COUNTY SINCE 1881

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# GISD student progress holds steady

BY JEFF OSBORNE SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Despite disruptions caused by the CO-VID-19 pandemic, Gatesville Independent School District students' progress was comparable to that of previous years, Shane Webb, assistant superintendent for academics, told the Gatesville ISD Board of Trustees during a recent meeting.

As part of its Texas Academic Performance Report which is "kind of like the school district's report card," Webb said.

GISD in 2021 "either tied or surpassed the state or region in every area we report on," he said

For the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test, 72% of GISD students tested in all grades approached

grade level. That was a slight drop from 74 percent in 2019, and matched the 72 percent rate that GISD students achieved in 2018 and 2017. No STAAR test was given in 2020 because Texas schools closed in March of that

The number of students who met grade level on STAAR English language arts/reading tests actually surpassed pre-pandemic levels, at 45%, compared to 44% in 2019, 41% in 2018 and 42% in 2017, but numbers were lower in mathematics.

Students did perform better on writing and social studies compared to 2019, with slight

"Writing has been kind of a struggle," Harper said, "but we're performing about where we were pre-pandemic. We saw a big

The attendance rate for 2019-2020 was actually the highest it had been in the past five years - 98.3%, compared to an average of about 95% for 2015-2016 to 2018-19.

Nearly 83% of Gatesville High School graduates were considered to be college ready, compared to 81.4% in 2018-19, 83.8% in 2017-18.

About 60% of the district's student population is considered to be economically disadvantaged in the latest TAPR, which was an increase of 7% from the previous year.

"We have rising at-risk and poverty and had some dips, but not the extent experienced at the state level," said Superintendent Barrett Pollard.

year reading and math inventory tests, and

the beginning of the year, Harper said.

"We are seeing a lot of good improvement out of kindergarten students and the teachers are liking the new phonics, "he said. "We hope to see an even bigger jump at the end of the year."

Harper said there is steady progress in the students' reading inventory and more than 80 percent have tested average to superior in math.

Third-graders test to project how well they will perform on STAAR tests the next school year "and it's improved nearly every year,"

Pollard noted that the STAAR tests are be-

"It's a little trickier - now students sometimes have to select the best two answers."

## Gatesville master gardener prioritizes plants

BY JEFF OSBORNE

Those who love nurturing plants

"There's a great deal of work that goes into planting a garden wheth-

She said it's at least a nine-month process initially, and continuing classes are also required to maintain the master gardener status.

One of the complicating factors for Coryell County residents, she said, is that there is no master gardener certification process availwork through programs in other

"I am cer Harte said. "Coryell County is not big enough to go through all the extra work involved."

tified master gardener program.

"It took about a year for me to earn the certification," Harte said. "Every year, you are required to go to classes. Texas A&M has a website (txmg.org) built especially for master gardeners or the public in general. There's an hour-long introduction class (on video, for those interested in possibly becoming a

The master gardener program allows participants to "learn the science behind trees and (other) plants," she said.

ing to Texas, and noted there were times of the year in which it was

year during the beginning of the pandemic.

drops in science.

improvement in eighth grade social studies."

Students have also taken middle of the

coming increasingly more difficult.

"The STAAR test is getting harder," he said.

SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

and have plenty of time might want to consider becoming a certified master gardener like Kathy Harte of Gatesville. However, the process takes plenty of dedication.

er it's vegetables or fruit trees," Harte said. "When you become a master gardener, it's also a great deal of work."

able locally. Those interested must counties.

McLennan County also has a cer-

master gardener)."

Harte lived in Alaska before mov-



**JEFF OSBORNE |** THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

With greenery galore throughout her property, Kathy Harte has taken the time and effort to earn Master Gardener designation.

always dark or always light because

of its location. "Your circadian system is disrupted, but for three months, you have the most beautiful weather,

and the plants become gigantic," she said. "It exceeds what we have

in the lower 48 states." When Harte moved to Texas, she said she wanted a birch tree and

was told that there are simply no

birch trees growing in the area. She was determined to grow one anyway and said she has one that has survived the extreme tempera-

Harte said she was excited to have a chance to grow plants in a

more consistent climate. She has planted several gardens on her property in Gatesville near the golf course, and credited her spouse for his dedication to help-

"My husband Greg has had to go through a lot to accommodate his master gardener wife," Harte said. That has included building a rock wall, making various expansions and purchasing more property, along with time spent on day-to-

Harte was limited physically by a surgery that increased her husband's responsibilities, and was told that she would lose her master gardener status because of her inability to attend master gardener classes. However, she was able to persuade those in charge that recovering from surgery - and the

physical limitations that caused should not be a reason for losing her certification.

All the work she and her husband have devoted has paid off with plenty of beautiful plants, Harte said.

"We have the most gorgeous flowers that you'd never expect -

they're just stunning," she said. The Hartes had a greenhouse built on property they owned.

"I didn't want it to look like the typical greenhouse," she said. "You walk in and the scent of begonias is incredible - there's life in there, beautiful gorgeous plants. It's worth every second spent growing them and giving them what they need to survive."

While there is a lot required, "I would recommend it for anybody who has the time and interest to go through the master gardener program. There's no age limit as long as you can get around. It's an amazing journey and thrilling for me.

"I love the peace and quiet of gardening. It's wonderful, challenging and it helps you to appreciate what

PLEASE SEE **GARDENER** | A2



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Begonias in bloom add a dash of color in Kathy Harte's greenhouse.

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## Finding grace in greenery

BY JEFF OSBORNE SENIOR WRITER AND EDITOR

From her serenity garden to trees throughout her property and a greenhouse, anyone who visits Kathy Harte's property on Surrey Lane quickly discovers she is passionate about

While music and quilting are other strong interests for the Gatesville woman, it's her love for plants that take center stage outside and in a greenhouse that contains more than 100 plants. A little over a year ago, because of a power outage during several February 2021 days, those plants in the greenhouse were devastated by subfreezing temperatures. But Harte rebuilt her inventory and composted what she could not save so even in their death, the plant nutrients could help nurture a new generation of life.

