



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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75¢

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Honoring America's military

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Coryell County residents gathered to honor the U.S. military, including several members of the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Hood during the 14th annual Military Appreciation Fish Fry on Feb. 18 at the Gatesville Civic Center.

After members of the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce's Junior Ambassadors read a list of military values, Gatesville Mayor Gary Chumley said he sees dedication and strong values in today's youth.

"If you have any doubts about this younger generation, all you have to do is attend a Veterans Day program that Gatesville (Independent School District) sponsors," he said. "It is very moving and I try to attend every year."

Chumley said there is strong local support for the military.

"This is a very patriotic community that strongly supports our military, and this is one of the events each year that I enjoy most," he said.

Fish for the event was cooked by members of the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department, and several community members contributed time working behind the scenes to decorate and plan for the event.

Several military leaders and their units were recognized, and Big. Gen. Joseph A. Edwards, commander of First Army Division West at Fort Hood said he was thankful for the community support.

"I'm very hopeful that as our nation starts progressing past the pandemic that our involvement in the community will quickly keep pace," he said. "I am encouraged by the declining COVID-19 numbers."

Community support is important to the military's role in defending the nation, West said.

"Not just around Fort Hood, but around



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Edwards speaks during the military appreciation banquet on Feb. 18 while Carla Manning looks on.



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
Staff Sgt. Daniel West provides cadence.

the globe 70 percent of soldiers live in the community (where they are stationed, rather than directly on base)," he said. "Soldiers can't be successful without support at home.

"Little things like this may seem small to some but it creates a lifetime full of memories to the soldiers."

West paid tribute to the police, firefighters and EMS who keep communities safe, as well.

"For all the first responders and fire department folks out front — without them we don't have the stability we need to operate as a functioning society," he said. "Our

military cannot be successful without the support of the people back home."

West also said he appreciates the willingness of the military personnel who are willing to do what is needed to keep America safe.

"You are truly part of the 1% of Americans willing to sacrifice everything," he told the soldiers gathered at the celebration. "I am awestruck by the amount of people and quality of people willing to make sacrifices on behalf of this great nation."

"The United States still reigns as a bright sense of hope, and we're the ones who

keep the proverbial wolves off that wall, protecting our country and other parts of the world."

Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry, a retired Army colonel, said the willingness of soldiers to protect the nation also brings encouragement to its citizens. In a prayer, Parry gave thanks to God for his guidance and grace.

"Thank you for bringing hope through these ever-tough times, and thank you for the gifts of freedom and life," he said. "Renew our spirits and fill us with your peace and joy."

Working to make Gatesville a better place

BY SABRINA ANDERSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Almost five years into holding the position of director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau for Gatesville, Cheri Shepherd fuels the passion for making the town a great place to live.

Her journey began by growing up in the small neighboring town of Jonesboro, and she eventually worked her way to Waco, working as a teacher, principal, and then a real estate agent along the way. Shortly after marrying her husband, who was already a Gatesville native, she found a job listing for the position she currently holds and was hired.

"I really wanted a job that would put me in the community," said Shepherd.

One of her top priorities is drawing in visitors from all over the state to the Civic Center for various events. In doing so, her goal is to broaden the events hosted by the city and put Gatesville on the map for

event organizers. These events include everything from 4-H and the rodeo to trade shows and bridal showers.

"I think Gatesville has so much potential," said Shepherd. "I think we all want to make Gatesville a better place to live for us and for future generations."

In addition to bringing events to the Gatesville Civic Center, Shepherd also works closely with the library and local parks. From time to time, she helps put together community events to honor troops currently stationed at Fort Hood who are getting ready to deploy. Some of Shepherd's favorite memories include getting to share Gatesville's sense of family with the soldiers, letting them know that they have a community who supports them.

"It means so much to them while they're away from their families because a lot of

PLEASE SEE **SHEPHERD** | A2



Cheri Shepherd

House demo delayed

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

The prospective owners of a house at 2006 Bridge Street in Gatesville will have a little more time to present a plan to the Gatesville City Council on how upgrades will be made to repair the structure.

The Council declared the house a substandard structure in January, which could have meant the owner would be given 30 days to either present a renovation plan or to demolish the structure.

The property at 2006 Bridge Street is owned by Christopher C. Richardson, who also owns property next door. He said he bought the structure to keep vagrants from using it as a place for doing illegal activities, such as drugs. He said the previous occupants left the house in poor shape when they left the property.

"My plans are to tear it down and have a vacant lot there," Richardson said. "The only reason

PLEASE SEE **HOUSE** | A2



VOTE JACK BARCROFT

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- ★ IMPROVE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES
- ★ MODERNIZE OUR AGING COUNTY OFFICES

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Political ad paid for by Jack Barcroft for County Judge Campaign

Of winter, icy conditions and dinosaur bones

Jeff: We're back after a hiatus of a couple weeks, bringing you sometimes poignant and sometimes nonsensical reflections on the world around us.

Lu: I have no idea what you just said. And what's a hi-ate-us? It sounds like a big breakfast or something.

Jeff: It just means we've had a break - that this column hasn't run for a couple of weeks.

Lu: Oh ... why didn't you just say that, then?

Jeff: Oh, nevermind. ... Well, Tallulah, we survived another round of Arctic anguish, didn't we? I hope everyone stayed safe.

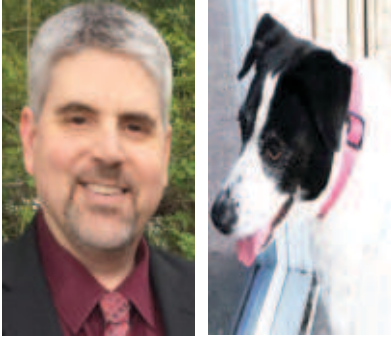
I know the ice outside our apartment, and the ice all over the sidewalks and streets, kept us from taking our usual walks for a couple of days.

