



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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Preparing for an event 2 years away

Gatesville set to be prime viewing area for solar eclipse

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER & EDITOR

It may be more than two years away, but Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry told the Gatesville City Council to anticipate a significant number of visitors flocking to the area for a better view of a rare astronomical event—a total solar eclipse.

Parry talked about a total solar eclipse that is supposed to take place on April 8, 2024.

He said Gatesville is in an area which also includes Kennedale and Fredericksburg that is expected to have the longest duration of the eclipse, estimated to be about 3 minutes and 24 seconds.

Parry said he told Gatesville Police Chief Nathan Gohlke to figure out how to deal with as many as 40,000 cars going down Main

Street that day.

People often travel great distances to experience these events, and Parry said a city's population can sometimes temporarily swell 10 to 15 times the current population in response to eclipses. He said he had been notified back in October that someone had already requested to reserve a local hotel room for that date.

The eclipse is expected to occur at 1:33 p.m. "and there won't be another for 100 years or so," Parry said.

Gatesville residents have a couple of years to prepare and can mark their 2024 calendars for the unusual phenomenon.

Solar eclipse facts

What is a solar eclipse? It is the astronomical condition when the moon moves between Earth and the Sun, casting a shadow on the Earth, fully or partially blocking the Sun's light in some areas, according to NASA. During an annular solar eclipse, the moon is far enough away from Earth that it appears smaller in the sky than the Sun. Since the moon does not block the entire view of the Sun, it will look like a dark disk on top of a larger, bright disk. This creates what appears



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS | COURTESY PHOTO

A total solar eclipse is expected to be visible in North America in April 2024, and the path is expected to make Gatesville among the best areas to view the astronomical event.

to be a ring of fire around the moon.

According to the Great American Eclipse website, the April 8, 2024 event will be the next solar eclipse over Mexico, the United States and Canada. The totality is projected

to first enter Mexico, spread across Texas and cut a diagonal path to Maine before entering the maritime provinces of eastern

PLEASE SEE ECLIPSE | A2

A song fit for a hangin'

BY DAVID SCOTT
STAFF WRITER

In September 2021, The Gatesville Messenger ran a story about the 130th anniversary of the first and only legal hanging in Coryell County which became known as the Leeper-Powell hanging.

In the latter part of 1889, while returning to Gatesville with a wagon train full of supplies, two men were ambushed – one of whom died as a result of being shot.

Jim Leeper and Ed Powell were later convicted of that crime by a grand jury in Gatesville and were scheduled to be hung.

Jump forward 130 years to the newspaper account of the anniversary of this notable hanging. Soon after the article appeared in The Gatesville Messenger, Gatesville resident, Marsha Lee, visited the newspaper office bringing with her a 45-record titled "Hangin' Day" which was written and recorded by Slim Willet. The song was a musical account of the hanging of Leeper and Powell.

From a newspaper article in 1964, the near-legendary hanging had become the subject of a song. The record was being sold at the Gatesville music shop known as The Gallery owned by Chuck Obermyer – later to be owned by Mack Lee from 1965 to 1985. Lee had inherited the "Hangin' Day" records from the previous owner. Marsha Lee said that her husband sold, gave away, and donated the records which established notoriety to Gatesville – most of which were buying it as a collector's item.

The composer and singer of the song was Slim Willet, who was born as Winston Lee Moore in 1919. He began his radio career in the latter part of the 1940s at Abilene's Hardin-Simmons University.

Willet's fame would later escalate from his song "Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes," which became a major hit for crooner Perry Como and would become Como's number one seller – selling over one million copies. Bing Crosby and Dean Martin also sang the song on their network radio programs. The song became all the rage with several different versions in Billboard's Country and Western Top 10.

In the years following, Willet would branch out into song publishing and later had a Sunset Boulevard address in Hollywood. Willet established the Slim Willet Advertising Agency which handled promotional events and bookings for Slim Whitman, Carl Smith, Johnny Horton, and a young and aspiring singer, Elvis Presley.

He became known as a pioneer in live television which included an evening variety music

PLEASE SEE HANGIN' | A2



Above: Local dignitaries gather on the stage in advance of a hanging that took place in Gatesville in September 1891. The memories of a young woman who witnessed the event inspired her son, Slim Willet, to write a song about the event. Left: Slim Willet, best known for his song, 'Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes,' also wrote a ballad chronicling a double hanging in Gatesville.

COURTESY PHOTOS | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Youth fair slated for next week

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER & EDITOR

Keith Smart has been president of the Coryell County Youth Fair Board of Directors for so long he doesn't even recall exactly when it was he started, and seeing local youth excel in showing animals and participating in the home economic events has been a highlight over the years.

When asked how long he's been part of the livestock show, Smart paused.

"That's a good question," he said. "A lot of years. Since ... gosh, I couldn't even tell you. My oldest daughter is 29 and I was doing it before then."

"Probably too long," he joked. "I still enjoy it. I still like helping the kids."

A total of 362 exhibitors are scheduled to participate in this year's youth fair. Because of COVID-19, the number of entries is down to about 2,200 from previous years, where the number of entries was closer to 2,600.

"The number of exhibitors is probably about the same, but the number of entries is down," he said.

Judging for events starts Tuesday, Jan. 11, with the auction set to begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15.

Livestock divisions will include rabbits, poultry, steers and heifers, swine, sheep, goats and horses.

As can be expected, the categories with the smaller animals that are easier to handle and house attract the most participants.

"We have a bunch of rabbits," Smart said.

Watching children grow from shy and tentative beginners to more confident and accomplished exhibitors is something Smart said he enjoys most. The strong community support is also crucial to the youth fair's success.

"Just watching the growth and the kids do well," he said. "I also love seeing the buyers come out and support the kids on Saturday."

"It's great working with the board

PLEASE SEE FAIR | A2

QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

Q: When is the next election of county and state officials?
A: Republican and Democratic primaries are scheduled for March 1.

Send us your questions:

editor@gatesvillemessenger.com

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Tim Crosby, Pastor

HANGIN'

FROM PAGE A1

show on KRBC-TV which aired for three years. He would later use his real name of "Winston" to establish his own record label.

It has been written that the Gatesville ballad of "Hangin' Day" originated with remembrances from Willet's mother, Frances Day Moore, who had formerly lived in Coryell City. At a young age, she actually witnessed the Leeper-Powell hanging in Gatesville. It was from her account that Willet penned his song from her memories of that day.

Willet died in 1966 at the age of 46, but his musical talent continues to live on. He was posthumously inducted into the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame in 1994.

What started as a story told to him as a child at his mother's knees, grew into a song that eventually captured the hearts of history buffs in Coryell County. The Gatesville song can be heard on YouTube by entering the search phrase of "Hangin' Day" by Slim Willet.

Lyrics of Hangin' Day:

The year was 1891, September 29th.
Gatesville, Texas was the town,
The streets with folks were lined.
Two men would die on the scaffold high
For a murder they had done.
Leeper and Powell stood side by side,
Condemned to hang as one.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

A copy of the Slim Willet record, 'Hangin' Day,' provided by Marsha Lee.

They came from far and near,
The word had gone around.
No one had ever seen a crowd
Like this in Gatesville town.
There was a feeling in the air
That few had felt before,
Like death was standing by your
side,
Not on that scaffold floor.

The time was near that fated
hour,
The trial just had met.

The crowd stood by while Powell
spoke
Words some would not forget:
He knew his wrong must be re-
paid.

He begged for life in vain.
His mother cried and hid her eyes
And hung her head in shame.

Leeper next was asked to speak.
He just stared at the floor.
They asked if the rope fit him
right.



An advertisement for the 'Hangin' Day' record sold in the 1960s.

He said, "I've never hung before."
The rafters sprung and there they
hung,
Two killers side by side.
Women fainted all around;
The men just stood and cried.

Chorus:
Hangin'Day, Hangin' Day...
The chill in the air said this is a
Hangin' Day.
Hangin' Day, Hangin' Day...
The chill in the air said this is a
Hangin' Day.

FAIR

FROM PAGE A1

of directors and the superintendents (of the different categories)."

There have been many highlights over the years, and one of the biggest was expanding the youth show facilities, Smart said.

"It's been a good many years, but we have been able to expand and add on to the show barn," he said. "Since the city took over the barn, the remodel has been great."

Smart said he has enjoyed seeing the fair grow over the years.

"We're down in numbers a little bit this year, but there has been pretty steady growth over the years," he said.

Some of those who compete in the Coryell County Youth Show go on to compete in other places, and the foundational success they experience locally helps them pursue other achievements.

"We have quite a few kids who show here that go on to show at bigger livestock shows," Smart said. "It's great to see them get their start here and then go on to bigger things."

Although youths living in Evant and Jonesboro, which border Coryell County have their choice of which livestock show to participate in - Coryell or Hamilton County, "most of them come to Coryell County," Smart said. "That says a lot about what we have to offer. Hopefully we're doing something right."

How did Smart get his start as the fair board president?

"I was the swine superintendent back when

the fair used to be held where the fire department is now," Smart said. "After we moved I did that a few more years while Steve Gould was president. When he stepped down, they got me to take over."

It was a learning experience for him, Smart said.

"It was different - kind of like stepping into something I didn't know about," he said. "I didn't show when I was a kid - my wife did. I had the opportunity to learn about all the species (at the show) and the home economics part of it."

It's the dedication of the youths, the commitment of their families and strong support from others in the community that make the youth fair a success, Smart said.

"We have a great group of kids and parents, and the community support is fantastic," he said. "We have a good, giving community and that makes all the difference."

"I'd like for people to come out and watch the show, get something to eat and drink at our concessions and then come back for the auction on Saturday night. It's a lot of fun. The auction is to reward all the hard work of the kids. I really enjoy seeing the kids experience success."

2022 Coryell County Youth Fair Schedule

Monday, Jan. 10

* 4-7 p.m., all home economics entries must be brought to the civic center.
* 4-7 p.m., pee wee home economic check-in.