A native Texan, Harte spent much of her life in California and Alaska before coming home. The ability to have a prolonged growing season helped spark Harte's interest in becoming a master gardener, and her dedication is shared by her husband, Greg Couture.

"He has helped me in so many ways and does so much to constantly support me," Harte said. But the flowering beauty throughout the Harte property is a tribute to her devotion and love for her plants.

"I talk to my plants, they can feel the energy from us," she said. Harte said she has asked other avid gardeners if they also talk to their plants, and many do. While some may think that's unusual, count Harte among those who think her positive words and encouragement makes a difference in the way her plants

While winter has taken its toll on her serenity garden, spring, summer and autumn blooms will soon revive the cascade of greenery. Among the items on display in that garden are statues of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Harte and Couture share their home with a pair of exuberant dogs who are fondly referred to as "the boys."

Harte's hobbies often keep her up into the

wee hours of the morning, and when she isn't creating artwork, music or nurturing a plant, she might be found watching Central Texas Gardener, a program on PBS.

"I love that show, I learn from it and take notes," she said.

Harte said one of the Gatesville residents who shares her love of plants and gardening is Stacye Parry, the wife of Gatesville city manager Bill Parry. Harte said she and Stacye regularly attend master gardening events in Belton.

"She helped plead my case when (the Bell County master gardening programs) threatened to kick me out (when she was recovering from surgery and had missed required work),

She and her husband have barrels stationed throughout their property to help collect rainwater to nourish the plants, which not only helps save money on water bills but also provides a natural source to slake the plants'

Because of her proximity to the Gatesville golf course, she has had to dodge errant golf balls on occasion and has even been hit.

She said that golfer was so far off the mark that she encouraged him to consider taking

While her multiple hobbies and activities particularly gardening - keep her busy, she savs she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I love plants, the sense of peace and the beauty they provide," she said. "When you walk in the greenhouse and can just enjoy the fragrance of all the plants, it's amazing.'

### **GARDENER**

God has given us to take care of."

"I would recommend it for anybody who has the time and interest to go through the master gardener program. There's no age limit as long as you can get around. It's an amazing journey and thrilling for me.

"I love the peace and quiet of gardening. It's wonderful, challenging and it helps you to appreciate what God has given us to take care of."



**JEFF OSBORNE I** THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

More than 100 plants thrive in Kathy Harte's greenhouse.

### Three-year project starts on FM 116

SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

A three-year construction project on Farm-to-Market Road 116 - the link between the Gatesville area and Copperas Cove - is now underway and will result in the installation of overpasses at state Highway 9 north of Copperas Cove.

Crews began the work on March 1, and construction is expected to wrap up in early 2025, according to a press release issued by the Texas Department of Transportation's Waco District office.

"The initial phase of the project will have minimal impact to traffic as crews work primarily off the roadways," the release stated. "For the safety of construction crews and the traveling public, there will be closures and impacts to traffic during the project timeline. TxDOT will release regular updates throughout the project, including impactful closure infor-

Construction workers will build a pair of overpasses to enhance both northbound and southbound travel on FM 116. This work will include a rebuilt and improved intersection at FM 116 and Highway 9, along with curbs and two new U-turns.

The \$11 million project is being built by Big Creek Construction and is intended to improve safety and mobility on the road.

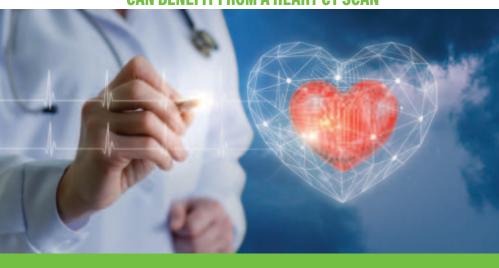


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#### **DEADLINES:**

Submit all news articles, classifieds and display advertising by noon Friday for the Wednesday issue and noon Wednesday for the

occurred 30 days prior to submission will not be accepted. However, they will be accepted as paid advertise

Articles about events that have

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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.

## Coryell County youth excel at stock show

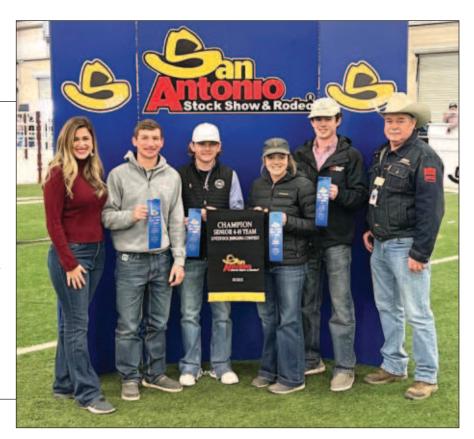
Maurer wins \$10,000 scholarship, Livestock Judging Team wins championship



Left photo: Kacy Maurer, pictured center, was the winner of a \$10,000 scholarship for placing first individually.

Right photo: Pictured left is Coach Emily Lochner, followed by team members, left to right, Trey Harbour, Costin Allison, Kinsey Gardner, Samuel Belt and the San Antonio judging contest official.

Courtesy photos



The 4-H members from Coryell County recently participated in the San Antonio Livestock Exposition where the locals earned some outstanding accolades. Earning a \$10,000 4-H scholarship for placing first individually was Horse Judging Team mem-

ber Kacy Maurer. The senior Livestock Judging Team consisting of Kinsey Gardner (2nd high individual), Costin Allison (6th high individual), Samuel Belt, and Trey Harbour won the contest, besting all other 4-H teams.

