



# THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

SATURDAY | Feb. 26, 2022

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SERVING CORYELL COUNTY SINCE 1881 | VOLUME 121, No. 17, ISSN No. 0894-4954



## Up to Code: Council adopts latest standards

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

In an effort to bring the city's codes up to date and avoid a spike in insurance rates, the Gatesville City Council adopted the latest International Code Council standards at the Feb. 22 council meeting.

"The ISO (Insurance Services Office) drives this," said Robert Featherston, chief building official for the city of Gatesville. "(Inspectors)

came in in November, and everything looked good except our codes were about 10 years behind, and that could drop our ISO score quite a bit."

A lower ISO score means higher insurance rates for the community, and also could allow contractors to "cut corners" on certain jobs in the city because of outdated codes.

Among the codes the Council updated to the latest versions were the International Building Code, International Residential

Code, International Fire Code, International Mechanical Code, International Plumbing Code, International Fuel Gas Code, International Energy Conservation Code, International Property Maintenance Code and the National Electrical Code.

Before the changes were adopted, the city was under codes that had been established in 2012.

"The professionals know what the codes are, but we can't inspect to the higher stan-

dards unless the newer codes have been adopted," said City Manager Bill Parry. "One of the challenges we've got is the number of people who come here making investments - house flippers and do-it-yourselfers haven't read the code. We're trying to give the building department the teeth needed to enforce (to higher standards)."

Parry said Featherston has gone through

PLEASE SEE CITY | A2

## Stories come alive at the Library



Gatesville Public Library Director Faye Nichols reads to children during a Wednesday morning storytime, which is held at 11 a.m. each week at the library.

JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

## County hopes to address ETJ issues

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Although Coryell County and the city of Copperas Cove remain divided on the issue of extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and how it applies to both governing agencies, there is forward movement toward arranging a meeting between county and city officials to bridge the gap.

County officials had expressed concerns about right of way issues within ETJ areas, and had notified Copperas Cove leaders that some type of agreement will have to be reached or they will seek legal arbitration on the matter.

Both the county and Copperas Cove have proposed their own solutions, according to testimony at the Feb. 22 County Commissioners Court meeting, but neither group has accepted the other's proposal.

Among the issues are the width of roads, responsibility for maintaining those roads and the placement of utilities, including waterlines, in areas within the city's ETJ.

Pct. 1 Commissioner Kyle Matthews said a meeting between city and county officials would be beneficial in coming to an agreement.

"I suggest we have a meeting to include all the parties that need to be there," he said. He asked Copperas Cove City Manager Ryan

PLEASE SEE COUNTY | A2

## COVID-19 rate sees big drop countywide

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Coryell County's COVID-19 infection rates have declined substantially, while the vaccination rate has gone up slightly, according to Coryell County Emergency Management Director Bob Harrell, who presented an update to the Coryell County Commissioners Court on Feb. 22.

He said those who have been vaccinated stand a much better chance of recovering, according to Texas Department of State Health Services information.

"Those who are unvaccinated are 105% more likely to die," Harrell said.

PLEASE SEE COVID | A2

## GISD purchases new generation of Chromebooks

BY JEFF OSBORNE  
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

The Gatesville Independent School District will get a new infusion of technology in the coming months, as the GISD Board of Trustees voted to purchase 1,050 new Chromebooks for just under \$385,000.

The purchase for \$384,982.50 was approved at the Feb. 21 school board meeting, and will replace several devices that are between five and seven years old.

Shelly Harper, the district's technology director, said GISD has more than 2,700 of the Chromebooks for student use, and noted the goal is to use the devices for at least five years.

The old devices need to be replaced because an auto update for them ends in June 2022.

"They have a built in death date, basically," said GISD Superintendent Dr. Barrett Pollard. "These are improved models. We'll use ESSER money for this."

ESSER, or Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund proceeds are federal funds granted to school districts nationwide.

The new model Chromebooks will have more memory and hard drive space, in addition to the ability to access the latest updates.

School board president Charles Ament asked how many grade levels had access to Chromebooks.

"Students in kindergarten through 12th grade use the devices," Harper said, adding that each classroom had carts and the Chromebooks were distributed to students for use in that class as



COURTESY PHOTO

The GISD Board of Trustees approved the purchase of 1,500 Chromebooks for just under \$385,000.

needed.

The purchase of additional Chromebooks is being considered in order to meet new testing requirements, Pollard said.

Ament asked if there would be a delay in receiving the devices because of supply chain issues in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I put in a purchase request for laptops in September, and we just received them in January," Harper said. She added that timing was the reason she brought the purchase to the board for approval in February, which would hopefully

PLEASE SEE GISD | A2



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# Buffalo Soldiers honored by 1st Cav at Fort Hood

BY MAJ. MARCELLUS SIMMONS  
FORT HOOD PRESS CENTER

FORT HOOD - During Black History Month, the 1st Cavalry Division is reflecting on the achievements and contributions of African American soldiers. Throughout history, these troopers helped shape the First Team's reputation of being courageous, audacious and victorious.

"It is amazing to serve in one of the Army's most storied divisions," said Command Sgt. Maj. Shade Munday, command sergeant major, 1st Cavalry Division. "The 1st CAV is an incredibly diverse and inclusive fighting force and we are stronger for it. It's always important to recognize this diversity and celebrate it. This is how we build cohesive teams; by knowing who our people are, the value individuals bring to the force, and taking the time to appreciate the contributions of our troopers past and present."

The Cavalry's ties to African American history began on Sept. 21, 1866 in Greenville, Louisiana, with the formation of one the first regular Army regiments made up entirely of black enlisted soldiers, the 9th Cavalry Regiment. With a regimental motto of "We Can, We Will," these soldiers would come to be known as the "Buffalo Soldiers" based on their earned reputation of exhibiting as val-

iant, fierce fighting style.

According to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, during America's expansion westward in the 1870s and the 1880s, the 9th Cavalry Troopers protected national interests by serving in western Texas as the only source of security from lawless settlers and bandits along the frontier. During this period, 15 members of the regiment earned the Medal of Honor.

In the late 1890's, the 9th CAV were called up during the Spanish-American War in response to the sinking of the battleship Maine in Cuban waters. As one of the first units to go ashore, the regiment once again demonstrated their gallantry while fighting in several engagements.

Over the years, 9th CAV continued to answer the nation's call by responding to conflicts in the Philippines, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq.

"As an Army we have made significant progress with regards to diversity and inclusivity," said Lt. Col. Derek Drouin, commander, 6th squadron, 9th cavalry regiment. "Today, the regiment is made up of a dynamic team of high-performing men and women from different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. We honor the legacy of the troopers that came before us by being a disciplined, lethal and ready fighting force."

## COUNTY

FROM PAGE A1

Haverlah, who attended the Feb. 22 commissioners court meeting, what day in March would be good for the two sides to meet and "come up with an ETJ agreement."

Matthews said the county had received a letter back from Copperas Cove responding to ETJ concerns and said, "I'm not satisfied with it."

Haverlah had suggested a meeting at 5 p.m. on March 15 during a city of Copperas Cove workshop before the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, but Matthews said he has a scheduling conflict with that time.

Haverlah said he would check with Copperas Cove leaders to see what other days might be open for a meeting between city and county officials.

"We need to talk about this as a group," Matthews said. "We need to come up with a resolution, solution or whatever you want to call it."

He said when it comes to development within the ETJ and right of way concerns, "the county needs to be more involved."

"We sent a proposal to (County Judge Roger Miller) and (County Attorney Brandon Belt)," Haverlah said, adding that "Mr. Belt sent me a proposal we're not agreeable to because it's on the other extreme. We were unsuccessful in scheduling a meeting last November."