Tuesday, Jan. 11

* 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., judging of home economics entries

* 9 a.m., horse show check-in

* 9:30 a.m., horse show judging begins

* Noon, record books for commercial cattle due to superintendent

* Noon, arrival of rabbits

* 5-7:30 p.m., weigh and classify rabbits

* 5:30 p.m., home economics open to public

* 6-8 p.m., country store open for baked goods (except grand and reserve)

* 8 p.m., release of all baked goods except grand and reserve champions

Wednesday, Jan. 12

* 8:30 a.m., home economics open to public

* 9 a.m., judging begins for meat pens, fryers, breeding rabbits (followed by senior and junior showmanship)

* Noon - 8 p.m., all other livestock can be unloaded into the complex pavilion

* 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., weigh and classify sheep

* 5 - 7:30 p.m., weigh and classify market goats, commercial does, dairy goats

* 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., weigh and classify swine

* 6-7 p.m., weigh and classify market steers and heifers

* 5 - 7:30 p.m., weigh and classify all rabbits

Thursday, Jan. 13

* 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., home economics open to public

* 10 a.m., judging/interviews for commercial cattle

* 11 a.m., judging starts for halter classes, followed by breeding heifers and market steers

* 2 p.m., judging of angora goats

* Approximately 4 p.m., judging starts for

breeding sheep, followed by market lambs

Friday, Jan. 14

* 7 a.m., poultry check-in

* 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., home economics open to the public

* 8:30 a.m., judging starts for poultry with broilers first, followed by roasters and turkeys

* Following poultry, dairy goat show

* Following dairy goats, judging for commercial goats followed by market goats

* 5 p.m., judging for breeding swine, followed by market swine

* Following showmanship, greased pig contest (second-graders only)

* Following pig contest, senior and then junior showmanship

* Following market goats, release of all livestock auction items except for swine, which will be released after the swine show

* 5-8 p.m., release of home economic entries, including pee wee entries

Saturday, Jan. 15

* 9 a.m., pee wee rabbit show

* 10:30 a.m., pee wee goat/lamb show

* 11:30 a.m., home economics picture for newspaper (grand and reserve only) and all home economic auction photos

* 11:45 a.m., all home economic auction items including freshly baked goods placed on exhibit table

* 5:30 p.m., announcements, auction dedication ceremony and special awards

* 6 p.m., auction sale

For updates, visit the Coryell County Youth Fair Facebook page.

ECLIPSE

FROM PAGE A1

Canada.

The National Eclipse website notes that the April 2024 eclipse will carve a narrow path of totality from southwest to northeast across 13 U.S. states. However, to experience the total phase of the eclipse, viewers must be located within the narrow path of the totality (which includes Gatesville), with the duration of the totality lasting longest at the centerline. The longest duration of totality in the U.S. will be in Texas and the shortest will be in Maine.

"Texas is also widely considered to have the best eclipse-day weather prospects in the country," the National Eclipse website states.

The Gatesville area is expected to have one of the longest lasting states of totality during the April 2024 solar eclipse - lasting an expected 4 minutes and 23.9 seconds.

Although there was a major eclipse seen in parts of the United States in 2017, according to CNET, the last total solar eclipse before that in the USA was in 1918. That 2017 eclipse only resulted in a 70 percent totality in Central Texas, while the 2024 event is expected to be a 100 percent totality.

Although parts of the continental U.S. are expected to experience total solar eclipses on Aug. 23, 2044, Aug. 12, 2045, March 30, 2052, May 11, 2078 and May 1, 2079, none of them are expected to be visible anywhere close to Gatesville. No other total solar eclipses are expected to be visible in Central Texas until at least the 23rd century, according to astronomical projections.



Another view of a total solar eclipse. The Gatesville area is expected to be a prime viewing area for an upcoming eclipse in 2024. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS | COURTESY PHOTO

29 new laws are in effect in Texas starting this month

BY GARY BORDERS
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

More than 20 new state laws went into effect as Texans rang in the New Year, with another half-dozen to go on the books on Jan. 18, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported. Those laws include a ban on transgender athletes competing on sports teams that reflect their gender identity, and penalties for illegally restraining dogs.

Other new laws:

- Require landlords to disclose to potential renters if a property has ever flooded or is in a flood plain. Texas becomes only the second state in the nation with such a requirement, joining Georgia.
- Allow homeowners to take a homestead exemption in the same year they buy their home, instead of having to wait until the following year, potentially saving on property taxes.
- Require people accused in Tex-

as of a violent crime to post a cash bond. Before, a judge could agree to release the accused on a personal bond that does not require a cash payment.

- Provide a slate of new benefits for Texas veterans and their families, including exempting new veteran-owned businesses from paying the franchise tax.

A full listing of new laws can be found at the Legislative Reference Library's website.

Abbott seeks more testing sites, antibodies

Texas is seeking more federally funded COVID-19 testing locations and additional federal allocations of monoclonal antibodies used to treat the virus in six counties facing increased cases because of the omicron variant: Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, Harris, Hidalgo and Tarrant.

"Testing sites, additional medical staff and continued shipments of therapeutics from the federal gov-

ernment will help us continue to save lives and mitigate the spread of COVID-19," Gov. Greg Abbott said in making the request.

The Texas Department of State Health Services has requested additional allocations of an antibody therapeutic proven effective in fighting the omicron variant, as well as other treatments used to reduce hospitalizations. DSHS requested three teams of personnel to support urban hospitals.



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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.*

2022 Coryell County Youth Fair Participants

Aaron, Colby
 Aaron, Riley
 Allison, Colbi
 Allison, Costin
 Allison, Maci
 Allison, Mackenzi
 Altum, Trysten
 Alvarado, Thiele
 Ament, Hadleigh
 Anderson, Cooper
 Anzaldua, Matai
 Anzaldua, Naysa
 Archie, Clancy
 Archie, Jacy
 Arsenault, Kayla
 Ashley, Hannah
 Aulabaugh, Cooper
 Aulabaugh, Trinity
 Ayers, Bo
 Ayers, Mya
 Bagley, Paydan
 Baize, Seth
 Barron, Audrey
 Barron, Graham
 Barron, Preston
 Bay, Graham
 Bay, Greyson
 Beaty, Hunter
 Belt, Charles
 Belt, Samuel
 Belt, Thomas
 Berg, Haven
 Blanchard, Brooke
 Blanchard, Cash
 Blanchard, Cooper
 Blanchard, Lakensi
 Blanchard, Layton
 Blanchard, Linkin
 Blankenship, Dalton
 Bomar, Romi
 Bomar, Shelbi
 Bomar, Steven
 Bone, Avery
 Bone, Bella
 Bowsher, Priscaeus
 Branch, Ethan
 Breckenridge, Lyla
 Breckenridge, Raelynn
 Brock, Sabrina Rose
 Brookshire, Lane
 Brookshire, Thomas
 Brown, Jaycie
 Brown, Kelilah
 Brown, Kentley
 Bryson, Mikala
 Bryson, Ryli
 Buckner, Bliss
 Buckner, Breeze
 Burks, Emma
 Burks, Jeret
 Burns, Ella
 Burton, Emilliegh
 Butler, Lexi
 Byers, Nick
 Byler, Brett
 Byler, Colton
 Campbell, Chloe-Noelle
 Cardenas, Victoria
 Carothers, Grace
 Carrillo, Bill
 Carrillo, Cash
 Carter, Makayla
 Cartwright, Alisha
 Cartwright, Sarinah
 Castillo, Janessa
 Castillo, Matthew
 Chaco, Jesse

Chumley, Ellie
 Clarke, Kendal Grazen
 Coble, Mckenzie
 Cole, Zianna
 Collier, Alhana
 Conley, Marcy
 Conley, Mia
 Conley, Peter
 Coursey, Cayleigh
 Coward, Taylor
 Crawley, Allison
 Crawley, Ella
 Cullar, Paislee
 Cullar, Saydee
 Dean, Chase
 Deason, Kylee
 Deats, Landree
 Deats, Lynlee
 Delacorre, Kelly
 Dingianni, Kian
 Diserens, Parker
 Domel, Jaden
 Dossey, Braxton
 Dossey, Braydon
 Drake, Keira
 Ducker, Trista
 Duncan, Bailey
 Duncan, Marilyn
 Edwards, Addyson
 Edwards, Daniel
 Erwin, Jack
 Escobar, Ava
 Escobar, John
 Ewing, Hunter
 Fincher, Alan
 Foote, Pate
 Foote, Truett
 Foster, Pate
 Fraley, Addyson
 Fritze, Braylynn
 Frost, Jaiden
 Fulton, Eve
 Garcia, Kaylee
 Gardner, Kinlee
 Gardner, Kinsey
 Gibson, Gavin
 Gibson, Grant
 Gibson, Jessica
 Gibson, Julia
 Glover, Rhylee
 Goins, Lillian
 Gomez, Aiden
 Gomez, Johnny
 Gonzales, Ronaldo
 Gore, Natalie
 Green, Jaynee
 Gregory, Clayton
 Gribble, Zoe
 Gustin, Campbell
 Gustin, Hannah
 Haag, Jonathan Stuart
 Haag, Nicolas
 Haag, Noah
 Hale, Carlie
 Hale, Stetson
 Harbour, Trey
 Hartley, Chance
 Henry, Pantera
 Herring, Kolbie
 Hester, Madison
 Hix, Riot
 Hix, Ruckus
 Hopson, Hadley
 Huckabee, Zakary
 Hunt, Kagen

Insall, Abigail
 Insall, Hunter
 Jackson, Jozy
 Jackson, Melissa
 Jackson, Zayden
 Jacobs, Max
 Janisch, Carter
 Janke, Chase
 Jaynes, Dawson
 Jaynes, Mckenzie
 Jennings, Haylee
 Johnson, Chelsea
 Johnson, Eason
 Johnson, Hadley
 Johnson, Justin
 Johnson, Kelsey
 Jones, Alex
 Jones, Amanda
 Jones, Ethan
 Kennon, David
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 Kinsey, Lilly
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 Laster, Kace
 Latham, Ella
 LeBlanc, Drake
 Ledger, Lana
 Ledger, Lane

Lewis, Cameron
 Licea, Andrea
 Long, Aubree
 Lopez, Jeremiah
 Lovorn, Garrett
 Luensmann, Hailey
 Lynch, Levin
 Mabry, Kayla
 MacMurray, Brittney
 Mangum, Addisyn
 Mangum, Kynlee
 Mann, Lillie
 Mann, Matti
 Manning, Andrew
 Manning, Daniel
 Manning, Madison
 Manning, Payten
 Martin, Eli
 Martin, Paden
 Martinez, Heiler
 Martinez, Michella
 Mata, Kyleigh
 Maxwell, Christopher
 Maxwell, Kyler
 McFarlin, Gentry
 McFarlin, Landri
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McPherson, Anna
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 Pruett, Rachael
 Raines, Austin
 Ray, Corbin
 Redden, Jaycee
 Reed, Gabrielle
 Reed, Gracie
 Resh, Serena
 Reyes Morales, Estrella
 Richardson, Tinsley
 Richardson, Tripp
 Richardson, Tyler
 Riley, Kairi
 Ritchie, Roselyn
 Robison, Lynsey
 Rodriguez, Antonella
 Rodriguez, Ava
 Rodriguez, Emma-Cookie
 Rodriguez, Isela
 Rodriguez, Leonela
 Rodriguez, Ludwika
 Roehrig, Lucretia
 Rogers, Jamesyn
 Rogers, Mya
 Rojas, Enrique
 Rueter, Addie
 Rueter, Laine
 Rusk, Aedan
 Russell, Madison
 Russell, Martin
 Salas, Nataly
 Sanders, Taetym
 Sanson, Rylie
 Schoenewolf, Elizabeth
 Segraves, Marin
 Sellers, Brendan
 Shaw, Ava
 Shelton, Adalyn