Other Top 10 placings for

Coryell County 4-H in San Antonio are as follows:

Memphis Wells - Calf Scramble certificate winner Kinlee Gardner - Calf Scramble certificate winner, 4th place Landrace gilt Consumer Decision Mak-

ing Teams - 3rd place Junior

Team consisting of Mary Mitchell (9th high individual), Jozie Wolff, Bobbi Tubbs, and Chelsea Johnson

10th place Intermediate Team - Leonela Rodriguez, Hunter Beaty, Zak Huckabee, and Chole Lusk

Horse Judging Team - 8th

place, Senior Team consisting of Kacy Maurer, Irena Murphy, Ludwika Rodriguez, and

Steven Bomar - 2nd place Duroc barrow Samuel Belt - 4th place Brangus heifer

Mia Conley

Cooper Sutton - 2nd place

Beefmaster heifer

Kinsey Gardner - 4th place Duroc gilt, 6th place Berkshire gilt

Lillie Mann - 4th place Crossbred gilt

Canyon Smith - 7th place Berkshire gilt

PEARL NEWS

## Last weekend's music festival in Pearl was a success

#### **BETSY CLARK**

The Pearl Music Festival was a success this past weekend. The word is that all the musicians and fans enjoyed picking, grinning, and listening throughout the day. The kitchen stayed busy which is always great news as that, along with trailer parking, provide the funds necessary to keep the Pearl Community Center up and running. The people of Pearl appreciate all who attended and invite you back again next month. Invite your friends and neighbors and y'all come! Let's make the April Pearl Music Festival the biggest and best of 2022

The Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop had a great day as well. Thank you to the vendors that set up booths and opened their trunks for the Junk in Your Trunk event. To see what was on the market that day, visit Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page for some great pictures of what was for sale in and around the Book Cottage. That way, you'll know what to look for next month, and who knows, you might be inspired to participate in the event vourself next time!

The bookstore also reports that dear friends came by and made their day even better. Linda and Corlisa report that they enjoyed visits with Bob and Ruth Ann Johnson, Marilyn and Ron McDonald, and the Messenger's own David Scott. Kay was busy with other important things that day, but you know her heart was with the Book Cottage as she is a founding member along with Linda and Corlisa. The pair especially appreciated Mr. Scott's visit as he had just suffered some minor trauma while at the gas station earlier that day. It seems Mr. Scott left his tail pipe at the station (not his choice, but nonetheless, it happened and now he has to explain to his newly-licensed son how that incident went down) and should have been shopping for a replacement item. Instead, he chose to drive on out to Pearl which he says is near and dear to his heart. So, the short version of the story is that instead of purchasing a new tail pipe, Mr. David Scott purchased a 7-foot Christmas tree (which of course was unbelievably low priced as all things are—buy what you want, pay what you want) which was contained in three very large boxes. So, if you saw a smiling 'til his jaws hurt David Scott driving down Highway 84 on Saturday without a tail pipe but with greenery sticking out everywhere, you now know how

that happened. Only in Pearl. Speaking of Marilyn, the **Book Cottage ladies report** 

that they heard rumblings coming from the vicinity of the framed and famous teeny tiny, turquoise greeny, stringy bikini when Marilyn walked into the room where it now resides. Think what you want, but I truly believe that Corlisa and Linda did indeed hear something! Since Marilyn has finally moved back home to God's Country (aka Central Texas), that bikini has been stirring in its frame. The bold bikini only got to spend a short time in Kentucky when it visited (inflicted itself upon) the McDonald's and has been resentful ever since. Ron had sent that thing packing when he caught Marilyn trying to sunbathe in the darned thing and scaring the cows half to death. I think the resulting stampede ran off at least 10 pounds of marketable weight, being as they were not used to such a thing in that dreary part of the world. But now, Marilyn is back. What an opportunity to make a reappearance on the new McDonald farm so that Marilyn can sunbathe in peace (or as peaceful as it can

get if Mr. McDonald does not find out the whereabouts of the atrocious apparel)! Isn't sunbathing the purpose of a stringy bikini — especially when it's loved so much by the person wearing it? Maybe it's just this amateur writer's imagination, but I think something is about to happen – but don't tell Ron. Let it be

a delightful surprise! The next Pearl Music Festival will be April 2, 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. til?, and the kitchen is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Since the purpose of the kitchen is to help to raise funds to pay the expenses of the Community Center, no ice chests are allowed in the center during the Bluegrass events. However, you will enjoy the delicious food the kitchen offers right along

with the great music and fellowship.

If you wish to spend a night or two or more in Pearl during the Music Festival event or any other time, tent camping is available for \$10 per night on the ground of the Pearl Community Center. The Community Center is not available for sleeping in the building per county authorities. There are also full hookups for travel trailers and buses, too. \$20 per night for 30 amps and \$25 per night for 50 amps. Call Connie Long for reservations: 254-223-0621.

The Pearl Cottage Book Store will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on April 2 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 23 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 comefirst 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, nlease call Linda Ray at 254 865-9282. Bring your favorite est Pearl news online, you desserts, snacks, or breakfast/lunch items. Everyone is invited. For more information or to volunteer to work in the kitchen, please call Linda Pruett at 254-865-9282.

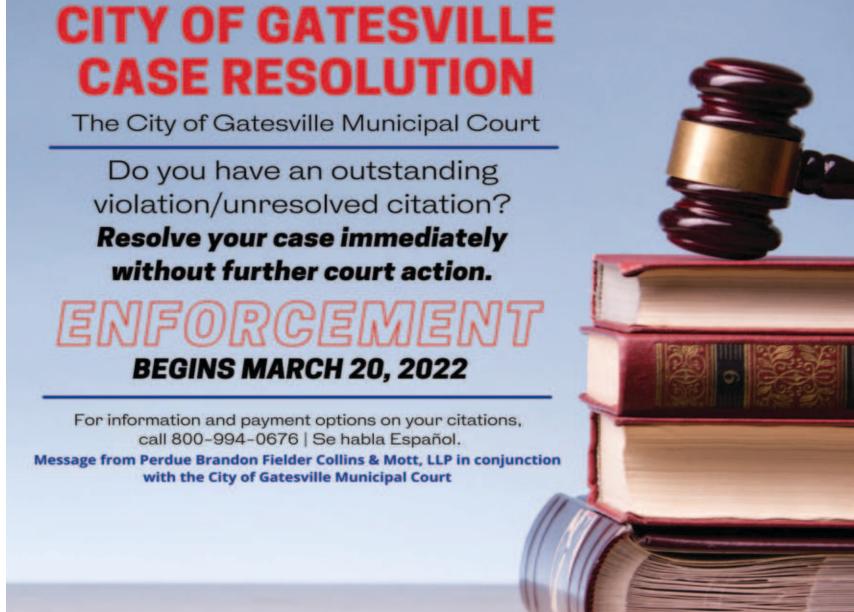
This week's Scripture: Zephaniah 3:17—The Lord your God is with you, the



Clark

Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing. NIV

To keep up with the latcan 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.