Matthews said it's important that County Road and Bridge Administrator Justin Latham be part of the process because any ETJ concerns have an impact on that department.

At a meeting in January, Latham said the lack of right of way because of past actions is creating problems.

"It is better to let us manage it because it affects our roadways," he said. "It's causing safety issues for the county."

"The cities are able to approve subdivisions (in ETJ areas) without giving the county right of way," Latham

added, saying that this creates problems and concerns for the county.

Latham has previously said current circumstances are weighted against the county.

"They are using our infrastructure and approving plats, and we are getting no right of way," he said.

Haverlah asked if he should work with Judge Miller or Commissioner Matthews on scheduling a meeting to discuss the issue.

"It makes me no difference," Matthews said. "I just think we need to get something scheduled."

Miller said a response from the city of Copperas Cove to a letter detailing the county's concerns was distributed to the commissioners court, "and I have received no comments from the court."

While Copperas Cove and Coryell County have both outlined ETJ concerns, "I think we can merge the two somewhat," Matthews said.

"I think we can meet somewhere in the middle," Haverlah said.

## GISD

FROM PAGE A1

allow for the delivery of the new Chromebooks in time for the next school year.

In order to best protect the district's property, Pollard said students use the Chromebooks in the classroom and then turn them in, rather than taking them home.

"Are Chromebooks set

up so that you can't wander around on them to inappropriate sites?" Ament asked.

"They are filtered and managed by the district," Harper said, adding that reports can be run as needed on specific devices. There are certain words, which if entered, send a notification to the technology director as well as to principals and assistant principals.

The devices also have a mechanism that makes them

inoperable if they are stolen.

"If someone attempts to use the device somewhere else in the world, (a network) recognizes the serial number and only a Gatesville ISD login will allow it to operate," Harper said.

The next update for other Chromebooks owned by GISD will be in 2026, she said. The devices which are being purchased now will be operable until 2029.

## COVID

FROM PAGE A1

said.

The omicron wave that swept the nation and the state in January has subsided, but there is a new variant that could cause future concerns, he said.

"The number of cases has gone down drastically, and omicron accounted for 98% of the diagnosed cases," Harrell said. "There's another variant, the BA.2, that has started to pop up in South Africa and Denmark and it could be something that

could reach us. It has a 30% faster transmission rate."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevent has started tracking the BA.2 variant, which has been reported in 60 countries and 25 states.

Catherine L Troisi, an epidemiologist at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, explained.

"Luckily, BA.2 does not seem to cause more severe disease, but we're early," she said. "It hasn't been around that long," she said. "It appears that vaccines will protect you against BA.2 just as well as it does against BA.1.

So, not perfectly, but at least there's some protection there."

Harrell said there have been 185 deaths attributed to COVID-19 since the disease was first recorded in Coryell County in 2020, and there have been a total of 13,666 cases countywide.

On Feb. 22, the commissioners court extended the county's disaster declaration as a result of COVID-19. That designation qualifies the county to receive federal grants to help offset the financial impact of the disease.

## CITY

FROM PAGE A1

the various codes page by page to understand the changes and standards in the latest codes, "and we want to

give the building department the tools they need to enforce to current standards."

Preventing skyrocketing insurance rates is another factor in approving the update to the latest codes.

"The bottom line is this

will help keep our insurance rates down," said Mayor Gary Chumley."

The Council unanimously approved updating city codes to reflect the latest versions.

## GISD HONORS COMMUNITY PARTNER



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Gatesville Independent School District Superintendent Barrett Pollard stands with Jeff Armstrong, who was recognized during the Community Partner Spotlight recognition on Feb. 21 at the GISD Board of Trustees meeting. Pollard said through coaching club soccer, Armstrong has made a positive impact on nearly every member of the Gatesville High School boys and girls soccer teams. When youths wanted to play league soccer but could not afford it, Armstrong helped them with those fees. It was also noted that during club season, Armstrong often provided transportation to those youths who needed it. "Many of these young people would not have the opportunity to play soccer if it was not for the dedication and sacrifice of Mr. Armstrong ... His hard work and support for the students is much appreciated," Pollard said.

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# Rattlesnake Round-up today, tomorrow

The Oglesby Lions Club will be hosting the 52nd annual Rattlesnake Roundup today and tomorrow, Feb. 26-27, at the Oglesby Community Center.

Live demonstrations will be on Saturday at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. On Sunday the demonstrations will be at 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. The snake demonstrations will feature world famous snake handler, Jackie Bibby, who is known as "The Texas Snake Man."

The vendor fair will be on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. On Sunday it will be from 11:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Snake registration will be on Saturday morning. Registration opens at 7 a.m. - there will be a bonus for early registration. No professional snake hunters will be allowed. There will be no snakes registered after 10 a.m. on Sunday and a safety pledge must be signed.

Concessions will be offered by Oglesby ISD and the Oglesby Volunteer Fire Department. Breakfast will be offered both days, Saturday and Sunday, from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m.

In addition to the snake handling demonstrations, there will be food vendors, carnival rides, games, train rides and a community blood drive on Saturday. Raffle prizes will also be offered.

Live entertainment will take place during Rattlesnake Roundup and will include Ed Leonard and Friends on Saturday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

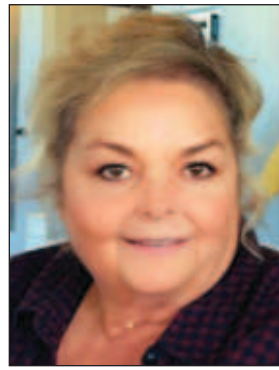
General admission to the roundup will be \$5. Children under 6 will be free.

For more information about the event, call 469-450-4973 or 254-424-4067. The Rattlesnake Roundup can also be found on Facebook at Oglesby Lions Club Rattlesnake Roundup.

# Benefit for Peggy Perez is today

A benefit for Peggy Perez will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Junction on 36. There will be live and silent auctions, a bake sale, t-shirt sales, a cornhole tournament, and live bands performing.

Perez is the sister of Janell Malden, Debbie Buster and Danny Malden. She was recently diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. Although there has been discussion with doctors concerning both treatment and timelines, her family's goal is to keep her as comfortable as



Perez

possible and to let her know how much she is loved.

An account has been set up at Extraco Bank in Gatesville for the benefit of Perez.

# Turnersville Cemetery Association to meet

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.

er, 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.



# The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of February 20 - 22. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

## CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Feb. 20

2:02 a.m., a disturbance was reported in the 2200 block of Bridge Street.

12:11 p.m., an assault was reported in the 200 block of N. 9th Street.

1:14 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1900 block of Saunders Street.

1:29 p.m., a theft was re-

ported in the 2300 block of Business Highway 36.

7:37 p.m., a structure fire was reported in the 1000 block of CR 334.

7:58 p.m., an accident was reported in the 200 block of Old Waco Road.

### Feb. 21

9:09 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 100 block of N. 14th Street.

12:36 p.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 1500 block of CR 153.

2:40 p.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of Meadowview Lane.

7:00 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 1600 block of E. Main Street.

7:34 p.m., an assault was

reported in the 300 block of Veteran's Memorial Loop.

### Feb. 22

9:31 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of Old Osage Road.

2:32 p.m., a hit and run was reported in the 2800 block of S. State Highway 36.

4:54 p.m., stolen property was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

5:58 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 1900 block of N. State Highway 36 Bypass.

9:44 p.m., a disturbance was reported in the 800 block of Stockdale Road.

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## CORYELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### Feb. 20

3:35 a.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 500 block of E. Leon Street.

9:42 a.m., a fire was reported in the 4000 block of CR 312.

11:53 a.m., a stolen vehicle was reported in the 100 block of Dusty Lane.