Simecek, Nolan
 Slatton, Caitlyn
 Smart, Shaylie
 Smith, Alibi
 Smith, Callie
 Smith, Canyon
 Smith, Kensley
 Smith, Levi
 Smith, Madilyn
 Smith, Rogan
 Snoddy, Katie
 Sokolowski, Allyson
 Stein, Taylor
 Stevens, Bryson
 Stevens, Jaxon
 Stevens, Landri
 Strong, Lilly
 Stuard, Kaitlin
 Sutton, Cooper
 Szustak, Carolmarie
 Tatum, Biloxi
 Tatum, Kaytlin
 Tatum, Tully
 Terry, Lynnsey
 Thompson, Blake
 Thompson, Ella
 Thompson, Gracie
 Thornton, Jaellee
 Thornton, Jett
 Thornton, Judson
 Tippit, Riann
 Treadway, Emma
 Tubbs, Bobbi
 Tull, Miles
 Tull, Trip
 Turner, Emily
 Turner, Kannon
 Turner, Lash
 Uribe, Mariana
 Valdez, Abbie
 Velesky, Katielynn
 Velesky, Peyton
 Velesky, Shaylee
 Waldrum, Molly
 Walker, Kyleigh
 Wall, Baylea
 Wall, Breezy
 Wall, Jana
 Wallace, Turner Pete
 Walls, Anna Bella
 Walls, Gavin
 Walls, Jaxin
 Walter, Hunter
 Warrick, Kenny
 Waters, Caden
 Waters, Logan
 Webb, Callen
 Webb, Camden
 Wells, Memphis
 Wells, Paisley
 White, Rhett
 Williams, Makaylie
 Williams, Marlee
 Williams, Mason
 Wilson, Madison
 Wittie, Ryder
 Wolff, Autumn
 Wolff, Bailey
 Wolff, Jozie
 Wood, Leighton
 Wright, Kolter
 Wright, Madison
 Wright, Royce
 Wright, Shyla
 Wulfkuhle, Couper
 York, Raynzlie

★ 2022 SHOW CALENDAR ★

MONDAY JANUARY 10TH

4:00-7:00 p.m. All Home Economics entries must be brought to the Civic Center. **NO ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER 7 P.M.**
 Pee-Wee Home Economics Check-in.

TUESDAY JANUARY 11TH

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Judging of Home Economics
 9:00 a.m. Check-in for Horse Show
 9:30 a.m. Horse Show Judging Begins
 12:00 p.m. Record Books for Commercial Cattle due to superintendent
 12:00 p.m. Arrival of Rabbits
 5:00-7:30 p.m. Weigh/Classify Rabbits
 Home Economics Open to the Public
 5:30 p.m. Country Store Open for sale of **Baked Goods Only** (Except Grand & Reserve)
 6:00-8:00 p.m. Release all baked goods with the exception of Grand & Reserve Champion entries. These will remain for display.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12TH

8:30 a.m. Home Economics Open to the Public
 9:00 a.m. Judging commences in the following order: Meat pens, Fryers, Breeding Rabbits (Senior then Junior Showmanship to follow)
 All Other Livestock Entries can be Unloaded into Complex Pavilion
 12:00-8:00 p.m. Weigh/Classify **ALL** Rabbits
 5:00-7:30 p.m. Weigh/Classify Market Goats/Commercial Does/Dairy Goats to follow
 5:00-7:30 p.m. Weigh/Classify Sheep
 5:30-6:30 p.m. Weigh/Classify Swine
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Weigh/Classify Market Steers/Check Heifers

THURSDAY JANUARY 13TH

8:30 a.m. Home Economic Division Open to the Public
 10:00 a.m. Judging/Interviews for Commercial Cattle
 11:00 a.m. Judging commences in the following order: Halter Classes – Breeding Heifers, Market Steers
 Senior then Junior Halter Cattle Showmanship
 Judging Angora Goats
 Senior then Junior Showmanship
 Judging commences in the following order: Breeding Sheep, Market Lambs (Senior then Junior Showmanship to follow)

FRIDAY JANUARY 14TH

7:00 a.m. Poultry Check-in
 8:30 a.m. Home Economics Open to the Public
 Judging Commences in the following Order: Poultry – Broilers, Roasters, Turkeys (Senior then Junior Showmanship to Follow)
 Dairy Goat Show (Senior, Junior Doe/Billie then Billie Showmanship to Follow)
 Judging commences in the following order: Goats – Commercial, Market
 Coryell County 4-H Grease Pig Contest (2nd Graders Only)
 Senior then Junior Swine Showmanship
 Release of Livestock auction items with the exception of Swine which will be released after the Swine Show
 Release of Home Economics entries including Pee-Wee entries.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15TH

9:00 am Pee-Wee Rabbit Show (Check-in at 8:30 a.m.)
 10:30 a.m. Pee-Wee Goat Show/Lamb (Check-in at 9:30 a.m.)
 11:30 a.m. Home Economics pictures for Newspaper (Grand & Reserve ONLY) and all Home Economics Auction Photos
 11:45 a.m. All Home Economics Auction Items including freshly baked goods should be placed on Auction exhibit table.
 5:30 p.m. Announcements, Auction Dedication Ceremony and Special Awards
 6:00 p.m. AUCTION SALE – Immediately following auction all items are released



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MOUND NEWS

Christmas celebrations in Mound

BY BARBARA HOPSON

Christmas Eve visitors with Martha Lawhorn were Doris Hoff of Gatesville, Joe and Pam Duncan, Elizabeth, Ranie and Benjamin Phillips. Eric and Liz McCorkle had their Christmas Monday. Those attending were Lara McCorkle of Tampa, Fla., Patrick, Kelli, Jacob and Ethan Casey of Frisco.

Alan McCorkle of Buda, Brian and Eric McCorkle visited with their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth McCorkle over the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Last Sunday, dinner guests with Don and Sue Jones were Scott, Kelby and Sterlin Shults, Case and Kristen Jones, Russ, Christy, Kili and Case Cox.

Jimmy and Sugie Williamson of Waco were lunch guests last Monday of Don and Sue Jones.

Blayn Smith, Mitchell, Hannah and Zach Jackson of Dallas were Sunday lunch guests with Don and Sue Jones.

Jean Rose and Sue Jones visited Friday afternoon with Barbara Hopson.

Jerry and Paula Bomar had their children and grandchildren over the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Gary and Debbie Keeton's family visited over the past weekend. Gip, Gage and Garner Keeton of Marble Falls, Graig, Morgan, Gehrig and Grady Keeton of Gatesville, Kathi and Nick Taylor of Mound all also visited in Gatesville with Mrs. Sue Magee.

Jennifer Miller, Neal, Amanda, Brodie, Blayze, Slayton and Caymbri Fisher and Debbie Piller visited with Joseph and Helen Piller on Christmas Day.

Jennifer Miller, Slayton, and Caymbri Fisher went to the movies in Belton and Urban Air in Killeen over the Christmas holidays.

For the rest of the time, we just took it easy. (Grand-pa) Mr. Joseph Piller was taken to the Hospital Sunday December 26, 2021, and is still there.

Regina Rushing from the Mound Cowboy Church hosted a ladies prayer retreat at her farm in Elk, Texas, on New Year's Day. Ladies attending from White Mound Baptist Church and Mound Cowboy Church were John Stephens, Marty Wingate, Jean Rose, Kay Fisher and Betty Mayberry. Others from Arlington, Houston and Marlin attended.

For Christmas Eve, Robert, Carolyn and Emma Blakley with Neil and Christy Helms, with Taylor and Hunter Sekel of Red Oak spent the day with Jerry and Brenda Helms.

On Christmas Day, Robert, Carolyn and Emma

Blakley, Jerry and Brenda Helms spent the day in Pearl with Mrs. Bettie Blakley.

Chase and Kelsey McGhee announced the arrival of a baby girl, Charlotte McGhee. Born Dec. 17, 2021, she weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and was 18 inches long. The baby's nickname is Charlie.

John Paul Stephens and family of Flower Mound, Donald and Scott Stephens and his son, Chase, of Pearland, (Ray Stephens) brother and sister Melba and Rick Stephens of South Lake celebrated Christmas with Ray and John Stephens. They all headed back to their homes on Dec. 30, 2021. The group enjoyed a fun family gathering.

Tom and Sandra Varner had their children and family for the Christmas holidays.



Barbara Hopson

CTC Police Academy accepting applications for peace officer training

The Central Texas College (CTC) Police Academy is currently accepting applications for admission to both the full-time and part-time Basic Peace Officer academy courses. The full-time (day) academy will be conducted Jan. 24 through June 24. Classes for this academy are 40 hours a week, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The deadline for submitting applications for the day academy is Jan. 18 at 5:30 p.m.

The part-time (evening) academy will start Jan. 31 and end on Dec. 3. Classes will average 20 hours a week, Monday through Thursday, 6 to 10 p.m. and every other Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The deadline for submitting applications for the evening academy is Jan. 25 at 5:30 p.m.

Application packets can be found at <https://ctc4.me/CTCPoliceAcademy>. Anyone interested in applying for the CTC Police Academy must make an appointment to turn in the required paperwork.

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The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of January 2 - 5. 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 Jan. 2

12:46 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of N. 6th Street.

11:37 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 400 block of Park Street.

2:24 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1000 block of Pleasant Street.

4:36 p.m., a theft was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

5:44 p.m., an accident was reported in the 4300 block of S. State Hwy. 36.

9:19 p.m., an assault was reported in the 1600 block of W. Main Street.

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1:52 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.

11:26 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of E. Main Street.

2:31 p.m., an assault was

reported in the 400 block of Bridge Street.

3:39 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 1200 block of E. Main Street.

8:03 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1500 block of W. Main Street.

10:31 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 100 block of Sandy Lane.

Jan. 4
7:57 a.m., an accident was reported in the 1600 block of E. Leon Street.

9:50 a.m., criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of State School Road.

2:00 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2700 block of Business Hwy. 36.