Lu: Yes, we finally made it. It was a tough couple of days, but I sure enjoyed getting to go out and enjoy the sunshine once it warmed up,

Jeff's Reflections & Lu's Views

By Jeff Osborne & Tallulah

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



even if it still was a little chilly.

Jeff: I understand how people cooped up for a while start to go stir crazy. But these days, most

people have plenty of electronics to keep them occupied if they are stuck indoors. Dogs don't have the ability to enjoy a show on Netflix, or check out Facebook, or surf the Internet.

Lu: It can be a little boring sometimes if we get stuck inside, but it's definitely better than being stuck out in the cold. As for surfing, I'm just glad you didn't go slip-sliding and falling, or getting into a wreck on slick streets.

Jeff: Me, too, Lu. We did get a fair amount of ice, but thankfully, most of it was gone by Saturday or Sunday.

Lu: Just in time for those nice weekend walks! So, is winter finally over?

Jeff: I wish I could say that it was, and we could enjoy a nice long spring, but this is a time of year when winter and spring play tug o' war for several weeks. I even remember it snowing in April one year — that was back in 2007, if I

recall. My dad, who grew up in Illinois, said he doesn't even remember it snowing in April when he lived in Illinois.

Lu: Wow — 2007 was years before I was even born. You must be even older than I thought. But I know human years and dog years are different. What's an Ill-uh-noy?

Jeff: It's a state up north a few hundred miles. My family lived in southern Illinois before moving back here in 1973?

Lu: I'm glad you came down here so you could get me and take care of me. And this talk about 1973 — I don't even know if my great-great-grandparents were around then.

Jeff: OK, Lu, you've made your point.

Lu: You better take it easy ... how old are you anyway?

Jeff: Old enough to have traveled around the sun more than 50 times.

Lu: Wow! What were the dinosaurs like? Were they nice or were

they scary?

Jeff: I'm not quite that old Lu, but I've read that some were nice while others were scary.

Lu: I'm glad I wasn't around back then, although the thought of a giant dinosaur bone to chew on doesn't sound too bad.

Jeff: I'm not even sure how we got off track. Back to the weather, let's hope for the best and that the icy days are behind us. Lu, what do you think?

Lu: Huh? Oh, I'm still thinking about dinosaur bones.

Jeff: I better not take you to a museum anytime soon. We'll keep our walks to local neighborhoods and parks.

Lu: Sounds good to me. I bet those dinosaurs wouldn't want to give up their bones, anyway.

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

SHEPHERD

FROM PAGE A1

them are from other states and are missing that quality time," said

Shepherd. "I really enjoy sharing with people who don't know about Gatesville... the history, the culture, the things that there are to see and do here"

Among organizing events,

Shepherd finds her passion in the people she gets to commune with along the way. Meeting new people and helping them feel as one with the Gatesville community is her ultimate goal, hoping to inspire

new events in the area and make a lasting impact on its residents and visitors.

"If you want to have a place where people want to visit, you also first have to have a place where

people want to live," said Shepherd. "By making it a better place for our own residents, at the same time we're making it a better place for people to visit."

HOUSE

FROM PAGE A1

I bought the house was to keep the wrong people out of it. I started renovations but then stopped. Now I have an offer from someone who wants to purchase and fix the property."

Diana Barnett, a local real estate

agent, said she had sold the property to Richardson.

"There had been constant traffic of bad renters and drugs (at the house before Richardson purchased it) — it was awful," she said.

During the Feb. 8 Council meeting, Barnett said the sale was still planned and there is a contract on the property.

"The buyer is an investment firm

and the house has been secured with earnest money," she said. "They have another buyer that buys houses without seeing them."

If the deal does not go through, Richardson said he will proceed with plans to demolish the house.

"I have the money to knock it down," he told the Council.

Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry said at a previous Council meet-

ing (on Jan. 25), the Council had directed Richardson to bring a sale contract to the Council.

"If the sale goes through, we would want the buyer to present to the Council what the plan is (to repair the house). My recommendation is let's go ahead and see if the sale is consummated by Feb. 25."

Richardson said he told the prospective buyer that they would

need to present a rehabilitation plan to the Council.

"Option A, if the deal falls through, would be for Richardson to play for demolishing the structure," Parry said. "Option B would give the buyer until March 8 to present a plan to the Council."

The Council voted to delay any action on the property until the March 8 meeting.

ELECT

ROBERT LOONEY

for
County Judge

- ★ Attorney
- ★ Local Farm Owner/Operator
- ★ Former President of Evant Chamber of Commerce
- ★ Former President of Texas Oil and Gas Association

- ★ Former Senior VP of Texas Association of Business and Chambers of Commerce
- ★ Former Chairman of the Board and current Board Member of Texas Civil Justice League
- ★ Founding Member Texas Business Roundtable
- ★ Former Staff Attorney for Phillips Petroleum Co.

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Paid Pol. Adv Robert Looney



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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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.
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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.

OBITUARIES

STEPHEN WAYNE ELLISON

Jan. 7, 1959 – Feb. 15, 2022



Stephen Wayne Ellison, age 63, of Board Camp, AR, died, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022, at the National Park Medical Center in Hot Springs, AR. Steve was born on Wednesday, January 7, 1959, to Wayne Gene and Annette La-Forge Ellison in Hallettsville.

Steve grew up on the family farm in Board Camp, AR and attended Board Camp Baptist Church. Steve had many fond memories from those days. Pastor and Mrs. Vernual Ridgeway were instrumental in him coming to Christ and surrendering to the ministry. Pastor Ridgeway baptized Steve in Board Camp Creek when he was thirteen years old. Steve graduated 3rd academically in the 1977 class of Mena High School. Steve participated in basketball and was a starter on the 1976 Arkansas State Champion Football Team from Mena H.S. After high school, Steve earned a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Steve later graduated with highest honors with a Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, MO. Steve also earned certification in Intentional Interim Ministry from the Center for Congregational Health in Wake Forest, N.C. He later earned certification in Basic Christian Apologetics from the Creation Apologetics Teachers College based in Idaho.