1:18 p.m., a domestic disturbance was reported in the 2600 block of Snow Road.

3:35 p.m., a case of stalking was reported in the 500 block of Self Road.

11:14 p.m., a threat was reported in the 900 block of Kelso Drive.

### Feb. 21

8:12 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 5500 block of FM 2412.

9:03 a.m., a scam was reported in the 100 block of Barton Lane.

9:17 a.m., harassment was reported in the 900 block of Pheasant Circle.

11:00 a.m., an assault was reported in the 4600 block of TX Highway 36.

12:42 p.m., a grass fire was reported in the 1500 block of CR 153.

6:21 p.m., a neighbor dispute was reported in the 1000 block of Twin Mountain.

### Feb. 22

8:52 a.m., a livestock complaint was reported on FM 580.

10:39 a.m., a theft was reported in the 600 block of Mountain Road.

12:10 p.m., retaliation was reported in the 1000 block of Lutheran Church Road.

1:22 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported on Hwy. 36 at CR 931.

4:56 p.m., a major accident was reported on FM 116 at Highway 9.

10:10 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 6500 block of E. Highway 84.

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# OBITUARIES

**ANN DAVIDSON**  
June 29, 1932 - Feb. 19, 2022



Ann Davidson, age 89, of Gatesville, passed away surrounded by her loved ones on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022,

in Crockett. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at Scott's Funeral Home Chapel in Gatesville, with Dr. Levi Price officiating. Burial will follow at Davidson Cemetery. Edith JoAnn Davidson was born on June 29, 1932, in Dallas to the late William and Edith Eidson Gillon. She grew up in Highland Park of Dallas and graduated from Highland Park High School. Ann later attended Texas Tech University where she met the love of her life on a blind date, Dan Graves Davidson of Gatesville. Dan and Ann were married Dec. 18, 1952.

Ann was preceded in death by her loving husband, Dan Davidson and a daughter, Diane Davis.

Ann is survived by her daughter, Dorothy Hames and husband, Gary, of Keller; son, David Davidson and wife, Erin, of Lovelady; son, Douglas Davidson and wife, Peggy, of Gatesville; grandchildren, Nick Hames of Fort Worth, Lauren Lansing of Fort Worth, Dawson Davidson of Willis, Tristen Blanchard of Willis, Dan Davidson of Gatesville, Jonathan Davis of Houston and Garrett Davis of Glen Rose; and twelve great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Davidson Cemetery Assn., c/o Carolyn Blakely, 1502 FM 1829, Gatesville, TX 76528.

**DEBRA AIKEN**  
Sept. 17, 1955 - Feb. 20, 2022



Debra "Debbie" Aiken, age 66, of Gatesville, passed away on the morning of February 20, 2022, in Waco.

Memorial services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at Mountain Baptist Church with a lunch following for family and friends.

Debbie was born on Sept. 17, 1955, in Columbus, Ohio to Matye "Ferne" Cockrell and Doran E. Belknap Sr. She grew up and attended school in Gilmer and Lewisville and graduated from Lewisville High School. Debbie grew up playing the piano in churches and recitals. She continued playing the piano and pipe organs throughout her life. She accepted a role as pianist at Mountain Baptist and continued in that service until her passing. Debbie loved holidays and spending time with family especially Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. She also adored

her animals and referred to them as her "fuzzy fur children." She was preceded in death by her father, Doran E. Belknap Sr.

Debbie is survived by her children, Jennifer Stephens and Chris Aiken and wife, Stephanie; mother, Ferne Cockrell Belknap; grandchildren, Alyssa Bates, Payton Stephens, Joseph and David Rodriguez; brother, Doran E. Belknap Jr.; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, great aunts, and uncles.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made to CCPR No Kill Rescue 2217 E. Main St. Gatesville, TX 76528.

**LEONOR AGUILAR**  
March 2, 1935 - Feb. 19, 2022



Leonor Aguilar, age 86, of Oglesby, passed away on

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at her home.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at the Gatesville Church of Christ.

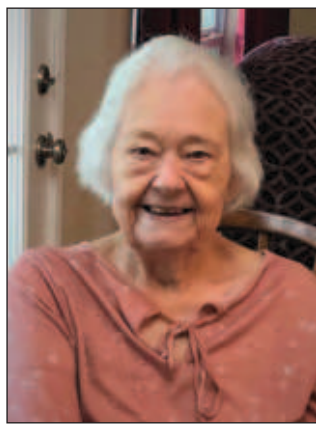
Leonor was born on March 2, 1935, in Robstown, to the late Eliso Campos and Victoria Hernandez Campos. She grew up and attended school in Robstown. She married Simon L. Aguilar on May 9, 1957. They moved to Gatesville in 1985. Her husband preceded her in death in 2009. She was a member of the Gatesville Church of Christ.

She is survived by her children, Edward Acebedo and wife, Angelica, Luis Aguilar and wife, Mary, Norma Jan-nise and husband, Michael,

Linda Hope and husband, Donny, Tony Aguilar and wife, Edina, Simon Aguilar, Lisa Ramos and husband, Luis, Jimmy Aguilar and wife, Rosa, Bill Aguilar and wife, Stacy, Amanda Williams; brother, Tacho Campos; 25 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the Gatesville Church of Christ, 2417 East Main Street, Gatesville, TX 76528.

**JUANITA ERWIN**  
July 4, 1931 - Feb. 21, 2022



Juanita Erwin, age 90, of Gatesville, passed away on Monday, Feb. 21, 2022, in Gatesville.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28, 2022, at Scott's Funeral

Home Chapel, with Gene Long officiating. Burial will follow at Restland Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27th at the funeral home.

She was born on July 4, 1931, in Coryell City to the late Williard and Myrta Van-Dyke Long. She grew up and went to school in Gatesville. She married J.W. (Jake) Erwin in 1947. She was a den mother, Brownie leader, and a room mother for her children during their childhood. When she was the age of 60, she started her G.E.D. classes and graduated head of her class. Her hobbies included painting, genealogy, writing stories and poetry. She taught several of her grandchildren how to paint. When she was in her 80s, she recorded a song that she

wrote. Above all her interests, she loved researching and sharing genealogy with her family. She was a positive influence on anyone she met. She loved God, her family and her family loved her.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, J.W. (Jake) Erwin in 2015; step-father, Marvin Hughes; and son-in-law, George Bonham.

Juanita is survived by her son, Gary Erwin and wife, Sandra; daughter, Debbie Bonham; brother, Bill Long and wife, Myrtle Pollard Long; eight grandchildren, Thomas Erwin, Majel Glasscock, Jerrad Erwin, Nathan Bonham, Jennifer Davis, Jason Erwin, Emily Erwin, Natalie Erwin; 14 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren.

## CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON!



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2022 B-District Qualifiers**



**Jonesboro Boys Basketball  
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**Oglesby Boys  
Basketball  
2022 B-District Qualifiers**

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**MOUND NEWS**

# Anna Grace McPherson and Waco Juniors Volleyball won the Austin Performance Gold division

**BARBARA HOPSON**

Mr. Troy Kenneth Johnson of Austin and Gatesville died Wednesday Jan. 26. A graveside service with military honors was held on Saturday, Feb. 19 at Restland Cemetery in Gatesville. A celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, March 27, at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin. Mr. Johnson is the brother-in-law of Mrs. Eric (Liz) McCorkle of Mound.

Mr. Thomas Charles McPherson died Friday, Feb. 11. A celebration of his life was held Saturday afternoon at the Hub (formerly Emmanuel Christian Fellowship) in McGregor.

Mr. McPherson was the father of Mark McPherson of Mound.