5:27 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 2300 block of Business Hwy. 36.

8:06 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1700

block of E. Main Street.

Jan. 5
7:25 a.m., an accident was reported in the 1500 block of State School Road.

12:07 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 3400 block of E. Main Street.

3:17 p.m., harassment was reported in the 1100 block of E. Main Street.

5:27 p.m., a gas leak was reported in the 2200 block of E. Main Street.

6:45 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 900 block of Sunflower Lane.

CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Jan. 2

10:47 a.m., a civil matter was reported in the 6300 block of E. Hwy. 84.

12:25 p.m., suspicious activity was reported on FM 116 near Pidcoke.

5:06 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 3200 block of CR 137.

8:05 p.m., a minor accident was reported in the 1600 block of W. Hwy. 84.

8:45 p.m., an animal complaint was reported in the 9500 block of S. Hwy. 36.

Jan. 3
8:02 a.m., a reckless driver was reported eastbound on Main Street near the courthouse.

12:17 p.m., a civil matter was reported in the 5400 block of CR 188.

1:34 p.m., a civil matter was reported on CR 137.

1:42 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported at the mailboxes at Sierra Vista.

3:53 p.m., a theft was reported on W. Hwy. 84.

7:45 p.m., an unsecured load was reported on S. Hwy. 36 near Fort Hood.

Jan. 4
4:14 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 800 block of Wagon Wheel.

10:36 a.m., a hunting violation was reported in the 12000 block of S. Hwy. 36.

6:08 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 300 block of Rainer Road.

7:00 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on FM 116 and CR 145.

7:02 p.m., mailbox damage was reported in the 11000 block of FM 116.

7:42 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1100 block of CR 226.

Jan. 5
9:57 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 6400 block of FM 932.

11:23 a.m., a theft was reported in the 100 block of CR 238.

2:37 p.m., an animal bite was reported in Topsey.

4:22 p.m., illegal burning was reported on CR 342.

7:59 p.m., an out-of-control child was reported on E. Hwy. 84.

11:29 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on E. Hwy. 84 at Barton Lane.

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OBITUARIES

ROBERT T. (BOBBY) COLLINS, JR.

July 3, 1970 - Dec. 6, 2021



On Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, the Collins family lost their dad, son, brother and loved one in a tragic accident. Robert T. Collins, Jr. "Bobby" lost his life in a fire that engulfed his home. He succumbed to smoke inhalation.

Bobby was born in Gatesville on July 3, 1970. While attending Oglesby High School, he played sports and became interested in rattlesnake hunting. He was an avid rattlesnake hunter and participated in the annual Rattlesnake Roundup. After graduation, he went to work for the Texas Prison System and worked as a guard and sergeant of several units. After retiring from the prison system, Bobby worked at Ace Hardware in McGregor.

To honor Bobby's memory, the family will be scattering Bobby's ashes at some of his favorite snake dens in a private ceremony.

Friends and members of the community are invited to join the Collins family on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at 11 a.m. for a celebration of life service. Join us at the First Baptist Church Oglesby at 120 College Avenue, Oglesby, Texas 76561.

Bobby is survived by his mother, Frances Oleta Wehmann; his three children, Joshua Collins, Chloe Collins, and Clayton Collins; his brothers, Lonnie Collins, and David Collins; his sisters-in-law, niece and nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert T. Collins, Sr., his grandparents, and many close friends. His love and devotion to his family and friends were evident his entire life. His three children were the absolute joy of his life. He was proud of them and made sure they knew just how proud he was.

John 11:25 - "Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live.'"

GEORGIA MCBETH

Mar. 31, 1928 - Jan. 2, 2022



Georgia McBeth, age 93, of Copperas Cove, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, in Belton.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at Scott's Funeral Home in Gatesville. Interment will follow at Pidcoke Cemetery.

Georgia was born on March 31, 1928, in the Pleasant Valley community of Hamilton County, to the late Walter Johnson, Sr. and Lois Lightsey Johnson. Her father farmed in the Jonesboro and Turnersville communities, and she attended school in Jonesboro, where she graduated in 1946 as salutatorian. She

was on the All-State Basketball team for one year and All-District team for three years. She went on to college in fall 1946 at Clifton Junior College, where she played basketball. She received her Associate Degree from there and continued her education, by attending Central Texas College taking several courses pertaining to banking.

Her first job was in the Coryell County Tax Assessor's office, until joining the staff of the National Bank of Gatesville, which started her 45-year career in banking. She retired from the First National Bank of Killeen and the Fort Hood National Bank as Vice President. She continued after her retirement working part time at the Heights Bank and Union State Bank. Georgia was honored to be named Woman of the Year and Charter President of the Heart of Texas Chapter of the American Business Women Association. She was also an active member in the Association of Bank Women and was a keynote speaker for several seminars in the field of banking. She enjoyed volunteering for Coryell Memorial Hospital, Methodist Alzheimer's Group, and the Pidcoke Cemetery Association, to name a few.

Georgia met her husband Wayland McBeth in 1948 and

WILLIAM JOE "BILL" HUTKA

Dec. 5, 1934 - Jan. 3, 2022



William Joe "Bill" Hutka, age 87, of Temple, passed away Monday, Jan. 3, 2022.

Funeral Services were held 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, at Scanio-Harper Funeral Home with Rev. Duane McCoy officiating. Burial will be private.

He was born in Temple on Dec. 5, 1934.

He is survived by his wife Joanne; sons, Brady Hutka and wife, Diane, Mike Hutka and wife, Jana; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

To share a memory or sign the guest book for Bill, please go to www.scanioharperfuneralhome.com

they were married on January 19, 1952. They moved to Killeen in 1960 and later moved to Pidcoke in 1990, where they opened McBeth Yard Decorations. They were both members of Pidcoke Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 2010; brothers, Donald Johnson, Walter Johnson, Jr., Clifford Johnson; sisters, Joann Marriott and Nancy McAnally.

Georgia is survived by her

sons, John Wayland McBeth, LeRoy McBeth; grandchildren, John Wayland McBeth II and wife, Lisa, Misti LeAnn Davis, Lacey Irene Manning and husband, Cody, Katy Lynn McBeth; six great-grandchildren, Taylor, Austin, Meredith, Shelby, Mattie, and Bryce.

In lieu of flowers, memorials have been designated to Pidcoke Cemetery Assn., 105 River Ridge Dr., Gatesville, TX 76528.

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Zeigler memorial plaque placed at Museum

The Coryell Museum and Historical Center recently placed a plaque in the museum's garden area in memory of Carol and Nell Zeigler who contributed countless hours to the museum. When they planned to move from their home on Coryell Creek, Nell contacted the museum about taking some of her plants for the museum's garden. "She donated a lot of Irises and Daylilies of her own," said board member, Hal Davidson, who is now in charge of maintaining the

garden. Nell Zeigler was an accomplished Master Gardener and a lifetime member the State Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. In addition, she taught Master Gardener classes at Texas A&M University and was instrumental to the development and continuation of the Landscape Design Study Course series of the Landscape Design School in the Bryan/College Station area. "They were good people

and well respected. She did a lot of work at the museum even when she was older and in a wheelchair, but she was independent and didn't want assistance," Davidson said. Nell and her husband Carol have described as being very "giving individuals" and, since they didn't have any children, they devoted their time to the Gatesville community including the Boys & Girls Club and the Coryell Museum.



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
IN MEMORY OF: Zeiglers memorialized for their countless hours of work donated to the museum.

FCA to hold meeting Monday

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will be meeting on Monday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m. This will be an outdoor event open to youth of all ages. The meeting will be held on the lawn of the First United Methodist Church. There will be food, games, and fellowship with all school age youth of Gates-

ville. The mission is to create a welcoming and loving environment with the vision of spreading God's love through a broken world. The guest speaker for the event will be America Ninja Warrior's Brittany Hanks. Prior to her ANW career, Hanks was a 2012 graduate of Zephyr High School.

Following graduation, she attended nursing school at Tarleton State University while also being a pivotal member of the university's track team. Now known nationally as the Blue Ninja, Hanks will be bringing a special message at Monday's meeting.

T'ville Community Center to meet

The Turnersville Community Center Association will hold its quarterly meeting on Monday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to take place at the community center and will be open to

the public to attend. The community center is a family friendly gathering place for recreation, community, education, and the arts. It is located at 8115 FM 182 in Turnersville.

For more information about the quarterly meeting, please contact the association's secretary, Dorothy Wagoner, at 254-494-0110.

Fall Graduates and Dean's List announced at Angelo State

Angelo State University recently announced their Fall Graduates for 2021. Whitney Carothers, of Gatesville, received her Master of Science degree in Professional School Counseling during the commencement exercises held on Dec. 11. The university conferred 658 undergraduate and graduate degrees on 657 graduates during the ceremony. The university also announced the students who made the Fall 2021 Dean's List

which included two Gatesville students, Kenli Cummings who is majoring in pre-social work and Sydney Mundkowsky who is majoring in psychology. To be eligible for the ASU Dean's List, full-time undergraduate students must maintain a 3.25 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Angelo State University, founded in 1928, is a thriving four-year public school in Texas.

Fiber Arts Program offered

A Fiber Arts program will be offered at the Gatesville Public Library on Monday, Jan. 24, at 3 p.m. The program will explore knitting, crochet, cross stitch, nale-

binding, quilting, weaving and other forms of fiber art. It will be hosted by Luci Zahray and Linda Bramhall. The program will allow participants to work on projects

and share their ideas and expertise. All skill levels are welcome to attend. The Gatesville Public Library is located at 111 N. 8th Street.

Lions Club to host chili supper

The Gatesville Lions Club will host their 45th annual Homer Davis Lions Club Chili Supper on Tuesday, Jan. 18, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the

Gatesville High School cafeteria. In addition to chili, they will also offer soup, beans, drinks, and dessert.

The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. Tickets may be purchased at the door or from any member of the Lions Club.

Fall graduates at Sam Houston State

Two local students recently received degrees during the Fall 2021 semester at Sam Houston State University. Garrett Gunnels, of Jonesboro, received a Bachelor of Business Administration, Banking and Financial Institutions and Finance degree. Jace Sims, of Gatesville, received a Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice degree.

With over 90 bachelor's degree programs, 55 master's degree programs and 10 doctoral programs, including the nation's first PhD in Forensic Science, Sam Houston State University offers an exceptional college experience. SHSU strives to prepare students for meaningful lives of achievement.

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Lady Eagles fall in heartbreaker

Jonesboro almost pulls off win vs. Abbott Panthers in district battle

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Jonesboro varsity girls basketball team was one point shy of winning their first game Wednesday night against the Abbott Panthers at the Jonesboro High School Gym.