In 1984, Steve put his double majors of Physical Education and Social Studies to use as a public-school teacher and coach for ten years in Gatesville, TX. Steve also taught and coached in Cedar Hill, TX as well as Waldron and Mena, AR. Steve was active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as a student at Mena H.S. and in three of the schools where he coached. That FCA involvement led him to raise the necessary funds to open an FCA office in Waco, TX where he served as that office's first Area Representative. Steve ministered on more than two-hundred school campuses in a twelve-county area around Killeen and Waco including Baylor University. During that time, Steve was ordained to the gospel ministry by Trinity Baptist Church in Gatesville, TX. Because of their FCA relationship, Grant Teaff preached Steve's ordination message.

Steve served in FCA as a volunteer for many years and for nine years in a variety of paid positions. He worked alongside many great and humble men, including Coach Teaff, Gene Stallings, Burton Lawless, Bobby Bowden, Cody Carlson, Tom Osborne, Spike Dykes, Tom Landry, and many others. Because of the FCA position, Steve began to receive requests to fill in for ill or traveling pastors. Before long, a small country church in Crawford, TX asked Steve to be their bi-vocational pastor where he served for four and one-half years while also continuing to serve as the Area Director for the Heart of Texas FCA. After that, Steve transitioned into a full-time pastorate in Hodgen, OK and later in the Hot Springs area.

In January of 2012, Steve simultaneously began serving as the Manager and Administrator for the Ouachita Baptist Assembly and as the Interim Pastor for Horatio FBC. After his ministry at Horatio, Associational Missionary duties were added to his OBA responsibilities.

Steve then served as Interim Pastor at Mena FBC and Calvary BC. Steve wrote a weekly devotional column published across several southern states in hundreds of newspapers. Steve was even selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine for 2018 and 2019.

Steve's final pastorate was at Salem Baptist Church in Nunley, AR. During his ministry at Salem, he continued to teach Seminary Extension classes through the Ouachita Theological Training Institute in Mena, DeQueen, and at the Jim E. Hamilton Correctional Center in Hodgen. He loved the Salem children dearly and the entire Salem church. His heart was for discipleship across all ages. Steve tirelessly and faithfully served the Lord at home and vocationally throughout his entire life.

He was preceded in death by his father, Wayne Ellison and one brother, Michael Ellison.

Steve is survived by his wife of 30 years, Malea Ellison of Board Camp; his mother, Annette Ellison of Board Camp; his sons and wives, Levi and Jessica Ellison of Mena and Caleb and Sidney Ellison of Conway; bonus son and fiancée, Kendall Pearce and Ronni Denham of Hot Springs; his brother and wife, Brandon and Linda Ellison of Mena; one unborn grandson, Daniel Scott Ellison of Mena; Malea's parents, Richard and Mary Ruth Martin of Mena; several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at 10 a.m. at the Salem Baptist Church with Brother Bill Carter officiating. Interment follows in Pinecrest Cemetery in Mena, AR under the direction of the Bowser Family Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home, 150 Hyatt Court, Monticello, AR 71655 or at <https://arkansasfamilies.org/give-now>

FRED D. MARIOTT

Mar. 19, 1922 – Feb. 16, 2022



Fred D. Mariott, age 99, of the Pearl community, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 16,

2022, in Gatesville.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 21, 2022, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Pearl Cemetery.

Fred Duane Mariott was born on March 19, 1922, in the Peabody community of Coryell County. He was the son of the late Samuel Thomas and Iva Dell Manning Mariott. He married Oleta Upton on June 20, 1942. He served in the Army Air Corps during WWII. After his discharge, they moved back to Pearl and resided there all their married lives. He was a farmer and rancher. His wife preceded him in death on August 22, 2016. He attend-

ed Peabody Primitive Baptist Church.

Fred is survived by his sons, Rickey Mariott and wife, Bernadine, of Cleburne and Randy Mariott and wife, Carol, of Houston; three grandchildren, Wesley Mariott and wife, Holly, Russell Mariott and wife, Sarah, Susan Corley and husband, Clay; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Pearl Cemetery Association, c/o Linda Ray, 1771 CR 152, Purlmela, TX 76566

Republican Party of Coryell County to host Ronald Reagan dinner

The Republican Party of Coryell County recently announced plans for their 2022 Ronald Reagan Dinner. It will take place on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at the Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veteran's Memorial Loop, in Gatesville. The dinner will begin at 6 p.m.

The highlight of the evening will be the keynote speaker for the dinner, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Sid Miller.

The dinner will be hosted by the Republican Party of Coryell County and co-hosted by Gary and Diane Heavin and Jack Barcroft. Sponsoring the event is Robert and

Andrea Adams, Commissioner Kyle Matthews, Ed and Peggy Thompson, Endeavride, Dean Smith, Congressman John Carter, Will and Carol Kacy, Mike Williams, Sheriff Scott Williams, County Clerk Jennifer Newton, Commissioner Ray Ashby, Commissioner Sid Miller, Chairman Tony Smith, and Amber and Cody Tippit.

Ticket cost will be \$35 single, \$50 couple, \$100 event sponsor, \$500 event co-host, and \$15 for active military. Tickets may be purchased online by visiting: www.coryellgop.org.



Sid Miller

Turnersville Cemetery Assn. to hold quarterly meeting

The Turnersville Community Cemetery Association, Inc. will hold its first quarterly meeting on Tuesday March 8, at 7 p.m. The Community Center will be used as the polling place for their Precinct on March 1, which is their usual meeting date. They welcome those interested to attend.

Donations for maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery may be sent to the Turnersville Community Cemetery Association in care of Nancy McKnown Gilmore, Maintenance Fund Treasurer, 8070 FM 182, Gatesville, TX 76528, or donations to the Memorial Fund may be sent to the Turnersville Community

Cemetery Association in care of James Baize, Memorial Fund Treasurer, 2320 CR 108, Gatesville, TX 76528.