Mrs. Melba Stephens of South Lake spent a few days with Mrs. John Stephens.

Wayne Head of Hugo, Oklahoma, went with Ray Stephens and spent a few days attending the Old Time Fiddlers Convention in Wagoner, Oklahoma.

Kathi Taylor spent the day Saturday with friends in Aledo.

Anna Grace McPherson of Mound and her team, Waco Juniors Volleyball, won the Austin Performance Gold division over the weekend. This is the team's fourth tournament

and their third top two finishes. Next up for the girls will be the Tour of Texas Finals in Houston. They are currently ranked 17th going into the final weekend of competition.

Ruby Caroline Pullen competed in Region 4 THSRA rodeo this past weekend in Sulphur Springs. Ruby had two amazing runs on Stella. Ruby also got to attend the rodeo prom that was held Saturday evening. Her parents and sisters, Kyle, Holly, Truett and Jacklyn Pullen were there also.

Carolyn Blakley, Jerry and Brenda Helms visited in College Station with Emma Blakley.

Betty McFarlin visited Wednesday afternoon with Sue Jones.

Scott, Kelby and Sterlin Shults were Sunday dinner guests with Don and Sue Jones.

Willie and Jennifer Mann celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary in Austin over the weekend.

Samuel and Thomas Belt along with Garrett Young and Trey Harbour competed in the San Angelo livestock judging contest this past weekend.

Chase and Kelsey McGhee and their new baby, Charlotte, came down Sunday. We all fixed chili dogs. This included Wyatt and Blayne Crum, Mike and

Keva Campos, Jackie and Jannetta Spencer, Brance, Bryce, Brylie and Blaze Spencer. We gathered at the home of Mike and Keva Campos.

Those who celebrated birthdays this month were Joe Argabright, CR Biggs, Lori Wolff, James West, Kerry Magee, Elizabeth Phillips, Noah Hopson, Ray August, Elisha Squyers, Blake Smith, Connor Carothers, Charlotte Weaver, Connie Choate, Jason Carothers, Jerry Gaut, Gail Johnson, Brodie Fisher, Caymbri Fisher, John Stephens, Kelly Fowler, Laurana Harris, Penny Bomar, Nelda Hamilton and Graham Howell.



Hopson

## Applications being accepted for Pitts scholarship

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

Those wishing to participate must write an essay of approximately 750 words or more on the topic of either Holt Collier, Jeff Hamilton, or William Mack Lee. The essay must explain about how this person's life story continues to have an influence in today's society by using research to support their thesis. Four sources minimum are required. Wikipedia will

not be considered a reliable source and use of the site will be an automatic dismissal.

The essays will be emailed to the membership and voted upon at their May meeting in which the final decision will be announced. The scholarship will be given to the participant as soon as a winner is chosen, and a cashier's check is printed. A press release will also appear in The Gatesville Messenger and/or the winner's local newspaper, if different.

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

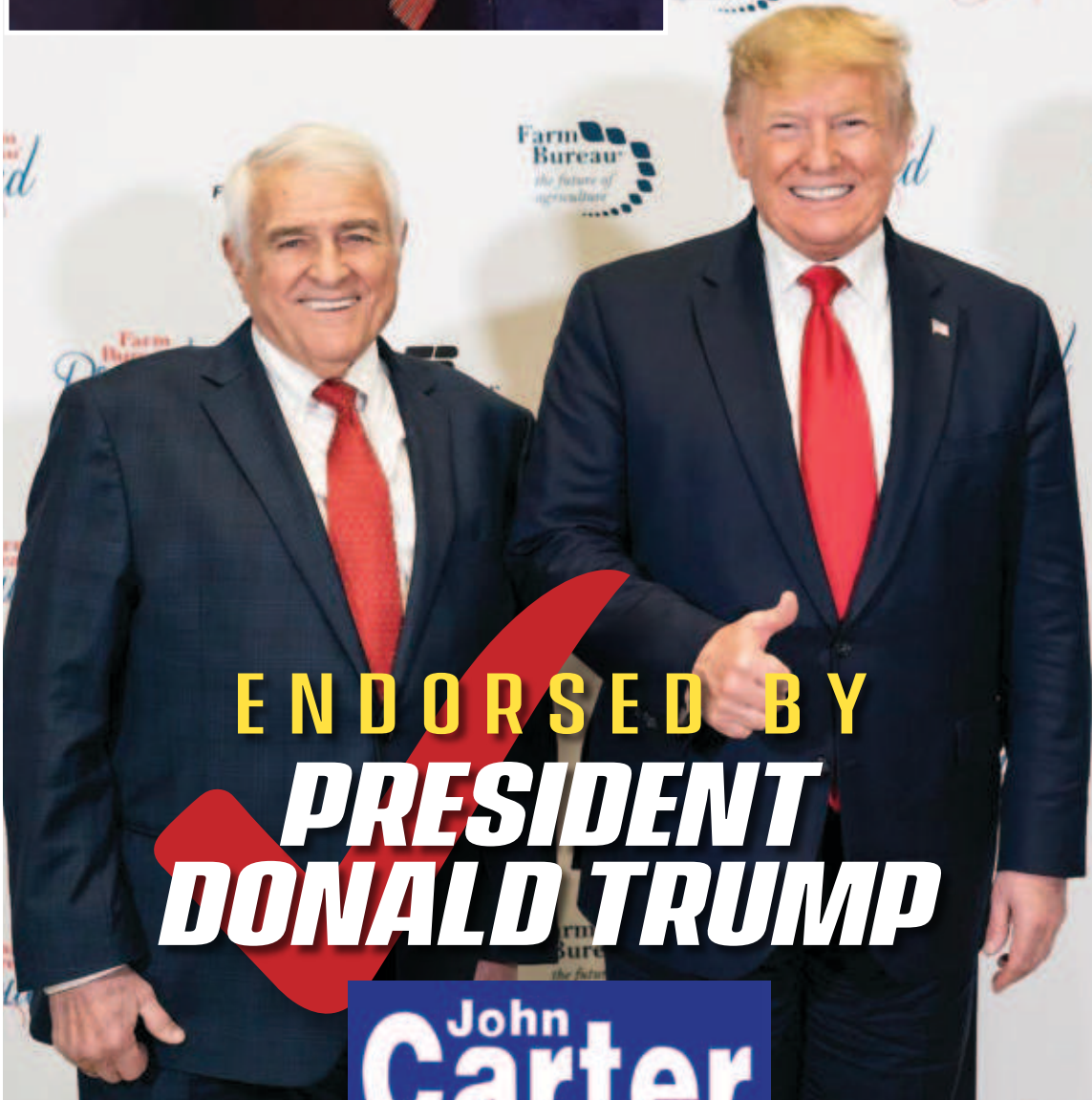
For essay style rules or for more information, contact Jane Pitts at 254-723-4727 or johnhreagan325udc@yahoo.com.

