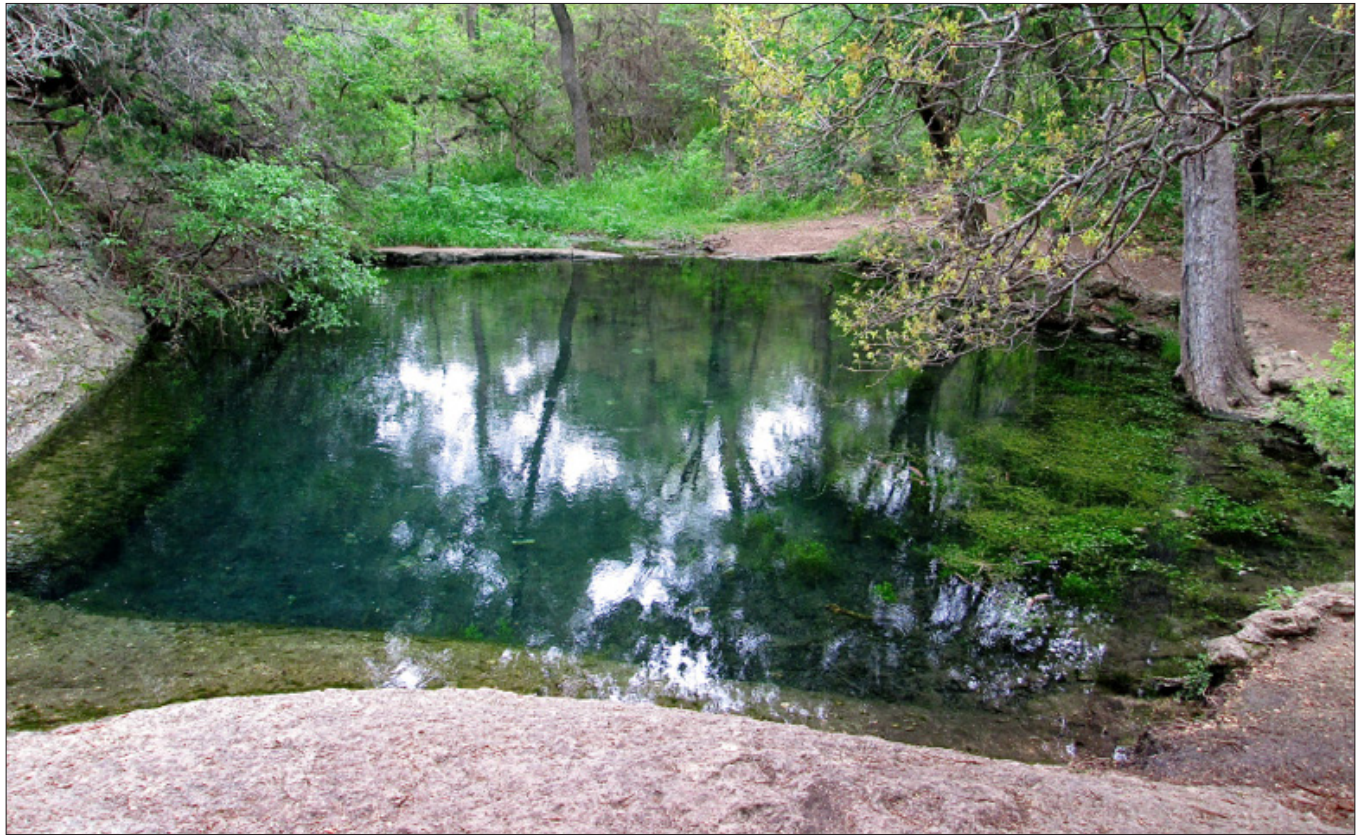
Trails at Texas State Parks range in length and difficulty levels across the state. Some short, easy trails are

perfect for family-friendly scenic strolls, while others are more strenuous for experienced hikers. Trail maps for all Texas State Parks can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) website and individual park webpages.

Anyone planning a trip to a Texas State Park is encouraged to reserve a day pass in advance since some parks are expected to reach their capacity limit. Reserve day passes online through the TPWD reservation website or by calling (512) 389-8900.