The Jonesboro girls ultimately lost in a heartbreaking 23-22, dropping their record to 0-7 overall, (0-1 in district), while the Abbott rose to 14-3 overall, (3-1 in district).

Jonesboro's girls basketball coach Billy Massingill praised the Lady Eagles' fight and determination,

despite the loss.

"We played a heck of a ball game tonight," Massingill said about the game. "They played their hearts out and played hard against a really good team."

The game was closely contested from early on. The Lady Eagles and the Lady Panthers ended the first period with a 4-4 tie.

Going into the second quarter, Jonesboro outscored Abbott 6-3, making the score 10 to 7 at halftime. During halftime, Massingill encouraged the team to keep up the effort.

"I told them to keep playing hard and don't give up," Massingill said.

The Lady Eagles kept fighting until the buzzer sounded at the end of the game.

During the third period, the Lady Eagles were playing with the same passion they

had in the first half, scoring 8 points, while holding Abbott to 6 points, ending the period 18-13 lead over the visiting Panthers.

In the fourth period, the Lady Panthers would score 10 points to the Lady Eagles 4 points to conclude the game.

The Lady Eagles would end the game shooting 10 for 14 on free throws. The leading scorer for the Lady Eagles was Kylie Deason with 8 points. Deason ended the contest 2 for 2 on free throws. Alissa Shumate and Payton Green finished with a combined 8 points in the game. Shumate finished 3 for 4 on free throws, and Green finished 2 for 3.

The Lady Eagles traveled to Oglesby Friday, Jan. 7, to take on the Oglesby Lady Tigers. Results from the game will be covered in the upcoming issue.



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

McKenzie Coble looks for an open teammate in Wednesday's game vs. Abbott.

AREA FISHING REPORT

Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 2.41 feet low. Catfish are good, scattered from mid to deep water in the river channel and in structure. Drifting using fresh cut bait will put the cats in the boat. Report by Jason "SPUD" Barton, Cattin' Around Adventure's Professional Guide Service.

With a mild front impacting weather on Tuesday, and the arrival of our strongest cold front of the season late Saturday, there were multiple opportunities for frontal-related fishing. We had three trips this week that put over 100 fish in the boat. Fishing has moved a tad deeper, generally in 28-34 feet of water, and the small three-eighth or five-eighth ounce Bladed Hazy Eye Slabs with stinger hooks are now my go-to presentations and likely will be through February. Birds have been working in the mornings. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Stillhouse Hollow

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 2.10 feet low. With a mild

front impacting weather on Tuesday, and the arrival of our strongest cold front of the season late Saturday, there were multiple opportunities for frontal-related fishing. We had three trips this week that put over 100 fish in the boat. Fishing has moved a tad deeper, generally in 28-34 feet of water, and the small three-eighth or five-eighth ounce Bladed Hazy Eye Slabs with stinger hooks are now my go-to presentations and likely will be through February. Birds have been working in the mornings. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Waco

GOOD. Water stained; 57 degrees; 3.22 feet low. Fishing is good on Lake Waco. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around brush piles in 10-20 feet of water. Black bass are good shallow with chatterbaits, square-bills and jigs. White bass are good from 15-30 feet of water on jigging spoons. Some nice Hybrids are being caught trolling with jigging spoons and umbrella rigs over deep humps and drop-offs. Report by Justin Priscock, Priscock's Fishing Guide Service.

Whitney

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 55-60 degrees; 2.21 feet low. Striped bass are good on artificial bait near the edge of the river channels and creeks. Report by Blake Stritz, Blake on the Lake Guide Service. Striper bite is good to great mid-lake on the north end. Fish suspended around 15-35 feet of water biting deep diving crankbaits and spoons. Report by Kraig Sexton, Sexton's Guide Service LLC.

Brownwood

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 1.54 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

EXCELLENT. Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 4.83 feet low. Crappie and white bass are outstanding staging in 30-35 feet of water at the mouth of creeks using white or chartreuse/white jigging spoons. Jess Rotherham of Texas Crappie Fishing Service. Largemouth bass good on isolated rock piles and deep rocky banks using red bug finesse worm on a shaky head, red or orange craw crankbait, or a white swim jig. White bass are very good on jigging spoons 30-50 feet of water. Hybrid bass and stripers are good trolling umbrella rigs, and drifting live shad. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows in deep brush piles. Catfish are fair to good on live cut shad, chicken liver, and punch bait. Underwater green lights are attracting hybrids and stripers and they are biting shad imitation baits at night. Report by Lee Benton, Fishing Guide Austin.

Travis

SLOW. Slightly stained; 65 degrees; 19.12 feet low. Before the cold snap fish were being caught 30 feet and deeper on structure.

EAGLES

FROM PAGE A10

Momentum shifted in the fourth period, with Abbott scoring 19 points and Jonesboro only scoring 7.

The Eagles were very successful in scoring, rebounding, and stealing. Senior Layton Blanchard scored 14 points and had 13 rebounds. To follow up Blanchard's performance, senior Ian Shoaf ended the game with 8 points, 5 rebounds, and 2 steals. Garrett Young tallied 4 points, 7 rebounds, and 2 steals.

Simon is feeling confident about his team going forward into district play.

"If that's the best we got to offer in district, I feel pretty good about it," Simon said.

The Jonesboro varsity basketball team headed to Oglesby, Friday, Jan. 7, to take on the Tigers in a district game. Results from the game will appear in the upcoming issue.

Congratulations

to our

Volunteer of the Month

Bill Ament



Bill comes FAITHFULLY every Monday morning to volunteer at CTHH. He has an assigned area and he gets right to it after greeting everyone. Bill is quiet, but friendly. He loves to share coffee and sweets after all his hard work. Working with Bill is like being in a fresh, gentle breeze. He is kind and polite and carries that smile everywhere he goes. We did learn that he LOVES to recycle and often ends up with treasures here from CTHH. Thank you, Bill, for who you are, what you do, and the things you love. You are an amazing unsung hero here at CTHH. We love you!

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Burnet snaps Hornet win streak in non-district

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Hornet boys varsity basketball team fell to the Burnet Bulldogs 69-40 in a non-district game at the Burnet High School Gymnasium Tuesday night. The Bulldogs snapped the Hornet's five-game winning streak dropping the Hornets to an overall record of 10-13, while Burnet rose to an overall record of 14-9 on the season.

The Hornets struggled early being outscored in the first period. Even with the rough start, their effort never faltered.

"We didn't quit; we battled," Gatesville Boys Basketball Coach Brit Campbell said after the game.

In the second half, the Hornets played more aggressively, putting themselves into position to score, but they struggled to convert on the attempts at the basket.

"We did a better job of handling in the second half," Campbell said. "We were more aggressive and got to the free-throw line, we just couldn't make them, but we were more aggressive against their pressure later

in the game."

The Hornets' leading scorer was junior Jack Carroll with 10 points. Carroll scored three times inside the three-point line, and he would cash in a single three-pointer in the third period. Carroll was 1 for 2 in free throw shots.

Hornet players junior Carter Williams and senior Jaiden Gomez shot for a combined 14 points in their performance against the Bulldogs. Williams was 1 for 2 on free throws while also connecting on a pair of 3-pointers. Gomez connected on three 2-pointers and was 1 for 2 on free throws.

According to Hudl, the Hornets garnered 23 rebounds, 6 assists, and 3 steals.

Campbell shared some insights about what the team's practices will look like this week in preparation.

"We'll get a lot of shots up tomorrow. Watch some film, work on some things defensively to fix the breakdowns we had," Campbell said.

"We are going to work a lot on handling the ball, making good decisions, and not playing at their speed."

The Hornets played an-



Rayshon Smith brings the ball up court for Gatesville in a non-district game against Burnet.

TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

other non-district game Friday, Jan. 7, against (5-12) Robinson Rockets at Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium in Gatesville.

The Hornets' district slate is set to begin Nov. 14 in

Brownwood.

Tatum Tourney champs

The Hornets were crowned as champions at the 90th Mary Tatum Holiday Classic at Reagan County High School in Big Lake. The tour-

namment took place on Dec. 28 and 29. Overall the span of the two days, Gatesville defeated four participating teams. Carter Williams was named most valuable player, while Tyler Shea and

Rayshon Smith received All-Tournament honors.

On Dec 28., Gatesville defeated San Angelo Central JV 58 to 51, Ozona 46 to 17, Coahoma 74 to 49, and San Angelo TLCA 58 to 38.

MAINTAINING CONTROL



Taylor Coward protects the ball from a Connally defender while looking for an open teammate in the Gatesville LadyHornets home game on Jan. 4.

JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Sportswriter joins Messenger

Hello, I am Triston McGehee, and I am the new sportswriter for The Gatesville Messenger. At the age of 22, I am very grateful to receive this opportunity, and I want to share a little bit about myself so that the community can become more acquainted with me.

From an early age, I have always liked sports. And I have always considered it a fun way to engage with my family. I support the Dallas Cowboys football team because they have always been a family favorite. In other sports, I do not have a preference. I just like to see a good game.

My path began in the small Central Texas town of San Saba, where I spent my entire childhood. Once I finished high school in May 2018, I wanted to pursue a degree in communication. This endeavor led me to spend my first year at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. At Sul Ross, I was an athletics department student worker. This position helped me find a passion for sports, and it gave me experience filming basketball games.

After two semesters at Sul Ross, I transferred to Tarleton State University in the fall of 2019 to continue working toward my degree. I will graduate from Tarleton in the spring of 2022 with a bachelor's degree in communication.



Triston McGehee

During my studies at Tarleton, I stumbled upon an internship opportunity with the Hood County News in Granbury. I was very interested in the opportunity because I wanted to explore community journalism.

Since then, I have written various features and covered football in Hood County. And now, at The Gatesville Messenger, I look forward to covering local sports with pride, and I hope to meet new people across Coryell County.

Send sports stats or story ideas to Triston via email: triston@gatesvillemessenger.com.

Eagles fall short against Abbott

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Jonesboro Eagles Varsity Basketball Boys fell 42-40 Wednesday in their district matchup against the Abbott Panthers at the Jonesboro High School Gym. The Eagles played a strong game but came up short against the Panthers. Jonesboro record drops to (4-8 overall, 1-1 in district), while Abbott improved to (5-2 overall, 2-0 in district).

Despite the narrow loss, boys varsity basketball coach Chris Simon is satisfied with the performance.

"We came out hard and battled as I wanted us to," Simon said. "I'm happy with how we played, but towards the end, it just didn't go the way we wanted it to go."