# John Carter

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**John Carter**  
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## 5 Tips for Sticking to a Schedule

- (StatePoint) Sticking to a schedule is good for health, wellness and productivity. Learn to adhere to a daily routine with the following tips and tricks:
  - Write it down: The act of writing things down can help reinforce priorities. Keep a list of short- and long-term goals, events and meetings. Be sure to check items off your list as you complete them. Doing so can help you stay motivated.
  - Get a good watch: Keep yourself accountable with a good watch. The line-up of Edifice watches by Casio are not only stylish, they contain must-have productivity features, such as multiple alarms, as well as countdown timers displaying the remaining time until the alarm beeps. They also connect with your smartphone and offer cool, sync-up features that help you keep your essentials organized, such as "phone finder." If you prefer a sportier timepiece, Pro Trek watches offer similar alarm features, along with step counters and sensor technology like altimeters, compasses and more, all of which are great for hikes, fishing expeditions and other outdoor activities.
  - Keep it consistent: Keep both bedtime and the time you awake consistent day-to-day. Doing so can mean better quality slumber so you will be more alert, energized and ready to tackle tasks. Consistent meal times can also be beneficial, helping you maintain your energy throughout the day, manage metabolism and avoid hunger.
  - Don't overdo it: It can be tempting to try to schedule more tasks and to-dos into your day than is actually realistic. Doing so however can leave you feeling constantly stressed, and always in catch-up mode. Be sure your schedule offers you sufficient time to actually complete tasks and travel between appointments.
  - Practice self-care: Downtime is essential. Whatever self-care looks like to you, be sure to build it into your schedule, whether that means relaxing with a good book, getting together with friends or working out.
- Want to create and maintain a well-balanced schedule? With wearable tech and smart habits, you'll be more inclined to stick with the program.

### Puzzle solution from page 6

3	1	4	9	8	7	5	2	6
6	5	2	1	3	4	7	8	9
8	9	7	2	6	5	3	4	1
1	8	6	7	5	3	2	9	4
5	4	3	6	9	2	8	1	7
7	2	9	8	4	1	6	3	5
9	6	1	3	7	8	4	5	2
4	7	8	5	2	9	1	6	3
2	3	5	4	1	6	9	7	8



# 2022 Texas Bluebonnet Award Winner

Thousands of elementary students across Texas voted and the results are in. The winner of the 2022 Texas Bluebonnet Award is "The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read," written by Rita Lorraine Hubbard and illustrated by Oge Mora.

"The Oldest Student" shares the true story of Mary Walker and her remarkable life.

In 1848, Mary Walker was born into slavery. At age 15, she was freed, and by age 20, she was married and had her first child. By age 68, she had worked numerous jobs, including cooking, cleaning, babysitting and selling sandwiches to raise money for her church. At 114, she was the last remaining member of her family, having survived her husband and sons. And at 116, she learned to read and then became one of her city's most beloved citizens.

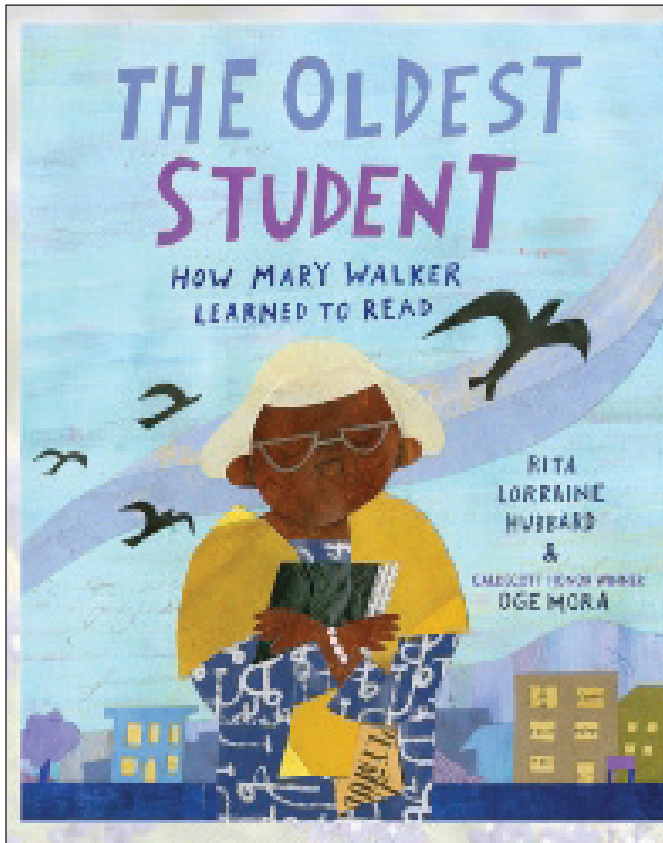
Hubbard and Mora bring

Walker's story to life with evocative prose and beautiful illustrations.

The Texas Bluebonnet Award is one of the oldest and most prestigious children's choice literary awards in the country.

A total of 63,331 students, all in third through sixth grade, voted. Each student had to read at least five books from the 2021-2022 Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List in order to vote. More than 1,300 schools, public libraries and homeschool groups registered to participate in this year's contest.

Students representing 10 Texas school districts will present the award to Hubbard at the Texas Bluebonnet Award Luncheon on Wednesday, April 27, at 11:45 a.m., during the TLA 2022 Annual Conference in Fort Worth. For more information about the Texas Library Association, go to [www.tsla.org](http://www.tsla.org).



**Author:**  
Rita Lorraine Hubbard

**Illustrator:**  
Oge Mora

## OFF THE SHELVES

### Read Across America Day is March 2

**FAYE NICHOLS**  
Gatesville Public Library Director

Join book lovers everywhere for Read Across America Day on March 2, which just so happens to also be Dr. Seuss's Birthday! Read Across America is a year-around project that focuses on motivating children and teens to read. This is a great day to grab a book and read to a young person in your life. When you take the time to read to a child, they understand that reading is important. Since World Poetry Day is also in March, this is a great time to grab a book of poems. Runny Babbit: a billy sook, by Shel Silverstein would be a great place to start!

#### LIBRARY EVENTS THIS MONTH:

- Tuesday, March 1, 6 p.m. - Spur Award author Reavis Wortham will speak to the Mystery Book Club in the City Auditorium at 110 N 8th Street. Everyone is invited to attend this free event. Reavis will have his books for purchase.
- Monday, March 7, 3 p.m. - Fiber Arts for Everyone. Are you experienced in your medium, just beginning or want to learn? Come gather, visit and work on projects. Share ideas and expertise. Knitters, crocheters, quilters and all other forms of fiber artists are welcome.
- Tuesday, March 15 - 6 p.m. Colors & Coffee coloring group for adults.
- Monday, March 21 - Fiber Arts for Everyone
- Tuesday, March 22, 10 a.m. - Books Sandwiched in Book Club, reading 1619 Project by Nikole Hannah-Jones.



Nichols

Thursday, March 24, noon to 4 p.m. - Free tax assistance for eligible individuals through the United Way Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Appointments are required. See if you are eligible and sign up at [www.gatesvilletx.com](http://www.gatesvilletx.com) to be sure they bring enough volunteers.

Every Wednesday, 11 a.m. - Storytime. Join us for stories, songs and crafts. Groups for pre-K and elementary ages.

Every Wednesday, 1 p.m. - Mad Matters plarn party. Anyone is welcome to join this group that crochets plastic grocery bags into sleep mats for the homeless. The bags are cut into strips and joined together to make "plarn" for crocheting.

#### NEW NONFICTION BOOKS THIS MONTH:

- The Socratic Method: A Practitioner's Handbook, by Ward Farnsworth
- Enough Already: Learning to Love the Way I Am Today, by Valerie Bertinelli
- The Betrayal of Anne Frank, by Rosemary Sullivan

#### GREAT NEW FICTION READS

- Calder Grit, by Janet Dailey
- The Silent Sisters, by Robert Dugoni
- Phantom Game, by Christine Feehan

For these and more great reads, come by the library. We also have a great selection of eBooks and eAudio available in our digital collection. Download the Libby by Overdrive app and never pay for an eBook again.

We have our Winter Reading challenges going on for all ages, from pre-K-adult. Download our ReadSquared app for logging your reading. Have fun competing with your friends and start winning prizes.