Start the year off with a splash at the 6th annual Dino Dive from 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. at Dinosaur Valley State Park. Plungers will meet at the Rock Beach by the Main Track Site and are encouraged to bring a towel, water, change of clothes, and a costume or fun outfit. Participants must register online to receive a medal for jumping into the frigid Paluxy River. All proceeds benefit Dinosaur Valley's Friends group.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Fort Parker State Park with a late-night hike. The easy half-mile guided hike starts at 10:30 p.m., Dec. 31,



COURTESY PHOTO

Mother Neff State Park is known for its natural beauty. A New Year's Day hike there is set to begin at 9 a.m. Jan. 1.

exploring the Bur Oak Trail with black lights. The fun will continue with a "Riddle-Me-This" scavenger hunt until 12:30 a.m. Jan. 1, 2022. The night will conclude at a campfire with hot chocolate

and cookies. Visitors are encouraged to bring a flashlight, wear closed-toe shoes and dress for the weather.

Put the pedal to the metal for a First Day Bike Ride at San Angelo State Park. This guided

bike ride begins at 2 p.m., Jan. 1, and visitors must bring their own bike and helmet to participate. Participants enter through the South Gatehouse located at 362 South FM 2288, San Angelo, TX, 76901, then

meet at the Chaparral Pavilion. For more information about hiking or other activities in Texas State Parks, visit <http://www.texasstateparks.org>.

GVFD

FROM PAGE A1

are a volunteer department, we are able to use things a little longer."

If the fire department had the money available to pay for the equipment and was able to already order it, Vaden estimated it would take about a year for the items to be sent.

Councilman Greg Casey asked what other funding options might be available to help with the purchase if GVFD did not receive the grant.

"The Texas (A&M) Forest Service offers \$20,000, but you have to get in line," Vaden said. "We recently received a grant from them to replace other equipment."

The Council approved \$4,717.20 as the city's 5% match if the fire department is awarded the federal grant.

SART

FROM PAGE A1

There is already a degree of formality in how Coryell County handles it. We all go to the same medi-

cal professionals, and children's advocacy center in Belton.

"We've got some time to develop (the SART). It's supposed to be effective by Dec. 1, 2022."

Boyd said he believes Coryell County is doing a good job in its

response to sexual assault complaints.

"In my time with the DA's office I've never seen a problem with the way our county handles (cases of sexual assault)," he said. "Sometimes victims move away, and we

reach out to law enforcement agencies in those areas to get them services."

Commissioners voted to enter an interlocal agreement with the other counties to form the SART.

The requirement for counties to

form a SART was created by the Texas Legislature.

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PALS

FROM PAGE A1

during her senior year as well.

GSD school board member, Cheyenne Kizer, said that it was an honor to have been a part of the PALS program from 1998 to 2000. Her remembrance of the pro-

gram was that GHS juniors and seniors would have one pal from each of the lower campuses. "It probably was my favorite class and made such a huge impact on my life," Kizer said. "Having the opportunity to be a friend to a younger student made me more accountable and allowed me to be a part of a few lives I might not have

been able to do otherwise. I loved all of my younger students. What a wonderful opportunity it was to be a part of such a great program," she said.

Hoping the PALS students learn the art of giving back, Coach Kelley said, "I love it and I hope it takes seed in the kids and in their hearts."

Texas game warden memorial moving to a more centralized spot in Austin

Since 2012, the Game Warden Peace Officer's Association has been working to relocate the memorial from the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens to the grounds of the Texas State Capitol. The life-size bronze figure of a Texas game warden stands to honor the wardens that lost their lives in the line of duty and serves as a reminder of the enduring legacy of the Texas game wardens.

"The association saw this as a necessary move since other memorials—specifically peace officer memorials—are housed on the grounds of the Texas State Capitol," said Game Warden Peace Officer Association president and current Texas game warden major, Quint Balkcom. "Housing the memorial on Capitol grounds would also serve a

larger audience, many who have never interacted with a Texas game warden. This is an educational opportunity to learn more about our history and critical conservation efforts."

When the Game Warden Peace Officer's Association took the reins of this project, they also facilitated the necessary funding and legislative efforts required for relocation. After multiple attempts, a 2017 resolution in support of the project passed through both chambers of the Texas legislature. Last week's hearing of the State Preservation Board cleared logistical hurdles.

"This is an incredible step in the right direction," said Col. Chad Jones, director of Law Enforcement for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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Please join us in thanking him for over thirty-one years of service to the community. We will be gathering where it all started at the former Scott's Funeral Home building.

Date: December 30, 2021
Time: 2PM to 5PM (Come and go)
Location: 904 East Leon Street

The Staff of Scott's Funeral Home
The Family of Bill Cole

Local athletes shine in spring sports

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Local teams and area athletes made plenty of memories in the first half of 2021, with multiple teams earning playoff spots — and getting victories — and being rewarded for their efforts.

Some of the spring semester highlights include:

Oglesby basketball sets new standard

The Oglesby Tigers were able to celebrate a historic triumph in February, earning their first basketball playoff win in decades.