The Eagles were hot early, jumping out to a 15-4 lead over the Panthers in the first period. But as the game went on, their lead dwindled. By the end of the second period, the Panthers retaliated by scoring 16 points to the



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Jacob Cisneros drives to the basket for a layup in action Jan. 5 against Abbott.

Eagles' 6 points. At halftime, the score was 21-20, with Jonesboro hanging on by just an inch.

To begin the second half, the Eagles ran the court to score 12 points, holding the Panthers to a

mere 3 points by the end of the third period. At this point, Jonesboro had gathered a hefty 10-point spread over Abbott 33-23 by the start of the fourth period.

PLEASE SEE **EAGLES** | A9



A PLACE CALLED
Home

Five interior design trends to use in your home in 2022

(StatePoint) After learning to live life more remotely in 2020 and 2021, it's time to view 2022 as a fresh start.

To help you adopt a new, balanced way of living, FrogTape brand painter's tape and celebrity interior designer, Taniya Nayak, are sharing five home interior design trends meant to inspire spaces that will welcome guests, while still incorporating the special intimacies that may have been rediscovered from slowing down. Each trend can be utilized for a full home makeover or incorporated into little touches to freshen up a space.

1. Embrace. Embrace everything that is good in your life and create a sense of comfort, warmth and security. Nayak recommends cozy textures and a palette of mellow coral, subtle orange, soft green and creamy shades of white and brown to achieve this look in spaces like bedrooms or family rooms. A simple and stylish way to incorporate this into a room is to add a coat of paint to a textured basket for a pop of color. Then, fill it with plenty of plush blankets to complete the cozy look and feel.

2. Rise. Give a fresh perspective to your existing space with the 'Rise' trend. Inspired by the morning light peeking through the shades, incorporating this trend into your bedroom or bathroom is bound to invigorate and motivate you. For example, add a coat of green paint to your closet door for a nice pop of color to an area where you start your day.

No matter where you're looking to add fresh color,



COURTESY PHOTO

DESIGN TRENDS: Changing the interior design of your home can help make a new start to the new year as well as welcome guests.

you'll want to achieve clean, sharp paint lines. One of Nayak's go-to tools is a premium painter's tape that produces professional-looking results, like FrogTape brand painter's tape, which is treated with patented PaintBlock Technology, to deliver the sharpest lines possible.

3. Gather. Gathering with friends and family has been long awaited, so set the mood and ambience just the way you imagined it. Inspired by the depth of conversations with loved ones, the 'Gather' trend embraces rich, dark tones like navy, teal or forest green. Incorporate this trend by painting the focal point of a room, like kitchen cabinets or the

living room fireplace. Or, add bold, dark details with furniture and artwork. You can keep it subtle by creating custom centerpieces dipped in paint and wrapped in twine.

4. Revive. Revive your home with soothing and vibrant shades of pink, orange and blue to create a balance of motivated yet satisfied. Consider adding a vibrant paint color to old, worn-down details like a front door, nightstand or kitchen table. It might feel out of context, or out of character, but give it a try.

"This trend can be described as carefree, festive and fun," said Nayak. "Whatever it is that makes you happy...go for it!"

5. Shine. The 'Shine' trend is all about letting your true self shine. Implement this trend in any room throughout your home by embracing every color of the rainbow and visually displaying what's in your heart. Using FrogTape, tape off a custom pattern that is uniquely yours and paint it whatever color you choose.

Visit FrogTape.com/Trends for more trend information and ideas.

Creative and easy to achieve, these rising trends for 2022 provide inspiration to refresh your home's interior.

Tips to lower your home's heating bills

(StatePoint) A frosty winter wonderland is fun to experience -- outside. Inside is another story. By keeping your home heating system running at peak performance, you'll lower your winter utility bills and experience increased comfort.

According to North American Technician Excellence (NATE), here's how to stay toasty this winter without breaking the bank.

Get the Right Equipment

It all starts with the right heating equipment. Choosing a furnace with an ENERGY STAR logo is important, however, it's also a good idea to understand standard efficiency ratings so you can easily compare the performance of different systems.

When you need to measure the thermal efficiency of your furnace or water heater, Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) helps determine the actual, annual, average efficiency of that piece of equipment. It measures the amount of heat delivered to your house compared to the amount of fuel that you must supply to the furnace. The U.S. Department of Energy determined that all furnaces sold in the U.S. must have a minimum AFUE of 78%.

The Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) is the most commonly used measure of the heating efficiency of heat pumps. Typically, a high-efficiency heat pump pays for itself in savings in a few years.

Take These Steps

A little DIY can work wonders. Follow this checklist for improved efficiency of heating equipment:

- Check heating filters every couple weeks and change them at least twice in the season, or as directed by the manufacturer.
- Check and maintain insulation. Improperly insulated

walls, floors, attics, basements and crawlspaces drain away heat and can also lead to moisture imbalance.

- Check ductwork for insulation and leaks. No matter how "state of the art" your heating system is, if your ductwork is bad, it will diminish efficiency.

- Turn down the thermostat by a few degrees and dress more warmly.

- Clean the furnace area. Don't keep chemicals or cleaning products near your heater, and don't store anything next to it that could impede ventilation.

- Keep vents and returns free of obstructions.
- Install a humidifier to make indoor air feel warmer.

Work With Experts

Be sure all work performed on your heating equipment is carried out by a trustworthy, NATE-certified technician. Even the most efficient system can suffer if it's not properly maintained. NATE-certified technicians have demonstrated knowledge of today's heating and cooling systems. Better installation and service means your equipment will run at peak efficiency. Visit nate.org for additional winter tips and resources, and to find a NATE-certified technician in your area.

If you do call in a technician, prep for their arrival. You can help your technician diagnose a potential problem with your heating equipment by being prepared to share important information, such as the age, brand and model of your furnace and whether it's been leaking, making unusual noises or emitting odors.

With a combination high-efficiency equipment, a little DIY and the help of professional expertise, you can stay warm and cozy on-budget, all season long.

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Our approach provides the ideal solution for seniors who need some help with daily activities, such as bathing, dressing and medication reminders. We focus on wellness and keeping residents as independent as possible by providing a tailored plan of assistance. Trained caregivers provide attention 24-hours a day. In addition, staff will coordinate services with outside healthcare providers and monitor residents to ensure highest optimal level of health.

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Assisted & Independent Living: 1507 West Main Street, Gatesville, TX
RehabLiving at The Meadows 110 Chicktown Road, Gatesville, TX

WHERE YOU ALWAYS FEEL AT HOME | CoryellHealth.org

Is it too late to reduce your mortgage payment by refinancing?

(StatePoint) Experts say that with mortgage rates beginning to rise, refinancing your home now might be your last best chance to lower your monthly mortgage payment, as rates remain near all-time lows.

Those who refinanced early in 2021 have already reaped the benefits. Borrowers who refinanced their 30-year fixed rate mortgage into another 30-year fixed rate mortgage during the first half of 2021 saved over \$2,800 in mortgage payments on principal and interest annually, according to a recent Freddie Mac research report.

But mortgage rates are rising. Indeed, in October 2021, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, which is the most common type of mortgage,

rose to its highest point since April, surpassing 3.0%. Freddie Mac forecasts that mortgage rates will continue to rise, averaging 3.5% for the 30-year fixed in 2022. That's up from an average of 3.0% in 2021.

So is it time to refinance your home loan? To help you make an informed decision, Freddie Mac is offering answers to commonly asked questions about the refinancing process:

• **What does refinancing mean?** When you refinance your mortgage, you're applying for a new mortgage to replace your current one, which will result in a new rate, term and monthly payment. The most common type of refinance is a no cash-out refinance, in which you're re-

financing the remaining balance on your mortgage.

• **When should I consider refinancing?** Generally speaking, refinances make the most financial sense when average interest rates are at least half a percentage point lower than the interest rate on your current mortgage. Another reason to consider refinancing is if your financial situation has improved, allowing you to secure a loan with a shorter term and own your home sooner. Finally, if you currently have an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) and it's adjusting upward, you may wish to convert to a fixed-rate mortgage that provides you with the security of consistent payments.

• **Is refinancing free?**

Although refinancing your mortgage could save you money both in the long- and short-term, it isn't free. For the most part, refinancing costs are similar to what you paid when you purchased your home, including a loan origination fee. There are required services involved, such as appraisals, and state and local fees that can vary significantly based on where you live. The average cost to refinance is almost \$5,000, so you should carefully consider how long you plan to stay in your home to ensure the savings to outweigh the costs.

• **Who should handle my refinance?** You don't have to use your current lender to refinance your loan. In fact, it's in your best interest to shop around and compare mul-

iple lenders' loan estimates in search of the best terms and cost. It may take more time, but even a difference as small as one-quarter of a percentage point can save you thousands of dollars over the life of your home loan. The good news? Rates are often negotiable. In other words, you can ask lenders to match the rate quoted by another lender.

There may be no time like the present to lock in the lowest possible rate and receive the highest monthly savings. To get a sense of what refinancing could save you,

access Freddie Mac's refinance calculator, along with additional homebuying and refinancing resources, at myhome.freddiemac.com.

As with any big financial endeavor, you'll want to do your homework, look carefully at your short- and long-term goals, and work closely with your lender to do a cost-benefit analysis.



Facing financial hardship? Tips to avoid foreclosure

(StatePoint) Life's unexpected challenges can make meeting monthly mortgage payments difficult. The good news? Help is available to avoid foreclosure.

Indeed, Freddie Mac has completed more than 255,000 foreclosure prevention actions in 2021, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Whether you're currently behind on payments or foresee trouble ahead, Freddie Mac advises taking the following steps as quickly as possible to get back on track:

• **Assess Your Situation** Whether it's due to unemployment, illness, natural disaster or other reasons, identifying the cause of your financial hardship and an-

ticipating its duration are important. These factors can help determine the best solution for you. (A short-term hardship is over within 12 months. A long-term hardship extends beyond 12 months.)

• **Contact Your Servicer** Your servicer — the company where you send mortgage payments — is your best resource throughout the process. They will provide you with the available mortgage relief options based on your particular situation, which typically begins with being placed in a temporary forbearance program. Remember, your servicer is there to help. If you think you're going to have trouble paying your mortgage, don't wait. Call them immediately! And

if you're already behind on your mortgage or currently in a workout option, respond to their outreach efforts to keep an open dialogue going throughout the process.

• **Know Your Options** No matter where you stand, there are solutions. Here are some to consider:

• **Forbearance** is an agreement between you and your loan servicer that either pauses or reduces monthly mortgage payments for a limited time. Consider forbearance if you're currently unable to make payments but think you'll be able to resume soon.