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

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	9						4	
1	8	6				2		
				9				
		9				6	3	5
	6						5	
4	7		5			1		
2		5		1				

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**Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.**

See puzzle solution on page 5

## 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

Live and Silent Auctions

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

**SCORE HOLD!**

Corinthia Tournament  
Benefit for Peggy Perez  
Hosted by Gatesville Baggards  
Saturday, February 26, 2022, 2 pm  
The Junction 36, 1218 Highway 36, Gatesville. Boards open at 1 PM.



## VOTE! BILLY VADEN

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As a commissioner, I pledge to make sure the court treats all citizens and areas of Coryell County equally.

- Conservative Republican and Advocate for all Public Safety Personnel
- Native of Coryell County and a GHS graduate
- Served 51 years with the Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department and 45 years as Fire Chief
- Experience serving as Emergency Management Coordinator and 25 years as the County Fire Marshal
- I have extensive knowledge in maintaining a balanced budget as well as research and planning

PRIMARY IS MARCH 1ST

Political ad paid for by Billy Vaden



# Morris Federation learns about scrapbooking

Ladies of The Morris Federation learned about scrapbooking techniques at their Feb. 12th meeting at the Coryell Museum and Historical

Center. Anne Ramminger presented the program entitled "More Fun Scrapbooking" as a follow-up to one she pre-

sented to the group last year. She shared tools, materials and embellishments, and gave members hands-on experience at scrapbooking.



SCRAPBOOKING TUTORIAL: Anne Ramminger (left) is shown with Morris Federation member Sue Vernon during the recent scrapbooking program held at the Coryell Museum.

# RAISING MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



COURTESY PHOTO

At their January meeting, members of the Coryell Retired School Personnel held a silent auction to raise money for scholarships which will be awarded in May to graduating seniors planning to attend college and major in education. Two scholarships will be awarded by CRSP. Members of the Retired School Personnel look over silent auction items.

# Scholarships available for African American students

The UNCF (United Negro College Fund) and J.P. Morgan Wealth Management are now accepting applications for the 2022 J.P. Morgan Wealth Management Scholarship Program. The number of eligible historically Black colleges and universities has been expanded to 17.

Launched in 2021, the program provides scholarships and mentorships to students studying any major at historically Black colleges and universities to help them start a

career as a financial advisor. J.P. Morgan Wealth Management will award a total of 375 scholarships through 2025.

Students will receive an initial \$2,000 scholarship and have the opportunity to participate in two paid professional summer programs to gain the skills to build a career as financial advisors. Students who complete both the Advancing Black Pathways Fellowship Program and the Financial Advisor Development Track Summer

Analyst Program will receive an additional \$5,000 scholarship during their senior year.

"Many students have never thought about becoming a financial advisor or even know what the job entails. We believe this program can help change that," said Christopher Thompson, Head of Diverse Talent Experience for the Consumer and Community Bank at JPMorgan Chase. "Advisors have a unique opportunity to positively impact the lives of their clients and find their job rewarding and fulfilling. We want to raise awareness around this career and create a path for diverse young professionals into the wealth management industry."

The J.P. Morgan Wealth Management Scholarship Program is a part of JPMorgan Chase's \$30 billion commitment to advance racial equity. "Our mission is critical to so many across America," said Maurice E. Jenkins, Jr., executive vice president and chief development officer, UNCF. "J.P. Morgan's commitment to our students is a great example of how public companies can make a real difference in the lives of deserving, talented students across the U.S. We thank them for the investment in us, our students and our HBCUs, and look forward to working together to build better futures for us all."

This year, six new HBCUs were added to the list of participant schools, expanding eligibility to more students across the country.

The eligible schools include: Alabama A&M University, Central State University, Clark Atlanta University, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Howard University, Morehouse College, Morgan State University, North Carolina A&T State University, Paul Quinn College, Prairie View A&M University, South Carolina State University, Spelman College, Tennessee State University, Texas Southern University, Wilberforce University, and Winston-Salem State University.

UNCF (United Negro College Fund) is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, supports and strengthens its 37 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education and college readiness. UNCF institutions and other historically Black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding nearly 20% of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and faculty development programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 60,000 students at over 1,100 colleges and universities across the country.

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# GHS Choir receives superior ratings at UIL competition



COURTESY PHOTO

**SUPERIOR VOICES:** Gatesville High School choir students who recently competed in the UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest

Twelve Gatesville High School choir students recently competed in the UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest at University High School. Of the 12 soloists, 11 of them received a Superior (1) rating and one received an Excellent (2) rating. The students were scored on a 1-5 scale, with 1 being the highest by a college choral director as the judge. Of the 12,

six were competing with an Advanced (college) Level solo and all six of them have qualified for State Solo & Ensemble in May. By ratings, the choir students were as follows:

**CLASS 1 ADVANCED SOLO:**  
 Avery Vest (12) - Superior Rating (State Qualifier)  
 Anna Phillips (10) - Superior Rating (State Qualifier)

Brenon Smith (12) - Superior Rating (State Qualifier)  
 Madison Johnson (11) - Superior Rating (State Qualifier)  
 Memphis Wells (9) - Superior Rating (State Qualifier)  
 Addie Carpenter (12) - Superior Rating (State Qualifier)

**CLASS 2 MODERATE SOLO:**  
 Coral Bryant - Superior Rating

Aurelia Chavez - Superior Rating  
 Gracie Key - Superior Rating  
 Kaitlynn Merritt - Superior Rating

**CLASS 3 STARTER SOLO:**  
 Katie Hopson - Superior Rating  
 Katelynn Heilman - Excellent Rating

# Gatesville High School students compete at UIL

Students from Gatesville High School recently competed in UIL competition in Waco and included teams from the Construction Tech, Art Department students, Health Science students, and the Welding team.

**CONSTRUCTION TECH**  
 Several Construction Tech students qualified for the State Skills USA Competition and will move on to Corpus Christi. The State Qualifiers include Mason Lanham, Kyle Shafer, Dawson Poliquin, Joey Williams, Evelyn Gregory, Jessica Rodriguez, Jesse Beckett and Jeremy Featherston.

**ART**  
 GHS Art students received several Superior ratings and an Excellent rating in the Visual Art Scholastic competition. Those receiving a Superior Rating include Joe Chaves, Calista Downry, K'Von Ford, Gracie Hilliker, Hannah Martin, Chloe Mathis, Cera Norwood, Callie Smith, and Taylor Tatum. Receiving an Excellent Rating was Jordyn Wood.

## HEALTH SCIENCE

Health Science students placed at the Skills USA competition and will be heading to State later this Spring. The students include Jordan Underwood - T-shirt Design and Nurse Aide; Noah Smith - Medical Terminology and Health Knowledge Bowl; Laura Mitchell - Health Knowledge Bowl and Health Occupation; Ellie Kelley - Health Knowledge Bowl; and Carsyn Modisett - Action Skills and Health Knowledge Bowl.

## WELDING

GHS Welding teams also competed at the Skills USA competition in Waco. After a relatively close battle between Welding Team A and Welding Team B, the results were finally announced.

Team A: William Crozier, Cody Attaway - Second Place, District.

Team B: Kooper Hughitt, Cameron Baker, Tommy Aaron - First Place, District.

Both teams have qualified to compete in the state competition in Corpus Christi later this Spring.