“It’s been a while,” said coach Jeb Dixon, whose Tigers claimed a hard-fought 63-60 bi-district victory over Penelope. “All the old-timers think it goes back to the ‘60s that we won a (boys) playoff game.”

“This is the new Oglesby,” said guard Blake Thompson, who helped fuel the Tigers’ turnaround.

“This group has really bought into what we’re doing,” Dixon said. “They really believe and are playing together.”

Senior Gunnar Schultz led the way with 27 points, followed by Thompson with 14.

Oglesby wasn’t satisfied with a single playoff win, however, as the Tigers upended the Zavalla Eagles 70-62 to wrap up the area championship.

In that contest, Schultz scored 30 points — a season high — while Thompson and Caden Whaley each contributed 13. Whaley connected on four 3-point shots for OHS.

Oglesby fell to Trinidad in the regional quarterfinals, 70-61.

Gatesville’s Ryan Smiley earned a spot in the state powerlifting championships in Abilene with a first place finish at regionals. He had a squat of 710 pounds, a bench press of 405 pounds and a deadlift of 525 for a total of 1,640.

Gatesville High School’s boys golf team won a district championship with a total score of 635, eight points better than district runner-up Stephenville, which shot 643.

It was the third straight time GHS won the district golf title and the 12th time in 14 seasons.

Stephenville’s Hunter Rudloff



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Stormy Tatum became the first girl to compete for a state tennis title. In May, as a junior, she finished as the state runner-up and hopes to return to the state tennis tournament in 2022.

had the best score overall with a 147, while Gatesville’s Caleb Washburn and Evan Washburn tied for the runner-up at 152 each.

Gatesville advanced to the Class 4A Region I tournament at Shadow Hills Golf Club in Lubbock.

Seven members of the Gatesville High School tennis team advanced to regional competition in Lubbock with an outstanding showing in the district tournament at Tarleton State University in Stephenville in April.

Slone Early and Stormy Tatum won singles championships to pace GHS to the top spot. Rady Hollingsworth finished second in district.

Two doubles teams also advanced, with Shy Tatum and Jaeger Smith finishing second in district in boys doubles, and Ty Warren and Julee Sun finishing second in mixed doubles.

Regional alternates who finished third include: Alex Scott in boys singles, plus the boys doubles team of Caden Walls and Trevor Bentley.

Seven members of the Gatesville High School wrestling team advanced to regional competition at Rock Hill High School in Frisco.

Four boys advanced, including district champion George Hallman in the 220-pound weight class, Brett Byler in the 195 class, Carson Norwood in the 285 class and John Hall in the 106 class.

Three girls advanced, including Karlie Olivarez in the 119 weight class, Kaylie Tippitt in the 148 class and Payton Dowling in the 165 class.

Gatesville High School’s track teams excelled in the 5-4A/6-4A area track meet at Mineral Wells, as three athletes qualified for regionals in six events.

Barrett Boyd led the way, qualifying in three events, 100-meter hurdles (second place), pole vault (third place) and 300-meter hurdles (fourth place).

Bethany Penrod qualified for regionals in two events, the 3,200-meter run and 1,600-meter run (fourth place in each).

Lauren Stuard qualified for regionals by finishing third in the 100-meter run.

The Jonesboro Eagles won the district and area championships in boys track, with first place finishers including Nathan Forrest in the 3,200-meter run, the 800-meter relay team of Jaden Domel, Cater Janisch, Ian Shoaf and Jacob Cisneros, Shoaf in the 110-meter hurdles, and Caleb Cristal in the 300-meter hurdles.

The Jonesboro girls finished fifth in area, and Kennah Piller took first place in discus for the Lady Eagles.

Evan Washburn shot a first round of 69 and a second round of 75 to earn a trip to the state golf tournament at Plum Creek in Kyle. Washburn finished fourth overall in regional competition.

Stormy Tatum won the Class 4A Region I tennis championship in Lubbock in early May to advance to the singles state tennis championships in San Antonio. Tatum defeated competitors from Argyle, Vernon, Hereford and Canyon. She was the first girl from Gatesville High School to earn a berth in the state tennis tournament.

Tatum, a junior, finished as the state singles runner-up, falling to Brooke Runyan of Devine in the final. She faced three seniors in the state tournament, winning 6-0, 6-0 in the first round and 6-2, 6-2 in round two.

HEADING DOWNCOURT



MARK GOODSON | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Kamryn Higginbotham leads the Gatesville Lady Hornets into opponents’ territory during a game earlier this month. The varsity girls will host San Saba at 12:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31.