• **With payment deferral**, missed mortgage payments move to the end of your loan term, but your monthly mortgage payment amount stays the same. Consider payment

deferral if your hardship is resolved but you're unable to repay missed mortgage payments as a lump sum or by increasing monthly payments. Freddie Mac Flex Modification, for example, provides up to a 20% mortgage payment reduction that permanently changes one or more of the original terms of your mortgage, such as the interest rate and mortgage term. Ask your loan servicer whether this may be an option for you.

• **A repayment plan** increases mortgage payments for a short period to make up for missed payments. Plans must be longer than one month but no longer than 12 months. Consider this option if you can afford your regular monthly payment, plus a lit-

tle more, for a short period.

• **With partial reinstatement**, you pay a portion of missed mortgage payments as a lump sum. To pay off the rest, your loan servicer works with you to create a repayment plan.

• **With full reinstatement**, you pay the total owed mortgage payments as a lump sum, making your mortgage current. This is a good choice if you can afford it.

• **Refinancing your mortgage** lowers your interest rate or replaces an adjustable-rate mortgage with a more affordable fixed-rate mortgage. This is a good choice if you're current on payments but would benefit from reduced payments in the future. This year, more than 600,000 homeowners with a Freddie

Mac-backed mortgage refinanced into a more affordable loan.

• **COVID-19 relief** is offered by many loan servicers to those struggling due to the pandemic.

• **Of course**, if homeownership is no longer affordable or desirable, there are options too. Short sale and deed-in-lieu, for example, can help you exit your home without facing the costs associated with foreclosure.

For more homeowner resources, visit My Home by Freddie Mac at myhome.freddiemac.com.

If you're struggling to make mortgage payments, take action quickly. Doing so can help you prevent foreclosure and stay in your home.

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Tips to Complete Outdoor Chores With Vigor as You Age

(StatePoint) When it comes to healthy, active aging, it's all about making simple adaptations. This is especially true of outdoor chores, which can put a strain on wrists and hands.

Here are three simple tips to help you tackle your tasks -- and maintain your favorite hobbies -- with vigor as you age:

Go Low-Maintenance

A few smart landscaping choices can make maintaining your home's curb appeal much easier to manage. For example, by selecting native plant species, your lawn and garden will more easily thrive with less intervention from you. You can also eliminate some upkeep by using groundcover plants in certain places instead of grass, or by landscaping with succulents that require minimal watering or even with decorative stones.

Seek Out Ergonomic Tools

Stock your toolshed with items created to make your life easier. Fortunately, some product manufacturers understand the needs of older adults and are designing products accordingly. For example, Scepter SmartControl fuel containers are operated with a squeezing action, making them much easier to use than other types of fuel containers, which require twisting a spout or holding down a button.

"We should never count seniors as 'down and out' from life's activities. Instead, they're continuing to thrive at home, as well as fueling their passions of boating, motorcycling, jet skiing and other activities," says Daniel Marshall, vice president of marketing and business development with Scepter. "That's why we designed SmartControl containers to be ergonomically comfortable for everyone."

Available in 1-, 2- and 5-gallon sizes, SmartControl containers are a smart and safe option for easy fuel-ups. The 5-gallon gas container also comes with a molded-in rear handle for easy balancing and operation.

For those especially active seniors tackling large fuel fill-ups, Scepter makes a rugged 14-gallon wheeled unit ideal for safely fueling gas-powered tools, boats, snowmobiles, tractors, jet skis and ATVs. Visit www.scepter.com for more information.

Stretch, Strengthen and Rest

As with any exercise that puts strain on a particular area of the body, while doing outdoor chores it's important to both know your limitations and to take steps to keep yourself healthy. Yoga and stretching exercises that target your hands and wrists can improve mobility and boost strength, aiding in injury prevention.



And remember, it's okay to stop for breaks or to divide your chores up over multiple days.

By making a few tweaks to your outdoor chore routine -- including seeking out products designed to be easy on

hands and wrists -- healthy aging and an active lifestyle can go hand-in-hand.

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Rx Resolutions: 6 Ways to Improve Your Health in 2022

(StatePoint) While diet and exercise resolutions typically top New Year's lists, experts say that focusing on a few of your resolutions on forming good habits relating to your pharmacy routine can improve your overall health.

Susan Peppers, RPh, vice president, Express Scripts Pharmacy, suggests these resolutions to make the most of your pharmacy care.

Resolve to...ask more questions

Many of us are hesitant to speak up when we have questions about prescribed medications or therapies. Don't be! Pharmacists have clinical expertise and can play an important role in your whole health. At Express Scripts Pharmacy, pharmacists are available 24/7 to answer questions or talk through any other health issues you may be experiencing.

Resolve to...never miss a dose

The best way to see improvement in both chronic and short-term conditions is to take medication as prescribed — the right dose at the right time in the right way. Try using a pill container or a dose reminder or taking your medication as part of your daily routine, such as brushing your teeth. Talk to your pharmacist about the best time to take your medi-

cation.

You should also consider ongoing home delivery — like that provided by Express Scripts Pharmacy — so you never run out of medication due to a missed pharmacy trip. Express Scripts Pharmacy customers can also enroll eligible medications in an automatic refill program. Your prescriptions will be refilled at the right time, so your medicine will always be on hand.

Resolve to...take your medications safely

Taking medication the wrong way or without knowledge of their effects can be dangerous. Read and understand the instructions printed on your prescription label, so you can be sure you're tak-

ing your medicine exactly as intended. For example, taking certain medications on an empty stomach if you're supposed to take it with a meal can reduce their effectiveness.

You'll also want to be sure you don't mix your medication with certain other drugs or alcohol, or even engage in specific activities, like driving, if the label warns you against doing so.

Resolve to...clean out your medicine cabinet

Many people find they're more likely to take medications properly if they have a well-organized medicine cabinet. Go through and properly dispose of expired medications or those you're no longer taking. For more

information on discarding expired medications, visit express-scripts.com/askyourpharmacist.

Resolve to...check-in with your doctor

Your health can change, and your prescriptions should change along with it. Schedule time at least once annually to go over everything you're being prescribed. It's a good chance to talk to your doctor about what's working, what's not and what might need adjustments. In turn, keeping all medications at a single pharmacy when possible allows your pharmacist to have the most accurate information to help keep you safe from drug interactions or medication issues. Be sure your physician knows which pharmacy you use.

Resolve to...update your insurance information

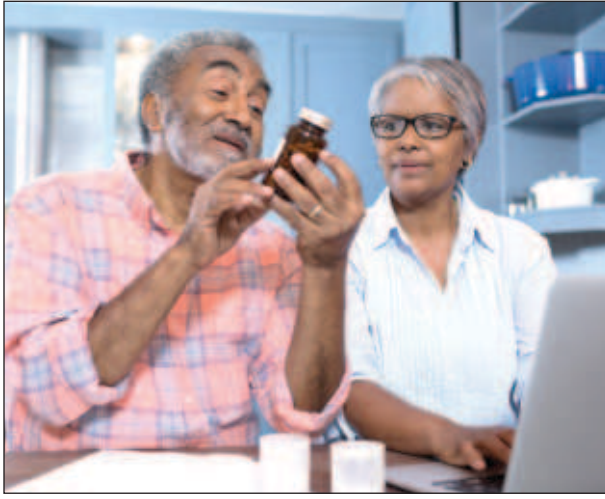
The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to ensure you have updated insurance information accessible in case you need to reference it. Replace old cards with new ones as soon as you can to save time and reduce confusion when filling prescriptions.

For more medication pharmacy care resources and information, visit www.esrx.com/AskYourPharmacist.

Here's to a happy and healthy 2022!

Did you know?

According to the real estate research firm CoreLogic, annual home price growth during the pandemic was the most the group had ever seen in its 45 years of tracking home prices. Since the World Health Organization first declared a pandemic in March of 2020, home prices have risen dramatically. CoreLogic reports that median home prices across the United States increased by 18 percent between July 2020 and July 2021. The increase was even more significant in Canada, where data from the Canadian Real Estate Association indicated home prices had risen by more than 38 percent between 2020 and 2021. Such increases were welcome news for individuals who already owned their homes, but many individuals who did not found themselves priced out of the market. The good news for potential home buyers is that median home prices are not expected to increase as much in 2022 as they have since the onset of the pandemic. In fact, CoreLogic forecasted a 2.7 percent appreciation between July 2021 and July 2022.



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5 Affordable Hobbies to Take Up Today

(StatePoint) Have you ever been reluctant to try a new hobby because you were worried you would spend a lot of money on gear, supplies and other start-up costs only to lose interest?

Here are five great ways to explore hobbies more affordably:

1. Language exchange: Rather than purchase pricey software or attend in-person classes, consider finding a language exchange partner. Take turns conversing in each other's native tongue and pick up important commu-

nication skills -- and maybe a friend -- along the way.

2. Built-in music lessons: Music lessons and instruments can be expensive. However, you don't need a full-sized grand piano or multiple sessions with a private teacher to master the instrument. Today, digital keyboards can offer a high-quality piano sound at a price that's within reach, along with features specifically designed for building the skills of novices. For example, Casio keyboards are affordable and some models are

outfitted with Casio's Step-up Lesson System, which can help you learn built-in songs at your own pace. Additionally, the LCD display teaches both music notation and correct hand positioning, while an innovative scoring system allows you to track your progress. By connecting to the free Chordana Play iOS/Android app, you can learn to play your favorite songs from downloaded MIDI files, taking your music further.

3. Pick-up games: While organized sports leagues are an opportunity to make friends

and get some exercise, you may not have the time to commit to weekly games or the inclination to spend money on team equipment and uniforms. Whether you call up your best pals to play in the backyard, or try your luck at the local court or field, all the benefits of team sports (e.g. fresh air and camaraderie) can be experienced participating in a casual pick-up game.

4. Wellness: To participate in online yoga classes, all you need is a mat and comfy clothes. Online classes can

deliver high-quality instruction for free on a schedule that works for you. The important thing is to find a teacher whose cues you understand and who practices a style that aligns with your needs and goals. Safety tip: if you are unsure how a certain pose or flow is performed, watch the video first before attempting it on your own.

5. Return-on-investment crafting: Crafting can be expensive, particularly if you work with high-quality materials. The good news is that once you master a particular

skill, be it knitting, sewing or mosaics, there are opportunities to sell your work at craft fairs and on sites like Etsy. And of course, crafts can make amazing gifts for friends and family.

While hobbies can enrich the mind, body and soul, they don't need to cost a fortune. With a little creativity, you can learn new skills and try different activities without breaking the bank.