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**DIRECTORY DISPLAY RATES**  
 3 Months: \$26/week



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP

## BAPTIST

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

**BETHLEHEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH:** Elder, Hugh Montgomery, pastor; Peabody community 5 miles south of Pearl on FM 1690; Sunday services - Morning worship 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Reading the Scriptures With Humility

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths."  
—Psalm 25: 4 NIV

**D**aily reading of the Bible is a time-honored and valuable tool for spiritual growth. There are systematic ways to do this that involve reading the Bible from cover to cover over the course of a year (and reading just three chapters a day will get you through the Bible in one year). Alternatively, one can choose to read and study one topic or book of the Bible at a time, using study guides or commentaries. There is no single right way to read the Bible, and you will almost always find that you get something new out of each and every reading; the scriptures are an endless source of spiritual wisdom. In whatever fashion you read the scriptures, however, it is important to do so with humility, with an attitude of seeking versus knowing. We should seek God with a humble spirit, realizing that we are all in the position of children trying to find our way in the world. We are, as it were, lost in a strange world, and the Bible reminds us that our true home is elsewhere, and that if we can only follow God's directions, we can find our way back home. — Christopher Simon

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SWEET HOME BAPTIST CHURCH:** 511 North 14th; Sunday services - Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Sunday morning worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday services - Wednesday evening worship 7 p.m.

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

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

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

**WESTVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH:** Interim Pastor: Eddie Taylor; Hwy. 84 West; Sunday School 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

**WHITE HALL BAPTIST CHURCH:** Mike Barron, pastor; 2040 CR 238, Gatesville; Sunday school at 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship services 11 a.m.; 254-679-3200.

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

## CATHOLIC

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

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

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

**LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO:** 2413 East Main; classes y

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

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

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

## CHURCH OF GOD

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

## EVANGELICAL METHODIST

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

## LUTHERAN

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

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

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

## METHODIST

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

**EVANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Dennis Dutton, Pastor; Sunday services - Sunday School 9 a.m., morning worship 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

## MORMON

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

## NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

**CORYELL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH:** Doran Belknap

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PENTECOSTAL

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

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

## PRESBYTERIAN

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

## WESLEYAN

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

## INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

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

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 00029085

070  
**LAND & LOTS**

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037  
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045  
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**CENTRAL TEXAS REMODELING AND HANDYMAN**  
**Tile, sheetrock, painting, decks, fences, flooring, windows, siding, roofing, texturing. Cecil Woodson, 254-216-3835.**  
 00029086

060  
**GARAGE SALE**

Clean out sale: furniture, tools, China sets, dishes, painting, Feb 26-27 from 8 am to 12 noon, 2002 Old Fort Gates Road.  
 00029120

074  
**HOUSES FOR RENT**

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, CH/A, storage building, 2-car carport, about 7 miles from Gatesville. No pets of any kind. Call 254-216-9153.  
 00029102

102  
**REAL ESTATE**

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**715 E. U.S. Hwy. 84, Evant, TX 76525**  
**For complete listings, go to [www.burksrealestate.com](http://www.burksrealestate.com)**

- ▶ 8.32 acres, Evant, TX in Indian Creek Subdivision, electric on the property, 30 ft. x 50 ft. pole barn, storage shed & Indian Creek is the east boundary of the property, good tree cover, rolling terrain. Fiber Optic Internet service available. \$115,000
- ▶ 9.97 acres southwest of Gatesville in King Ranch Subdivision, good tree cover, rolling terrain, nice home site. The property has a water meter. \$144,500
- ▶ 10.01 acres east of Evant, Stone Creek Ranch Subdivision, great tree cover, good elevation to build a home overlooking Langford Branch. The property also has a second branch that runs along the east side of the property with rock bluffs along the branch. Electricity is at the property; you would need to drill a water well for water. \$199,900
- ▶ 10.01 acres, Lot 21 Phase 6 Rio Escondido, corner lot, rolling terrain, scattered tree cover, great views to the south. Fiber Optic Internet service is available. \$128,000
- ▶ 10.01 acres, Lot 28 Phase 4 Rio Escondido, north of Evant, Tx, good tree cover, great views, electric pole set on the property & an area has been cleared that would be an idea location for a home, Fiber Optic Internet available, \$150,000
- ▶ 12.1 acres, FM 929 frontage & CR 255 frontage, property is level with good views to the north, approx. 4.5 acres of Coastal Bermuda & the remaining is native grasses. Coryell City Water & electric are available along CR 255. \$150,000
- ▶ 14.89 acres east of Evant, TX, located on CR 160. Good tree cover & rolling terrain. Known as Lots 66 & 67 in the Indian Creek Ranch Subdivision, \$150,000
- ▶ 17 acres, FM 929 Frontage & CR 255 frontage. The property is level with good views to the north, approx. 8 acres of Coastal Bermuda & the remaining is native grasses. Coryell City Water & electric are available along CR 255. \$195,000
- ▶ 20.02 acres, Evant, TX in Hamilton County, rolling terrain, good tree cover & a seasonal creek on the south boundary of the property. The property will have electric serviced by Hamilton County Electric Co. & Fiber Optic Internet service from Central Texas Telephone Company. \$265,000
- ▶ 24.85 +/- acres south of Evant, TX in Lampasas County. Barn, 1 stock pond & scattered tree cover with good views. \$310,625
- ▶ 26 acres south of Pearl, TX in Coryell County on Blakely Rd. Rolling terrain, good tree cover. South Bee House creek runs through the property, great views. \$250,000
- ▶ 36 +/- acres west of Evant, TX, Hamilton County. The property is completely fenced w/electric along the front of the property, scattered tree cover & rolling terrain & pond that is on the neighbors property that back up water onto the property. Fiber Optic Internet Service, you will need to drill a water well for water. \$387,000
- ▶ 37.28 acres east of Evant, TX in Indian Creek Subdivision, Indian Creek runs through the property, 60 ft. of change in elevation, good tree cover, \$466,000
- ▶ 74.7 acres west of Purlmela, FM 1241, barn, cattle pens, good fences, nice view, centrally located. \$511,695.
- ▶ 105 acres south of Pearl, TX on Self Rd. good tree cover, rolling terrain, small branch that run through the property, barn that is approx. 38 ft. x 42 ft. in size with a rain harvest system that collects rain water from the roof of the barn. Electricity is along the property line in the northwest corner of the property \$743,775
- ▶ 179.562 acres 1.6 miles south of Gatesville, TX. FM 116 frontage, great views, stock tank, rolling terrain & scattered tree cover. Multi-County Water & City of Gatesville have water line running down the front of the property. \$1,230,000

082  
**COMMERCIAL FOR RENT**

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 00029123

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# GHS soccer teams top Florence, Jarrell

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE  
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville Lady Hornet soccer team shut out the Florence Lady Buffaloes 6-0 in their District 18-4A girls soccer game at Florence High School on Feb. 18.

The Lady Hornets rebounded off a tough 5-0 loss at home to the Lake Belton Lady Broncos on Feb. 15. With this win, they hoped to establish momentum as they will play their last five out of six games away from Tommy Davidson Field at McKamie Stadium.

Andrea Ortiz, Tasha Thoms, Allyson Penrod, Bethany Penrod, and Payton Armstrong; all scored one goal each for the Lady Hornets.

Lady Hornets defeat Lady Cougars, 1-0  
The Lady Hornets continued their road journey with a 1-0 victory over their District 18-4A opponent, the Jarrell Cougars, on Tuesday at Jarrell High School.

The lone scorer for the Lady Hornets was Bethany. The Lady Hornets will continue their road trek with a two-game winning streak with this win over the Lady Cougars (2-7 in district).

The Lady Hornets improved their district record to 6-3 on the season sitting in fourth place in District 18, with Lake Belton (9-0), Salado (8-1), and Burnet (7-2) sitting on the top end.

The Lady Hornets played the Burnet Lady

Bulldogs at Burnet High School on Friday (Feb. 25). Results from this game will be in a future issue.

## HORNETS

The Gatesville Hornets boys soccer team edged out the Florence Buffaloes 1-0 in a District 18-4A boys soccer game at Florence High School.