It takes everyone working together. Attendance at meetings, the work done when called upon, all the support given to the Turnersville Cemetery Association is gratefully appreciated.

GISD HELPING HATS



DAVID SCOTT | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

GISD students recently showed their support for animals and the Gatesville Animal Shelter by having a "Helping Hats Day." Students wanting to participate could donate \$1 and wear their favorite hats to school. All proceeds from the Helping Hats will benefit the shelter pets at the City of Gatesville Animal Shelter. Some of the students participating in the Helping Hats Day included Gatesville High School students, from left to right, Rose Mulloy, Bandy Hartley, Gill Wallace, Lawson Mooney, Bradley Crozier, and Foster Shirley.

Early Voting: February 14-25

Pete Flores

REPUBLICAN FOR TEXAS SENATE

Election Day: March 1

These conservative leaders have endorsed Pete Flores

Texas State Representative Andrew Murr	County Commissioner Mark Gillespie	County Commissioner Jerry Beck	City of Jourdanton Mayor Doc Williams
Sheriff David Soward	County Commissioner Kennard Riley	Constable William Meadows	City of Pleasanton Former Mayor Travis Hall
Sheriff Buddy Mills	County Commissioner Jonathan Letz	Constable Rolly Correa	City Of Kompner Mayor John Wilkerson
Sheriff Jess Ramos	County Commissioner Timothy Neuman	Constable Malcolm Watson	Pleasanton City Council Member Diana Prasifka
Sheriff Bill Blackburn	County Commissioner Larry Sittre	City of Castroville Mayor Darrin Schroeder	Pleasanton City Council Member Jeanne Israel
Sheriff Randy R. Brown			Former Lampasas County Chair Skipper Wallace

State Senator Dawn Buckingham

The Honorable Rick Perry

President Donald Trump

Governor Greg Abbott

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz

pd pol ed • Pete Flores Campaign

Whatever happened to...

20 YEARS AGO (2002)

Allen Dodd, a correctional officer at the Hughes Unit, was one of only six candidates to complete the rigorous defensive tactics instructor training at the Hilltop Unit Training Academy. He received his award from Major James Fields, chief coordinator for the TDCJ defensive tactics program.

Army Sgt. Carl W. Stevens graduated from the Army Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course at Fort Knox, KY. A 1988 graduate of Gatesville High School, Stevens received the skills needed to supervise, communicate, and motivate subordinates.

Gatesville High School students were participating in STAR competition in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America state leadership conference in Corpus Christi. The students were Angela Latimer, Starla Green, Matt Robi-nette, Melissa Manning, Amanda Shirley, Lacie Ellis, Amelia Medford and Aleisha Nunn.

Barbara Lynch was serving as chairman for the second straight year for the Relay for Life event. The previous year's event raised more than \$38,000 for the cancer society and a goal of \$50,000 was set for the year of 2002.

30 YEARS AGO (1992)

Gatesville resident and longtime civic leader Howard Franks was honored

with his receiving of the Community Builder Award presented by Gatesville Masonic Lodge No. 197. The award was designed to recognize outstanding non-Masons who had distinguished themselves through service to the community.

Monica Villarreal of Oglesby and Matt Vick of Jonesboro were recognized as the season's top high school basketball scorers in Coryell County during the regular season, according to county basketball final statistics.

The Prince of Tides was showing at the Drive-In. The movie starred Barbra Streisand and Nick Nolte and received an Academy Award nomination. The movie admission cost was \$1 per person all week.

Recent flooding across Coryell County caused havoc to farmers and ranchers. More than 300 miles of stock fence was lifted by the swollen Cowhouse Creek that crossed Highway 84 West to Evant. Those affected were eligible for disaster aid loans and relief programs.

40 YEARS AGO (1982)

Bob Honea, a Gatesville carpenter-contractor, landed a giant 11-pound, 1-ounce black bass on a windswept power company lake at Fairfield. He reclaimed the family fishing title that had been held for one year by his wife, Laura.

Tom Miller of Gatesville brought his blood dona-

tions to two gallons when he donated once more in February 1982. The blood drive was reported to be the second best with 128 of 137 prospective donors accepted.

Cline Davis, pastor-elect of the First Presbyterian Church of Gatesville, was scheduled to be ordained and installed as pastor during a ceremony at the church. He was a 1978 graduate of the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

The Jonesboro School Board voted to extend the current contract of Winifred Dodds who was serving as superintendent. The school board also renewed the contract of Joe T. Lightsey who had been principal since 1976.

50 YEARS AGO (1972)

Gatesville Drug, a landmark among local business establishments, closed their doors at 713 Main Street, where the drug store had operated since 1912. The pharmacy department had been moved to the Foster store the previous October.

Rev. Ralph L. O'Dell accepted a call from the First Presbyterian Church of Gatesville to become its pastor. He succeeded Rev. Thomas G. Steward who resigned in June to move to Houston. Rev. O'Dell became the 28th minister to serve the local church.

Janie Zacharias, president of the Future Home-makers of America chap-

ter at Oglesby High School, had been chosen to sing with the Area VIII FHA chorus in Waco and the state FHA chorus in Fort Worth.

Three Gatesville residents were among 905 candidates receiving degrees at North Texas State University. They were Mrs. Sara McAndrew, John Anderson and Steven Neeley. McAndrew received a Master of Arts degree in English, Anderson received a Bachelor of Business Administration, and Neeley was awarded a Bachelor of Business Administration.

60 YEARS AGO (1962)

C.W. Turner was appointed city judge succeeding Albert Dickie who had resigned after being appointed county attorney. Turner also held the title of justice of the peace for Precinct 2 and was to serve as city judge and justice of the peace.

Don Marshall and Peggy Sasse were selected from the representatives of the four high school classes, to be the winners of the Mr. and Miss Valentine. They were presented a box of

candy by Larry Bond.

Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Wilson of Gatesville celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in the home of their son, Dewey Wilson, and wife of Brownwood. The open house included all their children and grandchildren.

Connie McClendon was the winner from Oglesby High School in the 1962 Betty Crocker Search for the American Homemaker of Tomorrow, thus becoming eligible for one of 102 scholarships which totaled \$110,000.

STATE QUALIFIERS



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville High School's Auto Tech students recently qualified for the State Skills USA competition in Waco. They all received a "superior" rating on their projects and will be competing in the state competition held in Corpus Christi in the spring. The Auto Tech students, pictured left to right, are Seth Franks, Aaron Soriano, Trent Ray, Raleigh Abrahamson, and Joseph Wibbenmeyer.

Farrell named to honor roll



Mary Farrell

Mary Farrell, of Gatesville, was recently placed on the University of Mississippi's Fall 2021 Honor Roll List. Farrell was named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75 to 4.00.

"The remarkable students achieving Chancellor's Honor Roll are among the best and brightest at the University of Mississippi," said Chancellor Glenn Boyce. "I commend them for their hard work and dedication resulting in their outstanding academic achievements and this well-deserved recognition."

In order to be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as 'Ole Miss,' is the state's flagship university. It has a long history of producing leaders in public service, academics and business.

RE-ELECT ROGER MILLER FOR COUNTY JUDGE



Early Voting
February 14th-25th

New Voting Dates
February 19th & 20th



Election Day
March 1st

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Political Ad Paid for By Elect Roger Miller

Pearl News

Pearl Church of Christ raised over \$10,000 for His Kids

BETSY CLARK
 Pearl Church of Christ wishes to thank everyone who supported their Valentine Auction for the Scholarship Fund for local students and for His Kids. The church appreciates everyone who came to the auction, who dropped off checks during the last month, and those who donated items to the auction. A grand total of \$10,785 was collected and all proceeds go directly into the scholarship fund! What a blessing!
 The next Pearl Music Festival will be March 5, 2022, at the Pearl Community Center. Acoustic Gospel, Country/Western, and Bluegrass bands are welcome to play on the stage for free! Kids' bands are always welcome as well. Please call Ronald Medart at 254-865-6013 to schedule your time on the stage. The

Community Center opens at 7 a.m. until 11 a.m., and the kitchen is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Ya'll come!
 The Pearl Cottage Book Store will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on March 5th in conjunction with the Pearl Music Festival Event. Vendors, Junk in Your Trunk sales, and fruit and vegetable sales are welcomed to set up on the north side of the Book Store. A \$5 fee per vehicle/booth will be collected to benefit the Pearl Community Center. So, bring your items to sell (except for prepared food and drink items which are not allowed), and join in the fun for the day!
 The annual Pearl Flea Market will be on April 23rd from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Vendors, personal Junk-in-Your-Trunkers, booths, food trucks, and vegetable/fruit markets are invited. All sellers will park

outside around the Community Center on a "first come-first park" basis. A small fee of \$5 will be charged for each booth/vendor/trunk to benefit the Pearl Community Center. The kitchen will be open for something new—the first Meet and Greet in Pearl. Needed are volunteers to work the kitchen. Bring your favorite snack to donate to the kitchen to sell to benefit the Community Center. If you wish to sign up to volunteer for "kitchen duty" that day, please call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282. The Pearl Church of Christ is donating a large box of fried chicken, but you can bring your favorite desserts, snacks, or breakfast/lunch items. Everyone is invited. For more information or to volunteer to work in the kitchen, please call Linda Prutt at 254-865-9282.
 We extend our deepest

sympathies to the family of Mr. Fred Mariott, age 99, who passed from this life on February 16th. Mr. Mariott's service was held on February 21st at Scott's Funeral Home. Mr. Mariott and his wife, Oleta, who preceded him in death in 2016, were life-long residents of the Pearl Community except for the time that he spent in the service. Memorials may be made to the Pearl Cemetery Association c/o Linda Ray, 1771 CR 152, Purmela, TX 76566.
 We are so excited to finally welcome Marilyn and Ron McDonald back to Central Texas! We wish them the greatest joy possible in their new home in the Gatesville area, and we hope that they will be frequent visitors to Pearl (their second home)! I remember long ago when I would either stop by Clyde and Betty Jo's home or Pearl Church of

Christ where Clyde was either checking out the grounds or sneaking a cookie (where Betty Jo would not catch him), Clyde would always say, "Here comes trouble." Well, now we can say that same phrase when we see Ron and Linda or Linda and Marilyn coming 'round the bend! Now, if we put Kay in the Marilyn/Linda mix, we really will have trouble!! Clyde would say, "No good can come from that!" Actually, though, he meant just the opposite, and we mean the exact opposite of those phrases when we see all of these dear ones heading our way!! God is so good!!
 The closing verse for this week comes from John 1:4,5—"In Him was life, and that Life was the Light of all mankind. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
 NIV

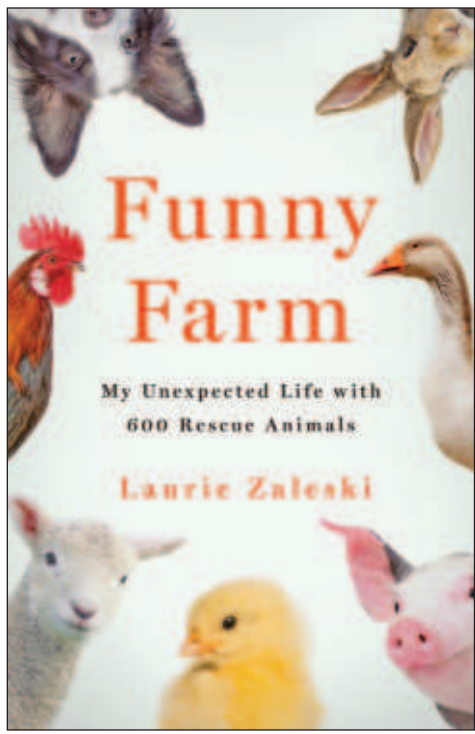


Betsy Clark

To keep up with the latest Pearl news online, you can go to the "Pearl Cottage Bookstore" Facebook page, the "Pearl Church of Christ" Facebook page, or the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page. Or contact me at betsyclark47@yahoo.com for more information or to submit any Pearl news.