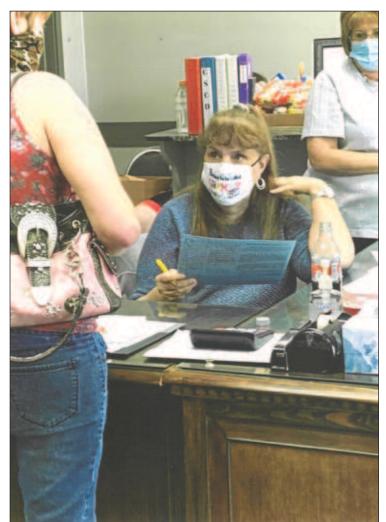
# Retired educators give back to community

In 2021, more than 37,645 volunteer hours were contributed by members of the Coryell Retired School Personnel. This number more than doubled their previous year's total of 16,173 hours.

Debbie Grmela, chairman of the Volunteer Service Committee, explained that "50 of our 81 members participated in this project of serving our community by volunteering at schools, hospitals, churches, public libraries, museums, nursing homes, theaters, civic events, the Care Center and various other sites. These volunteer hours are equivalent to roughly \$865,835 the community has saved because of the retired educators."

Top volunteers included the following: Lois Bartels and Sue Vernon (over 4,000 hours); Linda Mathews and Debbie Martin (over 3,000 hours); Gary Kafer, Mary Kafer, Nora Seals, and Jan Wynn (over 2,000 hours); and Joy Cummings, Diana Fincher, Marsha Lee and Jo Ann Sugg (over 1,000 hours).

"We are proud of our profession and even though we are



COURTESY PHOTO

GIVING BACK: Barbara Hull volunteers to work at the front desk at the Care Center in Gatesville.

retired, we still enjoy giving back to the community through volunteer services," said Jo Ann Sugg, president of CRSP. "We enjoy offering our skills and talents to serve others."

The Texas Retired Teachers Association promotes the com-

munity volunteer services program implemented by local units (like the local CRSP) throughout Texas. Statewide totals for 2021 are not yet available, but total hours donated in 2020 came to 3,727,916 hours, valued at around \$101,399,315.

## Morris Federation sets meeting for March 12

The Morris Federation will be meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 12, in the James Coryell Room at the Coryell Museum and Historical Cen-

The program will be centered on the Hope House located in Hamilton. Hope House is a completely free faith-based recovery home that is run by Pastor Ed Chapman and his wife, Christy. The mission of Hope House is to bring men and women,

bound by the chains of addiction, out of bondage by introducing them to Christ. Through Bible study, prayer, and discipleship, their goal is to equip the residents with a strong spiritual foundation upon which they can build their lives/ministry.

Hope House has been a very effective program over the years. Speakers will elaborate more on how Hope House operates — requirements for participation,

breaking addictions, step-bystep programs for recovery, and various activities involving the men and women who are staying there.

Residents help support Hope House by making and selling Cold Water candles and related items such as jerky, pecan and peanu brittle, and "Vessels of Hope" in which women make, glaze and fire pottery.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, May 7, 2022** 

> **Proposition Number 1** (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of property taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled in order to reflect any statutory reduction in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the person's homestead from the preceding tax year.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead."

#### **Proposition Number 2** (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from property taxes for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000."

Published by The Office of the Texas Secretary of State, www.sos.texas.gov, 1/800-252-VOTE (8683).

## Marriage licenses filed in Coryell County during February

Marriage licenses filed during February of 2022 in the Coryell County Clerk's Office include:

Jimmy Dale Allen and Manuela Hedman, Stephen Winton Bell and Ann Marie Gonzalez, James Aaron Cox and Rebecca Don Anderson, Jimmy Mark Healer and Emily Marie James, Donavan Wayne Ivey and Rachel Nevada Hoskins-Ritchie, Jesse

Michael Kendall and Melissa M. Cannon, Copen Wayne King and Ashley Lynn Burroughs, Edward Cole Lopez and Erin Joy Friels, Robert Philip Mazur and Karen Anne Karadimov, Courtney Michelle Moya and Carissa Leigh Breeding, James Owen and Mary Catherine Derosier, Jonathan Daniel Richardson and Shavon Marie Small, Matthew Adam Rieger and

Sarah Ashley Heiner, Anthony Albert Sage and Cali Marie Custodia, David Charles Sullivan and Sally Rodriguez, Byron Kaleb Williams and Brittany Ellen Ward, Curtis Francis Williams and Katie Anneliese Teubner, Brett Michael Windham and Analilia Valencia, Orlando Yanez and Mayra Aleiandra Morales.

## The DISPATCH

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through dispatchers during the period of March 3 -5. While there were many calls to the dispatcher, this is a partial list of more significant activity. Persons are reminded that only emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1, while all other calls to the police department should be made to 865-2226 or to the Sheriff's office at 865-7201.

#### **CITY OF GATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

2:32 a.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway

4:47 a.m., a brush/grass fire was reported in the 900 block of Chitwood Road.

5:27 a.m., an assault was reported in the 300 block of

Gateway Circle.

8:30 a.m., harassment was reported in the 2300 block of E. Main Street.

12:18 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 1400 block of Mills Street.

2:33 p.m., an accident was reported in the 2400 block of Business Highway 36.

12:24 p.m., an assault was reported in the 300 block of Lovers Lane.

12:59 p.m., family violence was reported in the 6300 block of E. Highway 84.

