



THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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GISD student progress holds steady

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Despite disruptions caused by the COVID-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 year during the beginning of the pandemic.

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 drops in science.

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

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.

Students have also taken middle of the year reading and math inventory tests, and progress is similar to the students' level at

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," he said.

Pollard noted that the STAAR tests are becoming increasingly more difficult.

"The STAAR test is getting harder," he said. "It's a little trickier - now students sometimes have to select the best two answers."

Gatesville master gardener prioritizes plants

BY JEFF OSBORNE
SENIOR WRITER & EDITOR

Those who love nurturing plants 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.

"There's a great deal of work that goes into planting a garden whether it's vegetables or fruit trees," Harte said. "When you become a master gardener, it's also a great deal of work."

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 available locally. Those interested must work through programs in other counties.

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

McLennan County also has a certified 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 master gardener)."

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

Harte lived in Alaska before moving to Texas, and noted there were times of the year in which it was



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 temperatures.

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 helping her.

"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-day tasks.

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



JEFF OSBORNE | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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 plants.

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 thrive.

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 Stacy Parry, the wife of Gatesville city manager Bill Parry. Harte said she and Stacy 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)," Harte said.

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' thirst.

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 golf lessons.

While her multiple hobbies and activities - particularly gardening - keep her busy, she says 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

FROM PAGE A1

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 | THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

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

Three-year project starts on FM 116

BY JEFF OSBORNE
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 re-

lease 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 information."

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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THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

Managing Editor
DAVID MONTESINO
david@hcnews.com

General Manager
JANICE VELASQUEZ
ad2@gatesvillemessenger.com

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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 Making 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 Mia Conley Steven Bomar - 2nd place Duroc barrow Samuel Belt - 4th place Brangus heifer 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 so far.

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 yourself 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 what 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 come-first park" basis. A small fee of \$5 will be charged for each booth/vendor/trunk to benefit the Pearl Community Center. The kitchen will be open for something new — the first Meet and Greet in Pearl. Needed are volunteers to work the kitchen. Bring your favorite snack to donate to the kitchen to sell to benefit the Community Center. If you wish to sign up to volunteer for "kitchen duty" that day, please call Linda Ray at 254-865-9282. Bring your favorite desserts, snacks, or breakfast/lunch items. Everyone is invited. For more information or to volunteer to work in the kitchen, please call Linda Prueett 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 latest Pearl news online, you can go to the "Pearl Cottage Bookstore" Facebook page, the "Pearl Church of Christ" Facebook page, or the Pearl Community Center, Texas Facebook page. Or contact me at betsyclark47@yahoo.com for more information or to submit any Pearl news.

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Message from Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP in conjunction with the City of Gatesville Municipal Court





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

More than 2,400 free books 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 recipients. Locally, the retired teachers work with the Texas Hos-

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) Jordan.

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 death by his father James Edward 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 posi-

tion in the regional standings in team roping and eighth in calf roping. Laci Shoaf finished in second place in breakaways and ninth in the goats in Salado to help her enter the final rodeo ranked fourth and seventh.

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.

30 YEARS AGO (1992)

Three of the 55 4-H mem-

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 Worker Week, Coryell County 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 families.

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

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 was a part of a \$1,000,000 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-

peras Cove had been selected as his campaign coordinators in Coryell County. Both Scott and Simpson were attorneys.

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-year-old 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 (1962)

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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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 non-district 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



MARLA TATUM | COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville freshman Lizzy Lisenby won first place in girls' singles at the Brownwood Junior Varsity Tennis Tournament on March 1.

Lady Hornets win 3 games in Clifton softball tourney

BY TRISTON MCGEHEE
STAFF WRITER

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

The softball team faced six teams: Red Oak, Albany, La Vega twice, Maypearl, and Clifton. This tournament gave the Lady Hornets a vi-

sion 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
STAFF WRITER

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!

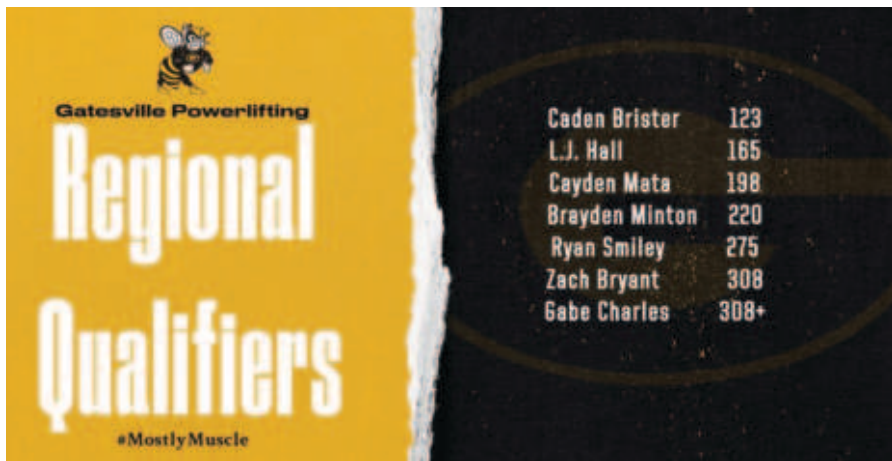
Gatesville Girls Powerlifters placed 9th at Regional Meet



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

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

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



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 that."

Even though the other seven that



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

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 end.

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 total.

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 MESSANGER

Payton Dowling competed in the 181-pound class for Gatesville on March 4.



TRISTON MCGEHEE | THE GATESVILLE MESSANGER

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.

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 consolation 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