BOOK REVIEW

"Funny Farm" a love letter to moms, tale of animals



TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
 Where you born in a barn?
 In other words, get in here and shut the door. Take your dirty shoes off before you walk on the clean floor. You might call your cat your "baby" and your dog is your "best friend" but really, were you born in a barn? In the new book "Funny Farm" by Laurie Zaleski, the answer might be maybe...
 The last time was different.
 Laurie Zaleski's mother had uprooted the family before, but in the past they'd always returned to the beautiful house at 8 Timber Heights Court, between Philadelphia and New Jersey.

That was the house where Zaleski spent her first five years of life. It was also where her father physically abused her mother until promises to stop didn't work anymore, and twenty-six-year-old Annie scooped up her three children, drove around awhile to throw her husband off the trail, and then brought the kids to a "shell," as Zaleski says. Made of cement blocks, rotten wood, and mold, their new home was a one-bedroom, no-bath, no-heat, no-running-water hovel that Annie promised could be "cozy" with some work.
 Eventually, it was. It became a home before Zaleski was a teen - a home for children and dozens of animals that Annie seemed

to collect.
 She could never say "no" to any creature in need, in fact, and that was okay with her kids. Caring for animals and troubled friends taught responsibility. Making them safe taught self-sufficiency. Pet death taught realities and that food sometimes came first. Annie, blunt and no-nonsense, worked several jobs to make ends meet - something that embarrassed Zaleski as a teenager - but there was always room for another. The family was poor, but hers was a glorious childhood.
 And then, just before she was able to enjoy an empty nest, Annie Zaleski fell sick. Her children worried about her, but she said she was fine. Healthy as a

horse.
 "We couldn't have dreamed that this time," says Zaleski, "our mother, the most truthful of women, was a liar."
 Cute as a cuddly bunny, but with the kind of kick that only a mule can deliver, "Funny Farm" is the sort of book you want to read and be charmed.
 Here, readers are treated to a dual memoir - one that is mostly about two farms and the animals on them: a big horse that was "pure love," a peacock's miracle, pigs big and small, dogs and a chicken that thinks she's a dog. The other part is a love letter to a mother's strength, as author Laurie Zaleski writes about a childhood spent in an unconventional house-

hold that was first created out of necessity and then out of joy. The telling of this tale of humor, Momisms, love, and anguish also gives readers room to think about how awesome their own mothers are.
 Come to this book on either side, human or animal, and let yourself be delighted. Find it for the critters, love it for the people you'll meet, "Funny Farm" will make any reader purr.
 "Funny Farm: My Unexpected Life with 600 Rescue Animals" by Laurie Zaleski
 c.2021, St. Martin's Press
 \$27.99 256 pages

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Pete Flores

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Clifton edges Gatesville in playoff warm-up game

BY TRISTON MCGEEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Hornets fell to the Clifton Cubs 54-51 in a boys basketball game Friday at Sidney L. Pruitt Gymnasium in a contest set up as a non-district warmup game for the playoffs.

The Hornets (13-21 overall, 2-6) were preparing for their game against Wichita Falls Hirschi on Tuesday. Gatesville qualified for the postseason as the fourth-place team in District 6-4A. Clifton, 23-8 overall, is the third-place team out of District 17-3A, with a 9-5 mark.

The game was competitive on both sides, with Clifton holding a 33-31 halftime edge.

According to GHS head coach Brit Campbell, the Hornets did not prepare for the game like they would for a normal opponent. The team has been focusing on the playoff opponent, Wichita Falls Hirschi.

The Cubs ran a lot of zone, which frustrated the Hornet team because they had not practiced zone in a while.

The Hornets played Hirschi (23-6 overall, 10-0 in district) on Tuesday in Aledo in a boys' Bi-District playoff game. Results from the game will be in a future issue.

Gatesville scoring: Jack Carroll 13, Rayshon Smith and Tyler Shea 10 each, Carter Williams 8, Jaden Gomez 4, West Allman, Brady Culley, and Trae Miller 2 each.



TRISTON MCGEEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville's Tyler Shea fights to keep possession of the ball in action against the Clifton Cubs on Feb. 18

Gatesville releases '22 football schedule

BY TRISTON MCGEEHEE
STAFF WRITER

Gatesville High School's 2022 varsity football schedule was announced recently, with the first district game set for Oct. 7 at home versus Waco Connally for Big Sting Night.

The Hornets will battle some familiar teams that they played last season, including the Salado Eagles, Robinson Rockets, and Waco Connally Cadets in District 11-4A, Division II, Region III. The Madisonville Mustangs will be the newcomer in the district.

Gatesville's Homecoming game is set for Sept. 23, against Godley.

The Glen Rose Tigers will be returning to battle the Hornets for the second year in a row in non-district action.

The season will reignite an old rivalry between the Hornets and the McGregor Bulldogs. According to the website Texashighschoolfootballhistory.com, Gatesville has not played the Bulldogs since 2005, when the Hornets prevailed, 34-0. Gatesville trails McGregor by a slim margin in the rivalry, losing 34 times, winning 33 times, with four ties.

The Taylor Ducks, Mexia Black Cats, Godley Wildcats, and Mineral Wells Rams are new non-district opponents for the Hornets this season.

With an uneven number of schools (five) in Gatesville's league, each school will have an open week at some point in the district schedule. The Hornets will be idle on Nov. 4, while the other four schools will be finishing up their district matchups.