Pros and cons to open-concept homes

Open-concept homes have become increasingly popular in recent years. An open-concept home is one in which the rooms flow into one another with limited obstruction from walls or other barriers. According to the National Association of Home Builders, 84 percent of new single-family homes have fully or partially open layouts.

While they may seem like a new trend, open floor plans are anything but. Early American homes featured open, often one- or two-room units built around the central kitchen/hearth. This maximized warmth and functionality. Homes evolved as incomes grew, and soon homes had several smaller rooms with specialized functions.

What's old has become new again. However, before diving head first into a new home purchase or a big renovation to realize an open-concept dream, consider the pros and cons of this type of setup to determine if it's really right for you.

Advantages of open floor plans

Open floor plans facilitate the flow of natural light throughout a space and can promote air flow, helping to reduce warm or cool pockets of air in otherwise closed-off rooms.

Open homes make socializing easier, even when people are doing different things. While someone is cooking dinner in the kitchen, he or she can still interact with someone else playing video games in the family room or paying bills in the home office. Entertaining also is easier, as mingling with guests is much more convenient when walls are not getting in the way.

A smaller home can feel much larger if it employs an open concept. The square footage is not divided into smaller quarters, which sometimes are rooms (such as formal dining rooms) that are only used a few times per year. This eliminates underused spaces and opens up sight lines in the layout.

The value of real estate has risen dramatically since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and prospective buyers may prefer an open-concept plan because it can help them minimize building costs.

Disadvantages of open floor plans

Open layouts are not for everyone. The same sense of space that occurs when walls are taken down may make rooms feel cavernous and less cozy, particularly in homes with ample square footage. In addition, privacy can be hard to come by when all rooms feed into one another.

When the kitchen is not separate from the family room space, that makes it easy for noise to compromise the area's comfort levels. There is no hiding from noise in an open floor plan,



as sounds from voices, television shows and appliances tend to echo and blend together. And if the home is a single-story layout, those noises from the main living areas also may carry to adjacent bedrooms.

Smoke and smells are another thing to consider. When something on the stove spills over, a small range hood will not be practical for clearing smoke from a large space. Though the aroma of freshly cooked food is enticing, it can make it hard for cooks to keep guests out of the kitchen.

Open-concept homes are popular, but homeowners should weigh the pluses and minuses to see if this trend is truly right for them.

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January Community Calendar
Courtesy of Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau

Jan 4 GISD Return to Class

Jan 10-15 Coryell County Youth Fair
The annual Youth Fair will open with Home Economics entries due on Monday, followed by judging on Tuesday. The fair will open to the public Tuesday at 5:30. Livestock judging will take place throughout the week. The auction will be Saturday, starting at 5:30. For more details, see CoryellYouthFair.com.

Jan 17 Martin Luther King Day

Jan 18 Lions Club Chili Supper
The annual fundraiser for Gatesville Lions Club community programs will be held at the Gatesville High School Cafeteria. Tickets are available through Lions Club members. \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. Includes chili, soup, beans, drink & dessert.

Coming in February... Taste of Gatesville!
This popular event returns to the Gatesville Civic Center on Feb. 2nd. Watch the Gatesville Messenger for more details or contact an Exchange Club member.

For more on local events, see VisitGatesvilleTX.com or follow us on Facebook and Instagram at Visit Gatesville, TX.

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A Healthy Homemade Soup to Jumpstart the New Year

(StatePoint) When sweater weather arrives, there's nothing quite as comforting as a pot of something savory and delicious simmering on the stove.

As you turn to hearty soups this winter, having the right seasonal staples means you'll be well on your way to having piping hot meals on the table, quickly and hassle-free.

Keep your pantry and fridge stocked with essential ingredients like onions, carrots and celery, along with a collection of earthy, zesty spices and versatile, all-purpose seasonings. You'll also need a rich and all-natural stock handy, such as Kitchen Basics Unsalted Chicken Stock. Simmered all day with chicken, vegetables and McCormick herbs and spices, this deeply flavored stock can bring a burst of savory warmth to countless dishes. It's low on sodium so it's a good-for-you start to many delicious meals beyond soup, like rice, sauces, and more.

To help you embrace the colder

weather, try a recipe for a hearty classic loaded with tender veggies, chicken, egg noodles and robust flavor that puts this stock -- aka "liquid gold" -- front and-center. Yep, you guessed it, Savory Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup. Nostalgic and nourishing, all you need is 10 minutes of prep time and 20 minutes cooking on your stovetop.

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped yellow onion
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 2 tablespoons McCormick Garlic, Herb and Black Pepper and Sea Salt All Purpose Seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Ground Turmeric

- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breast
- 2 cartons (32 ounces each) Kitchen Basics Unsalted Chicken Stock
- 2 cups uncooked medium egg noodles
- 1/2 cup frozen peas

Instructions:

1. Heat oil in large saucepan on medium heat until shimmering. Add onion, carrots and celery; cook and stir 3 minutes or until softened. Stir in seasoning and turmeric; cook 30 seconds until fragrant. Add chicken and stock. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 15 to 20 minutes until chicken is cooked through and tender.
2. Transfer chicken to medium bowl; shred using two forks. Set aside. Stir noodles into broth; cook 6 minutes or until tender. Return



COURTESY PHOTO

Slay sweater weather with flavorful, healthy soup prepared in under 30 minutes.

shredded chicken to saucepan. Gently stir in peas. Sprinkle with parsley to serve, if desired. For more great ways to warm up this season, visit mccormick.com/

kitchen-basics. During the short, dark days of winter, healthy soups like this will feed your body and warm your soul.



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The Search For Goldilocks Planets

Hey there! I'm Goldilocks! You probably have heard my story: I went into the home of the Three Bears and found a bowl of porridge that was not too hot, not too cold, but just right!



Because of my well-known story, scientists use the name Goldilocks to describe a planet that is just right for life as we know it on Earth!

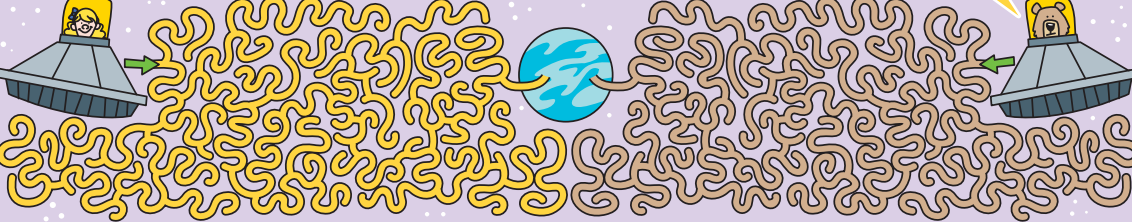
Earth is a "Goldilocks" planet. It's neither too hot nor too cold for liquid water, which is a key ingredient for life. Part of what makes Earth just right is its distance from the sun!



If a planet is too close to its sun, it's too hot for life. But if a planet is too far away from its sun, everything is frozen. Around many stars there's a Goldilocks Zone where there is the potential for water on a planet's surface.

Goldilocks planets have habitats that are healthy for life.

A habitat is a place where an animal lives. It provides the animal with food, water and shelter. Different habitats are home to different animals.



Choose a spacecraft and race against a friend to see who gets to the Goldilocks planet first.

Are we there yet?

Which Goldilocks planet is the closest to Earth? Proxima Centauri b (also called Proxima b) is a planet orbiting in the "Goldilocks" zone of the red dwarf star Proxima Centauri. Discovered in 2016, it is about 4.2 light years from Earth.

Until faster ways of traveling through space are discovered, it would take you a long time to reach Proxima Centauri b from Earth using current spacecraft. How long? Circle every other letter to find the answer.

SVEBVUELNFPTPYAFX
IDVLEMTJHYOBUNSTA
RNVWDYDEAATRG

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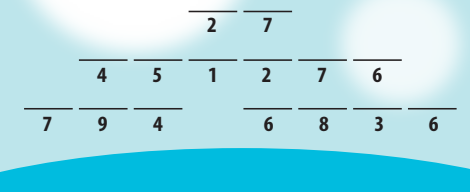
Extra! Extra!
Just Right
Look through the newspaper for pictures and words that reflect your community. What kinds of things make your community a place that is "just right" for living there?
Standards Link: Students describe the physical and human geography of their local community.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Kepler-16b is a distant planet that exists just outside a Goldilocks zone. It was first discovered in 2011.

Some scientists have given it the nickname Tatooine, Luke Skywalker's home planet in Star Wars. Why does Kepler-16b remind them of Tatooine? Use the secret code!

1=B 2=I 3=N 4=O 5=R 6=S 7=T 8=U 9=W



Double Double Word Search

GOLDSILLOCKS
POTENTIAL
PORRIDGE
DISTANCE
PLANET
EARTH
RIGHT
STORY
WATER
JUST
ZONE
COLD
BOWL
FOOD
HOT

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Make It Better

Newspapers are called watchdogs of the community, investigating and reporting on things that need changing or improving. Look for an article about something that needs to change in your community and write a letter to the editor.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Students write persuasive letters citing evidence.

Write On!

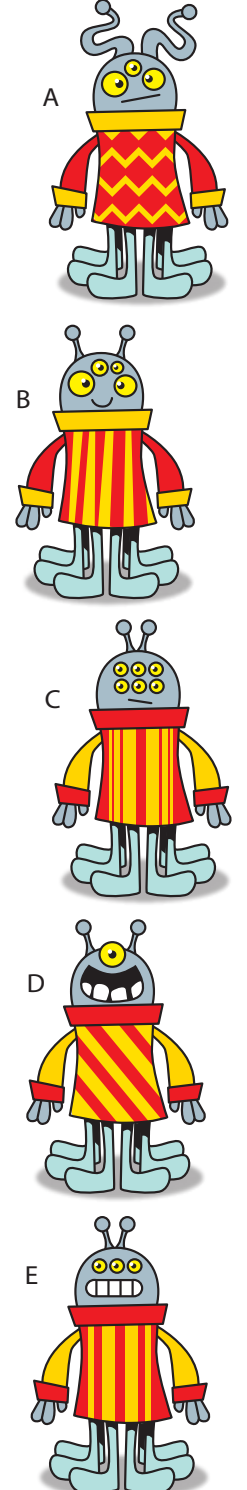
Cold Poems

Write a poem about the cold. What's the best part of winter weather? Do you enjoy cold weather or do you prefer the warmer days of spring?

Kid Scoop Together:

Zott or Nott?

Circle all the aliens from the planet Zott using these clues: Aliens from Zott each have at least three eyes, but no more than six. They have antennas, but never curly or wavy ones. Their clothes have stripes, but only vertical ones.





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