2:15 p.m., a theft was reported on FM 2412.

2:24 p.m., an accident was reported in the 11000 block of N. Highway 36 at Jones-

3:20 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 2400 block of Osage Road.

4:43 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 400 block of S. 6th Street.

3:40 a.m., a theft was reported in the 200 block of State School Road.

9:17 a.m., a missing person was reported in the 5100 block of FM 1602.

10:45 a.m., criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Elm Street.

11:14 a.m., a noise disturbance was reported in the 1600 block of Golf Course Road.

12:31 p.m., a threat was reported in the 2500 block of Oak Drive.

4:33 p.m., suspicious activity was reported in the 400 block of S. 8th Street.

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#### **CORYELL COUNTY** SHERIFF'S OFFICE

12:05 a.m., a fire was reported in the 900 block of Chitwood Road.

6:14 a.m., suspicious activity was reported on CR 264. 7:54 a.m., an animal complaint was reported in the

300 block of Langford Cove Road. 8:30 a.m., a scam was re-

ported in the 1500 block of FM 929.

5:07 p.m., illegal dumping was reported on CR 274.

6:07 p.m., a reckless driver was reported in the 1400 block of E. Highway 84.

#### March 4

9:05 a.m., a major accident was reported in the 4700 block of Harmon Road.

9:09 a.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 8000 block of FM 185.

12:07 p.m., an animal complaint was reported on Cactus Lane and FM 116. 1:04 p.m., a domestic dis-

turbance was reported in the 6300 block of W. Highway 2:26 p.m., a minor accident

was reported on N. Hwy. 36 and FM 217. 4:02 p.m., a suspicious

vehicle was reported on CR

#### March 5

1:57 a.m., a runaway was reported in the 2600 block of Twin Hills Road.

11:35 a.m., illegal burning was reported in the 200 block of Centennial Street.

1:21 p.m., a welfare concern was reported in the 300 block of King Country Road.

3:52 p.m., a livestock complaint was reported in the 11000 block of S. Highway

4:36 p.m., animal cruelty was reported in the 8000 block of FM 185.

5:34 p.m., an assault was reported in the 600 block of U.S. Highway 84.

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Market Days are the 2nd Saturday of each month

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400-500 lb. 130-160 500-600 lb. 130-150 125-140 600-700 lb. 700-800 lb. 110-130 **Slaughter Cows** 

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**COURTESY PHOTO** 

DONATED BOOKS: A small portion of the well over 1,600 free books donated for children in Coryell County.

# Group gives children the gift of reading

were given away to children in Coryell County, thanks to local retired public-school employees. The Children's Book Project is a statewide effort to place books into the hands of children who might not otherwise have had their own. Children ages 12 and under are the main recipi-

Locally, the retired teachers work with the Texas Hos-

More than 2,400 free books pitality House, local medical clinics, and Coryell County school districts; however, the majority of their books are given to the three local Head Start locations and to Care Center clients for their children at Christmas. If you know of others who would benefit from this project, please contact Marsha Lee at 254-865-2030.

> Jo Ann Sugg, president of the Coryell Retired School Per-

sonnel, commented, "This is a fun undertaking, and as lifelong educators, we love encouraging children to read." Marsha Lee, Children Book Project Chair, added, "We should never underestimate the importance of reading because it fosters knowledge and opens up the imagination. Every child should have books of his or her own."

The Texas Retired Teach-

ers Association has sponsored the book drive every year since 1998, soliciting book donations from its own members, community partners and others. Statewide book totals for 2021 are not yet available, but in 2020, the program delivered 102,966 books to Texas youths.

## **OBITUARIES**

#### **GREGORY PAUL** JORDAN

Aug. 22, 1961 - Feb. 28, 2022



Gregory Paul Jordan passed from this life on Feb. 28, 2022. Greg was born August 22, 1961, to James Edward Jordan and Lillie Mae (Hermanson) Iordan.

Greg graduated from Brady High School, then graduated from NO other university than The University of Texas with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He owned Jordan Engineering (JENG), and worked for many manufacturing companies, to name a few Kalyn, Loadcraft, and lately, Liddell Industries.

Greg married Donna Nowlain on Dec. 20, 2014, and they made many happy memories during their years together.

Greg enjoyed working and creating trailers. You could find Greg at his computer 24/7, even when he was sick, he was working. If he wasn't working, he was at all his children's games (baseball, football, and basketball), following each one all over the countryside. He was very excited that the grandchildren were playing sports and loved to watch them grow, and of course giving coaching and training advice.

Gregory was preceded in

and Simpson were attorneys.

death by his father James Elward Jordan and his mother Lillie Mae Jordan.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Jordan; three sons, Dustin Jordan and wife, Kelsey, (and their two sons Cooper and Sutton), Gavin Jordan and wife, Allie, (one daughter on the way), and Webb Roueche and wife, Hailey, (one son, Ace); three daughters, Erica Dugue and husband, Chris, (four children Kendall, Colt, Luke and Dean), Roz Beeston and husband, Steven, (two daughters Quinn and Paige), Cierra Bush and husband, Chance, (two sons Briar and Briggs); one brother, Ron Jordan; nephew, Jonathan Jordan and wife, Kelsey, (and their two sons Braden and Jackson); niece, Whitney Salinas and husband, Alex, (and their son Wade); and several extended family and friends.

Gregory was lovingly known as Papa Bear to so many old and young kids he coached through the years, but also to his 11 plus 1 grandchildren.

Greg loved so many friends, colleagues, aunts, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Brady Youth Sports Foundation.

Pallbearers were Gary Bishop, Tipton Ross, Charlie Granstaff, Jim Walton, Greg Browning and Sandie Bostick.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022, in the Heritage Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed in Rest Haven Cemetery in Brady.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Heritage Funeral Home of Brady.

Please view Mr. Jordan's online memorial at www.heritagefuneralhomes.com

## Whatever happened to....

#### 20 YEARS AGO (2002)

Gatesville High School musicians Johanna Hemmen and Jarrod Cook participated in the Association of Texas Small School Bands at the Scottish Rite Auditorium in San Antonio. The GHS band director was Tom English.