The school will announce the kickoff times at a later date.

- Aug. 26 — at Taylor
 - Sept. 2 — home vs. Glen Rose (Hall of Fame and Junior High Night)
 - Sept. 9 — at McGregor
 - Sept. 16 — at Mexia
 - Sept. 23 — home vs. Godley (Homecoming)
 - Sept. 30 — at Mineral Wells
 - Oct. 7 — * home vs. Waco Connally (Big Sting Night)
 - Oct. 14 — * at Salado
 - Oct. 21 — * home vs. Madisonville (Military and Senior Night)
 - Oct. 28 — * at Robinson
 - Nov. 4 — open date
- * District 11-4A, Division II games.

Bluff Dale tops Jonesboro, 54-31

BY TRISTON MCGEEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The playoff bound Jonesboro Eagles were overwhelmed Friday in Iredell by the Bluff Dale Wildcats 54-31 in a non-district boys basketball game.

The Eagles (13-11 overall, 9-3 in district) had a frustrating warmup game being outscored in every quarter except the fourth when they edged the Wildcats 11-10. A strong second quarter, where the Wildcats (16-17 overall, 6-6 in district) outscored the Eagles 21-4 was the difference in the affair. The Eagles hope to not let this loss sway their ambitions going forward.

The Eagles played Hubbard (16-9 overall, 10-2 in district) in Bruceville-Eddy on Tuesday, results from the game will be in a future edition.

Jonesboro scoring-- Ian Shoaf 9, Jacob Cisneros 5, Layton Blanchard 5, Nat Hilliker 3, Austin Massingill 3, Costin Allison 3, Manny Torres 2 and Garrett Young 1.

Legacy Lunkers landed at Possum Kingdom event

Possum Kingdom claimed the first two Legacy Class large-mouth bass of the month Feb. 12. Steven Davis of Burkburnett, Texas reeled in ShareLunker 615 that morning, which weighed in at 13.20 pounds, followed by Randy Palmer of Arlington, Texas with 13.38-pound ShareLunker 616 later that night. These two Legacy Lunkers bring the 2022 Toyota ShareLunker season total to eight after six came in during the opening month of January.

The catches were monumental for Possum Kingdom with ShareLunker 615 becoming the waterbody's first Legacy Class fish since 1991 and fourth overall when ShareLunker 616 capped the day. Don Allison of Amarillo, Texas caught 15.38-pound ShareLunker 80 on February 14, 1991, nearly 31 years ago to the day of Davis' and Palmers' Legacy fish. Scott Tongate of Bedford, Texas collected the first ever Legacy Lunker at Possum Kingdom on October 13, 1989.

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Benefit for Peggy Perez



It is with both heartache and hope that we share news of Peggy Perez, precious sister of Janell Malden, Debbie Buster and Danny Malden. She was recently diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. Although there has been plenty of discussion with doctors concerning both treatment and timelines, our only goals are to keep her as comfortable as possible and to let her know just how loved she is. With grateful hearts, we ask you to help in any way you can. Please pray as much as possible, send a note of encouragement her way or attend our fundraiser to help with the expenses during this challenging time. Thank you for your understanding and support. With love, Peggy's Family

An account has been set up at Extraco Bank in Gatesville.

Saturday, February 26, 2022
2 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Junction on 36
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Bake Sale
T-shirt Sales
Live Bands

Bring your partner \$50 a team double elimination 50-50 payout
First place custom boards / cash
Second place custom bags / cash
Third place custom cups / cash

Scoreboard
Tournament Benefit for Peggy Perez
Hosted by Gatesville Baggards
Saturday, February 26, 2022, 2 pm - The Junction 36 1226 Highway 36 Gatesville, Texas
Boards open at 5 PM

Her Fight is our Fight

Hornet bats come alive in baseball scrimmage

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Hornets won their baseball scrimmage 10-6 over the Class 6A Akins Eagles on Friday, Feb. 18 at Ryan Powell Memorial Ballpark.

The Hornets took the lead 6-5 in the seventh inning. After a strong scrimmage, the Hornets are looking to start their regular-season schedule on the right foot.

GHS head baseball coach Chase Smith said he was proud of the way the team played during the scrimmage.

"We showed that we're pretty scrappy," Smith said. "We're doing the things that we have got to do to win ballgames."

Smith noted that the boys are working on finding ways to get on base, taking pitches, working a walk, and hustling to the ball no matter what kind of situation they are in. He said that the pitchers are throwing strikes, and the team is not beating itself.

"(Justin) Johnson started out, and he just threw a lot of strikes, like he has all year, he's looked good," Smith said. "John Ibarra, the freshman, he's doing what he needs to do and learning how to pitch against better opponents."

Smith shared that the Eagles squad was a good opponent to scrimmage against because of their fast pitches.

"We got to see velocity for the



Kason Herbelin hits the ball for the Hornets in a scrimmage against Akins on Feb. 18.

TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

first time, some probably lower-to mid-80s," Smith said. "Which was good because we will see other

teams in our district throw at that velocity." The Hornets will play in District

6-4A against Brownwood, Glen Rose, Lampasas and Stephenville. The Hornets faced Jarrell on

Monday in a non-district road game. Results from that game will be in a future edition.

Gatesville tennis earns trio of gold medals in Cove

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Hornet boys and girls tennis team traveled to Copperas Cove High School on Friday and returned with three gold medals.

GHS competed against nine other schools, Bastrop, Vista

Ridge, Brownwood, Harker Heights, Belton, Leander Tom Glenn, Waco High, Lampasas, and Copperas Cove. Story Tatum reeled in first place in singles, while Carlo and Alex Scott won first in boys' doubles.

Anna Mitchell finished behind Tatum in second place in girls' singles. Slone Early came in second place, while his teammate in boys singles Tyler Hutts came in fifth. Hutts

won four of his five matches during the tournament.