The Hornets came off a 7-6 victory over the Lake Belton Broncos (6-3 in district) in penalty kicks on Tuesday (Feb. 15). They are now on a two-game winning streak with the win over the Buffaloes (0-9 in district). Like the Lady Hornets, the Hornets will play their last five out of six games on the road.

Hector Silva Hernandez scored the single

goal for the Hornets.

Hornets top Cougars, 2-1

The Hornets outpaced their District 18-4A adversary, the Jarrell Cougars, on Tuesday, winning 2-1 at Jarrell High School.

The Hornets are now on a three-game winning streak with their win over the Cougars (2-7 in district). Luis Macias and Juan Angel Almandariz made one goal each. The Hornets now sit in second place in District 18, with a 7-2 record, only behind Salado who is 9-0.

The Hornets took their talents to Burnet High School on Friday (Feb. 25) to take on the Burnet Bulldogs.

# GHS wrestling team competes in regional meet

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE  
STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville High School wrestling teams competed at the 5A-Region II meet at Frisco Memorial High School on Feb. 11, concluding the wrestling season.

The wrestling team competed against 43 girls' teams and 49 boys teams. Romi Bomar, Brianna Allen, Payton and Carley Dowling, Kaylie Tippit, and Rachel Holden all competed for the girl's team, while Tatum Taylor and John Hall competed for the boys.

The GHS athletes were victorious in six matches but did not advance to the finals on the second day. Bomar finished 2-2 in her matches, while Allen, Payton, Tippit, and Taylor finished 1-2.

According to GHS wrestling coach Robert Clater Jr., to advance to the second day, the athletes must go 4-0 or 4-1 depending on seeding and other variables.

After this year's regional meet, Clater has set his standards high,

*"We plan every year to make it to regionals. Our goals are set to the state competition."*

**Robert Clater Jr.**

hoping that they can make it to the state meet.

"We plan every year to make it to regionals," Clater said. "Our goals are (now) set to the state competition."

Payton set a GHS school record for the fastest pin, with a 10-second pin. A pin is when the wrestler presses their shoulders into their opponent, holding them down for about two seconds.

The GHS wrestling team will now head into their offseason to prepare for their next season and hone their skills to better themselves for the competitions.



Members of the 2021-22 Gatesville High School wrestling team.

COURTESY PHOTO

## AREA FISHING REPORT

### Belton

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 50 degrees; 2.85 feet low. Winter Storm Landon dropped Lake Belton water temperatures to their coldest yet this winter. Helpful bird activity has diminished and fish are now found as deep as they

have been all winter in 28-42 feet of water. When fish are more active a ounce white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab is producing. When fish are less active the deadstick technique horizontally rigged using short soft jigheads. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Catfish are in full transition moving from deep to shallow water, 5-20 feet of water. Blue catfish are good on fresh cut bait. Channel catfish are good on commercial baits. Yellow catfish are slow. Report by Jason "SPUD" Barton, Cattin' Around Adventure's Profes-

sional Guide Service.

### Waco

GOOD. Water stained; 49 degrees; 3.95 feet low. Catfish are in full transition from deep to shallow water, 5-20 feet of water. Blue catfish are good on fresh cut bait. Channel catfish are good on com-

mercial baits. Yellow catfish are slow. Report by Jason "SPUD" Barton, Cattin' Around Adventure's Professional Guide Service. White bass are in the South Bosque River. Crappie are good in the main lake in 18-27 feet of water using 1/32 hand ties. Report by Zach Minnix.

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**JACK BARCROFT**  
PUTTING CORYELL CITIZENS FIRST

**I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR VOTE, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE, AND PROMISE THAT EVERY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTY WILL REGAIN A VOICE AT THE COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE AGAIN.**

- **MY GOAL** is for the county to benefit from my decades of both professional and political service with a focus on economic development.
- **I'M RUNNING** to do my part for Coryell County by working to ensure we can meet our current financial obligations while preparing for future growth.
- **I'M RUNNING** as a constitutional county judge with passion for protecting Coryell County from federal overreach.
- **I AM THE ONLY** candidate that has a history of working with county officials for 10 years and this will allow us to hit the ground running.
- **WE NEED** to regain our momentum with leadership focused on equipping the Commissioners and department heads to successfully achieve their goals of serving county residents while increasing revenues and jobs to lessen the burden on taxpayers.

*This is my last advertisement prior to the March 1st Primary election. I would like to use this space not to ask for your vote but to say THANK YOU!*

*Thank you to our veterans, active duty soldiers, correctional officers, law enforcement and all of our medical community and first responders, either paid or voluntary. Thank you to our educators who often come out-of-pocket just to make sure our children are afforded a solid education in hopes of them growing up and contributing to the betterment of Coryell County and beyond.*

*Thank you to the dedicated folks that work hard every day at the County to provide a better place for all of us. After the election is done and in the books, all these great people will still be serving Coryell County to the best of their abilities and we should all remember to say THANK YOU when given the opportunity.*

*Thank you to Aubrey, Megan & Paige for always supporting my public service through the years and supporting my run to become County Judge. And finally, thank you to Nelson & Alice Barcroft who sacrificed so that I could have a chance at a better life and pay it forward to my children in hopes of the same.*

Jack P. Barcroft

Republican Candidate for Coryell County Judge 2022

Political ad paid for by Jack Barcroft for County Judge Campaign

**WWW.JB4CORYELL.COM**



## Hornets battle Hirschi in hoops, 67-41

### Gatesville boys basketball team earned 1st playoff trip since '13

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE  
STAFF WRITER

Facing a challenge against a heavily favored foe, the Gatesville Hornet boys' basketball team fell in their bi-district playoff game to the 17th ranked Wichita Falls Hirschi Huskies, 67-41 Feb. 22 at Aledo High School.

Gatesville made its first postseason appearance since the 2012-2013 season with Tuesday's game. The Hornets were competitive early, playing toe-to-toe with the District 5-4A Huskies (24-6 overall, 10-0 in district), with Hirschi holding an 18-14 lead at the end of the first quarter.

As the game went on, the margin widened

in the Huskies' favor. The Hornets struggled to mount points on the scoreboard, with only four Hornets scoring in the game.

Tyler Shea led the way with 16 points, followed by Jack Carroll with 14, Jaiden Gomez with 6, and Carter Williams 5.

Despite the loss, GHS basketball head coach Brit Campbell was proud of his team's drive and determination to push through adversity throughout the season.

"This team has done a lot of things," Campbell said. "We've won tournaments, we've gotten to the playoffs, we've played against stiff competition. They've never shied away from anything. They come hard

to work, and they let me coach them hard. I'm extremely proud of these young men."

Although the Hornets are losing two seniors to graduation this year, they are looking to build onto the success they had this season heading into next season, using the offseason as a time to become better basketball players.

"I think we can build off of this season (with) all of the things we've done," Campbell said.

The Hornets completed their season with a 13-22 overall record and a 2-6 district record.



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

(Top left) Jaiden Gomez looks to pass the ball while under pressure from a pair of Hirschi defenders. (Top right) Jack Carroll advances the ball downcourt, looking to slip past a Huskie in the Feb. 22 playoff contest. (Bottom left) Jaiden Gomez and Carter Williams defend against a Hirschi player in front of the basket. (Bottom right) Coach Brit Campbell shouts instructions to his team.



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

Rayshon Smith lobs a pass to a teammate while avoiding pressure from a Hirschi defender in Gatesville's Feb. 22 bi-district playoff game. The Hornets kept the game close early, trailing 18-14 at the end of the first quarter, but Hirschi, the No. 15 ranked team in the state, pulled away in the second quarter. This marked the GHS boys basketball team's first playoff game since the 2012-2013 season.

Send your local sports information to [Triston@gatesvillemessenger.com](mailto:Triston@gatesvillemessenger.com)