William "Bill" and Coleta Brown were honored with a 50th anniversary reception at the Turnersville Community Center. William Brown and the former Coleta Wallace were married March 8, 1952, at the home of the late Rev. G. H. Lee in Turnersville.

Gatesville's Chance Lee was sitting in the second position in the regional standings in team roping and eighth in calf roping. Laci Shoaf finished in second place in goats in Salado to help her enter the final rodeo ranked

The Evant School and community were rallying together to help six-year-old Stephanie Yarbrough who was facing surgery to help her overcome the effects of Sturge-Weber Syndrome. More than \$6,400 was raised through donations and a benefit.

Three of the 55 4-H mem-



Jeff Tesar Office: (254) 404-2242

breakaways and ninth in the fourth and seventh.

#### **30 YEARS AGO**





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COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

bers participating in state livestock shows included Chad Horton, Coy Chambers and Thad Maples. Fifty-five Coryell County 4-H members exhibited 128 livestock projects at shows in Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston.

In observance of Older Judge Hull signed a proclamation honoring the event March 8-14. Judge Hull said that thousands of older Texans were offering experience and wisdom from a lifetime of hard work and dedication

Graduates from a six-week training seminar conducted by the Heart of Texas Hospice were Erma Henry, Mary Anders, Delores Kitchens, Anna Smith and Sarah Buxton. The graduates learned how to provide physical, emotional and spiritual support to the terminally ill and their fami-

Linda Moten of Gatesville became only the second woman to be named senior warden at a men's prison unit. Moten was named as the new warden at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice

ADOPT LOCAL

Hilltop Unit.

#### **40 YEARS AGO** (1982)

Construction workers were preparing the foundations for up to 25 new residences planned in the Eastwood addition. The construction program started to meet the Gatesville housing shortage.

Kathi Oswald and Mrs. Bob Edwards were among the models participating in the annual Spring Style Show and Luncheon held in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church. The style show was sponsored by the Coryell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Rev. Daniel Crosby was to lead a revival service that was to be held at the Levita Baptist Church. The revival was planned to last for three days with preaching by Crosby and special music provided by revival song director, Bob Rhudy.

Attorney General Mark White, a candidate for governor of Texas, announced that Robert M. Scott of Gatesville and Riley Simpson of Cop-

**FOR INFO:** 

peras Cove had been selected as his campaign coordinators in Coryell County. Both Scott

#### **50 YEARS AGO**

(1972)

Charles Zeigler, a Gatesville High School alumnus, was selected to succeed L.C. McKamie as superintendent of the Gatesville Independent School District. The 39-yearold Zeigler was unanimously elected by the school board to take over the reins being relinquished by McKamie.

Rev. Billy Bob Moore resigned as pastor of Gatesville's First Baptist Church after having held the post for 14 months. Moore had accepted the pastorate of the Rosedale Baptist Church in Groves. A church-wide fellowship for Rev. Moore and his family was held at the church.

Everett Gribble, former Gatesville policeman, was appointed a deputy by Sheriff Winfred Cummings to work on weekends and other times when needed. Gribble succeeded Roland Burke, who held the post temporarily.

Charlotte Payne was retired from her teaching career after 30 years in the profession. A graduate of Mary Hardin-Baylor College, she had spent her entire teaching career in Coryell County including

schools in the Mountain community, Flat, and later teaching at the Gatesville State School for Boys.

#### **60 YEARS AGO**

An analysis of the population in Coryell County proved that there was a 4.4 increase between April 1, 1960, and April 1, 1961. The report estimated that Coryell County grew to a population of 25,016 during the one-year

period. A 15-year-old runaway from the State School for Boys admitted to breaking into three homes after fleeing the reformatory. The youth was caught by McLennan County officers and State School employees near South Bosque.

Millie Alice Alexander of Oglesby, a freshman student at Mary Hardin-Baylor, had been named to the dean's honor roll. She was initiated into the Junior Scholarship Society in rites held in Hardy Hall located on the campus.

The promotion of Cadet Michael Blanchard of the Ireland community to master sergeant had been announced by a professor of military science at Tarleton State College in Stephenville. Blanchard was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Blanchard.

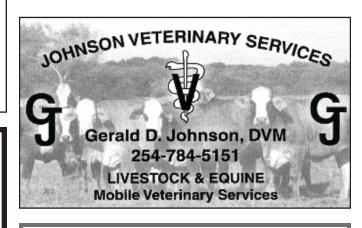




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## **DEADLINES**

Wednesday Issue: 10 A.M. Friday Saturday Issue: 10 A.M. Wednesday

#### All Classified Ads Must Be Paid In Advance

Ads will not run until payment is received, unless credit has been established. All forms of Debit and Credit Cards are accepted.

We are not responsible for errors when ads are taken over the phone. We ask all advertisers to read over their advertisement after the first run and let us know if corrections need to be made. Corrections can be

made to advertisements after the first run if we are informed immediately by advertiser, so read carefully. PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status in cludes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real state which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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www.CoryellHealth.org

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• RN FT Night Shift

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• RN - FT 7p to 7a \*\$20,000 SIGN ON BONUS

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Job summaries at <u>www.CoryellHealth.org</u>

IOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, The Gatesville Messenger does not guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doub ontact the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC website is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

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2 part-time positions open at the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce. Email resume to chamber@gatesvilletx.info

The Coryell Central Appraisal District (Coryell CAD) is accepting applications from residents interested in service on the district's Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

The review board, which hears property owner protests about appraised value, exemption denials, and other appraisal district related matters, is comprised of private citizens. ARB members conduct protest hearings, most of which are during the summer

ARB members are appointed by the Administrative District Judge and serve two-year terms. Members must be residents of Coryell County and have resided here for more than two years. Applications are available online at www. corvellcad.org/employment/ and at the Coryell CAD offices located at 705 E. Main Street, Gatesville, TX and 207 South 3rd Street, Suite 200, Copperas Cove, TX.