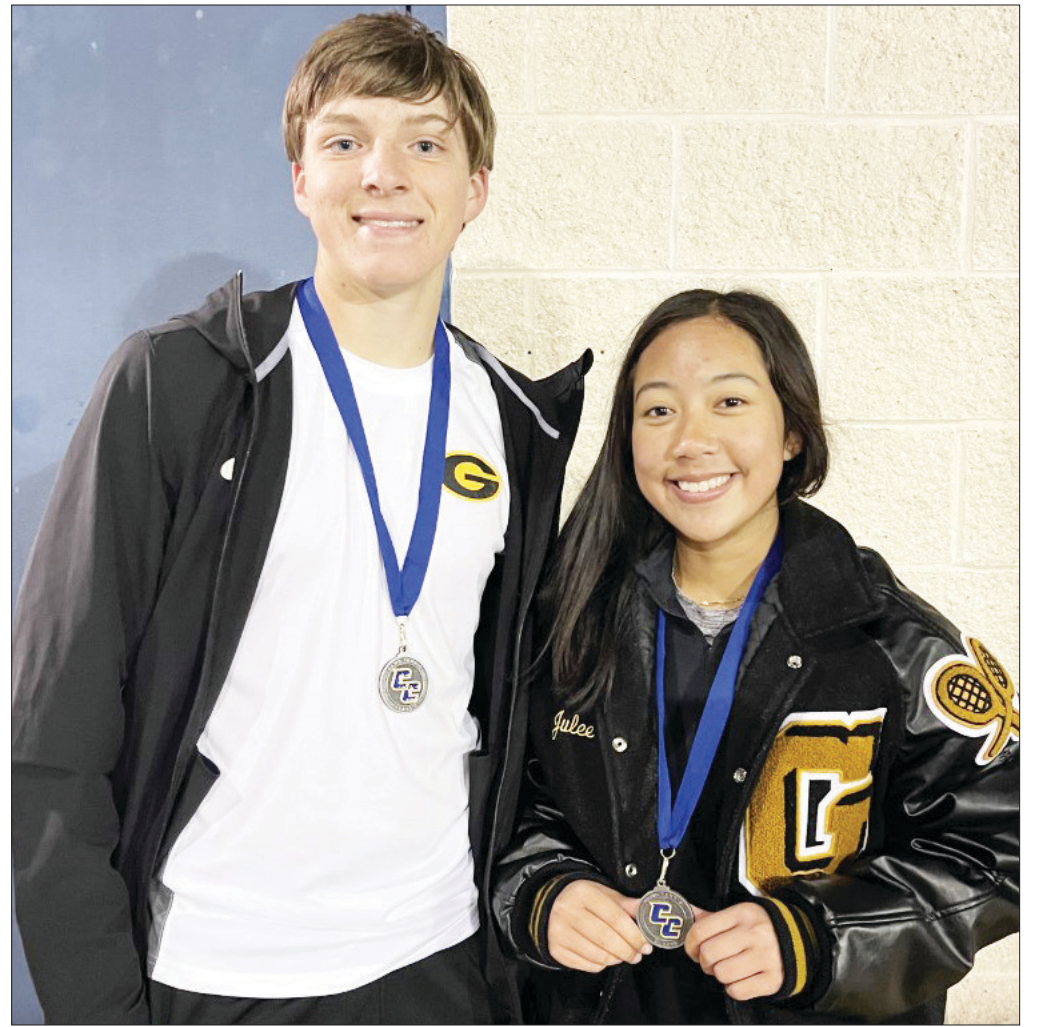
In girl's doubles, Callie Smith and Kasey Fitzer took third, while in mixed doubles Ty Warren and Julee Sun placed second.

The teams will travel to Waco on Friday to compete at the Waco ISD tournament at the Waco Regional Tennis Center. The play will begin at 8:30 a.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

Stormy Tatum and Anna Mitchell won first and second place, respectively, in the Cove tournament.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ty Warren and Julee Sun won second place in mixed doubles.

GHS powerlifters compete in invitational tournaments

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Hornet boys and girls powerlifting teams have been superb the last two weeks with two powerlifters winning first place four straight times this season.

On Feb. 12, the boys and girls' teams competed at the Meridian Invitational meet. Out of 16 schools the girls placed sixth and the boys placed third. The boys and girls competed in squat, bench, and deadlift in their own respective weight classes. Ryan Smiley and Emmaleah Zacha have won four straight first place awards with their wins in Meridian and West.

For the boys' team, Cayden Mata, Smiley, and L.J. Hall finished in first place, while Cadan Brister second place. Zach Bryant placed fourth, while Thiele Alvarado placed fifth. Steven Bomar placed 11th, while Brayden Mills placed 13th. Aaron Hughitt placed 17th and Hunter Swindall finished 22nd.

For the girls' team, Zacha placed first, Marlee Williams placed third, while Lindsey Cumming and Kasey Fitzer finished fourth place. Vielka Gonzalez finished fifth, Lena Clawson placed eighth, Brookelyn Byrd got ninth, and Persephone Romero got 16th.



Emmaleah Zacha

Saturday (Feb. 19), the boys and girls competed at the West Invitation meet. Out of 14 schools, the boys placed fourth, while the girls placed 11th.

For the boys, Brister, Smiley, and Hall all came in first for the boys team. Alvarado placed fifth, while Mata and Bryant placed sixth. Braden Minton came in eighth and



Ryan Smiley

Aaron Hughitt placed ninth, while David Simms came in 11th. Hunter Swindall placed 16th, while Nathan Elliot 18th.

For the girls team, Zacha placed first place, while her teammate Kasey Fitzer finished in seventh. Marlee Williams placed eighth, while Byrd and Payton Dowling finished in 11th. Romero finished in 13th.



LJ Hall

Regionals are right around the corner for the teams. The girls will know by Tuesday who qualified for the regional meet, the regional meet is set for March 4 in Dublin. The boys regional meet will be held on March 12 in West. The boys will find out who will go in about a week.