Applications will be accepted until March 31st, 2022.

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#### **GARAGE SALE**

WEEKLY **FEATURE** Tues, 03/08 - Sat, 03/12 is FOOTWEAR!!Boys & Girls Club Resale Shop, 1706 E. Main. Central Texas Landscaping &

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Carl Bradley, Jr., Deceased, were issued on January 28, 2022, in Cause No. 21-10581, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Beverly Blanchard.

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

c/o: Allen D. Place, Jr. Attorney at Law 109 S. 7th Street Gatesville, Texas 76528

DATED the 24th day of February, 2022. Allen D. Place, Jr. for Beverly

Blanchard State Bar No.: 16058500 109 S. 7th Street Gatesville, Texas 76528 Telephone: (254) 865-8475 Facsimile: (254) 865-5274 allenplacejr@aol. E-mail:

Attorney

com

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joyce Ann Hopkins, Deceased, were issued on March 7, 2022, in Cause No. 22-10613, pending in the County Court at Law of Coryell County, Texas, to: Timothy Hopkins.

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

c/o: Allen D. Place, Jr. Attorney at Law 109 S. 7th Street Gatesville, Texas 76528

**DATED** the 7th day of March, 2022.

Allen D. Place, Jr. Attorney for Timothy Hop-State Bar No.: 16058500 109 S. 7th Street Gatesville, Texas 76528

Telephone: (254) 865-8475 Facsimile: (254) 865-5274 E-mail: allenplacejr@aol. com 00029170

**Notice By Publication:** 

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Private Club Registration Permit and Private Club Late Hours Permit by Somewhere Else nonprofit corporation DBA Somewhere Else to be located at 3109 South Highway 36, Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are

Melanie Taylor, President; Therese Heiler, VP; and Terri Gonzales, Secretary/Treasurer. 00029166

#### **PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women

and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper

are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.





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## Gatesville baseball team breaks even in Rogers

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville boy's baseball team participated in the Roger's ISD baseball tournament March 3 through March 5, playing in nondistrict contests.

The Hornets evened out with a 2-2 record in the games that they participated in on those days. The Hornets had a rematch with the Roger Eagles on March 3, where they lost 5-3. The Hornets also fell to the Silsbee Tigers 6-2 on the same day. The Hornets are 3-4 on the season.

In the last couple of days, the Hornets won two games; on March 4, the Hornets defeated the Clifton Cubs 7-3; while also defeating Whitney Wildcats 6-5 on March 5, the final day of the tournament.

GHS baseball coach Chase Smith was happy that the Hornets rebounded off some tough losses in the first two games.

"We didn't make the errors or walk guys

like we did in the first two games, and that was the difference," Smith said. "We feel like we are still building and getting better every day, and that's what it takes to accomplish the goals we have."

Smith thinks that the Hornets are making "strides" in the right direction from the games during the weekend.

"The guys are learning and taking the things we are coaching them up on and applying them in games," Smith said.

The Hornets are eager to take on the Lampasas Badgers on Tuesday.

"Can't wait for Tuesday; it is a rivalry game for us," Smith said. "Things always get turned up a notch when we play Lampasas; it doesn't matter what we are playing. We have a little momentum coming in, and we are looking forward to Tuesday.'

The Hornets played their rival, the Lampasas Badgers, on Tuesday night. The Badgers are a district opponent. Results from this game will be in a future issue.

### JV TENNIS CHAMPION



Gatesville freshman Lizzy Lisenby won first place in girls' singles at the Brownwood Junior Varsity Ten-

## Lady Hornets win 3 games in Clifton softball tourney

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE

The Gatesville Hornet softball team competed at the Clifton tournament on March 3-6, finishing the tournament with a 3-1-2

The softball team faced six teams: Red Oak, Albany, La Vega twice, Maypearl, and Clifton. This tournament gave the Lady Hornets a vision of what may come in a few weeks. The Lady Hornets' overall record became 5-8-2 on the season.

"The tournament was a good mix of teams that were pretty comparable to what we would see in district," GHS softball coach Andrea Holdbrook said. "I think our first few weeks were really tough but mentally prepared us to play with more focus in this tournament."

The Lady Hornets fell against Red Oak 8-2, while beat Albany Lady Lions 6-3 while winning and tying against La Vega Lady Pirates 8-7 and 5-5. The Lady Hornets tied with Maypearl Lady Panthers in a 2-2 tie; while dominating Clifton Lady Cubs 14-1.

"In the games, we jumped out ahead on offense; we were more successful on defense,' Holdbrook said. "The girls are clicking, and pitching is working well our defense. By the

end of the tournament, our bats were hot, and the majority of the line-up was crushing the ball.

The Gatesville Lady Hornets on Tuesday, March 1, defeated the Jarrell Lady Cougars 4-1 at Jarrell High School.

The Lady Hornets played the China Spring Lady Cougars on Tuesday. Results will be in a future edition.

## Jonesboro wins 2 of 3 games in its baseball tournament

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE

The Jonesboro Eagles hosted a baseball tournament that took place in Jonesboro, winning two out of three games March 4-5.

The Eagles played the McGregor JV Bulldogs on March 4 and were defeated 3-2. On the same day, the Eagles defeated the Johnson County Sports Association Lions (JCSA)

10-0. The Eagles defeated the Blum Bobcats 5-1 on Saturday, March 5.

"We played hard, lost a tough one to McGregor JV, but battled the whole game," JHS coach Brandon Pierce said. "We continued to put the ball in play, and we ran the bases well. Fielding has improved, and we had a few guys get up on the mound and give us some good innings, which is what we struggled with against Gorman."

The Eagles will play the Chilton Pirates on Thursday, March 10, at 4 p.m. at Jonesboro High School.

In earlier action, the Jonesboro Eagles boys' baseball team fell to Gorman, 15-6 on March 1 at Jonesboro High School.

Jaden Domel went 1-1, with a single, run scored, a walk, and a stolen base. Nathan Forrest went 1-1 with a single. Garrett Young went 2-3 with a double, a triple, 2 RBIs, 2 runs scored, and a stolen base. Caleb Tyler went 1-2 with a single, while Tyler Wilson hit 1-3, a single, and an RBI.

Cade Robertson went 0-1, a walk, a run, and 2 stolen bases, while Carter Janisch 0-2, a walk, and a run scored.

Caleb Christel went 0-1, while

Ian Shoaf went 0-1, 2 hit by pitches, a run scored, and a stolen base. Jacob Cisneros went 0-2 on the night.

"Overall, we put the ball in play well just right at people," Pierce said. "We ran the bases well tonight. The main thing that got us tonight is that we didn't consistently throw strikes on the mound and gave up too many walks.'

### CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK!

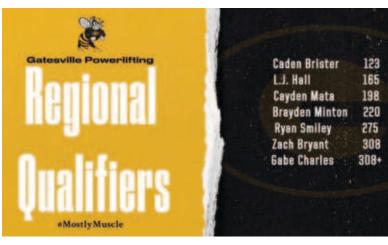
Gatesville Girls **Powerlifters** placed 9th at **Regional Meet** 

**Emmaleah Zacha** placed first and will advance to **State Meet** March 18th in **Corpus Christi** 



From left to right: Vielka Gonzalez, Kasey Fitzer, Lindsey Cummings, Emmaleah Zacha, Brookelyn Byrd, Payton Dowling, and Marlee Williams.

#### Gatesville Boys compete Sat., March 12 in West at the Regional Powerlifting Meet



Randi McFarlin Coryell County Treasurer











Coryell County Clerk





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## THANK YOU!

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the residents of Coryell County. I am humbled by the support you have shown me, and I am truly honored to continue to serve as your County Judge.

I look forward to the challenges of modernizing our facilities and infrastructure, while continuing to reduce the tax rate and protecting the interests of our citizens.

Again, I thank you for your votes and the trust you have placed in me.

> May God Bless us all, Roger Miller **Coryell County Judge**



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# Zacha wraps up regional lifting title

**BY TRISTON MCGEHEE** STAFF WRITER

The girl's regional powerlifting meet on March 4 in Dublin was especially successful for one Gatesville High School girl as she was crowned regional champion and will make her way back to the state meet for the second year in a row.

The Lady Hornets placed ninth, as a team out of 25 teams in the meet. Emmaleah Zacha will be the lone state qualifier for the Lady Hornets individually because she was the only girl to place in the top two of her weight class. Zacha placed first in the 259+ class out of three different types of lifts. Zacha squatted at a weight of 465, benched a 260, and in the deadlift, she tallied 375 ending the day lifting 1100 pounds between all three of them.

GHS powerlifting coach Jason Moffett is as proud as any coach would be seeing one of his athletes make it to the state meet.

"I'm always grateful and excited when one of our kids qualifies for state," Moffett stated in an email. "It is a big deal, and it is the result of a lot of hard work. I've been fortunate to coach some great lifters."

Zacha is back where she wants to be. After finishing in second place last season at state, she wants to take the gold medal.

"Emmaleah's motivation is largely based on her experience at the State Meet in 2021," Moffett said. "She got second place by five pounds. She told me before she even received her medal that day that she wasn't happy about it, and she was going to win it all her senior year. She's on pace to do just

Even though the other seven that



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER
CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT: Emmaleah Zacha qualified for the state powerlifting tournament with her regional championship win on March 4 in Dublin.

competed did not advance, they still supported one another to the

Moffett shared that Vielka Gonzalez accomplished a personal record, and the whole team gathered around her and "reacted like she had just won state."

Lindsey Cummings placed fourth in her 105-pound weight class, squatting 190, benching 100, and deadlifting 205 pounds. Cummings combined for 495 pounds throughout the three competitions. Kasey Fitzer placed sixth in the 114-pound weight class, squatting a 205, benching a 120, and deadlifting 205 pounds, finishing with 495 pounds on the day. Marlee Williams finished in ninth place in the 123-pound weight class, squatting a 235, benching 115, and dead-

lifting 250 pounds, totaling 600 pounds throughout the day.

Vielka Gonzalez competed in the 181-pound weight class, placing 12th, squatting 300, benching 140, and deadlifting 230 pounds. Gonzalez totaled 230 pounds on the day. Payton Dowling competed in the same 181-pound weight class but placed 20th. Dowling squatted 205, benched a 135, and dead-

lifted 205 totaling 545 pounds. Brookelyn Byrd placed 16th in the 148-pound weight class, with a squat of 200, a bench press of 130, and a deadlift 210 pounds completing the meet with 540 pounds

Zacha will head to Corpus Christi to compete in the THSWPA State Championship, scheduled for Friday, March 18, at 8 a.m.



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER Payton Dowling competed in the 181-pound class for Gatesville on March 4.



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Vielka Gonzalez accomplished a new personal best in the regional powerlifting meet.

## GHS tennis team earns 7 medals in Belton tournament

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE

STAFF WRITER

The Gatesville High School tennis team corralled some medals in the Belton ISD tennis tournament on Friday, March 4.

i. The team received seven medals. In girls' singles, Stormy Tatum got second place, while Anna Mitchell won two of four matches. Slone Early went home sick but won one of his three matches, while Tyler Hutts won one of three matches in boy singles. In mixed doubles, Ty Warren and Julee Sun got second place. Dayne Zacha and Bri Alexander were the consola-

tion champions in mixed doubles. Callie Smith and Preslea Edmond were the consolation champions in girls' doubles, while Valeria Jimenez and Katelyn Sanchez won 1 out of 3 matches in girls' doubles. Alex Scott and Carlo Martinez won fifth place in boys' doubles, winning three of their four matches, while Jesse Strange and Milton Walters were defeated in all three of their matches.

The Hornet tennis team played at the Harker Heights High School on March 7. Results will be in a future issue.



WINNING THE
PRIZE: Gatesville's
varsity tennis
athletes brought
home seven medals following a
tennis tournament on March 4
in Belton.

MARLA TATUM | COURTESY PHOTO